

(a) whether different facilities are provided to the officers and employees of various public sector undertakings, who seek pre-mature retirement;

(b) whether some officers/employees, after taking pre-mature retirement continue to enjoy the said facilities after joining another public undertaking;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to take some effective action to check this tendency of misusing public money; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e). Government had notified in October, 1988 para-meters on the basis of which voluntary retirement schemes could be introduced by the public enterprises with the approval of their administrative Ministries. The Model Scheme envisages broad degree of rationalisation in the facilities to be made admissible for employees opting for voluntary retirement. As per the scheme, the resultant vacancies are to be abolished. There is no embargo for employees who after voluntary retirement, take up fresh jobs in other public enterprises.

[English]

Balangir-Khurda Road Railway Line (Orissa)

1221. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received a proposal for the construction of a railway line between Balangir and Khurda Road in Orissa:

(b) whether the project was referred to

the Working Group of the Planning Commission for consideration in the Eighth Plan; and

(c) if so, whether the construction of the line would be taken up during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Planning Commission had decided that the project be referred to the Working Group on Railway's Programmes for the Eighth Five Year Plan. However, the sub-group for new lines had not identified any particular new line project for inclusion in the Eighth Plan document for consideration of the Working Group but had only included a lumpsum kilometrage for new starts. Taking up o. Khurda-Balangir project would, therefore, depend on availability of resources in the Eighth Plan, and the position of this project will get in the overall national priorities.

Power Generation

1222. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power generation in the country as a whole has declined sharply in 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or contemplated to increase power generation in 1990 and onwards?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The total power generation in the country during April 1989—February, 1990 is about 11.2% more than the generation during the same period during last year.

(c) In order to improve the power availability in the country, various measures are being taken which include expediting commissioning of new capacities, optimum utilisation of existing capacities, reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses and implementation of Renovation and Modernisation Programme of thermal power stations. In addition, it is tentatively planned to add new generating capacity of about 38,369 MW in the country during the 8th plan period, depending upon the availability of resources and other inputs.

Review of growth centres scheme

1223. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR:
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the concept of growth centres scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any alternative scheme is proposed to be introduced in its place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d). The Government in June, 1988 announced a Scheme to set up 100 growth centres in various parts of the country. It was intended to develop 70 growth centres in various State/Union Territories in the first phase. The location of 50 growth centres was also identified. The growth centre scheme is proposed to be taken up for implementation during the 8th Plan period. All locations will be reviewed before final approval is accorded.

Coal Linkage for Thermal Power Projects of Maharashtra

1224. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thermal power projects of Maharashtra pending approval for want of coal linkage; and

(b) whether in view of the increasing demand of electricity in Maharashtra, Government propose to take steps to make coal available for these projects during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). None of the coal-based thermal power projects identified for commissioning during the Eighth plan period in Maharashtra are pending for want of coal linkage.

Conversion of Metre Gauge Lines in Marathwada

1225. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for conversion of more metre gauge lines in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, into broad gauge to help the economic advancement of the region; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). In addition to the two gauge conversion projects already approved in Maharashtra there has been a demand for conversion of Miraj-Kurduvadi-Latur Road NG to BG. Due to acute constraint of resources for gauge