

(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