

non-availability of land. The Government of West Bengal has since promised to make the land available during the course of next six months. The progress of the project will depend on land becoming available as early as possible.

A World Bank Loan of US \$ 114.8 million has been sanctioned for the Sonepur Bazari Opencast Project in June, 1987; but the amount has almost remained un-utilised.

#### **Pending Railway Projects in West Bengal**

1238. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of railway projects are pending in West Bengal;

(b) whether Chief Minister of West Bengal had a discussion with Union Government about those projects recently; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There are only two new line projects pending in West Bengal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The resource crunch for new line projects was explained to the Chief Minister.

#### **Winding up of Power Corporations**

1239. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to wind up the Power Finance Corporation, National Power Transmission Corporation, the Naptha-Jhakri Power Corporation and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the position at 'a' the question does not arise.

#### **Salal Hydro Electric Project**

1240. SHRI PIYARELAL KHANDELWAL:  
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the original estimated cost of Salal hydro electric project on the Chenab in March 1970 and how does it compare with the latest overall estimate;

(b) the original estimated cost of 'direction and administration' of the dam and the percentage increase in the latest revised estimate;

(c) the action plan for minimising the cost and time over-runs of such projects;

(d) whether there have been cost escalations and time over-runs due to environmental considerations; and

(e) if so, how these are proposed to be minimised?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The original sanctioned estimated cost of Salal Hydroelectric Project (Stage-I) was Rs. 55.15 crores (1968 price level), approved in 1970. As per the latest estimates, which are presently under techno-economic scrutiny, the project cost is estimated as Rs. 591.63 crores at June, 1988 price level.

(b) Provision under 'direction and administration' in the original estimated cost was Rs. 3.76 crores, while in the latest revised cost estimates, it is Rs. 33.64 crores, representing an increase of about 795.45%.

(c) For avoiding time over-run in their projects, NHPC have established effective project planning and monitoring system. Also, in order to have effective control over the costs of the projects, cost engineering cells have been set up by NHPC at the corporate office as well as at the projects.

(d) There have been no cost and time over-runs in this project due to environmental considerations.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Public Sector Units without Heads**

1241. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA.  
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public sector units and other organisations under his Ministry which are at present without heads;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Presently International Airports Authority of India and Indian Airlines do not have full time Chief Executive. The post of Chairman, IAAI, fell vacant following the retirement of Prof. N.K. Singh and the post in Indian Airlines following the resignation of the Managing Director.

(c) Action has been initiated in consultation with the PESB to fill up these posts.

#### **Acquisition of Soviet Civil Transport Aircraft on Lease**

1242. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA:  
SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to acquire Soviet Civil transport aircraft on lease;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the conditions put by the USSR in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). Indian Airlines and Air India already have three Soviet aircraft on lease basis. Government were considering the question of acquiring more Soviet civil transport aircraft on lease basis but owing to capacity constraints, the Soviet authorities have intimated their inability to do so.

#### **Plastic Exhibition**

1243. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which participated in the plastic exhibition held in New Delhi in the first week of March, 1990;

(b) the main purpose of the exhibition; and