

Extension of Maharashtra Express upto Dongargarh

1304. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to extend the Maharashtra Express upto Dongargarh or Gondia-Amgaon instead of terminating it at Nagpur and also to attach two first class bogies in the said train; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Proposals for Alternative Sources of Energy from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

1305. SHRI MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals regarding alternative sources of energy from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh pending for approval and financial assistance;

(b) the reasons for keeping them in abeyance; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The proposals received from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh include setting up solar photovoltaic systems, solar thermal pro-

grammes, energy plantations, and wind energy and urjagram programmes. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has extended financial assistance to all proposals where full technical details were made available, so that the Annual Plan targets can be achieved as per the available budget allocation. No proposals from the States concerned, complete in all respects, have been kept in abeyance.

Vayudoot service on uneconomical routes

1306. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discontinue the Vayudoot services on uneconomical routes;

(b) the total number of routes on which Vayudoot services are available and the number out of them which are not economical; and

(c) the number of routes on which these services are proposed to be continued?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). Out of 65 routes operated by Vayudoot in 1988-89, only 4 routes have proved to be economical. While short-haul operations are seldom economically viable, Vayudoot are reviewing their operations with a view to consolidating their route network to achieve economic viability.

Kota-Nimach Railway Line

1307. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the work of laying