tion of increasing the quotas to the outagency by this train, therefore, does not arise.

[English]

Conversion of Dharangadhra-Kuda and New B.G. Line Kheraghoda-Jhinjhuwada

2594. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount paid by the office of the Salt Commissioner in the Ministry of Industries to the Western Railway for making a detailed survey of converting Dharangadhra to Kuda metre gauge line to broad gauge and for laying a new Broad Gauge line from Kheraghoda to Jhinjhuwada;
- (b) the estimated cost of these two projects;
- (c) in what period of time this investment will be recovered; and
- (d) when return is assured by an agency of Government of India whether projects be given priority for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) The Salt Commissioner deposited a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs towards survey for the conversion of Kuda-Dharangadhra Metre Gauge siding into Broad Gauge and construction of a new Broad Gauge line from Kheraghoda/Patri to Jhinjhuwada.

- (b) The estimated cost of the conversion of the Kuda-Dharangadhra Metre Gauge siding is about Rs. 3.29 crores. The cost of the construction of new line from Patri to Jhinjhuwada is expected to be about Rs. 7.2 crores and that for Kheraghoda to Jhinjhuwada, about Rs. 10.0 crores.
- (c) Does not arise, till the acceptance to taking up of these projects on Deposit Terms at the cost of the Salt Commissioner is received as these projects do not form part of the Railways Plan for development.
- (d) The question of implementation will arise only after acceptance of the party to bear the cost of construction on Deposit Terms is communicated.

Role of Private Sector in Power Generation

2595. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government envisage a bigger role for private sector in power generation as reported in the *Financial Express* of 5 March, 1985;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether this role will be extended to distribution also?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Power generation and distribution have been reserved for the public sector. However, expansion of the existing privately owned utilities or the establishment of new units, if required in the national interest, is not precluded from consideration.

Central Assistance for Irrigation Works in Tribal Sub Plan Areas

2596. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) how much Centrel Assistance was provided by Government of India for irrigation works in Tribal sub-plan areas during the Sixth Five Year Plan, year-wise figures:
- (b) what is the basis for allocating Central assistance to States for irrigation sector in Tribal and plan areas; and
- (c) if assistance was low, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). No Central Assistance was provided by Ministry of Irrigation and Power, Government of India for irrigation works in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Incentive System for Safety Consciousness among Railway Staff

2597. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: