

There is a proposal to modernise Kharagpur workshop with a view to providing inter-alia all infrastructural facilities in connection with POH of 4 electric locomotives per month on a regular basis. The Modernisation project is estimated to cost about Rs. 26.5 crores. Stabilisation of POH work of Electric locomotives in this workshop will, therefore, be progressing commensurate with the availability of funds.

Setting up of Tenughat Thermal Power Plant

2508. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Govt. to set up a 420 Megawatt Thermal Power Plant at Tenughat in Bihar ;

(b) if so, by when its construction work would be started and estimated expenditure to be incurred on this plant ; and

(c) what will be the benefit of this plant to Bihar State as well as to the whole country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (c) : Tenughat thermal power plant (2×210 MW) has been approved for implementation. The latest estimated cost is about Rs. 400 crores. The work on the project has been initiated. As the project is in the State sector, the entire power generated will be available to Bihar.

Container Depot in Murshidabad and Malda

2509. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up refrigerated container depot for mangoes in Murshidabad and Malda ;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Such facilities are developed in accordance with the requirements of the trade, keeping in view the Financial and Operational viability. No such demand has come to the notice of the Railway Administration for movement of mangoes from Murshidabad and Malda in refrigerated containers.

Leprosy Patients Cured Yearly

2511. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate number of leprosy patients added every year ;

(b) the number of leprosy patients cured every year ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this disease is mostly in the hilly and backward area of the country and if so, what are the main causes for this disease and special measures being taken to control this disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) : Based on the population increase every year new cases are added as well as more existing cases detected, the number of which is estimated at