

- (iii) Roads connecting State Capitals.
- (iv) Roads connecting major ports and important industrial or tourist centres.
- (v) Roads meeting very important strategic requirements.
- (vi) Roads carrying high density of traffic over an adequate length.
- (vii) Roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achievement of substantial economies thereby.
- (viii) Roads which complete the 100 km square grid.

[Translation]

Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Plant

120. PROF. RITA VERMA :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Project;

(b) whether the said project is awaiting clearance from the Government for its execution;

(c) if so, the time by which the work on the project is likely to commence; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for its timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Project was given techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority in 1988 at a cost of nearly Rs. 1300 crores and with financial assistance from USSR. However, the project could not be taken up following the disintegration of the USSR. Attempts to get OECF assistance was also not successful. Offers from M/s. Technopromexpert of Russia, M/s. Kapco of Korea and M/s. Ansaldo of Italy also did not find favour. Thereafter, a joint venture concept with M/s. Bombay Suburban Electric Supply has been mooted by the DVC and in principle approved by the Ministry of Power. A Joint Task Force has been constituted with officers from both DVC and BSES for the purpose of formulating and registering the joint venture company for execution of Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Project. The physical work at site can start only after registration of the joint venture agreement, finalisation of the financial package, executing of a power purchase

agreement with prospective consumers and often as one of a final project sanction by the Government.

[English]

Establishment of Private Universities

121. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3032 on July 6, 1998 and state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the recommendations; and

(d) the time by which the same are likely to be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir, the Bill is under active consideration of the Government and it is expected that the decision will be taken shortly.

Water Transport Facility to Paradip Port

122. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce water transport facility to Paradip Port through river Mahanadi and Brahmani;

(b) if so, the time/date fixed for the purpose;

(c) the programmes prepared therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a study of East Coast Canal connecting Paradip & Haldia alongwith Delta region of Mahanadi and Brahmani river has been conducted during 1996-97. Further, action will depend on the availability of resources.