

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Thermal Power Corporation recommended in September, 1988 the addition of a module of 430 MW capacity to the existing plant on variable load basis after taking into consideration all relevant factors. A decision has since been taken that gas power stations should operate on base load. The project requires tying up of gas linkage for operation under base load.

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

1733. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has recommended to the Union Government for the construction of some railway projects in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action thereon;

(c) whether the State Government has also proposed to share the cost of construction of some railway lines in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Following railway projects have been recommended by the Government of Maharashtra:

- (i) Conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad MG section into BG and subsequently extending it upto Parli Vajinath and Adilabad.
- (ii) Conversion of Latur-Barsi-Pandharpur-Miraj NG section and extending it upto Latur Road and laying a new railway line joining Osmanabad with this line.

(ii) Construction of a new broad gauge line from Ahmednagar to Parli Vajinath via Beed.

(iv) New BG line from Khamgaon to Jalna.

(v) Conversion of Chandrapur-Gondia-Jabalpur NG to BG.

(vi) Conversion of Daund-Baramati NG line to BG.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of Maharashtra had proposed setting up Corporations for (i) to (v) projects above. Survey reports for the projects at (i) to (iv) indicate that these would not be financially remunerative. Survey for project at (v) has been taken up. No survey for project at (vi) has so far been done. However owing to acute resource crunch it is not possible to consider this project for the present. However, while sanctioning Konkan Railway Project, Ministry of Finance had laid down that no more corporations would be considered during the 8th Plan.

Earlier, Maharashtra Government had proposed issue of debentures for funding the Marathwada gauge conversion projects.

Railways had agreed that such contribution could be in addition to and quite separate from Railway's Annual Plan outlay and that no additional financial liability would come on Railways as a result, thereof, whether in the form of interest payment or redemption of debentures, or in any other manner. Proposal on these lines has not been received from the State Government. In the meanwhile the Ministry of Finance in a communication has opined that if such schemes are to be financed by raising of debentures outside the plan, the Central Government should agree to a pro-tanto reduction in the borrowing programme to accommodate such requests. Further they have suggested that the only way to expedite execution of these gauge conversion projects is to make adequate provision for these schemes within the Plan outlay for Railways.