

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The present cost of conversion is Rs. 75 lakhs per km. and cost of new BG line per km. is Rs. 1 crore.

(b) No, Sir.

[English]

Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Section

3553. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by the Government in April 1989 for the future programme of electrification of the Indian Railways have since submitted its report;

(b) if so, details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the action taken / proposed to be taken for electrification of the Kharagpur-Khurda Section of the South-Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of about 10,000 RKMS proposed to the Committee by Zonal Railways, the Committee have recommended electrification of 2510 RKMS spread over the period 1990-2005. Planning Commission have advised the Ministry of Railways that the recommendations of the committee will form one of the inputs while formulating plan proposals for Railway electrification. Electrification proposals are now being processed on techno economic merits and operational requirements on a section by section basis.

(c) In view of resources constraint and relative priorities for electrification there is, at present, no proposal to electrify Kharagpur-Khurda Road Section.

Foreign Contracts by IRCON

3554. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries where the Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) has contracts to implement different projects; and

(b) the strength of workforce deployed

by it and the source of man-power for such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) has contracts in Algeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Zambia.

(b) The number of personnel deployed by IRCON, for these projects, from India is 295.

Expansion of Bhubaneswar Airport

3555. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhubaneswar Airport is equipped to receive chartered flights;

(b) if not, whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any proposal in this connection and if so, the action taken / proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) the steps taken / proposed to be taken for expansion of the runway at Bhubaneswar airport; and

(d) the details of action plans to make at least one Airport of each State capable of handling international flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Bhubaneswar airport can receive chartered flights upto Boeing 737 / A-320 aircraft type.

(b) The Government of Orissa has sought the extension of the runway at Bhubaneswar airport to 9000 feet to enable the airport to receive wide bodied aircraft.

(c) The National Airports Authority has already extended the runway from 5850 feet to 7441 feet at a cost of Rs. 8.87 crores. As a result, the airport is now available for operation of Airbus A-320 aircraft. Further extension of the runway to 9000 feet depends on State Government making available nearly 70 acres of land free of cost and carrying out diversion of roads and electric lines, as well as resources being available with