

(iv) Need for Conversion of Metre Gauge Railway Line Between Talaguppa and Shimoga, Karnataka into Broad Gauge.

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA (Shimoga) :
Sir, the conversion of metre gauge rail line into broad gauge is in progress between Anasikere and Shimoga. Another rail line between Shimoga and Talaguppa is equally important. The conversion work of this line has not been taken up so far despite several representations from State Government in this regard.

The world famous Jog-Falls is just 20 kilometres away from Talaguppa. In addition, Jog-Falls is one of the very important power generation centres. Work is going on at Sharavati. Most of the labourers, farmers and traders depend upon rail journey between Talaguppa and Shimoga. This is the famous hill area of Karnataka. As it is a hilly area priority should be given for conversion of the present metre gauge rail line into broad gauge.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to look into the matter and issue orders for taking up the above mentioned conversion work without any further delay.

(v) Need to Take Steps to Solve Power Crisis in Assam

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) :
Sir, the power situation in Assam is very grim. The power cuts for hours together have become a common feature. Many of the power generating units have been shut down. As a result, at present about 116 MW of power is generated as against the installed capacity of over 500 MW.

The absence of regular power supply has affected people from different walks of life. It has grievously affected the industries and all development work in the State.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to give serious consideration to the acute power problem in the State and take steps for early implementation of projects such as Kathalguri, Amguri, etc. in the State of Assam.

(vi) Need to Start a 900 M.W. Pumped Storage Power Project Over Kistabazar Rive Near Purulia Town, West Bengal.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) :
Sir, the demand of power has been rising at rapid rate in the country including the State of West Bengal. The West Bengal Electricity Board has taken up investigation work to study the feasibility for installation of a pumped storage power project over Kistabazar river in Ayadhya Hills. The project site is located 65 Km. in west from Purulia town. The location have been approved by the Central Electricity Authority, CWC and the foreign consultant, M/s Electric Power Development Company Limited, Japan. Based on the technical data, M/s EPDC of Japan has come to the conclusion that a 900 MW pump storage scheme is viable over Kistabazar river. 530 acres of forest land has been transferred to the power department. The estimated construction is Rs. 1232 crores and will be completed in years.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to start the project within the current financial year.