

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Out of the tentatively planned programme of capacity addition of 38,000 MW during the Eighth Plan period in the country, it is anticipated that about 2950 MW would be added in Madhya Pradesh. In addition, the State would receive its share from the existing as well as planned Central sector power projects in the western Region.

Expansion of Amarkantak and Korba Power Projects of Madhya Pradesh

8813. SHRI PHOOLCHAND VARMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of Amarkantak and Korba Power Projects in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, when the expansion work is proposed to be started;

(c) the complete details in this regard; and

(d) the extent of additional area of the state likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The proposal regarding expansion of Korba West Thermal Power Station Unit No. 5 & 6 - (2 x 210 MW) has been techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority at an estimated cost of Rs. 581.15 crores and investment approval is yet to be accorded by the planning Commission. The proposal regarding expansion of Amarkantak Thermal Power Station (1 x 120 MW) could be taken up for approval by CEA after the confirmation regarding the availability of all the inputs and clearances in this respect are obtained by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity

Board.

(d) As the proposed units are to be operated in the State Sector, the additional capacity generated on commissioning of such units would be available for benefits in the State.

[English]

Use of Jute for manufacturing paper

8814. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI MATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to make use of jute for manufacturing paper; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where jute will be utilised for paper production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Government encourage the use of agri-residues, bagasse, jute, etc. for paper making by allowing such units using 50% or more of unconventional raw-materials the facility of concessional excise duty. This facility can be utilised by and State where location of jute-based Paper Units is proposed.

National Wage Policy for Railwaymen

8815. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a national wage policy for the railwaymen;

(b) whether Government propose to take effective steps to reduce the existing gap between the minimum wages paid to

railwaymen and to those of public sector undertakings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Railwaymen form part of Central Government employees. Rules, regulations, etc. governing the salary and allowances, working conditions, etc. evolved by the Central Government for Central Government employees are generally applicable for railwaymen.

(b) and (c). The demand of the Central Government employees for parity at the lowest level were job content, duties and responsibilities are said to be similar with that of employees of Public Sector Undertakings has already been examined by the Fourth Central Pay Commission. The Commission observed that it appears that job content of even a peon/messenger in Central Government may not be similar in all respects with that in Public Sector Undertakings for a variety of reasons. There are also differences due to combination of tasks. The Commission also observed that the pay structure for the employees of vast and complex organisation like Central Government cannot be based on simple comparison of the pay scales of posts at the lowest level in Public Sector Undertakings. The Commission finally concluded that pay structure and the conditions of service of Central Government employees have to be determined on their own merits. The structure of emoluments in Public Sector Undertakings is no doubt relevant for the purpose of forming views about emoluments of Central Government employees and that the Commission did keep in view this aspect while formulating their recommendations.

Conversion of Parli-Adilabad Rail Line

8816. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in gauge conversion of Parli-Mudkhed-Adilabad metre-gauge section; and

(b) when this project is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Only about Rs. 20 lakhs have been spent upto march'90 on Parbhani-Purna & Mudkhed-Adilabad conversion project. However, during 1990-91, an outlay of Rs. 9.5 crore has been provided.

(b) Completion of the project would depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Linking of Karwar Port with Rail Line

8817. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karwar port where the naval base "Sea Bird" is fast coming up has no railway link; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to link Karwar port with a broad gauge line and complete the construction work in the Eighth Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of Roha-Udupi BG line has been approved in 1990-91. This when completed will provide a broad gauge link to Karwar. It is hoped that the construction would be completed in a period of 5 years.