

Setting up of Central Public Sector Enterprise in Vidarbha Region.

*747. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand from the people of Vidarbha for setting up of some major central public sector enterprises in that industrially and economically backward region;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up any central public sector enterprise in that region;

(c) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d). Central investments are made taking into consideration techno-economic viability of projects while keeping in view the need for overall balanced regional development. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up any new Central Public Sector Enterprise in Vidarbha Region.

Functioning of District Industries Centres

*748. SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether deficiencies have been noticed in the functioning of district industries centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated to make them more effective?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). The overall performance of District Industries Centres has been satisfactory. However, some deficiencies like, weak data base, insufficient delegation of powers, out dated project profiles, large number of vacancies and lack of trained and motivated personnel have been noticed. The concerned State Govts. have been requested to take necessary corrective measures.

Setting up of Thermal Power Station in Visakhapatnam

*749. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONTHALA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision on setting up of coal based thermal power station at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project and the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). A feasibility report in respect of the installation of a Thermal Power Station (2x500MW) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1477.34 crores at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh was received in the Central Electricity Authority in September, 1988 from the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board. It would be possible for the Central Electricity Authority to appraise the project techno-economically after all the essential inputs such as water and coal availability, etc., are tied up and necessary clearances including from environmental angle obtained by the State Authorities.