

at Nagpur. Section 41 of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960 provided for a Bench of the Bombay High Court at Nagpur to exercise jurisdiction and power of the High Court in respect of cases arising in the Districts of Buldana, Akola, Amravati, Ycotal, Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara, Chanda and Rajura. The Bench at Nagpur was set up in pursuance of this provision.

Gwalior and Indore were important seats of administration of the former princely States. With the merger of the States, the territory of Madhya Bharat was created and later the State of Madhya Pradesh came into being. The Benches of the Madhya Pradesh High Court at Gwalior and Indore were set up under Section 51 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 in order to maintain the continuity of the facilities earlier available to the people of the various areas.

In all these cases the decision to set up Benches was taken in the public interest, i. e. in the interest of administration of justice and for the convenience of the litigants, who had been used to these facilities at those places.

SHRI BALATHANDAYUTHAM : Is the Government aware that the poor peasants of Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and Southern parts of Kerala have been persistently demanding a bench in Madurai for Tamil Nadu and a bench at Trivandrum for Kerala, because they have to travel hundreds of miles—it is nearly 400 miles from Kanyakumari to Madras since the reorganisation of States ?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : No such request has come to the Government so far.

SHRI BALATHANDAYUTHAM : Will Government consider such a proposal if it comes from the Government of Tamil Nadu or from the people ?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : It is for the State Government to take a decision and if the State Government approaches the Central Government, the matter would be considered here.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH : The principle is that justice has to be carried to the door of the people. If so, will the Government co-

sider the reorganisation of the judicial department and establish additional benches in places other than the State headquarters ? Will Government consider establishing an additional bench at Tirupathi in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : This question was considered on more than one occasion. The Law Commission gave a definite opinion that constitutions of benches, whether of the High Courts or of the Supreme Court, at other places will lead to the efficiency of the courts being impaired. So, they were positively against any demand for constituting benches. The Chief Justice of India also took the view that unless it was imperative in public interest, such a demand should not be encouraged. As hon. members know, the High Courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay have benches in some other places where it was found necessary in public interest, therefore, if at a particular place in public interest it is thought necessary, the best authority to consider it in the first instance is the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. If a proposal is made and if public interest requires it, certainly such a proposal will be considered.

Decrease in orders for wagons placed with Indian Standard Wagon Company Ltd., Burnpore

*948. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether orders placed with the Indian Standard Wagon Company Ltd., Burnpore for Railway wagons have decreased over the orders for previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decrease ;

(c) whether he is aware that due to shortage of orders, Indian Standard Wagon management is laying off its workers and may retrench some of them; and

(d) whether orders for wagons will be increased in the near future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) (i) Less production by the firm during the previous year.
 (ii) Less requirements of wagons.
- (c) This Ministry is not aware of such a situation.
- (d) Further orders on the firm will depend on the Railways' requirements of wagon for traffic and the firm's performance.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What was the number of wagons ordered from this firm during 1970-71 and what is the extent of the shortfall in the production ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : There is a huge backlog of this firm. In 1960-70, there was a backlog of 2634 wagons. In 1970-71, the backlog of 1759. Fresh orders placed on the firm by the railways are 397.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Has the Government taken any steps to find out the reasons for this unsatisfactory performance of the company and whether in future it will be possible for them to fulfil their orders or whether these orders will have to be allocated to some other firms ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : From 1966-67 onwards, the production of this firm had fallen considerably as compared to 1965-66. The main reason given by the company is go-slow tactics and labour troubles. There was a lock-out from September, 1967 to April, 1968. These are some of the reasons why there was a short-fall in production.

Setting up of Super Thermal Power units in Madhya Pradesh

*951. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI** : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has urged the Central Government to set up super thermal power units in the coal belt area of the State to help solve the power shortage not only in Madhya Pradesh but also in the neighbouring States i. e. Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) whether it has been pointed out to the Central Government that the State has enough coal resources to feed such power stations and power can be generated at a considerably low cost; and

(c) if so, whether the Central Government have considered the proposal and their reaction in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) to (c) A statement in laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Government have carefully considered the position and large thermal extension project with a total installed capacity of 1.7 million kW have been included in the proposals for Madhya Pradesh in the Decade Plan for Power Generation upto 1980-81. It may be pointed out that location of super power thermal stations cannot be decided on the basis of availability of coal alone; but planners have to take into account a number of factors like availability of water and coal, location of load centres etc.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : The answer laid on the Table is hardly any answer. It has been said that a target of 1.7 million kW has been set for the development of thermal projects in the Decade Plan. May I know what is the capacity to be generated for thermal plant in M. P. in the current five year plan ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : In the current plan, they will be adding only very little—about 50 MW, because as it is, M. P. is surplus in power. Now that the load of the aluminium plant is coming up, during the next 10 years, we hope to instal thermal plant capacity of 1.7 million kW.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : You have clarified that the setting up of the thermal plant is not based on the nearness of coal or water, but many other factors are involved. May I know whether you have any project for establishing a thermal plant in Rajasthan, as there is acute shortage of electricity there ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Rajasthan is one of the States where there is no source—hydel or thermal. In the 10 year plan that we are visualising now, we are not only going to expand the atomic power station at Ranapratapsagar but we are also going to have another thermal plant station at Kotah.