

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: That is already under preparation. We have approached the World Bank for financing. We are helping the Assam Government to set up a power plant also.

SHRI HAREN BHUMJ: The Minister in his reply has stated that the maximum discount of Rs. 500 per 1,000 cubic metre has been given to all supplies of natural gas to the Assam State Electricity Board. Besides this, Lakwa project, Namrup Thermal project as well as hundreds of tea gardens and others are consumers of this natural gas in the State of Assam. It is also a fact that large quantities of natural gas is being flared up day and night in the State of Assam in the oil field.

May I request through you to the hon. Minister, whether he would see that the Government make endeavor to supply natural gas to these industries and to these projects at a most concessional price, as desired by the State Government of Assam.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: About Assam, I have already submitted that they have not suggested any further concession. Whatever maximum concession that is permissible has been already given. In fact, tea plantation companies have welcomed these prices. Only one tea company had approached the court. The best way to utilise the gas will be to expedite putting up of downstream industry and we are helping them in the process.

Training in Operation and Maintenance of Power Plant Equipments

*475. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT†:**
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited proposes to train personnel from developing countries in operation and maintenance of power plant equipment.

(b) if so, whether similar training is being given to Indian personnel also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Five persons from Nepal were trained for a period of 4 weeks in the Operation and Maintenance of Turbines and Generators. Assistance in training has also been offered to personnel from some developing countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Guyana, Gambia and Swaziland.

(b) and (c). Training to personnel of utilities and industries in India is being given by BHEL as a regular practice. During 1988-89 about 300 persons have availed of training in various BHEL Units. In addition, experts are deputed to various sites for discussions/familiarisation on requests from the customers.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total strength of the employees and workers of the BHEL group of industries and the total number of personnel from foreign countries trained by BHEL during the year 1988. Regarding Nepal, it has been stated that 5 persons from that country were imparted training but I would like to know the total number of foreign personnel trained by BHEL and the norms in this regard. Is training imparted to the personnel of only those countries to which BHEL equipments are exported or is such training imparted under some agreement?

[English]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Those who buy BHEL equipments-only to them, we have given training. For others, we will not give training. As I said, in answer to part (a), we have already trained 4 to 5 persons of Nepal. We have offered the same facilities to Malaysia and other countries.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my supplementary. I wanted to know the total strength of the employees and workers of the BHEL group but no reply has been given.

[*English*]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, the total strength of the BHEL all over India is 63,000 workers and 12,000 engineers and officers. The total is 75,000

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that about 80 thousand people are employed in different units of BHEL and about 300 persons have availed of the training facilities. Instead of imparting training to the foreign personnel, the Government should train its own personnel first and about 2000 such personnel should be given training. Will the Government consider enlarging the scope of this scheme?

[*English*]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: He is misled by this question and his supplementary is not correct.

S.No.	Station	From	To	Estimated Expenditure (in lakhs)
1.	Allahabad 'A'	1 KW MW	20 KW MW	162.00
2.	Lucknow (VB)	1 KW MW	10 KW MW	111.55
3.	Varanasi	10 KW MW	100 KW MW	159.50
4.	Lucknow	10 KW SW	50 KW SW	254.74

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respect Shri Krishna Kumar. But I am

We are giving training to the employees of the Electricity Boards and the Corporation. Our BHEL people are already trained experts.

[*Translation*]

Broadcasting Range of A.I.R. Stations in Uttar Pradesh

*477. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to enhance the broadcasting range of some low power A.I.R. Stations in Uttar Pradesh during the next three years,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c). The approved 7th Plan schemes of upgradation of powers of AIR transmitters at 4 Centres in Uttar Pradesh are envisaged to be completed in the next three years. Details regarding upgradation and the estimated expenditure to be incurred on each project are given below:

pained to note that the senior Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, is not present in the House to reply to the question although he is in