

(b) The proposed BG line 182 km long was estimated to cost Rs. 156 crores with a negative rate of return. The project could not, therefore, be considered for being taken up.

#### **White Paper on Public Sector**

75. SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the time since the proposal for bringing out a White Paper on Public Sector has been under consideration;

(b) the aim in view behind the proposal; and

(c) when the White Paper is to be placed before the House?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The proposal to bring out a White Paper on Public Sector has been under consideration since March, 1987.

(b) The aim behind the proposal is to further improve the working of public sector enterprises as well as enhance their autonomy and make them accountable for results.

(c) The proposal is still under consideration of the Government.

#### **Tidal Power Project in Gulf of Kutch**

76. SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA:  
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any techno-economic evaluation of feasibility report was carried out for the tidal power project in Gulf of Kutch;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the decision taken thereon; and

(c) whether such projects in other coastal places have also been considered and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The techno-economic evaluation of the feasibility report for the Tidal Project in Gulf of Kutch has been carried out. However, the scheme was not yet been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority.

(b) During the course of the techno-economic evaluation of the feasibility report, it was considered necessary to carry out further investigations and studies on certain aspects of the project to arrive at a final decision. These are under progress.

(c) Such projects in other coastal places have not been considered so far.

#### **Introduction of Vayudoot Flights to Pilani/Jhunjhunu**

77. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to bring Pilani and/or Jhunjhunu on the air map by introducing Vayudoot flights to these areas; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Budge-Budge-Namkhana Railway Line**

78. SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in construction of Budge Budge-Namkhana railway line (W.B.); and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). The project, as approved, is for construction of a BG line from Lakshmikantapur to Namkhana. Construction work has been taken up in the first block section from Lakshmikantapur to Kulpi and the progress is 7%. Completion will depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.

#### **Chari Committee Report**

79. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations/observations made by the Chari Committee in its report 'Issues in Coal';

(b) whether views of Government have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Briefly, the salient feature of the report are:-

1. Though the coal production has increased, the objective of nationalisation cannot be said to have been fully achieved.

2. Massive investments in import of technology and equipment have not reduced cost of production.

3. Import of coking coal can and should be avoided by improving the performance of washeries and delink-

ing the suspect sources of supply.

4. Quality base for statistical report should be in terms of standard coal.
5. Concept of OMS should include all inputs instead of manpower alone.
6. Undue emphasis on opencast mining should be avoided.
7. Gradewise price structure needs to be rationalised.
8. Exploration should be demand based and not project based for creating a shelf of projects from which a choice could be made base on least cost options.
9. Getting land, sand for stowing, adequate power, timely supply of equipments, delay in environmental clearance are some of the major problems.
10. In order to achieve the desired production level by 2000 AD, the projects need to be planned from today, considering the long gestation period.
11. Jharia Reconstruction project should include proper definition of scope for proper utilisation of coals from lower seams.
12. 'Decontrol' of coal has certain positive aspects that may commend its adoption.
13. Board of Directors of Coal India Ltd. needs to be reorganised and subsidiary companies should be freed from interference by holding company. Executives should be permitted extension till the age of 65 years.