

**Alternative Project in Place of Silent Valley**

128. SHRI V. S. VAJYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre has given its approval for the alternative project in place of the abandoned Silent Valley Project, sent by the Government of Kerala ;

(b) if not, the reasons for not approving it ; and

(c) by what time this project will be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). No Sir. The scheme has not been found acceptable from environmental considerations and also involves inter-State aspects relating to the utilisation of Bhavani waters, a tributary of Cauvery, which are yet to be resolved.

**Demand of Direct Link Between Berhampur To Raipur VIA Phulbani**

129. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand to connect Berhampur (in Orissa) with Raipur (in Madhya Pradesh) by a direct line via Phulbani ;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why the above proposal has not been implemented so far ; and

(c) the details of the survey made on this proposed line ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c). There has been no demand in the recent past for a line from Berhampur to Raipur via phulbani. There is, therefore, no such proposal at present. A survey is, however, being carried out for a new line from Khurda Road to Bolangir via phulbani. In view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand, the proposal will have to await consideration till the resources position improves.

**Proposals Submitted By West Bengal Government For Revamping Thermal Power Stations**

130. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of West Bengal has submitted any proposal to the Central Government for revamping of the State's thermal power stations ;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said proposals ;

(c) when it was submitted to the Government ;

(d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government on the said proposal ;

(e) if so, details thereof ;

(f) if not, the reasons for the delay ; and

(g) by what time the Government propose to approve these proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (g). The West Bengal State Electricity Board has submitted to the Central Electricity Authority schemes for the renovation and modernisation of their Santaldih and Bandel thermal power stations on 23. 1. 1985 and 25. 2. 1985 respectively. The scheme for Santaldih power station incorporates revamping of 4 units of 120 MW each as well as common station facilities. The scheme is estimated to cost about Rs. 2192 lakhs. The renovation scheme for Bandel thermal station includes renovation of 4 × 80 MW sets and other common station facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 3390 lakhs. The schemes will be shortly recommended to the Planning Commission for investment decisions after techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority.