

plans for further development in an area of 29,700 sq. kms. in Kasai and Suberna-  
rekha river basins in the States of Bihar,  
West Bengal and Orissa.

(b) The studies in the project would cover tribal areas of Ranchi and Singh-  
bhum districts in Bihar, Mayurbhanj  
district in Orissa and tribal and drought  
prone districts of Purulia, Bankura and  
Midnapur in West Bengal.

(c) Recommendations are made on  
locations of prospective areas for ground  
water development and dugwell and tube-  
well sites to the State Governments.

#### Replacement of Overaged Railway Coaches

458. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI  
KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS  
be pleased to state :

(a) the number of over-aged railway  
coaches which required replacement at the  
end of 1983 and 1984;

(b) how many of the coaches needing  
replacement were removed from the tracks  
during 1983 and 1984; and

(c) the number of the new coaches  
manufactured during 1983-1984 and how  
many of these coaches were actually utili-  
sed for the replacement of over-aged coaches  
stating the reasons for not utilising all  
the coaches manufactured during 1983-84 for  
replacement of old coaches ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI  
BANSI LAL) : (a) 2035 Passenger carrying  
vehicles of all gauges required replacement  
at the end of 1983-84;

(b) 779 Passenger carrying vehicles  
of all gauges were condemned during  
1983-84;

(c) 1159 new coaches were manufactured  
during 1983-84. Out of these 943 coaches  
were utilised for replacement of over-aged  
coaches and balance were utilised for  
augmentation of the old services and  
introduction of new trains.

#### Loss to DTC due to Increase in the rate of Hire Charges of Private Buses

459. SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will  
the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANS-  
PORT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for increasing the rate  
of hire charges of private buses plying  
under D. T. C.; and

(b) the total loss D. T. C. will incur  
because of the said increase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANS-  
PORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : The hire  
charges in respect of private operators' buses  
under DTC which were last fixed effective  
August, 1981 have been since revised up-  
wards effective September, 1984 taking into  
account the increase in the operational  
costs.

(b) The additional expenditure conse-  
quent upon increased rate of hire charges  
is of the order of Rs. 1.01 crores and  
Rs. 2.15 crores for 1984-85 and 1985-86  
respectively.

#### National Power Grid

460. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will  
the Minister of IRRIGATION AND  
POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Govern-  
ment decided to form a national power  
grid corporation to regulate a proposed  
regional and national power grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI  
ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (c) A Working  
Group was set up by the Government to  
study the various aspects of transmission  
of power and to work out the details and  
modalities leading to the establishment of  
a Centrally-owned National Power Grid.  
In its report the Working Group has  
recommended the setting up of a National  
Grid Corporation to oversee the transmis-  
sion and distribution of power.