

(c) the amount spent so far and proposed to be spent on the setting up of telephone exchange in Gopalganj; and

(d) the time by which this telephone exchange is likely to start functioning and the main difficulties being experienced in setting up this exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. There is demand for an automatic exchange.

(b) Equipment for automatisation of exchange has been allotted and land for building has been procured.

(c) Rs. 1.9 lakhs against procurement of land for building have been spent so far and about Rs. 15 lakhs is estimated to be spent on the setting up of this exchange.

(d) Exchange is expected to be commissioned by the end of 7th Plan. The main difficulty being experienced is constraint in resources.

[English]

Clearance to Thermal Power Station in Rayalaseema

307. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board has submitted the feasibility report for installation of 2x210 MW Thermal Power Station in Rayalaseema Region to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which the clearance will be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The feasibility report in respect of the proposed thermal station could be considered for techno-economic clearance after all necessary inputs, such as availability of water and coal etc. have been tied up and clearances, including from the environmental angle, have been available.

Agreement with USSR for an Automobile Plant

308. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement between India and USSR for setting up an automobile plant in India has been signed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). No specific agreement at Government level has been signed with USSR for setting up of an automobile plant in India. However, some applications have been received by the Government for setting up of manufacturing facilities for passenger cars with Soviet collaboration.

Workers' strike in Public Sector Enterprises

309. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers in some of the public sector enterprises are on strike for past few months;

(b) if so, the details of such public sector enterprises;

(c) the cause of the strikes in these public sector enterprises; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to streamline the functioning of the public sector enterprises and to stop recurrence of strikes etc.?