

Report of the Sachdev Committee

3260. { Shri Mohammad Elias;
Shri Prabhat Kar:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sachdev Committee studied in detail the Azimganj scheme of the West Bengal Government before making recommendation;

(b) if so, why it has now been necessary to shift the location of that scheme from Azimganj to Katwa;

(c) whether the proposed scheme at Katwa has been examined in detail and what is the present position of the same;

(d) whether the capacity of the proposed plant at Katwa has been enhanced;

(e) if so, what are the reasons for it; and

(f) what is the probable source of foreign exchange for the Katwa scheme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (f). With regard to Azimganj Thermal Power Station, the Committee was given to understand by the representatives of the Government of West Bengal that certain preliminary steps, such as selection of site etc., had already been taken by them and that they felt confident that commissioning of 2 Nos. 50 MW thermal generating units at the Station could be achieved by the close of the Third Plan or the beginning of the Fourth Plan period. The Committee's recommendation was based on this understanding and not on any detailed study of the scheme. The State Government have since reconsidered their earlier recommendation and proposed location of the Power Station at Katwa with a view to getting over the difficulties in transportation of coal by Railways. The source of foreign exchange will be determined only after details of the scheme are worked out and approved.

Catering by N. Railway during Kumbh Fair

3261. Shri B. Verma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent for purchasing the provisions by the Catering Department of the Northern Railway in connection with the Kumbh fair at Hardwar;

(b) the sale proceeds of the provisions used there; and

(c) the quantity remaining unused and the cost thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Provisions to the value of Rs. 62,933 were stocked by transfer from central catering stores godown to Hardwar, apart from purchases of items locally to the value of Rs. 3,688 at the time of Mela. Sales to the tune of Rs. 7,432 materialised during the Mela.

(c) The quantity of stores remaining unused and its cost are furnished in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV annexure No. 47].

Ticketless Travel

3262. Shri B. Verma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Railway Magistrate along with a senior Official of the Izzatnagar District North Eastern Railway trespassed over the service roads of the Forest Department in order to raid the 151 Up and 152 Down trains at the Mailani Junction in the first week of May, 1962;

(b) whether as many as 70 passengers without tickets were interned in a very small compartment; and

(c) if so, details of the incident and action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz