

*[English]***Gas Based Power Station in MP**

2530. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a power station based on gas in Bhandar of Madhya-Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal for setting up of 342 MW Dual Fuel based (Gas/Naptha) Combined Cycle Power Project in the private sector at Bhandar in Gawalior district. M.P. The generating company namely M/s Bhandar Power Ltd.. has been formed for implementation of the project.

*[Translation]-***Participation of NGOs in the Field of Science and Technology**

2531. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the assistance of Non-Governmental Organisations is being sought in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise

(c) the details of such organisations in Uttar Pradesh and the amount of financial assistance provided to them during the last three years and the provision of funds made for 1997-98; and

(d) the details of the projects undertaken by the organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be palced on the Table of Lok Sabha.

*[English]***Allocation of Gas for Power Generation in UP**

2532. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has

sent a proposal for allocation of gas for power genertion in the state; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested for allocation of gas for establishing four gas based power projects by private entrepreneurs to be located at Jagdishpur (210 MW), Aonla (600 MW), Shahjahanpur (600 MW) and Babrala (600 MW). However, as the gas projected to be avialable along HBJ pipline has already been fully allocated. it has not been found feasible to allocate any gas to the proposed power projects of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Provision of Escalators at Vijayawada Railway Station

2533. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for providing escalators at Vijayawada Railway station;

(b) if so, whether work has not been started inspite of allocation of funds; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The estimate for this work is under process for sanction and the field activities would start after sanction of the estimate.

Debt Trap of Railway Land

2534. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are facing the threat of falling into debt traps on account of high interest rate to be paid on funds mobilised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to pull Railways out of the debt trap?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) There is no immediate threat of the Railways falling into a Debt Trap on account of interest rate to be paid on funds mobilised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation. Indian Railway Finance Corporation has raised the money through tax-free and taxable bonds as well as External Commercial Borrowings at very competitive rates of interest, which are lower than the commercial rate