

(a) whether Government propose to extend Maharashtra Express plying between Kolhapur and Nagpur upto Gondia keeping in view the public demand; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Extension and Conversion of Rupsa Banglriposi Line

1993. SHRI SAMRENDAR KUNDU: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the survey for reversion and conversion into broad-gauge of Rupsa-Banglriposi Railway line in South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). A survey was carried out for conversion to Rupsa-Banglriposi N.G. Line into B.G. and its extension of Gurumahisani and dalbhumgarh in 1981. The cost as estimated at that time was Rs. 11.07 crores for conversion and Rs. 9.56 crores for extension. The cost is now estimated to be Rs. 47.45 crores for conversion of Rupsa-Banglriposi and Rs. 39.25 crores for extension not Dalbbhumgarh and Chakulia.

On consideration of development of backward and tribal areas updating of the survey has been approved.

[*Translation*]

Thermal Power Plants in Katihar, Bihar

1994. SHRI YUVRAJ: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether only three thermal power plants are operating in Bihar where as in its neighbouring State, Uttar Pradesh, twelve thermal power plants are operating;

(b) whether agriculture and industry in Bihar are suffering heavy losses due to power crises;

(c) whether a thermal power plant of 500 MW capacity is proposed to be set up in Katihar district of eastern Bihar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) At present, there are three thermal power stations operating in Bihar and eleven thermal power stations operating in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) There is no statutory power cut on agricultural industrial consumers in Bihar and the shortages are met by resorting to load shedding/restrictions, depending upon the day-to-day availability of power in the State.

(c) and (d). It is proposed to set up a 2 x 500 MW Super Thermal Power Station in the Central Sector at North Karan Pura in Bihar.

[*English*]

Repair of Vizag-Balladila Rail Line

1995. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state: