

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Out of the tentatively planned programme of capacity addition of 38,000 MW during the Eighth Plan period in the country, it is anticipated that about 2950 MW would be added in Madhya Pradesh. In addition, the State would receive its share from the existing as well as planned Central sector power projects in the western Region.

Expansion of Amarkantak and Korba Power Projects of Madhya Pradesh

8813. SHRI PHOOLCHAND VARMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of Amarkantak and Korba Power Projects in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, when the expansion work is proposed to be started;

(c) the complete details in this regard; and

(d) the extent of additional area of the state likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The proposal regarding expansion of Korba West Thermal Power Station Unit No. 5 & 6 - (2 x 210 MW) has been techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority at an estimated cost of Rs. 581.15 crores and investment approval is yet to be accorded by the planning Commission. The proposal regarding expansion of Amarkantak Thermal Power Station (1 x 120 MW) could be taken up for approval by CEA after the confirmation regarding the availability of all the inputs and clearances in this respect are obtained by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity

Board.

(d) As the proposed units are to be operated in the State Sector, the additional capacity generated on commissioning of such units would be available for benefits in the State.

[English]

Use of Jute for manufacturing paper

8814. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI MATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to make use of jute for manufacturing paper; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where jute will be utilised for paper production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Government encourage the use of agri-residues, bagasse, jute, etc. for paper making by allowing such units using 50% or more of unconventional raw-materials the facility of concessional excise duty. This facility can be utilised by and State where location of jute-based Paper Units is proposed.

National Wage Policy for Railwaymen

8815. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a national wage policy for the railwaymen;

(b) whether Government propose to take effective steps to reduce the existing gap between the minimum wages paid to