

ress of construction of Talcher–Sambalpur line is commensurate with the allocation of resources and as per schedule except that the Talcher–Angul (18 Km.) section planned for opening by 31.3.90 is now proposed for opening by 30.6.90 due to delay in raising electrical overhead crossings by State Electricity Board.

(c) Upto 1989-90 Rs. 25.29 crores have been allocated.

(d) Allocation has been enhanced from Rs. 8 Crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 11.29 crores in 1989-90.

Soviet Aid for Maithon Thermal Power Plant, Bihar

*18. SHRI R.N. RAKESH. Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Soviet Aid for power plant finalised" which appeared in "The Economic Times" dated 12 February, 1990;

(b) if so, the amount spent so far on Maithon Thermal Power Plant;

(c) the amount of Soviet aid provided/promised for it; and

(d) the time by which this Project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 75 lakhs has so far been spent on the Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Station.

(c) The Soviet aid for this project is included in a total credit of 770 million roubles under an inter governmental credit agreement for several power projects.

(d) The project is likely to be completed within the Eighth Plan period.

Power Generation as Central Subject

*19. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make power generation in the country a Central subject; and

(b) if so, when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Government is not presently considering any proposal to make power generation, in the country, a Central Subject.

[Translation]

Hydel Power in Sharda Valley in U.P.

*20. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive scheme for the utilisation of hydel power potential in Sharda Valley in Uttar Pradesh has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a separate corporation is proposed to be constituted for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). With the concurrence of Government of Uttar Pradesh, the NHPC has prepared two master plans for the development of the river basins of Dhauliganga and Gauriganga rivers, the two tributaries of the Sharda river. The Corporation has also taken up the investigation of the various stages of development of the two basins. Project report of Dhauliganga, stage-I (250 MW) has already been prepared and

techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. Further action for processing this project for investment decision has also been initiated.

(c) and (d). As the NHPC has the necessary expertise and manpower to implement the various hydro-electric projects in Sharda Valley, there is no proposal for setting-up another separate Central public sector undertaking for execution of these projects.

[English]

Vigilance in BHEL

1. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether vigilance is maintained to eliminate the possibility of senior officers in BHEL, actively helping the collaborators and private sector competitors at the cost of BHEL's interests; and

(b) if so, the action initiated to weed out such elements, if any?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Company will take appropriate action if and when any such case comes to their notice.

[Translation]

Encouragement to Paper Industry

2. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a long-term policy to encourage the paper industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, it is proposed to accord

permission for import of second hand machinery to become self-reliant in the production of paper; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). Undertaking policy measures for the sustained growth of the Paper Industry is a continuous process. Government have taken the following main measures in this behalf:—

(i) Import of wood pulp, wood chips, logs and waste paper has been allowed under OGL at a nominal or low rate of customs duty.

(ii) Paper containing not less than 75% by weight of pulp made from bagasse, raw jute and mesta is exempt from excise duty;

(iii) Large/medium/small paper mills using agro-residue and other non-conventional raw materials at least upto 50% are charged excise duty at concessional rates;

(iv) The Paper and Paper Board industry has been extended the facility of broad-banding;

(v) The Paper and Paper Board Industry, based on agricultural residue, has been brought under the scheme of Minimum Economic Capacity, which has been fixed at 33,000 TPA.

(vi) The non-MRTP/non-FERA companies have been exempted from obtaining industrial licence, provided the investment in the project is upto Rs. 50 crores if the unit is located in a Centrally declared backward area, or upto Rs. 15 crores, if the unit is located in non-backward area, subject to fulfilment of certain standard conditions.

(vii) Paper machinery has been included