

tral Electricity Authority a proposal to set up a thermal station at Kharsia.

(b) The proposal is in the State sector and Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has been requested to obtain the clearance of the State Pollution Control Board, State revenue authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture.

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent to Central Electricity Authority a proposal to set up a thermal station at Kharsia. I would like to know when that proposal was received by Central Electricity Authority and what was the estimate of cost in the original proposal ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. lady Member had written a letter to the Energy Minister and it was replied that the proposal was received by the Minister in July, 1983.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He should not read the letters written by ladies to others.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : They are sometimes interesting.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Not sometimes ; always.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The proposal was received in July, 1983 ; this is a proposal to set up a thermal station of 2 × 210 MW capacity in Stage I in district Raigarh, the district of the hon. Member. Stage I of the Project is estimated to cost about Rs. 371 crores. It is being examined from techno-economic and viability point of view.

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : May I know whether the Thermal Power Station at Kharsia will be commissioned before the end of the Seventh Plan period and, since the above project is going to be set up in a backward area

in Madhya Pradesh, what steps are being taken to implement the proposal expeditiously ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The proposal is to set up the thermal plant at a site about 30 kms. from Raigarh town, on the banks of the river Kurket, a tributary of river Mand. This is going to be a joint project of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. As I said earlier, Stage I is going to cost about Rs. 371 crores. Coal is proposed to be procured from the nearby Mand-Raigarh coalfields and water from a reservoir to be created on river Kurket by construction of a dam. However, firm coal linkage and other inputs have yet to be tied up. The Central Electricity Authority envisage benefits from Stage I of the Project during the Eighth plan.

Conversion of Macherla-Guntur Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge

*30. **SHRI VADDE SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has approved a proposal for conversion of Macherla-Guntur metre gauge section into broad gauge section ;

(b) if so, the progress of the scheme and its present stage ; and

(c) by what time the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work on two bridges has been taken up. The progress of work on these two bridges is 98%.

(c) The completion of the project will depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

SHRI VADDE SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In view of the fact that the Macherla area has got abundant reserves of limestone mineral as well

as of Cuddapah stones and there is every need to transport them to other places and in view of the fact that it has been provided irrigation facility a few years back, after which the passenger as well as goods traffic has increased manifold, will the hon. Minister take necessary steps to provide more funds and to see that the project is completed as early as possible to serve the needs of the people of that area?

SHRI BANSI LAL : I am trying to persuade the Planning Commission to allocate more funds for this project.

SHRI VADDE SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since the grounding of the project, what was the amount allocated and what was the amount spent and what is the amount allocated in the current year.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The amount allocated and spent so far is Rs. 2.02 crores.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : What is the estimated cost of the scheme and what was the time-frame fixed for completion of the scheme when the scheme was originally sanctioned?

SHRI BANSI LAL : The scheme was originally sanctioned in 1974-75 and the total length of the line is 130 km. The total cost will depend upon the escalation and other things.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : How can it be an answer? The scheme was sanctioned way back in 1974 and it is more than 10 years now.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The total estimated cost is Rs. 32.26 crores.

AN HON. MEMBER : What was the time frame?

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : In the last 10 years they have spent

only Rs. 2 crores. Will it mean that the Minister would require 50 more years to complete the project? We want an answer, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : What to do? What can be done about that now?

(Interruption)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know how so much time has been taken.

(Interruption)

[English]

SHRI BANSI LAL : Because of non-availability of funds.

(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Guidelines For Conducting Lotteries

*1. **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had issued guidelines for the conduct of lotteries and copies of that were sent out to the Finance Secretaries and Directors of Lotteries of all the States and Union Territories some time in June, 1984;

(b) if so, whether despite these guidelines, the malpractices in the conduct of lotteries continue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The guidelines were issued in the context of the State Lotteries which come under Entry 40 of the Union List of the VII Schedule of the Constitution.