

nment to ease the acute power shortage:

(i) The renovation & modernisation of thermal power stations has been taken up under a centrally sponsored scheme. All the major thermal stations in the northern region are included in this programme.

(ii) Efforts are being made to expedite the commissioning of the on-going generation projects.

(iii) Efforts are being made to re-commission quickly the thermal units at Obra and Har-duaganj which were damaged in fire so that additional power may be available from these units.

It is expected that with the measures being taken there would be some improvement in power supply position in northern region in the year 1985-86.

Doubling and electrification of Bandel-Katwa Railway Line

445. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that persistent demands have been made for doubling and electrifying the railway lines between Bandel and Katwa in the Howrah Division; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey for augmentation of the line capacity on the Bandel-Katwa section has been approved. Further action will be taken after

the survey has been completed and the survey report examined, subject to the availability of funds.

As regards Electrification, it may be mentioned that Electrification Projects are sanctioned by priority on sections with heaviest traffic density and within the constraint of availability of funds. It has not yet been feasible to include the electrification of Bandel-Katwa section in the Railways Works Programme.

National Highways in Bihar and West Bengal

446 SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work on a number of National Highways and bridges thereon have not been completed in Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to get these projects completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and at any given time, works are always in various stages of progress. On 1-4-1980 149 works sanctioned in Fifth Five Year Plan or earlier were in progress on various National Highways in West Bengal and Bihar. Out of these, 140 works have been completed and 9 works are in various stages of progress. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, 224 works have been sanctioned in these States out of which 94 works have already been completed and 130 works are in