

Rihind and Obra Hydel Stations

*315. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to states :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rihand and Obra Hydel Stations are not in a position to generate power for the next year because of low water level in the dams ; and

(b) if so, what arrangements are being made to tide over the power shortage in the affected States ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Although the storage in the Rihand reservoir this year is considerably less, generation of power, at a reduced energy level would be possible both at Rihand and Obra Hydel Stations till the onset of the next monsoon.

(b) In order to assist Uttar Pradesh in mitigating the power shortage, the neighbouring States have been persuaded to supply power to the extent of 150 MW to U.P. About three million units of energy are on an average being supplied to U.P. every day by the neighbouring Power System. The commissioning of additional generating units in the Obra Thermal Power Station and Yamuna Hydro Electric Project is being expedited to improve power availability in the State.

Setting up of medium and small size Power Projects in Himachal Pradesh

*316. SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact there is vast hydro-power potential in Himachal Pradesh : and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to set up medium and small size power projects is that State in order to provide more power in Northern India ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir. The water power potential in Himachal Pradesh has been broadly assessed at about 8500 MW at 60% load factor.

(b) A number of large, medium and small hydro-electric projects are being currently set up in that State in order to provide more power to Himachal Pradesh as well as to the Northern Region. These include Dehar (660 MW), Pong (240 MW), Giri Bata (60MW) and Baira Siul (200 MW).

Conversion of Purulia-Kotshila Line into Broad Gauge

*317. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the final report on conversion of Purulia-Kotshila line into broad-gauge;

(b) if so, when was it received;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In March, 1972.

(c) and (d) The Survey report is still under examination. Due to the Survey having revealed that the conversion would not be remunerative and also because of the present acute financial stringency result-