

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the Aga Khan's palace in Poona was sold off, and was there any proposal from the Government to purchase it?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: That is probably not in his name. That is in the name of somebody else.

*154.' [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 988 to 990 infra.]

THERMAL POWER STATION IN GARO HILLS

•155. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a major thermal power station in Garo Hills District of Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sanctioned scheme envisages the installation of: —

(i) two turbo alternator sets of 30 MW each,

(ii) a step-up sub-station,

(iii) 60 miles of transmission line, 132 KV single circuit, from Nangwalbibra to Dudnai.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: May I know when the scheme of the big power station or something of this conception will be carried out?

DR. K. L. RAO: This work will be done by the State Electricity Board of Assam.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: What will be the total foreign exchange required for this and from which country the foreign exchange will be coming?

DR. K. L. RAO: The foreign ex-ge for one unit has been sanctioned, that is for one 30 MW set, and the question of where it will be located exactly has not yet been decided. I wish to add by way of supplementary information, that this power station was originally intended to be stationed at Garo Hills, but the Assam Government has got two difficulties. One is there is no road to these Garo Hills, and secondly, the coal which was to be used in this power station had yet to be mined by the N.C.D.C. The N.C.D.C. says that it will go only when the road is put up. So, the Assam State Electricity Board has been rethinking whether to locate this power station at Gauhati; it is still under consideration.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know from what area Government will get the coal, and will the coal be of the requisite quality?

DR. K. L. RAO: That is what I submitted just a moment ago. The coal is to be obtained from Garo Hills, and the coal is yet to be mined. The coal from the drilling operations is stated to be of good quality. It has got a very low ash content, only 5 per cent, though it has got a bit of excess sulphur, being 2.0 per cent. But at present the Assam Government has been rethinking, in order to meet the requirements of the Third Plan, whether to locate this at Gauhati and use the furnace oil and the light diesel oil that they get from the refinery instead of coal; it is still under consideration.

*156 [The questioner (Shri Loka-nath Misra) was absent. For answer, vide col. 989 infra.]

CONCESSION IN RAILWAY FREIGHT ON COTTON YARN FOR EXPORT

*157. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government to ex-