

the village conditions is that the morbidity, physical or mental, is less in the rural areas than in corresponding urban areas.

Electrification of Railways

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*601. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how far the electrification programme of the Railways on different zones during the Second Plan has progressed; and

(b) the amount spent and the total likely foreign exchange contents of the electrification programme?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The position regarding progress on electrification of various zones is as follows:—

Eastern and South Eastern Railways:

Work is progressing satisfactorily on section Howrah-Burdwan & Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphuli sections. First Electric train on Howrah-Sheoraphuli section is expected to be run by the end of this month.

For the remaining sections Technical Associates have been appointed. An order for first batch of 100 locomotives has been placed. Tender notice in connection with the Overhead Equipment has been issued in the press. An Engineer-in-Chief also has been appointed.

Central Railway:

Estimates prepared by the Railway are under examination.

Southern Railway:

Civil Engineering works on the scheme is in progress.

(b) Rs. 7.75 crores have been spent so far. Foreign Exchange required

for Electrification is about 70% of the entire cost.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know why only three zones have been taken up for this purpose? Why have the other zones been left out? Are there any financial or technical difficulties standing in the way?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): This question has been raised several times in the House and even during the budget debate and the matter has been explained in great detail. We are taking up electrification in those areas where the traffic is very heavy and there is not much line capacity, so that the traffic could be lifted by increasing capacity by electrification.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: As per the statement of the hon. Deputy Minister, we have spent only nine per cent of the total amount allocated under the second Plan for electrification. May I know whether we would be able to complete the electrification of Igatpuri-Bhusaval section and also the Tambaram-Villupuram section by the end of this Plan period?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: This is the actual expenditure that has been incurred here. As a matter of fact, we have made a total commitment of Rs. 23.27 crores up till now. The total estimated expenditure for electrification of these railways is Rs. 80 crores. Out of that we have made a commitment of Rs. 23.27 crores. Provided the foreign exchange difficulty is not there, the railways expect to complete the programmes of electrification by the end of the second Five Year Plan period.

Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the fact that the traffic in the Sealdah section of the Eastern Railway is very, very congested and heavy, is there any possibility of taking up that section during the second Plan period?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am afraid, no.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know when it is likely to be taken up?

श्री बिजुलि मिश्र : सभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि जहाँ पर ज्यादा भीड़ रहती है, उसका भी ख्याल किया जाएगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि छपरा से लेकर मुजफ्फरपुर तक जो उत्तर रेलवे में है और जहाँ पर छतों पर चढ़ कर लोग चलते हैं, कुछ ख्याल किया जाएगा।

श्री जगदीश राम : जहाँ तक पैसेजर्स का सवाल है, भीड़ बहुत से सेक्शंस पर है। और वहाँ के लोगों को तो कुछ छत पर चढ़ने की आदत भी हो गई है। लेकिन मैंने यह कहा था कि जहाँ पर गुड्स ट्रेफिक के लिए ज्यादा हमको आवश्यकता है, वहाँ पर पहले इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन जारी होगा।

Shri B. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know what progress has been made in regard to the Tambaram-Villupuram electrification line and whether it will be completed during the second Five Year Plan period?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It has been stated in the reply itself that on the Southern Railway civil engineering works on the scheme is in progress and we hope to complete that scheme during the course of the second Five Year Plan period.

Shri Tyagi: Is it part of the core of the Five Year Plan?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will look into the Plan.

Shri Tyagi: I wanted to know whether it forms part of the core of the Plan and an essential part of the Plan.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will read the Plan.

Shri Tyagi: I wanted to know it.

Shri Frank Anthony: The core is not known.

Mr. Speaker: Why should he ask him? I have already stated that whatever is available in printed literature here, the hon. Members need not ask questions regarding them. They can look into them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Some of our employees have been sent abroad for training. May I know if some more will be sent to undergo training for this electrification?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The requisite number of employees will be given the training either abroad or here to man the electrification schemes.

Tape Relay Machines

*602. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tape Relay Machines in the Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(b) whether any defect has been noted so far in their working; and

(c) the future plans with regard to these Tape Relay Machines?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Bombay C.T.O. is the only telegraph office where the tape relay arrangement is in operation.

(b) There is no technical defect in the system but the traffic handling capacity of the system needs to be increased in order to get the full benefit from it.

(c) It is proposed to introduce the system at New Delhi, Calcutta and Madras.

Shri Heda: May I know whether there was any breakdown in the machinery and if so, what was the delay in sending the telegrams?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not exactly aware of the break-down, but there was some teething trouble when the system was first put up. But one of the German engineers who were responsible for the installation of this machine came and looked into it. The system is now working. We are proposing to augment the capacity and production of this system.