

To bring about universal provision of facilities the POA of the NPE 1986 envisages that State Government will ensure that all habitations with a population of 300 and all tribal, hilly and desert areas with population of 200 should have a primary school. The States/UTs have been advised to aim to achieve this by 1990.

To bring about substantial improvement in primary schools a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Operation Blackboard has been started from 87-88. All primary schools will be provided a school building of at least 2 rooms, 2 teachers and essential teaching learning material in a phased manner. State Government have been advised to keep in mind the need for priority in coverage to educationally backward areas.

Rural population is also to be served by the scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas in order to provide good quality education including inculcation of cultural values. Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened on an average one in each district including the Adivasi/Tribal areas by 1990.

The Navodaya Vidyalayas will have hostel facilities for students. Hostels and residential schools including Ashram schools for persons belonging to SC/ST and other deprived sections are also envisaged to be opened by State/UT governments on a much larger scale under the new policy.

In order to promote the enrolment of girls and children of adivasi and other remote or deprived areas into the educational system, various State Govts. are giving incentives such as free supply of books and uniforms, free text-books, mid-day meals, attendance scholarships etc.

Indupalli Railway Station on Vijayawada Machilipatnam Railway Line

5075. SHRI V.SOBHANADREESWARARAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have received any representation for re-conversion of

Indupalli station as a crossing station on Vijayawada-Machilipatnam Line;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) the likely date from which the Indupalli Station is likely to function as crossing station?

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

(b) and (c). This work has not been approved so far. It will be considered for approval in the coming years depending on availability of resources and development of traffic.

Projects Undertaken by Railway in Foreign Countries

5076. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken by the Railways in foreign countries;

(b) the number of labourers required for each project;

(c) whether Railways are engaging and selecting Indian labourers direct for such projects; and

(d) the criteria laid down for sending Indian labourers for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). Construction projects in foreign countries are being executed on behalf of Indian Railways by Indian Railway Construction Co. Ltd.(IRCON), currently in Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iraq, Bangladesh, Nepal & Jordan. The total no. of employees engaged on these projects is about 400. Most of the work force required is drawn from Railways on deputation or from Company's own strength, based on their suitability for the job requirements.