

Bankura-Damodar River Railway

1721. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that management of Bankura Damodar River Railway was taken over from the private management in the year 1967;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same has not yet been nationalised;

(c) whether Government propose to Nationalise this railway line; and

(d) whether this railway serves large areas of rural Bengal ?

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

(c) The question of purchase will be examined with reference to the provisions of the Agreement between the Central Government and the Company.

(d) This line runs from Bankura to Rainagar mostly in rural Bengal and is about 96 Kms. long.

Eradication of Illiteracy

1722. SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of literacy in respect of male and female before Independence and the percentage today;

(b) the total amount spent to eradicate illiteracy;

(c) whether there is any special programme to eradicate illiteracy in respect of backward and tribal areas; and if so, the salient features of the programme; and

(d) whether any team has been set up to go into this question and submit report; and if so, what are their recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Literacy rate in the country is measured only through the census conducted once in ten years by the Registrar General of India. According to 1941 Census held before independence, percentage of literacy in India was 24.90 for male and 7.30 for female the comparable figures according to 1951 Census being 23.54 for male and 7.63 for female. Literacy rates for male and female, as per 1981 Census are 46.89% and 24.82% respectively.

(b) Expenditure incurred on Adult Education since First Five Year Plan is given below :

(Rs. in crore)

1st Plan	2nd Plan	3rd Plan	4th Plan	5th Plan	6th Plan
5.00	4.00	2.00	5.90	32.6	163.00

(c) Adult Education Programme stipulates coverage of backward and tribal areas. Following special steps have been taken in this regard :—

(1) The State Governments and Union Territories have been advised to :

(a) Cover on priority basis all the districts having literacy rate below national average;

(b) Ensure that at least 50% of the learners enrolled in the Adult Education Centres are women, 30% Scheduled Castes and 16% Scheduled Tribes.

(c) Make special efforts to enrol the weaker sections of the society;

(d) Give priority to the opening of the adult education centres in the rural and tribal areas and to locate such centres in bastis of SC/ST as far as possible;