

**Electrification of Kharagpur Waltair Section**

3347. SHRI ARJUN SETHI :  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of electrification work on Kharagpur-Waltair and Visakhapatnam section under South-Eastern Railway has been slow :

(b) whether the funds earmarked are not enough over the last three years:

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the specific amounts made available to make the tracks electrified within the revised time schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The electrification of Kharagpur-Visakhapatnam section is covered in Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar and Bhubaneswar - Visakhapatnam electrification projects.

The electrification of Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar section was initially sanctioned in 1995-96 with private funding under Build, Operate, Lease & Transfer scheme, but due to high rates quoted by the bidders the work could not be started. The funds earmarked to this project under BOLT scheme could not be utilised in 1995-96 and 1996-97. The project has therefore been taken out of BOLT scheme and approved to be taken up under Railway funding and was included in the Railway Budget 1997-98. So far as Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam section is concerned it has also been approved and was included in Railway Budget 1997-98.

(d) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 602.46 crores. Rs. 40.2 crores were spent during the year 1997-98. Rs. 96.63 crores have been provided in the Budget for the year 1998-99. The target for completion of entire section is March, 2002.

[Translation]

**Doubling of Barabanki-Chhapra Railway Line**

3348. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal regarding doubling of Barabanki-Chhapra railway line under North-Eastern Railway is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be doubled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Augmentation of capacity on Barabanki-Chhapra is being done partly by doubling and partly by Gauge conversion. Between Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur, doubling is being achieved by gauge conversion of Narkatiaganj-Khadda-Gorakhpur line which will be completed in 1998-99. Between Gorakhpur and Gonda, doubling is proposed to be achieved by gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda loop. Between Gonda-Barabanki, doubling has been taken up between Gonda and Jarwal Road. While Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj gauge conversion is targetted for completion by March, 1999, completion of the other projects will depend upon the availability of funds.

[English]

**Provision of Basic Amenities to Slum Dwellers**

3349. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal to provide basic amenities to the slums located on Railway land:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) In 1993, Ministry of Railways had agreed to issue no objection certificate to Government of Maharashtra for provision of civic amenities to the slum dwellers on Railway land falling outside safety zone of 15 metres from the centre line of outermost track, provided Government of Maharashtra as a first step, clear the hutment dwellers from the land falling under safety zone and give an undertaking to construct boundary wall to isolate the safety zone from the rest of lands.

Modalities for implementation have not yet been worked out.

**Setting up of New Steel Plants**

3350. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :  
SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :  
SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI A. GANESHMURTHI :  
SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :