

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Sir, may I know what is the exact assistance obtained so far ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, under the participation programme, mainly it is for training purposes and we have already availed certain benefits which can be identified as follows :

Two experts studied the conservation of wall paintings of Ajanta caves during 1976 and submitted their technical reports. As already stated above the two experts studied not only Ajanta, but also the problems of Konark and submitted their technical reports.

The National Research Laboratories for Conservation, Lucknow is organising regular training programmes for conservation of cultural property for India and neighbouring countries. Training facilities for Indian conservators at International Centres for the study of the Preservation and Restoration of cultural property, Rome with scholarships are also there. There are about 10 or 12 officers whose names are with me who have been sent for undertaking training. A workshop on the preservation of paintings was held at Ellora caves. It was held in 1983 with financial assistance from the UNESCO and technical assistance from ICCROM.

These are some of the projects on which we have got assistance Sir.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Sir, the 25 projects listed in the statement are there for the UNESCO to consider for specific cases. May I know if the two important monasteries of Himachal Pradesh i.e., Kye and Tabo which have been described as Ajanta of the North in view of the paintings in them and where Madam Indira Gandhi also spent one full day and which were damaged due to earthquake recently could also be considered for inclusion ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The Ajanta of the West has been included. Now we will go to the Ajanta of the North.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : In the list of monuments recommended for inclusion, I find that two important pyramids and architectural centres noted for their architectural beauty, Belur and Halebid in Karnataka have been omitted. May I know whether it is due to inadvertence or...?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : In comparison to the monuments that are located in India and perhaps do need assistance, the sanctioned number is very small. But even so, out of 25, only 6 have been sanctioned and 3 are under consideration. I have no objection in sending more names and more requests, but we will have to find out whether all this is going to be possible at all under the overall constraints from which the UNESCO is suffering at the moment. I take the Hon. Member's point and we shall see what we can do to include this also at the proper time.

#### Thane-Mankhurd Belapur Rail Bridge Project

\*144. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have accepted the stipulation of the Maharashtra Government that the Thane-Mankhurd Belapur Project is to be financed on the basis of contribution by the Centre and the State on 50 : 50 basis ; and

(b) if so, whether the tenders have been invited for the designing and construction of the 2 kilometre long Thane Creek rail bridge critical to the Mankhurd-Belapur project ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No such proposal to share the cost of Mankhurd-Belapur Project on a 50 : 50 basis has been received from the Maharashtra Government.

(b) Tenders for the rail bridge on Thane Creek have been invited.

**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :** Sir, I am glad that the hon. Minister has replied that the tenders for the rail bridge at Thane Creek have been invited. Because the Mankurd Belapur railway is an important link between New Bombay and the present Bombay which will help to decongest the Bombay as far as population and the industries are also concerned. But unfortunately for this project which is estimated at Rs. 120 crores, very meagre amounts have been sanctioned from time to time. Even in the last railway budget only Rs. 2 crores were sanctioned which was ultimately sought to be diverted to similar projects in Madras and the amount was restored after protests from some MPs from Maharashtra. Even then the Railway Board instructed not to use these funds for any construction work. Now, therefore, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether he will assure this House that sufficient funds will be provided in the next railway budget for this purpose.

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** It all depends on the Planning Commission to allot the funds.

**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :** My next question is, a CIDCO had already offered to advance interest-free loan of Rs. 7 crores to the Ministry of Railways for this project. Will you accept that offer and start this project immediately?

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** Sir, this offer was made by the Maharashtra Government, but it was not accepted to by the Ministry of Finance.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the Prime Minister, who also happens to be the Chairman of the planning Commission has said it inside the House and also outside, that in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, if congestion is to be eliminated, removed, counter magnets should be developed far away on the boundary of these big towns.

**PROF. N.G. RANGA :** Also in Delhi.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Yes, I began with Delhi. How can we forget it when we are sitting in Delhi. He said that the counter magnets must be developed beyond these metropolitan towns which are very much congested, so that we can actually diversify the population which is there in these big cities. In view of this approach of the Prime Minister and also Chairman of the Planning Commission, will you use your good offices with the Chairman of the Planning Commission to see that his proposals in this House are effectively implemented and more grants are granted for this particular project, so that his dream can be fulfilled?

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** We are already trying to get more funds.

#### Medium of Instruction for Pre-primary Education

\*146. **SHRISHANTARAM NAIK :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given any guidelines to the States as to the medium of instruction for pre-primary education ; and

(b) if so, when these guidelines were given ?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :** Sir, the medium of instructions is admittedly the crux of any education policy. Moreso, with respect to pre-primary education. May I know from the Government as to why in spite of the fact that we are framing policies after policies on education and, rightly so, this medium of instruction as far as pre-primary education is concerned, was never fixed and whether