

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Construction of Sambalpur-Talcher rail link in Orissa

*119. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allotted by the Union Government in the current financial year for the construction of Sambalpur-Talcher rail link in Orissa ;

(b) the total kilometres of the line that can be constructed with that allocation ; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the target date set for the completion of the construction of that rail link ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Rs. 2 crores.

(b) Rs. 2 crores is to be used for progressing the construction of this rail line and not for completing a few kilometres of the line. However, in the first instance, work is in progress in the sections from Sambalpur to Maneswar (17.5 Kms.) and from Talcher to Angul (19 Kms.).

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 58 crores. The completion of the rail link will depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

Involvement of village leaders and voluntary organisations in Family Planning Programmes

*120. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Planning Commission, it has been found that due to inadequate involvement of village leaders and voluntary organisations in the propagation of family planning programmes, the results are inadequate and much below the target ;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has also stressed the need for removing these shortcomings in the programme ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) According to data contained in the evaluation report of Family Planning Programme by the Planning Commission :

(i) 75.8% of villages in the sample reported that village and local leaders played a role in the implementation of Family Planning Programme.

(ii) Only 26.6% of the sample villages had agencies like the Mahila and Yuvak Mandals while other voluntary organisations existed in 20.1% of sample villages. Most of these agencies have played a role in the implementation of Family Planning Programme.

The report suggests that ways and means should be found to involve these agencies in a much larger measure than hitherto, in Family Planning and related activities in all villages. Their involvement in motivational work, in organising mass campaigns/meetings and in extension/health education should be channelised by planned efforts.

A Standing Committee on Voluntary Action has been constituted to give support to voluntary organisations interested in Family Welfare. The role of the standing committee will be to encourage and support voluntary agencies working at the grass root level in the rural areas and urban slums for implementing Family Welfare Projects relating to Maternal and Child health, family planning and improvement of health standards.

Popular committees comprising eminent public leaders are proposed to be organised at state, district, block and panchayat levels. Steps are being taken to actively involve members of Panchayats, Youth clubs and Mahila Mandals at the grass root levels in the Family Welfare Programme. Efforts are also being made to involve cooperative organisations,