

such vital projects which have no chance of being completed within the State Plans as Central or National projects atleast in the Eighth Plan or in the second half of the Seventh Plan. Would he support that principle?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He would support the principle and reject it in practice.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, it is a question of defining the criteria for taking up the project as a national project. perhaps, the hon. Member is suggesting one of such criteria.

[*Translation*]

Electrification of Baroda-Ratlam Railway Line

*248. **SHRI C. D. GAMIT:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the work of electrification was started between Baroda and Ratlam on Western Railway, and the details in regard to the present stage of the work;

(b) the time by which this work is likely to be completed and electrification will be introduced between Baroda and Ratlam; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to introduce soon an electric train from Bombay to Ratlam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA**): (a) to (c). Electrification of Baroda-Ratlam section was approved in 1979-80 Works Programme. Electrification works on the section have already been completed and the section was energised in stages by Nov., 86.

Electric traction on the Baroda-Ratlam section has been introduced in stages as under:

		<u>Date of Introduction</u>
Goods Traffic		15.7.86
Passenger Traffic		6.12.86
	Mail and express trains	
		21.12.86
	For others.	

SHRI C. D. GAMIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways for completing the electrification work speedily on the Baroda-Ratlam Railway section soon after taking over the charge of railways. Previously this work was being executed very slowly. Delhi and Bombay are two important cities of the country. Excepting the Rajdhani Express, the other trains take more than 26 hours. Due to this, the passengers have to face a lot of difficulties. Keeping all these difficulties in view, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which electrification work on Ratlam-Mathura railway line will be completed and the electric trains will start running?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The electrification work on the Western Railways will be completed during this financial year.

SHRI C. D. GAMIT: The Surat-Bhusawal railway line comes under the Western Railway. Iron ore and steel are transported to Gujarat by this railway line. It is a very important line. Is there any proposal with the Railway Ministry to electrify this railway line?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The electrification work in Itarsi, Bhusawal and Durg sections is covered under the plan. But this question relates to the Western railway route instead of Bhusawal. If the hon. Member wants a detailed information in this regard, I will certainly submit it.

[*English*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: What is the total kilometerage covered by electrification in the Indian Railways and how many

more kilometers are you going to cover by electrification in the 7th Plan?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We have covered 6500 route kilometers and on a very rough and ready basis you can doubt it to track kilometers. We are planning to electrify another 3400 route kilometers in the 7th Plan. And with the subsequent new plans that we have made, maybe we are able to cover another 5000 to 6000 kilometers in the next decade.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a portion of the railway line referred to by the hon. Member comes under my constituency also. When the electrification work was going on, a lot of thefts and corrupt practices were being indulged into about which I wrote to the former Railway Minister. But no action was taken. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why no action was taken to identify and punish the guilty officials despite so many complaints?

SHRI MADAV RAO SCINDIA: If the hon. Member discloses the year to which it relates, I can say something.

MR. SPEAKER: You write to the hon. Minister again.

[*English*]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: The hon. Minister has stated in reply that the Baroda-Ratlam electrification project was approved in 1979-80. But may I know what was the estimated cost at the time of approval and what was the time schedule and whether it was completed within the time schedule and if not, what were the reasons.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, if he is referring to the time schedule, the time schedules were probably not laid down at that time. If he is referring to the financial schedules, it is going to cost appx. Rs 35 crores and by the time it will be completed it

will cost us Rs 93 crores.

Navodaya Vidyalayas In West Bengal

*250. **SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the essential requirements to be initially fulfilled in order to start a Navodaya Vidyalaya;

(b) whether the West Bengal Government has agreed to the concept of Navodaya Vidyalayas to be set up in West Bengal; and

(c) if not, the steps Union Government propose to take to start them in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) It is proposed to start a Navodaya Vidyalaya in every district of the country by 1990. For this an offer of about 30 acres of land is expected. Since the Navodaya Vidyalayas do not have their own buildings to begin with, an offer of suitable buildings is also to be made.

(b) and (c). The details of the scheme have been conveyed to the various State Govts./UTs, including West Bengal. They have also been discussed with State/UT Govts. in various fora. The Government of West Bengal has not made any proposal so far for establishment of Navodaya Vidyalayas in the State.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I understand from the answer given by the Minister that the West Bengal Government has not agreed to the establishment of the Navodaya Vidyalayas. Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, how many States in India have so far not agreed to establishments of the Navodaya Vidyalayas? In view of the fact that it is proposed to have one such vidyalaya in