

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The present Prime Minister also expressed the same view.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The Prime Minister is also of the same view and I am also of the same view. We are going to work on that. It is not something which can be done overnight. There is, first of all, a certain amount of confusion in this matter. It is not as if degrees will be done away, Degrees will continue. The only question is where degrees are not needed, one should not compel people to go in for higher degrees for degrees' sake. This broad approach is getting accepted more and more. But we will have to involve the UPSC, the State Government and the other employers in public and private sector. All of them will have to agree with this concept and then alone can we really start pushing things. I do not mind telling Prof. Dandavate that even within the Government also, one will have to persuade those sections of the Government which deal with personnel matters and administrative reforms and so on. So, it will take a little time. I am not trying to put off answering the question, I think I have to be realistic in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see what Mamataji has to say, in this regard. Is it in regard to West Bengal ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the hon. Minister of Education be pleased to state-how could there be a uniform educational curriculum under the present state of affairs, when a State like West Bengal teaches Marxism even at the school level, neglecting the study of our national movement ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I would like to inform my hon. friend about one recent welcome development. The Central Organisation of the Board of Secondary Education had a meeting in February this year, which recommended that all the boards should have a common and uniform curriculum in the whole country in all schools.

And their recommendations they are following up with the plan of action as well as with a time target. This is a unanimous decision of that central organisation. Now,

this is a very welcome development; and not only I welcome it but I expect them to work this out in collaboration with the States; and one of the specific points they have made is that all the boards must look upon this as a collaborative effort, that they must all help in the evolution of the desirable curriculum so that they are seeking cooperation of all the States and all the States are a party to this decision. I think this is something to be taken note of.

[Translation]

**Rail line from Behariganj to Simri
Bakhtiar**

*489. **SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was carried out in 1974-75 to lay a rail line from Behariganj to Simri Bakhtiar (district Madhepura, Bihar);

(b) if so the details thereof including the results of the survey; and

(c) if not, the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Survey Report the new Metre Gauge line would cost over Rs. 5.5 crores at 1974-75 price level, yielding a return of less than 1%.

(c) In view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand, this proposal will have to await consideration till the resources position improves.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : When I was drafting this question, a gentleman sitting by my side was saying that Bansi Lalji...

MR. SPEAKER : Has he left the House apprehending your question ?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : He was of the view that Bansi Lalji considered Bihar as untouchable. I would like

to tell him that entire Bihar State is a backward area, but the area which I am referring is specifically a backward area. I also agree that there is constraint of resources with the railway, but would the Minister even then make some provision for it keeping in view the condition of that area which is specifically backward? If it is not possible at present it could be done after some time. Could he give any assurance in this regard or make any such commitment.

SHRI BANSI LAL : Sir, 721 kms of new railway lines have been laid in Bihar since independence. Out of that, 315 kms. have been laid in North Bihar. In addition, 182 kms. of railway line from Barauni to Katihar have been converted from metre gauge to broad gauge. Therefore, a lot of work has been done by the Railway Department. It is not time that less work has been done in Bihar. But I cannot make any commitment to him.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : I would like to ask the Railway Minister whether if it is not possible to start this work at present, it is possible to undertake this in future or not?

SHRI BANSI LAL : I am not in a position to say anything about the future.

[English.]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It is said here that Bihar is backward with regard to railway.

AN. HON. MEMBER : Kerala is also backward.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Kerala is also. Since the 7th Plan is on the formulation stage with regard to railway policy for the 7th Plan, will he have a fresh look at it and see which are the backward States with regard to railway, because when a new railway line is considered, I am afraid, this point is not being looked into; because railway backwardness leads to backwardness in industry and other backwardness. Therefore, will he look into this aspect and see which are the States which are backward with regard to railway and give more assistance and allotment to them when the 7th Plan is formulated?

SHRI BANSI LAL : All these things were taken into consideration while formulating the 7th Plan.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : I feel baffled at the reply given by the Minister, especially regarding Bihar. Our declared policy is to remove regional imbalances and Bihar is a classic example of regional imbalances.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it population wise also?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Although all the central agencies have been exploiting the mineral resources of Bihar for the development of the country, and we are happy for that, taking into account the situation in Bihar, its utter backwardness and further downhill rush of the State economy. I feel the Minister should have a fresh look at the whole situation and in view of that, can I expect from the hon. Minister that new railway lines which have been surveyed will be accepted, and additional funds will be allocated to Bihar in the Seventh Plan?

SHRI BANSI LAL : Whatever lines are surveyed, whenever the funds are allocated by the Planning Commission will take up those lines.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, please request the Railway Minister to be a little more explicit in his replies. He is so brief and precise.

MR. SPEAKER : Brevity is the soul of wit, Sir.

Shri Satyagopal Misra.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Sir, the word should be 'Renovation' but not 'Reservation' as it is printed in the list.

MR. SPEAKER : Corrigendum has been issued to you, I am told.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Qn. 491.

[English]

Renovation of Mecheda Railway Station

*491. **SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: