

though CLW can produce the same type of locomotives. The former General Manager of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works had written a letter to the Government that particular unit could produce that particular type of locomotive...(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Ask the question.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I would like to know from the Minister why is it that instead of utilising the capacity of the CLW, Government is going to import 20 prototype electric locomotives. The Minister should clarify this.

MR. SPEAKER : You should have simply asked about the capacity utilisation.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the capacity of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works is 60 locomotives. There is a proposal which we have received from CLW to augment its capacity from 60 to 80 at a cost of about Rs.10.86 crores. This proposal is under consideration. The target set in the Seventh Plan in the terminal year of the Seventh Plan is that the Railways should carry 350 million tonnes of freight, and to meet this, we will need an estimated capacity of about 570 locomotives for the post five year period. So, possibly, there will be need to import some locomotives. But this is a matter which is under consideration. No decision has yet been taken in this regard. Another reason for the import of prototype is that in CLW we produce locomotives of 3,600 H.P. The proposal is to import 6,600 H.P. electric locomotives so as to save on line capacity.

SHRI LALITESHVAR SHAHI : Sir, the Minister in his reply has said that due to price escalation, the electrification of a proposal route length of 2,700 kilometres has been brought down to 1,500 kilometres. I would like to know what is the period in which escalation has taken place? When was this estimate prepared and does this escalation have any relationship to the General Price Index? Or whether the prices of commodities required by Railways have increased at a higher speed than the General Price Index?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This question does not really relate to electrification which is about import of locomotives. Therefore, I will need a separate notice in this matter. I did reply on electrification while replying to the original question on electrification. But for this I will need a separate notice.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that it is proposed to import certain electric locomotives. I would like to know the names of the countries from which these electric locomotives are proposed to be imported as also their cost in Indian currency.

MR. SPEAKER : The Price would be known only when the deal is finalised.

[*English*]

#### Common Syllabus for Certain Foundation Courses

\*493. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vice-Chancellors of Universities in Asia and Pacific Region have agreed to work on the proposal to have a common syllabus for certain "foundation courses" to facilitate better cooperation;

(b) if so, the details of the foundation courses;

(c) whether the said proposal will provide better learning amongst students and encourage students mobility between countries; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Universities of the Asian and Pacific Region was convened to discuss common educational problems and to share experience of each other. During the deliberations, views were expressed about

the need for foundation courses for undergraduates to improve general awareness. However, the Conference did not adopt any specific recommendation on the subject.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir Thirteen Countries had Participated in this Conference and the hon. Minister had inaugurated the Conference. Definitely a lot of discussion would have taken place in the Conference and some decisions would also have been taken there. It is also possible that specific decisions might not have been taken and a general discussion might have been held. What have they told you about the education policy? Secondly, after the telecast of the Prime Minister's speech, the people of the Country had expected some change in our education policy. The education policy containing from British time would now be changed. When Vice Chancellors of thirteen Countries are participating in a conference, it is unlikely that they would not have made any suggestions at all. I would, therefore, like to ask the hon. Minister what their main suggestions are and what action has been taken by government therein?

**SHRI K.C. PANT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Eight foreign countries took part in this Conference. The names of the countries are Bangladesh, China, South Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Their objective was not to make any recommendation to our Government. Their aim was to increase natural Co-operation in the field of education, but the hon. Member wants to know if any discussion about Foundation Courses took place or not. They had discussed this matter and three groups were formed for this purpose. Group-I had made the following recommendation.

[English]

"It was necessary to have foundation courses for under-graduates by way of general awareness. These courses should be compulsory and should comprise courses in humanities, science and social sciences."

[Translation]

When the recommendations of Group-I came up before the preliminary meeting, there were not adopted by it. Therefore, it cannot be said that the conference has made any recommendations, but we have noted all that they have said.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister if there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to change the Education policy? The present education policy has been inherited by us from British time and it needs to be changed. I would, therefore, like to know how long would it take to make a declaration about the Education Policy? Would such a declaration be made within six months or one year or two years? Discussion one of course, being held in this regard but are you in a position to take a final decision in the matter?

**MR. SPEAKER :** The hon. Minister has replied. The reply was given last time also. What further reply do you want?

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, This question is very important.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It has already been answered. What else do you want?

**SHRI K.C. PANT :** I have replied to this question. Perhaps the hon. Member was not present in the House at that time.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He would read it later on.

**SHRI K.C. PANT :** If he does not want to take even this much trouble, I would like to inform him that the intend to introduce the new policy by the next academic year.

[English]

Surprise Check of Electricity  
Connections in Delhi

\*494. **SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :