

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Thursday, May 5, 1988/Vaisakha 15,
15, 1910 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Construction of new railway lines during Seventh Plan

* 961. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the construction of new railway lines in each railway zone during the Seventh Five Year Plan along with the gauge-wise break-up; and

(b) the progress made so far in this regard?

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Lengths of new rail lines already commissioned from 1985-86 to 1987-88 and planned to be commissioned in 1988-89 are as under:

Zone	Length of new line already commissioned in 1985-86 to 87-88 (in kilometre)		Length of rail line planned for commissioning in 1988-89 (in Kilometre)	
	B.G.	M.G.	B.G.	M.G.
1	2	3	4	5
Central	15			
Northern	6		2	
Northeast Frontier		52		14
Southern	57		73	
South Central	71			

1	2	3	4	5
South Eastern	53			
Western		107	166	
Total	202	159	241	14

The commissioning of new lines in the final year of the Plan, i.e. 1989-90, will depend on the resources that will be allocated by the Planning Commission in the Railways' Annual Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme formulated for further extension of the broad gauge and metre gauge lines by 1987-88 and 1988-89 in the Seventh Five Year Plan is quite proper. But, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any plan for further extension of broad gauge, metre gauge and narrow gauge lines in Gujarat and if so, the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Sir, the lines that we are working and attempting to try and complete within the Seventh Plan are Kota-Chittaurgarh, Karur-Dindigal, Balipara-Gamani and Bhatinda Bypass Phase II. We are also trying to complete with the Seventh Plan further extension of these lines Bhadarwas-Kolaras, Rai Mehtapur-Una, Dharmanagar-Kumarghat, Gamani-Bhalukpong, Silchar-Jiribam, Jamira-Bharabi, Ernakulam-Alleppey. And also Guna-Badarwas, Talcher-Angul, Chittaurgarh-Neemuch lines.

I do not think any of these lines come within the State of Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Sir, I wanted to know about Gujarat but he has not said anything about that. There is a first number narrow gauge line in India in

Chota Udaipur region and I have made repeated requests to the department to extend this line from Chota Udaipur to Raipur in Madhya Pradesh but in vain. May I know by what time the work to extend this narrow gauge line, which falls between the two junctions and to run the train with a diesel engine is likely to be completed.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There is no proposal to extend it at present. The question regarding providing a diesel engine does not fall under the purview of this Question.

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN: Dulli, Rajhara and Bailadila are related to steel plants. It is very essential to connect these places with railway lines as soon as possible. May I know about the Plans formulated by the Ministry in this regard?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The railway line is the under consideration of the Planning commission, the Steel Authority of India and the Ministry of Railways.

[English]

SHRI A. J. V. B. MAHESWARA RAO: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to reconnect railway line between Kakinada and Kotipalli in Andhra Pradesh to link with Amalapuram area?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There does not seem to be any such proposal.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There are a number of ongoing projects, and even some projects which have been sanctioned long back in the year 1971-72 for which construction has started long back, which are yet to be completed. May I know from

the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to complete those ongoing projects before taking up new projects. If so, by when?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the work is continuing on ongoing projects. As the hon. Member knows well, there is the constraint of resources that we are facing. Amongst our priorities so far have been rehabilitation and modernisation system. However, it is my opinion that the time has now come when we should bring the expansion of the system and also it should be given due consideration because rehabilitation and modernisation steps have already been initiated and they are going ahead at a fairly good pace. And the situation is such that we are extracting every last drop out of the system.

I think, the time has come when more attention should be given to the expansion of the system, specially in certain priority areas or in project linked lines and that is going to be our recommendation to the Planning Commission. However, we are facing a constraint of resources and the ongoing projects are processed according to the priority and keeping in view the funds that are available. No distinct policy decision can be taken that no new projects will be sanctioned, until the on-going projects are completed. This sort of policy decision we will be unable to take.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Technical Committee has furnished a report for the abolition of 40 narrow gauge railway lines all over the country including Rupsa-Bangriposhi line in South-Eastern railway? But the users are agitating against this decision. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the reaction of the Government on this issue as well as whether the railway administration is thinking to reconsider the issue after resurveying all the 40 such narrow gauge lines where the users are agitating against such decision of the Government.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The reaction of the Government is that this partic-

ular question does not come within the purview of this question. I will require a separate question for this.

Religious education in private schools run by minorities

* 967. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that in certain private schools run by different communities religious education is being imparted and through such religious education communal poison is being spread;

(b) whether such schools are receiving Government grants; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to counteract such trends?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The scope of the question is very wide. It would cover information about teaching matters and financial assistance relating to a variety of schools and school systems spread all over the country. Thus it is not feasible to give a specific reply in this regard. However, the general situation is as below:

Education in schools at elementary level (Classes I-VIII) is generally regulated by the State Education Departments and at the secondary level by the Boards of Secondary Education. Under Article 28 of the Constitution no religious instruction can be provided in an educational institution maintained out of State funds. In the curriculum framework prepared by the NCERT, religious instruction is not contemplated. The syllabi at these levels also do not include education about any particular religion.