

Overbridge at Gudivada

*376. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work on railway overbridge at Gudivada (Andhra Pradesh) has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on this project; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for its early completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Railway has already completed its portion of the work on the bridge proper over the tracks. However there is some hold up in the completion of bridge approaches, being executed by the State Government.

(c) The Railways have so far spent Rs. 84 lakhs on the work.

(d) The Railway is pursuing the matter with the State Government for expeditious completion of the balance work.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, while asking a question I don't think any of the Member will be bifurcating a bridge between the railway portion and the State portion. When we call it a railway bridge, we call it including possibly approaches also whether they are done by the railways or the State Government. It is a fact that the project is stopped, which the hon. Minister also agrees that it is because of the approaches which are to be done by the State Government. Anyway, I don't want to go into the technicality.

While there is some consolation for me to know that the railways is not responsible

and it is the State Government which is responsible for delaying it, but there cannot be any consolation for the people of that area because they are suffering for the last 10 years. It is almost 10 years when the work was started and till now it is incomplete. The existing gate also could not be used, which was diverted to a distant place. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether keeping in view the delay on the part of the State Government in completing the approaches—when the railways is investing lakhs and crores of rupees in completing its portion—will the Minister think in terms of ensuring that all the State Governments deposit the money with the railways and then the railways will take up the work on behalf of the State Governments so that the railway overbridge can be completed within the schedule time?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I fully share the sentiments of the hon. Member but I would again like to emphasise that the railway portion of the work was completed as far back as October, 1987 and after much goading one approach constructed by the Andhra Pradesh Government, I think the PWD Department, was completed in December 1987. But in completing only one approach if you reach the top of bridge on one approach, then you have to jump down on the other side. So, we are trying to tell the Andhra Pradesh Government that people are suffering, as hon. Member says, and as far as this project is concerned, they are not keeping the interest of the people in mind. They again set up in December, 1988 as the target date to complete that one approach. However, again there had been a slippage. Now, they are hoping to complete it in October, 1989. But looking at the past record, I am very apprehensive about it. I would certainly desire the help of the hon. Member to impress upon the Andhra Pradesh Government to be a little more alive to the interests of the people of that area.