

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, January 24, 1985/Magha 4, 1906
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Raniganj-Mejia Railway Line

*77. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received several representations for construction of the Raniganj-Mejia *via* Bankura railway line ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b). There have been demands for the construction of a new broad gauge rail line from Raniganj to Bankura *via* Mejia. Engineering-cum-traffic surveys for the proposed link have been carried out which showed that the project would not be financially viable. In view of the pressing demand the survey has been further updated recently. However, the results shown by the updating of the survey have not been promising.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this proposal was initiated at a time when Geological Survey of India

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brought out a report on the substantial reserve of coal in one of the backward areas of the State. This line would be an alternative and quicker and cheaper route, not only for Kalaghat-Haldia but practically for all South-bound trains. The existing difficulties over Anara-Chandil-Tata-Nimpura section would be solved, the congestion in Kalipahari Section would ease and coastal shipping and export of coal and sugar would be greatly facilitated. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Traffic-cum-Engineering Survey Report prepared by the South-Eastern Railway indicated that this project will give 14% return on capital investment and thus it will be a remunerative one. If so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will have a fresh look at it.

SHRI BANSI LAL ; The 1977 Survey of the Railway shows that the return will be 6.02% only.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, the National Transport Policy Committee recommended that the backward areas of the region should be taken into consideration for the construction of new railway link lines. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider the proposal for infrastructural development of the district of Bankura which is a backward district among the 15 districts of our country.

SHRI BANSI LAL : At present we are not considering to construct these lines.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Seventh Lok Sabha, the then Railway Minister in his budget speech announced that the on-going projects which were in need of huge funds would be continued and therefore the Railway Ministry

was not in a position to take up construction of new lines. I would like to know from the hon. Railway Minister whether Government would consider wherever there is the necessity of new railway lines they will be taken up now or whether the same policy announcement made by the then Railway Minister will continue.

SHRI BANSI LAL : If any railway line is considered to be viable, that would be considered subject to the availability of funds and clearance by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

New Education Policy

*78. + **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :**
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the main suggestions made by the Prime Minister on Educational reforms ;

(b) steps proposed to be taken to implement these suggestions ; and

(c) whether the Government would ascertain the views of State Governments also in the matter and whether any time bound programme has been chalked out therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) In his broadcast to the Nation on 5th January, 1985, the Prime Minister made the following suggestions for transformation of the educational system :

- Promotion of national cohesion and the work ethic through education ;
- Exposure of students to the grandeur of India's Freedom struggle and its significance for national integration ;
- Acquaintance of students with India's ancient heritage and culture ;

— Re-orientation of curricula and textbooks to curb parochial and communal interpretations of India's composite culture ;

— Large scale use of the new communication technology in our school system ;

— Delinking of degrees from jobs under Government ;

— Establishment of an Open University to bring higher education within easy reach of all ;

— Expansion of the Central Schools organisation ;

— Re-organisation of vocational education to align it with industry, agriculture, communications and other productive sectors of our economy.

(b) and (c). The Government has already initiated a comprehensive and in-depth review of the existing Education Policy. Since Education is a joint responsibility of the States and the Centre, the New Education Policy will be considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education and the State Governments will also be consulted. The process of consultation is likely to be completed by June, 1985.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 5th Jan. 1985, the Prime Minister of India made important suggestions for comprehensive changes in the educational system, most important suggestion being that the education must be employment-oriented and the jobs under Government should be delinked from degrees. He has suggested that education must aim at development of human values and for promotion of patriotic spirit. For attaining the above objectives, the role of a teacher is extremely important.

What is the condition of a teacher today ? Everyone in the society wants that there should be reorientation and radical reform of our educational system.

So far as reorientation is concerned, a