

**Demand for a Fast Train between
Sholapur and Bangalore**

3199. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether his Ministry have received any proposal for starting a fast train between Sholapur and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon and the time required to approve this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently this is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

National Literacy Mission

3200. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Literacy Mission (NLM) has pledged to achieve hundred per cent literacy by the end of this decade;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to reduce the percentage of illiteracy;

(c) what are the names of States where the percentage of literacy is very high and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what amount has been allocated for removal of illiteracy during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and the targets achieved, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI L. P. SHA-

HI): (a) and (b) The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million adult illiterates in the 15—35 age group—30 million by 1990 and an additional 50 million by 1995. Several strategies are being adopted to achieve this objective. The following steps have so far been taken in this regard:

(i) the entire programme of Adult Education has been reviewed and geared to generate and sustain motivation at all levels, especially of learners.

(ii) A National Campaign for mass mobilisation of NLM was launched by the Prime Minister on 5.5-1988 at Vigyan Bhavan, New-Delhi.

(iii) Under the mass programme of functional literacy educational institutions, teachers, students, youth, military and para-military personnel, ex-servicemen, housewives, employers, trade unions, railways and prison management staff are being involved on a voluntary basis to take up literacy work.

(iv) The central scheme of grant-in-aid for voluntary agencies has been revised, considerably simplified and liberalised. During the years 1988-89 a sum of Rs. 6.60 crores have been sanctioned to voluntary projects. Approval has been accorded to approximately 500 voluntary agencies for taking up programmes under NLM.

(v) In order that the neo-literates do not relapse into illiteracy a new scheme of Jana Shikshan Nilayams have been formulated and 10,065 Jana Shikshan Nilayams have been sanctioned to various States/UTs. They are in the process of being set up.

(vi) 40 districts have been identified for application of technological inputs to improve the quality of the literacy programmes. A