

# 'Double-track Bangalore-Mysore line will help industry'

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: The construction of a double-track high-speed railway line between Bangalore and Mysore will help spread industries along this rail corridor, away from Bangalore, deputy chairman of State Planning Board D.M. Nanjundappa said here on Friday.

While attending a one-day meeting on "The Bangalore-Mysore Corridor" Mr Nanjundappa said the doubling of the track will cost only Rs 500 crore, and the amount would not be too difficult to raise. The workshop was jointly organised by the State Planning Board and the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore.

"Transport has not been given top priority in the country. Though the Indian Railways has made a profit of Rs 26,000 crore, only Rs 1,600 crore has been allotted to it in the budget. Once the double track high speed rail line comes into existence, a lot of time can be saved.



Eminent scientist Raja Ramanna makes a point to NIAS director R. Narasimha during a round table meet on 'The Bangalore Mysore Corridor' at NIAS in Bangalore on Friday.

Mysore can be reached in one hour. It's important that industrial-

ists are able to reach their destinations at the earliest," Mr Nanjun-

dappa said.

"It's time the state realised its

importance and acted accordingly," he added.

Former chief secretary Satish Chandran said it was not enough to just construct the double track and expect industries to spread. "It has to be found out whether industrialists are interested," he said.

Officer on special duty, South-Western Railways, Bangalore, K.B. Wariyar, said a huge amount is still required to complete all projects in the pipe-line. While on the speed of Indian trains, he said it has to be ensured that trains are not forced to slow down, owing to trespassers crossing the railway lines. "Fencing the railway lines may be the solution," he said.

Others who participated in the seminar were eminent scientist Raja Ramanna, NIAS director R. Narasimha, consultant of Deo and Associates, Pune, Jayant Deo, and Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises managing director Ashok Kheny.