

DR. KARAN SINGH : The first question was, when will the results of these suggestions become visible. As I said, this is a continuing process. It is not as if there is any particular dead-line. It is a constant process to improve the services. In any public utility service like the airlines the idea is to be constantly trying and keeping aware of what the public feel and to try to make improvements.

SHRI PILOO MODY : The time-lag between the suggestion and the implementation.

DR. KARAN SINGH : It is impossible to say at present. Suggestions are made and many of those things are already in the process of being implemented.

SHRI PILOO MODY : What is "the process of being implemented" ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : Running any commercial organisation, as the hon. Member perhaps knows, is a process where these things have got to be constantly done. It is not as if you lay a date with regard to this question.

About food, the hon. member is a frequent air traveller and I think it is fairly clear that he has not suffered in any way by taking that food. I myself am a frequent traveller.

SHRI RANGA : The hon. minister cannot take umbrage on the fact that he has been a frequent traveller. First of all, he has been a Raja and after that, he is a minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Road Bridge over Pamban

+

*1472. **SHRI KAMALANATHAN :**
SHRI MAYAVAN :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a Road Bridge over Pamban across Palks Strait in Madras State ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had stressed the importance of this road

bridge while inaugurating the Tuticorin Port Project ; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the priority has been pushed down after his death ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had desired that the question of including this bridge in the Third Five Year Plan itself might be considered ; but it could not be done due to financial stringency. The rough estimated cost for the bridge proper and approaches comes to Rs. 5 crores.

Its inclusion in the Fourth Five Year Plan also depends on the availability of resources, and relative priorities of demand against such resources.

SHRI KAMALANATHAN : If I remember airtight, Sir, when you were Transport Minister, the then Prime Minister while inaugurating the Tuticorin port, realised the importance of this bridge and immediately suggested that it should be taken up. Estimates were prepared. But so far it has not been taken up. The policy of the Government of India is to give first priority to the missing links. Is this not a missing link in National Highway 48 between Mandapam and Danushkodi ? Priority has been given to other projects, but this has not been taken up. Will the Minister assure us that it will be taken up immediately ?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN : Sir, in November 64 the late Prime Minister had expressed the desire, during his inaugural address at Tuticorin, that this matter may be examined. Immediately in January 65, estimates for detailed survey were sanctioned. They were ready by April 65 through the State Government. In the meantime, we were in the last year of the third plan and nothing could be included in it. As far as the Fourth Plan is concerned, the House is aware that everything is in the melting pot.

SHRI KAMALANATHAN : This is a very important bridge and it can form a link to Ceylon also. It can form part of

the international roadways. Moreover, it will be the shortest route to Ceylon because it will connect Thalaimannar also. So, will the minister make efforts to make it a part of the international roadways ?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN : Sir, this point of view will be taken into consideration.

SHRI MAYAVAN : Is it a fact that the train service has been discontinued and if so, the reasons thereof ?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN : Sir, according to my information, after the recent cyclone, the train services were dislocated for sometime. After that, they have started functioning.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : The minister said this project could not be taken up due to financial stringency. Under "National Highways" during 1967-68, out of Rs. 15½ crores, Madras was given only Rs. 12 lakhs. Under "State Roads of economic or industrial importance", out of Rs. 236 lakhs, only Rs. 7 lakhs were given to Madras. Under "Central Road Fund" out of Rs. 67 lakhs, only Rs. 1 lakh were given to Madras. Thus, so much expenditure has been incurred by the Central Government, but Madras was completely neglected. Is this not discrimination ? How does the minister reconcile this ?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN : Sir, there is no discrimination whatever against Madras or any other State. We take a decision according to the demands of the various State Government and the availability of funds. If the hon. member wants, I can explain it to him at length.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : If it is a new construction, the question of financial stringency can be raised. But this bridge was in existence and it was washed away. So, trains could not move. It is a question of rescue operation. Am I to understand that even for rescue operations, financial stringency is considered ? Rama constructed this bridge for going to Ceylon. This Ravana should not stand in the way of its restoration.

MR. SPEAKER : There are no Ravana's in this House ; all are Ramas. Next question.

Mizos Going to Burma

+

*1473. **SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :**

SHRI ANBU CHEZHIAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report that 200 Mizos are heading towards Burma ;

(b) if so, whether Burma Government has been requested not to allow them to enter and also to hand them over to the Indian authorities ;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Burma Government thereto ; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent them from escaping to Burma ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. But there is no information available with Government to confirm the press report.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Border posts have been alerted. The Security Forces are maintaining constant vigilance to check the movement of hostile elements across the border.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Is it a fact that in the past also, our Government have made several requests to the Burmese Government to take effective steps against those Mizos who cross into Burmese territory and hand them over to us ? If so, may I know how many Mizos or Nagas have been handed over to us so far ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : At least I know one case when immediately after this rebellion in Mizoland started, some families did move to Pakistan and some to Burma. The Burmese Government did send those Mizo families back.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Is it a fact that our security men first saw these 200 Mizos infiltrating into the area