

considered fully by the concerned authorities. Since you have warned me already, I cannot enter into the legal position of the whole thing now.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I want to know whether the West Bengal Government have approved of it.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The West Bengal Government have not approved of it.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not the legal position that they are asking for. It is about the other provision that has been made there that they will allow such a union to be formed. . . .

**Shri Daji:** And recognised.

**Mr. Speaker:** . . . and it would be recognised when it consists entirely of Pakistanis and it can be registered in Calcutta. That is what is put down in the statement.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The essential part of this particular provision is that the union is to be registered in Calcutta. Registration cannot take place without the registering authority approving of the particular union. That registration cannot take place, and it cannot be allowed by the registering authority unless it conforms to the law. As to how that law will be interpreted, you have warned me already not to enter into it. I think it cannot be registered like that.

#### Cases of Sabotage in Railways

\*403. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have occurred certain cases of sabotage intended to dislocate the railway transport system, more specially in areas of strategic importance since the State of Emergency was declared in the country;

(b) how many such cases have so far occurred; and

(c) whether the railway administration has re-inforced the precautionary measures to maintain security of our railway system?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). No. case of sabotage as such has so far been proved.

(c) Yes Sir.

**Shri Maheshwar Naik:** May I know whether there was any case whatsoever, as was reported in some papers, of obstructions being put on the railways in the North East Frontier Agency by putting boulders and thus obstructing the passage of war materials in the NEFA area?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** There have been some cases of what is termed as tampering with the track. We have not been able to prove that they were cases of sabotage. During the period of the emergency when I visited that area, one incident took place where one person put an iron sleeper on the track. Later it was found that he was drunk, and he was also run over in the process.

**Shri Maheshwar Naik:** May I know whether the Railway Administration is taking any steps whatsoever so that no such incidents recur in the NEFA area?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Yes. We are taking plenty of precautions. We are patrolling the tracks and even by instructional propaganda in the adjoining villages, we are taking all precautionary steps to ensure that no acts of sabotage are allowed.

**Mr. Speaker:** If one gets drunk, how would the Minister be able to say whether he was drunk?

**Shri Hem Barua:** On a previous occasion, the Railway Administration was pleased enough to let me know of three such cases during the emergency in Assam where people tried to

sabotage our trains carrying troops. May I know whether those people have been apprehended by now, and if so, whether any political motive has been extracted from them?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** As I said, we have not been able to establish any case of sabotage and we have not been able to arrest them.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Not acts of sabotage. There were attempts made. I was informed like that.

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** No arrests have been made so far.

**श्री कछुवाय :** क्या असम में कुछ तोड़-फोड़ की घटनायें रेलवे में हुई हैं और यदि हां, तो पिछले छः महीनों में कितनी हुई हैं ?

**श्री शाहनवाज खां :** मैंने अर्ज किया है कि कुछ ऐसे वाकत तो हुये हैं जहां रेलवे की पटरी पर कोई पत्थर रखा गया या कोई लोहे का स्लीपर रखने की कोशिश की गई लेकिन वे बकायदा संबोटाज थे, यह साबित नहीं हो सका और न ही हम किसी को गिरफ्तार कर सके ।

**Shri Sonavane:** What concrete steps have been taken by the Railway Administration to secure the co-operation of villagers, particularly the gram panchayats?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We are securing the co-operation of villagers through State Governments and through the local police.

**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:** Do Government propose to rehabilitate people on either side of the railway line, say upto two miles, so that it may help security measures?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** I am afraid I will not be able to answer that.

#### Roads and Bridges in Assam

\*404. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum was presented to Government by the

Members of Parliament from Assam requesting for the augmenting of the roads and bridges in the Assam region, particularly in the area connecting Assam with the rest of India; and

(b) If, so, what has been Government's response thereto?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Many of the suggestions contained in the memorandum have already been included in the emergency progress of developing the National Highways in Assam and action to have the works completed expeditiously initiated.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** By what time a through overland route from the rest of India to Assam is likely to be established, and has this matter been given top priority or not?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have said that we have taken note of all requirements including those in the context and background of the emergency. We have taken appropriate steps. Beyond that, I will not be able to say much.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether there is any proposal, in consultation with the Government, to construct a navigable channel to connect the Brahmaputra with Ganges, just to avoid Pakistani waters for the transport of goods to Assam?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** At present that is not under the active consideration of the Government.

**Shri Basumatari:** Since the present national highway road passes through areas from where the Pakistan border is only 2½ miles, may I know whether Government have considered the memorandum of the Assam M.P.s. suggesting another highway road from Jamduar to Bijni touching the present diverted highway; if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the construction of this road?