

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We have thoroughly and fully taken into account all these things and assessed the situation, and have taken certain decisions which it will not be proper for me to disclose here for the present.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या सरकार के पास कोई ऐसी स्कीम है कि असम से ले करके और लद्दाख तक जितनी भी यह हमारी उत्तरी सीमा है, उस सब पर नेशनल हाइवेज बनाये जायें, जैसे चीन ने बनाई है ?

**श्री राज बहादुर :** जो हमारे राष्ट्रीय मार्ग हैं, नेशनल हाइवेज हैं, वे इस प्रकार हैं कि असम से उत्तरी बंगाल, उत्तरी बंगाल से बिहार में और बिहार से उत्तर प्रदेश, पंजाब में आते हैं और इस तरह से काश्मीर तक पहुंच जाते हैं ।

**Shri Heda:** Is it a fact that the Brahmaputra bridge is complete but for the lack of only one slab, the bridge is not being used by road transport; if so, how long has it been so?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** There was a delay of about two or three months in a girder of a particular type being provided. That has now been released, and I think it will be opened soon.

**Shri Ranga:** Would it not be possible for the hon. Minister to take into consultation the Members who come from Assam in regard to this particular matter about the development of road transport?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Certainly, Sir.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that there is only a tenuous link connecting Assam with the rest of India, what urgent steps do Government contemplate taking, so that Assam might not be separated from the rest of India in the case of an emergency?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We have taken special steps to strengthen our lines

of communication to provide the necessary bridges and to strengthen the existing bridges. All that is being done on a very expeditious basis.

#### Commodity Boards for Wheat, Rice and Sugar

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\*405. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Bishanchander Seth:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up commodity boards for wheat, rice and sugar on the lines of similar technical bodies in foreign countries to deal with licensing of wholesale dealers, regulation of marketing practices and mandi charges in respect of the commodities concerned in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the steps taken in this regard?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde):** (a) and (b). Proposals for the establishment of an Agricultural Commodities Board and a Sugar marketing Board are being worked out in the light of conditions prevailing in the country.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if these commodity boards will be set up on an all-India pattern, or there will be different kinds of boards for different States?

**Shri Shinde:** The proposals are under consideration. Nothing has been finalised so far, but according to the lines on which the Government is working, there would be all-India boards, and in some of the States there will be also boards at the State levels.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** What is the pattern for these boards, and what are the lines along which these boards are being worked?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** This board is mainly intended to regulate wholesale prices and trade

movements it is more for regulation of the trade than for actual control. The boards that exist in countries like Canada and Australia are mainly intended for export purposes and the guarantee of minimum support prices to the indigenous producer, but the lines on which this board is to be constituted will be a little different. It will be mainly intended for regulation of wholesale and retail trade and it will also regulate marketing practices and assist trade movement from one area to another.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Since the farmer is likely to be affected by whatever decisions or recommendations the board may make, what is intended to be the participation of the farmers' representatives on these boards?

**Shri A. M. Thamos:** The details are yet to be worked out. A skeleton scheme was discussed by my senior colleague, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, with the Chief Ministers of various States. It is still in the consideration stage, and the final reactions of the State Governments are awaited.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बोर्ड बनने के बाद जो प्राइवेट ट्रेडर्स हैं उनका क्या स्थान रहेगा ?

**लाल तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री स० का० पाटिल) :** बोर्ड इसलिये नहीं बन रहा है कि जो प्राइवेट ट्रेडर्स हैं वे वहाँ से हट जायें। वह केवल रेगुलेशन के लिये है।

**श्री अचल सिंह :** क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह मालूम है कि इस किस्म के रेगुलेशन की वजह से भारत के व्यापारियों में काफी बेचैनी है ?

**श्री स० का० पाटिल :** आज कुछ काम चल रहा है लेकिन उसको गवर्नमेंट कर रही है इसलिये बोर्ड बनने से इसमें कुछ फर्क होने वाला नहीं है।

**Shri Sonavane:** From the answer of the Parliamentary Secretary, it ap-

pears that the formation of these boards would help cash crops and the formulation of prices for them. Is there any proposal for forming such a board for foodgrains so as to secure a fair, and remunerative minimum price.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The agricultural commodities board is mainly intended to exercise control over the food-grain dealers. For cash crops and other things there are other commodity committees. A question has also been put about the sugar marketing board. It would be mainly a marketing body.

### Thefts in Railway Workshops

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\*406. { **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**  
          **Shri Balgovind Verma:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the thefts of materials committed in many of our railway workshops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to check such thefts?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Cases of theft from Railway Workshops have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Due to the activities of criminally disposed persons for personal gain.

(c) Some of the measures already existing on the Railways are detailed in the statement laid on the table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-705/63].

**श्री विश्वनाथ पांडेय :** क्या मंत्री महोदय बनलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि किन किन वर्क शाप्स में सामान की चोरी हुई है और कितने रुपयों की हुई है ?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I do not think I have that information.

**Mr. Speaker:** That answer is not ready.