

whether shipping companies in our country have approached Government for help in this connection?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a big general question whether the Government of India is approached by these companies in regard to these acquisitions. I would say that my answer is in the affirmative. They have approached.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In that case, has Government approached any of these countries?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Not as such. There are bi-partite agreements or negotiations between the shipping companies or shipping corporation on the one hand and the shipyards concerned on the other. When they come to certain final terms about the building of the ships, they come to us and we help them with shipping loan etc.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Recently....

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Common Carriers' Liability

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

(a) since when the "Common Carriers' Liability" has been enforced over the railway transport; and

(b) what have been the financial implications on the railways since the enforcement of this system?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):

(a) From 1st January, 1962.

(b) It is too early to make an assessment of the financial implications of the change.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether any extra charge is levied to cover the extra liability the railways are assuming?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The charges are laid down. The public knows all about them. There is no additional charge.

Shri Maheswar Naik: Since the enforcement of this common carriers' liability, has the compensation paid by the railways increased or decreased?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: As I submitted, it is too early to say anything on this subject.

West Coast Road in Kerala

*935. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri Umanath:
Shri Pottekkatt:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the construction of West Coast Road in Kerala is;

(b) what amount was sanctioned for this in the year 1961-62; and

(c) what amount was spent in that year?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The construction/improvement of the portion of the West Coast Road lying in Kerala is in an advanced stage of progress except in respect of the approaches to the new bridges to be constructed and the by-passes round important towns. 9 bridges have been completed, 4 are nearing completion, 4 are in progress and the construction of 16 more bridges has to be taken up.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Shri Pottekkatt: From the statement we find that the road is in an advanced stage of progress except in respect of the approaches to the new bridges to be constructed and the by-passes round important towns. May I know whether it is a fact that the

progress in the construction of these approach roads and by-passes is delayed due to the difficulty in acquiring lands?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That may also be one of the factors. I have to make an enquiry about each of these separately, however.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: May I know whether it is a fact that work on the construction of the bridges is being delayed due to shortage of cement and other materials?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That may also be a factor; I do not know.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether some of the bridges have already been completed but approach roads are not there?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is exactly so. The approach roads do come after the bridge. Sometimes they also are taken up simultaneously; but, in some cases, they might have been delayed. Specific information has to be obtained from the State Government because that is the executing agency.

Shri Koya: Certain portions of the same road are called National Highway 47; while in Malabar it is called West Coast road. Why?

Shri Raj Bahadur: National Highway 47 has got clear alignment; and the West Coast road runs somewhere from Panvel almost to the tip of the peninsula. That is entirely financed by the Centre; but it is not a national highway as such.

Shri Daji: The statement says that the road is in an advanced stage and that the by-passes are not ready and the approach roads are not ready. The total effect of these 'not ready' things is that the road which is in an advanced stage cannot be used. What steps are being taken to make the road usable, whether it is advanced or not advanced?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is obvious that there are many sections of the new road and many missing links

have to be put up. There are a number of rivers and rivulets that have to be bridged. Therefore, all that will take time. In fact, it is being speeded up as fast as is possible.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: Why has not the construction of 16 bridges been taken up?

Shri Raj Bahadur: All this construction activity has been undertaken by the State Government as the executive agency. We have simply financed the project. It is a State highway as such and we are financing the project. The State Government has got to do it. The difference, as was just now put by another hon. Member, is that we advanced the finances but the maintenance will have to be done by the State Government. They must have their own limitations of personnel, resources, material etc.

Bombay-Sydney Jet Service

*936. { **Shri Raghunath Singh;**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a jet service between Bombay and Sydney has been inaugurated; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A weekly service with Boeing 707 jet aircraft was inaugurated by Air India International on Bombay-Bangkok-Singapore-Darwin-Sydney route from 7th May, 1962.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Will it be economical?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is estimated it will be, because our traffic on the Super constellation was quite good.