

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.