

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** May I know whether any road construction is going on in Kedarnath also?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is a different thing.

**Shri Goray:** In view of the strategic importance of this particular road, will steps be taken early to see to it that it is expedited and completed?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Hon. Members are aware that border roads are the responsibility of the Border roads Development Board. I think it is in their jurisdiction to say something about them.

**Shri Goray:** Who is the Minister in charge of that? We must have the answer from somebody.

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** I would like to explain the position. The Prime Minister is Chairman of the Border Roads Development Board and the Defence Minister is Vice-Chairman. The Secretary of the Ministry of Transport is a member. The only thing is that questions are asked of us because the budget amount for these roads is put under the Transport Ministry. But if the hon. Member wants further information, it would be much better for him to table a separate question to the Boarder Roads Development Board, when either the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister will give a proper reply.

**Shri Goray:** When this question has been tabled, does it not become the duty of some Minister who is responsible for it to be present here?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Whatever information he wants, he should table the question to the proper Minister.

**Shri Goray:** The Minister concerned should be present here when the question is admitted.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

#### Freight Rates

\*893. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and

**Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 173 on the 5th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal for taking statutory powers to regulate freight rates in overseas trade on the lines of the American law on the subject; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). The question of taking statutory powers to regulate freight rates in overseas trade is still under examination in consultation with the Shipping interests concerned.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** In reply to the previous question, the hon. Minister said that this proposal would give protection to our export trade. In view of this factor, may I know what steps are being taken to expedite this matter?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** This question was put to the Shipping Consultative Committee which consists of the representatives of Indian shipping companies as also foreign shipping companies. They have given their views. While the foreign shipping companies are, generally speaking, against it, the Indian shipping companies have said that it might be required. But at this moment, as I said, the proposal is under examination, and we would like to watch the situation.

**Shri Tangamani:** I would like to know whether Government propose to drop it altogether because of the differing views expressed.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** No, there is no question of dropping it. As I said, the whole matter is under examination. The measure is needed or necessitated by our anxiety to remove such inhibitory factors as operate against the promotion of our exports. It is in that context that this question is being examined.