

the Minister of Railways, that very often newspaper reports are exaggerated?

Shri Bheekha Bhai: May I know whether it is a fact.....

Mr. Speaker: Order order. Let information be given. The hon. Member should not rely too much on newspaper reports.

HELICOPTERS FOR MAIL SERVICES

*2481. **Shri Janardhan Reddy:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a scheme to use helicopters for speeding up mail services to and from isolated areas not served by surface communications; and

(b) if so, the present stage of the proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The proposal is only in its preliminary stage of enquiries.

श्री जनार्दन रेड्डी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि कोई एजेन्सी इस काम को करने के लिये तैयार हो गई है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : एक एजेन्सी जिसका नाम खम्बाटा इन्डस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड है, ने इस तरह का प्रस्ताव हमारे सामने पेश किया है कि इस काम के लिये हेलिकाप्टरों की सेवा ली जाये ।

श्री जनार्दन रेड्डी : मैं जान सकता हूँ कि क्यों सरकार इस काम को अपने हाथ में नहीं ले सकती ?

श्री राज बहादुर : अभी सारी चीजें विचाराधीन है । इसके अतिरिक्त जो खर्चा पड़ता है उसका ब्यौरा इस प्रकार है कि हेलिकाप्टर में १२ रुपये १० आने प्रति टन प्रति मील खर्चा पड़ता है और अभी जो

फर्ट क्लास मेल ले जायी जाती है उसका खर्चा ३ रुपये प्रति टन प्रति मील पड़ता है और जो सैकिड क्लास मेल ले जायी जाती है उसका खर्चा १ रुपया १२ आना प्रति टन प्रति मील पड़ता है । इस प्रकार उस में जो खर्चा है वह भी बहुत ज्यादा है ।

BOAT BRIDGE AT DHARIGHAT

*2482. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 425 on the 22nd April, 1954 and state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh that boat bridges be constructed on the River Ghagra at Dharighat; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken on this representation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) This river crossing being on a National Highway it is the responsibility of the Central Government to construct the bridge and though it has not been possible to include the construction of a pucca bridge in the current Five Year Programme as an interim arrangement it has been decided to provide for a boat bridge in this Programme.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether in reply to a similar question whether it was on a national highway or not, the Government gave the reply that there was no national highway there? If so, was that reply wrongly given?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): There was some confusion, no doubt, as this road did not come under the arterial national highway. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that this road is on the national highway, and the responsibility for the construction of bridges is ours.