

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** What is the quantity that we exported and at what price during 1950-52?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Our exports during 1949-50 were 13 thousand and odd tons and the average price was Rs. 130 per maund. In 1950-51 the exports were 21.6 thousand tons and the average price was Rs. 139 per maund. In June 1950 the prices in Calcutta came down to Rs. 70 per maund.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** What quantity of finished shellac goods do we import each year and at what price?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

#### NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN (BRIDGES)

\*1592. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how many major bridges will have to be constructed in Travancore-Cochin under the National Highway Scheme?

(b) Where are they to be constructed?

(c) What is the total outlay that has been made?

(d) Has the construction of any bridge been embarked upon?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** (a) Two.

(b) One over the right arm of the Periyar river near Alwaye on N.H. No. 47 and the other over the backwaters at Aroor on the West Coast extension of this Highway.

(c) The five-year plan includes a provision of Rs. 40 lakhs for the two bridges.

(d) Not yet.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Are Government aware that this portion of the national highway is passing through the coastal region of Travancore-Cochin which is now the most affected area because of the depression in the coir industry?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** It may be so.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** In view of that fact, is the Government proposing to advance the time-limit within which these bridges are to be constructed?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** We are already trying to expedite the construction of these bridges, and if the hon. Member so desires I can issue further instructions.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Is there any correspondence taking place between the Government of India and the State Government concerned in respect of these national highway bridges?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** Yes.

**Shri N. P. Damodaran:** May I know which road is classified as a national highway, and how many such roads are there in Travancore-Cochin?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** So far as I am aware, the road that connects Travancore and Cochin is the only important one included in the national highways.

**Shri Velayudhan:** Was there any request from the Travancore-Cochin Government regarding the speedy construction of these two bridges in view of the acute near-starvation conditions there?

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been partly answered. He said that he is prepared to issue further instructions.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know what is the result of the correspondence between the State Government and the Ministry of Transport?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** I require notice.

#### POST OFFICES IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

\*1593. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many Post offices have been opened in Travancore-Cochin after the Anchal system there was taken over by the Government of India?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (1) Urban Post Offices—8.

(2) Rural Post Offices—256.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether the target of one post office for every 2,000 people has been reached in this area?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We have opened 256 rural post offices and that more or less covers the target.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether these newly opened post offices are self-sufficient?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is too premature to say, because they are opened on an experimental basis for a period of five years.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know what were the postal rates existing at the time when these post offices were taken over by the Centre?