

Shri Nambiar: No, Sir. I am enquiring about adding adequately to the dearness allowance.

Mr. Speaker: Can he reply?

An Hon. Member: I do not think he will be able to answer that question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the concessions given in the shape of foodgrains to Government railway employees and ex-States Railway employees differ now-a-days also?

Shri L. B. Shastri: There may be some difference somewhere, but we want to apply the same principles to both the ex-States Railwaymen and the existing Railway employees.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Government will do it just now, or whether it will be referred to the Committee?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That matter will be considered by the Railways. In so far as the merging of a portion of the dearness allowance with the basic pay is concerned, that will be considered by this Committee.

Juma CULTIVATION

*660. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the different parts or States of India where 'shifting' or 'Juma' cultivation is practised;

(b) the tribes that practise this variety of cultivation;

(c) the average number of acres that are put annually under the 'Juma' cultivation?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

AIR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

*661. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangement exists between India and Iran for reciprocal air transport services;

(b) if so, whether this arrangement is a permanent one; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative whether the Government of India propose to negotiate a permanent air agreement with the Iranian Government?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The present arrangement is temporary but a draft of a permanent Air Transport Agreement has been agreed upon by representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Iran, at Tehran on the 7th May 1952. The draft has been submitted to the respective Governments for approval. After such approval, an agreement will be signed.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Which are the airways that operate the service between India and Iran?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Himalayan Airways.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the route through which this service passes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Ahmedabad-Karachi-Zahidan-Kandhara-Kabul.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it a fact that the Iranian Airways are permitted to operate over that area in Pakistan which is a prohibited one for Indian airways?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Iranian Airways follow this route: Tehran-Esfahan-Yazd-Kerman-Zahidan-Karachi-Bombay. It is more or less the same.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of this, do the Government of India propose to draw the attention of the I.C.A.O. to this fact?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That has already been done.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any action has been taken by that organisation in this regard?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We hope it is coming before them very soon.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether recently the Pakistan Government has made any suggestion to the Government of India regarding diversion of air route in Pakistan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have got no information with regard to that.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN W. BENGAL

*662. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken over or shortly contemplate taking over any roads as National Highways in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the roads, their length, and when are they likely to be finished?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) and (b). Yes. The Central Government took over financial liability for certain provisional national highways in April 1947. A statement showing the lengths of these roads is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 2].

The "missing" links and bridges required on these roads are expected to be completed in seven to ten years.

Shri A. C. Guha: From the statement I find there is National Highway No. 2. Has there been any complaint that this road, while approaching Calcutta, is too narrow for 20 miles? Has the Bengal Government made any representation for widening this road?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have no information; but, I am prepared to look into the matter.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister stated that the scheme was formulated in 1947. Since then, has there been any modification of the scheme in view of the large concentration of refugees and in view of the Partition of West Bengal?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The alignments of these roads are being surveyed and finalised in consultation with the State Governments.

Shri A. C. Guha: Has there been any modification of the original scheme as formulated in the Nagpur Conference?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I do not know.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Government has got any particular plan in the Five Year Plan for road development in West Bengal?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes; we have.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the plan?

Mr. Speaker: He may refer to the plan.

Shri Nana Dass: Is there any proposal to nationalise road transport?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different question. This question does not relate to nationalisation of road transport.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether all the compensation cases regarding the acquisition of land for this road are over?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I should like to have notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what has been the contribution of the Government from the Central Road Fund to the West Bengal Government, and whether there has been any reduction in the contribution from the Central Government?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I should like to have notice.

SYSTEM OF PROCUREMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS BY LEVY

*663. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where the system of procurement of foodgrains by levy has been enforced;

(b) whether the working of this system has been discussed and examined on All India level; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to do so?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Procurement by means of levy either on the cultivators or on the traders is in force in Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad, Kashmir, Madhya Bharat, Mysore, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh and in Assam (in the thanas bordering Pakistan).

(b) The progress of procurement in every State is continuously watched by the Centre. The system of procurement prevalent in the various States was also examined in detail by a Committee set up by the Government of India in 1950.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the system of procurement by levy is uniform throughout all the States?

Shri Karmarkar: It varies from State to State.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the system of procurement by monopoly purchase is also in vogue in all these States?

Shri Karmarkar: In some of the States, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that the system of procurement by levy is being very badly used in some of the States, and the cultivators are put to great difficulties through the working of the system?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir.