

सौ मील तक का यातायात का कोई साधन नहीं है, न रेल है, न सड़कें हैं, इसलिये इस राजपथ को हाथ में लेना बहुत जरूरी है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : सड़कें बनाना रियासतों का काम है और यह उन्हीं की जिम्मेदारी है। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि माननीय सदस्य अपनी रियासत की हुकूमत से भी इस मामले में कोई हरकत करायेगे।

श्री जांगड़े : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि इस क्षेत्र में इतनी बड़ी बड़ी नदियाँ पड़ती हैं कि जिन पर पुल बनाने में करोड़ों रुपये खर्च होने की सम्भावना है जिसे कि राज्य सरकार वहन नहीं कर सकती ? इसलिये क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार कोशिश करेगी कि इसको राष्ट्रीय राजपथ मान कर अपने हाथ में ले ले ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : पहले तो इस पर प्रदेश की सरकार गौर करे कि वह पुलों को बना सकती है या नहीं, फिर वह भारत सरकार को लिख तो हम उसको कुछ मदद करने की बात सोच सकते हैं।

Shri Jaipal Singh : Is it a fact that in the Second Five Year Plan a proposal has been made to have a National Highway from Mirzapur to Ambikapur and Ambikapur to Raipur and onwards to Jagdalpur ?

Shri L. B. Shastri : The whole thing is still under consideration.

Staff Benefit Fund

*2206. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for raising the contribution from Railway Revenues to the Staff Benefit Fund has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the additional amount set apart; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for the delay ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) Yes.

(b) No additional amount has been set apart as such, but the *per capita* contribution from Railway Revenues to the Staff Benefit Fund, on each Railway has been raised from Re. 1/- to Rs. 2/- for three years from 1-4-55.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know, in view of the increased *per capita* contribution, whether there will be an increase in the compassionate grant given to those employees who suffer from tuberculosis ?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : This fund is for the benefit of the railway employees, for their recreation and also for those who have retired and are in a miserable condition. The amount to be given will depend on the individual circumstances of each case.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know what is the total amount for 1955-56 ?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : I do not have the exact figures with me now.

Shri V. P. Nayar : The hon. Parliamentary Secretary said that the *per capita* contribution has been raised from Re. 1/- to Rs. 2/-. May I know whether it is not a fact that before Re. 1/-, it was Rs. 3 and may I also know when this Rs. 3/- at least will be restored ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri) : Formerly, it was Rs. 3/-; then it was reduced to Re. 1/- and we have now raised it to Rs. 2/-.

Mr. Speaker : It does not add anything to the information given by the hon. Member. The question is whether it is now proposed to raise it to Rs. 3/-

Shri L. B. Shastri : We have recently raised it to Rs. 2/-, —only a few months back—and we do not propose to make any further increase just now.

Malaria Control Unit in West Bengal

*2209. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury :** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the programme of Malaria Control Unit in West Bengal and the amount proposed to be spent there during the year 1955-56 ?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar) : Under the National Malaria Control Programme 22 malaria control units have been allotted to the State of West Bengal, out of which sixteen are in operation. The remaining six units will start functioning on receipt of supplies and equipment