

स्थायी समिति बना दी गई है। रिजर्व फंड में कुछ भी जमा नहीं किया गया है।

श्री के० सी० सोधिया : कुलनिधी की रकम कितनी है ?

श्री आबिद अली : पांच करोड़ बाकी हैं।

श्री के० सी० सोधिया : इस इतनी बड़ी रकम को खर्च करने के लिये क्या अब कोई हिदायत दी गई है कि जिसमें यह रकम खत्म हो जाये ?

श्री आबिद अली : जी हां। हम चाहते हैं कि तीस हजार घर बना दिये जायें ?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi : May I know the annual accumulation of this Fund and the unspent balance at present in the Fund ?

Shri Abid Ali : About a crore of rupees, and the present balance is about Rs. 5 crores.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : The hon. Minister said that a Standing Committee is being constituted. May I know who are represented on that Committee ?

Shri Abid Ali : All the three parties, that is, workers, employers and Government.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : In view of the fact that the centralised administration of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund has been very unsatisfactory and unhappy and it was under the consideration of the Government to decentralise it, may I know what decision has since been taken with regard to the question of decentralisation ?

Shri Abid Ali : It is not correct that the working has been unsatisfactory, but we have already decided to have local committees also so that the work may be spread in all the areas.

Shri P. C. Bose : The hon. Minister said that the fund for housing purposes could not be spent on account of the attitude of the colliery owners and that now the fund will be utilised directly by the Welfare Fund. May I know who will be the owner of the houses to be built by the Fund at its own cost ?

Shri Abid Ali : Certainly this will remain the property of the Fund.

Shri K. K. Basu : In view of the fact that the housing condition of the mine workers is abominable and in view of the fact that the new houses could not be built because of the recalcitrant attitude of the owners, may I know what positive steps the Government have taken so far as the attitude of the owners is concerned so as to see that they fall in line with the policies of the Government ?

Shri Abid Ali : But there is scarcity of land also, and I have said that 30,000 houses will be built from the Fund directly.

Shri B. S. Murthy : In view of the fact that there is an accumulation of Rs. 5 crores, may I know whether Government have a comprehensive scheme of providing housing for these labourers out of this, instead of waiting for years for the goodwill of the management ?

Shri Abid Ali : I have already answered it. We ourselves will undertake the construction from the Fund available.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : In view of the fact that as much as Rs. 5 crores is left unspent, may I know whether all the provisions have been fulfilled or whether this accumulation is due to the negligence and inefficiency of the authorities ?

Shri Abid Ali : There is no negligence so far as the authorities are concerned.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Then why is it unspent ?

Shri Nambiar : May I know whether the rent will be collected from the employees or the employers ?

Shri Abid Ali : From both.

HIGHWAYS

*494. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to give proper attention to land-scaping of national highways ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Instructions have been issued to the State Governments to plant a second row of trees on National Highways to replace the old trees in due course, and to arrange for planting of shrubs and flowers near major bridges on these Highways as far as possible.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether any schemes have been worked out about the amount of money that is going to be spent during this year and the next five years on this land-scaping?

Shri Alagesan: We have told the State Governments that the expenditure incurred with reference to national highways can be met from the maintenance charges.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: My question was whether any estimate has been made about this expenditure.

Shri Alagesan: We do not have the information, but we have told the State Governments that it could be met from that source.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Apart from land-scaping, are Government aware that along long stretches of national highways the sites are subject to heavy erosion, and may I know whether Government have laid down any specifications for the width and strength of these highways; if not, how do Government propose to maintain these sites and protect them from erosion in future?

Shri Alagesan: All these things come under maintenance. Of course, there are specifications laid down for width, etc. When erosion takes place, naturally it is being set right.

Shri Mathen: May I know whether the hon. Minister expects to maintain the tempo of the highways and roads in spite of the cut in the targets?

Shri Alagesan: There is a certain contradiction in the question itself—I am expected to maintain the tempo in spite of the cut. We propose to go

ahead with the works that we have already taken in hand. We may have to slow down a little as far as new works go.

RAILWAY TRIBUNAL

***496. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference now left pending with the one-man Tribunal in the disputes between the Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board;

(b) whether the withdrawal of certain references from the tribunal by the President of the Federation has been approved by the Railway Board and the General Secretary of the Federation; and

(c) whether the enquiry on all subjects continues as demanded by the General Secretary of the Federation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Out of the 5 terms of reference, agreement was reached between the Federation and the Railway on 3 which were withdrawn from the Tribunal. This was done with the approval of the Federation and as such the approval of a particular office-bearer does not arise. The remaining terms of reference are:—

(i) Re-distribution of grades for various categories of staff decided upon as a result of the recommendations of the Joint Advisory Committee, should be reviewed.

(ii) The orders that in workshops, leave with or without allowances, shall not be for less than half a day should be reviewed.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the General Secretary of the Federation, who is a non-official who advised the Tribunal, was consulted when these items were withdrawn?

Shri Alagesan: We consult the Federation as a whole. It is not possible to consult individual office-bearers. The office-bearers consist of the President, the General Secretary, the Vice-President and others also. I do not