

Jalpaiguri-Bhutan Road

*1762. **Shri N. R. Ghosh:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an old route connecting the district of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal with Bhutan passing through the Chumurchi Tea Estate of Jalpaiguri;

(b) whether it is a fact that some time ago, the Bhutan Government wanted to make this route suitable for vehicular traffic and requested Government to improve and widen the portion of this route which falls within the district of Jalpaiguri; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken in this direction?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) The request was referred to the Government of West Bengal in whose jurisdiction the road lies. They agreed to improve the road and to construct a permanent bridge suitable for vehicular traffic across the river Daina near Chengmari. Financial aid from the Government of India for these works is being considered under the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri N. R. Ghosh: May I know whether Government have got any programme to improve the large number of trade routes, bridle-paths and foot-paths which connect Bhutan with Jalpaiguri, because there is a good volume of business between Bhutan and West Bengal?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not know about the various small routes, but some principal roads are being constructed between Bhutan and India, on the Bengal side as well as on the Assam side: they will be the main arteries of traffic.

Shri N. R. Ghosh: I am referring to the large number of foot-paths and bridle-paths connecting Jalpaiguri and

Bhutan, because Jalpaiguri is just on the border of Bhutan, and there is a good volume of business between Jalpaiguri and Bhutan.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have said that I do not know about the foot-paths. As to what is being done, I can enquire.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या यह सत्य है कि भूटान को भारत से मिलाने के लिये पश्चिमी बंगाल और आसाम से दो तीन सड़कें बनाने की योजना कई बरसों से चल रही है और उन का निर्माण-कार्य अभी तक पूरा नहीं हुआ ? अतः क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि उन में प्रगति क्यों नहीं हो रही है और क्या अब वह काम तेजी से होगा ? क्योंकि जहाँ तक मुझे ज्ञात है, उस की चाल बहुत धीमी है ।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : जी नहीं । मैं ने अभी इस का जवाब दिया है । कई बरसों से तो नहीं, लेकिन इस की चर्चा डेढ़, दो बरस से खाम है और डेढ़, पौने दो बरस से यह बात शुरू की गई है । एक खास सड़क ने, जो कि राजधानी तक जाती है, बहुत तरक्की की है और वह बहुत तेजी से बनी है । जो वक्त उस के लिये दिया गया था, उस से कम वक्त में वह बनी है । मेरा ख्याल है कि सितम्बर तक वह पूरी हो जायगी और राजधानी तक पहुँच जायगी । और सड़कों के बनने का भी इन्तज़ाम हो रहा है ।

Activities of Naga Hostiles

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*1763. { **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang of armed Naga hostiles fired on a village guard camp at Chankgi in Mokokchung District on the 28th March, 1961;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after exchange of fire with the village