

However, as a result of the blasting and digging carried out in the area by the East Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation during August-November 1969 some boundary pillars were damaged and displaced protests were lodged at appropriate levels with the Pakistani authorities. In a subsequent meeting of the sector commanders, the Pak sector commander agreed to have blasting, digging etc. stopped in the area, till the pillars were restored to their original position. Agreement has also been reached between respective Directors of Land Records of Assam and East Pakistan to take up the restoration of pillars during the current field season.

The Border Security Force is continuing to maintain the necessary vigilance in the area.

Construction of Lateral Roadway Project

5005. SHRI N. K. DEOGHARE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of lateral roadway from Amingaon in Assam to Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that this project was given priority in 1963 and in 1966 the work on this project was abruptly suspended and as a result machinery and equipment of the value of about Rs. 282 lakhs was rendered surplus;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the surplus machinery equipment has been/is being used?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) to (d). The work on the Lateral Road is in various stages of progress in the four concerned States in the reduced length of 873 miles. Road work has been completed in 183 miles, is in advanced stage of progress in 268 miles and is in various stages of progress in the remaining miles. Out of 23 major bridges, 129 medium bridges and 153

minor bridges required to be constructed, 16 major bridges, 46 medium bridges 47 minor bridges have been completed. The work on the remaining bridges is in various stages of progress. The Lateral Road was initially accorded very high priority. However, due to financial constraints and the downgrading of priority for this road later, work on the Project, which had gained momentum by 1966-67, had to be slowed down. This necessarily had an impact on the utilisation of machinery, all of which could not, in the altered situation, be used to their optimum capacity.

It has since been programmed to complete the Project, with reduced scope and specifications, at a total cost of Rs. 73.3 crores by the end of 1970-71. Consequently some machinery, which had earlier been found surplus, is now being utilised. Some of the machinery had also been transferred to other States/projects.

A high-level Committee was also set up to review the surplus stocks of machinery and suggest measures for its optimum utilisation. The report of this Committee has just been received and is being examined.

Appointment of a Stenographer as Circle Rationing Officer and Later as Assistant Commissioner Sales Tax in Delhi

5006. SHRIMATI SUCHETA KRIPALANI:
SHRI RAJASEKHARAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1965-66, the Delhi Administration appointed a Stenographer of the Central Secretariat as Circle Rationing Officer in the scale of Rs. 425—680 even though the UPSC did not concur in the matter;

(b) whether it is a fact that without consulting the UPSC he was posted as O. S. D. under the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, in the grade of Rs. 590—900 and later conferred powers of a 1st Class Magistrate and confirmed in the permanent post of General Assistant;

(c) whether it is further a fact that subsequently a post of Assistant Commissioner Sales Tax was created in another Union Territory and he was promoted to the grade of Rs. 900—1250 (Class I)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A Stenographer of the Central Stenographer Service who was drawing pay @ Rs. 620 p.m. plus special pay of Rs. 75 p.m., was appointed on deputation basis as District Rationing Officer in terms of the recruitment rules for the post. The Union Public Service Commission when informed of it, stated that the requisition for filling in the post by open competitive selection may be forwarded to them, in case the post was to be filled by competitive selection through the Commission.

(b) The Officer in question was appointed as O. S. D. in the scale of Rs. 620—900 on *ad-hoc* basis in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi. His continuance in the post was subsequently approved by the Union Public Service Commission. Later, the post of O. S. D. was redesignated as General Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner in the same scale of pay and the Officer in question confirmed against it. The powers of 1st Class Magistrate were also conferred on the Officer on the advice of the Delhi High Court in view of the nature of duties required to be performed by him.

(c) He has been appointed as Assistant Commissioner Sales Tax at Delhi in the DHANI scale of Rs. 400—900 plus Rs. 100 as special pay purely as a stop-gap arrangement. Delhi Administration have been informed that this appointment is not in conformity with the recruitment rules and the position may be rectified.

**Recovery Proceeding against
Dr. Dharma Teja**

5007. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI K. M. Koushik:
SHRI N. K. SOMANI:
SHRI V. NARASIMHA
RAO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated recovery proceedings against the former Chairman of the Jayanti Shipping Company, Dr. Dharma Teja, for payment of Rs. One crore; and

(b) if so, whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item in the *Indian Monitor* of the 14th February 1970 (Page 4) and, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS, AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) The suit in question is a suit filed in Delhi High Court on 29-1-70 by the new management of Jayanti Shipping Company against Dr. Teja and one Mr. Kulukundis for the recovery of Rs. 96,32,696 of which they had defrauded the company in connection with the purchase of the company's shares by them and the acquisition of 7 Liberty ships on behalf of the company. The total claim, including interest upto the date of filing the suit, is for Rs. 1,39,64,198.

(b) The news item quoted on page 4 of the *Indian Monitor* dated the 14th February, 1970 viz. that the "Ministry of Commerce and Company Affairs" has filed a suit against Dr. Jayanti Dharma Teja for the recovery of rupees one crore which (to continue the report quoted), according to the suit, was advanced by Government to him for setting up Jayanti Shipping Company, is incorrect.

Amendment of Constitution Providing for Election of Governor or making Executive Independent of Legislative Assembly

5008. SHRI JAI SINGH :
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHAR-
MA:
SHRI HARDAYAL DEV-
GUN:

Will the Minister of HOME AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the unstable character of the Governments in the States as evinced after the last General elections, Government propose to amend the Constitution with a view to make the office of the Governor elective or make the Executive independent of, and not responsible to, the Legislative Assembly as in Switzerland;

(b) If so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?