

type of map is also being published in the News Weekly. These are being printed in the Government of India post cards and are being distributed and these are being bought by the public. I can give one of the post cards in which they have printed it. will the Government take action against them?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: If this is being done within the country, then I think, the question should be addressed to the Home Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.
Mr. Imbichi Bava.

Financial assistance for Sailing Vessels

*165. SHRI E. K. IMBICHI BAVA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that due to hike in oil prices and scarcity of oil, the mechanised cargo boat service has become very difficult; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to build sailing vessels in Kerala to overcome the cargo transport problems?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have already introduced a scheme for grant of repayable loans to the maritime State Governments or being disbursed to sailing vessels owners for construction of new mechanised sailing vessels and mechanisation of existing sailing vessels. The Government of Kerala have, however, not availed of any loan assistance under this scheme till the end of 1979-80. The question of granting loan assis-

tance to the Govt. of Kerala for this purpose will be considered as and when a proposal is received from them.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Supplementary, Next Question.

SHRI MONORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker: Sir, I want to put a supplementary on this.

Just now, the hon. Minister has replied that he will provide financial assistance to the sailing vessels. Sir, in this connection, I would like to ask a pertinent question. The Sailing Vessels Association has time and again represented to the Government of India to provide them with the loan assistance from the S. F. D. C. and, if so, whether Government is going to consider this issue of grant of loan assistance from the SFDC with a very minimum interest rate?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, loans to these sailing vessels are routed through the State Governments and, in this particular case of the sailing vessels, there is a loan amount earmarked for this purpose. As and when the State Governments make a request, such loans are considered. So far as SFDC loan is concerned, it is not available for sailing vessels.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: The Minister stated that the loan was not availed of till 1979-1980. Has the Government of Kerala ever applied and got this assistance in this matter? That is prior to the period 1975-77 have they applied and got this assistance?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: This scheme is working since 1975 and as I have already stated in reply to an earlier question, no request had been made by the Kerala Government so far. Only one request had come from the Kerala Government for Rs. 40 lakhs for importing outboard engines for mechanising the existing sailing fishing vessels. But, no specific request for the release of loan or no detailed applica-

tions have been received so far from the Kerala Government for mechanising or constructing sailing vessels.

New Railway line in N.E. States

*166. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct new Railway Lines in the North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Final location (engineering) survey for the six new lines in the N. E. Region aggregating 211 kms. is in progress. Final location survey has been completed over a length of 145 kms. Land acquisition papers for these stretches are under preparation. Other preliminary works such as construction of camp offices, godowns for cement etc. are also in progress.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Mr. Speaker I expected, the hon. Minister to give a statement. But, on the other hand, he has given an answer simply saying that the works on the new lines are in progress. There are six new lines which have been taken up. I want to know from the hon. Minister about the progress made in each of these six new lines.

Secondly I want to know from the Minister by which year the six new projects are expected to be completed.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, as the hon. Member desire to know as to what extent the progress has been made, I would like to tell him that the Urgency certificates for the four out of the six lines have been cleared.

In this regard let me bring to the knowledge of the House also that this was taken up with the Planning Commission in 1974 when the North East-

ern Council along with the Governor met the then Prime Minister and she took lot of initiative in the matter and the things have taken the present shape.

At the moment urgency certificates have been cleared for four of these lines. That is, Balipara-Bhalukpong, 33.45 K.M.; Dharmanagar-Kumarghat; Silchar-Jiribam, and Lalaghat-Bhairabi lines. Regarding rest of the two lines after completion of certain preliminary things these also will be cleared. So far as the completion date is concerned, by 1984-85 these six lines will be completed. The Planning Commission has cleared the same. About Rs. 50.29 crores are required. So, everything has been done in respect of taking progressive steps in this direction.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: The Minister was silent on this point because, in respect of lines concerning of my State nothing has been done so far.

Any way I want to know how many new projects have been surveyed in the entire N.E. region. Sir, I am in possession of a letter written to me by the former Railway Minister, Prof. Madhu Dandavate. He was replying to me with reference to the debate held in the House. The letter said that a survey has been conducted from Goalpara to Mohendragunj in Garo Hills district. But it does not appear in the map which has been presented to us by the Railway Department. Therefore I am in confusion. So I request the Minister to clarify the correct position whether a survey has been conducted here as per the letter written to me by the former Minister Prof Madhu Dandavate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I cannot withdraw that letter with retrospective effect.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: As far as the survey that is done is concerned, 8 new railway lines have been sur-