

which will be examining the Gadgil formula, has nothing to do with constitutional amendments. They are not authorised to do that. That committee will be a committee of practically all the Chief Ministers and the Deputy Chairman. They will go into the formula and suggest what needs to be done?

SHRI HITENDRA DESAI : May we have some idea about the resource mobilisation and how much of it will be borne by the centre ?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : The hon. Member will have an idea when the whole thing is finalised.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA—*rose*

MR SPEAKER : Question No. 491—Shri Mavalankar.

Aid from the Centre to States for Coastal Highways.

*491. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR. Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give Central assistance to such of the State Governments which are willing to construct the coastal highways in their territories;

(b) if so, when and how;

(c) if not, why not;

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat have approached the Central Government for financial assistance in the matter; and

(e) if so, Government's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) There is no scheme as such for providing financial assistance specifically for development of coastal highways in the State road system.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is a scheme for providing Central assistance for the State Roads of inter-State or economic importance and against the Central Road Fund. Proposals under this scheme are sanctioned keeping in view availability of resources, their *inter se* priority and needs of all the States.

(d) and (e). On the basis of proposals received from the Government of Gujarat from time to time works of a total cost of Rs. 5.9 crores have been approved so far for development pertaining to the Gujarat Coastal Highway under the Central Aid Programme of State Roads of inter-State or economic importance and from the Central Road Fund.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR : As the House knows, Gujarat is a principal maritime State in the country with as many as 39 minor and intermediate ports and one major port along its coastline. Now the Minister has given a long answer and one gets the impression that he is giving a lot of help to the State. But he is only assisting them with, what is already, the money of the State, *i.e.* the Central Road Fund which is only made up of States' shares. So, there is no central assistance given to the State governments.

Any way, my question is : Gujarat has a vast coastline and there is no through coastal highway and the State government has already spent a part of its own limited resources on its construction and it is estimated to cost Rs. 18 crores whereas the loan—not assistance—given is only Rs. 1.5 crores. In view of all this, may I know whether the government propose to either extend additional loans or devise plans to give assistance to some of those States which are part of the Indian Union and which have a coastal boundary and, therefore, coastal highways are needed there ? And why is not the government taking this view in the matter and helping some of the States like the Gujarat State because the State's resources are very limited and unless the Central Government comes forward how are these coastal highways to be constructed ?

SHRI CHAND RAM : Under the Constitution of India, national highways are the responsibility of the Central Government and so far as the State Highways are concerned, we give only assistance in the form of loans and sometimes in the form of grants and whatever central grants under the Central Road Fund are given, we allocate them according to the *inter se* priority and also according to the needs of the State.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR : I am glad that he has referred to national highways. Therefore, my second question is based on that precisely.

Is it a fact that the government of Gujarat has represented repeatedly to the Centre for declaring a number of its State highways as national highways, particularly, the coastal highway running

from Kandla to Bombay, via Jamnagar, Okha, Porbandar, Veraval, Bhavnagar and Cambay? Is it a fact further that the west coast road passing through the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala has already been declared a national highway? (Interruptions)

I am glad about it. I am not saying that that should not have been done. But if that was taken care of, I do not know why the Government of Gujarat who have had repeated representations made to the Centre, and justified on the ground that Gujarat is earning as much as Rs. 150 crores every year through foreign exchange which is done at various ports just now mentioned by me, particularly on the Kathiawar-Swarashtra Coast? In view of all these facts and when the national exchequer is earning more and more of foreign exchange, why is it that the Government of Gujarat's demand for declaring it as the National Highway is not met favourably by the Centre, more so when Gujarat State is backward in regard to Highways by about 60%?

The Minister's officers have couched it in such a language officials—are so clever in couching the answer that the people get an impression that everything is being done, but nothing is being done. That is my point. Gujarat is behind.....

MR. SPEAKER : He has mentioned that.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR : Gujarat is behind by 60% in the target of 1961-81. We have got 1/3rd of National Highway according to their own allocations. Why is it that the Central Government is not declaring this coastal way from Kandla to Bombay and other ports which I have mentioned, as a National Highways and thereby take over the responsibility of the State Government?

SHRI CHAND RAM : The hon member has raised many points. So far as the West Coast road is concerned, before we nationalised it on 7th March, 1972, we gave aid for this road also and that was State Road which passed through the main road. Now, of course, it has been nationalised and since it has been declared as National Highway, cent percent funds are being allocated by the Central Government. But so far as the Gujarat Government is concerned, since the formation of Gujarat in 1961, we have given to the Gujarat Government about Rs. 76 crores, 34 lakhs

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR : What about the coastal highway?

SHRI CHAND RAM : Its length about 1752 hundred kilometer. Since the formation of Gujarat we have given approval to works of a sum of Rs. 5.96 crores, for this road.

My reply is very clear. So far as this very road is concerned, we have extended help to the extent of Rs. 5.96 crores. There is no question of ignoring the claim of Gujarat.

Last week I was in Ahmedabad. The Chief Minister of Gujarat had also complained that they have not been given the fair share. I assured him that so far as the Central Government is concerned we will look into it and we will do justice to the State.

SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN : Hundreds of acres of land has already been I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the Central Govt. is taking action to complete it.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not been able to follow. Please come forward.

SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN : Hundreds of acres of land has already been acquired for the Highways from Calcutta to Durgapur.

MR. SPEAKER : No, No, this question is about Gujarat. This is not on the coastal highway. No. no.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR : Question 1 (a) is broad enough to cover all the States.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : We have talked about coastal highway. In the case of coastal highway it is known that Gujarat ports are actively contributing to the national economy. Gujarat is somewhere near the top in industry, trade, motor vehicles etc. According to the Nagpur plan, road targets were provided for the States. Most of the other States have exceeded the Nagpur Plan target. Unfortunately Gujarat is at the bottom and it is lagging behind most of the Southern States. So I want to know this : When will the Gujarat State be enabled to achieve the Nagpur Plan Target in respect of coastal highways in Gujarat?

SHRI CHAND RAM : It is my misfortune that the Planning Commission has not allotted any additional funds for taking up such works.

SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA : In his main reply the Minister said that the

proposals have been received by the Government of India from the Gujarat Government from time to time. An amount of Rs 5.96 crores have been allotted as I understand it. Keeping this in view, I would like to know how many proposals the Government of India have received from time to time from the Govt. of Gujarat and for which sectors of the coastal highway of Gujarat? How many proposals are pending with them?

SHRI CHAND RAM : I require notice for that.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Sir, the first question regarding National Development Council has got relevance and it has got to be linked up with this question. The hon. Prime Minister is here. Part (a) of the question states whether Government propose to give Central assistance to such of the State Governments which are willing to construct the coastal highways in their territories. That is the question. All the Chief Ministers concerned with this subject of Coastal Highway have urged their point of view in the NDC meeting. They have rejected certain proposals which are not conducive to the development of their States. They have said that the financial assistance is not adequate and they have expressed their concern about it. Considering all these things, will the hon. Minister think of integrating all these coastal line highways? Will he think of linking them from Gujarat to Goa and Karnataka coastline? Have you got any programme for improving them in this respect? Will you provide necessary financial assistance for this purpose? Has any programme been thought of for this purpose to meet the demands of the various States?

SHRI CHAND RAM : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA* : He has not answered my question; let him say yes or no.

SHRI CHAND RAM : There is no such plan.

Regiments in the names of Castes

*492. **SHRI B. P. MANDAL :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the castes which have the regiments in their names ;

(b) whether in view of the secular character of the State and also in view

of the goal of Government to establish a casteless society, Government intend to do away with the caste nomenclatures of all such regiments; and

(c) if not, whether Government intend to give nomenclatures of the various other castes from which the numbers are represented in the Indian Army and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) There are Regiments which are named after classes/castes/communities/regions like Maharatha Light Infantry, Rajput Regiment, Jat Regiment, Sikh Regiment, Sikh Light Infantry, Dogra Regiment, Mahar Regiment, Gorkha Regiment, Assam Regiment, Bihar Regiment and Madras Regiment.

(b) and (c). According to the present policy, recruitment to the Army is open to all classes/castes/religions provided they satisfy the physical, educational and medical standards. However, in the case of certain Regiments recruitment to which is organised on class/caste basis, recruitment is reserved for the specified classes.

Regiments with class composition are continuing as their abolition is likely to cause dissatisfaction among the classes concerned. However, in the case of these Regiments also efforts are being made to gradually throw them open to other classes also.

SHRI B. P. MANDAL : Sir, in view of the fact that the Britishers had introduced this system of caste regiment because they believed in the policy of Divide and Rule and they had nothing to do with our secularism, also in view of the fact that this process of allowing certain castes to defend our country had proved not in the interests of our country for the last thousands of years since the Gupta period and also in view of the fact that we are committed to secularism and a classless society, what is the justification to continue these caste regiments?

Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is that it will cause dissatisfaction among the classes concerned. It is very peculiar that the Minister has come forward with such an answer for these four or five castes. There are others who are dissatisfied and they are serving in the Army; there is no recognition and they have to serve under the nomenclature of the other castes. It is very peculiar that the Minister does not care for the dissatisfaction of the large number of castes. In