

**RAJYA SABHA**

Tuesday, the 5th December, 1967/the 14th Agrayayana, 1889 (Saka) The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN Shri  
Brahmananda Panda (Orissa)

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****VISIT OF THE BORDER AREA BY A TEAM OF M.Ps.**

"329. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of Members of Parliament visited the border areas in August-September, 1967;

(b) if so, whether they submitted any report about their visit; and

(c) whether any suggestions or recommendations were made in the report and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Two teams of M.Ps. visited the forward areas in J. & K. in August, 1967.

(b) and (c) The report of the first team which mainly dealt with the border roads was received in September 1967. Their main recommendations and the action taken thereon are indicated in the statement attached. The report of the second team was formally received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat on the 4th December and is being studied.

**STATEMENT**

*Main recommendations of the first M.Ps. team visiting J. & K. National Highway, Zojila Pass and Cease-Fire Line between 21-8-1967 and 30-8-1967 and action taken thereon*

Main point of recommendation	Action taken thereon
(a) Elimination of interruption of through traffic on the J & K National Highway from PATHANKOT to SRINAGAR.	Measures are constantly being taken to eliminate interruptions, caused mainly by land-slides. A new by-pass has been constructed. The improvement made is evident. As against 47 land-slides in 1964-65, there were only 17 in 1966-67
(b) Need of suitable research to stabilise the NASHERI SLIP.	The Technical Committee [referred to at item (c) below] has recommended in their report that the various measures for treatment of main Nasheri Slip should be taken and the New by-pass be kept under observations. The behaviour of the slip has already been studied by CRRI experts who have rendered a report and made certain recommendations for corrective measures. Government are conscious of the need for stabilisation of the Nasheri Slip and efforts are under way to implement the recommendation of CRRI report. The behaviour of new by-pass is also being observed.
(c) Improvement on the road between PATHANKOT and SRINAGAR and also between QAZIKUND and SRINAGAR.	The Technical Committee, which was appointed by Government to suggest the measures for development of J. & K. National Highway, has rendered two reports. One report relates to the portion from Jammu to Jawahar Tunnel and the second report is for the portion from Jawahar Tunnel to Srinagar. Improvement works as per the recommendations of the Committee are in progress between Jammu and Jawahar Tunnel. As regards the portion from Jawahar Tunnel to Srinagar the recommendations of the Committee are to be considered by the Board at its ensuing meeting.

## Main point of recommendation

## Action taken thereon

(d) Grant of extra facilities and emoluments to the Pioneers of the Border Roads Organisation.

The matter is under active consideration of the Border Roads Organisation.

(e) Improvement in the Tourists' facilities in the KASHMIR Valley with particular reference to beauty spot in and around SRINAGAR, TANGMARG-GULMARG road, Tourists' Club at PAHALGAM and SHALIMAR Gardens at SRINAGAR.

These points have been referred to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism) and J & K Government, who are concerned in the matter.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know whether there is any system of following up the recommendations of these Study Teams and, if so, what is that system? I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to paragraph (d) of the statement wherein it is stated that the matter is under active consideration of the Border Roads Organisation. I may recall that a report was submitted by another team six years back and a similar recommendation was made. Am I to understand that the matter has been under active consideration for all these six years?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, about the first part of the question, whenever a report of this type by the hon. Members of the Houses of Parliament is received, every point that is mentioned there is examined and either appropriate action is taken or if it does not concern the Defence Ministry, it is sent to the other concerned organisations. About the second part of the question, I am sorry I do not know about the earlier report that is said to have been submitted six years back but these relate to certain matters having financial implications and therefore naturally it takes time to take a final decision when financial implications are involved.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether anybody keeps track of the recommendations accepted and implemented or once an order is made that the recommendation be implemented, nobody follows it up, whether it is implemented or not, because the people in the Border Roads Organisation suffer from many disabilities. Six years .

I back I was in one of the teams which I submitted their report and made certain recommendations and still today, after six years, nothing has been done.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, implementation is the responsibility of the Defence Ministry and that of the Minister and particularly when there is a report from the Members of Parliament, it is the duty of the Minister to see that all those recommendations are examined and suitable follow-up action is taken. About the earlier reports, Sir, I have already said that I do not have the information. If this hon. Member had mentioned to me earlier, I could have looked it up and informed him about the same.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Team which visited the border areas has stated in the interest of the security of this country that there are certain deficiencies with regard to the stores supplied to the border forces and particularly, Sir, there is a marked deficiency in the matter of wireless sets for inter-communications? Sir, Defence requires an up-to-date intercommunication system and our Bharat Electronics which produce this equipment are very slow in producing it as is clear from the present rate of production. Will the Defence Minister please assure us that such wireless sets are adequately provided to the Defence Forces in the border areas?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I agree, Sir, that communications is a very important matter and if there are any deficiencies, I can assure the House that we will make up those deficiencies.