

theless we have collected some information and I gather that in the year 1961 some token allocation was made for it in the State Budget but later on it was decided by the State Government, keeping in view the respective priorities to be given to other works, that it should be delayed. So it was delayed later on.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Now, Sir, I would like to know if from the hon. Minister whether, if this is delayed, the acquisition of land will not become more costly at a later date, because land in Kerala, the price of it is so dear there.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: In Kerala the price of land may be very dear, but we shall have to contend with that problem or that factor as and when it is decided to remove this curve and improve the geometries of the road.

SHRI P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, the number of accidents during the last one year due to heavy traffic on this road?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We are collecting that information.

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

*710. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL SECURITY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is likely to be extended to commercial establishments employing more than 20 persons;

(b) if so, the places where it will be brought into effect; and

(c) by when it will be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): (a) to (c) The Employees' State Insurance Scheme applies at present to certain factories only. It is being considered whether during the

Fourth Five Year Plan, the Scheme may be extended to commercial establishments (employing 20 or more persons) in a few selected centres, where the State Governments are in a position to make adequate arrangements in advance for full medical benefits and are willing to extend the Scheme to these establishments,

SHRI RAM SINGH: How many persons will be benefited by this extension when it comes through?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Twenty-seven lakh persons are being benefited now.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if the government will take the precaution before extending the scheme to ensure that when the scheme is extended to commercial establishments, the families of the employees also are covered, like the families of industrial workers?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Yes, Sir, that is the main consideration.

SHRI SIT ARAM JAIPURIA: Sir, has it come to the notice of the Government that in many centres the amount of money that has been collected under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme has not been spent, while in many other places the amount spent has been very much more than the sum collected. Does Government propose to take care and see that such of the centres which have been instrumental in the collection of this amount are properly looked after, that the money is spent and necessary facilities given to the workers at those particular places?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Sir, at present the facilities are given to the workers where the Scheme is in force, and this fact now mentioned by the hon. Member has not been brought to the notice of the Government.

*71]. [The questioner (Shri B. N. j Bhargava) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 4521—23 infra.]