

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: For how many years has this arrangement been going on?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The work was started in 1948 and the metalled road was completed by December 1954.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether some big bridges are still to be constructed and also whether the approval of the Central Government is required which is causing delay in the construction of these bridges?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: In my reply, I have already said that three major streams have to be bridged. This work is in progress.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether the approval of the Central Government has been obtained already by the State Government for this purpose?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The work is being financed by the Central Government and it was given to the Assam Public Works Department for execution, but has since 1955 been transferred to the Tripura Public Works Department for maintenance and further development. It is proposed to complete the project by June 1958. So, the sanctions, I presume, have been issued.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether the Government have under contemplation the question of declaring this whole road as a National Highway?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: This is really a request for action. I will have it examined.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether you are contemplating declaring it as a National Highway. For that you have no ready answer available.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Is the hon. Minister aware that this metalled road extends to only about ten or twelve miles beyond Agartala?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Sir, the information that I have is that it is a fair weather road which is in use since 1954.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Fair weather road means that during the rainy season it is only a little better than a *kucha* road. I have seen it during the rainy season.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is no question, Dr. Kunzru.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR : I accept the information and I shall look into it.

HOLDING UP OF RAJKOT-OKHA MAIL BY A BAND OF ARMED DACOITS

*220. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a recent press report to the effect that a band of armed dacoits made an attempt to hold up the Rajkot-Okha Mail by firing at its engine; and

(b) if so, whether there was any casualty as a result of the incident?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) :

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether these trains have any armed escorts provided?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: All the trains are not provided with armed escorts.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What are those particular trains? I want to know whether this particular train had any armed escort.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: No, Sir.

SHRI M. B. JOSHI: May I know the particulars of this incident?

SHKI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I think, Sir, it is a very simple incident to which a lot of importance had been attached. The train was running between two stations at about three in the afternoon. The driver saw some flash and something hard hit the engine. He heard the noise. He went on to the next station and they thought that it was a shot that had been fired at the train. If it was a shot, Sir, it was of a muzzle loading gun. Probably some *shikari* or somebody had fired at something else which accidentally hit the engine. That is the police report.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: In that case, why was not this refuted in the Press because the Press had made capital of this so small an incident?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN:- Sir, I hope this will be, given due publicity now.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether this matter was brought to the notice of the State Government and whether any enquiry was made in this respect to ascertain what exactly the position was?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has just reported the results of that enquiry.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The matter was referred to the police and what I stated is the result of the police enquiry.

PAYMENT OF T.A. AND D.A. TO THE INVESTIGATING INSPECTORS OF THE TELEPHONE REVENUE ACCOUNTS OFFICES

♦221. DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by Government during the last five years on the travelling and daily allowances of the Investigating Inspectors who look into the working of the Telephone Revenue Accounts offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): Rs. 23,242 (Rupees twenty three thousand, two hundred and forty two only).

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Could we have the break-up of this figure, Sir?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The break-up is as follows:

In 1953-54, there were no expenses on this account at all.

In 1954-55, it was:

Rs. 640 for the Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Delhi.

Rs. 2,174 for the Office at Delhi. Rs. 88 for the D.M.T., New Delhi. Rs. 1,049 for Madras and Rs. 121 for Calcutta. For 1955-56, it was: Rs. 3,148 for the Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Delhi.

Rs. 1,674 for A.O.T.R., Delhi.

Rs. 460 for A.O.T.R., Lucknow.

Rs. 343 for the D.M.T., New Delhi.

Rs. 1,805 for D.M.T. Madras and so on.

Does the hon. Member want all the figures?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

The question hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

15. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that s.s. "Rajula" arrived recently in Madras