

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know if there is any discrimination in the selection of staff to be retained after 55 by the E. P. Railway against those people who came from other Railways?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I do not think it is proper to put a question like that.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: In view of the fact that the delay in the preparation of a combined seniority list in the various zones is leading to misunderstanding among the different sections of the employees themselves, is Government going to expedite it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said that it was ready.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is ready.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Have they not taken a long time?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is almost ready everywhere, and we have said that, if there is any lacuna anywhere, because the conditions differ in different Railways, the Railways can slightly alter the scheme in consultation with the Unions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Apropos the answer to my question by the hon. Minister just now, I would like to ask whether some of the clerical staff, especially of the former Bikaner State Railway, have now been reverted to a junior grade in spite of the assurance given by the Government that their conditions of service will not be affected. Has not such a representation been received by the Railway Ministry?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: These representations are considered on their merits. I do not think that any injustice has been done in any case.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know the approximate date of the publication of the seniority list?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I cannot say about every Railway, but in most of the Railways they have already been announced. Probably on the date on which it was made public, it was also announced, but I am not quite sure.

#### COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS PER MILE

\*532. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state the average cost per mile of construction of national highways in each State as per estimates in the year 1955-56?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. MONO MOHAN DAS): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XIV, Annexure No. 87.]

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know what the meaning of this B. T. pavement is? What does B.T. stand for?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It stands for bitumen and tar. 'B' means bitumen, and 'T' means tar. I got myself specially ready for this.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In the statement it is said that the average rate per mile is Rs. 2,75,000 in Jammu and Kashmir and Rs. 80,000 in Mysore. Am I to understand that the contribution of the State is less in one case and more in the other? Is the cost of the national highways entirely borne by the Central Government or is any contribution made by the States and, if so, on what basis?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Because it is a national highway, the whole expenditure is borne by the Central Government.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Have we not recently passed the National Highways Bill in this House? It is provided there. It is the responsibility of the Central Government.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the maintenance cost per mile in the different States?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It differs from State to State and I cannot give the exact figure.

MANUFACTURE OF GLIDERS IN INDIA

\*533. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in India where gliders are being manufactured at present;

(b) in what number they are manufactured; and

(c) what is the cost per glider?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) So far as Government is aware, no gliders are yet being manufactured on a commercial scale in India.