

Bihar recommended to the Labour Ministry that something out of this Fund should be spent on improvement of roads ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Sir, maintenance of roads is a State subject.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Sir, is it not a fact, that medical aid is also a State subject ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Sir, wherever our mobile vans can go, these are taken. Some efforts have also been made to improve the conditions of the roads and the mines which could not be contacted through these mobile vans—the owners of such mines—were requested to make some improvement, and they conceded to our request. That much we can do and has been done.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN : May I know for what purpose this Fund will be utilised ?

SHRI ABID ALI : For the welfare of the workers in the mines.

MICA MINES LABOUR WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*254. SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Advisory Committee requested Government to sanction some funds for the improvement of roads leading to the important mica mining areas ; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government have taken any steps to sanction funds for the improvement of such roads ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : My question is whether the Mica Advisory Committee recommended to the Government to spend some funds out of this Fund on the improvement of roads.

Mihl ABIL ALI : Sir, a request was made- and we replied that this particular Act does not permit spending the Funds of this particular scheme for repairs of the roads.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Due to the bad roads the Fund is not being utilised for the purpose for which it was meant, and so, will the Ministry consider amending this Act ?

SHRI ABID ALI : The purpose of the Fund is not only this ; there are other activities under this scheme which are being taken in hand. So far as the amendment of the Act is concerned, that is not contemplated, Sir.

NARKANDA AND KANGAL ROAD IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

*255. SHRI C. L. VARMA : Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased, to state :

(a) the approximate cost of the construction of the motorable road between Narkanda and Kangal near Kumarsain, in Himachal Pradesh (Hindustan Tibet Road) in 1951 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1952, the original alignment of the road was changed in this particular area resulting in destruction of crops and affecting cultivable land ;

(c) if so, what is the estimated cost of the new construction according to the revised alignment ;

(d) whether the claims of the cultivators, whose land has been affected by the original and revised alignment have been settled ? If so, what compensation has been paid and what is the basis on which compensation has been worked out ; if no compensation has been paid so far, what are the reasons for this delay ; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the alignment of the Simla-Mandi Road was also changed after the first construction ; if so, what was the reason for such change and how much extra expenditure was involved thereby ?