

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.

SHRI ABID 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 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) Rs. 20,000 were spent on preliminary work in connection with construction of a motorable road between Narkanda and Kangal. The preliminary work mainly consisted of constructing a service road.

(b) On detailed survey of the alignment after the service road was constructed it was found that a better alignment with flatter gradients was possible and it was decided to adopt the latter as this road is an important National Highway. Only a trace has been cut on the new line, and not much crop has been damaged. Some cultivable land has to be acquired for the new alignment.

(c) The new road will cost about Rs. 12.0 lakhs.

(d) Compensation payable for land and crops, where damaged, is being determined under the Land Acquisition Act and will be paid as soon as possible.

(e) Yes. In hill roads a rough line is fixed as a result of preliminary surveys, a path or service road cut along it and then detailed surveys are done to improve and finalize the alignment. This results in some changes in alignment. The amount of money spent on abandoned portions of the original rough alignment of Simla-Mandi road was about Rs. 1,600/-.

SHRI C. L. VARMA : May I know, Sir, who is responsible for the change in the alignment ? Is it the Central Government or the Provincial Government ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Sir, the engineers of the Roads Organisation went, surveyed and suggested a better alignment.

CHAMPION REEF GOLD MINES

*256. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Court of Enquiry appointed by the Government of India

to enquire into the rock bursts in Champion Reef Gold Mines of Kolar Gold Fields has completed the enquiry and submitted any report ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative,

(i) whether a copy of the report will be placed on the table of the Council, and

(ii) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to implement the recommendations of the Court ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) Yes.

(b) (i) Yes.

(ii) The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : How long will it take for the Government to come to a decision on this ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Not much time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : 'Not much time'.

VANASPATI PRODUCTION

*257. SHRI D. NARAYAN : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) how many vanaspati oil mills there are in India today ;

(b) what is the capital investment of all these mills ;

(c) what was their production in the year 1951-52 and since April last ;

(d) how much of this production was exported to other countries ;

(e) how much of vanaspati oil is purchased by Government every month for defence forces or for any other use ;

(f) whether vanaspati production has affected the production of ghee ; if so, to what extent ; and

(g) what steps are being taken by Government to stop adulteration of ghee with vanaspati ?