

New Railway Lines in Madras State

1778. Shri Elayaperumal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many miles of new Railway lines have been constructed in Madras State under the First and Second Five Year Plan periods so far; and

(b) how many new railway lines are proposed to be opened during the Third Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) Information about railway mileage is not compiled State-wise but Railway-wise. However, out of the new lines constructed on the Southern Railway during First and Second Five Year Plan periods, about 73 miles fall within Madras State.

(b) Two new railway lines, falling wholly or partly in the State of Madras are included in the Railways' programme for construction of new lines during the Third Five Year Plan period.

National Highways in Madras

1779. Shri Elayaperumal: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the projects under the National Highways Scheme included in the Second Five Year Plan in Madras State;

(b) the amount allotted for the purpose and the amount utilised;

(c) how many of these projects were executed by the end of 1961-62; and

(d) how many of them are still incomplete?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Ninetyone National Highway works, including fortyfour works carried over from the First Five Year Plan, were included in the Second Five Year Plan for Madras. Details of these works are given in

the statements laid on the Table. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 100].

(b) A sum of Rs. 197.93 lakhs was allotted out of which a sum of Rs. 182.91 lakhs was utilised.

(c) Fiftyseven.

(d) Thirtythree works are still in progress. One work was not sanctioned as detailed estimate was not received from the State Government.

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**ALLEGED ENTRY OF SOME CHINESE INTO INDIAN TERRITORY AND TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF JOGBANI TOWN**

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): Sir, under rule 197, I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported entry of some Chinese into Indian territory and their taking photographs of Jogbani town."

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Sir, the facts are as follows: Six Chinese nationals had come to Biratnagar in Nepal to look for a site to set up a tannery. Two political workers said that while going in a rickshaw from Jogbani to Biratnagar, they had seen some Chinese taking photographs in the Indian territory. According to the rickshaw puller, who was questioned, the Chinese were on the Nepal side of Jogbani and were not taking any photographs. Jogbani town is itself divided in two parts between Nepal and India.

Shri P. K. Deo: Mr. Speaker, the appearance of the Chinese on the Indian soil especially at the foot of the Himalayas is a matter of great concern to all of us. May I know if

this is due to the deterioration in our Indo-Nepalese relations which might have forced the Nepalese Government to tolerate this anti-Indian activity?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That would not be conducive to our interest.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): In view of the fact that this is not the first instance and on a previous occasion it was reported that some Nepalese police men also got into our territory, are we to understand that this Nepalese honey-mooning with China of late has helped the Chinese to come into our territory and take photographs, because the statement made by Mr.

Mr. Speaker: "Because" is all right. But now he should put the question straight.

Shri Hem Barua: May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a statement made by Dr. Upadhyay who was a member of the Nepalese Parliament to the effect that this Chinese party of half a dozen people got into our territory, took photograph of the railway station and took photograph of Jogbani also. If that is so, may I know whether the Government instead of relying on the report of rickshaw puller would try to find out the truth from the ex member of the Nepalese Parliament?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I really do not understand the question. One thing I may say, these Chinese persons mentioned were not on Indian territory and they were on the Nepalese territory. Therefore, the incursion that the hon. Member was referring to has not taken place.

Mr. Speaker: This news has appeared in the papers and that has caused some concern in the minds of hon. Members. According to the hon. Minister reliance has been placed on the statement of that rickshaw puller. Hon. Members only desire to

know if some further enquiry can be made and facts ascertained, whether really this is the truth or not. That is all they are trying to find out. Otherwise they have no information. Probably the information that the hon. Minister has may be the exact information, but their only desire is that some more enquiry should be made.

Shri Hem Barua: The statement was made by a reliable man.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Has Government received accurate reports from our Embassy in Kathmandu or other sources as to how many Chinese there were in Nepal before the Sino-Nepal agreement for construction of Kathmandu-Lhasa road was signed and how many have arrived since then for road building purposes—ostensibly for road building, but really for more serious purposes?

Mr. Speaker: That is not relevant here.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The point is, I may submit, there are many more Chinese now and that is why there is greater danger of their incursion into our territory.

Mr. Speaker: That might be the case, but that is quite distinct from this. We are only concerned with the appearance of half a dozen Chinese and their taking photographs there.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is the Indo-Nepal border well guarded against such incursions?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There was no incursion.

Mr. Speaker: The question was whether that area is well-guarded?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, it is well-guarded. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Hem Barua: It is a very important issue.

Mr. Speaker: When the answer is being given, how can I allow all members to get up and put questions? Let the answer be finished first.

Shri Hem Barua: She has finished it.

Mr. Speaker: No, she has not.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: With regard to the information supplied, we have made enquiries. The enquiries reveal that the political workers gave one version and the rickshaw puller gave another version. Nothing more can be done because the people involved gave different versions. Regarding the inference, on enquiries it was found that they were on the Nepalese side of the border, because they have gone to Biratnagar about the establishment of a tannery. Therefore, the inference of the hon. Member is not correct.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order. Sir, as the supreme custodian of the rights and privileges of the members of the House, you have just now observed that the question was whether the India-Nepal border was adequately guarded. As you yourself pointed to the Treasury Benches, this is the only question. There is no other question at all apart from that. I put the question irrespective of whether there was any incursion or not.

Mr. Speaker: I still do not know what the point of order is. What should I answer or how should I answer it? If he only says that the answer has not been given, that is a different thing; I can ask the Minister to read or give the answer. But where is the point of order?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The point of order arises in this that you, Sir, as the supreme custodian of the rights and privileges of the members, upheld the question as relevant, but the Minister gave no answer.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants an answer?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Yes, Sir. The House wants it and you, Sir, also want the answer.

Mr. Speaker: He might resume his seat. The question was "Is the border well-guarded?"

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have already said "Yes, Sir".

Mr. Speaker: The answer is "Yes Sir".

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It has taken so long for her to say these two words "Yes, Sir".

Shri Hem Barua: The hon. Minister has stated in reply "Yes, Sir". But may I invite her attention to her own admission on a previous occasion that this border was penetrated into by some Nepalese police in an unauthorised way? If it is well-guarded, how could it be possible?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want her to say "No" to that question? Now we will take up the next subject.

REPORTED DENIAL OF FACILITIES BY
CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO THE INDIAN
EMBASSY TO CELEBRATE REPUBLIC DAY

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, under rule 197 I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported denial of facilities by the Chinese Government to the Indian Embassy in Peking for celebrating the Republic Day this year."

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It had been the practice for our Embassy in Peking to hold the Republic Day Receptions in the Golden Hall of the Peking Hotel due to the compara-