

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In certain cases there have been encroachments on Government land by peasants for purposes of cultivation and grazing etc. These cases are being dealt with on merits. In the erstwhile States where no proper records of undemarcated forests & waste lands were maintained, a regular settlement is now in progress & the rights of the persons concerned are being recorded.

**All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation**

\*897. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received representation from the All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation for the appointment of a Wage Board for Employees of Ports and Docks in the major ports of India; and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** (a) and (b). The Federation's demands included the revision of the wage scales of port and dock workers and the appointment of suitable machinery for the purpose. Government did not feel justified in considering a general revision of the wage scales of this class of employees in isolation. They accepted the necessity for undertaking a review of the disparities and anomalies in the pay scales in the light of the recommendations of the 1947 Pay Commission. An Officer on Special Duty was appointed for this purpose. He has submitted a report which has been sent to the Port Authorities for consideration.

**Dredging Operations**

\*898. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1419 on the 3rd September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many ports of Ratnagiri District will remain unused on account of having no dredging arrangement; and

(b) whether there is any programme in the Second Five Year Plan for dredging in the rivers of Ratnagiri District?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** (a) Development of minor ports is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Government of Bombay have reported that it would not be correct to say that ports in Ratnagiri District would remain unused in the absence of dredging arrangements. The correct position is that navigation in the creeks or rivers in which most of these ports are located is restricted owing to the formation of sand bars at their mouths with the result that vessels using the ports have to wait for the high tide to cross the bars and consequently take more time to reach the internal areas.

(b) Yes, Sir

**International Postal Union**

\*899. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the advantages and benefits derived by India from the membership of International Postal Union; and

(b) whether any contribution has to be made by India for such membership?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** (a) The main advantages and benefits are in the shape of reciprocal facilities in the operation of our