

(b) The matter is under consideration of State Governments.

Purchase of Railways Sleepers

*610. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have decided recently to purchase about 22 lakh wooden sleepers from foreign countries like Australia, Brazil, Canada, East Africa, Malaya and the Philippines;

(b) whether any orders have already been placed with foreign suppliers;

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange that would be needed for these purchase; and

(d) the reasons for not utilising our own timber resources in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes; global tenders have been invited for this purpose.

(b) Yes—an exploratory order for supply of about one and a half lakh numbers of wooden sleepers has been placed on Australia.

(c) About Rs. 6.25 crores approximately.

(d) Our demand for sleepers is vastly in excess of what local resources can yield.

रेलवे के जनरल मैनेजरों का सम्मेलन

*६१८. { श्री वि. सु. वि. वि. :
श्री हरिश्चन्द्र माथुर :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे बोर्ड ने अगस्त और सितम्बर, १९५७ में विभिन्न रेलवे महसूलों के जनरल मैनेजरों का सम्मेलन बुलाया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन्होंने कौन कौन से मुद्दे विर्णय किये ; और

(ग) वे अब तक किन्ना हद तक कार्यान्वित किये जा चुके हैं ?

रेलवे डायरेक्टर (श्री शाहनवाज खान) :
(क) जी हां ।

(ख) तथा (ग). इन बैठकों में रेलवे के मसलों और समान नीति (Common Po) के मामलों पर विचार किया जाता है । इन बैठकों में जो सवाल उठाये जाते हैं उन पर विभागीय खान-बीन और कार्रवाई की जाती है ।

Sale of Water by D.V.C. to Industrial Concerns

*619. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of water at present being sold by the Damodar Valley Corporation to various industrial concerns in that area; and

(b) at what rate?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) At present, about 2,000,000 gallons of water are being sold quarterly.

(b) (1) For domestic purposes, at one anna for 1,000 gallons.

(2) For industrial purposes, at one anna and six pies for 1,000 gallons.

International Maritime Law Conference

*620. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tenth Session of the Diplomatic Conference on International Maritime Law met in the Senate House, Brussels on the 30th September, 1957 to discuss the draft text of an International Convention limiting ship-owner's liability; and

(b) whether India was represented at the Conference?