

rupees two crores for the supply of modern equipment for Calcutta Port has been placed with foreign countries?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The value of the equipment for which the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta have placed orders abroad is Rs 38 20 lakhs.

Hindi Telegrams

*743. { Shri S. V. Ramaswami:
Shri K. B. Malvia:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) what is the percentage of telegraphic traffic in Hindi at present to the total telegraphic traffic,

(b) whether arrangements have been made for the transmission of telegrams in Hindi in all the principal telegraph offices in the country;

(c) whether separate staff has been posted for this purpose, and

(d) if so, what is the extra expenditure on this account?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) About 0.2 per cent

(b) Yes, except in Assam, Andhra, Kerala, Madras, and Orissa States

(c) Specially trained staff is provided for handling Hindi Telegrams at all stages

(d) No extra expenditure is incurred except that in training the officials.

Report of the Chaudhuri Committee

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

(a) whether Government will publish the Report of the Officer on

Special Duty regarding the pay scales and allowances of labourers in major ports;

(b) whether the members of the Madras Dock Labour Board were supplied with copies of the Report; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Report will be published after decisions have been taken on the recommendations contained therein

(b) Copies of the Report have been furnished to the Madras Dock Labour Board

(c) Does not arise

Bombay-Ahmedabad Janata Express Accident

*745. { Shri Vajpayee:
Shri Assar.
Shri Raghunath Singh
Pandit K. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay-Ahmedabad Janata Express met with an accident near Baroda Station on the 6th February, 1958, and

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been made into the causes of the accident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) At about 03 22 hours on 6-2-1958, while No 7 Dn Bombay-Ahmedabad Janata Express was entering the Down main line of Baroda Station of the Western Railway, its engine side-collided with another engine standing on the cross-over points, connecting the Down main line with the Down loop line. As a result, the engine and the next three coaches of the Janata Express derailed

(b) Yes, an enquiry into the accident was held by a Committee of Divisional Officers of the Railway.

United Seafarers Federation

*746. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from the United Seafarers Federation, Bombay that its workers are denied entry into the shipping office at Bombay and its precincts; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) It has not been possible for Government to permit such entry at the time of signing on or paying off crews to persons styling themselves as members or office-bearers of the "United Seafarers Federation", as this is not a recognised Union. There is however no ban on entry into the Shipping Office at any other time for bona fide business.

Team of Railway Technical Officers

*747. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1538 on the 6th September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Team of Technical Officers who visited Washington and studied the functioning of the Railway system in certain other foreign countries, have been considered; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The notes prepared by the team of Technical Officers who visited Washington on some of the interesting features of Railway operation or development schemes have been cir-

culated to all the Railway Administrations for the information and guidance of Technical Officers working on Railways. No other action is called for on these notes at this stage.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में पंचायतें

*७४८. **श्री पद्म देव :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हिमाचल प्रदेश में ग्राम पंचायतों का नवीन निर्वाचन पूरा हो चुका है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या पंचायतों ने काम करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) वे कब से काम करना प्रारम्भ करेंगी ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री करमरकर) : (क) और (ग). एक विवरण सभा की मेज पर रख दिया गया है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट ४, अनुबन्ध संख्या ५४].

(ख) और (घ). सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है मिलने पर सभा की मेज पर रख दी जायेगी।

Teak Plantation in Andhra

*749. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 194 on the 17th February, 1958 and state the technical and financial assistance given to Andhra Pradesh to increase the teak plantation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): No specific technical assistance has been asked for by the Andhra State in the matter. As regard financial assistance, during the first two years of the Second Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 27,300 was sanctioned as loan for a scheme of artificial regeneration in