

a proposal of building up a body of consultants for tendering advice to the Central and State Governments on technical problems relating to port developments and inland water transport;

(b) if so, when it is to start functioning; and

(c) what are the present difficulties the State Governments are experiencing in carrying out port development projects?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). Yes. As the scheme is in the initial stages of formulation, it is not possible to give any definite indication at present as to its final shape and when it is likely to start functioning.

(c) So far as the major ports are concerned the problems are chiefly engineering problems. In the sphere of minor ports and Inland Water Transport, which are primarily the concern of State Governments, the problems pertain mainly to development, engineering, traffic and non-availability of technical personnel.

#### **Suspension of Railway Officers**

\*411. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:  
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 652 on the 21st August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the Special Police Establishment have since concluded their investigations into the construction work executed under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction) and a District Engineer of the South Eastern Railway which was later found to be below standard specifications; and

(b) if so, what are their findings?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). The investigation still continues.

#### **Conversion of Railway Line to Broad Gauge**

\*412. **Shri Rajagopala Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Renigunta-Tirupati metre gauge railway into broad gauge in view of the growing importance of Tirupati as the biggest pilgrim centre in the South and in view of the short distance involved; and

(b) if so, when the work will be taken up?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a). A preliminary examination of such a proposal is being made.

(b). This question is premature at this stage.

#### **Strike by Seamen in Calcutta Port**

\*419. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) if there was any strike by seamen in Calcutta Port in October 1959; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a). Yes Sir, the seamen at Calcutta Port staged a token strike on the 15th October, 1959.

(b). The strike was staged for an increase in wages, regulation of hours of work and payment of overtime wages.

#### **Development of Kakinada Port**

\*420. **Shri Madhusudan Rao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 372 on the 7th August 1959 and state:

(a) whether Kakinada port is being considered for development as all weather port during the remaining