

(b) The price of the tractors imported is Rs. 4,385/- each c.i.f. Bombay inclusive of cost of hydraulic lift, pulley and a plough together with standard sets of tools and spares for each tractor.

LABOUR WELFARE FUNDS

*1097. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the creation of statutory Labour Welfare Funds for financing welfare schemes for workers has been under consideration since 1950; and

(b) if so, by what time a final decision will be taken by the Standing Labour Committee?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) Yes.

(b) The question was considered at the 14th Session of the Standing Labour Committee held at Madras in August, 1954. The general opinion was that Central Legislation would be desirable. It was however decided that the consideration of this question may be postponed until the disposal of the appeals which are pending in the Supreme Court challenging the legal and constitutional position in this regard.

In the meantime it was decided that factual information in regard to the nature and extent of welfare facilities provided by employers and workers, should be collected and examined and the matter then placed before the Indian Labour Conference.

TRAINING OF SEAMEN

*1098. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons trained so far under the training scheme for seamen of the engine room and deck sections;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to reports

of oppressive behaviour of ship's officers towards the trainees; and

(c) whether the attention of Government has also been drawn to allegations of discrimination in the matter of training?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 3,277 persons were trained upto the end of June, 1954. Of these 1442 were for the engine room and the rest for the deck section.

(b) There have been no general complaints of the nature referred to by the hon. Member, though occasionally there have been a few complaints of bad treatment against individual officers of ships on which the trainees find employment after training. In such cases, redress has been sought by taking up the matter with the shipping companies concerned.

(c) Several representations and complaints were received from the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay and National Union of Seamen of India, Calcutta regarding alleged discrimination. On enquiry it transpired that the allegations had no basis and replies to this effect were sent to the Unions concerned from whom nothing further has been heard.

TRAINING SHIP "DUFFERIN"

*1099. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement in T.S. 'Dufferin' to impart pre-sea and post-sea instructions in radar observations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): None at present; but arrangements are expected to be made shortly for imparting pre-sea instruction in radar observations on board T.S. 'Dufferin'.

COMMUNICATIONS IN NORTH BIHAR

*1100. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where telegraphic, telephonic and postal communications