

(b) if so, whether it has affected the trade adversely; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to prevent congestion?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). From time to time in the last four months some congestion has developed in the Bombay port due to a variety of causes. This has had repercussions on shipping turn-round but it is hardly possible to conclude that trade has been affected adversely. In fact a rise in the volume of imports during January to April 1955 was a significant factor which contributed to the congestion. The Port Authorities are taking all possible steps to reduce congestion and prevent its recurrence.

Recruitment of Technical Staff

***546. Shri A.K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new recruitment of trade apprentices has been made recently for appointing them as "Skilled Fitters" on the Southern Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that these appointments affect the promotion of those already in service; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). The rules for recruitment of staff in the skilled grade in the Mechanical Workshops provide that such posts will be filled by directly recruited Trade Apprentices after training, as well as by promotion of semi-skilled and un-skilled workmen after they pass the prescribed trade tests. The proportion of vacancies filled from Trade Apprentices and promoted workmen on all Railways including the Southern Railway has been fixed at 2:1.

Railway Tribunal

***551. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to his Budget Speech for current year and state:

(a) whether the Indian National Railway Workers' Federation has since been consulted in regard to the additional items to be referred to the *ad hoc* Tribunal; and

(b) if so, the items that will be referred to the Tribunal?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Tuberculosis

***552. Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for curbing tuberculosis in the country under the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and its estimated cost; and

(c) whether the Planning Commission have accepted the proposals?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The details of the scheme are at present under discussion with the Planning Commission and till they are finalised, it is not considered proper to publish them.

Tourists Traffic To Dharamsala

***553. Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received an application with the Tourist Association Dharamsala for grants for developing the tourist traffic in that area; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes from the Tourist Bureau Committee, Dharamsala.

(b) It is under consideration.

All-India Co-operative Congress

***544. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the resolutions passed at the All-India Co-operative Congress held at Patna recently; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) The resolutions mainly relate to the recommendations contained in the Rural Credit Survey Report on which Government of India is already taking necessary action.