

Meteorological Conference

*1209. **Shri Raghunath Singh :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Meteorological Conference of Commonwealth Nations was held in Britain on the 23rd May, 1955; and

(b) if so, the part played by India in that Conference?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) (a) Yes.

(b) Conferences of this kind are held from time to time to discuss special meteorological problems of common interest to the Meteorological Services of the Commonwealth. There are many fields of co-operation in meteorological matters within the Commonwealth more particularly with regard to problems of research and development of procedures and methods.

At the Conference held in May 1955, there were useful discussions on various important technical problems of common interest, such as numerical forecasting, meteorological research with particular reference to artificial control of rain, current methods of forecasting, tropical meteorology, Commonwealth participation in the International Geophysical Year, supply of meteorological instruments etc. The Indian Delegation to the Conference took full part in these discussions.

Freight

*1210. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revise the freight charges with regard to exports;

(b) if so, whether there has been any consultations with the Ministries of Commerce, Finance and Railways; and

(c) the final decision taken in the matter?

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

to (c). Government have no statutory power to control or regulate the freight rates on the Overseas Trades and the question of Government proposing to revise the freight charges with regard to exports does not arise. Some complaints have, however, been brought to the notice of Government that India's export trade is being hampered on account of shipping companies charging high or discriminatory freight rates on certain commodities and these are being investigated by the Dte. General of Shipping. Individual cases

in which the rates charged are *prima facie* considered to be high or discriminatory are taken up with the Shipping Lines concerned with a view to persuading them to effect suitable reduction in the rates.

Flag Discrimination

*1213. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the persons who represented India at the 15th Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce in Tokyo in May 1955;

(b) whether India's views on flag discrimination were discussed there;

(c) if so, with what results; and

(d) what other subjects were discussed there with which India is concerned?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 18].

(b) and (c). Yes. The Indian Ship-owners' representatives, who attended the Congress, dissented from the Resolution on 'Flag Discrimination' adopted by the Congress and refuted the charges made against India.

(d) The main subjects discussed other than the one regarding flag discrimination, related to (1) Public and Private Investment in Economic Development, (2) Double Taxation of Shipping and Air Transport, (3) Discrimination in Transport Insurance and (4) Traffic Restrictions on Air Mail.

Wind Mills

*1217. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for giving assistance to the State Governments for installing wind mills for water supply;

(b) if so, whether any assistance was given to State Governments since January, 1954 for this purpose; and

(c) if so, to which State Governments and how much?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh) : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.