

(b) if so, whether the investigations have been completed ; and

(c) the results of the investigations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) Yes. An Officer of the Directorate General of Shipping has been entrusted with the special duty of looking into allegations of discrimination or disparity in shipping freight rates in the overseas trades.

(b) and (c). While investigations in regard to certain items have been completed, they are still in progress in regard to certain other items. As a result of these investigations, the Conferences concerned have suitably revised the freight rates in certain cases.

INDO-U.S. AIR AGREEMENT

*254. { **Shri Keshavaiengar :**
Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy :
Shri D. C. Sharma :
Shri S. V. Ramaswamy :

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the main terms of the Air Agreement signed recently between the Government of India and the Government of the United States?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : I place below a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha giving the requisite information. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 20.]

PHARMACEUTICAL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

*255. **Shri Gidwani :** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 111 on the 3rd March, 1955 and state the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee regarding centralisation of administration of drug control ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : This particular recommendation of the Committee is still under consideration.

POSTAGE STAMP COMPETITION

*256. **Shri Dabhi :** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the rules, prescribed for the competition for the series of special postage stamps to commemorate the 2500th birth anniversary of the Buddha, debar artists from choosing any personal representation of the Buddha ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) :

(a) Yes.

(b) Buddhist sentiment is generally against using the figure of Lord Buddha on Postage Stamps.

U. S. WHEAT OFFER

*257 { **Sardar Hukam Singh :**
Shri Eswara Reddi :

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state :

(a) whether any offer of wheat made by the United States for the flood victims of Orissa was rejected recently by Government ; and

(b) whether any other offer of aid, in cash or in kind, from the United States or any other foreign country was rejected during 1955-56 ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

AMRAVATI AND NAGARJUNAKONDA

*258. { **Dr. Rama Rao :**
Shri Mohana Rao :

Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 850 on the 17th August, 1955 and state :

(a) the steps so far taken by Government to improve tourist facilities at Amravati and Nagarjunakonda in Andhra, ancient Buddhist centres of education ;