

by the Minister of Transport to enquire into the allegations of discrimination which has been practised in respect of the Indian ships as against foreign ships at Liverpool, Southampton and other British ports?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Our information is that we have had not much difficulty in securing full cargo for our ships. In fact, our present shipping capacity cannot cope with the cargo that is available, and the shipping companies have been asked to increase their tonnage. That is the position.

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** My question is about the discrimination which has been practised, between the Indian shipping companies and the British shipping companies in the British harbours. May I know, if there was no discrimination, what was the purpose of the appointment of the special officer, by the Minister of Transport, to enquire into these things?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** As I just said, the amount of cargo purchased by the Government of India abroad is of such dimensions that our shipping cannot cope with it, and in fact we require more shipping tonnage.

**Shri Mohiuddin:** Will the hon. Minister inform the House whether our Indian shipping companies are members of the Conference which deals with the ports mentioned by the hon. Member on that side of the House?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Yes. We are members of the Conference.

**Shri Bansal:** May I know if any special officer was appointed to enquire into this kind of discrimination? That is the question of Sardar Iqbal Singh which I repeat.

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** No such officer was appointed. A conference was held with the foreign shipping company, and they said that no such kind of discrimination was made and that if there was any complaint, they were prepared to look into it. They gave an assurance that no such discrimination will ever be made.

#### Deck Travel

\*2108. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Brihad Bharatya Samaj, a Co-opted Member of Deck Passengers Committee Bombay through its President has submitted a memorandum regarding improving Deck Travel;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have urged the Government of India to vest

the Deck Passengers Committee with Statutory Powers;

(c) whether the Government of India have considered the memorandum; and

(d) if so, what is their decision?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The proposals made in the Memorandum are under consideration.

**Shri Gidwani:** What were the suggestions—the nature of the suggestions—made in the memorandum?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** There is a long list of suggestions that were made. If you so desire, I will place it on the Table of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** It may be placed on the Table.

**Shri Gidwani:** When will the decision be arrived at?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** It has been decided that the D.G., Shipping, should have a discussion with the President of the Association. The President of the Association happens to be one of the hon. Members of this House, Mr Patil.

#### Special Type Wagons

\*2109. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken to manufacture the following special types of wagons for special commodities:

- (i) tank wagons for petrol and vegetable oils.
- (ii) refrigerator wagons for vegetables, fruits and milk,
- (iii) higher ceiling wagons or open wagons for carrying machinery,
- (iv) Wagons for acids and other chemicals;

(b) whether the Railways had felt any difficulty in carrying very big machineries in open wagons over some Railway bridges; and

(c) if so how that is going to be solved?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Practically all types of wagons can be manufactured in India. Since the indigenous capacity is limited against Railways' overall require-

ments, the same is being utilized for the manufacture of general type of wagons which are required in large numbers.

(b) and (c). Difficulties are sometimes experienced with exceptional sizes, but arrangements are made to surmount these.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** With reference to the reply to part (a) of the question, may I know whether Government is going to import special type of wagons during the second Five Year Plan to meet the demands?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** Yes, Sir; we will have to import some special type of wagons during the second Five Year Plan period. But, we are developing capacity for manufacturing all kinds of wagons in this country and I hope within the period of the second Plan or earlier than that, it will be possible to meet all our requirements from this country. We have planned to raise our production targets from 14,000 to 30,000 to 35,000 wagons.

**Shri Chattopadhyaya:** May I know if it is a fact that some orders for the manufacture of wagons have been placed with Messrs. Burns, Bird and Braithwaite of Calcutta and if so, the number so placed?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I shall require notice of that.

**Shri Chattopadhyaya:** May I know whether some orders have been placed for the construction of wagons at Alwynn Metal Works, Hyderabad (Deccan)?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Orders were or are placed, on various times but I cannot give the exact number of wagons etc. in all cases. I want notice.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** May I know whether any estimates have been made or not as to how many wagons will be required for carrying petrol from the refineries and if so, how many wagons will be required and whether orders will be placed for them?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Orders have been placed in the year 1956-57 for wagons for petrol and vegetable oil as follows: Messrs. Braithwaites, Calcutta—250 wagons; Messrs. Jessops—300 wagons and Taxma Co., Calcutta—196 wagons.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has given the numbers; just now the hon. Minister wanted notice for it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister who answered first was not in possession of it.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** The whole matter is still under consideration. The Railway Board have been asked to prepare an estimate and they are drawing up their plan.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know if it is a fact that the Government propose to set up two wagon assembling plants, one at Bareilly and the other at Allahabad?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** There is no such proposal.

#### Railway Accident

\*2110. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Engine No. 7375 W.P. (Canadian) was an overaged one as per the terms of the Supplying Agency at the time of accident on 26th July, 1956;

(b) whether the said Engine was last 'washed out' on 21st July, 1956 and was overdue 'Running shed' overhauling;

(c) whether the said Engine had a continuous run at a stretch for about 10000 miles without due shed services instead of a run of 800 miles as per schedule; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to pay compensation to the Engine Crew?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) No.

(b) The said engine Boiler was last washed out on 20th July, 1956 and was not overdue shed overhauling.

(c) No.

(d) The question of compensation is under investigation.

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** May I know whether it is a fact that W.P. type of Canadian engines are meeting with disasters very often while on run, because of the defective machinery?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** That is not so.

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** May I know whether in view of the sacrifice made by the engine driver, Government are thinking of giving any special reward to the person?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** It is true that the driver of this train which met with this accident displayed a very outstanding gallantry and in spite of being very badly burnt, he brought the train safely into the station and saved the lives of approximately 300 passengers who had boarded that train. He is entitled to approximately Rs. 4000 to Rs. 4500 as compensation. In addition to that, the General Manager is authorised to give a reward of approxi-