

ASIAN MARITIME CONFERENCE

*2248. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the First Asian Maritime Conference held by the I.L.O. at Nuwara Eliya in October, 1953 in respect of registration and employment of seamen have been implemented by Government; and

(b) if so, in what way?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A scheme for the establishment of a statutory Seamen's Employment Office at Bombay has been drawn up and is expected to be brought in force in course of the next few weeks. Preliminary work for the establishment of a similar office at Calcutta has also been taken in hand.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether any tripartite agency has been set up for appointment and registration of seamen?

Shri Alagesan: The agency that is at present proposed to be set up is a government agency, but we will be setting up a tripartite Advisory Board which will be equally represented by Government, ship-owners and seamen. This Board will advise not only on policy but also on details of procedure.

Shri Sanganna: Is it a fact that according to one of the recommendations of the I.L.O. the seamen must be represented in the tripartite agency?

Shri Alagesan: The Conference that was recently held at Nuwara Eliya or some place in Ceylon had suggested various proposals for setting up the machinery. The machinery that we are setting up under Government aegis is now considered to be more suitable under the present circumstances.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Are the trade unions of seamen co-operating in the work of registration and exchange of employment; if not, why?

Shri Alagesan: It is expected that they will fully co-operate.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT

*2249. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway accident took place on the 14th March, 1954 near Satnali Railway Station between Loharu and Rewari; and

(b) the dates of all the accidents that occurred on this line during 1953 and 1954 so far?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes. At about 8-20 hours on 14th March, 1954, while No. B. 3 Goods Train was running between Satnali and Loharu stations on the Loharu-Rewari Main Line Section of the Northern Railway, 16 wagons on the train derailed.

(b) 26th January, 22nd April, 26th July, 1st and 31st August, 3rd September and 29th October, 1953, 24th February and 14th March, 1954.

Shri Ram Dass: May I know why these accidents occur so often and how far the railway employees are responsible for them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The accidents that have taken place on this line were mainly due to breakages of wagon parts; sometimes the axle broke, sometimes the draw-bar broke, and no railway employees are held responsible for it.

Shri Ram Dass: Are not the railway employees responsible for checking how far these parts are in good condition?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member wanted to ask: 'why is it that these breakages should take place only on that particular part of the line?'

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, breakages are taking place almost on all

the lines. I respectfully beg to submit that there are lakhs and lakhs of wagons operating every day and it is but natural that parts of wagons should break.

Shri Ram Dass: Am I to understand that you have less number of employees than is required; that you are under-staffed?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wanted to ask whether the staff is not sufficient. Is that the question?

Shri Ram Dass: Yes.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Perhaps the hon. Member is hinting that the maintenance staff who are responsible for maintenance of wagons and coaches are not enough. That is not so. In fact, we have adequate staff to look after the wagons and this thing has been amply assured by the Adjudicator's award.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the Committee that was appointed to enquire into the whole question of accidents which take place so frequently, has started its work and if so, when it is expected to submit the report?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Committee has already finished its work.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wanted to know when the report is expected.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The report has been submitted to the hon. Minister already. During the Budget speech the hon. Minister said that the report should be submitted before 30th April 1954, and the report was submitted on the 30th April 1954.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will it be placed on the Table of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am going to the next question.

TEZPUR WORKSHOP

*2250. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is proposed to be done with the Railway workshop in Tezpur which was acquired from Tezpur Balipara Railway Co.?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The site will be utilised for building Railway Staff Quarters. The machines and equipment are being reserved and if required will be made over to the Assam Government for use in a new technical school.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that a decision to that effect was made very long ago, but up till now nothing has been done?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: If nothing has been done, it is not the fault of the Railway Administration since the responsibility for the purchase of the machinery lies with the Assam Government and as soon as they approach us we will hand over the same.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: In view of the fact that a promise was made by the hon. Minister some time back that the machinery will be given as a gift for Assam Government for starting the school, is it correct to say that the Assam Government will have to purchase it?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Assam Government must approach the Railway Ministry. They have not done so as yet.

Shri P. C. Bose: What was the number of workmen working in that workshop before and what has happened to them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I shall require notice for that question.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Sir, it is a very small workshop and the number of workmen is also small.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: My question was whether it is a gift or the Assam