

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*1397. **Shri V. Missir:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen for revision in pay scales of class III Railway Employees;

(b) if so, the nature of their demands; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No such general representation has been received.

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

TRANSPORT FACILITIES

*1399. **Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the volume or weight of crude oil per annum that will be transported from abroad to Bombay for the two Standard-Vacuum and Burma-Shell refineries;

(b) the volume or weight of the refined petroleum products from these two refineries to be transported by sea to Cochin, Madras, Calcutta and other sea ports for distribution in the interior of the country;

(c) the provision made to transport both the raw-material and the finished products in Indian Tankers;

(d) whether the rates of freight for carrying this coastal cargo have been fixed; and

(e) if so, the rates so fixed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) About 3.2 million long tons.

(b) The information is not available.

(c) The Agreements with the Oil Companies already provide for the

use of tankers owned by the Government of India or by a Shipping Corporation in which the Government hold the majority of voting shares. The Government have recently taken a decision, in principle to acquire a nucleus fleet of two tankers.

(d) and (e). The entire question of acquisition and operation of tankers on Government account including the rates of freight to be charged for carrying this oil cargo is under consideration of Government.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know what provision is being made to allow Indian shipping companies which do not have Government shares in them to participate in the carrying of the refined product from the refinery in view of the fact that all coastal traffic, including tanker traffic, is reserved to Indian shipping?

Shri Alagesan: It is true that coastal traffic is reserved to Indian shipping, but Indian shipping companies are not very enthusiastic about acquiring these tankers because it is a new trade and full of risks, and so Government had to decide to acquire the tankers and run them themselves.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Deogam: 1400.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir...

Mr. Speaker: He has to be on the alert. I have called the next question. All right. He may put that question.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Will Government please give the House an assurance that the Indian shipping companies' cargo vessels as well as tankers will be granted the same privileges in this respect as the State-owned vessels and tankers, as that would also relieve the congestion on the Railways which are anticipated to handle a larger freight during the expansion of the industrial activity?