

(b) the total quantity of cargo which is expected to be imported from Russian ports to India and the total quantity of cargo that is expected to be carried from Indian ports to Russia during the years 1956 and 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A copy of the Agreement signed on the 6th April, 1956, between the Government of India and the Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, containing the details for the maintenance of a regular shipping service between Indian ports and the Soviet ports is attached. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 16.]

(b) The total cargo to be imported from the USSR is expected to be about 3,50,000 tons per year and that to be exported from India would be about 50,000 tons per year during the two years. It is expected that cargoes for export to certain Central European countries will also be available for carriage by the new shipping line.

HAJ PILGRIM SHIPS

908. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Government of India are going to run ships either in 1956 or 1957 for the carriage of Haj pilgrims between India and Jeddah and if so, the number of ships proposed to be employed for this purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The matter is at present under consideration in connection with the proposal to set up a second shipping corporation.

SHIPPING CORPORATIONS

909. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate the starting of another shipping corporation for the carriage of cargo in overseas trades as tramp ships and if so, the number together with their

gross registered tonnage of the ships which the Government propose to employ as tramp ships in the overseas trades of India; and

(b) the number of tankers which Government propose to purchase together with the gross registered tonnage of each which Government would themselves employ and operate for the carriage of refined products on the coast and for the import of crude oil from abroad?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A proposal to set up a second shipping corporation is now under consideration. No firm decision has been taken whether this corporation when set up should operate tramp ships exclusively or run regular liner services.

(b) Government have decided to acquire through the Eastern Shipping Corporation Ltd. two medium size tankers of about 6,000 GRT (8,500 DWT) each and operate them on the coast for the carriage of refined products on the basis of time-charter to the Oil Refinery Companies in India. There is no proposal at present for the acquisition of tankers for bringing crude oil from abroad.

SHIPPING

910. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cargo in dead-weight tons, the total number of passengers together with the amount earned by the carriage of cargo, and the total amount of passage money earned by the carriage of passengers in the coastal trade of India during the last three calendar years 1953, 1954 and 1955; and

(b) the figures of earnings for carriage of dry cargo and the refined products of the refineries carried on the coast, separately by Indian and foreign ships?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b) A statement is attached giving the required information to the