

(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

extent available. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 17]. Indian ships did not carry the refined products of the refineries during the three years. Foreign ships were not employed for the carriage of dry cargo during these three years. No information is available about the earnings of foreign ships for the carriage of refined products of the oil refineries.

TELEPHONE CHARGES

911. Shrimati A. Kale: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the charges levied for Telephone in South Avenue, North Avenue, Western Court and Constitution House?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Telephones in North Avenue, South Avenue and Western Court are mostly automatic and for these message rate system of charges is applicable. Connections from 41 manual exchange in these areas are charged on flat rate system. Constitution House telephones which are from a manual exchange are also charged on flat rate basis. Details of charges, message rate, and flat rate, are placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 18.]

PHONE SERVICE AT BETTIAH

912. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item under the heading "Phone Service at Bettiah" published at page 3, column 4 of "Search Light" dated the 8th March, 1956; and

(b) if so, whether the matter has been inquired into and the action taken thereon?

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

(a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise as there has been no indifference on the part of officers. Connections are being given freely on demand. There is no waiting list there.

बीड़ी का लादा जाना

९१३. श्री के० सी० सोधिया : क्या रेलवे मंत्री निम्न आशय का एक विवरण लोक-सभा के टेबल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) वर्ष १९५२-५३, १९५३-५४ और १९५४-५५ में मध्य रेलवे के सागर स्टेशन से लादी जाने वाली बीड़ी से होने वाली भाय के आंकड़े क्या थे ;

(ख) उक्त वर्षों में सागर स्टेशन से लादे जाने वाले कुल माल के भाड़े के आंकड़े क्या थे ; और

(ग) इन्हीं वर्षों में ललितपुर और नरसिंहपुर स्टेशनों से लादे जाने वाले कुल माल के भाड़े के आंकड़े क्या थे ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अलगोशन) :
(क) से (ग) मांगी गयी सूचना का विवरण सम्बद्ध है [देखिये परिशिष्ट ८, अनुबन्ध सं० १६]

RICE GODOWNS IN ORISSA

914. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 656 on the 8th December, 1955 in respect of Central Rice Godowns in Orissa and state:

(a) whether the existing State Government Godowns are supplementary to the Central Godowns; and

(b) whether the State Government have any responsibility or obligation for the up-keep of the Central Godowns?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

COMMERCIAL GRADING OF RICE

915. Shri Sanganna : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Marketing Advisor to the Government of India visited Orissa to ascertain the views of traders and Government officers on the scheme for commercial grading of rice standards; and

(b) if so, what is the result?