

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) 27.

(b) Rs. 47,935.

(c) and (d). Proposal for acquisition of land for the offices, for which suitable rented accommodation is not available, is under consideration.

#### National Federation of Indian Railwaymen

1518. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Mohan Swarup:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings held between the Railway Board and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen during this year;

(b) what were the subjects discussed; and

(c) the conclusions reached, if any?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). Seven meetings were held in all viz.—

(i) one—for discussing the pension scheme for railwaymen

(ii) one—as a quarterly meeting under the Permanent Negotiating Machinery.

(iii) Five—for discussing the issues framed under Item I of the Terms of Reference to the Tribunal.

The discussions covered a wide range of issues numbering about 350. Agreement was reached on a majority of the items discussed.

#### Sugar

1519. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar produced in 1956-57 in the various sugar mills in the States of Punjab, U.P. and Rajasthan; and

(b) the quantity released for consumption from these factories during the above period?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 151]

#### Tankers

1520. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to the supplementaries raised on Starred Question No. 1528, on the 6th September, 1957, and state the names of the countries from where the two tankers have been imported?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The tanker 'Jag Jyoti', acquired by the Great Eastern Shipping Company, Ltd., Bombay, was purchased from Norwegian owners, while the "Desh Sewak", acquired by the Western Shipping Corporation, from Swedish owners.

#### Wool

1521. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total number of persons who earn their living totally or partially on wool in different States?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): No estimate is readily available. But, it can be assumed that the number of persons engaged in sheep herding and earning their living on this vocation is a little over one million.

#### Steel Purchasing Mission

1522. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Short Notice Question No. 22, on the 3rd September, 1957, and state:

(a) the names of foreign countries visited by the Steel Purchasing Mission of the Railway Board; and