

offices at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras respectively; and

(b) how many of them are Indian, Pakistani and Portuguese nationals?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The number of seamen registered with the Seamen's Employment Offices, Bombay and Calcutta as on 30th June, 1958 is 61,913 (Bombay—34,758 and Calcutta 27,155). There is no such office at Madras.

(b) Of the total number of 61,913 seamen registered at Bombay and Calcutta 33,486 are Indians, 15,184 Pakistanis and 13,056 Goanese Indians.

#### Passenger Services between Aut and Banjar

646. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1757 on the 27th March, 1958 and state:

(a) the causes which have held up the running of passenger services between Aut and Banjar by the Himachal Pradesh Government Transport; and

(b) the steps taken to remove them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No agreement has so far been reached between the Punjab Government and the Himachal Pradesh Administration regarding specifications of vehicles which will ply on this joint route.

(b) The matter is under active consideration of the two Governments. A demonstration to find out what wheel-base vehicles can run safely on this road is being arranged shortly. As soon as this point is settled, passenger services will be introduced on this route.

#### Samastipur Workshop on N.E. Railway

647. Shri Rajendra Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative work-load figures of boiler-shop from the year 1955 to 1957 in Samastipur Workshop on North-Eastern Railway; and

(b) the reasons for the variations in these figures, if any?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement furnishing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 77.]

#### Wheel Sets for Indian Railways

648. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether an order has been placed recently with some firms to supply wheel sets to Indian Railways;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the prices of these sets and the time of delivery?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) After fully utilising the annual production capacity of 8,700 sets of M/s. Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., the only indigenous manufacturer of Wheelsets, the balance requirement is imported. Recently, in May 1958, orders for Wheelsets were placed abroad on M/s. Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., Japan, against the Rolling Stock Programme requirements, as well as for maintenance.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the required information in connection with the two orders placed on M/s. Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., Japan, in May, 1958, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 78.]