

has reserved to ourselves, however, the right to examine each case on its merits.

Shri Tangamani: Is it not a fact that right from the beginning the INSOA has been resisting collaboration with foreign capital and may I also know whether the INSOA wanted only portion of the sizeable freight instead of the entire freight that can be got from foreign shipping?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have not been able to follow the latter part of the question.

Shri Tangamani: That part is this. We find in the statement that these Indian Shipping Companies are asking that they may be permitted to retain the foreign exchange earnings for the development of their industry but I am informed that the INSOA is wanting only a portion of it and not the entire thing.

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as the question of foreign participation is concerned, there is a large body of opinion in the INSOA which is against foreign participation on principle. So far as the question of foreign exchange utilisation of earnings is concerned, they want the entire portion of the foreign exchange of Indian Shipping companies to be utilised or diverted for the acquisition of new ships. It has however not been found possible to agree to that on principle. What has been agreed to has been that the net earnings of new ships will be allowed to be utilised to pay their prices.

Shri Dasappa: What is the total amount of foreign exchange earned by this company?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The entire earnings of foreign exchange, I think, is between Rs. 7 crores and Rs. 8 crores.

Shri Heda: May I know how long the Indian War Risks Insurance Scheme has been under the consideration of Government? May I also

know, in view of the fact that the scheme will earn or save some foreign exchange for us when is it likely that Government would take a decision on it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have referred the matter to the Ministry of Finance and we have also suggested that a deputation or a team of the representatives of the INSOA should be allowed to discuss this matter with the representatives of the Ministry of Finance. That proposal is under way.

Railway Strike

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 { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri B. S. Murthy:
Shri Parulekar:
 *295. { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri Jadhav:
Shri Rajendra Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unions affiliated to the All-India Railway Men's Federation have decided to launch an All-India Strike;

(b) what are their demands; and

(c) what steps have been taken to redress their grievances?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 16.]

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It appears from the statement that the Federation sent the Ministry a copy of the resolution passed at a convention held in August, 1957. May I know whether the demands contained in the resolution had been considered and if so, which of the demands had been conceded?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The main demand, as will be clear from the statement, is recognition of the newly formed

ederation. The hon. Member is perhaps aware that I invited the members of the two bodies to meet in a conference and have discussions among themselves for finding ways and means for effecting unity among them. The representatives of the two federations met yesterday for nearly more than four and a half hours and have had a friendly discussion. They were to meet in the night also and I am meeting them at quarter past 12 today.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the representatives of the AIRF will meet the hon. Minister to discuss the other demands also?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The primary question is of recognition. As regards the discussion and negotiations, I will draw the attention of the hon. Member to the relevant portion in the statement itself.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Minister has stated that a unity conference is now being held. If the talks fail, may I know whether the AIRF will also be recognised?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Is it not hypothetical question?

Mr. Speaker: Why should the talks fail?

Shri Tangamani: There is one federation which has been recognised. Does the Government propose to recognise the other federation?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will again refer my hon. friend to the reply that I have given. The talks between the representatives of the two federations for forging unity among themselves and having only one federation in the interests of the railwaymen are going on and at this stage it will not be desirable to say anything or express any opinion in the matter.

Shri Anthony Pillai: Is it the uniform and abiding policy of the Government to recognise only one union and if that is not the policy does the Government accept the principle of

referendum to recognise the most representative union?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is again a question of detail: how that unity will be affected if agreement is reached between the two federations. The procedure will be decided by the representatives of both these bodies.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the demands presented by the federation which is not recognised by the Government represent the demands of a large section of the railwaymen, may I know if the Government proposes to consider these demands in the interest of the railwaymen in general and of the country in particular irrespective of the fact whether this unity move succeeds or fails?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am afraid the hon. Member presumes too much in this question. I am not prepared to say whether this body represents the large section of the railwaymen or not and I therefore am not going to give any categorical reply to that. As regards the demands of the railwaymen, I request the hon. Member to first go into the list of the demands. He himself will find that many of the demands included in that list are out of date. Many are such which have been examined in the past and whenever any demand or representation comes from the Railway employees, the Railway Administration looks into them.

Import of Rice from U.S.A.

*296. **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rice imported in 1956 and 1957 so far from the U.S.A.;

(b) how much of this has been sold out so far; and

(c) the loss incurred by Government in respect of the rice already sold out?