

interlocking was disconnected. For that purpose temporary station working rules were framed. The officers authorised to frame the rules are the Divisional Signal and Tele-communication Engineer and the Divisional Operating Superintendent. These were the officers who actually framed the rules in this case. They approved those rules. The rules were actually signed by the Divisional Signal and Tele-communication Engineer and the Assistant Operating Superintendent in the absence of the D.O.S. who was away on tour.

Shri Subiman Ghose: I want to know whether that officer who signed the rules was authorised to do it?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The rules were actually approved by the Divisional Operating Superintendent. It was just to avoid the delay that this officer signed it. There is nothing wrong in that.

Ship from Poland

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*377. { **Shri P. K. Deo:**
Shri Assar:
Kumari M. Vedakumari:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any negotiation with Poland for the purchase of some ships for India;

(b) if so, the details of the negotiation; and

(c) progress made so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). An offer from a Polish party for the construction of some vessels for India has been received and communicated to the Indian Shipowners, who are considering the same. No final decision has yet been arrived at.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know whether global tenders were invited for the manufacture of ships?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Generally, Sir, the Indian shipping companies in the private and the public sector choose their own shipyard, start negotiations with them and place orders after coming to some sort of conclusions.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know whether the payment will be made in rupees?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The offer of the Polish firm has been that they can undertake construction of ships for Indian shipping companies on payment in terms of rupees.

Kumari M. Vedakumari: Is it a fact that the Polish Government has offered 30,000 tons tankers on easy credit terms; if so, whether the Government of India are prepared to consider that offer?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Polish shipyard people have also made an offer by which orders for construction of ships can be placed on a Danish shipyard. In that connection such an offer has been made.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: As Polish ships are considered to be the most suitable for India because they deal with smaller ships, would it not be possible for the Government themselves to, a sort of, close the deal with them now that the prices offered are the least in the world?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving an advice.

Import of Wheat under P.L. 430

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*378. { **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**
Shri Kalika Singh:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
Kumari M. Vedakumari:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Koratkar:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage is the proposal of subsidising or assisting our shipping

companies or corporations for carriage of cargo under P.L. 480 agreement;

(b) whether global tenders offering freight rates to Ministry of Food and Agriculture have been opened;

(c) if so, what are the lowest tenders; and

(d) the decisions that have been taken?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There is no specific proposal under consideration for subsidising Indian shipping companies for the carriage of the foodgrains cargo under the recent P.L. 480 agreement concluded with the U.S.A. Indian ships are even now offered as much foodgrains cargo as they can lift at the prevailing rates of freight in the world market.

(b) to (d). An invitation to bid was issued by the India Supply Mission, Washington on the 20th September, 1960 for the carriage of foodgrains on a long term basis. Some offers have been received in reply and these are now under scrutiny and no decision has yet been taken.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Is there any proposal under consideration to increase our own tonnage in order to meet the situation because of the heavy freight charges that we have to pay? Is there any proposal to accelerate the increase in our tonnage?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are very anxious to utilise this opportunity to increase our shipping tonnage, but there are various complications involved in the whole matter.

Mr. Speaker: Did we not have a full-dress debate on this?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I think Shri Raghunath Singh started it. Let us go to the next question.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Has any effort been made to get collaboration for the purpose of increasing the tonnage of this country?

Shri Raj Bahadur: According to one of the terms on which tenders were invited, the foreign companies were asked to tender also for an arrangement by which at the end of a period of four years some shipping tonnage might be acquired by the Indian shipping companies. Some other proposals were also made in this connection which are at present under consideration.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: What is the total amount that we will be asked to pay towards freight charges for getting foodgrains from America to our place?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That would depend upon the world market rate. Even supposing it is about 60 sh. or £3, on a cargo of 17 million tons we shall have to pay £51 million.

TELCO

*379. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh contract or agreement has been entered with Telco about the purchase of 325 metre gauge locomotives during the Third Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the nature of the agreement and the prices fixed for each locomotive?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Negotiations have been finalised, and a supply contract will shortly be concluded with Telco for the supply of 325 metre gauge locomotives to Indian Railways during the period from 1st June, 1961 to 31st March, 1966 covering more or less the Third Plan period, i.e. after the expiry of the present 16-year contract with Telco which will terminate on 31st May, 1961.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The agreement which, in draft form, is in the final stages of scrutiny before