

(c) whether a memorandum was submitted to Government in December, 1956 by the National Federation of Post and Telegraph Employees regarding non-departmental telephone operators; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) 169.

(c) A memorandum was submitted in February, 1957.

(d) It is under consideration of Government.

Vizagapatam Port

***515. Shri R. J. Rao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of berths in the Vizagapatam port;

(b) the number of incoming ships every week;

(c) how long a ship has to wait outside to get a berth at the Vizagapatam port; and

(d) in view of the fact that Vizagapatam Port is the only port for export of manganese and iron ore from States of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, whether any steps are being taken by Government to remove the congestion and to develop the port?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 4 quay berths for ores and general cargo, 3 jetty berths for bunkering, 4 mooring berths and 2 quay berths for oil tankers.

(b) The number of incoming ships varies from time to time; the average for March and April 1957 was between 9 and 10 ships per week.

(c) The waiting period of ships to obtain a berth also varies from time to time. For example in April 1957, when 38 ships entered the port, the waiting period averaged to 4.47 days per ship.

(d) As part of the Second Five Year Plan it is proposed to provide additional berths and mechanical equipment for handling of ores. Some equipment has already arrived and the dredging work for the additional berths is about to commence.

Indo-Pak Canal Water Dispute

***516. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 47 on the 15th May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the interim period of the negotiations between India and Pakistan about the canal water dispute, India is being bound not to undertake any major canal developments concerning those waters, while Pakistan is free to do so; and

(b) what has been the cost of the Indian delegation which had virtually to stay in Washington for about five years?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The current phase of the co-operative work, with the participation of the World Bank, on the Indus Waters Dispute, was resumed in Washington in December, 1954. While the co-operative work has been extended upto the 30th September 1957, the deputation of the Indian delegation to Washington has been sanctioned at present upto the 30th June, 1957. The total expenditure on the stay of the Indian delegation at Washington from December, 1954 to 30th June, 1957, is Rs. 10.81 lakhs approximately.

Steel Supplies for Indian Railways

***517. { Shri Assar:
Shri U. L. Patil:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent or propose sending special team of