

advisability of placing their time tables under the usual commission rates at Railway bookstalls so that they would be more easily available to the people?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I gave the assurance that it will be considered.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know in what languages the All India Railway time table is published?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In English.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is it to be published in other languages also?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not the All India time table, Sir.

DEMANDS OF THE INDIAN SEA-MENS LEAGUE

*390 SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any Memorandum from the Indian Sea-men's League, Bombay, forwarding the charter of demands of the Indian sea-men, and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes.

(b) With the exception of a few demands most of them relate to service conditions of seamen such as pension, gratuity, pay, leave, hours of duty, etc. These can be settled by negotiations between seamen and their employers

As regards the other demands which concern Government directly, the Government of India are already concerting measures for the setting up of Employment Offices for seamen, and have already relaxed suitably the standards of medical examination for seamen.

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: (In Malayalam) †[Do the Government propose to amend the Merchant Shipping Act as demanded in the Memorandum?]

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: (In Tamil). †[I do not understand the question.]

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: What was the question, and what was the answer?

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: The question asked is: Is the Government thinking of making any change in the Merchant Shipping Act, which is one of their demands?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir. They want Government to amend the Merchant Shipping Act. But the question of wages, etc. is not covered by that Act. It is only payment of agreed wages that is covered by the Merchant Shipping Act. Improvement of conditions regarding wages, etc., have to be settled by negotiations. Once these questions are settled, the Merchant Shipping Act will come to them and so far as payment of those wages is concerned

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has the Government received any complaints from Indian seamen engaged in foreign ships about discriminatory treatment?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not have the information.

(Questions Nos. 391 and 392 were put together.)

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON PLANTATION LABOUR

*391. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state the steps which have so far been taken towards the implementation of the decisions arrived at the tenth session of the Labour Ministers' Conference in respect of the problem of surplus labour in tea plantations?

[English translation.]