

Bridge over Narbada at Hoshangabad

54. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 156 on the 20th November, 1956 and state the progress made so far in connection with the construction of the road-bridge over the Narbada River at Hoshangabad?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): An estimate for the work, based on the outline design supplied by the Government of India has since been prepared by the Chief Engineer, Madhya Pradesh, and sent to the State Government for transmission to the Government of India for approval. Simultaneously tenders were also invited by the State Public Works Department. The tenders which have just been received are under their consideration.

Shipping Freight

55. **Shri Matthen:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of freight paid on imports and exports in the overseas trades of India for the year 1955-56, giving separate figures of the freight paid to national ships and non-national ships;

(b) the amount which the national ships contributed to the foreign-exchange pool of the country from their earnings in the overseas trades during the year 1955-56;

(c) the amount which was disbursed in India for the ships of the non-national flags in 1955-56; and

(d) the total quantity of cargo in d.w.t. both imports and exports carried in the overseas trades of India during the year 1955-56, giving separate figures for dry cargo and oil and refined petroleum products, also giving separate figures for the cargo in dead-weight tons carried by national ships and that carried by non-national ships?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Lok Sabha.

Foodgrains Production

56. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foodgrains produced in India during the years 1947, 1952 and 1956;

(b) the amount of foodgrains imported during 1956;

(c) whether any amount of foodgrains were exported during 1956;

(d) if so, which kinds of foodgrains and how much; and

(e) whether it is a fact that India has become self-sufficient in food?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 1947—425 lakh tons.

1952—429 lakh tons.

1956—534 lakh tons.

(b) 14.2 lakh tons.

(c) and (d). The following quantities of foodgrains were exported during 1956:

	In 1000 tons.
Rice	42.0
Wheat-flour	0.3
Jowar & Bajra	0.2
Maize	1.3
TOTAL	43.8

(e) Both demand and availability are variable factors. With the increase in investment in development projects, the money supply in the country has gone up, increasing the demand for foodgrains. The demand is also going up with the increase in population. The over-all production of foodgrains has also improved considerably during the recent years, though there has been short production of jowar during the last two kharif seasons. During the years of good crop India becomes not only