

formation is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 5]

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH

164. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central Council of Health has recently been constituted; and

(b) if so, what is the Constitution of this Council, the number of meetings of this Council held, if any, and the decisions thereof?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) The Council consists of the Union Minister of Health as Chairman and the State Ministers of Health as members. No meeting of the Council has been held so far.

PRICES OF IMPORTED WHEAT AND RICE

165. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the cost prices (including freightage) of rice and wheat imported from abroad during the months of April to August, 1952;

(b) the present issue prices of imported wheat and rice as well as indigenous wheat and rice in each State;

(c) the present procurement prices of indigenous wheat and rice of different qualities in each State; and

(d) the offtakes of imported wheat and rice in each State during the three

months preceding as well as following the recent increase of imported food-grants during the current year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The total C and F value of the wheat and rice imported during the months April, 1952 to August, 1952 is estimated to be Rs. 83.41 Crores. The Accounts in respect of grains imported during this period are still under finalisation.

(b) to (d). Four statements are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 6]

NATIONALISATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT

166. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what steps the Government of India have taken to co-ordinate the various Transport Development Schemes in India?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India advised the State Governments long ago to nationalise speedily their Road Transports in order to establish an effective co-ordination in the various Transport Services in India and if so, how far have the State Governments implemented this policy?

(c) What is the total mileage of road transport in each State, and the portion of the same nationalised?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Government of India have set up the following bodies for ensuring co-ordinated consideration of the various transport development schemes in India:—

Name of Body	Constitution	Functions
(1) Transport Advisory Council	Representatives at minister level of the Central and State Governments.	To make recommendations designed to evolve a policy for the development of a co-ordinated transport system and recommendations regarding suitable measures for giving effect to that policy.
(2) Central Board of Transport	Representatives of the Ministries of Transport, Railways, States, Defence, Finance, Commerce and Industry and Communications and representatives of State Governments co-opted as and when necessary.	To consider and take decisions on major transport problems and policies in the field of rail and road transport development, civil aviation, inland water transport, port development and coastal shipping to ensure the

Name of Body	Constitution	Functions
(3) Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport.	Representatives of the Ministries of Government of India under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Transport.	maximum co-ordination on all forms of transport; to ensure matching of transport development with industrial and agricultural development.
(4) National Harbour Board.	Representatives of the Ministries of Government of India and of maritime State Governments, major port authorities and four non-officials representing industry and trade, shipping, country craft and labour with the Minister for Transport as Chairman.	To review the transport requirements of Central Ministries, State Governments and basic industries and the extent to which they are met by railways and coastal shipping.
(5) The Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board.	Representatives of the Central Water & Power Commission and of State Governments of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh with the Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Government of India as Chairman. Representatives of Steamship Companies and Calcutta Port Commissioners are co-opted when necessary.	To co-ordinate the activities of participating Governments in regard to development of water transport on the system of the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(c) A statement giving the required information is attached. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 7]

POSTAL SERVICES (DEBT)

167. Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total amount of Debt outstanding as on the 31st October, 1952, on account of our Post Office, Telegraph, and Radio Service?

(b) How much of this is treated as productive?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Capital invested in the assets of the Department as on 31-3-1952 was Rs. 56.06 crores. (As accounts are maintained on financial year basis, the figure as on 31-10-1952 is not available).

(b) Rs. 53.28 crores.

GOODS FOR ASSAM FROM WESTERN AND NORTHERN INDIA.

168. Shri Bell Ram Das: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that goods for Assam from Western and Northern India move to Assam via Calcutta port?

(b) Is it a fact that the distance between Katihar and Gauhati via Moniharighat and Calcutta is about 560 miles and that of Katihar to Gauhati via Silliguri is about 391 miles?

(c) In view of the above facts, do Government propose to allow goods meant for Assam to be carried over by Railways from Western and Northern India via Silliguri instead of Moniharighat and Calcutta?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Traffic to Assam from Western and Northern India moves partly by all-