

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) The stocks of foodgrains with the Central Government on 6th February, 1954 amounted to 438,000 tons approximately.

(b) The accounts for 1953-54 have not yet been finalised and the precise actual cost of each grain in the Central Reserve Depots is not yet available. The present issue prices of foodgrains from Central Reserve Depots which are based on the approximate book values are, however, Rs. 30/8/- per md. for 'A' grade rice; Rs. 15/8/- per md. for wheat and Rs. 12/- per md. for milo.

**Shri Mohiuddin:** May I know, Sir, what percentage of the foodgrains has deteriorated and what quantity has been placed in what is called 'C' and 'D' grades?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I require notice for the question.

**Shri N. L. Joshi:** May I know whether the cost price is higher than the cost at which foodgrains are available in the country in the open market?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The issue price of wheat is Rs. 15-8-0 a maund; the market quotations in U. P. and Punjab are in some places a little higher and in some places a little lower.

सेठ अचल सिंह: क्या मन्त्री महोदय  
बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस में कितना  
गेहूँ है और कितना चावल है ?

श्री किदवाई: सवाल में यी जवाब  
दिया गया है।

#### NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

\*210. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the mileage of National Highways with water-bound macadamised surface in India?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** 5,600 miles.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know, Sir, the length of National Highways which have cement concrete surface and asphaltic surface?

**Shri Alagesan:** 4,150 miles are either concrete or black top surface.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know, Sir, if it is the policy of the Government of India to upgrade the present macadamised surface into asphaltic surface or concrete surface?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know if the rainfall of the localities and strategic considerations are taken into account in choosing the regions for cement concreting?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, Sir, but I do not know about the strategic aspect of it. Certainly the other aspect is taken into consideration.

**Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah:** How many miles of national highways have been, or are proposed to be, taken up this year?

**Shri Alagesan:** The question covers the entire National Highway system. It is being done on a programmed basis and most of it will be completed before the Five Year Plan period is over.

#### ALL INDIA WOMEN'S FOOD COUNCIL

\*211. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All-India Women's Food Council at its third annual conference made a demand that this body be recognised as an autonomous body;

(b) the total amount of grant given by Government to this institution annually; and

(c) the grant now demanded by it?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**  
(a) Yes.

(b) The total grant-in-aid given to the Council during previous years is given below:—

1950-51 (6 months ending March, 1951)	Rs. 70,000/-
1951-52	Rs. 1,50,000/-
1952-53	Rs. 1,50,000/-
1953-54	Rs. 1,50,000/-

(c) Rs. 1,50,000/-

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know whether the Council is running at a loss or at a profit?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** They are making a profit, Sir. Last year they made a profit of Rs. 80,000?

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know whether the Council intends running dining cars in important passenger trains, particularly in *janatas*?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The Council's activities are mostly confined to cities, because it is the urban people who should be encouraged to take to subsidiary foods. The villagers are already used to such food. So, the Council's activities are concentrated in cities.

**Shrimati Sushama Sen:** May I know the amount of grant given to Bihar, and why the Women's Food Council is not functioning there?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** It will pass on the question to the organisation itself, because it is an autonomous organisation. Wherever they find something can be sold, they try to sell it.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Since they are making a profit, have they paid back the original loan they have taken from year to year?

**Shri Kidwai:** It is not a loan. It is a grant to open branches and the grant that is being made from year to year is to start new branches. So far they are earning a profit and ploughing back the money in the organisation itself.

## CALCUTTA PORT

**\*212. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Calcutta Port Development Scheme has progressed;

(b) the amount sanctioned so far;

(c) whether the construction work of the 12,000 feet long spur at Sankrail reach near Akra has begun; and

(d) how many such spurs are expected to be constructed and how far they will help against difficult navigation in the river Hooghly?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b): The estimated cost of the Calcutta Port Development Programme is Rs. 10.61 crores. So far, estimates amounting to Rs. 6.46 crores have been sanctioned. An expenditure of Rs. 1.07 crores is likely to be incurred in the current year and Rs. 4.58 crores during 1954-55.

(c) Yes. The spur will be 1200 feet long.

(d) Proposals have been evolved for the improvement of two reaches on the Hooghly, namely Akra and Fulta Point, by river training works. These are designed to improve the depth of water available for ships entering and leaving the Calcutta Port.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, what are the items that will be taken up next year, over and above this first spur construction?

**Shri Alagesan:** There is a large number of items. If the hon. Member wants I can give the information.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the two-hundred ton electric cantilever crane which is in this scheme, will be installed this year?

**Shri Alagesan:** I cannot say off-hand. I have got a list of works the estimates of which have been sanctioned. I cannot say off-hand whether that is included.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the forty-seven year old