

(Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 70].

#### Price of Rice

\*452. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Food Ministers of Southern Rice Zone was held in New Delhi on the 7th November, 1958;

(b) if so, the nature of the meeting and the decisions taken; and

(c) whether it is a fact that price of rice has increased considerably in Madras State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). A meeting of the Food Ministers of the States comprising the Southern Rice Zone was held in Delhi on the 7th November, 1958 to review the working of the Zone. Various matters were discussed, and it was decided to intensify anti-smuggling measures and to create a five-mile no-movement belt along the border of the Southern Rice Zone with the State of Bombay.

(c) Yes, Sir. There has been some rise in the prices of rice in Madras State.

#### Palam Airport

595. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to expand and modernise the Palam Airport, Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): A scheme for the construction of a new runway (10,500 ft x 150 ft.) at Palam Airport for use by Jet transport aircraft has recently been approved by Government. This project is estimated to cost Rs. 180 lakhs (approximately).

#### Post Offices

596. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices of all categories, telegraph offices, public call offices opened with names of places, during the First Five Year Plan period in the Gurdaspur district in the Punjab State:

(b) the number opened during the Second Five Year Plan period so far; and

(c) the number to be opened during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 71].

(b) Opened upto 31st October, 1958:

- (1) Post offices of all categories
- (2) Telegraph Offices
- (3) Public Call Offices

(c) (1) Post offices of all categories

- \* (2) Telegraph Offices
- \* (3) Public Call Offices

\*Note — Further proposals, if any, will be sanctioned if found justified.

#### Recommendations of Air Transport Council

597. { Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 613 on the 20th August, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have since implemented all the recommendations made by the Air Transport Council;

(b) if not, the nature of recommendations not implemented so far; and

(c) when these are likely to be implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (c). The main recommendations of the Council relate to the objectives of rate-making and passenger fares and these have been accepted and implemented. The recommendations regarding reasonable freight rates are still under consideration.

#### Posts and Telegraphs Museum

598. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 848 on the 25th August, 1958 and state the further progress made so far for establishing an Indian Posts and Telegraphs Museum?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): As a preliminary step, the C PWD have since taken in hand certain additions and alterations to the Stamp Centenary Hall for establishing the proposed Museum

#### Pumping Station at Najafgarh Lake (Delhi)

599. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 374 on the 16th August, 1958 and state the further progress made so far with regard to the erection of a pumping station at Najafgarh lake in Delhi State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The survey of Najafgarh Lake has shown that some storage would be available only when the water stands at a level of 638 feet above mean sea level. At these levels, however, large areas of cultivable land will be submerged. In view of this, it has now been decided to prepare a scheme for draining water away from the lake and thus prevent damage to standing crop in the area and reclaim more land.

#### Improvement of Signalling and Telecommunications

600. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 373 on the 16th August, 1958 and the progress made so far in regard to the improvement of Signalling and Telecommunications on Railways?

The Deputy Minister for Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): A statement showing the progress made so far is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No 72]

#### Train Derailment

601. { Shri Nagi Reddy:  
Shri N. R. Munisamy:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any derailment of a goods train on the 28th September, 1958 between Madimangalam and Polur on Katpadi-Villupuram line on the Southern Railway;

(b) what is the amount of damage to the rolling stock and the railway track,

(c) the causes of the derailment; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) On 28th September 1958 at about 11.20 hours while No. 2123 goods train was on run, fourteen wagons of the train got derailed between Madimangalam and Polur stations on the Southern Railway.

(b) The approximate cost of damage to—

(i) Rolling Stock	Rs. 5,000
(ii) Permanent Way	Rs. 2,000
	Rs. 7,000

(c) and (d). A Senior Officer's Committee investigated the accident. The report submitted by the Committee is under examination.