

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think we need go into it.

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** It is certainly far better than the adulterated milk that we often get here!

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that the agencies which are distributing the milk in Travancore-Cochin have been misusing it and that a lot of reports have appeared in the press regarding the misuse of the milk?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I won't allow the hon. Member to make *ex parte* allegations like those. Has he any personal knowledge about this? Has he investigated into it? If so, he may communicate to the Minister concerned, in case he is sure of his facts. As a responsible Member of Parliament.....!

**Shri Velayudhan:** I have got here press cuttings regarding the allegations.

**Mr. Speaker:** If he is not prepared to take responsibility for the facts, he has no business to put a question.

**Shri Velayudhan rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Nambiar:** I want to put questions on several matters.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member should know that, every Member who desires to put a question cannot be given a chance. He is one of the five hundred. I am trying to distribute, as far as possible, opportunity of putting questions. But when I find that the same Member gets up over and over again on every possible subject, well, my impression becomes a little adverse, and I then think that I must give that chance to some other Member. The hon. Member's business is to stand up each time when he likes and to put a question when called upon—not otherwise.

**Shri Nambiar rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not want any argument; the hon. Member will take whatever lessons he wants from this.

#### RISE IN PRICES OF RATIONED ARTICLES OF FOOD

**\*40. Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how the withdrawal of food subsidy has reacted on the price of rationed articles of food;

(b) in what States, on what articles of food and to what extent it has resulted in increase of prices; and

(c) what State Governments have taken steps against the rise of prices?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) This has resulted in an increase in the issue prices of rationed foodgrains except in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, where State Governments have maintained the issue prices prevalent before the withdrawal of the subsidy scheme.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See **Appendix I, annexure No. 13.**]

(c) As stated in answer to part (a), Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have maintained the previous issue prices. The Governments of Bombay and Mysore are selling milo below its economic cost.

**Shri B. K. Das:** From the statement I find that the rise in the price of coarse rice varies from State to State. While it is Rs. 11/15/- in the case of Bihar (Jamshedpur) it is Rs. -/10/- in the case of West Bengal. May I know the reasons for this divergence in the rise of prices?

**Shri Kidwai:** States sometimes procure rice and sometimes import it from other provinces, or even from abroad. Then they pool the prices and fix it according to their resources. Some may be paying some subsidy; some may be selling at the price at which it is procured.

**Shri B. K. Das:** In the case of wheat the rise is almost uniform. Am I to understand that this enhancement of Rs. 7 is the subsidy that used to be paid formerly?

**Shri Kidwai:** That may be so.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether the Central Government is contemplating any change of policy in this matter?

**Shri Kidwai:** We are trying to see if we can reduce prices by procuring more local grains or otherwise. The matter is under consideration and I hope a decision will be taken soon.

**Shri Dabhi:** Is it a fact that the procurement prices of indigenous foodgrains of similar or superior quality are far lower than the prices of foodgrains imported from other countries?

**Shri Kidwai:** That is true, because the imported price is the price that is prevalent in the countries from which the wheat or rice is imported.

**Shri H. N. Shastri:** Is there any proposal before Government to increase the dearness allowance of their employees to enable them to keep up with the rise in prices?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the question is only remotely relevant, though not irrelevant altogether.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** Is it a fact that the withdrawal of food subsidy will stabilize the price level at a high rate and will help the industrialists only?

**Shri Kidwai:** I have already replied to that question. Bihar prices are in the statement that is laid on the Table.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Has Government any information that the stoppage of the food subsidy has also affected the prices in non-rationed rural areas?

**Shri Kidwai:** In some places it has; in other places it has not.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know (as for instance in the State of Bombay) that the three prices that were ruling, namely the procurement price, the imported grain price and the remote village price, are still ruling after the withdrawal of the subsidy, or has there been a levelling up of the prices so far as rationed towns are concerned?

**Shri Kidwai:** In the rationed areas where the prices were lowered by the subsidy, the prices have gone up.

#### GANGA BRIDGE

**\*41. Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of Mr. Visveswarayya regarding the location of Ganga Bridge site has been received by Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any final decision on the question; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, when the construction work is likely to commence?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** (a) Not so far.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) The question does not arise at this stage.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** When is the report likely to be submitted?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** I think very soon.

**Shri S. N. Das:** What were the circumstances that led to the appointment of this Committee, in view of the fact that the question of the location of Ganga Bridge was decided in favour of Mokhama Ghat?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think that is an old matter of history; there were many such questions in the House.

**Shri S. N. Das:** I want to know what were the circumstances.

**Mr. Speaker:** He may better study the whole record on this matter.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether any interim report has been received from the Committee?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** An interim report has been received, but it is being further examined.

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to a press report which appeared a few days ago that Farakha has been finally selected as the site of the Bridge?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** No site has been selected. In fact there are four sites, and the Committee have to take a final decision in the matter; and probably as I said, they will report soon.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know what is the amount of money spent in the preliminary consideration of the site at Mokhama Ghat?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** I cannot give the figures just now, but if the hon. Member likes to have the information I can give it later.

#### POLICE ARRANGEMENTS ON RAILWAYS

**\*42. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that armed police and detectives will be posted in trains by the Western Railway Police to afford protection to passengers making night journeys; and

(b) whether such arrangement will also be made on other Railways?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):**

(a) Yes. Certain armed police and detective staff accompany important trains within the Bombay State on the Western Railway. Additional watch is also kept on trains passing during night at important stations, by special Police staff posted at these stations.