

**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.