

**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.

(b) Such arrangements already exist on other Railways in sections where they are considered necessary.

#### LOCUST INVASION

**\*43. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Anti-locust Research Centre in London has forecast the likelihood of India being invaded by new locust swarms from Eastern Arabia and Persia in the month of May?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take against the invasion?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes.

(b) Government are alive to the situation. They have been maintaining a Central Locust Warning Organisation since 1939. With the outbreak of the present locust cycle in 1949, this Organisation was expanded and a control wing added to it in 1950-51. Further expansion by way of staff and necessary equipment has also been effected to meet the locust menace. Full complement of equipment such as power dusting machines, land rovers, wireless sets, motor vehicles for transport and necessary insecticides are being arranged. All the vulnerable States are also building up on parallel lines their respective Anti-Locust Organisations to meet the situation. The total expenditure incurred by the Union Government on anti-locust measures during 1951-52 was about Rs. 27 lakhs.

**Shri Kasliwal:** May I know how many of these machines for the destruction of locusts have been lent to foreign countries?

**Shri Kidwai:** There is no question of lending them to foreign countries. A report has been received that locusts have invaded Persia, and it is in our interests that they should be destroyed there than be allowed to come to India. Therefore we are lending every help that we can possibly render.

**Shri Kasliwal:** May I know whether Pakistan is fully co-operating in the matter of destruction of the locusts?

**Shri Kidwai** Of course.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know what kind of help we are lending to Persia in this matter?

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

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether any research has been done

in India for the biological control of locusts?

**Shri Meghnad Saha rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Let the hon. Minister reply.

**Shri Kidwai:** I think Dr. Meghnad Saha will be in a better position to answer that.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Sir, my question was to the hon. Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is what I am telling him. We are not sitting at a conference of scientists.

#### SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD

**\*44. Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state in how many years India expects to be self-sufficient in her food products?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** If the targets set by Planning Commission of increased production are reached, the country should be self-sufficient by the end of the period of their Plan.

**Shri Jhunjhunwala:** What were the difficulties in the way of the Government which made them revise their target of becoming self-sufficient in 1952 to the time when the Plan succeeds?

**Shri Kidwai:** The hon. Member had asked for the target. The target is there in the Planning Commission's Report which I think was also discussed here. The target is there. Let us hope that the Planning Commission's Plan will go right and that by the end of the period of the Plan we would be self-sufficient in food.

**Mr. Speaker:** If I have understood the question correctly, what the hon. Member really wants is figures for 1952—what are the estimated requirements for 1952 and what is the amount of cereals expected. Is that so?

**Shri Jhunjhunwala:** I want to know what were the difficulties in the way of the Government which made them revise their target.

**Mr. Speaker:** That will be a new question

**Shri Kidwai:** For 1951-52 our target of production was 14.13 lakh tons. We have not yet received any report whether we have reached the target or there has been some deficiency.