

Sugar Mills in the month of May 1953; and

(b) what was the total production of the Sisiwa Mills for the Season 1952-53?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 29.]

#### LOCUSTS

\*1412. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary arising out of the reply given to starred question No. 397 asked on the 30th November, 1953, regarding the attack by locusts on crops in some districts of Tamilnad and state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to investigate the matter; and

(b) if so, what are the details?

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

(b) There has been no locust attack in the whole of Madras State during the past 4 years.

#### RAILWAY WAGONS

\*1413. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual requirements of wagons for Indian Railways; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up its own wagon-building factory?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The annual requirement of wagons for the next 6 years is estimated to be of the order of about 12000.

(b) No Sir, it is proposed to order these wagons from private firms in India.

#### BRIDGES

\*1414. **Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what grants have been made by

the Central Government to the Punjab Government for the construction of bridges on National Highways during the years 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54?

(b) Have the Punjab Government approached the Central Government for a grant for the construction of a bridge at Dehra Gopipur on the river Beas and if so, for how much?

(c) Are any special considerations given for the construction of such bridges in the scarcity-affected areas?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes. A request for a grant of Rs. 20 lakhs, representing 2/3rds of the cost of the proposed bridge, from the Central Road Fund (Ordinary) Reserve has recently been received from the Punjab Government and is under consideration. The bridge does not lie on a National Highway.

(c) No proposal has come up from any State Government for the construction of a bridge on a National Highway on the ground that the bridge is required in a scarcity-affected area. A high priority has, however, been given to the construction of missing bridges in the five-year programme for the development of National Highways.

#### STATEMENT

*Grants made to the Punjab Government for the construction of bridges on the National Highways in the State during the years 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54.*

Year	Rs. in Lakhs	
		Amount
1951-52		5.26
1952-53		9.01
1953-54		11.77