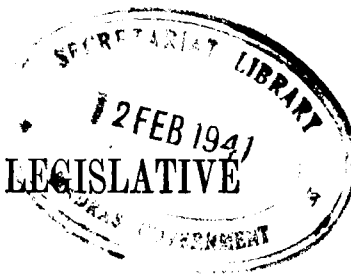


DEBATES OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935

Vol. III—Nos. 1 to 16.

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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

HIS EXCELLENCY LORD ERSKINE, G.C.I.E. Took his seat on the 15th November 1934.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

1. THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR, Prime Minister. Took his seat on the 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

A. CHIEF SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC DEPARTMENT).

Provincial subjects—

Agency tracts.
Assumption of office by Governor.
Business and Secretariat Rules.
Business of Government—Distribution among Departments of the Secretariat.
Cabinet—Arrangements for meetings.
Civil Lists—Preparation.
Committees and conferences not pertaining to any other department of the Secretariat.
Correspondence—Objectionable—Censorship.
Criminal Investigation Department—Other than establishment.
Elections to the Provincial legislature including election offences and disputed elections.
Examinations—Government—Departmental—
 Board of Examiners.
Foreign Governments and Indian States—Correspondence with.
General—Questions of a general nature which cannot be allotted to any particular department.
Government House—
 (i) Establishments—
 Band.
 Bodyguard.
 Governor's Secretary's office.
 Medical.
 Military Secretary's office.
 (ii) Grants—
 Contract.
 Furniture.
 Sumptuary.
 Tour.
 (iii) Personal staff of the Governor.
 (iv) Works—
 Construction.
 Maintenance and furnishing.
Government Servants' Conduct Rules.
Handbook of Procedure and Precedents.

A. CHIEF SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC DEPARTMENT)—cont.

Provincial subjects—cont.

High Court Judges—Leave.
 Holidays.
 Indian Civil Service and listed posts.
 Internal Security.
 Islands—Laccadives, Amindivi and Minicoy.
 Judicial and Executive functions—Separation of.
 Land returns—General questions.
 Legislative bodies (other than Madras)—Proceedings—Marking subjects for the perusal of Members of Government.
 Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.
 Madras Public Service Commission.
 Magistrates (other than Honorary)—Suspension, removal, etc.
 Ministers—Appointments and resignation.
 Newspapers and Periodicals—Perusal of.
 Office procedure.
 Officers—European—Casualty report.
 Ootacamund, Stonehouse Hill—Move to and from.
 Petition Rules.
 Political Handbook.
 Political offences—Prosecutions.
 Precedence—Warrant of—
 Darbari Zamindars.
 Prisoners, State.
 Public Peace—Disturbance of.
 Public Services—
 Communal representation—General questions.
 General questions and commissions of enquiry.
 Notification (including exemptions).
 Revised scales of pay.
 Service associations.
 Services under the control of the Local Government—
 Statutory rules to regulate the method of recruitment, conditions of service, pay, allowances and pension—General revision and amendments of existing rules.
 Special tests—General questions and exemptions.
 Statutory Rules and Orders—
 Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules.
 Superior Civil Services Rules.
 Subordinate Services—
 Discipline and Appeal Rules.
 Passage Rules.
 Religious or communal disputes.
 Reports—
 Fortnightly.
 Matters of political and administrative importance.
 Returns—Next of kin.
 Secretariat—
 Buildings.
 Central Issue Branch.
 Central Records Branch.
 Establishment.
 Library.
 Manual.

A. CHIEF SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC DEPARTMENT)—cont.

Provincial subjects—cont.

Telegrams—Reuters and News Agency.
 Visits—
 Commander-in-Chief.
 Distinguished foreigners.
 Flag Officer, Commanding Royal Indian Navy.
 Governors of other provinces.
 Indian Chiefs.
 Naval Commander-in-Chief.
 Viceroy.
 Warships, British and foreign.

Concurrent subjects—

Periodicals, Newspapers, Books and printing presses—Control of.

Federal subjects—

Conduct of elections to the Federal legislature including election offences and disputed elections.

Consuls—

British.
 Foreign.

Council of State—Nomination of members.

Defence of India—

Army in India Reserve of Officers.
 Auxiliary and Territorial forces.
 Ex-army men.
 Movement of troops.
 Naval, military and air forces in India.

Ecclesiastical affairs.

External affairs.

Federal Public Services.

Federal Public Service Commission.

French Settlements in India.

Indian Chiefs and States.

Naval, military and air force works.

Political charges.

Political detenus from Indian States.

Political Pensions.

Preventive detention for reasons of State connected with defence, external affairs or the discharge of the functions of the Crown.

Reforms.

Regulation of ceremonials, titles, orders, precedence and civil uniform.

Relations with States in India.

Territorial Changes.

B. HOME DEPARTMENT.

Provincial subjects—

Police including C.I.D. (Establishment), railway police and village police.

Concurrent subjects—

Persons subject to preventive detention under Federal authority.

B. HOME DEPARTMENT—cont.

Federal subjects—

Central Intelligence Bureau.
 Police—Extension of the powers and jurisdiction of members of a Police force belonging to any part of British India, to any area, in another Governor's province or Chief Commissioner's province, and the extension of the powers and jurisdiction of the members of a Police force belonging to any unit to railway areas outside that unit.

C. FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Provincial subjects—

Accounts, Provincial (including classification and prescription of units).
 Annual financial statement (Budget).
 Appropriation Accounts and Auditor-General's report thereon.
 Audit of receipts and accounts of stores and stock.
 Commercial accounts.
 Economies in expenditure.
 Famine Relief Fund.
 Federal taxes and duties in which the Provinces are interested, such as income-tax, Federal excises, etc.
 Financial Rules.
 Fundamental Rules (including Revised Leave Rules).
 Loans and Advances.
 Local Fund Audit.
 Provincial balances.
 Public Debt of the Province including borrowings from the Government of India.
 Reappropriations.
 Re-employment of civil pensioners.
 Secretariat—Cash Bureau.
 Service Pensions (including Provident Funds).
 Supplementary Statements of expenditure.
 Taxation and allied measures—initiation of.
 Travelling allowance rules.
 Treasury Rules.
 Ways and Means.

Federal subjects—

Corporation Tax.
 Currency, coinage and legal tender.
 Federal pensions, that is to say, pensions payable by the Federation or out of Federal revenues.
 Indian Audit and Accounts Service examination.
 Post Office Savings Bank.
 Public Debt of the Federation.

2. THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM, Minister for Revenue. Took his seat on the 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Provincial subjects—

Board of Revenue (general).
 City Tenants' Protection Act.
 Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks.
 Court of Wards and Zamindars—
 Impartible Estates Act.

Provincial subjects—cont.

Deputy Collectors.
 District Gazettes and Gazetteers.
 Duties in respect of succession to agricultural land.
 Estates Land Act.
 Famine relief.
 Floods.
 Inams.

Irrigation (minor works)—

Minor irrigation establishments.
 Minor irrigation works.
 Navigation.
 Water-rate.

Land Revenue administration as described under the following heads, namely:—

Alienation of land revenue.
 Assessment and collection of land revenue.
 Buildings.
 Colonization and disposal of Crown lands.
 Establishment.
 Land improvement and agricultural loans.
 Laws regarding land tenures—Easements—Relations of landlord and tenant—Collection of rents—Transfer and devolution of agricultural land.
 Maintenance of land records—Survey for revenue purposes—
 Records of rights.
 Management of Government estates.
 Miscellaneous.
 Revenue Recovery Act.

Lands—

Acquisition.
 Alienation.
 Assignment.
 Encroachment.
 Land records.
 Military lands.
 Railway lands.
 Transfer of lands between Central and Provincial Governments.
 Malabar Tenancy Act.
 Pensions—Hereditary not being political.
 Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass.
 Procedure in rent and revenue courts.
 Registration.
 Season.
 Settlement—Kistbandi.
 Special funds.
 Stamp duty on documents—Rates of.
 Survey—Boundary disputes.
 Taxes on agricultural income.
 Transfer of villages.
 Treasure trove.
 Treasuries.
 Village accounts.

Provincial subjects—cont.

Village establishments.
Water-supply.
Yeomiahs.

Concurrent subjects—

Recovery in a Governor's province or a Chief Commissioner's province of claims in respect of taxes and other public demands, including arrears of land revenue and sums recoverable as such, arising outside that province.

Registration of deeds and documents.

Stamp duties other than duties or fees collected by means of judicial stamps, but not including rates of stamp duty.

Federal subjects—

Duties in respect of succession to property other than agricultural land.

Excise duties on tobacco and other goods manufactured or produced in India except those assigned to the province.

Lands vested in or in the possession of His Majesty for the purposes of Federation.

Opium so far as regards cultivation and manufacture or sale for export.

Salt.

Stamp duty—Rates of in respect of bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes, bills of lading, letters of credit, policies of insurance, proxies and receipts.

Survey of India.

3. THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN, Minister for Public Works. Took his seat on the 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Provincial subjects—

Canals—Irrigational and navigable.

Drainage and embankments, water-storage and water-power.

Gas and gas works.

Hydro-electric schemes.

Inland waterways and traffic thereon.

Irrigation—Major works.

Minor ports.

Minor railways, light and feeder railways.

Public works (buildings, roads, bridges, ferries, ropeways, etc.).

Railway—Accidents.

Railway lands—Jurisdiction.

Rivers—Conservancy.

Taxes on boats.

Tramways—Extra municipal.

Works and buildings vested in or in the possession of His Majesty for the purposes of the Province.

Concurrent subjects—

Boilers.

Electricity.

Shipping and navigation on inland waterways as regards mechanically propelled vessels, carriage of passengers and goods on inland waterways.

Federal subjects—

Air craft and air navigation; regulation and organization of air traffic and of aerodromes.

Carriage of passengers and goods by sea, or by air.

Cemeteries and tombs, including European cemeteries.

Lighthouses, including light ships and beacons.

Major ports—Constitution and powers of port authorities therein.

Marine—Maritime shipping and navigation, including shipping and navigation on tidal waters; admiralty jurisdiction.

Port quarantine and marine hospitals.

Posts and telegraphs, including telephones, wireless, broadcasting, and other like forms of communication.

Railways other than minor railways—Construction and regulation.

Taxes on railway fares and freights.

Terminal taxes on goods or passengers carried by railway, water or air.

Works and buildings vested in or in the possession of His Majesty for the purposes of the Federation.

4. THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN, Minister for Education and Legal Departments. Took his seat on 30th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

*A. EDUCATION.**Provincial subjects—*

Appeals from educational, medical and public health staff employed under local boards and municipal councils.

Books—

Copyright—

Registration of.

Books and periodicals—Questions relating to their purchase and supply to public offices.

Certificate of age and qualification.

Civil Orphan Asylum.

Education including, European and Anglo-Indian education and educational questions relating to the Corporation of Madras and local bodies.

Epigraphy.

Examinations except Public Service Notification and Board of Examiners.

Government Presses.

Libraries.

Literary, scientific, religious and other societies and associations.

Liveries and clothing.

Madras Record Office.

Museums.

Preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts.

Provincial gazetteers.

Stationery and printing.

Translators to Government.

Zoological gardens.

Concurrent subjects—

Legal, medical and other professions.

A. EDUCATION—cont.

Federal subjects—

Ancient and historical monuments.

Archæology.

Copyright.

Federal agencies and institutes for research, for professional or technical training, or for the promotion of special studies.

The Imperial Library, the Indian Museum and any other similar institution controlled or financed by the Federation.

B. LEGAL.

Acts.

Advising Government—

(a) in matters of litigations, appeals, etc.;

(b) on legal questions which are not of sufficient importance to necessitate a reference to the Advocate-General.

Bills, non-official—Scrutiny of.

Government Bills—Drafting and scrutiny.

Law Officers—References to.

Legal assistance to Government servants.

Legal and legislative publications, such as Codes, Acts, Manuals, etc.

Legislation—Secretariat work connected with.

Legislature—Rules of procedure and standing orders of—Scrutiny.

Notifications—Scrutiny of.

Subsidiary legislation, viz., Statutory Rules and Orders (other than Service Rules) and generally assist other departments in all matters of a legal nature that may be referred to it.

5. THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN, Minister for Public Health. Took his seat on 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

A. PUBLIC HEALTH.

Provincial subjects—

Adulteration of foodstuffs and other articles.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

Medical administration, including medical questions relating to the Corporation of Madras and local bodies.

Pilgrimages within British India.

Places of Public Resort Act.

Public Health, including public health questions relating to the Corporation of Madras and local bodies.

Registration of births, deaths and marriages.

Sanitation.

Stores—Rules and general questions.

Vital statistics.

Concurrent subjects—

Health insurance, including invalidity pensions; old age pensions. Lunacy and lunatic asylums.

Prevention of the extension from one unit to another of infectious contagious diseases affecting men.

B. LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Provincial subjects—

Burial and burial grounds other than European cemeteries.

Choultries.

Inns and inn-keepers.

Langarkhanas including the Triplicane poor house.

Religious and Charitable Endowments.

Town-Planning.

6. THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development. Took his seat on 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

A. DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

Provincial subjects—

Agriculture including agricultural education.

Agricultural statistics.

Cinchona.

Cottage Industries.

Fisheries.

Forests, including ryots' and panchayat forests.

Money-lending and money-lenders.

Protection of wild animals and birds.

Rural indebtedness.

Statistics for purposes of provincial matters.

Veterinary department including Veterinary Education.

Weights and measures.

Concurrent subjects—

Prevention of the extension from one unit to another of infectious or contagious diseases or pests affecting animals or plants.

Statistics for the purpose of any of the matters in the concurrent field.

Federal subjects—

Botanical survey.

Census.

Fishing and fisheries beyond territorial waters.

Meteorology—Federal organizations.

Standards of weight.

Statistics for the purpose of any of the Federal matters.

Zoological survey.

B. REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Provincial subjects—

Excise duties on the following goods manufactured or produced in India—

(a) Alcoholic liquors for human consumption.

(b) Opium, Indian hemp and other narcotic drugs and narcotics; non-narcotic drugs.

(c) Medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol, opium, etc.

Production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors, opium and other drugs and narcotics.

7. **THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI**, Minister for Industries and Labour. Took his seat on 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Provincial subjects—

Co-operative Societies.
Depressed classes and labour.
Development of industries other than cottage industries.
Economic conditions including wages and prices (not famine relief).
Emigration and immigration.
Marketing.
Markets and fairs.
Mines and oil-fields and development of mineral resources.
Taxes on mineral rights.
Trade and commerce.
Unemployment; relief of the poor.
Unincorporated trading associations.

Concurrent subjects—

Contracts, including partnership, agency, contracts of carriage and other special forms of contract.
Factories.
Indian Partnership Act.
Industrial and Labour disputes.
Trade unions.
Unemployment insurance.
Welfare of labour—
Employer's liability and workmen's compensation.
Provident funds.

Federal subjects—

Banking—Conduct of banking business by corporations.
Cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other like instruments.
Corporations—Incorporation, regulation and winding up of trading corporations, including banking, insurance and financial corporations but not including co-operative societies.
Customs duties including export duties.
Development of industries where development under Federal Control is declared by Federal Law to be expedient in the public interest.
Geological survey.
Import and export across customs frontiers.
Indian Companies Act.
Insurance—The Law of insurance and the conduct of insurance business.
Inventions, designs, trade marks and merchandise marks.
Mines and oil-fields and mineral development—Regulation of (the extent to which such regulation and development under Federal Control is declared by Federal Law to be expedient in the public interest) and regulation of labour and safety in mines and oil-fields.
Provident insurance societies.
Repatriation.
Tariffs.
Taxes on the capital of individuals or of companies.

8. **THE HON. MR. S. RAMANATHA PILLAI**, Minister for Public Information. Took his seat on 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Publicity—General.
Publicity—Free or concessional supply of Government publications.
Presidency Administration Report.

9. **THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON**, Minister for Courts and Prisons. Took his seat on 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Provincial subjects—

Administration of justice, civil and criminal, including constitution, jurisdiction, powers, maintenance and organization of courts within the province—
Additional and Assistant Sessions Judges.
Bench Courts.
Civil Courts including High Courts.
Civil Rules of Practice.
Criminal appeals.
Criminal justice report.
Criminal powers.
Criminal Rules of Practice.
Honorary Magistrates.
Presidency Magistrates and Courts.
Remission and commutation of sentences.
Betting and gambling—except State lotteries.
Breach of Contract Act.
Carbide of Calcium.
Child Marriage Restraint Act.
Children Act.
Cinematograph Act.
Civil Law.
Control of motor vehicles—
Motor Vehicles Act.
Control of vehicles other than mechanically propelled vehicles.
Coroners.
Criminal lunatics.
Discharged Prisoners Aid Society.
Escheats.
Hackney Carriages Act.
Immoral Traffic.
Indian Bar Councils Act.
Jails—
Borstal institutions.
Jails and sub-jails.
Prisoners' homes.
Reformatories.
Justices of Peace.
Kazis Act.
Law officers.
Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.
Malabar and Rampa Rebellion prisoners.
Petitions for mercy from sentences of death.

Provincial subjects—cont.

Petitions from convicts including Port Blair convicts.
 Preventive detention and persons subject to such detention.
 Prisoners.
 Prisons Act and rules thereunder.
 Provincial law reports.
 Stage Carriages Act.
 Theatres, dramatic performances and cinematographs.
 Village Courts Act.

Concurrent subjects—

Administrator-General and Official Trustee.
 Adoption.
 Arbitration.
 Bankruptcy and insolvency.
 Cinematograph films for exhibition.
 Civil Procedure including the law of Limitation and all matters included in the Code of Civil Procedure at the date of the passing of the Government of India Act, 1935.
 Criminal law including all matters included in the Indian Penal Code at the date of the passing of the Government of India Act, 1935.
 Criminal Procedure including all matters included in the Code of Criminal Procedure at the date of the passing of the Government of India Act, 1935.
 Criminal tribes.
 European Vagrancy Act.
 Evidence and oaths.
 Indian Christian Marriage Act.
 Indian Poisons Act.
 Infants and minors.
 Insolvency Act and Rules.
 Jurisdiction and powers of all courts except the Federal Court, with respect to any of the matters in the concurrent legislative list.
 Marriage and Divorce.
 Mechanically propelled vehicles.
 Poisons and dangerous drugs.
 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
 Prisoners and accused persons—Removal from one unit to another unit.
 Recognition of laws, Public Acts and records and judicial proceedings.
 Royal Humane Society.
 Transfer of property other than agricultural land.
 Trusts and Trustees.
 Wills, intestacy and succession save as regards agricultural land.

Federal subjects—

Admission into, and emigration and expulsion from, India, including in relation thereto the regulation of the movements in India of persons who are not British subjects domiciled in India, subjects of any Federated State, or British subjects domiciled in the United Kingdom.
 Arms, firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Federal subjects—cont.

Extradition including the surrender of criminals and accused persons to parts of His Majesty's Dominions outside India.
 Foreign missions.
 Migration within India.
 Naturalization.
 Passports including certificates of identity and visas.
 Petroleum and other liquids and substances declared by Federal law to be dangerously inflammable so far as regards possession, storage and transport.
 Pilgrimages to places beyond India including Hedjas.
 State lotteries.

10. THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA' REDDI, Minister for Local Administration. Took his seat on 14th July 1937 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Provincial subjects—

Appeals from employees of local boards and municipal councils other than educational, medical and public health staff.
 Capitation taxes, taxes on professions, trades, callings and employments.
 Cesses on the entry of goods into a local area.
 Charities and charitable institutions.
 Corporation of Madras.
 Local boards—General administration and all matters relating to them not specifically assigned to other departments.
 Local bodies—Audit reports of.
 Local self-government including village administration and panchayats.
 Monigar Choultry.
 Municipal councils—
 General administration and all matters relating to them not specifically assigned to other departments.
 Taxes on animals.
 Taxes on land and buildings, hearths and windows.
 Taxes on luxuries, including taxes on entertainments, amusements, betting and gambling.
 Taxes on the sale of goods and on advertisements.
 Tolls.
 Towns Nuisances Act.
 Tramways within municipalities.

Federal subjects—

Local self-government in cantonment areas.

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

Speaker.

THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI.

Deputy Speaker.

MRS. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI.

Panel of Chairmen.

MR. K. KOTI REDDI.

M.R.RY. DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI AVARGAL.

MR. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED.

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT.

Secretary.

M.R.RY. DIWAN BAHADUR R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR AVARGAL, B.A.,
M.L.

Assistant Secretary.

M.R.RY. M. SURYA RAO GARU, B.A., B.L.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
1 Abdul Hameed Khan ..	Madras City, Muhammadan, Urban.
2 Abdul Hakim, Nawab C. ..	North Arcot, Muhammadan, Rural.
3 Abdur Rahman Ali Rajah, Arakal Sultan.	Chirakkal, Muhammadan, Rural.
4 Abdur Rahiman Khan, K. ..	Kurnool, Muhammadan, Rural.
5 Abdul Rawoof, D.	Bellary, Muhammadan, Rural.
6 Achuthan, P.	Calicut, General, Rural.
7 Adikesavulu Naicker, P. M. ..	Madras City North, General, Urban.
8 Adimoolam, Jamedar ..	Ranipet, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
9 Ahmad Thambi Muhammad Mohideen Maracair (<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>).	Tanjore, Muhammadan, Rural.
10 Ammanna Raja, Srimathi G.	Ellore Town, Women, General, Urban.
11 Anantachar, B.	Hospet, General, Rural.
12 Anjalai Ammal, Srimathi ..	Cuddalore, Women, General, Rural.
13 Annamalai Pillai, N.	Tiruvannamalai, General, Rural.
14 Appadurai Pillai, Diwan Bahadur A.	Madras cum Chingleput, Indian Christian.
15 Ari Gowder, H. B.	The Nilgiris, General, Rural.
16 Arunachalam Chettiyar, Muthu. Kr. Ar. Kr.	Sivaganga, General, Rural.
17 Attakoya Thangal, Khan Bahadur P. M.	Calicut, Muhammadan, Rural.
18 Balakrishna, S. S.	Palni, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
19 Bapineedu, M. (<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>).	Ellore, General, Rural.
20 Basheer Ahmed Sayeed ..	Chingleput cum South Arcot, Muhammadan, Rural.
21 Bhaktavatsalam, M. (<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>).	Tiruvallur, General, Rural.
22 Bhakthavathsalu Nayudu, B.	Ranipet, General, Rural.
23 Bhashyam Ayyangar, K. ..	Chingleput, General, Rural.
24 Bhaskara Rao Mahasayo, Sri-man Y. V. A.	Palakonda, General, Rural.
25 Bhuvarahan, V.	Tanjore cum Kumbakonam Towns, General, Urban.
26 Bower, I.S.O., E. H. M. ..	Anglo-Indian.
27 Browning, W. M.	European Commerce (Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association).
28 Buchappa Nayudu, P.	Ongole, General, Rural.
29 Chandramouli, K.	Tenali, General, Rural.
30 Chelvapathi Chetti, G. ..	Textile Workers' Trade Union (Madras), Labour.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
31 Chengam Pillai, O.	Tiruvallur, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
32 Chidambara Ayyar, S. ..	Villupuram, General, Rural.
33 Chinnamuthu, P.	Koilpatti, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).
34 Chokkalingam Pillai, T. S. ..	Tinnevely, General, Rural.
35 Congreve, C. R. T.	European.
36 Damodaram, M. P.	Kottayam, General, Rural.
37 D'Mello, E. M.	Anglo-Indian.
38 Doraikannu, M.	Tiruttani, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).
39 Doraiswami Nadar, A. R. A. S.	Tuticorin, General, Rural.
40 Ghouse Mohideen, S.	Cuddapah, Muhammadan, Rural.
41 Giri, The Hon. Mr. V. V. (Minister).	Bobbili, General, Rural.
42 Gopala Reddi, The Hon. Mr. B. (Minister).	Kavali, General, Rural.
43 Govinda Doss	Bellary, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
44 Govindan Nayar, C. K. ..	Kurumbranad, General, Rural.
45 Gupta, V. J.	Vizagapatam, General, Rural.
46 Guruvulu, S.	Chicacole, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).
47 Halasyam Ayyar, N.	Trichinopoly, General, Rural.
48 Hussain, H. S.	Mangalore, Muhammadan, Rural.
49 Isaac, D. R.	Northern Circars, Indian Christian.
50 Ishwara, K.	Coondapoor, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).
51 Jebamoney Masillamoney, Mrs.	Tinnevely cum Palamcottah cum Tuticorin Towns, Women, Indian Christian, Urban.
52 Kaderkutti, A. K.	Kottayam, Muhammadan, Rural.
53 Kadirappa, D.	Penukonda, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).
54 Kala Venkata Rao	Amalapuram, General, Rural.
55 Kaleswara Rao, A. (Parlia- mentary Secretary).	Bezwada cum Masulipatam Towns, General, Urban.
56 Kamaraj Nadar, K.	Sattur, General, Rural.
57 Kannan, E.	Malappuram, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
58 Karant, K. R. (Parliamentary Secretary).	Puttur, General, Rural.
59 Karunakara Menon, A. ..	Malappuram, General, Rural.
60 Khadija-Yakub Hasan, Mrs...	Madras City, Women, Muhamma- dan, Urban.
61 Khalif-ul-lah, Khan Bahadur P.	Trichinopoly, Muhammadan, Rural
62 Kolandavelu Nayanar, K. ..	Mannargudi, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
63 Koti Reddi, K.	Cuddapah, General, Rural.
64 Krishna Rao, G.	Northern Central Landholders.
65 Krishnakudumban, S. ..	Pollachi, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
66 Krishnamachari, T. T. ..	Southern India Chamber of Com- merce.
67 Krishnamurti, G.	Railway Trade Union, Labour.
68 Krishnaswami Bharathi, L. ..	Melur, General, Rural.
69 Kulasekaran, K.	Tindivanam, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).
70 Kumararaja M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar of Chettinad.	The Nattukottai Nagarathars' Association.
71 Kumaraswami Raja, P. S. ..	Srivilliputtur, General, Rural.
72 Kunhamad Kutty Hajee, P. I.	Calicut cum Cannanore cum Telli- cherry Towns, Muhammadan, Urban.
73 Kuppaswami Ayyar, K. ..	Dindigul, General, Rural.
74 Kurmayya, V.	Bandar, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
75 Kuttimalu Amma, Srimathi A. V.	Tellicherry cum Calicut Towns, Women, General, Urban.
76 Lakshmanaswami, O. ..	Kurnool, General, Rural.
77 Lakshmanaswami, P. ..	Amalapuram, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).
78 Lakshmi Ammal, Srimathi ..	Sermadevi, General, Rural.
79 Lakshmi Ammal, Srimathi K.	Dindigul, Women, General, Rural.
80 Lakshmi Devi, Dr. N. ..	Bellary, Women, General, Rural.
81 Langley, W. K. M.	Madras Planters.
82 Madhavan, P.	Chirakkal, General, Rural.
83 Mahboob Ali Beg	West Godavari cum Kistna, Muhammadan, Rural.
84 Manickam, R. S.	Sattur, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
85 Mariemuthu, M.	Tanjore, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
86 Marimuthu Pillai, S. T. P. ..	Musiri, General, Rural.
87 Maruthai, R.	Ariyalur, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
88 Mir Akram Ali	Vizagapatam cum East Godavari Muhammadan, Rural.
89 Moideen Kutty, P. K. ..	Palghat, Muhammadan, Rural.
90 Muhammad Abdul Kadir Ravuttar, K. S.	Madura, Muhammadan, Rural.
91 Muhammad Abdur Rahman.	Malappuram, Muhammadan, Rural.
92 Muhammad Schamnad, Khan Bahadur.	Puttur, Muhammadan, Rural.
93 Muhammad Rahmatullah, K.	Anantapur, Muhammadan, Rural.
94 Muniswami Pillai, The Hon. Mr. V. I. (Minister).	Tirukkoyilur, General, Rural (Sche- duled Castes).

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
95 Murti, B. S. (<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>).	Cocanada, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
96 Muthuramalinga Tevar ..	Ramnad, General, Rural.
97 Nachiyappa Goundar, K. A.	Omahur, General, Rural.
98 Nadimuthu Pillai, A. Pl. N. V.	Tanjore, General, Rural.
99 Nagappa, S.	Kurnool, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
100 Nagaraja Ayyangar, N. ..	Namakkal, General, Rural.
101 Nagiah, S.	Cuddapah, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
102 Nanjappa Goundar, K. N. ..	Gobichettipalayam, General, Rural.
103 Narasimha Raju, D. L. ..	Sarvasiddhi, General, Rural.
104 Narasimha Raj, P. L. ..	Vizianagram, General, Rural.
105 Narasimham, C.	Chicacole, General, Rural.
106 Narasimham, V. V.	West Godavari <i>cum</i> Kistna <i>cum</i> Guntur Factory Labour, Labour.
107 Narayana Raju, D.	Bhimavaram, General, Rural.
108 Narayana Rao, K. V.	Bezwada, General, Rural.
109 Natesa Chettiyar, M. G. ..	Dharmapuri, General, Rural.
110 Natesa Mudaliar, P.	Saidapet, General, Rural.
111 Nuttall, J.	European.
112 Obi Reddi, C.	Anantapur, General, Rural.
113 Palaniswami Gounder, V. C.	Coimbatore, General, Rural.
114 Palaniswami Gounder, V. K.	Pollachi, General, Rural.
115 Palat, R. M.	West Coast Landholders.
116 Pallam Raju, M.	Cocanada, General, Rural.
117 Pannirselvam, Rao Bahadur A. T.	Tanjore <i>cum</i> Madura <i>cum</i> Ramnad. Indian Christian.
118 Parthasarathi Ayyangar, C. R.	Chittoor, General, Rural.
119 Pedda Padalu, P.	Backward Areas and Tribes.
120 Periaswami Gounder, K. S. ..	Erode, General, Rural.
121 Periyaswami Gounder, K. ..	Trichinopoly, General, Rural.
122 Periyaswami, M. P.	Namakkal, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
123 Perumal Chettiyar, V. R. ..	Salem Town, General, Urban.
124 Perumalla Nayudu, B.	Kandukur, General, Rural.
125 Ponnuswami Pillai, R.	Chidambaram, General, Rural.
126 Prakasam, The Hon. Mr. T. (<i>Minister</i>).	Madras City, South-Central, General, Urban.
127 Raghava Menon, R.	Palghat, General, Rural.
128 Rajagopalachariar, The Hon. Mr. C. (<i>Prime Minister</i>).	University.
129 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C. ..	Chingleput, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
130 Raja of Vizianagram (Mirza Raja Sri Pampati Alakh Narayana Gajapathi Raj Manne Sultan Bahadur of Vizianagram).	Vizianagram, General, Rural.
131 Raja Rao, B.	Rajahmundry, General, Rural.
132 Raja Rao, J.	Guntur <i>cum</i> Nellore, Indian Christian.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
133 Ramachandra Reddiyar, A. K. A.	Tirumangalam, General, Rural.
134 Ramakrishna Raju, R. B. ..	Tiruttani, General, Rural.
135 Ramakrishna Reddi, T. N. ..	Madanapalle, General, Rural.
136 Ramalinga Reddiyar, D. ..	Cheyar, General, Rural.
137 Ramalingam, A.	Tiruvannamalai, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
138 Raman Menon, The Hon. Mr. K. (<i>Minister</i>).	Ponnani, General, Rural.
139 Ramanatha Pillai, The Hon. Mr. S. (<i>Minister</i>).	Mayavaram, General, Rural.
140 Ramaswami, D. V.	Viravalli, General, Rural.
141 Ramaswami Goundar, K. S.	Palladam, General, Rural.
142 Ramaswami Mudaliyar, V. M.	Vellore, General, Rural.
143 Ramaswami Nayudu, N. G. ..	Textile Workers, Non-Union, Labour.
144 Rami Reddi, A.	Guntur, General, Rural.
145 Ranga Reddi, N.	Rajampet, General, Rural.
146 Rangiah Nayudu, G.	Madras City, North-Central, General, Urban.
147 Ratnavelu Tevar, P.	Trichinopoly <i>cum</i> Srirangam Towns, General, Urban.
148 Reade, G. B.	European.
149 Roche Victoria, J. L. P. ..	Tinnevely, Indian Christian.
150 Rukmini Lakshmipathi, Mrs. (<i>Deputy Speaker</i>).	Madras City, Women, General, Urban.
151 Sahajananda, Swami A. S. ..	Chidambaram, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
152 Saiyed Ibrahim	Ramnad, Muhammadan, Rural.
153 Sakthivadivelu Gounder, K.	Periyakulam, General, Rural.
154 Salam, M. A.	Nellore, Muhammadan, Rural.
155 Sambamurti, The Hon. Mr. B. (<i>Speaker</i>).	Cocanada Town, General, Urban.
156 Samu Pillai, V. J.	South Arcot <i>cum</i> Trichinopoly <i>cum</i> Salem <i>cum</i> Coimbatore, Indian Christian.
157 Samuel, Dr. M. J.	Central Districts, Indian Christian.
158 Sarma, P. R. K.	Madras City Dock and Factory Labour excluding Textile and Railway Labour, Labour.
159 Saptharishi Reddiyar, K. S. ..	Southern Central Landholders.
160 Sattanatha Karayalar, L. ..	Koilpatti, General, Rural.
161 Shaik Rowther, S. K.	Palghat, Muhammadan, Rural.
162 Shaiku Muhammad Laljan ..	Guntur, Muhammadan, Rural.
163 Sheik Dawood, Khan Sahib K. A.	Salem <i>cum</i> Coimbatore <i>cum</i> The Nilgiris, Muhammadan, Rural.
164 Sheik Mansoor Tharaganar, V. S. T.	Tinnevely, Muhammadan, Rural.
165 Shetty, A. B. (<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>).	Coondapoor, General, Rural.
166 Shanmugam, K.	Gudur, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
167 Shanmuga Mudaliyar, K. A.	Tiruppattur (North Arcot), General, Rural.
168 Seshadrichariyar, B. T.	Gudiyattam, General, Rural.
169 Sitarama Reddi, H.	Bellary, General, Rural.
170 Sitarama Reddiyar, K.	Cuddalore, General, Rural.
171 Sivashanmugham Pillai, J.	Madras City, South-Central, General, Urban (Scheduled Castes).
172 Smith, J. M.	European Commerce, The Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association.
173 Sri Raja Vasi Reddi Durga Sadasiveswara Prasad Bahadur Manne Sultan.	Bezwada, General, Rural.
174 Srinivasa Ayyar, D.	Gopichettipalayam, General, Rural.
175 Srinivasa Ayyar, P. S.	Conjeeveram, General, Rural.
176 Subba Rao, Kallur	Penukonda, General, Rural.
177 Subba Rao, Karunakaram	Vizagapatam cum East Godavari, Dock and Factory Labour, Labour.
178 Subbarama Ayyar, N. M. R.	Madura Town, General, Urban.
179 Subbarayan, The Hon. Dr. P. (Minister).	Tiruchengode, General, Rural.
180 Subbiah, P.	-Ongole, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
181 Subbiah Mudaiyar, C. P.	Coimbatore Town, General, Urban.
182 Subbaraya Chettiyar, A. M. P.	Negapatam, General, Rural.
183 Subramanian, A.	Tirukkoyilur, General, Rural.
184 Swami, K. V. R.	Rajahmundry, General, Rural.
185 Syamasundara Rao, P.	Tekkali, General, Rural.
186 Unnikammoo, Khan Sahib V. K.	Malappuram, Muhammadan, Rural.
187 Valliappa Chettiyar, V. S. R. M.	Tiruppattur (Ramnad), General, Rural.
188 Varadachari, K.	Chandragiri, General, Rural.
189 Varadachari, N. S. (Parliamentary Secretary).	Madras City, South, General, Urban.
190 Varkey, C. J. (Parliamentary Secretary).	West Coast, Indian Christian.
191 Vedaratnam Pillai, A.	Mannargudi, General, Rural.
192 Venaudaya Gounder, S. V.	Dharapuram, General, Rural.
193 Venkanna, G.	Ellore, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
194 Venkata Reddi, Gopavaram.	Nandyal, General, Rural.
195 Venkata Reddi, Grandhi	Narasapur, General, Rural.
196 Venkata Reddi, K.	Narasaraopet, General, Rural.
197 Venkatachalam Pillai, B.	Ariyalur, General, Rural.
198 Venkatachari, P. T.	Hosur, General, Rural.
199 Venkatanarayana Reddi, B.	Gudur, General, Rural.
200 Venkatappa Chettiyar, S. C.	Salem, General, Rural.
201 Venkatappa Nayudu, R.	Gooty, General, Rural.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
02 Venkatappayya Pantulu, K...	Guntur cum Tenali Towns, General, Urban.
03 Venkatarama Ayyar, P.	Kumbakonam, General, Rural.
04 Venkataramiah, R. S.	Palni, General, Rural.
05 Venkatarao Badiga, B.	Mangalore, General, Rural.
06 Venkatasubba Reddiyar, R.	Tindivanam, General, Rural.
07 Venkatasubbayya, V.	Nellore, General, Rural.
08 Viswanatham, T. (Parliamentary Secretary).	Vizagapatam Town, General, Urban.
09 Wright, Sir William Owen	European Commerce, The Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association.
10 Yagneswara Sarma, K. P.	Tinnevely cum Palamcottah Towns, General, Urban.
11 Yakub Hasan, The Hon. Mr. (Minister).	Chittoor, Muhammadan, Rural.
12 Zamindar of Bodinayakanur (T. V. K. Kamaraja Pandiya Nayakar).	Southern Landholders.
13 Zamindar of Challapalli (Zabdatul Aqran Sreemanthul Rajah Yarlagadda Siva Rama Prasad Bahadur Zamindar).	Bandar, General, Rural.
14 Zamindar of Chemudu (Vyricherla Narayana Gajapathi Raju Bahadur).	Northern Landholders I.
15 Zamindar of Mirzapuram (Sri Raja Moka Venkataramaiah Appa Rao Bahadur).	Northern Landholders II.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 14th September 1937.

The House met in the Senate House, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

The proceedings began with the singing of the Vande Mataram song.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Restrictions on retired Government servants in the matter of contesting elections to local bodies or joining the Congress as members.

* 82 Q.—MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any rule made by the Government preventing retired Government servants drawing pensions from becoming members of the Congress or standing for election to the local bodies on the Congress ticket; and

(b) if there is, whether the Government will consider the desirability of withdrawing such a rule at once?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communiqué issued by the Government on 10th August 1937. Consequently clause (b) does not arise.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“May I request the Hon. Minister to read out the communiqué?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Is it a long communiqué?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is a short one.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“I request him to read it because there has not been due publication of it.”

The communiqué was read out, which is as follows:—

‘Government pensioners are as hitherto at liberty to become members of or to hold office in any lawfully constituted political organization. They are also free to stand for election to local bodies or the legislature as members of such an organization and to undertake constitutionally the responsibilities of office which may result from such election.’

[14th September 1937]

Action taken on the representations made for the release of Messrs. A. K. Gopalan, Keraleeyan and others of Malabar.

* 83 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state whether Government have received representations to release Messrs. A. K. Gopalan, Keraleeyan and others convicted on the eve of the last general elections in Malabar and, if so, what the Government have done in the matter?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government have received representations. They had already ordered release of Messrs. A. K. Gopalan, Keraleeyan, Chandroth Kunhi Raman Nayar and K. P. Gopalan before the representations were received."

MR. E. KANNAN:—"May I know what was the charge for which Mr. A. K. Gopalan was arrested?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It was in connexion with security proceedings, so far as I am aware."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I know who are the 'others,' and their number?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"There is no 'others' in my answer."

Alleged irregularities in the administration of the Panchayat Board, Tiruvallur.

* 84 Q.—MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether certain representations by the rate-payers of the Tiruvallur Panchayat Board were made to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards against the administration of the panchayat;

(b) whether the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards made an enquiry and whether he directed the Panchayat Board to remove certain irregularities pointed out within a prescribed time;

(c) whether the President, Panchayat Board, carried out all or any of the improvements suggested by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards;

(d) whether the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has called for and received any report from the President, Panchayat Board, and the District Panchayat Officer in the matter referred to in (c); and

(e) whether Government will call for a report from the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards and place it on the table?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

[14th September 1937]

" (c) The President, Panchayat Board, carried out some of the improvements suggested by the Inspector of Local Boards.

" (d) Yes.

" (e) A copy ^a of the report of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, dated 14th August 1937, on the matter is placed on the table of the House."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to read out the report?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is in connexion with improper assessment of house-tax, removal of encroachments and the deplorable state of the office."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"May I know whether any action has been taken to remove the encroachments?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has taken action in the matter."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"What sort of action?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A warning was given to the President."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"What was the date?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am afraid I cannot give the exact date, but it was I think, about ten days back."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Will mere warning do?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In the opinion of the Government, that will do for the present."

Reinstatement of Mr. R. C. Munuswami Nayudu, Member, Panchayat Board, Tiruvallur.

* 85 Q.—MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Panchayat Board, Tiruvallur, reinstated one Mr. R. C. Munuswami Nayudu as a member for three times during the course of his term;

(b) whether the dissenting minutes of some members protesting against the reinstatement of the member were received by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards and the President, District Board; and

(c) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) This allegation was made in a petition received by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.

" (b) No.

" (c) The matter is under consideration."

[14th September 1937]

*Repairs and improvements to the Kangayan channel,
Ambasamudram taluk.*

* 86 Q.—MR. K. P. YEGNESWARA SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the Kangayan channel of the Gatanar river of the Ambasamudram taluk—

(a) whether any representations have been received by the Government complaining about its having become silted up and the absence of screw shutters for the sluices;

(b) whether they have been enquired into and redressed; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) Two representations were received in the matter—one by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the other by the Executive Engineer, Tinnevely division.”

“(b) & (c) Yes, as far as possible. In 1935, the Government ordered that the silt clearance in the channel should be done at the cost of Government. Subsequently in 1936 an estimate for removing shoals was sanctioned and carried out. Again in 1937 estimates for removing shoals, silt clearance and for repairs to masonry work including renewal of defective shutters along the whole length of the channel, have been sanctioned and are expected to be completed this year. The question of providing screw-shutters where necessary will also be investigated during the current year.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“May I know what is the amount spent on it these three years?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“Notice, Sir.”

Representations for the restoration of the privilege of manufacturing salt in small scale in the Tinnevely district.

* 87 Q.—MR. K. P. YEGNESWARA SARMA: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been made to the Government to move the Central Government to restore the privilege of small scale manufacture of salt by villagers in accordance with the Gandhi-Irwin pact to the areas where it has been cancelled in the Tinnevely district; and

(b) whether any, and if so, what action has been taken on the same?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“(a) & (b) Yes. The hon. Member is referred to the answer to unstarred question No. 71.

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Proposals for raising the age-limit of the members of the depressed classes for entry into public service.

* 88 Q.—MR. D. KADIRAPPA: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of candidates of the Harijan community declared qualified for each of the services the selection for which is made by the Madras Public Service Commission from the date of the constitution of the Public Service Commission;

(b) the number of qualified candidates who failed to secure appointments through (1) over-age and (2) other causes;

(c) whether the age qualifications apply to the Harijan candidates also, and

(d) whether the Government have arrived at any decision regarding the question of raising the age-limit of the depressed classes for purposes of public service, and if so, what it is?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“(a) & (b) The information asked for is not readily available, nor is it compilable without great labour and expenditure of time such as may not be justified merely for getting at the figures.

“(c) & (d) The Government have decided to fix for candidates of the scheduled classes an age-limit higher than that prescribed for non-Brahman Hindus and Brahmans in respect of the following services:—

Service.	Age limit for Non-Brahman Hindus and Brahmans.	Higher age limit for scheduled classes.
(1)	(2)	(3)
Provincial services—		
Madras Civil Service (Executive Branch)	23	25
Deputy Collectors.		
Madras Co-operative Service, category 2,	25	27 up to 31st December 1938.
Deputy Registrars.		
Subordinate services—		
Madras Co-operative Subordinate Service,	25	27 up to 31st December 1939.
category I, Sub-Deputy Registrars.		
Madras Engineering Subordinate Service,	26	28
class III, category I, Supervisors.		
Madras Ministerial service	25	27 up to 31st December 1938.
Madras Secretariat service	25	Do.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“With regard to clause (b), may I know whether the number of qualified candidates who failed to secure appointments through (1) overage and (2) other causes, is so large that the Government is not in a position to give the information?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Sir, the answer to such a question would have to be accurate. The Commission would have to look up its approved list for the last seven years

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because the question asks for information from the time of the formation of the Commission. The collection of such statistics may not serve a purpose proportionate to the labour involved, inasmuch as the age-limit has been raised. The age-limit for public services is 25 years and for certain posts, a much higher age has been prescribed. The Public Service Commission was asked to report, in the light of the experience gained by them, in what cases the concession could be extended or raised, and in answer the Commission replied giving detailed suggestions. After considering the matter, orders were issued extending an additional two-year concession in the case of certain classes, up to December 1939 in some cases, and to 1938 in some others."

MR. J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI:—"May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that in Bombay thirty has been fixed for members of the depressed classes for ministerial service?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I may take that from the hon. Member, though I am not aware of it myself. Bombay will be aware of our age-limit and we shall be aware of their age-limit."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know, Sir, the exact number of depressed classes whose turn had to be foregone on account of the fact that qualified and under-aged candidates were not available?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It is not possible to give any useful and accurate information straightway. But the principle involved is this. Are we going to upset the age-limit simply because a number of candidates are not available? It is a delicate balancing of conditions for efficiency on the one hand and concessions that are necessary in view of the fact of the backward condition of certain classes. The Government is trying to do its best in fairness to the communities concerned."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I ask the Hon. the Prime Minister whether it is not a fact that the places which are not filled by these particular minority communities are kept in the reserve in case members belonging to these communities are available at a later date?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am not aware of it, Sir; but it seems to me it is almost impossible on the face of it. How can vacancies be kept reserved?"

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sorry that I am misunderstood. Not vacancies; but their places in the turn according to the communal order."

THE HON. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I shall examine the fact as well as the suggestion, Sir."

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Number of listed and non-listed posts held by I.M.S. officers.

* 89 Q.—MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number and designation of posts listed for I.M.S. officers in this Presidency; and

(b) the number of non-listed posts which I.M.S. officers now hold; the names of such officers; the dates of their substantive or acting appointments and the tenure for which they have been appointed?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) 1. Pending the issue of rules under section 246 of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India have directed that with effect from 1st April 1937 the following posts should be treated as reserved for Indian Medical Service officers:—

(i) *Central Government.*

Director, Pasteur Institute, Coonoor.

(ii) *Provincial Government.*

(a) *Posts to which British officers will be appointed—*

8 Civil surgeoncies—Malabar, Madura, Coimbatore, Bellary, Nilgiris, Tanjore, North Arcot and Guntur.

4 Senior specialists—One specialist in each of the three subjects, Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics with Gynaecology, to be posted at Madras, and one specialist in one of these subjects or in ophthalmology to be posted at Vizagapatam.

3 Junior specialists—Three junior specialists in the subjects of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics with Gynaecology to be posted at Madras or Vizagapatam.

4 Leave reserve.

Total ... 19

(b) *Posts to which Indian officers will be appointed—*

6 Posts (unspecified).

1 Leave reserve.

Total ... 7

" 2. The Secretary of State and the Government of India have also stated that the existing rights of officers already in civil employment and who are otherwise suitable for appointment to posts, which were earmarked for Indian Medical Service

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officers before the 1st April 1937 and which do not find a place in the new reserved list, will be fully preserved and prospects equivalent to those in existence previously will be retained for them and that detailed measures required to safeguard their prospects are being worked out. The posts referred to above are the following:—

“ Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

“ Superintendent, Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, and ex officio Professor of Ophthalmology, Medical College, Madras.

“ Surgeon, First District, Superintendent and Lecturer, Rayapuram Medical School, and Superintendent, Rajah Sir Ramaswami Mudaliyar Lying-in Hospital, Madras.

“ One of the Professorial appointments either in Medicine or Surgery in the Medical College, Madras, with collateral charge as Physician or Surgeon at the General Hospital, Madras.

“ Director, King Institute, Guindy.

“ Assistant Director, King Institute, Guindy.

“ Two District Medical Officers (Kistna and Tinnevely).

“ Inspector-General of Prisons.

“ Four Superintendents of Central Jails.

“ One of the Professorial appointments either in Medicine or in Surgery in the Medical College, Madras (not held by a European officer of the Indian Medical Service), with collateral charge as Physician or Surgeon at the General Hospital, Madras.

“ Director of Public Health or Assistant Director of Public Health.

“ District Medical Officers (East Godavari, Trichinopoly and Salem).

“ (b) There is only one such post, viz., the post of Chemical Examiner to Government and Professor of Chemistry, Medical College, Madras, which has been permanently held by Lieut.-Col. Newcomb, I.M.S., from the 4th December 1920. The officer is at present on leave preparatory to retirement on the 3rd October 1937. The leave vacancy has been filled up by appointing a Provincial Medical Officer.”

10-15 a.m. **MRS. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:**—“ May I know whether the Hon. the Minister for Public Health will be pleased to state whether the post of the Inspector-General of Prisons is listed for I.M.S. officers? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ No.”

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MRS. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ May I know the reasons for appointing Mr. Rutherford as the Inspector-General of Prisons? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ Mr. Rutherford is not the Inspector-General of Prisons now.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is not possible for him to continue the policy of Indianization in the medical service and to replace the Europeans by Indians in the I.M.S. service? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ If the hon. Member had listened to the replies given in the answer, he would have known that there are some listed appointments protected and preserved for the British I.M.S. officers and for Indian I.M.S. officers. Where the posts are open to Indian officers they will certainly be appointed.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ Are the Government satisfied with the present increase in the number of posts for Indians or are they going to increase it still further? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ I would like to tell the hon. Member that under the limitations of the Government of India Act of 1935 under which we are working, we are trying our best to increase the number.”

Appointment of Provincial Medical Service officers to posts not reserved for I.M.S. officers.

* 90 Q.—**MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:** Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government propose to appoint Provincial Medical Service men to all posts in the Medical Service not reserved for the I.M.S. officers with a view to Indianize the service?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ All posts which are not reserved or protected for I.M.S. officers are already held by Provincial Medical Officers.”

Number of Muslims admitted into the Engineering College, Guindy, during the period 1932-37.

* 91 Q.—**MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:** Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state for the years 1932 to 1937—

(a) how many students sought admission in the Engineering College at Guindy, and how many of them were Muslims;

(b) how many Muslims were admitted; and

(c) the reason for the disproportion, if any, in the number of Muslims in the said college?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ (a) & (b) A statement containing the particulars is annexed.

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“(c) The hon. Member's point is apparently that the proportion of Muslims admitted to the number of applicants is low as compared with other communities. The figures in the statement do not support this presumption.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“The statement referred to in the answer is not available here. May I ask the Hon. Minister to read out the statement referred to in the answer?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The statement was supplied to the Assembly office. However I shall read it—

Year.		Total number of applicants.	Number of Muslim applicants.	Number of Muslims selected.
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>Engineer Class.</i>				
1932-33	.. ..	308	10	8 (of these only 5 joined).
1933-34	.. ..	284	13	7
1934-35	.. ..	215	7	5
1935-36	.. ..	209	10	8
1936-37	.. ..	302	16	14
1937-38	.. ..	310	14	11 (of these only 6 joined).
<i>Probationary Subordinate Class.</i>				
1932-33	.. ..	217	4	3 (of these none joined).
1933-34	.. ..	168	6	..
1934-35	.. ..	153	4	1
1935-36	.. ..	123	1	..
1936-37	.. ..	148	5	4
1937-38	.. ..	125	2	2 (one has left).

“The hon. Member will see that, compared with the number of applicants that applied, the number of people selected is proportionately greater than those of other communities.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister in view of the fact that the number applied for is so small, what exactly was the reason for not selecting even such a number in toto?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“For the simple reason that the hon. Member's community has not come up to the standard necessary for engineering studies.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know whether it is not a fact that persons who passed Intermediate examination taking a particular subject are not eligible to be admitted in the Engineering

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College? In that case, may I know what exactly the Hon. Minister means by saying that the Members belonging to my community and who applied for admission did not come up to the standard?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“If the hon. Member had taken the trouble of analysing my answer he would have found that it is not merely that the passing of intermediate examination that is necessary, but also in the opinion of the Selectors the applicant ought to be qualified to be benefited by engineering education.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that unless the minimum qualification that is required for selection to this course is adhered to in the case of minorities or backward communities, it will not be possible for them to come up to the level that ought to be reached by other communities if they are going to be so hard?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The hon. Member must understand that the number selected bears a greater proportion to the number that applied. As a matter of fact the Selection Committee were lenient to the Muslim candidates and consideration was shown to them. If some were not selected it was for the simple reason that they did not come up to the standard of minimum expectation.”

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—“May I know what the Hon. Minister means by ‘minimum expectation’?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“‘Minimum expectation’ means whether the studies in the Engineering College would benefit the student so selected.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Is it meant by the Hon. Minister that a selection examination is held for all the candidates and in the examination some of the candidates that apply are not found fit?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“There is no question of selection examination being held. The University awards the number of marks in the various subjects taken by the candidates, and from those marks it can be easily gathered whether a student would be benefited by the education given in a particular college—in this case the Engineering College.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, is not in his place and so his questions will not be answered.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I would like to answer them in view of the public interest involved in the matter.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“After all the other questions are finished, the Hon. the Prime Minister may answer them.”

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* 92 * Q.—

* 93 * Q.—

Recognition by Government of examinations conducted by the South Indian Hindi Prachar Sabha.

* 94 Q.—MR. E. V. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Hon. Minister received any representations from South Indian Hindi Prachar Sabha with regard to the recognition of Visarad, Pracharak examinations conducted under its auspices; and

(b) what steps the Hon. Minister proposes to take in this direction?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) Representations have been received from the Andhra Rastra Hindi Prachar Sanga but not from the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha requesting *inter alia* that the examinations in question may be treated as the minimum qualifying test for appointment as Hindi teachers in schools.

“(b) The matter will be considered in due course.”

Progress of the Hydro-Electric Works, Mettur.

* 95 Q.—MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the construction of the hydro-electric works at Mettur is; whether they have been completed, and if not, when they are expected to be completed and working, producing their maximum output of energy;

(b) what the districts are which are intended to be served by this scheme; whether power will be supplied to all the districts simultaneously and, if not, in what order;

(c) whether it is the intention of the Government to supply power mainly for irrigation purposes—chiefly pumping in rural areas, and, if so, what the arrangements contemplated or made by the Government are to educate the rural population about the economical advantages of the use of electricity and for popularizing its use; whether any such arrangements are contemplated for Chittoor district and if so, what they are; and

(d) whether it is the intention of the Government to establish its own agency in the various districts for retailing power to consumers or whether they intend to encourage private agencies?

^a Vide pages 45-46 infra.

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THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) Two of the three generating units have been completed and the third is in course of erection. The whole power station is expected to be completed in December 1937.

“(b) The districts of Salem, North Arcot, Chittoor, parts of Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Tanjore are now served by the scheme. The South Arcot and Chingleput districts will be served from about September 1938.

“(c) It is not intended that power should be supplied mainly for agricultural purposes. Power will be supplied for all purposes including agriculture. The power required for agricultural uses is, however, expected to be not more than a small portion of the total demand. The Electricity department does commercial work for popularizing the use of electricity and for educating the public in the matter. The department has issued pamphlets in English and Tamil which give all particulars regarding the uses to which electricity can be put. A separate pamphlet entitled ‘Electricity in Agriculture’ has also been issued which gives particulars about the use of electricity on farms, quantity of water required for different crops, type of pump sets, cost of pumping with electricity and how to get supply to the farms. Copies of the pamphlets can be obtained from the Chief Engineer for Electricity. No special arrangement is contemplated for the Chittoor district alone.

“(d) The policy of Government is that if local bodies capable of financing and managing electric supply schemes are willing to undertake them they should be preferred to private companies as licensees for distribution in local areas—mainly municipal areas. As regards rural parts, if there is no licensee to undertake retail distribution satisfactorily the Government consider individual schemes of rural distribution on their merits and execute them, when circumstances make it desirable to do so.”

MR. S. GURUVULU:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister what is 10.30 a.m. meant by saying that leaflets are issued?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“They are published and made available to the people.”

MR. S. GURUVULU:—“Are they available for sale?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“They could be obtained from the Chief Engineer for Electricity.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“Free or on payment?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“They are free.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask what policy the Government propose to adopt with regard to the giving of the right of distribution to local bodies in areas which have already

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been given to private licensees and whether the Government contemplate cancelling or buying off the right of the licensees and vesting the right of distribution in local bodies?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Licenses have been given to some private licensees for a period and till that period is over no licence can be given to the local bodies in that area."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether it is not possible to purchase the right from private licensees and give the right of distribution to the local bodies?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"If a local body comes forward with any such scheme and the Government feel that it would be better to transfer the licence to the local body, they will consider the matter."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of making these leaflets available in rural parts without merely making them available with the Chief Engineer?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"We will consider that."

MR. V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"May I ask whether the Government will show some special concession for people who use electricity for agricultural purposes?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Concession is already given. The rates are made so low that people may take advantage of it. That is the concession that the Government have shown."

MR. V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"What is the rate?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I cannot say offhand, but I can say that it depends on the distance to which the line has to be taken and various other considerations. The rate is not the same everywhere, but we had tried to make it as cheap as possible so that all people may take advantage of it."

MR. V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Sir, as we all know, the cost of power developed from an oil engine is less than the cost of power from the Government source. May I ask whether the Government do not consider that the agriculturists will be helped if they reduce their rate to such an extent that it is lower than the cost of power developed by an oil engine?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member must put a question and not make a speech while putting a supplementary question."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Generally the cost of generating power by an oil engine is more than the cost of power taken from the Government."

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MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government have examined the question of reducing the rates charged for agricultural purposes so that they may be on a par with those charged in the neighbouring State of Mysore?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I will consider it."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARI:—"May I ask whether the northern taluks of Salem will be benefited by the scheme and if so when?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Salem is already being supplied with electricity. I will look into the question and find out whether the northern taluks can be benefited."

Execution of the Tungabhadra Project.

* 96 Q.—MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the negotiations between this Government and the Governments of Mysore and Nizam regarding the Tungabhadra Project have terminated, and if so, with what result; and

(b) whether the Government propose to undertake the execution of the project and if so, when?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) In view of the answer to clause (a), this does not arise."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I ask when the negotiations are likely to come to an end?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"The negotiations are proceeding."

MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—"May I ask whether the Hon. the Minister for Revenue or the Prime Minister propose to go to Hyderabad to discuss the question with the Nizam's Government?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"The negotiations are proceeding and we cannot say who will go and whether it will be necessary to go there or not."

MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"May I ask whether the project will be executed in such a way as to benefit the Ceded districts?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I think so."

MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—"Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to give some indication as to when the negotiations will come to an end?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"We are hurrying them up, but we cannot say when they will be completed. I think that in a very short time we must come to some decision or other."

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MR. C. OBI REDDI:—“ May I ask how many taluks in the Kurnool district will be benefited by this scheme? ”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ It is not possible for me to answer the question.”

MR. C. OBI REDDI:—“ May I ask whether the negotiations are likely to end in such a way as to enable us to push the scheme through? ”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ I hope so, but I cannot be certain.”

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—“ May I ask on what points are the negotiations proceeding? ”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ Points? The whole point is whether we should take up the scheme jointly with Hyderabad; they want water and we want water; they will have a system and we will have a system. Therefore we want to come to some agreement. That is the point.”

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—“ May I ask what exactly are the difficulties confronting the Madras Government with regard to the construction of a reservoir on a site which does not belong either to Mysore or to Hyderabad? I think there is a possibility like that.”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ The Tungabhadra Scheme cannot be taken piecemeal. When we come to a decision on the main question, we will consider what part of the project requires earlier attention than the rest.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“ May I know whether the Hyderabad Government is collecting information regarding this project? ”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ I am not in a position to know what the Hyderabad Government is doing.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“ I want to know whether they have any office or engineering branch dealing with this question? ”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ The question does not arise. I am not aware of any.”

MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA:—“ Are the negotiations still proceeding? ”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ Yes.”

MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA:—“ May I ask how long these negotiations have been going on? ”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ I have already answered the question.”

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Revision of the curricula of studies for elementary and training schools.

* 97 Q.—MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that committees have been appointed to revise the curricula of studies for elementary and training schools;

(b) whether it is a fact that these committees have been appointed without giving any opportunity to educational organizations of the public for expressing their opinion on the proposed revision; and

(c) whether the Government will publish the revised schemes and syllabuses for criticism and suggestions before giving effect to them?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ (a) A Committee was appointed to revise the curriculum of studies in elementary schools and it has completed its work. The Training-School Leaving Certificate Board has been entrusted with the task of revising the syllabuses of training schools.

“ (b) The revision of syllabuses is a highly technical matter and there appears to be no necessity for consulting educational organizations or the public before the Revision Committees do their work. Both the Revision Committee for syllabuses of elementary schools and the Training-School Leaving Certificate Board are representative bodies with plenty of experts on them.

“ (c) The Government do not consider it necessary to publish the revised syllabuses for criticism and suggestion.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—“ May I know, Sir, who the members of the Committee are? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ It is impossible to carry in one's mind the number of members of such committees.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ In view of the importance of elementary education in the development of the country, may I ask, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will consider the desirability of publishing the report for public information and criticism? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ I have no objection to publishing it for information, but I shall not certainly publish it for criticism.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ Are we to understand, Sir, that suggestions and criticisms from the public will not be accepted by the Hon. Minister? ”

(No answer).

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Production of sanitary and health certificates as a condition precedent to the recognition of elementary schools.

* 98 Q. MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any rule requiring the production of sanitary and health certificates as a condition for recognition in the case of elementary schools;

(b) whether any representation was received by the Government in this regard from the offices of the Public Health Department; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise the rules so as to demand sanitary and health certificates as a condition for recognition?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) No; the hon. Member is however referred to rule 8 of the rules framed under section 41 (2) of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920.

“(b) The answer is in the negative.

“(c) No. It will be difficult particularly in the case of small elementary schools in rural areas, to insist on the production of a sanitary certificate.”

Number and duties of the gazetted officers employed in the Office of the Director of Industries, Madras.

* 99 Q. MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of gazetted officers in the Office of the Director of Industries, Madras;

(b) the qualifications of the existing incumbents of these posts;

(c) the duties assigned to each of these officers; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the abolition of the post of a Deputy Director was considered by Government and, if so, why it was not given effect to?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) There are three officers besides the Director, viz., Deputy Director of Industries, Industrial Engineer and Statistical Officer.

“(b) Mr. W. Fyfe, Acting Deputy Director of Industries.—Several certificates from Guilds and Institutes in Great Britain and Sweden in woodwork, metal work, drawing, clay-modelling and enamelling.

“Mr. L. S. Pinto, Industrial Engineer (on leave).—B.Sc. of Durham University, M.Sc. (England), Practical experience in Railway works.

“Mr. N. M. Adyanthayya, Acting Industrial Engineer.—Mechanical Engineering Certificate of Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh, B.Sc. (University of Edinburgh), Practical experience in factories and Engineering works in England.

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“Mr. N. K. Adyanthayya, Statistical Officer.—B.A. (Hons.) of Madras University, B.Sc. (Hons.), London.

“(c) Deputy Director of Industries.—The duties of the officer are to assist the Director in the general administration of the department and to relieve him of much of the less important office routine work. The officer answers a considerable number of enquiries, interviews visitors, and conducts such special enquiries as may be entrusted to him by the Director. The officer has also now to deal with the following items of work formerly undertaken by the Inspector of Industrial Schools:—

“(i) correspondence with the departmental and aided schools,

“(ii) appointment and control of subordinate staff in Government schools,

“(iii) scrutinizing applications for scholarships under the several scholarship schemes controlled by the department,

“(iv) scrutinizing the annual and financial returns from the aided schools on which the admissible grant is calculated,

“(v) recognition and certification of teachers in aided industrial schools,

“(vi) supervising the Government industrial schools at Madura, Bellary and Calicut and the Trade School at Mangalore and the recently started industrial classes in leather, casting and metal work and pottery, and

“(vii) sharing with the Director the inspections of Government and aided industrial schools and manufacturing sections of certain jails.

“Industrial Engineer.—The officer is responsible for the control of the Assistant Industrial Engineers, Supervisors, mechanics, boring maistris, etc.; he supervises the erection of industrial plants and the maintenance under the compounding system, of private installations; he also supervises the Industrial Engineering Workshop, and boring operations generally. The officer also assists in the administration of the Agriculturist Loans Act.

“Statistical Officer.—The main functions of the officer are to supervise (i) the compilation of the statistics of rainfall and of agricultural statistics, including the preparation of crop forecasts, the annual season and crop report, and the annual statistics of area, yield, etc., relating to coffee, tea and rubber, and (ii) the compilation of the retail and wholesale prices of commodities. Besides supervising the normal day to day duties of the statistical section, which comprise the preparation of the several statistical returns referred to and the disposal of the correspondence which they entail, the officer undertakes other special work from time to time, of which the following instances may be given during the year 1936–37; (i) revision of the Decennial Statistical Atlas of the Madras Presidency, (ii) conduct of an enquiry into the family budgets of industrial workers in Madras City, and (iii) estimation of the village consumption of cotton.

[14th September 1937]

Production of sanitary and health certificates as a condition precedent to the recognition of elementary schools.

* 98 Q. MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any rule requiring the production of sanitary and health certificates as a condition for recognition in the case of elementary schools;

(b) whether any representation was received by the Government in this regard from the offices of the Public Health Department; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise the rules so as to demand sanitary and health certificates as a condition for recognition?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) No; the hon. Member is however referred to rule 8 of the rules framed under section 41 (2) of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920.

“(b) The answer is in the negative.

“(c) No. It will be difficult particularly in the case of small elementary schools in rural areas, to insist on the production of a sanitary certificate.”

Number and duties of the gazetted officers employed in the Office of the Director of Industries, Madras.

* 99 Q. MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of gazetted officers in the Office of the Director of Industries, Madras;

(b) the qualifications of the existing incumbents of these posts;

(c) the duties assigned to each of these officers; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the abolition of the post of a Deputy Director was considered by Government and, if so, why it was not given effect to?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) There are three officers besides the Director, viz., Deputy Director of Industries, Industrial Engineer and Statistical Officer.

“(b) Mr. W. Pyfe, Acting Deputy Director of Industries.—Several certificates from Guilds and Institutes in Great Britain and Sweden in woodwork, metal work, drawing, clay-modelling and enamelling.

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“(i) correspondence with the departmental and aided schools, “(ii) appointment and control of subordinate staff in Government schools,

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“(iv) scrutinizing the annual and financial returns from the aided schools on which the admissible grant is calculated,

“(v) recognition and certification of teachers in aided industrial schools,

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“(d) Yes. The matter is receiving the immediate attention of the Government and early orders will be issued.”

10-45 a.m. MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know whether the Principal of the Textile Institute possesses any University degree and what are his qualifications? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ Notice, Sir.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“ May I ask whether Mr. Fyfe has any university or academic qualifications? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ I do not think that he possesses any University qualifications.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“ May I ask whether most of the routine duties carried on by the Deputy Director of Industries can be performed by an officer of the rank of head clerk or sarishtadar of any other office? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ It is quite possible; the matter is being investigated.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—“ May I ask whether the Hon. Minister feels that so many Directors are required to look after the work? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ The matter will be considered.”

Improvements to the Nattar and the Arasalar under the Cauvery Delta Remodelling Scheme.

* 100 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what action the Government have taken under the Cauvery Delta Remodelling Scheme, with reference to the Nattar river;

(b) if no action has been taken, when the Government propose to take action;

(c) whether he will be pleased to arrange for a fourth sluice also being constructed for the Nattar river;

(d) what arrangements exist for the clearance of silt in and around the sluices of the Nattar river;

(e) the number of sluices now existing for the Arasalar river;

(f) whether they are in good condition;

(g) whether there is a regulator at the head of the Arasalar regulating the distribution of its waters;

(h) whether the Government have received any representation from the ryots bordering the Nattar river complaining about the inadequacy of the supply of water for irrigating their lands; and

(i) if the answer to (h) is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken to give them adequate supply of water?

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THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) & (b) An estimate for remodelling the sluices of the Nattar river was sanctioned by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in 1933 and the work was completed in 1936. A scheme for providing regulators to the Nattar and Vanjiyar will be taken up for execution shortly and this after completion will also help the Nattar.

“(c) The Nattar river has already 70 sluices as remodelled and it is not clear where a fourth sluice is necessary.

“(d) Silt clearance work in channels should be done by the ryots concerned.

“(e) & (f) The number of sluices in the river is 32, and 28 of these were remodelled recently.

“(g) Yes.

“(h) The answer is in the negative.

“(i) Does not arise.”

Mappilla rebellion prisoners still in jail.

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—“ I may be permitted, Sir, to put questions 92 and 93? ”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ Yes.”

* 92 Q.—MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN on behalf of Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Mappilla rebellion prisoners in the various jails of the Presidency and in the Andamans;

(b) when the said prisoners are due to be released; and

(c) whether the Government propose to release all the said Mappilla rebellion prisoners and when orders are likely to issue?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a), (b) & (c) Orders have been issued for the release of all Mappilla Rebellion Prisoners.”

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—“ May I know if there are Mappilla prisoners who are kept outside Malabar? ”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ There are now no Mappillas under any restrictions, kept outside Malabar; some one or two of them, though released from all restrictions voluntarily prefer to remain in the places where they have employment; perhaps the hon. Member is mistaking that.”

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Prisoners under the Moplah Outrages Act still in jails.

* 93 Q.—MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN on behalf of Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of prisoners under the Moplah Outrages Act still serving their term of imprisonment in the jails of the Presidency and in the Andamans;

(b) the offences for which they have been evicted, the term of their sentences and the unexpired term of their sentences; and

(c) whether the Government propose to release them by commuting their sentences?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“The answer to clause (a) is ‘Nil’ and consequently clauses (b) and (c) do not arise.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Operation of the salt concessions under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

71 Q.—MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the salt concessions under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact are allowed in any of the areas in the Presidency;

(b) in how many areas these concessions have been withdrawn; and

(c) whether the Government will consider the advisability of restoring the concessions in accordance with the Gandhi-Irwin Pact?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The salt concession under the Delhi Pact extended to all villages immediately adjoining the areas where salt could be collected or made. The concession was however withdrawn from the following areas in this Presidency:—

- (1) Nellore district—whole district.
- (2) Ramnad and Mudukulattur taluks of Ramnad district.
- (3) Cuddapah district—whole district.
- (4) Anantapur district—whole district.
- (5) Bellary, Siruguppa, Alur, Adoni and Rayadrug taluks of the Bellary district.
- (6) Sirvel, Nandyal, Dhone, Pattikonda, Nandikonda, Kurnool, Koilkuntla, Curchum and Markapur taluks of the Kurnool district.
- (7) Tiruturaipundi and Pattukkottai taluks of the Tanjore district.
- (8) Chingleput taluk of the Chingleput district.
- (9) Nanguneri taluk of the Tinnevely district.

Upon representations made by this Government, the Government of India have now issued instructions to the Collector of Salt Revenue, Madras, to the effect that the concession should be restored to those areas of the Presidency from which it has been withdrawn.

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Elections to district boards and municipalities.

72 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to district boards and municipalities are;

(b) the names of those district boards and municipalities whose elections are proposed to take place in this year;

(c) whether a provisional programme of dates for the conduct of elections in each district has been fixed;

(d) whether any representations have been received from local boards and municipalities and public associations to introduce the system of colour voting to ensure strict secrecy in voting by even illiterate voters; and

(e) what steps the Local Government have taken or propose to take to introduce forthwith the necessary changes in the election rules?

A.—(a) The electoral rolls of all municipalities which were due either to be prepared afresh on account of the ensuing ordinary elections or merely revised, were finally published on or before 30th June 1937.

The preliminary electoral registers of all the district boards to which ordinary elections are due to be held this year have been published.

Elections have not yet been commenced for any of the municipal councils or district boards.

(b) A list^a showing the names of the district boards and municipal councils to which ordinary elections are due to be held this year is appended.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) The answer is in the affirmative.

(e) The Government have published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* the drafts of the amendments to the rules for the conduct of election of members of local boards and the rules for the conduct of election of municipal councillors introducing the coloured ballot box system of voting—vide Notification No. 25 on pages 434 to 437 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 10th August 1937, and Notification No. 51 on pages 450 to 454 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 17th August 1937.

Supersession of local boards and municipalities.

73 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of local boards and municipalities that are at present superseded and the reasons for which they were superseded;

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(b) whether the present Government have satisfied themselves that there are really sufficient grounds to warrant such drastic action in every case; and

(c) if not, whether the Local Government would at least now consider the desirability of examining each case on its merits?

A.—(a) The lists^a of municipal councils and panchayats superseded are placed on the table of the House.

(b) & (c) Matter is under consideration.

Restrictions on Government pensioners standing for elections.

74 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any rules and regulations prohibiting Government pensioners from standing as candidates for elections; and

(b) whether the Government will consider the desirability of cancelling all such rules?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to starred question No. 82.

(b) Does not arise.

Provision of accommodation for leprosy clinics attached to Government hospitals.

75 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many leprosy clinics are attached to Government hospitals in the Presidency;

(b) whether all of them are in isolated buildings or are included in the main buildings themselves;

(c) whether lepers are admitted as in-patients in the clinics or whether they are treated only as out-patients; and

(d) whether the Government have obtained expert medical opinion on the question whether a leprosy clinic, adjacent to the main building, is or is not harmful to the health of the other patients and if so, what it is?

A.—(a) One hundred and twenty-nine leprosy clinics are attached to Government medical institutions in this Presidency.

(b) Some of the clinics are located in separate sheds; other clinics are located in the verandas of medical institutions for want of sheds.

(c) Lepers are treated as out-patients in the clinics.

(d) The leprosy experts are of opinion that leprosy out-patient clinics in medical institutions cannot be harmful to other patients, as the disease is communicable by close contact only.

^a Printed as Appendix III on pages 100-103 infra.

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Measures for the relief of agriculturists and peasants.

76 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state what remedial measures the Government propose to take immediately for relieving the misery of the large mass of peasants and agriculturists on account of the fall in the prices of the produce of the land?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the speech, dated 1st September 1937, of the Hon. the Premier and Minister for Finance presenting the budget for 1937-38.

Withdrawal of the salt concessions conceded to under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

77 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) in how many cases the Government have withdrawn the concession granted under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact to collect salt by the villagers;

(b) why the concession was withdrawn; and

(c) whether the Government are contemplating the restoration of the concession to the villagers?

A.—(a) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to unstarred question No. 71.

(b) The concession was withdrawn from certain areas as it was widely abused in violation of the conditions imposed.

User of the building lately occupied by the Medical School, Tanjore.

78 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what the total cost of building of the Medical School at Tanjore is; and

(b) whether the said medical school has been closed and, if so, to what use the building is being put now?

A.—(a) Rs. 5.24 lakhs including the hostel buildings.

(b) The school was closed in 1933. A fairly large portion of the buildings is being used for hospital purposes—one block as mortuary, one room as a class room for pupil nurses and nursing orderlies, three rooms as stores and one room as a meeting hall for the Hospital Advisory Committee and the staff. Five rooms contain school furniture, records, microscopes and other laboratory articles and museum specimens of the school. Three rooms with the galleries, etc., intact and also the hostel block remain vacant.

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There is a proposal to utilize permanently a portion of the school buildings for hospital purposes. A proposal to increase the bed strength of the hospital is under consideration in connexion with the current year's budget and the additional space required for that purpose is to be found by adapting a portion of the school buildings. It is also proposed to utilize portions of the buildings as quarters for the nursing staff and as a radium block for treating cancer and other malignant diseases. The question of the disposal of the rest of the buildings will be taken up after orders are passed on the proposals mentioned above.

Efficiency of elementary schools in rural areas.

79 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) what the total number of elementary schools in the rural areas in the Presidency is;

(b) how many of them were found ineffective, incomplete and improperly equipped and eliminated in 1936-37; and

(c) whether any warning has been given to the other schools?

A.—(a) The number of elementary schools for boys and girls in non-municipal areas on the 31st March 1936 was as follows:—

Boys' schools	...	...	...	...	41,324
Girls' schools	...	...	...	...	4,254

(b) Recommendations to withdraw recognition or aid were made in regard to 196 schools under local boards and 605 schools under private management. It is not possible to give an exact figure as to the total number of schools from which recognition and aid were finally withdrawn as the withdrawal of such recognition or aid vests with the District Educational Councils.

(c) All managements maintaining inefficient schools have been warned and the new rules recently framed under the Elementary Education Act make it clear that such managements will be penalized.

Collection of market rent in Valparai by the Anamalai Planters' Association.

80 Q.—MR. V. K. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Anamalai Planters' Association in Valparai township, Pollachi taluk, Coimbatore district, is holding a market on a site of 96 cents which was not assigned to them and collecting exorbitant fees from Indian merchants amounting to Rs. 15,000 per year; and if so, in what way the Government are going to help the Indian merchants in reducing the heavy fees?

[14th September 1937]

A.—The Government have no information. Particulars have been called for.

Removal from the Andhra University Library of books on 'Socialism.'

81 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University removed from the Andhra University Library certain books on Socialism; and

(b) whether in doing so the Vice-Chancellor acted on his own initiative or under the orders of the Government; if he had acted under the orders of the Government, whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of such orders on the table?

A.—(a) & (b) The question relates to the internal administration of the University and considering the University is an autonomous body the Government are not concerned with it.

Execution of decrees against the partible permanently settled estates during the last triennium.

82 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state (districtwar)—

(a) how many suits were filed on the security of partible permanently settled estates (controlled by the Madras Estates Land Act I of 1908 as amended by Acts IV of 1909 and VIII of 1934) in the last three years in the Presidency of Madras;

(b) what the sum covered by such decrees passed during that period is;

(c) how many decrees were settled before the final decree was passed;

(d) what the sum covered by such decrees is;

(e) how many final decrees were fully settled before execution proceedings were taken;

(f) what the sum covered by such settlement is;

(g) how many execution petitions were filed to bring the hypotheca to sale;

(h) how many such petitions were settled before the hypotheca was brought to sale;

(i) what the sum covered by such settlement is;

(j) how many partible permanently settled estates were sold for realization of the decree amount;

(k) how many were fully satisfied by such sales;

(l) what the sum covered by such fully satisfied execution petitions is;

(m) how many execution petitions are pending for the sale of the hypotheca properties; and

(n) what the sum covered by such pending executions is?

[14th September 1937]

A.—(a) to (n) The Government have no information and do not consider that the compilation of the information is justifiable in view of the time and labour that would be involved in its collection.

Extension of the area served by the land mortgage bank at Chicacole.

83 Q.—MR. C. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the land mortgage bank at Chicacole is intended only for forty villages in the Chicacole taluk;

(b) that the general body of the bank as at present constituted is against the extension of the area of its operations;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to instruct the department to extend the area of its operations; and

(d) whether the Government propose to abolish the system of nominations to the Boards of Directors of Primary Banks?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b), (c) & (d) Matters are under the consideration of Government.

Gobichettipalaiyam Water-supply Scheme.

84 Q.—MR. D. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the scheme for water-supply for Gobichettipalaiyam stands; and

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to take immediate steps to expedite the scheme?

A.—(a) & (b) A scheme is reported to be under the consideration of the panchayat board.

Stoppage of increments and reduction in pay of some class of workmen in the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and South Indian Railway Companies.

85 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union, Perambur, and South Indian Railway Workers' Union, Trichinopoly, have pointed out to the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, that stoppage of increments and reduction in pay under the rules framed by the Provincial Government under Payment of Wages Act; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

A.—(a) No such representations have been made.

(b) Does not arise.

[14th September 1937]

Applications for appointment of a Conciliation Board or Court of Inquiry under the Trade Disputes Act.

86 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the number of applications received by the Labour Commissioner, Madras, for appointment of a Conciliation Board or a Court of Inquiry under the Trade Disputes Act during the last five years and the action taken thereon?

A.—There was only one application but the Government saw no sufficient reason for the appointment of a board in that case.

Alleged non-recognition by the Railway medical authorities of the medical certificates given by private registered medical practitioners.

87 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that medical certificates of private registered medical practitioners in this Presidency are not recognized by the Railway medical authorities in this Presidency; and

(b) whether they propose to take action against the medical authorities of the Railways who refuse to recognize medical certificates issued by private registered medical practitioners?

A.—(a) The Government have no information. No such case has been brought to their notice.

(b) The Railway Medical Officers in question are the servants of the Railway Companies and are not under the control of this Government.

Insufficient accommodation in the Mental Hospital, Waltair.

88 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of patients coming daily to the Mental Hospital, Waltair, is in excess of the accommodation available;

(b) whether proposals for an extra block for female patients were submitted to the Government and, if so, when; and

(c) when the Government intend commencing the construction work?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes; in January 1937.

(c) The proposals had to be dropped as it was not found possible to provide funds for them in the budget for 1937–38.

[14th September 1937]

Inadequate water-supply in the Mental Hospital, Waltair.

89 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that water-supply has been inadequate in the Mental Hospital, Waltair;

(b) whether the Government were made aware of the sudden failure of municipal water-supply during the two worst summer months of last year; and

(c) what steps the Government have taken to prevent the recurrence of such crises?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) A borewell has already been sunk in the compound of the hospital. Proposals have since been called for for the installation of an automatic electric pump, the construction of an overhead storage tank and for connecting the tank with the borewell.

Abolition of the kancha system in the forests of the Nellore district.

90 Q.—MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the district of Nellore the Forest department abandoned from July 1937 the kancha system, i.e., letting out whole kanchas to one or two of the ryots, and reverted to the permit system under which fees are levied according to the kind and number of the cattle let into the pasture;

(b) whether the charges levied under the kancha system was 4 annas per acre;

(c) whether the rates now fixed under the permit system range from 6 annas per head of sheep, Re. 1 per cow, Rs. 1-8-0 per buffalo to Rs. 2 per cart-load of leaf manure;

(d) when the kancha system was introduced;

(e) what the rates prevailing previously under the permit system were; and

(f) whether the rates now fixed are in excess of those in force under the same permit system about twenty years ago, and if so, whether the Government propose to revert to the old rates?

A.—(a) The kancha system has not been given up but the kanchas are now managed departmentally.

(b) The common rates charged by the kanchadars were—

	RS.	A.	P.
Buffalo	...	...	...
Cow	...	1	4 0
Sheep	...	1	0 0
	...	0	4 0

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(c) The rates now fixed for grazing are as stated except for buffalo which is Re. 1-4-0. The reference to green-manure leaves is not understood.

(d) The system has been in force even from before the advent of the British Government.

(e) The permit system was in force experimentally in some parts from 1898 to 1914 and the rate then in force was 8 annas per cow unit.

(f) Yes; the question of revision of grazing fees is under consideration.

Proposal for the leasing of lanka lands in the Circars to co-operative societies of labourers.

91 Q.—MR. D. R. ISAAC: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) in how many districts in the Circars lanka lands have been leased by the Government to co-operative societies of labourers; in how many districts they have, on the expiry of the leases, been auctioned to the highest bidders;

(b) in how many places the members of the societies have been able to bid successfully with the rich ryots; and

(c) whether the Hon. Minister will consider the desirability of continuing the system of leasing to the societies in preference to auction?

A.—(a) The general rule regarding the lease of lankas is that they should be sold in auction. But exception is made in favour of co-operative societies of depressed classes labourers to whom they are leased without auction. The Government have no complete information on the points referred to by the hon. Member, as the Board of Revenue is competent to pass orders in a large number of cases. From the cases of renewal of the leases of lankas which come up to the Government for sanction, the Government are, however, in a position to say that the leases of lankas are generally renewed in favour of the depressed classes societies.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) A copy * of G.O. No. 2021, Revenue, dated 6th October 1934, is attached. The instructions contained in that Government Order were issued after a thorough investigation of the whole matter. They are calculated to safeguard the interests of the depressed classes labourers; and if those labourers are agreeable to the conditions prescribed in the Government Order referred to above, the lankas are always leased to them without auction. The Government do not consider that any further action in the matter is necessary.

[14th September 1937]

Unpassed clerks in the Judicial Department.

92 Q.—MR. S. CHIDAMBARA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government had received any reply to their reference No. 5416-B-2, Law (General), dated 1st November 1935, asking for information from the High Court as to the number of unpassed clerks in the judicial service who were made permanent long ago but are not allowed to draw increment and as to the number of such men who are allowed to draw increment;

(b) whether the case of the class of unpassed clerks who are not allowed to draw increment was considered by Government, and if so, with what result; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to grant increment to such of those who are not allowed to draw increments?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) & (c) The answer is in the negative.

93 Q.—Withdrawn.

Loans granted for cottage industries under the State Aid to Industries Act.

94 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether any loans under State Aid to Industries Act were granted to cottage industries;

(b) if so, the number of such loans; and

(c) the total value of the same?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) Yes. Only one loan of the value of Rs. 500 was granted to M.R.Ry. K. Subbarayudu of Kondapalle for the development of toy industry.

95 Q.—Withdrawn.

96 Q.—Withdrawn.

Appointment to the post of Secretary to the South Tinnevelly District Board.

97 Q.—MRS. JEBAMONEY MASILLAMONEY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government in its Memorandum No. 11549-1-A-1, L.S.G., dated 28th May 1937, asked the President of the District Board, South Tinnevelly, to submit as early as possible proposals for filling up the post of Secretary to the South Tinnevelly District Board substantively with special reference to paragraph 5 of G.O. No. 980 L. & M., dated the 11th March 1936;

[14th September 1937]

(b) whether two reminders were issued to the President in the first weeks of July and August to expedite the above proposals;

(c) whether he has submitted the proposals or whether he has replied to the reminders at least; and

(d) if not, what steps the Government propose to take on the attitude of the President in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The President has neither submitted the proposals called for from him nor has he replied to the reminders.

(d) Government will consider the point in due course.

Appointment of an unqualified clerk as Accountant of the South Tinnevelly District Board.

98 Q.—MRS. JEBAMONEY MASILLAMONEY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that an unqualified clerk has been appointed as Accountant of the South Tinnevelly District Board, while the clerk possessing requisite educational and accountant test qualifications drawing the same pay have applied for the post;

(b) what the reasons are for not considering those applications;

(c) whether any clerk of the South Tinnevelly District Board appealed to the Government in this matter; and

(d) what the Government propose to do?

A.—(a), (b), (c) & (d) One G. P. Harihara Ayyar, a clerk of the South Tinnevelly District Board, has submitted to Government a copy of the appeal preferred by him against the appointment made by the President, District Board, South Tinnevelly, of K. Sheik Ahmed Batcha Sahib as an accountant. It is alleged that the appointee is unqualified. The original appeal submitted through the proper channel has not yet been received.

Appointment of Inspectors of Motor Vehicles in this Presidency.

99 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR P. M. ATTAKOYA THANGAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Motor Vehicle Inspectors now in service in this Province;

(b) the annual expenditure incurred on account of their salaries, etc.;

(c) when this system was introduced for the first time in this Presidency;

(d) whether prior to the appointment of Motor Vehicle Inspectors, the District Superintendents of Police, Assistant Superintendents of Police and Deputy Superintendents of Police and Circle Inspectors were inspecting the motor vehicles and issuing brake certificates; and

(e) why that system was given up?

[14th September 1937]

- A.—(a) There are 14 Motor Vehicles Inspectors in the Province. Another inspector has recently been sanctioned for the Madras City.
- (b) The expenditure incurred annually on the pay and travelling and conveyance allowances of the inspectors is Rs. 28,800 and Rs. 3,700 per annum respectively.
- (c) The system of appointing Motor Vehicles Inspectors was first introduced in 1925.
- (d) Prior to the appointment of Motor Vehicles Inspectors the inspection of motor buses and taxis and the issue of certificates was entrusted in each district to persons approved by the District Magistrate. On enquiry it was found in 1925 that in most districts the bulk of the inspection was done by District Superintendents of Police.
- (e) The system has not been given up entirely. In districts in which the number of buses and taxis to be examined is large and the income from inspection fees justifies it, the half-yearly inspection is entrusted to a wholtime Motor Vehicle Inspector instead of to the District Superintendent of Police who would otherwise have to devote much more time to this work than was contemplated by the Government. In other districts the work is entrusted to the District Superintendents of Police.

Proposal to withdraw the ban imposed on Government servants from taking part in the organization "International Fellowship."

100 Q.—MR. K. S. PERIASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there is any Government Order prohibiting the Government servants from taking part in the organization 'International Fellowship' by name;
- (b) if so, on what grounds the restrictions were imposed; and
- (c) whether the Government will consider and withdraw such an order at an early date?

- A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member apparently refers to G.O. No. 1554, Public (Services), dated the 23rd September 1936, a copy^a of which is placed on the table. The Government Order explains the reason for its issue.
- (c) The question was subject of correspondence between the Secretary of the Federation of International Fellowships and Government and it was decided in December 1936 not to withdraw the order. The position of permanent Government servants is such that it is not desirable that they should be office-bearers and members of any association which is at liberty to discuss, criticize and oppose the policy and measures of the Government.

^a Printed as Appendix V on page 106 infra.

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Removal of two toddy and two arrack shops in Mangalore to an unobjectionable place.

101 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the fact—
- (i) that the two toddy and two arrack shops in the town of Mangalore, South Kanara, are located one in Kodiyalail ward and the other in Bijai;
- (ii) that the Kodiyalail shops are situated very close to the four schools, (1) Depressed Classes Mission School, (2) Kanara High School, (3) National Besant Girls' School and (4) Government Training School;
- (iii) that they are also very close to the Hindu Brahma Samaj and the Roman Catholic Church;
- (iv) that the said shops are very near the junction of the four roads of Mangalore;
- (v) that the Bijai shops are situated very close to the three schools and one Poor Service Lodge, two Harijan Colonies and one Hindu burial ground; and
- (b) whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to take immediate steps for the removal of the said shops to some less objectionable locality away from the town?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Issue of distraint warrants for the collection of land revenue in the Malabar district.

102 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR P. M. ATTAKOYA THIANGAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there was a standing rule a few years ago that as few distraint warrants as possible should be taken out by the Adigari for the collection of land revenue;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Board of Revenue recently issued orders making it incumbent on Adigaris to take out distraint warrants for every item of land revenue outstanding on the 11th of the kist month;
- (c) what was the total number of distraint warrants issued in the Malabar district in fasli 1340 and fasli 1346;
- (d) what the total number of cases of attachment of movable properties in Malabar in those faslis was;
- (e) what the total number of land attachments in those faslis was;
- (f) how many sales of immovable properties had been conducted in those faslis; and
- (g) when the resettlement was introduced in Malabar?

[14th September 1937]

- A.—(a) The Government are not aware that there was such a rule.
 (b) The Government have no information.
 (c) The figures for fasli 1346 are not yet available. Those for faslis 1340 and 1345 are given below:—

Fasli 1340.. ..	5,954	
Fasli 1345.. ..	16,437	
(d) Fasli 1340	5,093	
Fasli 1345	14,675	
(e) Fasli 1340	861	
Fasli 1345	2,320	
(f) Fasli 1340	187	
Fasli 1345	506	
(g) Palghat and half of Calicut		Fasli 1341
Walluvanad and the remaining half of Calicut		Fasli 1341
Kurumbrânad		Fasli 1342
Ponnani, Ernad, Kottayam and Chirakkal		Fasli 1343
Cochin		Fasli 1344
Wynad		Fasli 1336

Insufficient staff in the Revenue Department.

103 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR P. M. ATTAKOYA THANGAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when the present scale of establishment was brought into force in the Revenue Department;

(b) how many Acts had since been passed by the Legislature which had to be worked by the Revenue Department;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation that the revenue staff in all revenue offices are working overtime and on all holidays and that there is delay in the disposal of petitions and other papers due to insufficient staff; and

(d) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

A.—(a) The Revenue Department came into being before 1800.

The scale of establishment of each office in that Department was fixed when it was opened and has been increased or reduced from time to time according to needs.

(b) The information is not readily available.

(c) & (d) The establishments in Revenue offices have a full day's work to do. Representations of subordinate officers regarding the necessity for the employment of additional staff in their offices are received from time to time through the Board of Revenue and if the Government are satisfied with reference to statistics or other data that the existing staff in any office is insufficient for the disposal of the work to be performed in it, they sanction an additional staff for the purpose.

[14th September 1937]

Hindu-Moslem tension in the City.

104 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the matter regarding the Hindu-Moslem trouble that is now and then occurring in the City in or about the Perambur area has been thoroughly gone into, and whether the underlying cause of it has been found out; and

(b) if not, whether the Government will consider the desirability of taking necessary steps to make an exhaustive enquiry into the matter to prevent such troubles?

A.—(a) & (b) All possible steps to prevent a recrudescence of the trouble are being taken.

Protest against the order demanding payment of kist of Rs. 5 and less in one instalment, in the South Arcot district.

105 Q.—MR. R. PONNUSWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that pattadars in South Arcot district paying a kist of Rs. 5 and less are compelled to pay in one instalment;

(b) how many such pattadars there are in that district;

(c) whether the Government have received mahazars protesting against such collection; and

(d) whether the Government propose to cancel that order?

A.—(a) Yes, as an experimental measure for four years from fasli 1345.

(b) In fasli 1345 there were 188,281 pattas paying one rupee and less and 396,490 pattas paying ten rupees and less but more than one rupee. No information is available as regards the number of pattadars paying Rs. 5 and less.

(c) & (d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to unstarred question No. 19 which was laid on the table of the Assembly on 31st August 1937.

Scheme for improvement of rural communications and water-supply in Village Panchayats.

106 Q.—MR. P. CHINNAMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have issued any instructions to Presidents of District Economic Councils to consider proposals for improvement of rural communications and water-supply from Village Panchayats; and

(b) if so, whether they will lay on the table a districtwar statement of such proposals for which grants have been sanctioned by the District Economic Councils with particulars as to the cost of the scheme and the amount of grant?

A.—(a) No such instructions have been issued.

(b) The question does not arise.

[14th September 1937]

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 (c) The figures for fasli 1346 are not yet available. Those for faslis 1340 and 1345 are given below:—

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(b) The question does not arise.

[14th September 1937]

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL *RE* MADRAS PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND REMOVAL OF DISQUALIFICATIONS BILL.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have to announce to the House that the following message, dated Fort St. George, the 11th September 1937, has been received by me from the Hon. the President of the Madras Legislative Council—

‘ In accordance with Rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Bill, 1937 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1937), as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.’ ”

III.—PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have to announce to the House that the following candidates have been nominated for election of nine members to the Committee on Public Accounts for the year 1937–38:—

- (1) Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.
- (2) Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai.
- (3) Mr. K. Muhammad Rahmathullah.
- (4) „ K. Koti Reddi.
- (5) „ V. J. Samu Pillai.
- (6) „ K. Bhashyam Ayyangar.
- (7) „ V. Nadimuthu Pillai.
- (8) „ A. Kaleswara Rao.
- (9) „ A. Karunakara Menon.

“ As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, nine, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the Public Accounts Committee.”

MR. ABDUL HAMID KHAN:—“ I think Mr. K. Muhammad Rahmathullah was nominated to the Committee. I do not know what happened to him.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ He is a member of the Committee; his name is already there.”

IV.—HOUSE COMMITTEE.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have to announce to the House that the undermentioned candidates have been nominated for election of six members to the House Committee:—

- (1) Mr. K. Bhashyam Ayyangar.
- (2) „ J. L. P. Roche Victoria.
- (3) Dr. (Mrs.) N. Lakshmi Devi.
- (4) Mr. D. Abdul Rawoof.
- (5) „ S. M. Laljan Sahib.
- (6) „ E. Kannan.

[14th September 1937]

[Mr. Speaker]

“ As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely six, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the House Committee.

“ In addition to the above, under Rule 152 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I nominate the following two members to be members of the said Committee:—

- (1) Mr. H. Sitarama Reddi.
- (2) „ M. Pallam Raju.

“ The Deputy Speaker is ex officio Chairwoman of the Committee.”

V.—BOARD OF INDUSTRIES—ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have to announce to the House that the undermentioned candidates have been nominated for election of two members to the Board of Industries:—

- (1) Mr. K. Chandramouli.
- (2) „ P. S. Kumaraswami Raja.

“ As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, two, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the Board of Industries.”

VI.—ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have to announce to the House that the undermentioned candidate has been nominated for election of one member to the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway—

Mr. P. Buchappu Nayudu.

“ As only one candidate has been nominated to fill the one vacancy, I hereby declare him to have been duly elected to the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.”

VII.—ELECTION TO THE SENATE OF THE ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have to announce to the House that the undermentioned candidates have been nominated for election of three members to the Senate of the Annamalai University:—

- (1) Mrs. V. Lakshmi Ammal.
- (2) Mr. A. K. M. Mohidin Maracair.
- (3) Mr. V. S. R. M. Valliappa Chettiyyar.

“ As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, three, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the Senate of the Annamalai University.”

[14th September 1937]

VIII.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38.

(1) DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I now call upon the Hon. the Revenue Minister to move Demand No. I."

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,09,700 under Demand I—Land Revenue to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1938 in respect of expenditure on account of land revenue. Under the old constitution it was not usual to make any statement when a motion was made for a demand but under the new dispensation under which we have provincial autonomy making ourselves responsible to the legislature and through them to the electors in this country, it has become necessary to make a statement which will enable the people to understand the nature and particulars of the demand and the underlying policy."

"One hon. Member of this House observed in the general discussion of the budget that the policy of the present Government is not formed by the Government itself but is being dictated by an outside agency. It is necessary that this matter should be cleared at the very outset. But for the existence and work of the outside agency to-day there would not have been these legislatures with the majorities they command. The present Government would not have come into existence but for the activity of the outside agency, if it can be called by such a name. Indian National Congress is not an outside agency at all. It represents the hopes and the aspirations of the whole nation. It prepared an election manifesto for Congress candidates and called upon the people of the land to return only those who were pledged to carry on what was stated in the said manifesto for the benefit of the people. Elections were fought by the Congress candidates on that manifesto and they succeeded. After being returned in thumping majorities the members of this House elected their Leader who constituted the present Government on behalf of the people and in the name of the people. The ministry and his party are pledged to the policy inunciated in the election manifesto. The policy had been dictated long prior to the formation of this Government by the Congress. The land revenue policy of this Government is therefore the policy declared in the election manifesto. The policy laid down in the manifesto runs as follows:—

"It stands for a reform of the system of land tenure and revenue and rent and an equitable adjustment of the burden on agricultural land giving immediate relief to the smaller peasantry by substantial reduction of agricultural rent and revenue now paid by them and exempting uneconomic holdings so long as necessary with such relief as may be just and necessary, exemption, or reduction in rent and to the same end imposing a graded tax on net income from land above a reasonable minimum. The question of indebtedness requires urgent consideration

14th September 1937] [Mr. T. Prakasam]

and the formulation of a scheme including the declaration of a moratorium, an enquiry into and scaling down of debts and the fixing of cheap debt facilities by the State, this relief extending to the agricultural tenants, peasant proprietors, small landholders and petty traders."

The same is the policy of our Government.

"Our Government will endeavour to do its best to carry out the^{11 a.m.} revenue policy as stated above as far as possible having due regard to the scope of the provincial autonomy that is conceded under the constitution and also all other circumstances. No one should suppose that we will do anything in haste to carry out the policy and the programme referred to above. The Government knows its limitations and its present financial position. Seventy-five lakhs had been cut away by way of remission. The moment we took charge we decided to cut off a good bit of excise revenue because that also formed an integral part of our revenue policy. Notwithstanding these losses, if we should have full freedom to develop our resources and tap fresh sources of taxation, we may be enabled to earn sufficient revenue. In the matter of expenditure, if the legacy that had been handed to us on 14th July last had been confined to 11 crores 75 lakhs as in 1920-21, there would have been no difficulty for us to carry on the administration without any trouble. But it was not so. As against the expenditure of 11 crores 75 lakhs in 1920-21 there was an increase in every year that followed until 1937. The increase was as follows:—

In 1920 it was 1 crore 36 lakhs.
In 1922 it was 1 crore 23 lakhs.
In 1924 it was 1 crore 46 lakhs.
In 1925 it was 1 crore 81 lakhs.
In 1926 it was 2 crores 47 lakhs.
In 1927 it was 3 crores 10 lakhs.
In 1928 it was 4 crores 7 lakhs.
In 1929 it was 4 crores 84 lakhs.
In 1930 it was 5 crores 51 lakhs.
In 1931 it was 6 crores 40 lakhs.
In 1932 it was 4 crores 51 lakhs.
In 1933 it was 3 crores 47 lakhs.
In 1934 it was 3 crores 73 lakhs.
In 1935 it was 3 crores 79 lakhs.
In 1936 it was 4 crores 10 lakhs.
In 1937 it was 3 crores 97 lakhs.

"The total of the increased expenditure between 1921 and 1937 comes to 55 crores and 82 lakhs. When the charge was handed over to us, the expenditure remained at 15 crores 72 lakhs, i.e., nearly 4 crores over that of 1921. During the period of economic crisis in India and world depression, the expenditure of our province was on the increase.

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In 1931 the excess of expenditure remained at nearly 4 crores over that of 1921. As pointed out already, it has become the duty of the present Government to examine the increase expenditure in the previous years and also in that of 1936-37 and devise means to cut the expenditure down as far as possible. In addition to these, a cut in salaries also has become part of our policy. A cut in salaries is not proposed merely because the services have been overpaid but it is because the country is so poor that it cannot afford to bear the top heavy expenditure any longer. If the country should be flourishing like some other countries of the world, the present Government would not grudge to give to the services even more than what they are getting to-day. But it has not been so, and it has become the duty of the Government and the legislatures to see that the coat is cut according to the cloth. The increase of expenditure appears at page 22 of the Budget memorandum. No one can contend after knowing the facts that what is proposed by the Government is not reasonable. Some Members in the course of the general discussion remarked in this House or in the Upper House that the salaries in Japan were very high. The fact is that in Japan the highest of the railway officials gets only 1/6th of what an official of the same rank gets in this country. The salaries of other officials also are on the same scale. It is true that so far as this province is concerned the system that we have left behind is one that had been built up for over 150 years on its own lines. It is no wonder having regard to all the circumstances that the expenditure in this province was steadily increasing year after year without a proportionate increase on the revenue side as well. This is the first time that the Revenue and the Finance Departments and all other departments of the Provincial Government have been handed over in full into the hands of the people and through them into the hands of the present Government. It should be known that it is the beginning of the new era and it is for the people who have constituted the present Government to regulate the expenditure and collection of the revenues of this presidency. It was contended by some hon. Members that our budget is really a deficit budget. Let us take it to be a deficit budget. Let us also grant that the agricultural indebtedness has reached a breaking point and immediate relief is needed for him. What is the duty of every one of us if we wish to get over the present crisis and give relief to the poor ryots? A reasonable cut in the salaries is the least that could be expected of the services who have been maintained all along by the poor tax-payer. We are not without precedents in this respect. In 1931-32, the Finance Member of the Government of India presented his budget with a deficit of over 19 crores of rupees. The Governor-General volunteered a cut of 20 per cent of his salary. The Governor followed with a cut of 15 per cent. A cut of 10 per cent was levied on the services generally. Such was the response then. Chronic diseases are not less serious than acute or sudden disorders.

"It must also be remembered by the hon. Members of this House that the low level of our provincial revenues, the increased expenditure of the Government and steady increase of agricultural indebtedness

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are not all due to internal causes only. They are due to a large extent to the increase in the exchange rate in 1927 from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per rupee. To maintain the natural ratio for two years artificially at a higher level several crores of rupees were wasted. Thirty crores had been wasted in a short space of eight months. Several crores had been lost in the adjustment of revaluation alone. Some of you might remember the economic crash in this province in 1920-21 when the exchange ratio was raised from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 10d. Persons who were considered millionaires the previous day became absolute beggars the next day after the increase in the ratio was announced. I have pointed to you the total loss incurred on account of excess expenditure since 1921 in this province. I have also pointed out how many crores had been lost since 1921 on account of the excess ratio that was thrust upon the country. The present condition is a heritage of the past. Cut in salaries and in general expenditure have therefore become inevitable.

"Now let us take the demand in question, the total of which is Rs. 27,09,700. The demand is under four heads:—

- (1) Charges of taluk administration in respect of the deputy surveyors,
- (2) survey and settlement in respect of the Central Survey office, the professional survey parties, the Board of Revenue in respect of $\frac{1}{3}$ of their cost debitable to the head of settlement and settlement parties,
- (3) land records in regard to the maintenance of estate surveys and maintenance of municipal and union surveys, and
- (4) assignments and compensations including cost of pensions debitable under the land revenue head and compensations due to various causes.

"The land revenue system necessitates the maintenance of a correct record of each ryot's holdings and of lands occupied by Government and of public bodies and the expenditure therefore under this head is incurred in the interests of not merely the Government but also in the interests of every ryot having a holding in his possession. The Central Survey office is in charge of an Assistant Director of Survey and co-ordinates its efforts with the Board of Revenue in the administration of the survey departments and maintenance of revenue records and registration. With regard to the settlement parties there are now three settlement parties, but under the present policy of the Government the resettlement operations with a view to the enhancement of land revenue on the ground of rise of prices have been stopped.

"The Board of Revenue.—A demand has been made by some Members for abolition of the Board of Revenue. It has already been stated that the Government does not contemplate at present any such thing, but it may be stated now that there may be a transfer of the appellate and revisional jurisdiction of the Board of Revenue to a Special Tribunal under section 296 of the Government of India Act. The Government will not blindly go by previous slogans but examine this and all other questions in the dry light of facts and present circumstances.

"Sir, I move for the grant of this amount."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Before calling upon hon. Members to move their token cut motions, I wish to make a statement. Under the rules, not more than four hours shall be taken up by the Assembly for the discussion of any one Demand. There are 22 cut motions under this Demand. Under sub-rule (3) of Rule 128, ‘when several motions have been given notice of, proposing reductions in the same Demand, they shall be discussed in such order as the Speaker may determine as the most convenient. The order so determined shall not be varied except on a motion accepted by the House.’ I have carefully analysed these 22 cut motions; and in order to give full opportunity for discussion by Members of the various topics under this Demand, I have divided these 22 cut motions into three groups, in order to facilitate discussion. The first group relates to the discussion of the land revenue policy of the Government, and token cut motions Nos. 1 to 10 fall under this group. The next group relates to survey and settlement, and cut motions Nos. 11 to 16 fall under that group. The third group relates to the assignment of lands to Harijans and the landless, and motions Nos. 17 to 22 fall under that group. It will be very convenient for the hon. Members of this House to discuss all the cut motions under these three groups.

“ I now call upon Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai to move the cut motion standing in his name.”

11-15 * DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“ Mr. Speaker,
m. Sir, I rise to move the token cut motion standing in my name, namely,—
‘to reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,09,700 under Land Revenue by Rs. 100’

to discuss the subject relating to the revision of land revenue assessments with special reference to the recommendations of the Land Revenue Revision Committee under the presidency of Sir Norman Marjoribanks. Sir, I have to say with regret that the Marjoribanks Committee report has not been published for general information. I applied for a copy of the report in order that I might intelligently discuss the questions falling under this head in respect of which I have given notice of a token motion. Unfortunately, I have received a reply that the report has not been published and that it is not available for the use of the general public. I should therefore necessarily confine my attention to the information contained in the budget estimates and the published reports. It is a matter of extreme gratification that the introduction of provincial autonomy in our province synchronized with a very prosperous revenue year. One need but have a glance at the opening paragraphs of the Land Revenue Settlement Report for revenue administration: We find: ‘The season was fairly satisfactory. The total extent of ryotwari holdings increased by 14,822 acres. The total assessment on holdings showed an increase of Rs. 1,34,000 over six crores of rupees in the previous year. The total area cultivated on ryotwari holdings increased by 568 lakhs of acres,

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and there were already 20 million acres. Seasonal remissions decreased by 8 crores and fixed remissions have also correspondingly decreased. The amount of revenue remitted was 91 lakhs against 103 lakhs of the previous year. Miscellaneous revenue increased by 11 lakhs.’ There has been an increase in this manner all round in the several branches of land revenue administration. Unfortunately, if one looks deeper into the figures presented to us both by the budget and by the administration report from which I have just now quoted, it will not take one very long to find out that the condition of the ryot side by side has considerably deteriorated. There is a portion relating to coercive processes in the land revenue report which shows that an extent of about 26,000 acres have been sold for purposes of realizing land revenue arrears, and there has been an increase in the land sales. As we who are acquainted with the land revenue administration know, there are several stages in the matter of coercive processes. There are what are called demand notices first, then distraint and attachment notice, then sale notice and finally the actual sale. It is found that there have been sales in respect of 26,721 acres of lands valued at Rs. 7,70,000 have been taken over from the ryots and sold for arrears of revenue. We know, Sir, with what tenacity an ordinary ryot clings to the half-a-cawni of land in his possession. Land is an asset to the villager. It is a power and a prestige to own lands. Here, if ryots’ lands are attached and sold for arrears of revenue, it shows, if anything, that all is not well. I do not wish however to trouble the House on this point for I gather considerable comfort from the reflection that only 26,721 acres were sold out of the total holdings of 27 lakhs of acres, giving us on an average an acre for every thousand acres of land possessed by the ryot. That is not much and I do not therefore labour the point. But, what I wish to point out is, apart from this revenue collection, there is a considerable liability on the part of the ryot. In the matter of loans, he is indebted to Government. No doubt, Sir, 8 crores of land revenue, in other words, 91·5 per cent of the total demand has been collected. That will make us believe that collection work has been getting on very smoothly and that the ryots find no difficulty whatsoever in paying the demand. But, then, Sir, we should not forget for the moment that the ryots are at the same time indebted to Government in the matter of loans given to them by way of Agriculturists’ Loans and Land Improvement Loans. We know, Sir, that the Agriculturists’ Loans Act was recently amended in order to enable the Government to grant relief even in the matter of indebtedness. The ryots have thus become liable to Government at the beginning of the year to an extent of one crore of rupees. At the end of the year, after the loan which fell due during the course of the year has been collected, we are left with 87 lakhs due by ryots to Government. If we take this loan that is hanging heavily about the neck of the ryots into account, we find, Sir, that we have no reason to congratulate ourselves on the ease with which very heavy collections have been made. After all, the loan due to Government is but a fringe of the total agricultural indebtedness. As we all know, Sir, an officer

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of the I.C.S. cadre, Mr. Sathianathan, was placed on special duty a couple of years ago to enquire into agricultural indebtedness and his report is very illuminating on this question. He found that the loan due to Government by the ryot was only 1 per cent; the loan due to the co-operative societies 6 per cent and the loan due to others 93 per cent, so that, Sir, we find that in addition to the loan due to Government there is the loan due by the ryots to others, which, is to say the least, very appalling. Sir, this has been contributed more or less on account of two disturbing factors in the life of a ryot. One factor which is outstanding is the periodical resettlement. Settlements are revised every thirty years ordinarily. These periodical resettlements failed to take into consideration the necessity for an increase or decrease of revenue. As a matter of course, resettlements were ordered and every resettlement increased the burden of taxation. It was never intended that resettlements should be calculated to give an increase over the existing revenue. Sir Thomas Munro, the father, so to speak of ryotwari settlement in this Presidency, wrote with reference to the Bellary district which was settled by him personally as follows:—'The last point for consideration is whether the reduction of 25 per cent should be permanent or not. I think that it ought to be so; I do not think it has never to be altered, but that it is not to be altered frequently, but only at distant intervals that the exigencies or the prosperity of the State may demand an increase or admit of a reduction of revenue.' In another place he stated:—'by having such a standard, Government may in every future period raise or lower revenue according to the necessities of the State by simply increasing or diminishing the standard by a certain rate.' Unfortunately, his successors in office somehow or other lost sight of this principle so ably laid down by Sir Thomas Munro and began increasing the assessment as a matter of course at every resettlement, with the result that we now find that the ryots are not in a position to bear the present rates of assessment.

"Sir, let me give you an idea as to the extent that this burden has been pressing upon the ryots. I need but refer the House to one or two figures quoted by Mr. Sathianathan in his report. He says that the debt per head among the ryots is Rs. 211 and per family is Rs. 1,057. The total agricultural indebtedness was put down as 200 crores of rupees. That gives an idea as to how our ryot brethren stand in rural area.

"Sir, in order to bring down this enormous debt hanging over the head of the ryot, it was considered very desirable that land revenue remissions and reduction in land revenue should be granted. It was with that view that the Marjoribanks Committee was appointed. There is the second factor which brought about the deterioration in the condition of the ryot. That factor is the phenomenal fall in prices. As for the phenomenal fall in prices, Sir, I can refer the House to the report of Mr. Sathianathan to show that in respect of wet crops like paddy the fall has been to a third of the prices that were prevailing a few years ago. With regard to the dry crops it is very nearly one-fourth of the original rates. That shows the ryot is very hard hit and

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among those who have suffered to a very large extent are the ryots who hold pattas of one rupee to hundred rupees. These are middle class ryots. Sir, we find from the statistics given in the settlement report that 55 per cent of the pattadars hold pattas ranging from 1 to 10 rupees. Pattadars who hold lands from one rupee down come to 21.5 per cent of the total number of pattadars. That means that 76.5 per cent of the total pattadars, in other words more than three-fourths of the pattadars in the Presidency, are small pattadars. It is they that have been hit hardest with reference to the phenomenal fall in prices and with reference to the raising of land revenue under the periodical resettlements. It has been stated, Sir, by some that this result in the condition of the ryot is due to fragmentation of holdings. There is one school of thought which considers that consolidation of holdings would remedy this evil. There is another school of thought which says that fragmentation should not be prevented by any legislation for the simple reason that it does away with the spirit of adventure and independence. Whatever it may be, it is not possible, Sir, to consolidate holdings all at once. Fragmentation of holdings has come to stay and it will be there human nature being what it is. Every ryot clings passionately to the piece of land paying assessment from earnings drawn from elsewhere. Sir, if I made all these remarks I made them, only with a view to focus attention on the necessity of introducing immediately relief measures in the shape of reduction of revenue to the ryots who have been clamouring for reduction all these years. It has been stated by the Hon. the Revenue Minister, Sir, that 75 lakhs have been set apart for remission purposes and that this would meet the present demand. It would not meet the present demand. As I have already shown the indebtedness of the ryot is very large and unless substantial cuts are introduced in the rates of assessment under which he is at present groaning, there will be no real relief. I would therefore, Sir, very respectfully urge upon the attention of the Hon. the Minister in charge of Revenue not to postpone giving effect to the recommendations of the Marjoribanks Committee. I may be prevented from entering into any detailed examination of the recommendations of the committee for the simple reason that the committee's report is not available for the public. But from the scrappy information one was able to gather from newspaper extracts one is induced to think that if the recommendations are given effect to the ryots who have been very hard hit would receive considerable relief in the matter of assessments. While on this subject, Sir, I would very much like to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Revenue to one or two points in the matter of land revenue assessments that are going on in the districts. One is unauthorized cultivation. There are large tracts of land, Sir, still available for cultivation. I find from the administration report that there are 11 million acres of waste land ready to be brought under the plough. Sir, if these 11 million acres which are available for the purpose of cultivation apart from the 32 million acres already brought under the plough, are assigned, this would give considerable relief to the ryots who are already on the margin of starvation. This could be

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brought about only by a substantial reduction in the rates of assessment which have been unwittingly imposed by a number of officers for getting the original intention underlying the ryotwari tenure in this Presidency. From the unauthorized cultivation of lands which are available for the purpose of assignment I find that the revenue derived during the year is six lakhs. There is another class of lands called poramboke lands which are occupied from time to time by ryots who are anxious to have a living out of the land. These poramboke lands are not available for assignment. 'Once a poramboke always a poramboke.' Poramboke is a piece of land set apart for the common use of the ryots. It should on no account be occupied or cultivated. If the village officers and the lower subordinate revenue officials are vigilant about it, it is just possible to prevent the ryots' from squatting upon the porambokes like cattle-stand, grazing ground, thrashing floor, burial ground, water-spread, meant for common purposes. If that matter is properly brought to the notice of the ryots and adequate steps are taken before ever a ryot squats upon such land it will not be necessary to deal with the ryots later on. Unfortunately on account of certain amount of laxity on the part of the revenue officials such lands are allowed to be occupied with the result that a revenue of three lakhs is derived from that source. I am not objecting, Sir, to the ryots occupying land which is meant for cultivation. But occupation of lands not meant for cultivation places in the hands of the subordinate officials and village officers an engine of oppression with which they can tease or rack-rent the ryot. It behoves the Government, Sir, to do away with these sources of revenue, viz., unauthorized occupation of land available for cultivation and occupation of poramboke lands. The best manner of doing that is to take a catalogue of all available lands which are meant for cultivation and assign them with as much rapidity as possible. There should be no more land available for unauthorized cultivation if such vigilance is exercised when darkhast applications come in for land. Occupation of poramboke lands should be prohibited altogether and should be never looked upon as a source of revenue. While on this I should very much like to say a word about the tank-bed lands which are taken up by poor people for cultivation during summer. When water in the tanks recedes poorer ryots step in and cultivate cucumber and melons. I find, Sir, that quite a decent income has been made by the department under this head. Sir, very poor ryots cultivate cucumber and melon and the ryots who resort to this sort of cultivation eke out a very doubtful livelihood. It would be well, Sir, to throw open tank-bed lands for such cultivation and Government ought not to make it a source of revenue. Melons and cucumber after all pay very little and the poorer ryots who do occupy the tank-bed lands without permission for the cultivation of these seasonal crops should be altogether exempt from the payment of any assessment whatever. Finally, Sir I would refer the hon. House to the collection of interest on arrears of land revenue. That is also an item, Sir, contributing to the general revenues from land. The ryots are now charged interest at the rate of 6 per cent on the arrears due under the Revenue

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Recovery Act II of 1864; at that time probably money was scarce. At any rate it did not flow as freely as it does now. Now when the rates of interest have been reduced all round and we could easily raise in the money market any amount of money on smaller rates of interest, it does not seem to stand to reason that the poor ryots who are unable to pay land revenue kist in time should be mulcted to the extent of 6 per cent on the arrears of land revenue due by them. It is my humble suggestion, Sir, that steps should be taken immediately to remedy this defect and to bring down the rate of interest. One finds under the State Aid to Industries Act, interest is charged on the loans advanced at not less than one-half per cent above the rate at which the Madras Government have last borrowed for the provincial loan account. If Government are allowed to charge only one-half per cent over the rate at which they are able to raise the loan, we know as a matter of fact that the Hon. the Premier has been able to successfully float a loan at 3 per cent in the open market, half per cent over three per cent would give considerable relief to the ryot who pays 6 per cent at the present time.

"This would also indirectly help the tenants in the zamindari areas, on the analogy of the interest collected from the ryotwari areas. Under the Estates Land Act half per cent per mensem is charged. This comes to 6 per cent per annum. Whatever relief is given to the ryotwari tenant might be given to the zamindari tenant. On this principle, Sir, reduction in the rate of interest will give considerable relief to the ryot population.

"I crave your indulgence, Sir, to say a few words regarding the 11-45 a.m. waste lands available for purposes of cultivation. I have already referred to the extent of waste lands by saying that there are 11 million acres available under cultivable waste, other than fallow, which could be taken up for cultivation. Sir, would it not be right for me to make a suggestion to the Hon. the Revenue Minister to devise a scheme by the means of which colonization would be thought of. We find, Sir, the other day, the Syndicate of the Annamalai University threw open a portion of the land under the control of the University, for the purpose of cultivation by student-farmers. That seems to be a capital idea which could be developed by the Hon. the Revenue Minister with reference to the large extent of waste lands available for purposes of cultivation in the ryotwari area. Ten acres each have to be set apart for the student-farmers, and they ought to be supplied with a pair of bullocks, a shed and some capital to start with. A co-operative society may be formed which should finance money to the student-farmers to enable them to establish themselves independently on these farms, and to see that it is made possible for them to eke out their livelihood. It is calculated that the land under the management of the student-farmer will bring in about Rs. 25 per mensem as remuneration for his labour. Sir, if such a scheme could be devised by Government with reference to the large area of waste land available for cultivation, I think it would be a step in the right direction.

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"I am very thankful to you, Sir, for having permitted me to take up such a long time, to point out the reforms which would considerably benefit the ryot, for whom we have much sympathy and to whom we have made considerable promises of affording relief."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Diwan Bahadur Appadurai Pillai has moved his cut motion to reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,09,700 for Land Revenue by Rs. 100, on Demand I, moved by the Hon. Minister in charge of Land Revenue. The Movers of the other cut motions may speak upon this motion without formally moving their token cuts, if they so choose. Mr. Appadurai Pillai's motion is now before the House for discussion."

* MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cut motions standing in my name are:

(1) To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,09,700 for Land Revenue by Rs. 100.

(To elicit information as to what steps the Government has taken on the Marjoribanks Committee's Report.)

(2) To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,09,700 for Land Revenue by Rs. 100.

(To discuss the land revenue policy of the Government.)

(3) To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,09,700 for Land Revenue by Rs. 100.

(To urge on the Government the immediate necessity of placing land tax on a statutory basis.)

"I take it that these three motions come under one group. There is another cut motion in my name which is:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,09,700 for Land Revenue by Rs. 100.

(To press on the attention of the Government the necessity of discontinuance of settlement operations in future.)

"Sir, my object in moving these cut motions is neither to embarrass the Government that has come into existence only recently nor to find fault with the Government for failure to inaugurate a new policy of land revenue within the short time of its acceptance of office. On the other hand, my object is to elicit information as to what its future policy would be and to invite their attention to the unsatisfactory and inequitable policy of land revenue that has been prevailing in this Presidency from the beginning. I really deem it a privilege, Sir, that I am discussing the land revenue policy when the representatives of the people are in office—and from the trend of events and from the declared policy of the party in power—it is not an unjustifiable hope that the present Government will initiate measures to overhaul the whole system of land revenue with a view to doing justice to the ryots. It is gratifying to note, Sir, that the Government has already taken steps to constitute a Committee elected

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by the Member of the Legislature to investigate into the land revenue system prevailing in zamindari and other proprietary estates with special reference, as it is said, to the judicial interests of the tenants in relation to the landlord and also into the rent and other processes connected therewith with a view to bringing in legislation which would deal squarely and equitably with the ryots. I am sure the people as well as the representatives of the people in this House are extremely grateful to the Government for taking that step. But, Sir, this refers only to a portion of the ryot population. The land revenue system obtaining in ryotwari tracts is as unsound and as unsatisfactory as, if not more unsatisfactory than the land revenue system prevailing in the zamindari tracts. Therefore, I fervently appeal to the Government to take immediate steps to overhaul the land revenue system in the ryotwari tracts also and place it on a statutory basis. No doubt, Sir, the cut motion No. 2 given by me is to elicit information as to what steps the Government has taken on the Marjoribanks Committee's Report."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Am I to understand that the hon. Member is discussing the land revenue policy without formally moving his cut motion No. 2? He may discuss the whole policy under the head Land Revenue on the motion already moved by Mr. Appadurai Pillai. The other cut motions need not be formally moved."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Yes, Sir. The object of my cut motion is to elicit information from the Government whether it has adopted the Marjoribanks Committee's Report. It is moved not with a view to finding fault with the Government for not adopting the report, on the other hand, for taking objection to the Government as it seems to me, for adopting it. I find, Sir, from the Budget Revenue Estimate Rs. 75 lakhs have been deducted from the revenues of this year as a concession to the ryots. This is the figure recommended by the Marjoribanks Committee. But it is a little disappointing to find that the Hon. the Premier has not thrown out even a hint in his Budget speech as to what the future policy of this Government will be with regard to the land revenue system. No doubt, Sir, the Marjoribanks Committee has gone further than the previous Governments. It has laid down some principles also. But my contention is that the very basis of the land revenue system is inequitable and wrong.

"The Marjoribanks Committee treated the symptoms but not the disease. As I have already mentioned during the general discussion on the budget, the land revenue system in this Presidency was based on the theory that the sovereign, as the proprietor of the soil is entitled to a distinct share in the profits of the soil as the landlord, that the money that is paid by the ryot is rent and not tax. Whatever may be the justification in the past for collecting this high rate of land tax, neither the Hindu Government nor the Muhammadan Government in the olden days claimed proprietary rights in the soil. As early as 1901, the Government of Lord Curzon thought that the land revenue system in this country was unjust and inequitable. And the Joint Committee of

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the House of Commons and the House of Lords were also of the same opinion. It thought that the time had come that this land revenue policy must be embodied in a law in respect of determination of assessment and valuation and so forth. No doubt, Sir, in some provinces, some attempts were made at legislation, but nothing came out of them. So the position is that the land revenue system in this Presidency at least is not embodied in statute. The settlements that are made are all based on executive instructions, and the land revenue tax that is collected is based on half the gross produce after deducting the cultivation expenses. This procedure must certainly be condemned. Further, there are uncertainties with regard to the basis of assessment and also with regard to the rates of assessment. As I said, settlements are made by executive authorities, and executive authorities may change their opinions and so there is no stability. Besides it is the settlement officer that determines the rates of settlement. A mere comparison with other taxes will clearly show the great handicap the ryot is suffering from. While in the case of income-tax payer, the law is clearly laid down—he pays from six pies to twelve or fifteen pies in the rupee, in the case of a ryot it is not so and he has to pay 8 annas in a rupee on his income. Secondly, whereas in the case of an income-tax payer, the person whose income is derived from other than agricultural pursuits, is exempted from paying any tax at all below Rs. 2,000 of income, in the case of a ryot, whatever may be his income, whether it is Rs. 50 or Rs. 1,000 a year, he is asked to pay 8 annas in the rupee. Further, an income-tax payer pays income-tax in progression from six pies in the rupee to twelve or fifteen pies in the rupee according as his income is lesser or greater. But in the case of the biggest ryot who may be earning Rs. 20,000 the same flat rate is fixed, as for the ryot who gets Rs. 50 a year. Is this not an anomaly?

“Again, Sir, the ryot is the sole direct revenue payer to the provincial Government to the tune of seven crores and odd including irrigation charges and the remaining revenue is derived from indirect sources, to which the ryot also, I am sure, makes the greatest contribution. Whether you derive the income from grazing fees or from stamps, it is the ryot that makes the contribution to it. I do not wish to draw the picture of the ryot as it is now. There will be occasion for me to discuss the adequacy or inadequacy of the relief of Rs. 75,000 that is made. But I shall say this, that the whole burden of direct taxation is placed upon the ryot. May I remind the Hon. the Revenue Member and the other Members on the Treasury Bench of the just principle that should be followed in the matter of taxation, viz., that it should be levied on all classes of persons that constitute the people of the province in proportion to their ability to pay? That is the only true and just policy to be followed. But what is happening now? The burden of tax sits very heavily on the poor who are unable to pay and very lightly on the rich who are well able to pay it. It must be proportionate to the ability of those who pay. If that principle were adopted, many of the difficulties that the Government is confronted with will disappear.

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“Now, Sir, every day we read of peasant marches and workers' organizations; the country is full of them. It ought to serve as a warning to the Government for taking immediate steps to overhaul the land revenue system and redistribute the burden of taxation equitably and proportionate to the ability of those who have to pay. The man who is capable of paying must be made to pay and the man who is unable must be exempted. Again, the compulsory contribution which you take for running the Government is not to be a guarantee for any quantitative return. The person who is rich must be made to pay and he cannot claim any quantitative return. That must be the principle governing this contribution. We must keep clearly in mind these two principles in the matter of taxation.

“Now I would put forth some suggestions for consideration—

- (1) That an immediate and thorough enquiry should be set on foot with a view to distribute the burden of taxation equally on different classes of persons in proportion to their ability to pay.
- (2) As a consequence, the land revenue system should be embodied in a statute.
- (3) That a peasant's annual income below a certain level should be exempted from tax, and peasants as well as other classes who derive their income from sources other than agriculture, above a certain limit, should be taxed in proportion to their ability to pay.

“These are the few suggestions I have to make, and I certainly believe that the Government which ventured to introduce prohibition which should account for a loss of 4 crores of rupees, will not find it very difficult to take up this task of redistribution of taxation according to the paying capacity of the people and bring in a new era of prosperity to the oppressed peasant and worker and make a real man of him.”

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“Mr. Speaker, this subject of land revenue policy was discussed in the previous Council year after year, and the land revenue system was condemned as antiquated and out of date. But they suffered thinking that this bureaucratic Government was not capable of feeling with the people, was unsympathetic and that the people's Government would be coming into power very soon.

“Sir, in the second and third Councils there were Members of the Congress Party who took part in the debate and criticized the action of the then Government very strongly and condemned them. The Members of the Congress Party then said that when they came into power they would not only place the land revenue system on a statutory basis, but they would also see that the heavy burden of taxation was reduced to a reasonable extent. This arbitrary system of fixing and levying taxation is very harmful and capable of doing a lot of mischief. This periodical survey and settlement is also the result of not having a statutory system of taxation. According to the present rule every thirty

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years a resettlement is to be held and the object is to raise the taxation. In our part of the country resettlement was held twice and every time they raised the tax by 12½ per cent and 18 per cent respectively. So what I request the Government to do is to take up this question and see that a legislation is introduced soon placing the land revenue system on a statutory basis.

“ The other important question which has been agitating the mind of the public is the reduction of land-tax which is very heavy now. Not only in the former Councils, but also in public meetings, and also in their recent election manifesto the Congress Members held out a hope that, the land tax would be reduced. This was the chief reason why people came out in large numbers to support the Congress candidates in their elections. At any rate, that was one of the chief reasons that induced me to support the Congress Member who stood in my district. (‘ Hear, hear.’) This I can prove, Sir, and the Congress Member from my constituency will, I hope, bear me out in my statement. So the least thing that Government can do is to reduce the land tax by 33 per cent. Now the peasants are groaning under this heavy burden and it is a well-known fact that in our part of the country not only movables but also the lands have been sold for arrears of land revenue. There is an instance in our district where a ryot was imprisoned for his inability of paying assessment. This shows how heavy the burden of land tax is in South Kanara. Though all these things were put before the Government before, the then Revenue Members could not do anything or were not capable of doing anything, though the previous Revenue Member was very profuse in his sympathetic replies. There is a proposal now to give a remission of Rs. 75 lakhs. But I think this proposal was made by the previous Government themselves and we hoped that when this Government came into power much more would be done. Of course I do not blame the Government for not having done so soon, because I feel that they have not had sufficient time to adjust matters as only very recently they took up office. However I submit that what we want is not remission, but reduction. Remission was made year after year by the previous Government. Some remission would be given one year and then people would higgie next year also and something again would be given and so on. In that way remissions were being given. But that is not what we want now. We want a permanent reduction and that soon before a legislation is launched leisurely for systematizing or regularizing the land revenue system. If Government should do so, it would show the earnestness and sincerity of the present Government in giving relief to the people.

“ May I speak about the second group, Sir? ”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ If you want to speak and if you have got anything definite to speak about the second group you can move it now. I have classified all the cut motions under three heads so as to give opportunities to Members for specific suggestions being made and specific discussion being carried on under these three heads. If hon.

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Members do not want to exercise their right but want to take the opportunity of expressing their views in one speech, they are entitled to do so.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ So, I shall move the next motion which stands in my name and which runs as follows:—

‘ To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,09,700 for Land Revenue by Rs. 100.

(To discuss the survey and settlement policy of Government especially with reference to South Kanara as settlement rates were imposed there on a faulty calculation.)’

“ Sir, the assessment in South Kanara as fixed by the former Rajas was only one-sixth of the gross income. Later on the Vizianagaram Rajas raised it to one-fourth. The Muhammadan Kings Hyderali and Tippu Sultan doubled it, of course to suit their own needs for the time being. Without following any system or anything like that, the British Government took up that system and continued that system and Sir Thomas Munroe, the first Collector of South Kanara, introduced the system of tharavu and according to that system land tax was to be levied permanently. But the Government slowly introduced survey and settlement and confiscated the right of the people in forests and to make the matter still worse, darkhast rules were also introduced by which the people lost their proprietary right altogether for the waste lands which they had been enjoying along with the people of Malabar. Now, Sir, in Malabar, people need not pay tax for the waste lands unless they cultivate them. Only for the lands they have brought under cultivation, they have to pay assessment. In South Kanara even if the land does not yield one pie, being waste lands, they will have to pay for that, because the Government have confiscated their proprietary right to waste lands. The people of South Kanara sent in memorials that they should be treated just as the people of Malabar but in vain. Now there is a glaring mistake that has been committed in the settlement and if Government are not able to set right this mistake, the faith of people in South Kanara at any rate will be very much shaken; because the Government have not only increased the tharavu rate but also during the resettlements in 1902 adopted a false principle and made mathematical mistakes in the calculations of net outturn per acre and also in calculating the commutation price of paddy. So, I suggest that it will be very easy for the Government to find out the mistake made in fixing the net outturn and the commutation prices; because they have as one of their Parliamentary Secretaries a gentleman who has made a special study of these matters and he will be available for them to find out whether what I have said is correct or not. I do not want a reply to this question just now; because the other day a deputation waited on the Government and represented the grievances of the people concerned and the Government after listening to the deputation sympathetically has promised to consider the matter. I only hope that the Government will consider the suggestions and do what is necessary.

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"With regard to the Marjoribanks Committee, I beg to state that they did not go into all the questions that were referred to them, probably because they had no time or they thought that in view of the coming into power of a popular Government very soon it was unnecessary for them to go into them. They thought it better perhaps to leave the matter to be decided by a Government which had the confidence of the people. Sir Norman perhaps very wisely did not waste time, energy and money by going into those details. But I hope that the present Government will now go into all those questions and see that justice is done.

"Sir, South Kanara has not been done full justice by this committee and they crave for full justice. The district has been mentioned more than once in the report of the Marjoribanks Committee. Nothing more. There is some recommendation about darkhast lands also, but that does not go very far. I leave everything to the Government to examine and see what all things have been done by the Marjoribanks Committee and what still remain to be done. With these words I move the motions."

* **MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, since two of my hon. Friends, have already spoken on the subject, it is not my intention to detain the House for any length of time. I have given notice of a number of cut motions, but since you have classified them into three groups and since I feel there is not going to be enough time to take them up one after another, I shall briefly refer to all three categories under which my motions fall.

"In the first place, Sir, the object with which I wanted to move the motions which stand in my name was to find out from the Government whether they have devoted any attention at all to the reform of the present system of assessment of cultivable lands. It is a well-known fact, and it will bear repetition, that to-day the condition of the cultivators is not what it should be or what it was some years ago. Time and again the plight of the cultivators has been brought to the notice of the Government and they have shown all along merely lip sympathy and it was only under great stress that they thought of giving some relief by way of remissions to the extent of Rs. 50 or Rs. 70 lakhs. I expected, Sir, that the new Government would have resorted to some new orientation of that policy, but on the other hand, I find that have given us no indication of what exactly they propose to do with regard to revising the system of assessment. There was a time when probably the half-net principle on which the present rate of assessment is based was sound, reasonable and to the advantage of the cultivator. But during the last decade or two, cultivation has become so impossible, and so unprofitable that except for the fact that cultivation has been carried on as a family occupation from generation to generation, and except for the further fact that people carry on cultivation because their ancestors had left them lands which they could not dispose of and have to cultivate under any circumstances, no one would resort to it in

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these days. Sir, certain ryots organizations and individuals in the South Arcot district have worked out the cost of cultivation including in it every item of expenditure relating to it from the sowing of the seeds to the marketing of the produce and the paying of the kist to Government. It has been shown that the ryot instead of making any profit out of cultivation, invariably suffers a loss. The loss is a little less in the case of lands classed as first rate irrigation lands. But in the case of lands which depend mainly on rain water, the loss is immense and cultivation has ceased to be productive for many long years now. Then, Sir, the difficulty with regard to seeds, the difficulty with regard to fertility of the soil and the costly manure, the difficulty with regard to the non-availability of the manure at the season and above all the failure of rains—for these lands depend on timely rainfall—all these difficulties have made cultivation least thinkable. In these circumstances, Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether they mean to adopt the policy of continuing the half-net principle which is still in vogue or abandon it. There is every justification, Sir, for reducing the land revenue. The Government have no doubt very generously set apart Rs. 75 lakhs for giving remissions but will that satisfy the requirements? Has there not been a cry that the Government should revise the policy of land assessment? No doubt the previous Government gave up all further resurvey and settlement and that was a great relief to the poor cultivator. But is that policy going to be accepted by the new Government? Have they acquiesced in the declaration of policy made by the late Government? Or are they going to revive and renew these resurveys or are they going to accept the recommendations of the Land Revenue Committee in that connexion. These are some of the points on which I would like to have information and the cultivators too would like to have information.

"I would also like to know, Sir, what exactly are the methods and measures which the Government propose to take to increase the fertility of the soil, to increase the marketing facilities, to provide easy means of conveyance and to eliminate the various causes which lead to the failure of crops so frequently? There are areas in certain districts which are over-flooded during the rains and vast fields are washed away by water. Are the Government taking any steps to provide against such things by means of drainage schemes in order to help cultivation? Are they going to increase the road communications? Are they going to increase the facilities for marketing? Are they going to put in the possession of the cultivators in an increasing degree the discoveries of science in the field of agriculture? Are the demonstrations that are taking place on the various agricultural farms going to be conducted in such a manner as to be of benefit to the cultivators and to help him to increase the fertility of the soil and the productivity of his land? With reference to all these matters I should like to have information from the Government. Above all I should like to know from the Government what principle they are going to adopt in regard to the assessment of land? Are they going to go back to the principles enforced by the Mughals before the advent of the British Government

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or are they going to continue the present principle which is no more in the interests of the cultivator and the ryot? These are the various problems which the present Government should address themselves to and enunciate that policy.

“Sir, while speaking on this subject, I would like to suggest that there is a great scope for retrenchment in the Revenue Department. There are so many supernumerary officers who do not have enough work. From my experience of the mufassal—I have been a frequent visitor to the mufassal and I spend a very large part of the year in my district and in my village—I can speak with a certain amount of experience and personal knowledge and say that several taluk offices require overhauling. The staff does not seem to have work for the six or seven hours of the day. Certain revenue divisions may be abolished. The other day I put a question to the Hon. the Revenue Minister as to whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of staff or to amalgamate divisions which are now in charge of Divisional Officers, Deputy Collectors and Sub-Collectors and so on. But no satisfactory answer was given. You know, Sir, there was a time when Deputy Collectors were entrusted with a large amount of work of several departments. Owing to reorganization several duties which were once performed by these Deputy Collectors or even Collectors have been assigned to various other officers. Various other departments were formed and they were entrusted with these things. The local board work which the Deputy Collectors were doing was taken over by the local bodies themselves. The income-tax work which was once done by the Deputy Collectors and the Collectors is now taken away from them. There are several such functions and duties which they were once doing but which they have now ceased to do. On the other hand it may be argued that probably the work they have to do in other directions has increased, but I find that the argument will not hold water. The work has not increased except it be that on account of the rousing of the public conscience there has been an increase in the number of petitions with regard to grievances that exist in the district and call for redress on the part of the officers concerned. But the redress given has been unsatisfactory. It may be that the number of petitions has increased but most of them find their place in the waste-paper basket. It cannot be that these officers always attend to the just grievances that are brought to them from time to time. I would therefore request the Government to re-organize and overhaul the entire revenue administration in the districts. There is every scope for it and I venture to suggest that by so doing there will be great advantage to the province both financially and otherwise.

“There is one other thing to which I should like to refer and that is the policy of the Government with regard to the sales of land for default in payment of land revenue. This question has always been agitating the mind of the poor cultivators and the Government are well aware that owing to the economic depression and failure of crops, the ryots have not been in many cases able to pay their kist in time.

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No doubt under the Revenue Recovery Act the Government have the power to bring the properties of the defaulting ryot to sale, especially those properties which the ryots consider most valuable. But the Government officers in many cases do not conform to the rules laid down by the Revenue Recovery Act. They do not often give notice under form 4 or 5 which would give the people concerned information as to what exactly the Government or the Revenue Department propose to do. Nor are these notices sought to be served personally. They are merely satisfied with some compliance somewhere but do not care to make the full and real compliance with the requirements of the law on the subject. They proceed straight to the sale of the property and then, Sir, the cultivator comes to know that his valuable property has been sold away behind his back. The question then remains as to how the property is to be disposed of by the Government.

“It seems, Sir, the Government themselves are very reluctant in re-assigning the lands of the cultivators who lose them. The cultivator is put to tremendous difficulties to get back the land in spite of his having paid the land assessment, though it may be after the due date. In several cases, to my knowledge, cultivators have filed suits to compel the Government to cancel the revenue sales. There is, I must say, great lack of sympathy on the part of the Revenue authorities in the conduct of sales, as well as in the matter of re-assignment of lands that have been once sold. Will the Government make it a policy that all lands once sold away by the Government for non-payment of the kist, should be assigned to the parties—original owners or cultivators—on their paying the defaulter kist within a certain specified time? Why drive these poor cultivators to the Courts of law to compel the Government to set aside the sales which are not conducted in accordance with rules of law or procedure. If statistics are called for, the Board of Revenue will be able to furnish the number of appeals that have been filed by these people to the Board of Revenue at great expense and at great cost to get the sales set aside. Recently there was a judgment of the High Court in which they have stated that the Government is as much a party as any other body or individual and that the Government is bound, as in all matters, to conform to the rules of procedure and the conditions laid down by the Act in the matter of sales and purchase of property by bidders at auction. The Government has hitherto been very irregular—or may I say—very irresponsible—I mean the authorities—in the matter of conducting sales and in converting the properties as Government properties, so that they may get the lands in their hands and re-assign them to whomsoever they please. I would like that these small pin-pricks should be avoided, as the cultivators eventually are made to pay the kist and as it does not remain unpaid. Even after penalising them, after recovering penalty from them for non-payment in the due date, they are made to suffer indescribable hardships and they incur considerable loss. The Government should not put greater and greater burden on the cultivators; it is but fair that it should afford them relief. These things should be attended to by the Government as early as possible. I hope

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the Hon. the Revenue Minister will turn his attention to this very small matter. It must be made a policy that the rules regarding sales which are conducted in default of the payment of kist on the due date, should not be very drastic and they must be liberally interpreted in the case of the ryots. The Government may take all measures to get the kist due to them and then restore the *status quo*.

“Sir, there is one other important question which has been always troubling some of the members who are interested in the public weal at large, viz., the question of the security of tenure of some Government servants who are employed in the Revenue and Settlement Departments. In spite of the fact that the previous Government has declared that there shall be no more re-settlements or re-surveys, we find still that there are very many parties who are continuing in office, and who are carrying on or at any rate supposed to be carrying on the duties of both re-settlement and re-survey parties. It is but necessary for us to know as to what exactly the policy of the Government is in this matter. There are members of these parties who have not been absorbed and who are going on continuing in Government service and the tenure which they seem to possess is precarious. They do not belong to any permanent establishment and I think they are not entitled to any of the privileges of other public servants under Government. I think steps must be taken with a view to do away with this anomalous proposition, with reference to re-survey and re-settlement parties, which are no doubt continuing for 20, 30 and 40 years; yet they have not been made as permanent officials of the Government. I should like to know what exactly the policy of the Government is with reference to these employees of the Survey and Settlement departments. I do not think, Sir, I have anything more to say; I should only like to hear the Government as to what exactly they propose and what they have to say in the matter. I am very sorry that I was not here when the Hon. Minister made his speech when he wanted this demand to be voted by the House. Copies have not been made available to us and it would have been very useful if we can have a copy of the long statement so that we could examine the statement and also get such light as is possible from the statement made by the Hon. Minister.”

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—“Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 27,09,700 for land revenue be reduced by Rs. 100. I would like to know from the Government as to what their future policy is with regard to assignment of lands to those who have no lands. I think the time has come when such a suggestion can be made seriously and with advantage. The Government, I am sure, are interested in what we may call ‘have nots.’ It is no use, to give lands to those who have much already; they may be assigned to those who have none and also to those who have very little to cultivate. I am of the opinion that such a policy is very necessary. There is also the question of large landowners without being able to cultivate them themselves. It is a serious economic wastage. I would suggest that the Government should buy lands from such landowners and assign to the

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landless giving a loan to the ryots for buying the lands. There will be the question of security and other things. But rules could be framed so that such securities as are required may be obtained. Those who have no security to offer, can find sureties who can furnish the security. I think sooner or later, we will have to tackle this problem if we do not want to follow the alternative principles which are being followed elsewhere in other countries, i.e., principles of fascism or communism. I am strongly of the opinion that there are very many members of agricultural classes as well as others who want to buy land but cannot do so for want of money. Of course there must be provision made which should strictly be enforced, namely that the buyers should cultivate the lands themselves.

“As regards the other question which involve the question of policy in the matter of revenue administration, I wish that the powers of control might be vested in some other body, preferably, a local body. I find from the experience of working of the provisions of Local Bodies Act, that there are often occasions in which much inconvenience is caused to small ryots by the exercise of the powers vested in local bodies, panchayats and district boards, and by the exercise of the overriding powers by revenue authorities. I think the Government will do well to take into consideration the question of vesting the administration of land revenue system to one popular body. The Government themselves may create such a body elected from people in both district board areas and municipalities. Of course, the subordinate staff may remain there who will work under the new bodies that I propose which can be constituted under this new proposal. I think it is waste of money to appoint Collectors on two to three thousand rupees for the simple administration of the land revenue system. I do not propose to take up much of the time of the House, as there are other items on which I can offer some more remarks. I hope the Government will consider all these matters when occasions arise.”

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [14th September 1937]

தில் பணம் மிஞ்சினது. இப்பொழுதுள்ள நிலைமையில் ஒரு ஏக்கர் நல்ல தரமான நிலத்தில் பயிரிட்டால் ஒரு ரூபாய் நாலணுவைக்கு மேல் மிஞ்சுகிற நிலை. இரண்டு, மூன்று, நான்கு, ஐந்து, ஆறு, ஏழு தரமாகப் பிரித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இப்படி பிரித்திருக்கிற இடத்தில் இரண்டாம் தர நிலங்களுக்கு பன்னிரண்டணு மிஞ்சுகிறது. மூன்றாம் தரத்திற்கு ஒரு ரூபாய் பத்தணு, நாலாம் தரத்திற்கு இரண்டு ரூபாய் ஐந்தேழுக்காணு, ஐந்தாம் தரத்திற்கு மூன்று ரூபாய் இரண்டணு, ஆறாம் தரத்திற்கு ஒரு ரூபாய் ஒன்பதணு, ஏழாம் தரத்திற்கு இரண்டு ரூபாய் நாலணு அணு மிஞ்சுகிறது. இந்த நிலைமையில் மிராசுதாரர்கள் என்ன செய்வார்கள். இப்பொழுது இந்த நிலைமையில் முடியாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இந்த நிலைமையில் இடைக்கால மந்திரிகள் ஒரு நல்ல திட்டம் செய்துவிட்டுப் போனார்கள். 1913-14-ம் வருஷத்திற்கு முன் ரீசெட்டில்மெண்டுக்கு முன்னால் என்ன தீர்வை இருந்ததோ அந்தத் தீர்வைப் படி வரி வாங்கிக்கொள்வது என்றும் 1913-14-ம் வருஷத்திற்கு முன் ரீசெட்டில்மெண்டு செய்யப்பட்ட ஜில்லாக்களில் மகாயுத்தத்திற்கு முன் இருந்தபடி குறைத்துவிட்டார்கள். செட்டில்மெண்டு டிபார்ட்மெண்டை எடுத்துவிட்டதாகவும் கூறினார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்கள் செய்தது மிகவும் தயாள செய்கையாக இருந்தாலும் அதை நம்புவதற்கில்லை. ஏதச் சமயத்தில் பணம் அதிகமாக வேண்டுமாய் அதிகமாகப் போட்டுவிடுகிறார்கள். அந்தச் சமயத்தில் நிலச்சுவான்தார் களுக்கு மிகவும் நஷ்டந்தான் ஏற்படுகிறது. மேலும் இப்பொழுது அடிக்கிற தீர்வை ஏராளமாக ஏறிவிடும். அந்தக் காலத்தில் நிலவரி கொடுக்கிறவர்கள் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுவார்கள். ஆகையினால் நிலத்தீர்வையை ஒரு ஒழுங்கான முறையில் நிர்ணயித்து ஒரு திட்டத்தை ஏற்படுத்துவது மிகவும் நல்லது. இந்த முறையில் சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்கப்பட்டு சாதாரணமாக நலங்களை புஞ்சையாக மாற்றிவிடவேண்டும். புஞ்சையாக மாற்றிக்கொண்டு தண்ணீருக்கு ஒரு வரி ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். புஞ்சை வரியையும் தண்ணீர் படாமல் ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும். தானியத்திற்கு நல்ல விலை இருந்தகாலத்தில் கட்டுப்படியாக இருந்தது. இப்பொழுதுள்ள நிலைமையில் மிராசுதாரர்கள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இந்தச் சமயத்தில் பணம் வசூல் செய்ய அதிகாரிகள் மிகவும் கடுமையான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்கிறார்கள். வாஸ்தவத்தில் சி.ஐ.டி.களை விட்டு விசாரித்துப் பார்க்கலாம். சிதம்பரத் தாலுகாவில் குழுடிமூலை என்ற ஒரு கிராமம் இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் கிராமத்து நிலங்கள். ஆகையினால் இந்தக் கஷ்டத்தைப் பொறுக்கமுடியாமல் சமீபத்தில் நாலு பேர்கள் தூக்குப் போட்டுக்கொண்டு செத்தார்கள். இதை காலராவினாலோ வேறு எந்த சிக்கினாலோ செத்ததாகச் சொல்லிவிட்டு அவர்களைக் கொடுத்தி பாய்கிறதோ அவைகளுக்கு மாத்திரம் நஞ்சைத் தீர்வையை வசூலிக்கிறதென் வற்றையும் புஞ்சையாக மாற்றிக்கொண்டு புஞ்சைக்குள்ள தீர்வையை வசூல் பண்ணிக்கொண்டு தண்ணீர் பாய்கிற நிலங்களுக்கு தனியாக ஒரு வரி போட்டு வசூலித்தால், அதனால் ரயத்துகளுக்கு ரொம்ப கேஷம் உண்டாகும். இந்த விஷயத்தில் எதிர் காலத்தில் நமது கருணை நிறைந்த காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன் இரண்டு தினங்களுக்கு முன் பரங்கிப்பேட்டையில் ஒரு மகாநாடு நடந்தது. அதில் காங்கிரஸ் நிலத் தீர்வையில் நூற்றுக்கு ஐம்பது குறைக்கிறதாகச் சொன்னது. அப்படிச் குறைக்காவிட்டால் ஏமாந்தவர்களாக விடுவோமென அங்குள்ள மிராசுதாரர்கள் பேச ஆரம்பித்தார்கள். ஆகையினால் காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டில் நிலச்சுவான்தாரர்களுக்கு கூடியவரையில் உதவி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கிராமங்களிலுள்ள நிலைமை மிகவும் கடுமையாக இருக்கிறது. ஒரு மனிதனுடைய வாழ்க்கையில் விதை நெல் வேண்டும், மாடு வேண்டும், குடியிருப்புக்கு

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] 14th September 1937]

இடம் வேண்டும். தீர்வையைக் கொடுக்காவிட்டால் மாட்டை, நெல்லை, குடியிருப்பு நிலத்தை ஏலம் விடுகிறார்கள். அப்படி ஏலம் விட்டால் பிழைக்க முடியாது. அப்படிச் செய்தால் அவனை அடியோடு அழிப்பதாகும். மனைக் கட்டை ஏலம் போடக்கூடாது என்று செக்கண்டரபாத்தில் (Secunderabad) ஒரு விதி இருக்கிறது. அது போல் நமது கவர்ன்மெண்டிலும் ஏலைகள் நிலங்களையும், மாட்டையும் வீட்டையும் ஏலம் போடக்கூடாதென்று கட்டையிடவேண்டும். அறுப்புக்காலத்தில், மாகூல் காலத்தில், தாசில்தார் வரிப் பணத்தைக் கேட்கிறார்கள். தானியத்திற்கு விலை இல்லாத காலத்தில் பணங் கொடுக்கச் சொன்னால் தானியத்தை நஷ்டத்திற்கு விற்று விடுகிறார்கள். அதனால் லாபமில்லை. கவர்ன்மெண்டார் கொஞ்சங் கழித்து வாங்கினால் லாபம் உண்டாகும். சர்க்கார் தீர்வைக்கு வேண்டிய தானியத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நல்ல விலை விற்கும் காலத்தில் விற்று தீர்வையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பீத்ததைக் கொடுத்தால் நன்றாயிருக்கும். ஐந்து ரூபாய்க்கு மேற்படாத பட்டாதாரர்களிடத்தில் ஒரே காலத்தில் வசூலிக்கவேண்டும் என்று சர்க்கார் உத்தரவு இருக்கிறது. ஒருவருக்கு ஐந்து ரூபாய்க்குட்பட்ட பட்டா பலவிருக்கின்றன. அவரை ஒரே காலத்தில் ஐந்து ரூபாய் தீர்வையாதலால் கொடுத்துவிடு என்று சொன்னால் அவர்கள் எங்கே போவார்கள். ஒரே காலத்தில் பெரிய நஷ்டமடைய வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது சர்க்கார் கொண்டுள்ள, தற்காலமுள்ள தீர்வை நிலைமையானது மிகவும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறதினால் கூடிய சீக்கிரத்தில் திருத்தி ஏழை ரயத்துகளுக்கு நன்மை உண்டாக்குவார்களென்று எதிர் பார்க்கிறோம். தீர்வையானது ஏக்கருக்கு பன்னிரண்டு ரூபாயாக ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. பன்னிரண்டு ரூபாய் கொடுத்தால் அவர்கள் அதிக நஷ்டப்படவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. சர்க்கார் தீர்வை ஏக்கருக்கு நாலு ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் பேர்க்கூடாது. நில வரி ஒண்ணேகால் ரூபாய், தண்ணீர் வரி ரூபாய் மூன்று ஆக ரூபாய் நாலரையாக இருக்கவேண்டும். இந்த விதமான ஏற்பாடு காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு நிலங்கள் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்கார் உத்திரவு போட்டார்கள். அந்த உத்திரவானது எட்டுச்சுரைக்காயாயிருக்கிறது. சமீபத்தில் சில அதிகாரிகளைப் பார்த்து நல்ல நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்காக ஒதுக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னேன். அப்படி ஒதுக்கிக்கொடுக்கமுடியாது என்று சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள். சர்க்கார் சட்டசபையைக்கேட்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி விடுகிறார்கள். என் அனுபவத்திற்குத் தெரிந்தமட்டில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு இந்த விஷயத்தில் அதிகாரிகள் அனுதாபங்காட்டுவதாக இல்லை. நல்ல நிலங்கள் விலை உயர்ந்த நிலங்கள் இருந்தால் கொடுக்க முடியாது, ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். தொழுதுரில் ஏராளமான நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு ஷெட்யூல்ட் (Scheduled) வசூப்பினருக்கு அந்நிலங்களை கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கலெக்டரிடத்தில் சொன்னால் சட்டசபையை கேட்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். ஒரு ஏக்கர் நிலம்கூட கொடுக்க முடியாது என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். கடலோ, மலையோ, ஆரோ, ஆகாயமோ, இப்படிப்பட்ட நிலங்களைக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். பயிரிடக்கூடிய நிலமாக இருந்தால் ஏலம் போட்டு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு நல்ல நிலம் கொடுக்கிறதில்லை. ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் சேரியில் நடத்தத்தில் குடியேறி இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்நிலங்களை மிராசுதார் நிலங்கள் என்று கணக்குப்பிள்ளைகள், மணியக்காரர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். சேரியில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் குடியிருக்கிறார்கள். அம்மனைக்கட்டு நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு சர்வ சுதந்திரமாகக் கொடுத்துவிடவேண்டும். அங்கங்கே புறம்போக்கு நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் பயிரிட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தால் கணக்குப்பிள்ளைகள், மணியக்காரர்கள் அவர்களை அந்நிலங்களிலிருந்து அப்புறப்படுத்தப்பார்க்கிறார்கள். எங்கெங்கே ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் புறம்போக்கு நிலங்களைப் பயிரிடுகிறார்களோ அவைகளை அவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று, சர்க்கார் உத்திரவுபோடுவார்களென்று எதிர் பார்க்கிறேன். காட்டில் ஏராளமான நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. Forest poramboke இருக்கிறது. திருச்சிணுப்பள்ளி, தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாக்களில் இருக்கிறது. அங்கே ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் பயிரிடப்போனால் இடைஞ்சல் செய்கிறார்கள். கருணை நிறைந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டார் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு பயிரிடும் அளவு நிலங்களை எடுத்துக்

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you say that, then we will decide whether we can agree to your foregoing the excise revenue.' In reply to that I may say, Sir, that it is not possible for any Government to say who will be the people or the interests that will be assessed hereafter. It is the duty of every one of us in this House to see that the land system is reconstructed and the ryot is restored to a proper position so that he would not be starving hereafter.

"Sir, it was pointed out that 25 per cent remission was suggested a long time back by Sir Thomas Munroe, but for some reason or other in the periodical resettlements the taxes had been increased. Taxes had been increased and the poverty of the people in the country has increased for various reasons as pointed out in my opening statement. Now a 33 per cent cut is demanded in the matter of this tax. Swami Sahajananda, I believe, said that 50 per cent remission or reduction should be granted. The Government would not hesitate to grant 33 per cent cut; you will not hesitate to give even 50 per cent reduction if the House would not hesitate to do so; and perhaps the Government and Government and the House can find a way for reconstructing the land revenue system, so as to run this Government without any difficulty financially. But, under the present circumstances, any such thing will not be warranted. Fifty per cent none of you would ask to be given up. I am sure, many of you would not demand a reduction of 33½ per cent even immediately. Weighing all the circumstances, what the amount is that can be given will be decided as early as possible by the House and by the Government when the matter is ready.

"The fall in prices was referred to. This is a subject about which the country generally is in great ignorance. Who will be responsible for the fall in prices, where the real secret lies, many do not know. Provincial Autonomy is now established. If the real power can be exercised by this Government with the co-operation of all of you, it should not be very difficult to exercise control over the prices in some form or other as early as possible, whatever technical difficulties there might be to start with. If that control is gained, we shall have no difficulty at all. I was told only two days back, in another place, that the prices have recently risen. I know that the prices have risen during the last few months because a direction has been given by that controlling centre, the Bank of England, for the release of some money and the distribution of some money from the banks. The money has been given and the prices have risen. We have no control over that policy. Now, that is why we are in a difficulty. We shall soon have sufficient relief in regard to that matter also.

"Then it was pointed out that the millions of acres of waste land are available for cultivation and the Government should take up this question. I may say that Government have not been guilty of neglect in regard to this matter, but we are anxiously making all the preliminary preparations to know how much land is available and how much land can be made ready for distribution and also amongst whom the land should be distributed. I have received, and the Government have

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received, various complaints that the lands that have been sold in auction were being purchased entirely by those who had enough of money and who were not really in need of any land at all and that the poor people were suffering. It was on account of the various complaints received and the other facts that were put in possession of the Government that some step has been taken with regard to suspension of the assignment or selling of these lands for some time to come, until the Government are in a position to formulate their policy and put their programme before the House and the country.

"Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, has stated that the land-tax should be placed on a statutory basis. He further contended that when the income-tax payer gives only 6 pies in the rupee, why should a man who is in charge of land be made to pay anything more than that. That is a point that has to be considered not in a hurry. But the hon. Member who made that proposal should have also thought of the alternatives. When, out of a total revenue of 15 crores for our province, 7½ crores is the land revenue itself and when that land revenue is reduced to the level of any other tax, where will we be? That is a matter that should be considered. Not only that, but income-tax is so different from land-tax. Either here in this country, or in other countries, land is treated altogether on a different basis. Therefore, care must necessarily be taken to see that the cultivator will not be taxed too much and he will not be ruined altogether. That should be the ideal of all of us. For that purpose, we have to see how and on what basis we have to frame the future programme.

"Sir, reference has also been made to the continuance of the resettlement operations. Resettlement operations were suspended, and what we are going to do largely depends upon the main question itself.

"It is one of the subjects referred to in the Marjoribanks' Report 1-30 p.m. which is not available for discussion either for you or others at present. The hon. Member, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, has spoken about the future policy in the general discussion and again he has laid stress upon the same thing in his speech on the cut motion. The future policy had been stated as far as possible in my first statement and it has been enunciated in a way even in the reply. No one need be in doubt about the future policy and I do not think any one will be in doubt about the future policy. We have to take our own time to place our policy before you for consideration. Mr. Schammad referred to the same points and he referred to the troubles caused by the imprisonment for non-payment of taxes by some persons. There have been no doubts about it. We are considering how all these small difficulties and troubles will be obviated. I am glad with regard to the matters pressed by himself and other friends in regard to South Kanara he does not expect any reply from the Government now. Something has been said about the forest revenue. My Hon. Colleague, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, who is in charge of the forests will reply. The hon. Member, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, said that all the supernumerary officers should be taken off and he pointed out rather graphically how the Government was carried on some years

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ago without all these various departments that have come to existence and yet our expenditure has been increasing. He was saying something about the deputy collectors and their duties in the past and their work now. I stated in the very beginning about all these matters that the Government is giving very careful consideration with a view to frame their programme. With regard to assignment of land, Swami Sahajanda desired that it should be made in favour of Adi-Dravidas, Adi-Andhras, etc. The policy of the Government would be, and I need not lay stress upon it, to give relief to the Adi-Dravidas, Adi-Andhras and all other poor men who come under the scheduled castes and those who may not come under that definition. I do not think I should detain, Sir, the hon. Members long in giving the reply. I believe I anticipated some of these points and stated at the very beginning and whatever was not stated there and particularly about the Marjoribanks' Report and the recommendations made therein will be carefully considered. I think with regard to the future policy of this Government I have stated now enough."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the replies given by the Revenue Minister I withdraw the token cut."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

DEMAND II—PROVINCIAL EXCISE.

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, the Hon. the Prime Minister in placing the Budget before this Hon. House has made it clear that the policy of this Government in regard to excise is total prohibition step by step. As a start it has been decided to take up the district of Salem for total prohibition from the 1st of October 1937.

"Sir, I do not wish to speak at this juncture but I move the demand that stands in my name, that is, that, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rupees 31,08,000 under Demand II—Provincial Excise."

* MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"In moving the token cut against my name, i.e., to reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,08,000 for Provincial Excise by Rs. 100, I would state that the imposition of prohibition in this Presidency, the Salem project being admittedly only the beginning of a policy that is intended to cover the entire province within a few years, is not justified either by human psychology or by economic considerations, and that it is not workable in practice. Sir, in speaking to the House I desire to make it clear that prohibition does not affect me personally. I keep no spirituous liquor in my house, except in the medicine chest. But I strongly feel that there is no justification whatever in imposing on others by force a practice which I personally follow. My attitude, Sir, is exactly the same as that taken by Mr. Nicholas Murray Butler, the President of the Columbia University, on prohibition in the

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United States of America. Mr. Butler pointed out that the 18th amendment was out of place in the laws of a free country. He said, 'the 18th amendment must come out of the constitution because it does not belong there. It affronts and disfigures it. It contradicts every principle on which the constitution rests.' Later on he said, 'We talk of law enforcement. You cannot enforce conflicting laws. Something must give way; and when it is the 18th amendment and the legislation based upon it on the one hand, and the whole body of the constitution, the Bill of Rights, the whole of political English and American History, on the other, which do you suppose will have to give way? It must be this new and invading element in our public law.'

"Here, in India, we see the Congress Party which has from its inception proclaimed its stand for the rights of the people, for the freedom of India, which has made freedom its most important issue, we see this party beginning at the very outset of its constructive career with prohibition, a negation of the rights of the individual to act for himself, an indication that the Government considers that men who are accustomed to imbine alcoholic liquor are naughty children incapable of rightly exercising their freedom. Sir, this infringement of liberty is a dangerous thing, as Congress will soon find out. You are not going to convert a naughty child into a good child by force. On the other hand, there is the possibility that you will only succeed in making that naughty child naughtier, by turning him into a law breaker.

"So much, Sir, for the comparative ethics of prohibition, which is not a measure for temperance, but for total abstinence. I now invite attention to the economic results of the prohibition policy in the United States. The constitutional amendment was passed on the 16th January 1919. The total Senate vote was 84 per cent dry, the total House vote 78½ per cent dry. After the amendment was passed into law, all the other states who had not previously consented voted for the ratification except Rhode Island and Connecticut, i.e., 46 out of 48 states ratified the amendment. No law was even enacted under more favourable conditions.

"Volstead Act provided for drastic enforcement. Even as medicine, no liquor containing more than half a pint of alcohol could be prescribed for the use of any person within days. No physician was to have more than hundred permits within 90 days unless to meet proved emergency needs. With all these stringent provisions the State proved powerless.

"I now come to the cost to the State. The Federal Budget for 1-45 1925-26 carried a total of nearly 22 million dollars for prohibition P.m. enforcement. We here find practically no provision for establishment to enforce prohibition in Salem, but the loss on this one district in Excise revenue alone is 13 lakhs for six months. The Excise revenue for the year 1938-39 is over 3 crores, 87 lakhs of rupees. All this money has to be found from somewhere else.

"What I think is that prohibition is unworkable. When I look for the machinery to enforce prohibition, I am amazed to find that Government has acted on the presumption that no special establishment is

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necessary. Who is to patrol the 7,058 square miles of the Salem district during these six months, to see that the law is enforced? The police constables have their own work to do. Toddy trees abound in this Presidency. Sweet toddy tapping is to be allowed. I have some small experience of the working of the excise laws, having many years ago served for a short time in the Excise department. With a small and scattered force and with numerous pots hanging about trees marked for sweet toddy tapping, who is to check the quantity of lime put into each pot to ensure that the toddy collected is not intoxicating? So far as toddy is concerned, Sir, the wish of the Government to introduce prohibition is foredoomed to failure, unless Government is prepared to pay for a huge special establishment to see that the law is obeyed. And as with toddy, so it will be with country spirits. I remember during the short time that I served in the Excise department, seizing an illicit still in a village not twenty miles from Madras. It was quite a work of art, that still. I see no reason why an inadequate preventive staff will not result in many such illicit stills in the 7,058 square miles of the Salem district.

"Sir, prohibition is going to land this Province in insolvency within two years. It is going to increase taxation in various directions. It is one of the reasons for the proposed cut in the salaries of Government servants, a proposal which has already led to dismay, and which will soon lead to active discontent, and it is not going to make the Presidency better or richer than it has been.

"Then, again, Sir, I would venture to repeat the statement that I made before, that prohibition has really been imposed upon us from outside. I am aware of the fact that the Hon. the Premier disagrees with me on this point. But it seems impossible to tally the statement made by the Hon. the Revenue Member with the statement of the Hon. the Premier. We were told this morning that the Ministry were put in here by a party from outside, an All-India party, and yet we are told that, although the All-India party worked from headquarters outside this province, yet inasmuch as the policy of that party is also the policy of the Ministry, this Ministry is not influenced from outside. This kind of argument does not convince me at all. Are the Ministry here the servants of the Legislature, or are they the servants of an outside party working in Northern India? That is the point at issue. (The Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam: 'They are servants of the people.') For these and the other reasons I have already advanced, I consider that prohibition which at first sight appears as an Angel of Light, is certain to bring in evils far greater than those it is intended to correct, without really removing the evil it is intended to remove."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It has been moved that the allotment of Rs. 31,08,000 for Provincial Excise be reduced by Rs. 100. There are 20 cut motions given notice of under this demand. I suggest that all the Members may speak on the motion made by Mr. Bower, with regard to the Excise policy of the Government."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Both for and against."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, of course. The motion is now before the House for discussion."

* MR. R. M. PALAT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to deal with the morality of compelling the people to accept a policy which perhaps they do not believe in and cannot on that account be compelled to keep up. This has already been dealt with by the previous Speaker. Nor do I wish to speak about the number of people that will be thrown out of employment, because this question has already been raised in the other House and also here. So far as I know, no proper reply has been given to these, and there is no meaning in my raising that point again. I would certainly say that this is a great opportunity for the Congress Party to put into effect the Congress policy of moral persuasion and that they should not simply force prohibition on the people. Sir, when they introduce prohibition, if they really want to see that it is carried out, I feel that they may have to do it by a considerable exercise of physical force, and this, I should say, is going to cause trouble. Therefore I warn them to see that they are able to persuade the people to keep to prohibition without recourse of force. (Interruption.) Sir, an hon. Member is asking, how is force necessary? I say even now force is used to some extent by the excise staff to prevent illicit distillation. We have actually heard of more than one murder, of the members of the excise (laughter). Therefore, I would suggest that the Government should not resort to any sort of force in order to enforce this system of prohibition. Again it is regrettable that suggestions have been thrown out that there should be a sort of spying system to enforce prohibition. At the commencement of self-government in this province, it is certainly undesirable that the authorities should take to such a system.

"Again, I would say that it is most regrettable that Anglo-Indians and Europeans should be exempted from the provisions of this law. Are not Anglo-Indian families as much affected by the evils of drink as the members of any other caste or community in this country? I will challenge any Member on the other side to say that they are not as affected by drink as most other communities. There is no reason at all why the Congress Party should start straightaway with exemptions of certain classes and certain races, who are as much citizens of this country as members of any other community.

"I need not again point out the financial difficulties involved. There would be four crores of deficit if complete prohibition is enforced throughout this Presidency. We have already borrowed 150 lakhs this year. Do you propose to increase our rate of borrowing and what is to be the end of all this? Are the classes which are taxed already going to be taxed further? Is a levy on capital going to be enforced? Will this not end in a class war? So, I would ask the Congress people to think twice before they embark on this policy. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat."

* RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must first congratulate my Hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai for the bold step that they have taken to

[Mr. M. C. Rajah] [14th September 1937]

introduce prohibition in our province. All that I want to say is that immediate total prohibition should be introduced. The talk of prohibition was in the air all along, until that great man, Mahatma Gandhi, took up that issue and made it a live issue in our land. Until then, there was mere talk of prohibition, local option, temperance and all such things. Therefore, we are greatly indebted to Mahatma Gandhi for the inspiration he has given to this movement. We are also thankful to the Hon. Mr. Rajagopalachariar for faithfully carrying out that policy. Through Gandhiji it has become not only a live issue but practical politics.

“Prohibition has been my cry for a very long time, ever since 1917. The Hon. the Prime Minister will bear this out. It was in the year 1920, during the Minto-Morley Reforms, I moved a resolution in the Legislative Council asking the Government to close down toddy and liquor shops within the vicinity of the Madras cheris and also asked the Government to close down liquor shops on the roads largely used by labourers proceeding to or coming from centres of labour. But I could not succeed. I hope under the present Government I will be able to see that object achieved.

“All that I want to say is that prohibition should be started all over the Presidency, not only in Salem. Especially, if you want to try prohibition, you will have to try it in a city like Madras, and that would be the proper test for you to introduce prohibition all over the Presidency. Then, you will be able to carry public opinion with you, and that will go a great deal to help you in this policy. I do not believe in piece-meal introduction in one place. Prohibition requires a big step to be taken all over. I hope steps would be taken to reduce the number of shops at present existing by half or one-third by the next budget and the remaining shops might be dealt with in the following years. By this process we will be able to introduce prohibition throughout the province. I know, Sir, that liquor shops have been located close to the places inhabited by the depressed classes and the labourers. The Government ought to do something to suppress this evil.

“The Government ought to do something to suppress this evil; they should respect the feelings of the people; it should be the business of Government to keep a high sense of duty, and therefore it is absolutely necessary for them to change their present policy. I hope for great things under the present Government; prohibition, untouchability, money-lending and races, all go together; they form one organic unit. Prohibition will certainly raise the standard of living and with that the standard of the people will rise. Government have in the past made many laws to protect the poor from the money-lender. But if they could abolish the liquor shops they would be conferring a greater boon on them than any number of laws intended for their relief. Making money out of the vice of people should not be the policy of the Government. It is for the furtherance of the morality and purity of the nation that we want prohibition to be introduced. To rescue people from the grip of misery and ruin, is a noble mission. As regards revenue, we can in the meantime find out new sources for meeting the deficit.

14th September 1937] [Mr. M. C. Rajah]

“One thing I want to mention. Side by side with progressive prohibition, we must also introduce certain attractions for the people who are accustomed to drink. That is a most vital thing. I will suggest one attraction for the consideration of the Ministry. Side by side with taverns there should be drinking restaurants, where a sort of rice congee with sambhar and sharp pickles (Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddi: ‘Kootukkari also’) could be sold cheap. At the start by way of demonstration they should be doled out free. Government must help the local bodies as well as private people with certain grants to give this congee free for a few weeks. I understand that the present Government is going to introduce a Bill—I have not seen the Bill; but I have also given notice of a Bill—for introducing total prohibition within three years; and I hope the Government will embody some of my suggestions in their Bill, so that it may be acceptable to all sections of the House.”

At this stage, the Assembly adjourned to meet again at 10 a.m. the next day.

[14th September 1937]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 84 asked by Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 14th September 1937, page 27 supra.]

The report R.O.C. No. 14903/37-C-4, dated 14th August 1937, from the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.

[Boards—Panchayats—Tiruvallur—Chingleput district—Complaints against the administration. Reference.—Government Memorandum No. 20758-1 A-2, dated 7th August 1937.]

Representations were received from the rate-payers of Tiruvallur complaining against the maladministration of the panchayat board and Mr. Tampoe inspected the panchayat board, spent a considerable time in listening to both parties together and separately and found that the administration was not bad enough to warrant supersession. He remarked that though the administration was bad in some ways it was a definite improvement on its predecessor for which the existing opposition was responsible. He enumerated certain defects in the administration and gave the President six months' time to rectify them and asked the District Panchayat Officer to visit the panchayat and send a report after the expiry of the time allowed. The chief irregularities were in connexion with the assessment of house-tax and profession-tax, encroachments and bad collection work and the deplorable state of the office. The District Panchayat Officer who inspected the panchayat has reported that the defects in respect of assessment of profession-tax have already been rectified, that there was absolutely no case of unfair assessment during 1936-37 and that the irregularities in respect of house-tax enumerated by Mr. Tampoe had already been rectified by the panchayat.

2. It is true that there has been a considerable waste of expenditure under establishment and I am therefore issuing orders abolishing the posts of one warrant officer, sanitary supervisor and bill-collector with effect from 1st September 1937. Salaries of the staff are being disbursed in the first week of every month and some improvements have been made in rectifying the other defects noticed. Collection work however continues to be bad and the duty of removal of encroachments remains to be attended to. The administration is certainly as a whole inefficient but it is not so bad as in many panchayats. There is for instance absolutely no evidence of deliberate misappropriation. As elections are due in three months it seems desirable to give the people an opportunity of electing more worthy representatives and putting things in order. Supersession of the board does not seem necessary on the eve of general elections. I therefore propose to wait and see whether the administration improves after the elections.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 72 asked by Mr. P. Syamasundara Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 14th September 1937, page 47 supra.]

List of district boards and municipal councils to which elections are due this year.

District boards.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Chicacole. | (7) Vellore. |
| (2) Vizagapatam. | (8) Tiruvannamalai. |
| (3) Bobbili. | (9) North Trichinopoly. |
| (4) Bellary. | (10) South Trichinopoly. |
| (5) South Kanara. | (11) Madura. |
| (6) Chingleput. | (12) The Nilgiris. |

Municipal councils.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Anantapur. | (36) Bodinayakanur. |
| (2) Gudiyattam. | (37) Dindigul. |
| (3) Tirupattur. | (38) Kodaikanal. |
| (4) Tiruvannamalai. | (39) Palni. |
| (5) Vaniyambadi. | (40) Periyakulam. |
| (6) Vellore. | (41) Calicut. |
| (7) Chidambaram. | (42) Cannanore. |
| (8) Cuddalore. | (43) Cochin. |
| (9) Villupuram. | (44) Palghat. |
| (10) Adoni. | (45) Tellicherry. |
| (11) Bellary. | (46) Nellore. |
| (12) Hospet. | (47) Coonoor. |
| (13) Chingleput. | (48) Ootacamund. |
| (14) Conjeevaram. | (49) Karaikudi. |
| (15) Saidapet. | (50) Sivakasi. |
| (16) Tirupati. | (51) Srivilliputtur. |
| (17) Coimbatore. | (52) Virudunagar. |
| (18) Dharapuram. | (53) Salem. |
| (19) Erode. | (54) Kumbakonam. |
| (20) Pollachi. | (55) Mannargudi. |
| (21) Tiruppur. | (56) Negapatam. |
| (22) Udamalpet. | (57) Tanjore. |
| (23) Cuddapah. | (58) Tiruvarur. |
| (24) Proddatur. | (59) Palamcottah. |
| (25) Cocanada. | (60) Tinnevely. |
| (26) Rajahmundry. | (61) Tuticorin. |
| (27) Ellore. | (62) Srirangam. |
| (28) Ohirala. | (63) Karur. |
| (29) Narasaraopet. | (64) Anakapalli. |
| (30) Ongole. | (65) Bimilipatam. |
| (31) Tenali. | (66) Vizagapatam. |
| (32) Mangalore. | (67) Vizianagram. |
| (33) Bezwada. | (68) Chicacole. |
| (34) Masulipatam. | (69) Mayavaram. |
| (35) Kurnool. | |

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[14th September 1937]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 73 asked by Mr. P. Syamasundara Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 14th September 1937, page 48 supra.]

(1)

List of municipal councils under supersession.

Name of the municipal council.	Grounds for supersession.
1 Chirala ..	Unsatisfactory administration and lack of sufficient civic sense on the part of Chairman, Municipal Council, to carry on the functions of the council properly.
2 Peddapuram ..	Faction in the council.
3 Walajapet ..	Existence of faction and complete lack of financial responsibility.
4 Guntur ..	Council's irresponsibility in financial matters.
5 Chittoor ..	Council's irresponsibility in financial matters.
6 Hindupur ..	Council's irresponsibility in financial matters and matters regarding public health.
7 Tadpatri ..	Faction in the council.

(2)

List of panchayats under supersession.

Serial number and name of panchayat.	Date of supersession.	Period of supersession.	Grounds for supersession.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1 Bukkapatnam (Penukonda taluk).	11th June 1936 ..	One and a half years.	Superseded on account of existence of strong factions within the board and the consequent neglect to discharge the ordinary responsibility of the board. The period of supersession was extended because of the continuance of factious spirit among the intending candidates and extension was necessary also to enable the Special Officer to rectify all the defects in the past administration and to complete the improvements already effected by him.
2 Gooty (Gooty taluk).	10th March 1937.	One year	Superseded owing to the existence of serious faction in the panchayat board culminating in a riot in the village, failure of the members to take any interest in the board's administration, deplorable neglect of sanitation, and failure to check and book innumerable encroachments.
3 Arcot (Walla-jah taluk).	5th November 1936.	One year	Superseded because of extreme faction in the board resulting in deadlock and the non-convening of the meetings of the board ever since 20th November 1935 and the indifference of the panchayat board to adopt the budget estimate for 1936-37.
4 Arkonam (Arkonam taluk).	5th February 1937.	One year	Superseded because of extreme faction resulting in failure to adopt the budget estimate for 1936-37 and a general neglect of the administration.
5 Polur (Polur taluk).	5th March 1937.	One year	Superseded because of bitter faction and the obstinate tactics of the majority party in the board in getting meetings adjourned without approving the normal expenditure of the board, deplorable sanitation, neglect of drains, neglect of encroachments, bad collection work, with even members in arrears, financial irresponsibility of the board in confirming the sale of a cart-stand for a ridiculously low sum of Rs. 24 thereby causing a loss of Rs. 300 to the board, collusion of the members with the president in the use of the collected rubbish for manuring his private fields and in allowing him to use the panchayat quarry for private purposes, and failure to effect improvements in spite of the time allowed.
6 Arni (Arni taluk).	5th August 1936.	One and a half years.	The board refused to pass any item on the agenda at its meeting held on 9th November 1935 and 9th December 1935 which resulted in a deadlock in the administration.

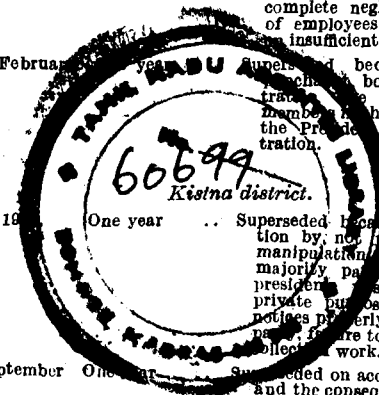
North Arcot district.

Superseded because of extreme faction in the board, deadlock in the administration, and the consequent refusal of the majority to co-operate with the President in carrying on the administration.

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List of panchayats under supersession—cont.

Serial number and name of panchayat.	Date of supersession.	Period of supersession.	Grounds for supersession.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Coimbatore district.			
7 Ganapathy (Coimbatore taluk).	28th September 1936.	One year	Superseded because of the absolute indifference of the board to the administration for two years, very bad collection work, neglect of library, and improper execution of work without inviting tenders.
Chingleput district.			
8 Tiruvottiyur (Saidapet taluk).	1st March 1937.	One year	Superseded because of the indifference of the board to the administration and failure of the president to exercise proper supervision over the work of the office staff resulting in his leaving the office in a factious and chaotic condition and in misappropriation of panchayat funds.
East Godavari district.			
9 Amalapur (Amalapur taluk).	22nd May 1936.	One and a half years.	Superseded because of extreme faction in panchayat, neglect of street lighting and refusal of the board to sanction expenditure, impossibility of holding meetings of the board without police bandobast. Period extended for the reason that faction had not subsided.
West Godavari district.			
10 Somaraju (Hindrapuram (Tanuku taluk).	6th May 1937.	Six months.	Superseded because of the obstructive policy of members due to factions, and failure to frame budget.
Guntur district.			
11 Bapatla (Bapatla taluk).	3rd March 1937.	One year	Superseded because of corruption in administration, non-payment of salaries to staff for long periods, failure of the board to take proper steps to realize the taxes and licence fees due to it.
12 Ponnur (Bapatla taluk).	16th August 1936.	One and a half years.	Superseded because of the attempts of the party in power to cease the membership of persons in the opposition, the giving of contracts without calling for tenders, the failure to check encroachments and to take steps to realize the heavy arrears of taxes due, complete neglect of sanitation and dismissal of employees without framing charges and insufficient grounds.
13 Repalle (Repalle taluk).	16th February 1937.	One year	Superseded because of bitter faction in the board, deadlock in the administration, and the consequent refusal of the majority to co-operate with the President in carrying on the administration.
14 Vuyyur (Gannavaram taluk).	7th April 1937.	One year	Superseded because of neglect of administration by not providing amenities, deliberate manipulation of assessment registers by the majority party under the leadership of the president, misuse of panchayat funds for private purposes, failure to serve meeting notices properly on members of the opposite party, failure to convene meetings, and bad collection work.
15 Ghantassala (Divi taluk).	30th September 1936.	One year	Superseded on account of faction in the village and the consequent deadlock in the administration of the Board.
16 Jaggayrapeta (Nandigama taluk).	7th April 1937.	One year	Superseded because of non-payment of salaries to staff, failure to collect panchayat dues from contractors and the indifference of the panchayat board, malversation and failure to check waste of public funds, pronounced faction and neglect of sanitation.



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List of panchayats under supersession—cont.

Serial number and name of panchayat. (1)	Date of supersession. (2)	Period of supersession. (3)	Grounds for supersession. (4)
<i>Kistna district—cont.</i>			
17 Kaza (Divi taluk).	7th October 1937.	One year	.. Superseded because of execution of works without calling for tenders and by splitting up of estimates to avoid scrutiny by Engineering staff, writing off of panchayat funds without obvious reasons, abuse of power in sale of fishery rights especially after intimation of the acceptance of a previous tender for a higher amount had been issued, abuse of power by the panchayat by confirming the alleged sale of a live tree which the president himself cut over to his side, belated deposit of panchayat funds, in bank and temporary misappropriation of panchayat funds, very bad collection staff, the president and members themselves being in arrears, financial irresponsibility in not enforcing conditions of lease and omission to collect lease amount in time, neglect of street lighting and road maintenance and failure to take action for removal of encroachments.
<i>Ramnad district.</i>			
18 Nattarasankottal (Sivaganga taluk).	18th September 1936.	One year	.. Superseded because of bitter faction, frequent absences of president from jurisdiction, poor collection work, delay in the settlement of house-tax demand, unfair treatment of the Adi-Dravida member, neglect to provide light-take action in pending encroachment cases and acute faction.
19 Paramakudi (Paramakudi taluk).	29th September 1936.	One year	.. Superseded because of utter neglect of collection work with heavy arrears under house-tax and profession-tax, non-settlement of house-tax and profession-tax demand for the then current half-year, failure to supervise the work of the collection staff regularly, irregular contract for lighting, irregularities in the execution of works, neglect to maintain panchayat registers properly, and acute faction.
20 Singampunery (Tirupattur taluk).	24th October 1936.	One year	.. Superseded for neglect of administration by the president, allowing the clerk to absent himself frequently and for prolonged periods and the bill collector to attend to the work of the clerk, keeping panchayat board records in utter confusion, making payments without stamped acknowledgments, neglect to get securities from the bill collector and the clerk, execution of works without proper estimates and check-measurements.
21 Emaneswaram (Paramakudi taluk).	24th May 1937	One year	.. Administration was very unsatisfactory and was allowed to drift. The clerk was allowed to tamper with the records of the panchayat board. The president did not exercise any control over the staff.
22 Abiramam (Mudukulattur taluk).	24th September 1936.	One and a half years.	Superseded because of factions, dissensions and party strife among the Hindus and Muslims materially hindering the proper administration of the Board and endangering the peace and tranquillity of the village.
<i>Salem district.</i>			
23 Mallur (Salem taluk).	1st June 1936	One and a half years.	Superseded because of absolute indifference of the board to the administration, stoppage of collection work from 1st May 1935, lack of entries in the account books and irregular payment to staff.
24 Taramangalam (Omalar taluk).	21st July 1936.	One and a half years.	Superseded because of the irresponsibility of the board in dealing with appeals, acute faction, improper assessment of persons belonging to the minority party.

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List of panchayats under supersession—cont.

Serial number and name of panchayat. (1)	Date of supersession. (2)	Period of supersession. (3)	Grounds for supersession. (4)
<i>Tanjore district.</i>			
25 Vedaranniyam (Tirutturalpundi taluk).	11th May 1936.	One and a half years.	Superseded because of bad collection work resulting in arrears amounting to more than Rs. 4,000 left uncollected with liabilities amounting to over Rs. 3,000, lack of interest on the part of the president in the administration and the frequent delegations of his functions to the vice-president, panchayat board, the habit of the panchayat to lend large sums on pro-notes of doubtful validity without due authority and proper security, failure to maintain accounts properly and to take action in respect of encroachments. The period of supersession was extended.
<i>Tinnevely district.</i>			
26 Ambasamudram (Ambasamudram taluk).	18th May 1936	One and a half years.	The panchayat board abused the powers vested in it by re-electing R. Velayudha Mudaliyar who was removed from the office of the president.
27 Kadayanallur (Tenkasi taluk).	18th February 1936.	One and a half years.	Superseded because of bad collection, delay in the remittance of panchayat collections, failure to take prompt action in respect of encroachments numbering no less than 1,798, non-payment of pay of staff, giving of contract for kerosene oil at exorbitant rates.
28 Veeravanallur (Ambasamudram taluk).	18th June 1936	One and a half years.	Superseded because of bad collection work, failure to frame budget for 1936-37, and to convene meetings to transact business, suspicious and wasteful expenditure of panchayat funds, failure to take action in the hundreds of cases of pending encroachments and neglect in the maintenance of tree-tax registers properly.
29 Thatchanallur (Tinnevely taluk).	18th May 1937	One year	.. Superseded on account of irregular payment of salary of the staff, utter indifference to collection work, failure to maintain accounts properly, failure to make entries in the chitta, lack of interest in the administration on the part of either the president or the members.
<i>Trichinopoly district.</i>			
30 Koothappar (Trichinopoly taluk).	13th April 1937..	One year	.. Superseded because of the indifference of the board to general administration which resulted in a misappropriation of about Rs. 300 by the temporary president who had not arranged to conduct the election of the president for a very long time.
<i>Vizagapatam district.</i>			
31 Tekkali (Tekkali taluk).	15th May 1937	One year	.. Superseded for continued neglect of collection work and omission to create a post of bill collector.
32 Yellamanchilli (Sarvasiddhi taluk).	15th June 1937	One year	.. Superseded for abuse of powers by improper cancellation of licences on false pretences, existence of acute faction in the board resulting in frequent deadlocks, manipulation of registers and the betrayal of nepotism in filling appointments under the panchayat board, indiscriminate launching of prosecutions against persons opposed to the president and for imaginary offences resulting in loss of panchayat funds, arbitrary enhancement of assessments to house-tax and profession tax.
33 Iechapuram (Chicacole taluk).	15th July 1936	One year and one and a half months.	Superseded because of an attempt to manipulate electoral rolls by a premature quinquennial revision of house-tax assessments, undue remission to the market contractor, thus betraying financial irresponsibility and failure to exercise control over the irregular acts of the president.

h September 1937]

that the lankas should be sold in auction. The Collector then asked the Revenue Divisional Officers to report reasonable rentals. The 'reasonable rentals' were fixed on the basis of the reports submitted by the Revenue Divisional Officers and the depressed classes were asked to pay those rentals. In one instance relating to Pedakondur village the rental paid by the depressed classes was Rs. 246-4-0; the 'reasonable' rental then fixed was Rs. 1,003-2-0; but when an auction was held it fetched only a rental of Rs. 475.

4. The Government apprehend that, if the policy indicated by these facts is brought into full effect, it will result in the depressed classes losing a large area of lanka lands.

If, as the Government believe to be the case, the great majority of the members of the depressed classes in the district own no land, the comparison of their number in a village with the number of caste-ryots paying a land revenue of Rs. 10 and less is in effect a comparison of the number of landless men with the number of men who already have lands of their own. If any comparison is to be made, it would be more appropriate to make it between depressed classes and resident caste-ryots having no land and paying no assessment.

5. The Government direct that lanka lands should not be taken away from the depressed classes except where they break the conditions of the lease or refuse to pay an enhanced rent; and that the enhancement of rent should be limited to 33½ per cent over the previous rental. It is not intended that an enhancement by this percentage should be made as a matter of course; the rental for the fresh lease should be calculated with regard to all the circumstances of the case.

6. As regards the enhancement, if any, to be made at the second leasing after the issue of these orders, the Board of Revenue is requested to obtain the orders of the Government six months before the expiry of the leases.

7. It is reported that the depressed classes often sublet the lankas to caste-ryots. Subletting is prohibited under the terms of the lease. It is not the intention of the Government that members of the depressed classes should be permitted to break this or any other condition of the lease with impunity. The Government direct that where the depressed classes sublet the lankas, withhold rentals on the due dates, or in any other way offend against the conditions, the penalty for breaking the conditions of the lease should be rigorously enforced.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

J. A. THORNE,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement).
" Public Works and Labour Department,
" Finance Department,

[14th September 1937]

APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 100 asked by Mr. K. S. Periaswami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 14th September 1937, page 58 supra.]

G.O. No. 1554, Public (Services), dated 23rd September 1936.

The activities of the International Fellowship in certain districts have led the Government to consider the question whether Government servants may be permitted to associate with the Fellowship, and, if so, to what extent. While the activities of the Fellowship are reported to be in large measure economic and unobjectionable, the Government cannot ignore the fact that the dividing line between economics and politics is hard to define. If, in any matter with which the Fellowship concerns itself, the Government decide to adopt a policy which is at variance with that favoured by the Fellowship, Government servants, if they are members of the Fellowship, may become embarrassed. For this reason the Government consider that it is inadvisable for any Government servant to become a member of the Fellowship or any branch thereof and wrong for him to hold office in it. Heads of Departments are requested to see that the Government's wishes in this matter are known and respected by all officers serving under them.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

G. T. BOAG,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To all Heads of Departments including Collectors and District Judges.
„ Departments of the Secretariat (all sections).

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 15th September 1937.

The House met in the Senate House, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

The proceedings commenced with the singing of the Vande Mataram song by Mrs. Lakshmi Sankara Ayyar.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Restriction on Government Medical Officers with respect to private practice.

* 101 Q.—MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government have any policy towards the question of the restriction of members of the Government Medical Service from carrying on private practice in the interests of efficiency and purity of administration and, if so, what it is?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The Government have this matter under consideration.”

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—“May I know how long it will take?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“It is very difficult to give any time-limit. The hon. Member may rest assured that the whole re-organization of the Medical department is just now going on and a report will be published, and the hon. Member will then find all the information that he wants.”

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—“Will the Hon. Minister state whether it has been considered desirable that specialists in Pathology and Bacteriology should be prevented from practising, and will that question be postponed until the Government decide the whole question?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“It is a matter of opinion.”

Supply of electric power for agricultural purposes in rural areas.

* 102 Q.—MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether power is being supplied already in any district or districts for agricultural purposes; if so, what those districts are, what

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the agencies employed are and what the rates charged for pumping and for industrial purposes are; and

(b) whether the Government intend constructing some main transmission lines running through each district straightaway, or whether they intend to wait for definite applications for supply of power before they take up the work of carrying power into the district interiors?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) Power is being supplied for agricultural purposes in the districts of North Arcot, Chittoor, Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madurai, Ramnad, Salem, Coimbatore and the Nilgiris. A statement^a showing the details required is placed on the table.

“(b) Transmission lines are constructed by Government to important load centres. No definite general scheme of rural electrification has been worked out, but questions of extension of supply to rural areas near Government distribution systems are constantly investigated and whenever they are economically feasible schemes are prepared and extensions are undertaken. Some licensees are also undertaking rural distribution in areas covered by their licences.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister as to what is the rate that is obtaining with regard to charge for electricity for agricultural purposes?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“Notice.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the rate in the Mysore State with regard to the charges for the supply of electricity for agricultural purposes?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“I have laid a statement on the table and the hon. Member will find the details about facts there. I cannot tell him off-hand because rates for agricultural purposes vary according to the area, length of the transmission line, load and all that. As for Mysore, I have no information.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to call for the information from the Mysore State?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“Yes, if I think necessary.”

Promotion to the Madras Educational Service of persons without teaching or inspection experience.

* 103 Q.—MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the rules regulating recruitment to the Madras Educational Service by promotion was recently modified so as

^a Printed as appendix on pages 166-178 infra.

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to admit promotion thereto of the officers without any teaching or inspection experience;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) is in the affirmative, whether any officers were so promoted and, if so, how many; and

(c) whether Government have under consideration the question of modifying these rules so as to do away with the promotion of such officers?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) The rules were amended so as to admit of the appointment to certain posts in the Madras Educational Service of qualified Superintendents in the office of the Director of Public Instruction.

“(b) One Superintendent of the Director's office has been appointed to act as District Educational Officer.

“(c) The question whether any alteration is necessary in the rules, is under consideration.”

Protest against the provision of a source for the Manniar direct from the Cauvery.

* 104 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Chief Engineer for Irrigation made a proposal to give a source to the Manniar direct from the Cauvery through the six vents surplus;

(b) whether the mirasidars in the lower reaches of the delta protested against the same; and

(c) whether the Government in passing orders on the proposal will give due weight to the mirasidars' representation?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) The Manniar has been getting its supply direct from the Cauvery through the six vents surplus for the past three years.

“(b) & (c) The ryots of Kesingan and certain other villages of Mayavaram taluk, Tanjore district, represented that their lands situated at the tail-end of the Manniar were being irrigated for a long time from the Kumukkumanniar taking off from the Lower Anicut and requested that the lands may be included in the ayacut of the Lower Anicut System. The Superintending Engineer, Tanjore, stated that the Manniar had been provided with a direct supply from the Cauvery through the six-vent surplus, that the requirements of the Cauvery river have been arrived at after taking into consideration the requirements of the Manniar, that the remodelling proposals in respect of these rivers have been framed to suit the requirements of these lands also and that supply would further be improved as a result of the conversion of the old lock adjoining the six vents surplus into an additional head-sluice to the Manniar. The Superintending Engineer and the Collector considered that there was no necessity to include this extent of about 3,500 acres in the ayacut of the

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Lower Coleroon Anicut System and that it may continue under the Manniar itself. The Board of Revenue agreed with them and the Government accepted the Board's view."

Termination of the services of two Honorary Assistant Surgeons, Ear, Nose and Throat Department, Government General Hospital, Madras.

* 105 Q.—MR. P. S. SRINIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that medical correspondents and medical journals such as "The Antiseptic," "Medical Practitioner" and "Journal of South Indian Medicine" strongly protested at the time when the services of the two Honorary Assistant Surgeons in the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the General Hospital, Madras, were terminated, against the treatment meted out to these honorary officers and demanded a regular enquiry; whether any enquiry was held thereafter; if not, why not;

(b) whether there have been any instances in the past when they were so sent away; and

(c) whether the Government have appointed new honorary officers to fill up the two vacant places in the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the General Hospital, Madras, and if so, who they are, and when and with whose recommendations they were appointed?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The Government have now perused the August issues for 1936 of the three journals wherein protests were made against the termination of services of the two officers. No enquiry has been instituted as the officers were not regular Government servants.

“(b) Yes.

“(c) Yes. In May 1937 on the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, the Government appointed M.R.Ry. N. Srinivasan Avargal, M.B., B.S., D.L.O., F.C.P. & S. (Eng.), as Honorary Assistant Surgeon and M.R.Ry. J. Jacob Avargal, M.B., B.S., as Honorary Clinical Assistant in the two vacancies.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have not got rules with regard to recruitment surgeons?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“Yes, Sir.”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“May I know why their services were terminated?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“Their service was terminated by Government on the basis of confidential reports that were made against them.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Were any enquiries made?”

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“No enquiry will be held in the case of honorary or temporary officers. They are not regular service men.”

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—“May I know whether this question does not raise the issue that the paid men are sitting in judgment over the honorary officers and whether some other method is not necessary in deciding cases wherein the interests of honorary officers are involved?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“It is impossible that the cadre should have two masters, one paid and one honorary. The Government will certainly not find it possible to work the two systems. Eventually, the paid men are responsible to Government.”

Qualifications and pay of the Manual Training Instructor, Government Training School, Badagara.

* 106 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a manual training class in the Government Training School, Badagara, and if so, who the present manual training instructor is; on what date he was appointed; what his qualifications are and what his salary is?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“There is a manual training class attached to this training school. The present Manual Training Instructor, S. Muhammad Haneef Khan, has been holding the post from 17th July 1936. He has read up to V standard and has had training in weaving and rattan work in the Y.M.C.A. Industrial School, Arcacode, and special training in weaving in the Madras Textile Institute. His pay is Rs. 30.”

List of “scheduled castes” as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935.

* 107 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a revised list of “scheduled castes” was drawn up by Government for the purpose of the Government of India Act, 1935, and if so, whether it was done in consultation with the District Collectors;

(b) what the criterion and basis were on which communities were considered as “scheduled castes”;

(c) whether it is a fact that the “Scheduled Castes” Order in Council, in so far as it concerns Madras Presidency, was issued on the authority of the list compiled by the Madras Government;

(d) whether the definition of the “scheduled castes” in the Government of India Act, 1935, was followed by the Government in preparing the list of scheduled castes in this Presidency; and

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(e) whether it was brought to the notice of the Government that some names in the list of scheduled castes apply to certain communities in Malabar who are not covered by the definition in the Government of India Act, 1935, and if so, what the Government did in the matter?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“(a) A list of ‘scheduled castes’ for electoral purposes was drawn up by this Government and forwarded to the Government of India. The list was prepared from the Census Report of 1931. It was not prepared in consultation with the Collectors of the districts.

“(b) The list was based on census classification. The criterion for inclusion in the census list was stated to be ‘untouchability’.

“(c) Yes.

“(d) No precise definition of the expression ‘scheduled castes’ is given in the Government of India Act, 1935. All that was done was to prepare a list of castes, races or tribes to whom electoral protection should be accorded.

“(e) Representations were received in May and September 1936 to the effect that the term ‘Vettuvan’ was somewhat confusing as Vettuvans in certain parts of Malabar are really depressed classes while in certain other parts in the district the community known by that name is not treated as a ‘depressed class.’ Similarly it was represented that the ‘Paravans’ of Malabar were not depressed classes. The Collector of Malabar was consulted on the representations and it was reported by him that there were three classes of Vettuvans in Malabar. The distinction between Ponnani Vettuvans and the Calicut Vettuvans is one of locality only while the Chirakkal Vettuvans are real ‘original tribes.’ The Paravans in Malabar are not ‘depressed classes’ but the Paravans of South Kanara are. In spite of these errors the Government did not then consider it necessary to suggest any change in the list of scheduled castes which by then had already issued.”

MR. E. KANNAN:—“May I ask the Government whether they would be good enough to consider the matter of reviewing the anomalies in the definition?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I shall try to do so, Sir.”

Ban on the teachers employed in aided schools and colleges becoming members of the Indian National Congress.

* 108 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state whether there is any order that teachers working in aided schools and colleges cannot become members of the Indian National Congress and, if so, whether that order along with other orders, if any, on the subject will be placed on the table?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“There are no such orders.”

* Q. 109.*

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Sanction of Government for teaching Hindi in schools under the management of local boards and municipalities.

* 110 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some local boards and municipal councils have passed resolutions for teaching Hindi in schools under them, and, if so, whether these resolutions have received the approval of Government?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“By an order, dated the 25th June 1936, local bodies have been authorized to provide instruction in Hindi in their secondary schools subject to certain general conditions. In view of this order there is no necessity for Government to approve resolutions on the subject passed by individual bodies, so long as they conform to the general conditions laid down in the order.”

MR. E. KANNAN:—“May I know, Sir, whether those conditions to which the Hon. Education Minister has made reference are in certain cases operating against the introduction of Hindi in the schools under local bodies?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The whole matter is at present under consideration, with regard to the introduction of Hindi compulsorily in I, II and III Forms.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask whether the Government Orders state that Hindi must be taken up only after all the needs of several schools under a management are satisfied?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I cannot answer this question off-hand; but I believe the order referred to in my answer does lay down conditions to that effect.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know what the order is?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I shall read that order for the convenience of the hon. Member.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Thanks.”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The Government decline to approve the proposal of the municipal council to introduce Hindi as a compulsory subject in Forms I, II and III of the municipal school. They have however no objection to the introduction of Hindi . . . subject to the following conditions, that attendance at Hindi classes shall be optional and no compulsion shall be brought to bear (on the pupils) to attend Hindi classes. The study shall not be introduced . . . to the neglect of Indian languages or to the detriment of other studies or as a substitute for the study of Sanskrit, unless the parents of the pupils concerned express a desire to that effect, and the essential

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needs of the institution as regards supervision, suitable accommodation of the students and adequate facilities shall be fully met."

"The order is dated 28th November 1935."

10-15 a.m. KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD: "May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of the agitation in the Tamil country against the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject in schools?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: "I am aware of that agitation, but there is agitation both ways."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: "May I ask whether the question of Hindustani or Urdu will be given due weight when the question of introducing Hindi as a compulsory subject in schools is considered by the Government?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: "In view of the sentiments expressed by the Muslim Members of this Assembly, this matter will be taken into consideration."

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: "May I ask the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to withdraw the Government Order which he has just now read out?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: "Yes. When the compulsory introduction of Hindi in Forms I to III is decided, naturally this order must be revised."

MR. E. KANNAN: "May I know when the Government will be able to come to a definite conclusion on this matter?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: "It is difficult to mention dates at the present moment."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: "May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the Congress has come to a decision of having Hindi as the common language?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am not aware that the Congress has come to any such decision."

Measures for the popularization of military training among the educated youths.

* 111. Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state the measures proposed by the Government to popularize military training among the educated youths of this Province?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR: The matter has not as yet received the attention of this Government."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"May I know when it will receive the attention of the Government?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"In the order of practicability and importance of things."

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MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"Is the Government aware that there is an artificial distinction made by the recruiting authority for Indian Army as 'martial' and 'non-martial'?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am not aware of that."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to bring to the notice of the Army Department and the Government of India the importance of giving fair and equal opportunities to all classes of people in this Presidency on a population basis in the matter of recruitment to the Indian Army?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I have already stated that this matter has not yet received the attention of the Government and that it will receive its attention in the order of practicability and importance when it is taken up. The suggestions now made will receive consideration."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government will seriously consider the question of giving military training to the students of all the colleges in this Presidency?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I understand this to be a mere repetition of the original question, Sir."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether Government would give preference, other things being equal, to competent cadets of the University Training Corps in the matter of recruitment to public services in the Presidency?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I cannot say I have understood the question."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"May I ask whether Government would give preference to competent cadets of the University Training Corps, other things being equal, in the matter of recruitment to public services in the Presidency?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I understand the suggestion to be that gentlemen who have undergone military training to a certain degree and up to a certain time should be given preference in the employment of persons in the Civil Services. I do not think it would be fair."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask if the Government is satisfied with the present rate of progress in the military training given to our students in the Presidency?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am not satisfied either with the quality or the quantity." (Laughter.)

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I hope the Government will keep in their minds the policy of non-violence when giving effect to these proposals."

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 THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The policy of non-violence is perhaps difficult for hon. Members to understand. I do not believe that the policy of non-violence is opposed to that of the Government maintaining an army." (Laughter.)

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Premier is aware that in Central Provinces a militia is going to be formed of which the Premier of that province is going to be one of the volunteers?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I have read such things in the newspapers. But I am not sure of the accuracy or the nature of the proposals."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Premier does not think it right that our province should give a lead to other provinces in this matter also?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"We may sometimes allow other provinces to give us a lead in certain matters."

Receipts and expenditure under the Forest department in Salem district.

* 112 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state (talukwar)—

(a) what the total number of acres covered and controlled by the Forest department in the Salem district is;

(b) how many acres of forests are on the plain land and how many acres of forests are on the hills;

(c) what the total outturn from such forests is;

(d) what the establishment charges on account of the same is; and

(e) how many villages are within the boundary of the forests?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—

(a)	Taluk.	Area under control of Forest Department.
		ACS.
Hosur		2,49,231
Krishnagiri		30,833
Dharmapuri		1,64,945
Harur		1,50,242
Salem		96,261
Atur		73,261
Namakkal		37,915
Omair		32,943
Rasipuram		52,388
Total		8,88,019

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"(b) Talukwar figures are not available. The figures according to Forest division are as follows:—

Name of division.	Plain forests in acres.	Hill forests in acres.
	RS.	RS.
Salem, North	7,787	3,24,542
Salem, Central	19,810	3,34,975
Vellore, West	2,316	28,517
Salem, South	700	1,72,372
Total	30,613	8,57,406
		8,88,019 acres.

"(c) Talukwar figures of revenue realized by the sale of the forest produce from these forests are not available. The average revenue for the last three years from the several ranges is as follows:—

Forest Division.	Range.	Amount.
		RS.
Salem North	Anchetti	49,703
	Denkanikota East	1,22,068
	Denkanikota West	76,783
	Dharmapuri	49,057
	Research Range	1,526
	Total	2,99,137
Salem Central	Harur	26,992
	Shevaroy North	15,605
	Shevaroy South	41,448
	Valapady	18,030
	Cauvery	25,715
	Total	1,27,790
Vellore West	Krishnagiri	7,200
Salem South	Rasipur	26,006
	Namakkal	12,314
	Atur	24,586
	Tammampatti	15,082
	Total	77,988
	Grand total for Salem district	5,12,115

"(d) The average rangewar establishment charges were as follows:—

Forest division.	Range.	Amount.
		RS.
Salem North	Anchetti	11,086
	Denkanikota East	21,819
	Denkanikota West	16,493
	Dharmapuri	12,695
	Research Range	5,287
	Total	67,380

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Forest division.	Range.	Amount.
Salem Central	Harur	12,198
	Shevroys North	8,182
	Shevaroy's South	15,246
	Valapady	9,264
	Cauvery	12,828
	Total	57,718
Vellore West	Krishnagiri	6,500
Salem South	Rasipur	14,077
	Namakkal	11,925
	Atur	14,768
	Tammampatti	10,273
		51,043
Grand total for Salem district ..		1,82,641

“(e) The number of enclosure villages within the reserved forests (divisionwar) are:—

Forest Division.	Number of villages.
Salem North	25
Salem Central	68
Vellore West	2
Salem South	22
Total	117

MR. SPEAKER:—“The answer seems to be very long. In such cases the Ministers will have to place their answers on the table of the House.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Are villagers within the forest boundary given any concession for taking their cattle into the forest area?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“There is no concession.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Is the Government aware that it is impossible for the cattle to get into the forests if the concession is not granted to the villagers within the boundaries of the forests?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“There were several such representations from the Salem district and those representations are being considered.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to issue immediate orders allowing at least the minimum area for these cattle within the forest boundaries?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“I can only say at this stage that all these matters are under consideration and they will be decided soon.”

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MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I request the Hon. Minister to give immediate consideration to the subject?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“I have already said that the matter is under consideration.”

Action, if any, taken on the proceedings of the Paparapatti Forest Ryots' Conference.

* 113 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the copy of the proceedings of the Paparapatti Forest Ryots' Conference held on 21st September 1936 sent to the Chief Conservator of Forests through its President, Mr. Nachiyappa Gounder; and

(b) what the steps taken on that communication are?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The matters referred to in the representations are under consideration.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there is no water facility in some of the forest areas for the cattle which are given grazing permits?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“I will find out whether what the hon. Member says is a fact.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I assure the Hon. Minister that a number of cattle are dying within the forest boundary for want of water and may I ask whether the Hon. Minister will consider favourably the question of providing the necessary facilities?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“That is not a question. The hon. Member himself is giving the information he asks for.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask whether orders have been issued with regard to any of the resolutions that were passed at the conference?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The matter has been sent to the head of the Forest department and is under consideration.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask whether is a rule for the Government to take action on receipt of the proceedings of conferences sent to the head of the department or the Minister concerned?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The resolution in this instance was sent to the Minister concerned and it has been sent to the head of the department.”

[15th September 1937]

Reasons for dropping "Thomson's" project in Krishnagiri taluk.

*114 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a project called Thomson's project in the Krishnagiri taluk (near Kaveripatnam, Salem district);

(b) whether it has been dropped; and

(c) if so, why?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member presumably refers to the Krishnagiri Reservoir project. This project was abandoned in 1919 as it was financially unsound and would prevent expansion of existing irrigation lower down the Pennar river.”

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARI:—“Sir, the Krishnagiri project was taken up again in 1935 by the Collector of the district and investigated by him. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the result of that investigation?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“Notice, Sir.”

MR. K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether it was not on the basis of the policy which was then in force that it was considered so and whether he will re-consider the question now?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“I will consider it.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I know whether the opinion of the Government that the project was financially unsound was based on the probable outturn being less than 6 per cent?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“That was also taken into consideration. But recently the rate has been reduced from 6 per cent to 4 per cent, and many projects that were abandoned as being unproductive will be examined again and some of the projects that were abandoned before on the ground of their not yielding 6 per cent may be taken up now. But I cannot say off-hand whether this project will be one among them.”

MR. K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask, Sir, when this reduction to 4 per cent was made?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“That has come in force from the 1st April this year.”

Repairs to tanks maintained by kudimaramat labour in the Salem district.

* 115 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state how many Public Works department tanks which have to be maintained by kudimaramat labour are in need of repair in the district of Salem?

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THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“Government have no information, but have called for a report.”

MR. K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he will place the report on the table of the House when it is received?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“I will consider that suggestion.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I ask, Sir, why this kudimaramat is enforced on the tenants?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“Notice, Sir.”

MR. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—With your permission, may I put question No. 109 on behalf of Mr. Varadachari?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Yes.”

Receipts by the Tirupati Municipality under pilgrim-tax.

* 109 Q.—MR. D. NARAYANA RAJU on behalf of Mr. K. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state what the annual contribution from the pilgrim-tax realized by the Tirupati Municipality is; if there is no fixed contribution what the contribution received by the Tirupati Municipality during the last ten years is?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The income realized by the municipality from pilgrim-tax during the last ten years is shown in the statement below:—

Statement showing the income derived by the Tirupati Municipality from pilgrim-tax during the last ten years.

Year.						Income from pilgrim-tax.
						RS.
1936-37	...	...	...	...	...	11,151
1935-36	...	...	...	...	...	12,041
1934-35	...	...	...	...	...	12,995
1933-34	...	...	...	...	...	15,518
1932-33	...	...	...	...	...	18,651
1931-32	...	...	...	...	...	17,229
1930-31	...	...	...	...	...	20,321
1929-30	...	...	...	...	...	23,777
1928-29	...	...	...	...	...	21,218
1927-28	...	...	...	...	...	25,148 ”

[15th September 1937]

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"Mr. Speaker, I must apologize to the House for not having been present while question No. 102 was called. May I now have the answer to that question?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question was put and answered in the absence of the hon. Member."

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"May I say, Sir, that the question has not been properly understood? And may I request your permission to have it made clear?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"This is not the proper time for it. The question has been put and answered in the absence of the hon. Member."

"I may remind hon. Members that they should be in the House in time to have their questions put and answered so that they may put supplementary questions, if necessary."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—cont.

(2) DEMAND II—PROVINCIAL EXCISE—cont.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The discussion on the 'cut' motion on Demand II will now continue. Hon. Members need not move the cut motions if they so choose; they may speak on those already moved."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous Legislative Council has several times passed resolutions recommending total prohibition. But nothing substantial was done because the Government of the day was simply tinkering with the question and making experiments by closing a few shops here and a few shops there. Now, Sir, I am glad that this Government has taken up the question in right earnest and made it a part of their policy. Sir, I am told that this prohibition order is not to affect Europeans and Anglo-Indians. I do not know, Sir, why this distinction is sought to be made and how it is going to be worked. Will they give free licences to these people or will they also have to pay for these licences? If they have to pay for their licences, will Indians also be allowed to take out licences on payment of a certain amount of fee? If persons can take out licences and continue to drink, then the prohibition order will be evaded because anybody can take out a licence and go on drinking as before. I want to know, Sir, whether the Government are going to make it an offence only to sell liquor or whether they are going to make drinking also an offence. In

[15th September 1937] [Mr. Mahmud Schamnad]

this connexion, I may suggest to the Hon. the Prime Minister to see that hereafter when Members are admitted to the Congress Party they give an undertaking to give up drinking within a certain period."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Are we to discuss party regulations here?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not discuss party regulations here nor seek answers to his questions as he proceeds with his speech."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"However I hope that the Ministerial Party which is responsible for this policy will see that no one on the other side of the House drinks and if there is anyone who cannot help it, he should give an undertaking that he will give up drink within a certain time. (Laughter.) Because, Sir, this will create public opinion against drinking and will encourage voluntary propaganda. Mere prohibition order will not be enough; public opinion will have to be created and some propaganda will have to be made. The total abstinence movement in England had some good effect. The Royal Commission that went into the question in 1932 found that drunkenness was disappearing there."

"Now, Sir, the question of questions is how to make up the loss sustained by this policy of prohibition. Within three years at least total prohibition will have to be achieved throughout the province. That means a loss of nearly Rs. 4 crores. The question now is how to find money. Mere retrenchment, I think, will not be able to give the necessary amount. Cutting of salaries of Government servants is not a proper method; you can go only to a certain extent. If it is done, as is proposed, the efficiency of the services will suffer. Not only that; you cannot get the best men in the country to enter Government service. There are several firms in the province, which pay their servants Rs. 1,000 and more. When such is the case, we can attract only third-rate men; thereby, work will deteriorate; human nature being what it is, there may be temptations in the way and they may become corrupt."

"What I propose is that a heavy duty must be imposed on all shops selling drugs and liquor. For those who want licences, heavy fees must be charged and all luxuries must be taxed; because in addition to this we want also the land tax to be reduced to help other services which help the building up of the nation. Without reducing the salaries of the services, but by taxing all luxuries and by finding other sources of income which will not affect the poor people and the peasants, the necessary amount can be found. If the Abkari department is to be abolished, it has to be done only gradually and the work of the department can very safely be entrusted to the Police department. With these words, I move the cut motion."

[15th September 1937]

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* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! இந்த cut motion ஆனது தீர்மானத்தை எதிர்க்க என்னால் கொண்டு வரப் படவில்லை. இதை ஆதரிக்கவே இந்த மோஷனை நான் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறேன். இந்த மது விலக்கானது நெடுநாளாக வரவேண்டுமென்பது என்னுடைய பிரார்த்தனை. ஏற்கெனவே இதற்கு முன்னிருந்த அரசாங்கத்தில் மது விலக்கினால் ஆபத்து வந்துவிடுமென்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஒரு சமயத்தில் நான் மது விலக்கு அதாவது கள் குடியை அடியோடு ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமென்று பேசினதுண்டு. அந்தச் சமயத்திலிருந்த நிதி மெம்பரானவர் “எங்கள் வகுப்பினருக்கு கிராண்டு வேண்டுமென்று கேட்ட போது மதுவிலக்கை ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டுமென்று ஒரு பக்கம் சொல்லுகிறீர். இன்னொரு பக்கம் உங்களுடைய வகுப்பினருக்கு கிராண்டு வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறீர். கிராண்டு எங்கே யிருந்து கொடுக்கிறது” என்று இடைஞ்சல் செய்திருக்கிறார். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற கவர்ன்மெண்டில் ஏழைகளுக்கு செல்வாக்கு இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஏழைகள் சாதுக்கள் மகாத்மா காந்தியின் கவர்ன்மெண்டு, தென்னாற்காந்தியாகிய, கனம் பொருத்திய சி. ராஜகோபாலாச்சாரியார் கவர்ன்மெண்டாக இருக்கிறதினால் இப்பொழுது மதுவிலக்கைப் பற்றிப் பேச சந்தர்ப்பமிருக்கிறது. ஏழைகள் நன்மையடையக்கூடிய விஷயத்தைப் பற்றிப் பேச இடமிருக்கிறது. இந்தச் சமயத்தில் குடித்துக் கெட்டுப் போகிறவர்களை ரட்சிக்கும் பொருட்டு குடியை ஒழிப்பது எங்கள் ஞாபகம் (சமஸ்கிருதம்)

“சாதுக்களை ரட்சிக்கும் பொருட்டும் கெட்டவர்களை ஒழிக்கும் பொருட்டும் பகவான் ஸ்ரீராமகோபாலானை வருவேன் என்று சொன்னார்.

“அதுபோல் இப்பொழுது மதுவிலக்கை ஒழிப்பதற்கு ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் ராஜகோபாலானை நம்முடைய சபையில் தோன்றி இருக்கிறார். இந்தச் சமயத்தில் மது வென்னும் அரக்கனை அழிக்க கிளம்பிவிட்டார். மது வென்னும் அரக்கனையும் தீண்டாமை என்னும் அரக்கனையும் கொல்லுவதற்கு ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் ஸ்ரீ ராஜகோபாலானை வந்திருக்கிறதினால் நான் ரொம்பவும் மது விலக்கை வரவேற்கிறேன். இன்றைக்கு நேற்றல்ல, இருபது வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்னால் நான் திருச்செங்கோடு, புதுப்பாளையம், காந்தி ஆச்சிரமத்திற்குப் போன காலத்தில் சுற்றுப் புறங்களில் மது விலக்குப் பிரசாரம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று ராஜாஜி காட்டு ஜில்லாவில் மற்றவிடங்களிலும் மதுவிலக்குப் பிரசாரம் செய்துக்கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறேன். ஆகையினால் இந்த மது விலக்குத் தீர்மானமானது பழம் நடுவிப் விலக்கு சன் மார்க்கம், மதம் என்று சொல்லக்கூடியதைப் தருகிறது. மது எவர்களோ அவர்களுக்கு சன்மார்க் கத்தை உண்டாக்குகிறது. இரண்டாவது ஐந்து வருஷங்களுக்கு குடியை நிறுத்தி விட்டால் ஒரு காணி நிலம் குடியினால் ஒழுக்கத்தையும் பொருளாதாரத்தையும் உண்டாக்குகிறது. குடியை அடியோடு வருஷத்தில் குடியை ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார். இப்பொழுது இங்கே இந்தச் சபையில் மகாத்மா வாக எழுந்துள்ள சி. ராஜகோபாலாச்சாரியார் அவர்கள் மூன்று வருஷத்தில் குடியை ஒழித்துவிடலாம் என்று இந்தச் சமயத்தில் என்னுடைய சிற்றறிவுக்குத் தோன்றுகிறதைச் சொல்லவேண்டுகிறது. அந்த மருந்து கடினமாக இருக்கிறது. அந்த மருந்து மருந்திருக்க மாக இருப்பதால் தாங்காமல் போனாலும் போகலாம். ஆகையினால் உலுக்குப் விலக்கை ஒரே அடியாக ஆரம்பிப்பதாயிருந்தால் அது பொருந்துமா என்பது சந்தேகமாயிருக்கிறது. இந்தச் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் எங்களுடைய சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த ஆர். ஸ்ரீனிவாசன் அவர்கள் குடியை எழு வருஷத்தில் ஒழிக்கலாம் என்று

[15th September 1937] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஒரு வாரத்திற்கு எழு நாட்கள் இருக்கின்றன. முதல் வருஷத்தில் ஒரு நாள் இரண்டாவது வருஷத்தில் இரண்டு நாள்; மூன்றாவது வருஷத்தில் மூன்று நாள் குறைக்கிறது. நாலாவது வருஷத்தில் நாலு நாள் குறைக்கிறது. ஐந்தாவது வருஷத்தில் ஐந்து நாள் குறைக்கிறது. ஆறாவது வருஷத்தில் ஆறு நாள் குறைக்கிறது. ஏழாவது வருஷத்தில் ஏழு நாள் குடியை குறைக்கிறது. இப்படி குறைத்தால் ஏழாவது வருஷத்தில் குடியை ஒன்றுமில்லாமல் போய் விடுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்.

“ஆனால் குடியை ஒரே அடியாக ஒழிக்கவேண்டியது நியாயம். இப்பொழுது சேலம் ஜில்லாவில் மதுவிலக்கை ஏற்படுத்துவதால் நமது ஆசாரியார் சுவாமிகள் ‘கலால் வருமானத்தில் இருப்பதாறு லட்சம் ரூபாய் போனாலும் அதனால் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஜனங்களுக்கு மிஞ்சுகிறது’ என்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆகவே, குடியினால் இந்த மதராஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கு வரும் வருமானம் நாலு கோடி ரூபாய் போனாலும் குடியை பூராவும் இந்த மாகாணத்தில் நிறுத்திவிட்டால் அதனால் எவ்வளவோ கோடிக்கணக்கான பணம் ஜனங்கள் (குடிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு) மிஞ்சுகிறது. எவ்வளவோ பெரிய லாபம் அவர்களுக்கு உண்டாகிறது. இந்தச் சமயத்தில் தயவு தாட்சணியமில்லாமல் குடியை நிறுத்தவேண்டியது அவசியமாகும். குடியை சேலம் ஜில்லாவிலோ மற்றுமுள்ள ஜில்லாக்களிலோ நிறுத்திவிட்டால் அங்கே இதுவரை, கன் மரம் ஏறிக்கொண்டிருந்தவர்கள் நாலாயிரம் ஐயாயிரம் பேர்களுக்கு வேலையில்லாமல் போய்விடுமென்று அஞ்சுகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் பணஞ்சாறு ஈச்சஞ்சாறு இவைகளை இறக்கி காய்ச்சி வெல்லம் முதலியவற்றை உற்பத்தி செய்யலாம், ஆகையினால் அவர்கள் வேலைக்கு நஷ்டம் வந்துவிடாது. தென்னை மரங்களில் கள் இறக்காது இருந்தால் தேங் சாய் கிடைக்கும். அதன் மூலம் லாபம் அடையலாம். ஆகையினால் ஒரு விதத்திலும் நஷ்டமில்லை. ஆனால் குடியினால் வரும் வருமானத்தைக் கொண்டு காலேஜ் படிப்பு நடக்கிறது. இந்த வருமானம் போய்விட்டால் காலேஜ் படிப்புச் செலவுக்கு என்ன செய்கிறதுதென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள்.

“குடியினால் ஒருவர் ஒழுக்கம் கெடுகிறது. ஒருவர் ஒழுக்கத்தைக் கெடுத்து அதனால் வரும் பணத்தைக்கொண்டு காலேஜ் படிப்பு மூலம் இன்னொருவர் ஒழுக்கத்தைப் பெருக்குவது பெரிதல்ல. காலேஜ் படிப்பை நிறுத்திவிடலாம். காலேஜ்களை மூடிவிட்டால் படித்தவர்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்டுள்ள வேலையில்லாத திண்டாட்டம் உடனே ஒழியும். பணமில்லை என்றால் சில நாட்கள் யுனிவெர்ஸிட்டியை சாத்திவிடுவது மேலென்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

“நான் இதுவரை மதுவிலக்குப் பிரசாரம் செய்து வந்திருக்கிறேன். என்னுடைய சொந்த அனுபவத்தில் தெரிந்திருக்கிறதென்னவென்றால், கிராமங்களில் மிராசதார்கள் தங்களுடைய ஊழியர்களை “குடிக்காதே” என்று சொன்னால் குடிக்கமாட்டார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு எஜமானனும் தன்னுடைய வேலைக் காரனை “குடிக்காதே, குடித்தால் வேலைக்கு வைத்துக்கொள்ள மாட்டேன்” என்று சொன்னால் குடிக்கமாட்டான்.

“இப்பொழுது காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டாக இருக்கிறதினால் தொண்டர்களை அனுப்பி மிராசதார்களுக்குச் சொல்லி குடிக்கவேண்டாமென்று பிரசாரம் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டால் இது இலேசாக நடக்கும். மேலும் சர்க்கார் அதிகாரிகள் தாசில்தார், டிப்டி கலெக்டர், கலெக்டர் முதலானவர்கள் மிராசதார்களை அழைத்து “குடிக்கவேண்டாம்” என்று பிரசாரம் செய்யச் சொன்னால் எளிதாக முடியும்.

“இந்த விஷயத்தை நான் குறிப்பிடாமலிருக்க முடியவில்லை. இந்தச் சமயத்தில் Economic Council மூலம் லேபர் கிளப்புகள் ஒன்று எங்களுடைய ஜில்லாவில் ஏற்படுத்தியுள்ளார். கலெக்டர் மிஸ்டர் ரெங்கநாதன் அவர்கள், இது ஒரு குடிபோய் இன்னொரு பெரிய குடி உண்டாக்கும். அதாவது கள்குடி போய் தேனீர் குடி வந்துவிடும். கள்குடியை நிறுத்த தேனீர் குடியை

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [15th September 1937]

உண்டாக்குவது பிரயோஜனமில்லை. குடிக்கிற நேரத்தில் சுடச்சுட கஞ்சி கொடுத்தால் இந்தக் குடிக்கிற நினைப்புப் போய்விடும். சாயந்திரவேளையில் சர்க்கார் சொற்ப பணத்தைக் கொடுத்து குடிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு கஞ்சி கொடுக்கும்படி செய்தும் Cinema, gramophone முதலானவை வைத்து வேலை நேரமில்லாத வேளைகளில் அவர்களுக்குச் சந்தோஷமாக காலத்தைக் கழிக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யச் சொன்னால் குடிக்கிறவர்கள் குடிக்காமல் இருப்பார்கள். இந்த விஷயத்தைப் பற்றி ராஷ்டிரபதி M. C. ராஜா அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். சாம்பார் என்று சொன்னதினால் சிரிப்புண்டாக்கிவிட்டது. சாம்பாரைவிட கஞ்சி மேல் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன்.

“இப்பொழுது ஜனங்களுக்குப் பொறுப்பான கவர்ன்மெண்டு இருக்கிறது. இந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டில் நல்ல ஏற்பாடு செய்து மது விலக்கு பூரணமாக வரவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது சேலம் ஜில்லாவில் மாதிரம் அமுலுக்கு வருகிறது. அந்த ஜில்லாவுக்கு மாதிரம் போதாது. எங்கள் ஜில்லாவுக்கு (தென் னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவுக்கு) வரவில்லையே என்று நினைத்தேன். மதுபான கடைகளின் தலையில் சக்கராயுதத்தைவிட்டு கனம் முதன் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அடியோடு நசுக்குவார்களென்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன். எங்கள் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த கனம் V. I. முனிசாமி பிள்ளை அவர்கள் கையில் இந்த அதிகாரத்தைக் கொடுத்து, அவர்களைக் கொண்டு மதுவின் தலையில் அடிக்கும்படி செய்தது எங்கள் வகுப்புக்கே பெரிய கீர்த்தியாக இருக்கும். கனம் V. I. முனிசாமி பிள்ளை அவர்கள் கனம் மந்திரியாக இருந்தார்கள். அவர்கள் காலத்தில் மதுவிலக்குப் போய்விட்டதென்று சொல்லுவார்கள். அதைக்குறித்து சந்தோஷப்பட்டுக்கொண்டு சர்க்கார் தீவிரமாக மதுவிலக்குப் பிரசாரத்தை ஆரம்பிப்பார்களென்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன்.”

* MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object with which I gave notice of the cut motion is not to criticize the policy of prohibition which the Government propose to introduce in the Salem district; but it is with the object of drawing the attention of the Government to certain things which, in my humble opinion, are loop-holes in the working of the scheme—the question of issuing permits. This is a big loop-hole and a snare which must be guarded against. I fail to understand why there is any need for permit system at all. I do not think it is necessary to have this permit system in view of the climatic conditions of India generally and of our province particularly. Half-way measures like these will not do. If the Government is serious in introducing prohibition, my respectful submission is that it must be prohibition *in toto*. I do not see why any distinction should be made and why permits should be issued for foreign liquor only. I do not see why foreign liquor should receive any consideration at the hands of the Government. Foreign liquor is as bad an intoxicant as country spirits; it is much more costly too. The issue of these permits will ultimately ruin the middle classes. We find, Sir, that middle classes who are too proud to live like the poor, always copy the rich. Instead of spending a few annas on this drink evil, people will naturally try to drink foreign liquor and spend a few rupees in the place of a few annas. I submit there is no need for the issue of these permits. If the Government will consider that the issue of these permits is absolutely necessary, very stringent conditions must be imposed. In the case of certain people, permits, if at all, should also be issued for country liquors.

11 a.m.

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“Then we come to the question of permission to tap trees. As the hon. Member who spoke yesterday stated, it is not possible to draw a line of distinction between tapping trees for sweet toddy and fermented toddy. I am of opinion that sweet toddy when drawn and fermented becomes an intoxicant. I therefore am of opinion that tapping of trees must at all events, be stopped in the whole of the Salem district. It is quite possible, and it can be done. If you permit a number of trees in the districts to be tapped for sweet toddy, I am quite sure the concession will be abused.

“Then, Sir, I find from the daily papers that there is a proposal to form what are now called vigilance committees, as the *Madras Mail* pointed out yesterday, for the purpose of spying and giving information. I think, Sir, at this beginning stage, it is a dangerous thing to introduce any non-official element into the scheme. Personal jealousies and petty party factions are liable to take advantage of these vigilance committees and this system will finally lead to abuse. I was also for some time connected with the Excise department, and I know that the existing staff have not been able to carry the detection work successfully without the help, both financially and in the shape of men, of the abkari and excise renters. Excise-renters have been rendering very valuable help to the Excise staff in detecting cases of illicit distillation and other irregularities. They have been so helping because it was to their advantage. They thought that the suppression of illicit distillation would increase their sales and thus their income, and therefore they gave the help. But what would be the result if you introduce this new system? No contractor would come forward to help the staff. The proposal is, I understand, to entrust the police with the work of detection and suppression. I am afraid, Sir, the police have already too much work to do, what with their duties in connexion with the detection of crime, their duties under the Motor Vehicles Act, their duties connected with the collection of taxes from motor vehicles, and what not. I am afraid, Sir, to add this work to the Police will really be felt as a burden and the system is not likely to work efficiently; it will not act as a check at all. I therefore very strongly urge on the Government that the existing Excise staff should continue to be there, not for the purpose for which they are now there but for the purpose of making this scheme a success.

“I find also, Sir, that shops will be allowed to remain as now roundabout the Salem district. As I have already said, from my little experience of the working of the Excise department, I know that some of the people who are addicted to drinking will even walk a distance of four or five miles if it is a question of getting drunk at a much cheaper—not very much even there—cost. I now ask, if there is to be no alcoholic liquor available in the whole of the Salem district, will not these people walk a distance of five miles or so in order to drink themselves to death? I think they will. Therefore, Sir, my humble suggestion is that within a radius of ten miles, within a belt of about ten miles beyond the boundaries of the Salem district, all shops should

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be closed and no tapping should be permitted within that distance. No doubt it may be a costly affair; we may be losing revenue not only from the shops in the Salem district but also through closing all shops within a radius of ten miles roundabout the Salem district. But, Sir, I submit this is a question of first-rate importance and the question of cost should never be allowed to interfere. I appeal to the Government to take this suggestion into consideration.

"I find, Sir, that there are thousands of tappers in the Salem district who have no other avocation. They have been getting a living out of tapping trees and they will have to suffer now. I do not find Government making some provision for these poor people; I think it is the duty of the State to help them at least for a short time until they are able to adjust themselves to the changed circumstances."

MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand for prohibition is so widespread that it is no wonder that the first step the Ministry has taken has been welcomed throughout the country. I congratulate the Ministry on its bold and courageous step and everybody would wish success to this scheme. But there are certain factors to be considered in this connexion. A large portion of the Salem district lies on the borders of the Mysore State where prohibition is not in force. I saw in the press some time back that the Government of Madras are corresponding with the Mysore Government to seek their help and co-operation to ensure success for their scheme. I would like to know whether any arrangements have been made with the Mysore Government, and if so, the lines on which they propose to help this Government."

"The pre-Reformed Legislative Council had more than once passed a resolution that it should be the policy of the Government to introduce total prohibition within twenty years. Though it is some years since the resolutions were passed, no steps in that direction have been taken. And when the previous Ministry was questioned about it, it had always pleaded that it could not do so, unless alternative sources of taxation had been suggested. It has been estimated that the introduction of prohibition in the Salem district during the second half of this year would cost the Government about Rs. 13 lakhs. Mahatma Gandhi desired that total prohibition should be brought into force in three years. The Congress Ministry is pledged to carry out his instructions, and when total prohibition is introduced, it would cost Government about Rs. 4 crores. And the Ministry which has decided to introduce prohibition in the Salem district, not as an experiment, but as a first definite step towards total prohibition, should have thought over alternative sources of taxation. Then only could they be considered to have laid the plan for prohibition on a solid and sound basis. I would ask the Premier if he can take the House into his confidence and state whether any definite plans have been evolved. One thing I have to say and that is this: any scheme of new taxation should be such as will not affect the poor. I hope the Prime Minister will give this assurance."

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* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems odd that this age-long question of prohibition should still have the appearance of novelty about it. The same criticisms have been made both on the floor of the Legislature as well as outside, and the same reply has been given. Prohibition is the only major socio-economic reform which this party in power can and will introduce. Its predecessors lost their popularity and power on account of want of that will to introduce this great reform. It is wrong to say—and it is a simple fallacy which even students can understand—that because it is bad for Europe to have prohibition, it is bad for India also to have it. There is all the difference between Europe and India. There are two main reasons why India should have prohibition; first, the Indian cannot afford to waste his small earnings on drink and secondly, while in Europe there is hardly one man, in about a thousand drinkers who gets drunk, it is hardly possible to count five persons among a thousand here who do not get drunk. Here in India, to drink is to get drunk. Here there is no fun in drinking so long as one does not feel that feeling of drunkenness. That is what the difference is, and that is the reason why we should have prohibition, at least tried for some time."

"As regards the success of the scheme, about which there seems to be so much of pessimism, I should say that, as I have said before, to the extent to which it succeeds it is a success. Let it be a 10 per cent success; yet it will be a success, and there will be no question of failure. As regards the argument advanced by Mr. Bower that when it is found to be a failure, the Government would be losing Rs. 4½ crores; assuming that all the drinkers will get their drinks illicitly, even then, I may assure Mr. Bower that what the Government loses will be saved by the people, i.e., Rs. 4½ crores."

"As regards his comparison of the conditions here with those in America—of course he will disagree with me there—one really wonders why America did go in for prohibition at all. America has more or less the same conditions and circumstances as we find in Europe and yet America did go in for prohibition. It has been no doubt given up there, but that only shows that there is a case to be made out for prohibition even in a country like America."

"As I stated before, the Government are definitely committed to the policy of prohibition. It is one of the election pledges of the Congress Party which has been returned in large numbers and with an overwhelming majority in this House on this issue, among others, and if it is to be given up—I do not think for a moment that it will be given up—or if there is any suggestion made either from this side of the House or from any other side, that it should be given up, I think that it cannot be given up unless the House dissolves itself and goes back to the country for a mandate."

"Sir, we propose to try this policy of prohibition for whatever it is worth and I am sure we will show to the world that in India at least this experiment has succeeded. Here, I would like to mention one or two things which are more or less of local importance. I would

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suggest that this first instalment of the prohibition scheme should be tried in the group of districts surrounding Salem, for naturally Salem has got to be guarded against illicit traffic. So, the neighbouring districts also have to be taken up along with Salem. Here I would suggest that the Nilgiris should not be forgotten. I would also suggest that along with the neighbouring districts of Salem, the neighbouring Indian States also should be addressed for their co-operation in the matter. I may here point out that in one of my other cut motions I have also suggested that the Government of India also might be addressed so that liquor should not be sold in the barracks and cantonments to outsiders. I request the Hon. the Minister concerned and the Cabinet as a whole to address the Government of India to take prompt measures to put an end to such illicit sale of liquor. With these few words, I resume my seat."

Mr. Speaker called on Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig to speak.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, as to when I can have my turn?"

Mr. SPEAKER:—"I thought the hon. Member was not in his seat."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I do not want to repeat the arguments that have already been advanced by other hon. Members in favour of prohibition. There have been many statements made both in this House and in the press and also by the public at large which might to some extent disparage the attempts that have been made in the right direction in regard to this matter. But, what one is anxious to know is this, whether the present Government have made up their minds, or are proposing to have any definite scheme for the introduction of total prohibition throughout this Presidency and whether they have chalked out any programme or fixed any period within which total prohibition can be achieved? Then, Sir, with regard to the experiment they have started, we would like to know as to whether this experiment is merely with reference to the district of Salem or whether it is going to be extended year by year or even in the course of the year. Whatever it is, Sir, the details of the programme and the details of the policy if placed before the public and hon. Members of this House, would be of great help.

"Sir, there are no doubt very many complicated problems involved in it and I daresay Government have already considered those problems with reference to the policy of prohibition. I hope that the Government will take the House into their confidence soon and then place before the House what exactly their programme is and how exactly they propose to give effect to this welcome scheme.

"Then there are two or three other points which I have mentioned in the different cut motions of which I have given notice and since I am not certain whether opportunity will be given to me to speak on those cuts separately, I hope I will have your permission to refer to them even in the course of this speech of mine.

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"The next point which I have in view is this, as to whether the Government have considered the question of extra cost, if any, that may be involved in giving effect to this scheme of total prohibition in the course of the next three, four or five years. I take it that the maximum period within which they would like to see total prohibition introduced will be five years; and if it is going to be within the course of the next five years, I would like to know what exactly will be the extra cost involved in giving effect to this policy of total prohibition. Sir, in the matter of this extra cost, I certainly think that the Finance Department must have by this time worked out what exactly the recurring and non-recurring cost would be, because it is of paramount importance that the ratepayer should know how far he is going to be touched. The previous Government has been telling us that in addition to the loss of revenue that could be involved by a policy of total prohibition, Government will have to incur some extra expenditure of an equal amount, if not more, as a result of this policy so that the laws of prohibition may not be infringed and that people may not have recourse to illicit distillation and other illegal methods. If the Government propose to introduce laws for prohibition and enforce penalties for actual drinking and possession of any material which is intoxicating, or if they are going to levy any penalties on persons, or institute courts for enforcing these penalties, or give effect to a legal Act that they may ultimately propose to bring into effect, it is worth while knowing as to what exactly the extra cost it will involve. I therefore think that the details must have been worked out by Government by this time and probably there must be, as rumours have it, a Bill ready to be introduced in this Assembly this session. Surely, if there is going to be legislation for enforcing this policy of total prohibition, it cannot be that it can be enforced without extra cost, and surely there must be a machinery, there must be an instrument requisite for enforcing total prohibition and such things are quite essential under any law that may be enacted by this House. On these two grounds, Sir, I would like to know as to what exactly the recurring and ultimate cost that would be involved in their policy of giving effect to total prohibition.

"There is another point which I wish to refer on this occasion and that is to ask the Government as to whether they have devoted any portion of their time with reference to the method and the ways and means by which they propose to meet the cost. There is sure to be a loss by giving effect to this policy. Surely, it cannot be met by means of inflicting heavy penalties of Rs. 200, Rs. 300 or Rs. 500 for the mere possession of a small quantity of liquor or for manufacturing illicit liquor or for selling liquor to any person who drinks. For all that, they may impose certain penalties and fines, but it must be remembered whether the levy of such fines will be enough to make up the loss in revenue. Therefore, it is the paramount duty of the Government to find out the sources, means and the ways by which they could make up the loss which this policy is sure to entail. We would therefore like to know whether Government have already considered this aspect of the problem, or whether they are going to consider it in course of

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time. Having already launched this scheme, it is but reasonable to expect that they have already drawn up proposals to make up for the loss in revenue. Otherwise, what will happen can be easily imagined and if Government are going to forego about 5 crores of rupees in the course of another four or five years, then certainly the nation-building departments will be seriously affected and the programme of the Congress itself will be seriously jeopardized and they will not also be able to carry out many of the reforms that they want to carry out in respect of the much required and much deserved relief of the poor ratepayers and the agriculturists.

"Sir, there is also another point I would like to refer to before I resume my seat, and that is with reference to the employees in the service of the Government who are now working in the Excise department and as to what is going to happen to them. Certainly Government would require extra staff for enforcing prohibition and to enforce the law which they are going to enact. Then the question of disbandment or reduction of staff does not arise. But they have not told us as to whether it is going to be done by an official agency or a non-official agency or by a voluntary or paid agency to whom this work is going to be entrusted. It stands to reason that we should know what exactly they are going to do in case there is going to be a surplus in the establishment of the Excise department or the Revenue department for that matter. I may here point out, Sir, that there is a certain proportion of the ratepayers and taxpayers who are depending upon the security of service and tenure in Government departments and if according to the scheme which Government may propose, these people who are now in charge of Excise and Revenue are going to be utilized for enforcing the total prohibition policy no grievance need be felt and there is absolutely no ground for imagining any grievance on this account. But, if Government are going to employ non-official agencies or if they are going to entrust this work to an honorary agency and there is no need for the existing staff for this purpose, what are they going to do with them? It is a matter of vital concern to several hon. Members of this House. It may be that there are some relations or friends among such men, but it need not be thought that we are fighting the battle for the so-called Government servants. Certainly, Sir, it is a vital factor because the future of such persons should be assured and they should not be put, for no fault of their own, to unnecessary hardship. I would therefore request the Government to tell us as to what exactly will be the scope and what will be the effect of this policy of total prohibition on the establishment and the services. As it will be a great relief to persons who are interested in seeing that this total prohibition is carried out to its full and logical effect, I have placed these few points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister in charge of this policy."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members are requested to keep to their seats. It so happened just now that because the hon. Member who has just finished his speech was not in his seat, the other hon. Member

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had to be called. I find now also that there are several hon. Members sitting in other seats than their own. That would create so much of difficulty. In order that such confusion may not hereafter arise, I request hon. Members to sit in the seats allotted to them."

* MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no ^{11-30 a.m.} intention of speaking anything beyond the cut motions given by me which were given for eliciting information as to what steps the Government are thinking of taking for meeting the loss of revenue of 4 crores resulting from prohibition and also what steps the Government contemplate taking for finding employment to all those persons who would be thrown out of work on account of the policy of prohibition. I would not have strayed beyond these cut motions but for a very important and fundamental question of the liberty of action of an individual raised by my friend, Mr. Bower."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the hon. Member resume his seat? I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Member as well as other hon. Members to a wholesome rule in the House that hon. Members may not repeat either their own arguments or the arguments used by other members. It will be a sheer waste of time of the House. The rule is very clear that in cases of persistence in irrelevant or tedious repetition of arguments used in the debate, the Speaker may direct the hon. Member concerned to discontinue his speech. I request hon. Members not to repeat the arguments either of their own or those used by the other hon. Members in the debate."

* MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"May I respectfully submit that I have stated the proposition made by Mr. Bower in order that I may meet it. It is for that purpose that I am stating the proposition made by my friend in order that I may meet it either by way of criticism or support. It is for that purpose . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Such propositions may not be repeated at length but may be touched upon. The arguments of the hon. Member himself may not be repeated a number of times. I will have to enforce this order if such a thing happens. Up to this time much latitude has been shown to members, specially to this hon. Member." (Laughter.)

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I am not aware of any such repetition on my part. Anyhow I bow to the ruling of the chair. The question of liberty of action of an individual in a body politic is not relevant to the issue before the House, firstly because an individual in a body politic has not any kind of liberty to do anything he pleases. His conduct is bound by rules and acts necessary for the governance of the country. It is a different matter if the measures that are brought forward by the party in power touched the liberty of conscience or touched the liberty of practice of religion or of his culture. I submit, Sir, the question of prohibition is purely a question of economics. Are we not aware, Sir, that where the question of economics is concerned, the Government is at liberty to control the action of the individuals in the body politic? Therefore, Sir, my submission is that the question of

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liberty of action of an individual does not arise in a question of this kind. It may be, Sir, that the time may come when persons whose liberty of action or the practice of religion or of culture is interfered with by the Government may protest, and I am sure that no Government worth the name will take that step, by which it will alienate the feelings of the persons who practise different religions and who have different cultures. But in this case with all the emphasis I can command, I may state this is not a religious question and this is not a question of culture. It is not a question of the liberty of conscience. It is purely a question of economics. When that is understood, Sir, no question of liberty of action arises. It is only for this purpose that I had to stray away from the discussion that I wanted to raise on the cut motions I have given.

"Now, Sir, with regard to the cut motions themselves I wish to make a few observations. The House, Sir, is entitled to ask the Government to take it into its confidence and state what exactly it means to do in order to make good the loss of revenue and also how it is going to provide employment for the persons who will be thrown out of employment. It has not been stated by Government till now what steps they are going to take. Persons who support this policy of prohibition, Sir, are genuinely in fear that all may not be well in the long run. Therefore, Sir, I request the Government at the earliest opportunity to make a statement as to what steps it is going to take in the matters that have been raised by me. With these words I resume my seat."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a trifle difficult not to repeat the arguments advanced by the previous speakers. I am afraid that in the initial discussion it is somewhat difficult not to refer to arguments that have already been advanced. But I hope nobody will be repeating the arguments. I am not going to keep the House for a long time. I have got one or two material matters to be mentioned. People seated opposite to the Government benches are fully aware that, with the Government, prohibition is an article of faith. Some member mentioned the other day about the Congress guns being available to the Government in the matter of putting down illicit distillation and gangster methods. Whether the Congress Party has cannons or cannon fodder we all know that the Government has numerical strength in this House and is in a position to enforce its policy in a matter where there is serious opposition to it from the other side. There have been one or two slight misapprehensions with regard to the benefit accruing to the Salem district. I think it was mentioned by the Leader of the House perhaps elsewhere and not on the floor of the House that with regard to the saving to the people of the Salem district it is not only 26 lakhs which they are paying to the Government by way of liquor revenue but there is also another sum of 75 lakhs which is now consumed amongst the people who are concerned in the liquor trade. Actually, it is rather a doubtful economic theory. It is no doubt true that 75 lakhs is not being taken out of the district; but

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whether it is going to be an additional benefit to the wage earner in the district cannot be said. For one thing, it is not ascertainable whether the labourer is spending on liquor his economic surplus. Even so, it will be intangible, and it is not possible to say if the surplus so saved is going to be spent on anything useful. The fact that 20,000 toddy tappers are liable to be thrown out of employment will necessarily have an effect on the wages earned by the wage earner. There is no need for the Government to justify their policy on this ground, but it has been mentioned and it was repeated by one or two members on the floor of the House and hence I am referring to it. With regard to the evils of prohibition and its effect on Government revenue I have spoken already on the floor of the House. I am afraid, in speaking previously on the floor of this House I have played the role of Cassandra, but I now find I am in good company. The Hon. the Revenue Minister when he opened the discussion yesterday painted a very gloomy picture of the situation in the country. He said we are economically very much worse than in 1930-31 bringing it as an argument for the lowering of salaries. If it is so, what is the justification for suffering the loss of a slice of revenue? The Minister said it was only a matter of $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores they will be losing by introducing total prohibition and it was nothing. If the picture painted by the Revenue Member were to be true, prohibition is not a policy which ought to be pursued by Government even though it is with them an article of faith.

"Since I last spoke Government have formulated the schemes for carrying out prohibition in the Salem district and for putting down illicit distillation. I have nothing to say on them. I am not aware how the excise officers can prevent Government in carrying out their policy. All the same, there is one point which must have received a little more serious attention of the Government, i.e., with regard to the voluntary committees to be employed who are to act in the capacity of informers. It savours of the Russian, 'Cheka.' The Congress volunteers may be people with a high sense of honour. But I will say that human nature being what it is, there will be the temptation to make some money and that is a matter which will have to be gone into when the Bill comes. I think it is with regard to this matter that I feel that I have to warn the Government that they should not employ Congress volunteers for the purpose of detection of illicit distillation. Another factor that remains to be suggested is this. Everybody admits that prohibition is good and liquor consumption should be curtailed. Why should not Government start with curtailing the number of liquor shops in other parts of the Presidency along with the Salem experiment?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Visitors are requested not to speak to each other since others would be disturbed. They must observe strict silence; otherwise they would be turned out of the galleries."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I appeal to the Government that they ought to try curtailing the number of shops in other places. That is a point I would suggest to the Government."

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MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not wish to intervene in this debate except to state that we on this side of the House wholeheartedly support the Government in regard to their policy of prohibition. Some of the hon. Members who have spoken from our party have already given clear indication of our policy so far as prohibition is concerned. Difficulties have been raised by hon. Members who do not see eye to eye with the Government with regard to this policy of prohibition: difficulties with regard to illicit distillation, difficulties with regard to making the scheme successful and difficulties with regard to the loss of finance were raised by hon. Members. But then, what amused me most was with regard to the points that some hon. Members were trying to make as to how the Government could take away the liberty of a certain class of people with regard to their freedom to drink. Well, Sir, that is certainly an argument which does not hold water to any extent. Will the hon. Members who have spoken in that strain examine whether they would say the same if the Government enforced the laws with regard to theft and other crimes and offences which human beings are liable to commit? In my opinion, it is a great sin and an offence against society that any individual can commit by not only drinking, but by becoming a drunkard. The Hon. the Prime Minister in his speech with regard to prohibition has clearly told us that it is not only the drinker himself that is affected by drinking, but it is the whole family, belonging to this poor individual, which is affected economically, mentally and morally. Such being the case, I do not know how far any hon. Member will be justified in accusing the Government of doing away with the liberty of the people.

“ So far as the financial loss is concerned, we depend upon the Government, who are responsible not only to the Members of this Legislature but to the entire population of this province to carry on the administration without in any respect being affected by this loss of revenue. Somehow, they must make up this revenue by adjustments and by finding other sources of revenue which will not affect the poor taxpayer in any respect. We know, Sir, that if the Government were indifferent to this question of financial loss, they would have forthwith introduced prohibition throughout this province. It is on account of the fact that they fully realize that this loss of revenue will affect the administration adversely if the policy of prohibition is introduced in the whole province all on a sudden, they have selected one district to start with. And I am sure that in the course of this experiment they will also be trying to find ways and means of adjusting the loss of revenue which will ultimately have to be incurred on account of the introduction of this policy district after district, and throughout the province, in the course of three or five years at the most as I trust. In the last Government, the Justice Party did resolve to introduce prohibition within a period of twenty years; they did try to introduce some sort of compulsion in some taluks in the Salem district, but, I am afraid, on account of reasons which are obvious they seemed to have

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failed, and that policy on their part gave them an excuse to give up the policy of prohibition altogether. Now, I hope the present Government with whom this policy of prohibition is an article of faith, will certainly make sincere attempts to see that it succeeds and succeeds throughout the province. In this connexion, I do not wish to repeat the arguments that some hon. Members have repeated with regard to the policy of prohibition in the United States of America. Well, the Hon. the Prime Minister has dealt with these arguments in his speech when introducing the budget. I am sure hon. Members will realize that conditions are totally different in these two countries, whereas in this country we consider it a sin to drink, and it is not merely an economic question but it is a religious question. For, we believe that it is a sin to drink, and on that ground the people will certainly support the Government in its policy to carry out prohibition in this province. Things must certainly be different in the United States of America, and that was largely responsible for the failure of prohibition in that country.

“ In this connexion, Sir, I might only refer to one thing, and that is to ask the Hon. Minister in charge of this portfolio or the Hon. the Prime Minister himself who is very much interested in this question, to say what exactly they are going to do with regard to the staff, whether they are not going, not only in the Salem district alone but throughout the province, to effect retrenchment where it is found absolutely necessary. There are certain posts which are redundant in my humble opinion. As a matter of fact, the Deputy Commissioners and the Assistant Commissioners who are intermediaries between the Commissioner on the one hand and the Inspector on the other, are supernumeraries. I am merely giving that one instance of supernumerary posts. They serve merely as post offices for transmitting orders from the Commissioner to the Inspector. I do not know whether they serve actually any other purpose. Therefore, Sir, I hope the Hon. Minister in charge of this portfolio and the Hon. the Premier will take into consideration this question and see whether they cannot launch upon a scheme of introducing retrenchment to start with at least in his department.”

* DR. N. LAKSHMI DEVI:—“ Sir, I rise to defend the policy underlying the prohibition scheme as adumbrated by the Government. For the first time in the history of India, the National Government has come into power, and it is the first province to take up the question of prohibition, and Salem has been chosen as the first district. As you all know that it is of first-class national importance, the Congress Government has newly launched upon this scheme of prohibition. It is a policy in the constructive programme of the National Government. As it is of great social importance, it is the fundamental duty of the State or Government to see that its people prosper, and it cannot afford to see its people ruined and degraded on account of the drink habit.

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"The vast majority of the people in India do not drink, and drinking intoxicants is against Islam and Hinduism. So, it is much easier to eradicate this evil of drink in India than in other countries. The object of the policy is to bring about national welfare and national prosperity.

"The Opposition benches have entertained the fear that prohibition may not be a success. But the hon. Members of the House are aware that the Congress Government which is the popular Government is determined to eradicate this evil, root and branch, and the policy will be carried out at any cost. It is essential that the whole province should offer co-operation to the Government to make it a success. It is true that prohibition will bring in a great loss to the revenues of the province, say to the extent of Rs. 13 lakhs for six months, and Government intends to make up this loss by means of retrenchment. The Government has laid down certain plans for launching out this prohibition scheme. Non-official committees will be formed to assist the police, in order to lodge complaints and bring to the notice of the police illicit practices. The non-official committees will have official recognition, but will not have the police or magisterial powers.

"As we all know, the women of India have played a great part in the civil disobedience movement and have rendered great national service. They went to jail by picketing liquor and toddy shops. On behalf of women, I can say that they are prepared to give their full co-operation to make this prohibition policy a success.

"Mahatma Gandhi has expressed his view that women can take part in this field of work, because he knows what the women of India can do for the country and what part they can play in the national struggle. He knows that with their full co-operation and their enthusiasm for doing any national work, the evil of drink can be eradicated.

"With these few words, I hope that the Opposition will not entertain any fear that the Congress Government will not have success in this scheme of prohibition."

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"I have already intimated to hon. Members that written speeches will not be permitted in this House. Manuscript eloquence, either of male Members or of lady Members cannot be encouraged in this House. It takes away the life of the debate. I therefore request every hon. Member to cultivate the art of extempore speech even if it be for a few minutes."

* **MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN**:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, when so much has been said during the course of the general discussion and when a very good reply has been given by the Hon. the Prime Minister on behalf of the Government, on this policy of prohibition, I do not want to deal with it at any length. I want only to answer two points that have been raised by certain hon. Gentlemen. One is that individual liberty is being curbed by prohibition. I want to put the question to that hon. Gentleman whether those, who say

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on the principle of personal liberty that drink must be allowed, would go further and say that a man may be allowed to commit suicide as well. The evil of drink is supposed to be the root cause of all social evils, and as such it has to be eradicated. It is therefore the duty of the Government to see that the society is weaned from this root evil. Secondly, it has been said that it is an economic question so far as the Government is concerned. I do not think that the economic question must be a very pressing one with the Government. It is true the Government may find some difficulty; in getting over the difficulty they may be confronted with by the loss of revenue.

"But when the Government have considered the question of public good they will have to tide over the difficulties by other means which I am sure the present Government is considering and would take steps to recoup the loss of revenue. The loss of revenue when compared to the gain that the society will have by total prohibition, is nothing." 12 noon.

"Then, a certain gentleman with true mercantile mercenarism had cast aspersions on the honesty of the Congress volunteers. May I ask the gentleman whether he thinks the Government servants, the Excise officers are free from corruption? I would assure the gentleman who took the trouble of questioning the honesty of the Congress volunteers to see to their records. If Congress volunteers could face lathi charges for picketing toddy shops when there was a Government that was supposed to have adopted the policy of total prohibition and had been preaching prohibition by putting up notice boards and asking people not to drink and had been at the same time belabouring Congress volunteers—perhaps they would say they used only the minimum force—then I should think Congress volunteers will be forthcoming in large numbers to support the Government's policy even now. On that score no fear need be entertained. So, I think there is nothing to fear about the success of the prohibition scheme and I am sure Government will see that their loss of revenue is made up in course of time; and when they come forward with their programme of prohibition, the House will be enlightened on the proceedings they may take to meet this loss of revenue."

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, in view of your ruling that members should not go into the matters already dealt with by the previous speakers, I do not think it necessary to make a lengthy speech. There is I suppose whole-hearted desire from all the benches here that the Ministry should do its best to carry out its policy of prohibition. The evil of drink has been condemned from all sides, and it is not possible to find even a single argument in favour of it. But one thing I would like to place before the Hon. the Premier and the Ministry, is that they should not forget the Ceded districts when they propose to extend this policy of prohibition to other districts next year. I have nothing more to add."

* **THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR**:—"Sir, I have been referred to very naturally in the course of the debate several

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times. It is a large policy and, if I may say so, a new policy which we have embarked on. To that extent I think I should crave the indulgence of the House, and permission from you, Sir, to speak, even though the Minister in charge of the department, who moved the Demand will reply on the whole question at the end. The policy has received, I feel, unqualified approval from the House as a whole. What it has not received, in certain quarters, is confident support. There is a lack of confidence in certain quarters as to whether we could overcome the difficulties, financial and otherwise; but except for this, I do claim that the policy has been warmly welcomed, and the courage with which the difficult programme has been taken up is a matter which has received warm support in this House. But I must answer such objections as have been raised, so that we might proceed with courage and with the co-operation of all concerned.

"I was pained at one remark again being repeated. The hon. Member for Domiciled Europeans—I think that is the technical name—Mr. Bower again repeated that I was acting, and the Ministry was acting, under outside pressure. I do not know if he derived some pleasure in repeating this charge and wishing to see how far my patience can stand such attacks. But I do submit that it is as improper to impute to a Government that they are doing anything under what he calls outside pressure as it would be for me to say, if I ever should, that the opposition to prohibition comes from outside pressure. I say, Sir, that it is true with political parties in any democracy functioning under programmes and policies laid down for them by the party as a whole—whether it be territorial or whether it be a party based on particular principles—that those parties cannot and do not function as such except through the electorate which has returned the House and through the Ministry which functions by reason of the confidence of the House. It is therefore idle to belittle any programme on the ground of its identity with the programme of the National Congress. On the contrary, these programmes are all the more authoritatively carried out by reason of the fact that not only have these programmes received the approbation of the party in power, in the majority, in the House, not only have these programmes received the approbation of the electorate—for otherwise we would not be in office moving such a large policy to be effected—but the programmes have also received and are continually receiving the approbation of an important all-India organization like the Indian National Congress, and that makes it the more easy of execution, far from being a matter to modify our approval, should, I submit, make it all the easier for us to approve if it has received and is receiving the approval of the conscience of the members here and people whom we represent.

"An attempt was made in that connexion by another member to find a contradiction between what the Hon. the Minister for Revenue said and the explanation that I gave and am giving. 'Here is an

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admission that the Ministry is in office and that they are in office because of that outside organization; here is therefore an admission of outside pressure.' Nothing could be more hasty and, I crave the pardon of the member, more illogical than this conclusion. The hon. Member apparently, when he puts forward this suggestion or objection, forgets that it is considered desirable in modern English system of democracy that we should work under the party system. It is no use saying, you are a mere party, you are not a small and sufferable but a large and intolerably strong party. We do want strong parties, we want parties and want them to get stronger and stronger. Still, I am not proposing for the first time that democratic Government should proceed on the party system. It has been, if I might use the expression 'inflicted' on us by the British parliamentary system. If Hindus and Muhammadans in India had not this copy of the British system I am not at all certain that they would have looked upon the party system as a good thing. But our English training, if I may again use such a phrase, has made us tolerate this wonderful party system; and the hon. Member who objected to the Congress enforcing a policy on this Government and through the Government on the people of this province, should thank the British system for introducing this powerful influence of the Congress as a part of the munitions of war of the Government itself.

"I go further, Sir, and say that this outside pressure as he calls is identical with the pressure of Indian nationalism. Can we get away from that pressure? Has this House any function to do if it gets away from that pressure? I say this Assembly constituted as it is at present is the creature of that outside pressure of which the hon. Member complains. But for the Indian National Congress there would have been the official block here functioning and there would have been no question of outside pressure having any sway at all. We are here in order that we may respond to this outside pressure and in order that we may thereby have a harmonious adjustment between pressures of various kinds in this country. I submit, Sir, that this outside pressure is a good element in the politics of this country. It is wrong for anybody to create a prejudice by using such phrases. But if the hon. Member imagined or suggested or intended to suggest, that I did not act according to my own conscience or to my own reason but was being forced, that I and my Ministry were being compelled to act according to what we deemed to be wrong or untimely or impracticable, then I say he is altogether wrong. We would not be doing the right thing, if we did so. We would not be doing the honest thing if we did that. It is not right for the hon. Member to raise such objection. On the facts of it I do say that if the Leaders of the All-India Congress sent me down an order to-day to withdraw prohibition, I would lose office but would not withdraw this policy. (Hear, hear.) Here I am telling what is true, not a mere argument. My friends who imagine that we the Ministry are acting in this matter under pressure of any wrong kind make a mistake."

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MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"On a point of personal explanation. At no time did I question the sincerity of the Hon. Mr. Rajagopalachariar; every one here fully believes in his sincerity."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I thank the hon. Member for that assurance. But I did not doubt that. I was only suggesting that there was a flaw in his argument, though he admitted my sincerity."

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m. "If there was nothing wrong in outside pressure in an important matter of this kind where human life and happiness are concerned, if I am sincere and hon. Members are sure of that when I initiate a policy like this involving morals as well as economics, then it does not matter how my opinions have been shaped and whether they were the result of the kind of outside pressure the hon. Member suggests, or whether it is on account of outside pressure or outside influence, viz., the miserable state of the women and children I have seen with my own eyes in places where I have lived all these 58 years. So, Sir, it is not a fiat of the party. It is a fiat of my own conscience that moves me."

"Let me proceed to the other and more relevant objection, viz., the right of personal liberty. It is said that the right of personal liberty is infringed. One or two hon. Members raised this point. This question of personal liberty is a catch phrase. At the same time there is a large amount of truth in the proposition that Government should interfere as little as possible with individual liberties of people. In this matter it is that we owe a great deal to the British system of Government. It is here that I do claim that India has benefited by the British occupation. I do claim that the principle of individual liberty is the peculiar virtue of British life and civilization, and India does not grudge, will not grudge to acknowledge this heritage from the British. I do claim, however, that the right to sell liquor is not the right of personal liberty. I do claim that the right to sell poisons does not fall within the categories of personal liberty. I do claim that it is not right for a Government to sell liquor and to give material for the satisfaction of the morbid cravings of its citizens. It becomes a mere catch-word and ceases to be a political principle if we apply the phrase 'personal liberties' to questions like this. I wish to ask them if in England where the right of personal liberty is recognized at its highest whether any opium can be sold or is allowed to be taken. I do claim that, so far as we are concerned, toddy, arrack, beer, wine and all these things are as bad as opium is, perhaps worse in certain respects. However, I shall not go into the details of that subject at present."

"Then coming to the subject, if the term 'personal liberty' is understood in its right interpretation, I say that a man is not free to become a slave. He does become a slave to the worst master than

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one can possibly imagine, if we assist him, by keeping a shop open and by our organization enable him, to get his drink everyday."

"The other objection to the proposal is this: why not try persuasion? Why try this force? Now, persuasion becomes ridiculous if the same agency that tries persuasion runs also toddy shops. It becomes meaningless and carries us nowhere if the same Government through its Health officers, schoolmasters, agencies, both official and non-official, and private associations whom they assist with grants are allowed to persuade people not to drink and at the same time run a perfected scientific organization for the collection and vending of drinks at particular centres and at stated prices. Not only is this permitted, but the proceeds are utilized in a scientific manner for the running of the Government. Now, Sir, such persuasion becomes worse than ridiculous. I do believe in moral persuasion from house to house and ultimately it will save the drunkard. But what I say is that it becomes meaningless and has no effect if we lend ourselves to a policy of selling liquor through Government organization. Here comes the other argument: 'you are getting money and you will lose it if you adopt this policy; you will have to levy new taxes and put class against class.' One hon. Member really asked in so many words 'Are you going to create this class war by taxing all kinds of people, because you have lost drink revenue on account of the introduction of prohibition?' Now, let us examine this a little more deeply as to what this argument means. It means we get money out of drink of these poor people who are induced to drink and who go to drink, not because they are rich but because they are miserable and they find amusement and enjoyment only through drink habit. It is also said 'if we get money from these poorer classes, we save the amount of taxation that is imposed on better classes. If we get 4 crores from these people we save the other classes of people from taxation to that extent and the money thus saved could be utilized for education and for such other useful purposes.' It is also said that we can reduce income-tax to that extent. It is also said that because we get 4 crores of revenue from Excise, to that extent land-tax goes away. It is really this kind of argument that I want to strike at the very root. Supposing we have lost 4 crores of revenue from Excise, certainly income-tax must be raised. Supposing those people whom we want to tax more say 'You have lost the drink revenue and why should you impose more tax upon us? You are only creating class war;' supposing they hit us like this, then I say we should be prepared for that kind of objection. We should certainly be prepared to tax ourselves more if we want to improve these poor people. I say if it comes to that, we must do it. Then it was also pointed out how we are going to benefit the landowners by giving this land revenue remission. I have heard it said by the big landowners 'You are giving land revenue remission; is it going to benefit us? Are you going to limit it only to small landowners; possibly in your mad-cap philanthropy you may do it; why do you lose the 4 crores of revenue from

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Excise? Why don't you collect that revenue and give us remission also?' I ask: is it right to make these poor people pay monies, because you want to give more remission to the richer classes of land-owners? I say it is abominable if you lay it bare like that. But to cover it and cloak it as financial adjustments does not lessen the sin or the abominability of it. I do say that these poor people who drink and who support this administration must be saved from drinking, cost what it may. I submit therefore there is no argument in this threat of class war or class struggle between the rich and the poor, because the rich has to be taxed if the poor is to be saved from drink evil. If it comes to that, we should do it. If the argument is that drink is good for the people then we could sell toddy at a cheaper rate, or we could give it for nothing if we can provide nothing better for their comfort or entertainment. If you say that it is bad by no means should you depend upon its revenue and treble the duty on liquor because these poor people stand in need of it.

"Then, there was another alternative proposal made by some people. It was said 'Take off one Sunday; let us take off Monday; let us have Tuesday; Lo and behold we will be free on the seventh day.' Sir, if we have Sunday as free, then Monday becomes heavy. If we have Friday free then Saturday becomes heavy. That is what is happening. So long as you keep the shops going and so long as there is Government organization for the sale of toddy and liquor and so long as these Excise officials and other officials who are associated with this work are there, it becomes a 'decent thing' for these poor people and they find scope for taking to drink. So it is not a question of closing these shops gradually. There is a gradualism which is just and strong but this kind of gradualism, is quite inefficient and will not work at all. This kind of gradualism of taking one day off in the week will not do. We know that *Ekadasi* is observed by our people, but *Dwadasi* is better observed. This will exactly be repeated in the case of drink also. At least on *Ekadasi* day people fast and the stomach becomes clean and on *Dwadasi* days the stomach becomes better fitted to take in more quantity of food. That is not the case in the case of drink. So closing off shops on a particular day does not give any medical value too.

"There was another alternative plan that was suggested and that is to reduce the number of shops gradually. Reduction of shops is no better than taking off Sunday or Monday. Reduction of shops means only a consolidation of business. By closing a shop you will be increasing the sales in the neighbouring shop. That is all. There are other objections which I am personally aware of and on which I need not dilate too much, viz., any number of branches can be opened without the knowledge of anyone but the lower officials. All these things cannot work and I am saying this from my personal experience and hon. Members who have had experience in the Excise department will bear me out in these remarks.

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"Then as regards this question, some minor difficulties were pointed out. Cautions were given. All these cautions are welcome and the dangers are there. There is no enterprise in this world without carrying some danger and difficulty with it. It is in that spirit that we must approach this problem. First you have got caution which almost amounts to an objection. It was said 'here are a number of trees and there is a pot hanging on to each of them; you do not know exactly how much lime is inside each pot; the sweet toddy which is inside there to-day may become fermented and so on and are you going to put policeman everywhere?' That is a perfectly valid objection if it is said that the present policy would produce absolute and total abstinence. 12-30 p.m.

"The policy is that we should not encourage this, that we should not increase this, that we should not be associated with this and that we should not place temptations ourselves in the way of these people. If men have their own coconut trees, if they want to have a drink and we are unable to prevent it, let it go. I say so because I am not a fanatic in this matter. What I do want is that the Government should have nothing to do with the organization of the trade. I ask, Sir, 'Have the Police department and all the law courts taken together prevented thefts?' Are not thefts going on still? As long as there is a purse, as long as there is a pocket, as long as there is hunger in this country and as long as men will be careless, pickpockets will flourish. (Laughter.) All the same we do not give up the attempt. We do not tax pickpockets and say, 'Give me a fourth of the gains.' We have no agency to do that. We do not have an army of Excise Inspectors to regulate pickpocketing and to sell the right of pickpocketing in this area and in that area. The two things have no connexion. I admit we would not get hundred per cent abstinence as a result of this law. I make a present of that confession straightaway. But let me also tell my hon. Friends who raise that objection that it is not so easy as they imagine to evade the law. If I have strength in me and if my executive are as good as they are to-day, I will point out to hon. Members that it is not so easy to evade the law as they imagine. A man cannot get drunk in secret. I hope I am right in saying that the temperate drinker will drink only once in a way like that, but if he continues to drink in secret he will be found out by the people in the neighbourhood. A man need not be drunk in order to be found out. Even if he is just in the happy stage, in the voluble stage, he could be found out by his friends, and certainly by those who do not drink at all. Those who are in the habit of taking a moderate quantity of drink may not be able to perceive it in other people. But there is a large body of total abstainers in this country everywhere—in the village as well as in the town—and they will soon perceive if any man is a little bit worse for the liquor. It cannot be a secret; it would not be a secret and it will not be let alone. For a day or two it may be let alone. If men with their own coconut topes not only occasionally enjoy the fermented drink, say once a month or once in six months, but call in friends or sell it—which is worse—or do anything like it

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publicly, I promise there will be so many anonymous petitions on my table. There will be no difficulty about complaints and about discovery, but the difficulty will be about discriminating which is the true complaint and which is the false one. This, of course, the officials will do if they are efficient enough. Even to-day they are to be trusted to that extent. Do hon. Members imagine that there is no enforcement at all now, no check at all? Under the present system, we have to find out not only who is drunk but also whether he has drunk licit liquor or illicit liquor which is a more difficult thing to discover. It is more difficult to check unauthorized business when you run a licensed trade than to check evasions of the law when the whole thing is unlicensed and illegal.

"I want to caution the pessimistic people in regard to another matter. It is greed that is the foundation of this drink trade; it is not the craving for drink. If a man can drink his own liquor, that is to say, toddy that he gets from his own garden, he would not drink so much as people drink now. After all there will be isolation of the man who wants to drink toddy from his own coconut garden. A man who has a coconut garden does not wish to drink. It is the man who works in the mills and goes back after receiving his pay who drinks. He does not have a coconut garden of his own. If he had he would not be working in the mill. The men who have coconut gardens do not want to get into the habit of drinking; in fact they want to sell the right of vending through the Government. That is how they make money. There is a great difference between the class of people and the individuals who drink and the class of people and the individuals who own these coconut gardens. We depend on this isolation.

"It was said that there would be some difficulties in enforcement as we are proposing to enforce it for the first time and as we are proposing to remove all the Excise staff from the district. We were asked what was the meaning of all this and a plea was put forward that these Excise officials should not be disturbed in that way. Sir, after much experience and personal knowledge we have come to the conclusion that the first experiment—I say experiment here because it is not an experiment of the policy but the first experiment of enforcement—should be done with the regular Crime department and with the co-operation of popular sentiment rather than through people who have had a particular training, a particular bias and a particular mentality having had to deal all their official lifetime with renters, contractors and people of that kind. It is not a slur upon them. I would not put a police officer in charge of a school. The police officer is a good man, but he has dealt only with criminals all his lifetime and he has not dealt with innocent children except in his own family. So I would not say that the Education department should be manned by the police. Similarly I would not put a schoolmaster in charge of the police. However eminent he may be, he has dealt with only innocent people. He does not know the ways of criminals. So a certain bias gets in. Even here, do we not see hon. Members who had to do with the Excise department argue one way and the other hon. Members argu

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in a different way? (Laughter.) It is the bias of a lifetime; you cannot get rid of it. We are making an experiment and making a beginning. We are not turning out the Excise officials for a sin which was not theirs but which was other peoples'. It was the Government's if at all. They are not to be turned out of employment and made to starve. No such thing. The Excise officials will be made to work in the Excise department in other places where it is still to be carried on in the old way. Ultimately they will be absorbed in any other department where their professional bias will not have any deleterious effect on their work. At present when both things are going on side by side, when the Excise department is still there, when there is an island, so to say, of prohibition, it is found wise to try the thing in a different way. It is no slur on the Excise officials of that place or the Excise officials of any other place. I crave for toleration of that process. And if the experiment is wrong, if the ordinary Crime department is not able to cope with the particular technique of the crime that will take place here, there will be a readjustment. The help of the Excise department will certainly be taken and the Excise officials will certainly be asked to help in finding out the criminals in the technical manner in which this has to be done. I do not think we shall fall very short of technical advice in that matter at all. The co-operation of the Excise department will be fully with the Government in this matter. Even in the area where prohibition is introduced, particular officers will be there for giving advice in respect of such matters. The entire department as a whole will not be the best instrument for enforcement. That is our feeling. But assuming even this thing to be correct, namely, that the Excise staff are the best agents for enforcement, there is another body of people in that area there whom we should take note of and that is the old trade—the licensees, the previous renters and contractors. They have been all through the obedient servants of this department, the friends of this department and in close contact with this department. We do not want to put these Excise officials to the risk of being invaded by these people for this favour and that favour. It will be a terrible strain on these Excise officials if they are there. The old gang will be there; they have no work whatsoever now and they will be constantly troubling these people. From the administrative point of view even honest people may be suspected. Let me put it in another way. It is good from the Excise officials' own point of view that they ought not to be there, because all sorts of allegations will be made by other people and it will be difficult to defend themselves. On the whole, taking all things into account this was the best policy. Therefore, I think that the criticism that was made here, though on the surface it looked reasonable, was really very wrong. I want patience in this matter. It is not a slur on any part of the service.

"It was suggested that there should be a belt outside the island if we want to be successful. This would be the case if the experiment was to continue for all time here alone. But there is no fanatical opinion that Salem alone should have prohibition. If it were so,

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I can understand a belt round Salem being created. The idea is that it is good for all parts of the country. We have to have a belt somewhere or other and for the present let it be inside the revenue boundary of Salem rather than outside the revenue boundary. There is no difference between the two if you examine the matter. If there is any particular point in making Salem absolutely virtuous in this respect I can understand a belt running in South Arcot, North Arcot, Mysore and all that. But that is not the point of forming this one island. Let us make it a little smaller; let it be of five-mile radius inside instead of five-mile radius outside. This will disturb the Excise administration to the least extent. Otherwise there will be two distinct staffs at work in the same district. It will be a little more cumbersome. There will be more friction on account of that. If the Excise officers will have control over the belt and the normal Crime department will have control over the island, there will be conflicts and all that is to be avoided. I was surprised to see that persons with more administrative experience than I possess made these suggestions. As far as I can see, I think, the arrangements that have been made by the Government are the best.

"Then, Sir, some considerable doubt was expressed with regard to the permits. Much misapprehension seems to exist on this point. Therefore it is necessary that I should make the point clear in a few words. It is wrong to imagine that we will have a large number of permits going about and that would undo the policy of prohibition. It is wrong to imagine that there will be any bias or racial distinction. There are sometimes reasons which lead you to do a certain thing but you do not discriminate all along the line on the basis of race. This permit will not have any racial discrimination in it. It is not as if the Government will order that all people who belong to such and such communities will get a permit or not. There will be no such orders. The permits will be individual permits and will not be necessarily claimable by any members belonging to any class or community. In each case licence may be given or may not be given. It will be given only up to the limit the Government think safe. It will not be based on race as such at all. It will be based on all considerations taken together. So friends need not imagine that this permit will become a scandal.

"Then it was argued by some hon. Members as if we were giving, so to say, permits for foreign liquor. It is not as if we exempt people who drink foreign liquor from this policy. The reason why foreign liquor is mentioned with reference to this permit is that it is difficult for ordinary people to get it. Moreover if we permitted people to take the country fermented liquor, we would have to run a shop for them. Or they would have to go to long distances to get it. There would be difficulty in checking. Foreign liquor is a bottled thing and it is more costly. These things came into our consideration when the permits were proposed to be given for individuals in respect of foreign liquor only. Again with regard to this foreign liquor the poor people will

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not have permits, because we do not propose to ruin the poor man. It is only to those who can afford and who have a lot of money to spend on this luxury that this permit *may* be given. Again, please mark the word 'may' here. They can use only the costlier foreign liquor which can be counted and the quantity known and recorded. That is the reason why foreign liquor comes in.

"Then, Sir, some question was asked about Mysore. It is not any policy of general co-operation, but there is a complication in Salem district with Mysore having marked trees inside the district. That is the subject-matter of the co-operation and it is not as if we are making a federation behind the back of the House between Mysore and Madras. They have marked trees in Salem district and we have to settle the terms with them with reference to the new policy that we are enforcing.

"Some hon. Members were referring to vigilance committees and were afraid of non-official agencies like these being taken in. I make it clear again that non-official co-operation is intended only to the extent of discovering the crime and lodging information and the like and not to the extent of police or magisterial powers. Can we succeed in a measure like this unless we have the co-operation of the people? I admitted at the very outset that a policeman cannot be posted at every house or under every tree.

"It is therefore the whole village that is to guard. At present 12.45 p.m. the Excise officials do not number even one for every village; they are much fewer than the number of villages in the district. They cannot possibly do anything, neither the Police. It is only if the people at large are interested in this matter, this can be done. The Government propose to harness other classes of people. At the same time any suggestion that this will be an opportunity for corruption has also to be answered. I submit that the Government will make every endeavour to see that this general co-operation does not deteriorate into a general inquisition or a general instrument for oppression. It looks as if some hon. Members have more faith in Government servants than in their own people. Why should this be so? After all, Government servants are not brought all the way from a different country; they are themselves people of this country and they can be honest and can be trusted. Why should not people who do not draw salaries from the Government, be trusted? On the one hand there is the argument that there is at least some regard for truth, some regard for justice, some regard for impartiality which Government servants are practising, which the ordinary non-official has not been compelled to practise. There is the other argument that there are numerous people watching one another; all these non-officials also can work together. There will be any amount of mutual check and mutual correction. We need not tremble that ordinary people will not help us. It is a well-known and well-appreciated fact that self-government is not possible, unless we trust all our people. On what is the Government based? It is the same non-official who elected us and sent out the Ministers to govern the country;

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if we can tolerate that, we must tolerate the villagers of various places. The village community has been morally undermined by everyday officialism. This is a great moral movement and we may well trust a little more, the village community. It is possible that we will find all round a large number of people in each locality, who can be trusted to discover the offenders at least to the extent of carrying information to the Police.

“There would be spying everywhere, it is said. Can we tolerate that? To some extent we are spies of one another. Our daily life, to that extent, is a life of spying, spying by your father, by your mother and by other people. You do not object to that. Surely if people will spy all round that I do not drink after moving this proposition, I do not object to that spying. And after all, even under the present system there is an element of spying and do we not tolerate it? A licensed system and control to some extent will involve espionage and we will not be worse off than we are now. It should be there. Are we not tolerating it now? I think there is so much said that we are arming the people with dangerous weapons. Spying is there at any time in any country. Drink, opium or drug is distributed and sold by some kind of licence, by some kind of regulations in any civilized country. In countries like England, America and Japan there is licence system; there is control to that extent. Spying as well as complaining and harassing must exist along with it. Otherwise we will not succeed.

“The last and most important question that was put was, ‘What is your plan? Why are you not giving effect to it all over the province? Where is the plan?’ I shall give the answer straightaway. I do not know how long we will be in office, for ten years, ten months or ten days. It appears improper to put up a plan. Sgr. Mussolini may put up a five-year plan, because he proposes to be there for five years, to be in office for five years. So also Mr. Hitler may put up a plan for five years and Mr. Stalin for a number of years. They are Dictators. We are here under the sufferance of the electorate and so it looks too pompous to put forward a plan for five years, or for ten years in order to do a certain thing. Will not hon. Members misunderstand us if we put forward a plan like that?

“All the same, our plan is this. It is not because Salem is better fitted, that prohibition is introduced there. It is not because Salem deserves to have this prohibition more than other districts, that it is put in there first. It is something like what Ravana did when he carried away Sita and placed her under the Asoka tree. Was it because it would be better for her health? He must place her under one tree. What does it matter if she is placed under any tree? This is an old formula in Sanskrit logic. We have to start it somewhere and so we started it at Salem. It is not as if Ravana liked the Asoka flower. We are starting the programme in the Salem district. There is no reason

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for it that can be placed before the House. We must start it somewhere; it must be begun in some place. We selected Salem not because otherwise, the experiment will not be a success, and not because of the fitness of the place.

“The financial complications of the programme have to be extricated. The financial loss that would be incurred by the Government is to the extent of 4 or 5 crores; the drink revenue is 4 crores net. That has to be extracted from the people. We have therefore to levy new taxes, we have to get new moneys, or we have to readjust the taxation between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments. We have to readjust the economic structure of the Government with reference to the provincial as well as with reference to the all-India services. This will take time. How much time will be taken, depends upon the rapidity with which we make retrenchment, the rapidity with which we bring in new taxes and effectively collect these new taxes and upon the rapidity with which we carry on negotiations for getting some revenue to the Provincial Government as against the Central. It is a problem of 4 crores and it is purely a financial problem. It is not because of the fitness of the place that we chose Salem and not Vizagapatam or Kistna. It is merely a problem of financial readjustment. If we have to find this year a sum of 10 or 25 lakhs, we have to consider what taxes we can levy, what retrenchment we can make. It is because of that fact that we are not able to put up a plan straightaway before the House. We will try to do so as soon as possible, because we cannot levy any tax without putting it before the House. It will be there in course of time. I do not think I should take any more of the time of the House. I have practically met all the objections; it may be that I have lightened the burden of the Hon. Minister in charge. But all the same, it is so important and it is such a large policy that I thought it right to intervene in the debate. I thank you, Sir, for giving me this special indulgence.”

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—“I find at least two additions to the Treasury Benches. If they are appointed regularly, they can well occupy the places. Probably the Government will find some places for non-official Members on the Treasury Benches. Until then I request non-official Members not to occupy the Treasury Benches.”

* **THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:**—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the lengthy speech of the Hon. Premier, I think my task is made easy. At the outset, I thank the several hon. Members who have taken part in this debate and advanced various suggestions; they all welcomed the scheme of prohibition, excepting two hon. Members.

“Three kinds of objections have been taken in the main to prohibition:—

- (1) That its financial implications are too far reaching;
- (2) that there will not be any real economic betterment; and
- (3) that human psychology being what it is, the whole experiment is doomed to failure in that it will give rise to large illicit distillation.

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“It was also suggested that it was a negation of individual rights and liberty to be told not to drink through legislative enactments. I think the Hon. the Premier has answered them all.

“As regards the first, it is hardly necessary for me to answer. We have deliberately chosen this policy and are bound to solve the financial problem along with it. Retrenchment in all directions and any fresh taxation that may also become necessary will have ultimately to be gone through. Without going into any further details, we may congratulate ourselves that we are forced to retrench and also discover fresh resources, for nothing else could have brought these two issues to the forefront but the deliberate choice of the policy of prohibition. The problems of retrenchment and new resources for the State would not have come up for such speedy solution but for this new move on the part of the Government, and Members ought to feel satisfaction rather than disappointment at this result.

“Regarding the argument that there would be no real economic betterment, it is surprising that such a statement should have been made at all. In the one district of Salem it is our hope that poor families who have been ruined by drink will be enabled to restart their lives on a better footing. There is no doubt that this will prove almost the first and the most important step in the economic regeneration of our province. In Salem alone it is estimated that by reason of this, over a crore of rupees would be available to the peasant and to the artisan for spending on the necessities of life. The money was all the while wasted in drink and no amount of propaganda but legislative enactment would have prevented this money from running to waste.

“The last argument is one based on what the hon. Member, Mr. Bower called human psychology. To imagine that human beings are prone to vice is not a very correct or creditable reading of the average mind. On the other hand, all human relationships point to the other way. The average peasant or artisan in Salem district or, for the matter of that, in the whole of our country, is one who regards drink as a positive vice. It is not tolerated anywhere in the Indian home. It is abhorred by the womenfolk. Even the lowest classes, it is known, are afraid to drink in their homes, but would rather resort to shops where they can be far away from their families and satisfy their craving. In America it may have been that they took a different view. The strength of feeling against drink as such may not have been quite as strong. Conditions such as those obtaining in India did not obtain in America and even assuming for the sake of argument that prohibition in America was a failure, it need not for that very reason become a failure in India. It is not a case of negation of individual rights—the villagers do not view it as such—but it is really the withdrawal of temptations placed in the way of the poorer classes who ruin themselves in the drink and drug shops. Once the temptation is withdrawn, most of them would have given up drink. This measure is bound to save

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future generations and even the present generation of people. Crime there may be still, but it will be dealt with by the Police even as all other crime is dealt with by them.

“It is in that view that the Government announced in its scheme¹ p. that no special establishment would be needed for the purpose of enforcing it.

“One hon. Member pointedly asked why this exemption for Anglo-Indians and Europeans. Rightly, the Premier has answered it. My hon. Friend Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah rightly congratulated the Premier on his boldness in doing it.

“A point was raised as to the substitute. I may tell the hon. Member that the European planters who are interested in tea and coffee sales have already leased most of the toddy and arrack shops and are arranging to supply free tea to the addicts of toddy and arrack. But I and even the Hon. the Premier deprecate the idea of giving free tea. After all, it may lead to a sort of beggary. Of course as far as that point is concerned, the State would not proceed on these lines and would not spend money for such a purpose. When there are private agencies, we can as well leave this matter to them.

“My hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed was worried about the existing staff. I may tell him that Government have issued orders that the cadre of the several services in which the above posts are included, should be reduced by a corresponding number under the respective categories and that the permanent staff in the Salem district should be absorbed in the other districts by reverting or discharging officiating men in the respective categories, whether they are officiating in leave vacancies or in temporary posts or in permanent vacancies. Temporary and officiating men in the Salem district are to be continued and appointed in other districts if there are temporary and officiating men junior to them in those districts. The principle to be followed is the discharge or reversion of the juniormost men. If there are no permanent vacancies in the several categories in the other districts, or if the number of permanent vacancies that exist at present in other districts is not sufficient to absorb all the permanent men of the Salem district, the deficiency may be made good by the creation of supernumerary permanent posts, which will be abolished as and when permanent vacancies arise hereafter. So long as such supernumerary posts exist, a corresponding number of acting or temporary vacancies will be left unfilled.

“I may inform the House that the Prohibition Bill has been practically drafted and it will be before the House in the course of the next two weeks, I think, when it will be possible for hon. Members to express what they feel on the various provisions of that Bill.

“As far as the question of finance is concerned, the Hon. the Premier has taken the opportunity to inform the House as to what the Government propose to do. The expected loss may be met by either retrenchment, or new sources of revenue or even by asking for a transfer of the Central Government funds.

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“ My hon. Friend from the Nilgiris, Mr. Ari Gowder, pointed out that illicit sales were taking place in canteens. The Government are not aware of the state of affairs existing in military barracks or whether there are such illicit sales going on. I have however taken note of this point and shall investigate it.

“ Great fear was also expressed in this House as to the future of the tappers. I may state at the very outset that the District Board President of Salem has already taken about 350 tappers as coolies for road work; and the Government through their various departments, such as the Public Works Department and Local Administration Department, are trying to assist the tappers as far as possible. As we all know, Mettur water has to be taken to Salem, and provision has already been made in the budget for the purpose. When the budget is passed, and the scheme is approved, a certain number of tappers will of course be engaged on this work.

“ One hon. Member specifically asked whether public opinion has been consulted before putting through this scheme of prohibition. I do not think I need draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Congress has got for its main plank, total prohibition; and those members who stood on the Congress ticket have come in large numbers to this House. That is a positive proof that the electorate agree to this prohibition scheme.

“ It only remains for me to say, Mr. Speaker, that as Indians we are, by religion and morality, bound to support this scheme of prohibition. Total prohibition has been in the air for more than twenty years now; and though other parties in power have made attempts to bring in prohibition, it was not possible for them to do much. But now under the new Government, there is an opportunity for words to be translated into deeds. Sir, it is said that the tears of the poor and the down-trodden will even undermine the thrones of kings. Men who have been returned to this House and who are in intimate touch with the rural parts, just like my friend Swami Sahajanandam, bear testimony to the fact that there are several millions of poor people in our country who are half-naked and in a semi-starved state; and I think it is the duty of every civilized Government to realize the conditions under which their subjects are living and devise some remedy for their uplift. I think, Sir, in this bold move for total prohibition in this province, the Government are trying to bring material and moral progress to the several millions of our countrymen in this province.

“ I think, Sir, in conclusion, I must appeal to all the hon. Member of this House to extend their fullest co-operation in the great scheme of total prohibition launched by this Government. I hope that Mr. hon. Friend Mr. Bower is now convinced, after the answers given to him on the various points raised, and that he will not press his token motion.”

* Mr. SPEAKER:—“ May I know if Mr. Bower is going to withdraw his motion? ”

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MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—“ I beg leave to withdraw my cut motion, Sir.”

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(3) DEMAND III—STAMPS.

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“ Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,28,800 for expenditure under Demand III—Stamps.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the cut motion that stands in my name, viz.—

‘To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,28,800 for Stamps by Rs. 100.’

The object, as stated here, is to discuss the policy of the Government in the matter of reducing the burden of court-fees and stamp duty on the public.

“ Sir, when we speak on motions such as this, it is with a certain amount of diffidence that we do so. We are perfectly aware and more than conscious that the Government have been in office only for a short time and that they have had practically no time to think over these problems; but the temptation is irresistible to say that the problem of the reduction of stamp duty and court-fee is as old as nearly a decade and a half. The Hon. Minister perhaps is aware that the reduction of court-fee and stamp duty has been insisted on ever since the amendment of 1922 came into effect. The history of the legislation is perhaps not a secret to many of my colleagues here. They know that the grade of taxation was about two-thirds, under the old Act, of the present grade. In the year 1922, when the finances of the Government were in a very unsatisfactory state, the then Government introduced an enhancement of the stamp duty and court-fees, with the permission of the Central Government. At that time they made a declaration that the enhancement would be only temporary and that when the finances of the Government were more satisfactory, the Government would be the first to come forward and restore the old rates of court-fee and stamp duty. Since then, Sir, agitation has been going on, and it had become almost a hardy annual for the old Legislative Council to urge upon the Government time and again that there should be a just and reasonable reduction in this heavy burden imposed as a temporary measure, but quite unjustly and inequitably continued for over a decade and a half.

“ Now, Sir, the purpose of this cut motion, as I said, is merely to invite the attention of the Government to the necessity for the revision of the existing rates. The Taxation Enquiry Committee even as

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early as 1924 or 1925, in their report stated that there should be a thorough revision, reorganization and an overhaul of the then existing system of court-fees and stamp duties. The Government have been making promises but at the same time giving all kinds of excuses. Some time ago, I was given to understand that the Madras Government wanted to appoint a committee to go into the question and to suggest ways and means by which this taxation can be reduced. Reference seems to have been made to the High Court, but the High Court did not agree with the Government for the reason that the Government merely wanted to tinker with the existing enactment here and there and did not want to have a thorough and perfect overhaul of the entire system. What I now urge on the present Government is that they should take up the question in right earnest. It does not matter if they are in office only for a few months; this is a question affecting the economic position of the cultivator, particularly the litigant cultivator and the tax-payer. The Government are not unaware of the fact that several litigants who enter the portals of the district munsif's courts return home utterly ruined, without any property to fall back upon. Several families have gone into liquidation and several people have declared themselves insolvents on account of the costly nature of litigation, and sometimes also on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the dispensation of justice in the courts as they are constituted at present. Apart from that, the fact still remains that the Government have made no serious effort so far, and it is such an effort that I want the Government to make just now.

1-15
p.m.

"Sir, it is a matter which will be a source of enlightenment to the members of this House to find out what is exactly the attitude of the Government towards the very fundamental basis of this stamp duty and court-fees. Is it the policy of the present Government, I would like to know, to continue the old system so that the court-fee and the stamp duty and the levy thereof should be a source of income to the finances of the provincial Government, or it should be only such as to meet the cost of administering justice, dispensation of justice, and the settlement of disputes between the litigant public? I would like a declaration from this Government as to what exactly the theory and principle which they would like to follow in regard to this matter. Of course there have been various theories put forward and some friends believe that the resort to courts, the justice rendered by courts and the services rendered by the judiciary, criminal or civil, must be free of any cost. Is it or is it not the policy of the Government that it should be free? I think that it is eminently desirable if the service rendered to the litigant public who resort to courts to settle their disputes, is free. Of course that will be an ideal state. Or, is it the policy of the Government that the cost of the judicial administration of courts, both civil and criminal, should be met by those who want the help of this judiciary? Is it that policy which the Government want to follow; or is it a combined mixture of the two, that not only the cost of administration and the dispensation of justice should be met by the public at large, but also some revenue

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should come into the coffers of the Government? I would like that their policy should be enunciated in as clear a term as possible, namely, whether they are going to follow the old rut of the previous Government or going to give a new orientation to their policy. I think they must have a clear idea with reference to these matters; they are ideal men; at any rate they do not possess a blank mind in regard to this question. Honestly speaking, my own impression and my own feeling is, that though the tax-payer, the person who wants to resort to help from the judicial system, must pay, but payment must also be in proportion to the nature of the service rendered, the amount of the service and the quality of the service rendered by the state to the tax-payer and to the person who resorts to this service of the State. As it is, an examination of the question will show that the rates of fees under the Court Fees Act, the schedule of fees prescribed and the various fees for various remedies and reliefs, and also certain sections of the Act itself are defective in very many respects and they do not take into stock the fundamental fact that the cost should be in proportion to the service rendered. I would like to ask the Government, whether they are going to follow the principle of levying the cost in proportion to the service rendered or it is going to be something different.

"I may here point out, Sir, that very many suggestions have been made in the Taxation Enquiry Committee Report, not one of them has been given effect to so far, but those suggestions, I respectfully submit, seem to have been made in the interests of increasing to a large extent the revenues of the Government. But I ask, it is fair to ruin the litigant population and thus make revenues thereof. That is a point which I would like the Government to seriously consider. There is besides, Sir, no uniformity between the court-fees levied in the mufassal courts and the court-fees levied in the chartered High Courts, and not to speak of the variations between one chartered High Court and another and a third chartered High Court. The initial fee charged for institution of a suit in the Calcutta High Court seems to be Rs. 15; Rs. 20 in the Bombay High Court and Rs. 150 it was in the Madras High Court before, but now it is Rs. 225. Leave alone the disparity between one chartered High Court and another; that is not our concern. But, so far as this province is concerned, are you or are you not going to continue this disparity between the fees levied in the mufassal courts and the fees levied within the jurisdiction of the original side of the High Court of Madras. So far as the appellate side of the Madras High Court is concerned, I am sure the Hon. the Revenue Minister is aware of the fact that the fees levied in the mufassal courts and in the appellate side of the High Court are more or less the same and there is not much difference. There is also another pernicious system and I hope the Hon. Minister is aware that they are collecting fees, which are irksome and annoying to the tax-payer, on applications made to the revenue authorities for mere redress of small and minor grievances. There are petitions to be made to the Revenue Board, petitions to Collectors, which are all said to be taxed. Why should

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there be any such tax on the poor cultivator who is not able to make any profit out of his cultivation and why should he be asked to pay Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 on petitions to the Board of Revenue or to the Collector for small reliefs or for grievances being considered. In so far as the revenue authorities do not deal with matters in any judicial capacity, in so far as no judicial exercise on their mind is concerned, I do not think there is any justification on the part of the revenue authorities to extract any such thing like the stamp duty or court-fee from the poor tax-payer in the mufassal or in the City of Madras.

"There is also another thing which I would like to impress upon the Hon. the Revenue Minister's immediate attention. As it is, in the Presidency Small Cause Court, you have got a system by which a refund of half-fee is granted if the matter is settled out of court. That is allowable only in the Presidency Small Cause Court. But there are very many cases in the High Court and in the mufassal sub-courts and district munsif's courts which are known as original causes of action and which are reported to have been settled out of court, but the benefit of half-fee refund have not been granted to them, although the court in such cases does not practically do any work except saying that the matter is settled out of court and so the suit is disposed of. Even in the City Civil Court, it was pointed out time and again that in matters where there were compromises entered into between the parties, the court is called upon to do nothing except to record that compromise. In such cases, why should the full fee be levied from the litigant public, I do not know. There seems to be no justification for that. If the theory is to be that the court must be paid for the work that it does by the men who resort to it, then there is no reason why there should be such a penalizing fee. It is penalizing, because the entire fee has to be paid even the moment you file a suit. After all the court does nothing if the suit is compromised out of court; and the entire fee is forfeited to the Government. Even in cases where the party, having filed the suit and for some reason or other thinks that it is not worth while to continue to prosecute the suit and likes to have an *ex parte* decree, even then the court does not allow the refund of half-fee. After all, what does the court do when an *ex parte* decree is passed by it? It does not do anything except saying 'plaintiff present, defendant absent, decreed *ex parte*.' For that work, I ask, is it fair, is it reasonable or equitable that the full fee should be levied from the party?"

"Now, Sir, there are again cases of withdrawals by the consent of the parties. Suits are filed and withdrawals are filed before the court; the court does nothing; the paper is printed, signed and then put in court. Then the court, instead of ordering a refund of half-fee, the full fee is forfeited to the Government.

"These are things, Sir, which should be looked into by the Government if they are going to give any relief to the public by means of reducing the cost of litigation and the delays in the matter of dispensation of justice.

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"Then, there is another point which I would like the Government to consider. Let me say, Sir, there is enormous leakage in the court-fee revenue and the stamp revenue. When this was brought to the notice of the Government some years ago, they appointed some expert persons or a committee to go into the question and the Government or the High Court itself appointed some examiners to go round from court to court to examine and see how much leakage there is and how it can be prevented. That is not a really satisfactory method. I respectfully beg to submit that Government ought to take steps to prevent the leakage by an enactment and it should not be left merely by the appointment of a committee or the appointment of some individuals by the orders of the Government to go into the question of leakage. But, there must be some method by which any leakage in revenue can be prevented, any non-payment of court-fee and stamp revenue could be collected from those parties who default or by whose negligence the revenue is not collected; and such a method must be an expeditious one. In effect what happens is, even when suits are pending, no steps are taken to collect the court-fee and it is not put into the coffers of the Government. Long after the suits are decided this kind of *post mortem* examination takes place and it is difficult for the Government to recover the court-fee, unless they see something pending still in connexion with the proceedings. I suggest there is every need and justification and necessity for the Government to undertake not only to have a revision of the entire Court Fees Act, but also to have a revised schedule of fees. Some suggestions have been made that instead of providing in the sections of the Act that such and such should be the rate of fee to be levied in regard to certain suits, it would be better and practicable and workable to have an elaborate scale of fees prescribed, so that the public at large may know what exactly they will have to pay if such a kind of schedule is made available to them. Then, questions which are often fought out in the courts as to what is exactly the legal fee or the stamp-fee payable, will be avoided to a large extent, because there is a considerable number of cases which really arise as a result of the proper court-fee not being paid. Such things would be avoided if a further schedule is appended to the Act. I know the Act has to be amended. I do not know what is the provision in the Act as it now stands. I have not examined it. I do not know whether the Government of India has to amend the Act or the Provincial Government can do it with the permission of the Government of India. But, I think the Provincial Government is entitled to do it of its own accord without the permission of the Central Government. If that be the case, I suggest that the Government should take up in right earnest the question not only of revising the schedule but also of revising the Court Fees Act and the Stamp Act.

"Then again, Sir, the method of collection of fees is also another bugbear to the public who resort to Courts. It is difficult for several poor people to get justice from Courts. They cannot get their cases adjudicated for want of money at their command. Several suits are

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instituted *in forma pauperis* and in such cases there should be some relief afforded so that their just rights may be attended to. In their case there must be a system of collection at different stages of the proceedings. The initial fee which is ordinarily very heavy need not be insisted upon and the entire fee which may be due to the Government might be paid by the party in one, two or three instalments; the first instalment might be paid at the time of the institution of the suit, the second after the issues are framed or at the time of the first hearing; and the balance at the time or just before the decree is actually passed. I do not think the Government will in any way be the loser on that account, but if such a system is introduced it would give great relief to the litigant population. I, therefore, urge that Government should consider all these aspects and tell us what exactly their policy will be and what they propose to do with reference to the question of revising taxation. It is of course open to them now to say that they have not considered any one of these aspects, or they may say they are not willing to take up the question in view of the losses which have ensued on the different attractions and on account of the different reforms they have in view, but it is reasonable that we ought to know, especially when they now demand this sum for their expenditure, as to what exactly they propose to do with reference to the legitimate grievances of the public."

1-30 p.m. * Mr. SPEAKER:—"There are five other cut motions. Hon. Members who have given notice of them may speak upon this motion and all the members may discuss the policy on this motion."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! சாதாரணமாக நஷ்டம் அடைந்தவர்கள்தான் கோர்ட்டுக்குப் போவார்கள். ஏழை மக்களில் எத்தனையோ பேர்கள் கோர்ட்டுக்குப் போக வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இந்த நிலைமையில் கோர்ட்டு பீஸ் (court-fees) ஸ்டாம்பு (stamp) முன்னிருந்ததைவிட இப்பொழுது ஒன்றரை (1½) மடங்கு அதிகமாக இருந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. ஏற்கெனவே நூற்றுக்கு ஏழரை ரூபாய் இருந்தது. இப்பொழுது அதை நூற்றுக்கு பதினொன்றரை ஆக்கி விட்டார்கள். ஆனால் பெருந் தொகையாக இருந்தால் அதற்கு ஸ்டாம்பு செலவு குறைந்ததாக இருக்கிறது. ஆயிரத்தி லிருந்து இரண்டாயிரத்துக்கு நூற்றுப்பத்து, இரண்டாயிரத்திலிருந்து ஐயா லிருக்கிறது. ஏழைகள் சிறு தொகைக்காரர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் ஏழைகளுக்கு அதிகமும் பெருந்தொகையுடைய பணக்காரர்களுக்கு குறைத்தும் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். மேலும் காப்பி ஸ்டாம்பு ஏற்கெனவே இரண்டணுவாக இருந்தது. சமீபத்தில் சில வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பு அதை மூன்றணுவாக ஆக்கிவிட்டார்கள். அப்பொழுது அது temporary யாக இருக்கும் என்று சொன்னார்கள் ஆனால் அது நீண்டகாலமாக இருந்துகொண்டு வருகிறது. Temporary யாக இருக்குமென்று சொன்னபடி அதை நீக்கவில்லை. ஆகையி னால் இப்பொழுது இருக்கின்ற ஏழ்மையான நிலைமையில் ஸ்டாம்பு பீஸை ஏற்கெனவே இருந்தபடி நூற்றுக்கு ஏழரை ஆகவும் சாதாரணமாக காப்பி ஸ்டாம்பை இரண்டணுவாகவும் ஆக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSULU NAYUDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the stamp duty was raised in this province by the first Montford Council to cover a deficit caused by the introduction of the Montford Reforms

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and also to pay a huge amount of contribution to the Central Government by the Provincial Government to about Rs. 348 lakhs. The Council at that time was against the proposal of increasing the tax, but the Government promised that it would be only a temporary measure and not a permanent one. Since the deficit was wiped out, the Government was not in a position to reduce the stamp duty, but it was left as it was. It was suggested to the Government at the time by the Council that the temporary increase in the stamp duty and Court-fees should be reduced and relief given to the ryots. But the Government were against the proposal and Government even went to the length of saying that there was no promise to reduce the stamp duty even when the financial position of the province improved. The speech made by the then Law Member would prove to the hilt that the argument is untenable. It was said that it was a temporary increase in taxation to meet the financial contingencies and in normal course of things it would be reduced immediately as soon as the situation improved. Increase in stamp duty affects certain poor classes, the majority of whom are agriculturists. The Government profess much sympathy towards the condition of the ryots and if the sympathy has any meaning they should take the earliest opportunity to give relief to the poorer classes of agriculturists in all ways possible."

MR. MAHOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat the arguments of the previous speakers requesting the Government to reduce the Court-fees which were imposed on the people a few years ago. The revised scale of fees was then introduced in the year on account of certain circumstances that then existed. Therefore, Sir, I plead that the Court-fee that was increased on account of the revision a few years ago may be reduced. The other thing that I wish to submit is that there are many anomalies in the Court-Fees Act. Those acquainted with the levy of Court-fees on causes will see how anomalous the Act works. May I point out, Sir, that while causes which do not take more than half an hour have to pay stamp value on the value of the suits while in causes which take months together the plain-tiffs are allowed to put up values of their own and pay Court-fees thereon. I think it is not necessary now to see whether the Court-fee that is being levied is to be based on the cost of service that is rendered to the litigant or it should be treated as a tax or as a penalty for going to Court. I think, Sir, it is too late in the day to say that Court-fee should not be paid by litigants. But what I do say is that there are such anomalies in the Act that they should be rectified at once. May I invite the attention of the member in charge of the portfolio to Clause 4 of Section 7 of the Court Fees Act in which the plaintiffs are authorized to put their own valuation on the reliefs claimed and how that section has been abused. For instance the plaintiff who sues for mere injunc-tion or for a declaration with consequential relief is entitled to value his relief at his own will. Naturally he values it as he likes and pays not more than a rupee. People who know about working Court-fees know that causes involving reliefs of injunction and declaration and

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there be any such tax on the poor cultivator who is not able to make any profit out of his cultivation and why should he be asked to pay Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 on petitions to the Board of Revenue or to the Collector for small reliefs or for grievances being considered. In so far as the revenue authorities do not deal with matters in any judicial capacity, in so far as no judicial exercise on their mind is concerned, I do not think there is any justification on the part of the revenue authorities to extract any such thing like the stamp duty or court-fee from the poor tax-payer in the mufassal or in the City of Madras.

“ There is also another thing which I would like to impress upon the Hon. the Revenue Minister's immediate attention. As it is, in the Presidency Small Cause Court, you have got a system by which a refund of half-fee is granted if the matter is settled out of court. That is allowable only in the Presidency Small Cause Court. But there are very many cases in the High Court and in the mufassal sub-courts and district munsif's courts which are known as original causes of action and which are reported to have been settled out of court, but the benefit of half-fee refund have not been granted to them, although the court in such cases does not practically do any work except saying that the matter is settled out of court and so the suit is disposed of. Even in the City Civil Court, it was pointed out time and again that in matters where there were compromises entered into between the parties, the court is called upon to do nothing except to record that compromise. In such cases, why should the full fee be levied from the litigant public, I do not know. There seems to be no justification for that. If the theory is to be that the court must be paid for the work that it does by the men who resort to it, then there is no reason why there should be such a penalizing fee. It is penalizing, because the entire fee has to be paid even the moment you file a suit. After all the court does nothing if the suit is compromised out of court; and the entire fee is forfeited to the Government. Even in cases where the party, having filed the suit and for some reason or other thinks that it is not worth while to continue to prosecute the suit and likes to have an *ex parte* decree, even then the court does not allow the refund of half-fee. After all, what does the court do when an *ex parte* decree is passed by it? It does not do anything except saying ‘ plaintiff present, defendant absent, decreed *ex parte*.’ For that work, I ask, is it fair, is it reasonable or equitable that the full fee should be levied from the party?

“ Now, Sir, there are again cases of withdrawals by the consent of the parties. Suits are filed and withdrawals are filed before the court; the court does nothing; the paper is printed, signed and then put in court. Then the court, instead of ordering a refund of half-fee, the full fee is forfeited to the Government.

“ These are things, Sir, which should be looked into by the Government if they are going to give any relief to the public by means of reducing the cost of litigation and the delays in the matter of dispensation of justice.

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“ Then, there is another point which I would like the Government to consider. Let me say, Sir, there is enormous leakage in the court-fee revenue and the stamp revenue. When this was brought to the notice of the Government some years ago, they appointed some expert persons or a committee to go into the question and the Government or the High Court itself appointed some examiners to go round from court to court to examine and see how much leakage there is and how it can be prevented. That is not a really satisfactory method. I respectfully beg to submit that Government ought to take steps to prevent the leakage by an enactment and it should not be left merely by the appointment of a committee or the appointment of some individuals by the orders of the Government to go into the question of leakage. But, there must be some method by which any leakage in revenue can be prevented, any non-payment of court-fee and stamp revenue could be collected from those parties who default or by whose negligence the revenue is not collected; and such a method must be an expeditious one. In effect what happens is, even when suits are pending, no steps are taken to collect the court-fee and it is not put into the coffers of the Government. Long after the suits are decided this kind of *post mortem* examination takes place and it is difficult for the Government to recover the court-fee, unless they see something pending still in connexion with the proceedings. I suggest there is every need and justification and necessity for the Government to undertake not only to have a revision of the entire Court Fees Act, but also to have a revised schedule of fees. Some suggestions have been made that instead of providing in the sections of the Act that such and such should be the rate of fee to be levied in regard to certain suits, it would be better and practicable and workable to have an elaborate scale of fees prescribed, so that the public at large may know what exactly they will have to pay if such a kind of schedule is made available to them. Then, questions which are often fought out in the courts as to what is exactly the legal fee or the stamp-fee payable, will be avoided to a large extent, because there is a considerable number of cases which really arise as a result of the proper court-fee not being paid. Such things would be avoided if a further schedule is appended to the Act. I know the Act has to be amended. I do not know what is the provision in the Act as it now stands. I have not examined it. I do not know whether the Government of India has to amend the Act or the Provincial Government can do it with the permission of the Government of India. But, I think the Provincial Government is entitled to do it of its own accord without the permission of the Central Government. If that be the case, I suggest that the Government should take up in right earnest the question not only of revising the schedule but also of revising the Court Fees Act and the Stamp Act.

“ Then again, Sir, the method of collection of fees is also another bugbear to the public who resort to Courts. It is difficult for several poor people to get justice from Courts. They cannot get their cases adjudicated for want of money at their command. Several suits are

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consequential relief go on for months together. The question of title has to be gone into although a suit is merely for injunction and the mere fact that consequential relief is also added to a declaration entitled him to give his own valuation and not even stamp duty which he ought to pay if the suit is for mere declaration. There is another section of the Court-Fees Act, Article 17 of Schedule II which refers to all declaratory suits. Necessarily, declaratory suits involve questions of title. Hitherto court-fee was Rs. 10. Now on account of the amendment of 1922, fifteen rupees have been fixed in the case of Munsif's Court and hundred in the case of Sub-Courts. All these require a lot of time and much time and energy of the Judge has to be spent, whereas in the suits, small cause nature, for instance, suits on a pro-note or on a suit on mortgage, even though defendant becomes *ex parte*, *ad valorem* fees is levied and although the matter is compromised, even half the money is not returned. I, therefore submit, Sir, that in causes where the time that is taken by the Court and the service that is rendered by Government is very small the fees must be reduced. I think, Sir, there is much scope for increasing the revenue by amendment of this Act. It is not only necessary, but it is just also that persons who want to litigate with regard to complicated matters of right and title and want injunctions to be given to them in their favour may be asked to pay more and persons who come to Court, because the debtor does not pay, can be given relief, especially when the defendant becomes *ex parte*, or the matter is compromised. I, therefore, wish that this Government would at once take up the matter of amending the Court Fees Act and by that way generally reduce the stamp duty that is mostly derived from the ryot."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is rather very lucky that I have caught your eye in this portion of the House. As a matter of fact I stood so many times. . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Order please. Let the hon. Member speak on the motion."

1-45
p.m. MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"I was starting about it. The thing is like this. I am on the other side of the House. Hon. Members were suggesting reduction of stamp duties on various claims. I stand up here, Sir, on behalf of the most forgotten and the most neglected class of people of this Presidency, that is, the zamindari tenants. I plead for the exemption of stamp duty on the collection of rent from the tenants of the zamindari villages. The woes of these tenants have been forgotten both in the matter of collection of rent and in so many other ways. So, I have stood up to make an appeal to the Government that the claims for rent filed in the Courts may be exempted from stamp duty. The stamp duty is practically triple the sum of arrears claimed. If a rent of Rs. 10 has to be claimed, nearly Rs. 30 have to be spent before that sum of Rs. 10 is recovered from the tenant. I tell you, Sir, it is not a beneficial thing either to the zamindar or to the tenant. When a zamindar files a suit for rent, the tenant is

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doomed. A tenant who cannot pay Rs. 10 has to bear a further burden of Rs. 30, and the total comes to about Rs. 40. Is it feasible? Is it not a hardship on the tenants of zamindaris? Is it not certainly a duty of the Government to see that these tenants pay the rent without any additional cost or burden, or is it not, I ask, Sir, the duty of the Government to allow the zamindar, the landlord or the landholder, by whatever name you call him, to realize his rent without any more taxation on himself or others? The zamindars in this Presidency pay nearly Rs. 49 lakhs as paishkist. It is not spent on any of the remunerative purposes on the estates, and it is practically an addition to the revenue. Will the Hon. Government be pleased to look into this matter and exempt Court-fees on the recovery of rents from the zamindari villages and do justice, which is most needed for this class of people?"

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, it is satisfactory that the cultivator, who is also known as the constant litigant in Law Courts, is receiving support from all quarters in this House. It is not enough if relief is given to this cultivator or litigant by reducing his land-tax or by giving relief with regard to his indebtedness. In addition to this, it is absolutely necessary to see that this unfortunate cultivator will not be wasting any more money in law Courts, apart from the time and energy lost in going about. So far as Government are concerned, they are not prepared to reduce the rates of stamp duty under the present circumstances. Reduction is not advisable, firstly because the litigant must be weaned from the temptation of going to Courts and secondly because he would rush to Courts even with very little money for stamp duty. I know that ever since the stamp duty was increased in 1922 litigation has not been on the increase in the law Courts. Apart from the economic depression and the poverty of the litigant, other causes have to be found. Some who were competent to speak on the matter said that because of the prohibitive duty he has to pay for stamps, he is trying to settle matters without going to the Court. If so, we will be helping him by not reducing the stamp duty, and inducing him once again not to frequent the Courts. In what way he could be saved with regard to this cost is a question that has been engaging the attention of the Government. Every one of us in this Government is anxious to see that the cultivator or any other litigant, is saved from unnecessary expenditure in this direction. My Hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister for Court will be saying something about the matter after I have finished, with regard to the court-fees aspect of this question.

"The Head, 'Stamps' is divided into two parts, judicial stamps and non-judicial stamps. With regard to non-judicial stamps again, one hon. Friend referred to the previous history. Some proposal there was that part of this non-judicial stamp duty would be taken over by the Central Government. That was once proposed, but now under the Government of India Act, it has been included in the provincial schedule and also in the all-India schedule. So, a part of this non-judicial

[Mr. T. Prakasam] [15th September 1937]

stamp duty is taken away by the Government of India. So, about the reduction of the non-judicial stamp duty, there is no possibility of doing any such thing at present.

"As regards relieving the litigant or the cultivator from this burden of Court-fees, the Hon. Minister for Court will explain to the House how he would be dealing with the matter in consultation with the rest of the Government. Various points were referred to in the course of this discussion. Promises were made but not kept up, said some. Yes. Since 1922 this matter was brought up from time to time. It was said from the non-official side that promises were made, and from the Government side, it was repudiated, up to a certain stage. Thereafter, when the question was brought up again, some promise was made that this matter would be considered. All those stages were gone, and we are now altogether in a different period where any reduction in regard to the stamp duty is not possible.

"The disparity between the rates of duty in the mufassal and the city was referred to. Again, the difference between what is charged on the original side and what is charged elsewhere was referred to. It was also pointed out that in the Provincial Small Cause Courts in the city, where a suit was compromised, half the stamp duty was refunded. A very wholesome rule. I do agree that that rule would have worked better if it had been extended to all other Courts also. You will see the principle involved therein; when there is no trouble given to the Court, when no time is wasted, when parties come together and enter into a compromise, let them not be put to a loss on this account. So let us refund half the amount. Compromise is the underlying principle there. It is that compromise that this Government is trying to bring about between contending parties and prevent them from waking or going by train or by other means to the Courts and wasting a lot of money by way of stamp duty or by way of fees to lawyers."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the Hon. Member can finish his speech in five minutes, this demand may be finished to-day. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House."

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"This is a simple matter, Sir. I propose to finish in a few minutes. Then, the Hon. Minister for Courts will say a few words on this demand. It is better that this discussion is closed to-day, even if it takes some fifteen minutes after 2 p.m."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is the Hon. Minister for Courts going to speak after the reply of the Minister in charge of the Department?"

2 p.m. THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"The difficulty arose in this way. These cut motions—the cut motions that related to Court-fees—were not sent to me in the ordinary course of business. They were sent to the Hon. Minister for Courts. But we agreed now that I might speak now and the Hon. Minister for Courts will not speak with regard to this matter."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister may continue."

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"With regard to the stamps and applications to the Board of Revenue and the Collector, whether they could be justified on any principle or not, they have to continue until we reach a new stage when the petitioners would be given the right to go without spending any money.

"Something was said about leakage. Leakage there has been everywhere, and necessary steps no doubt must be taken to prevent any leakage in any matter. In spite of the care that is taken in the various departments, there is sometimes some leakage. It is a general statement made by my hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed. He is not able to give any facts and figures. The matter would certainly be examined when any information reaches the Government, but it is a general statement and it is not possible for us to examine it.

"Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar pointed out how money has been spent to recover rent in zamindari areas. Why does he speak of zamindari areas only? Whether zamindari areas or ryotwari areas, when people go to Courts, it makes no difference. They are all compelled to spend money on stamps. If it is merely spending money on stamps, as I have stated already, it would not have mattered much. These men have to spend money for very many other purposes. The other hon. Members who spoke on this referred to the same points in substance and I have answered them in detail. But the main point in this matter is with regard to stamp revenue and saving of expenditure for the litigant and the cultivator. That has to be done by altogether a different means, and the Government is considering how this litigation could be reduced, how the parties could be brought together to settle matters by mediation or by compromise between themselves. Keeping this in view, this Government will be taking steps to see that a proper scheme is adopted. I do not think, Sir, I should say more with regard to this matter, at this stage."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does Mr. Basheer Ahmed press his motion?"

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I may say, Sir, there is no appeal to withdraw and I am very sorry to observe that the answer is not in the best interests of the persons who are represented."

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Mr. Basheer Ahmed has raised a point that an appeal was not made to him to withdraw. I now request the hon. Member, Sir, through you to withdraw his cut motion."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I do not press this motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 10 a.m. next day.

APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 102 asked by Mr. R. B. Ramakrishna Raju at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly, held on the 15th September 1937, page 108 supra.]

Statement showing the districts supplied with electric power for agricultural purposes, the agencies employed for the distribution, and the rates for agricultural and industrial purposes.

Numbe (1)	District. (2)	Name of licensee. (3)	Agency. (4)	Rates—Agricultural including pumping. (5)	Industrial L.T. (6)
1	North Arcot.	Vellore Electric Supply Corporation.	Company	Subject to a monthly minimum charge of Rs. 2-8-0 per brake horse-power of connected load, at 2 annas per unit for the 1st 100 units, per brake horse-power per month and As. 1-6 per unit for the rest.	Three annas per unit for the first 25 units per brake horse-power per mensem. Two annas per unit for the next 25 units per brake horse-power per month and As. 1-6 per unit for the rest brake horse-power per month.
2	Chittoor.	Chittoor Electric Supply Corporation.	Company	 Same as for power.	Subject to a monthly minimum charge of Rs. 4 per brake horse power up to 10 brake horse-power and Rs. 2 thereafter. For consumptions exceeding 3,000 units per mensem 20 per cent less. Less than 200 units per mensem—2 annas per unit. Between 200 units and 1,000 units per mensem—1-5 annas per unit. Between 1,000 units and 6,000 units per mensem—1-25 annas per unit. Over 6,000 units per mensem—1-0 anna per unit.
3	Chingleput	Tirupati-Tirumalai Devasthanam Electric Supply.	Devasthanam	 First 250 units per installed horse-power per annum, 1 anna per unit. Next 250 units per installed horse-power per annum, '9 anna per unit. All in excess units per installed horse-power per annum, '75 anna per unit. No minimum but annual consumption of power shall not be less than that equivalent to Rs. 12 per horse-power connected. No separate rate (same as for power).	Subject to a monthly minimum of Rs. 5 per K.W. of connected load— For the first 250 units per mensem, 3 annas per unit. Next 1,750 units per mensem, 2 annas per unit. Above 2,000 units per mensem, 1 anna per unit.
3	Chingleput	Alandur Panchayat Board Electric Supply.	Panchayat Board	 No separate rate (same as for power).	Subject to a monthly minimum charge of Rs. 5 per K.W. of maximum demand— First 250 units per mensem, 3 annas per unit. Next 1,750 units per mensem, 2 annas per unit. Next 3,000 units per mensem, 1-5 annas per unit. For the rest units per mensem, 1-25 annas per unit. To those guaranteeing an annual consumption of a lakh of units up to a maximum connected load of 100 K.V.A.— First 60,000 units, 2 annas per unit. Next 60,000 units, '75 anna per unit. Rest, '5 anna per unit. One and a half annas per unit or alternatively Rs. 4 per K.V.A. of maximum charge which will be based on two-thirds of the maximum demand.
		Sembiam Panchayat Board Electric Supply.	Do.	Do.	

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Statement showing the districts supplied with electric power for agricultural purposes, the agencies employed for the distribution, and the rates for agricultural and industrial purposes—*cont.*

Number.	District.	Name of licensee.	Agency.	Rates—Agricultural including pumping.	Industrial L.T.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
3	Chingleput— <i>cont.</i>	Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.	Company	 No separate rate (same as for power).	Rs. 4 per K.V.A. of maximum demand plus 9 pies per unit. Subject to a maximum charge of 1½ annas without prejudice to the monthly minimum.
		Do.	Do.	.. .. .	Minimum charge—Rs. 4 of 2/3 of the maximum demand or alternatively a flat rate of 1½ anna per unit. Subject to a monthly minimum charge of Rs. 5 per K.W. of maximum demand or to a monthly minimum of Rs. 2-8-0 per connected horse-power.
		Tiruvottiyur Panchayat Board	Panchayat Board	 Same as for power rates subject to a monthly minimum of Rs. 2 per connected horse-power.	For the 1st 300 units per mensem—2½ annas per unit. Next 1,750 units per mensem—2 annas per unit. Next 3,000 units per mensem—1½ annas per unit. Rest units per mensem—1-25 annas per unit.
		Board Electric Supply.			
4	South Arcot	South Arcot Electricity Distribution Company, Limited.	Company	 Below 200 units per month—2 annas per unit. Between 200 and 749 units a month—1½ annas per unit.	[15th September 1937] First 2,000 units per mensem—1½ annas per unit. All in excess per month—1½ anna per unit. When the monthly consumption falls below 300 units a flat rate of 2 annas will be charged. Rs. 4 per horse-power of connected load as a fixed charge per month plus 1½ annas per unit for the 1st 50 units per month per horse-power and 1 anna for the rest.

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5	Tanjore	East Tanjore Electric Supply Corporation.	Company	 One anna per unit subject to an annual minimum of Rs. 12 per K.W. of connected load.	For a maximum connected load of 20 horse-power and for guaranteed monthly consumption of 250 units per month at 1½ annas per unit. For a maximum connected load of 20 horse-power and for guaranteed monthly consumption of 750 units per month at 1-25 annas per unit. For a maximum connected load of 20 horse-power and for guaranteed monthly consumption of 6,000 units per month at 1-0 anna per unit.
				During winter reduced rates.	or First 15,000 units at 1 anna per unit. Next 15,000 units at 9 anna per unit. The rest units at 75 anna per unit. Minimum guarantee 6,000 units per mensem.
					(1) First 80 units per month, 2 annas per unit. (2) Next 420 units per month, 1 anna per unit. (3) Next 1,500 units per month, 10 pies per unit. (4) Next 2,000 units per month, 9 pies per unit. (5) All the rest units per month, 8 pies per unit.
					Minimum Rs. 3 per K. W. of connected load with a maximum of Rs. 10. To those guaranteeing 6,000 units per annum for the 1st 500 units in any month at 1 anna per unit and the rest as per (3), (4) and (5) above. To those guaranteeing 16,000 units per annum for the 1st 2,000 units in any month at 10 pies per unit and the rest as per (4) and (5) above.

Statement showing the districts supplied with electric power for agricultural purposes, the agencies employed for the distribution, and the rates for agricultural and industrial purposes—*cont.*

Number. (1)	District. (2)	Name of licensee. (3)	Agency. (4)	Rates—Agricultural including pumping. (5)	Industrial L.T. (6)
5	Tanjore— <i>cont.</i>	East Tanjore Electric Supply Corporation.	Company ..	.. One anna per unit subject to an annual minimum of Rs. 12 per K.W. of connected load.	Guarantee 24,000 units per annum then for the 1st 4,000 units in any month at 9 pies per unit and the rest at 8 pies per unit. Guarantee 36,000 units per annum all the units consumed in any month at 8 pies per unit.
		Tanjore Municipal Electric Supply.	Municipality ..	.. No separate rate. Same as for power.	Up to 7 HP. at 2 annas 6 pies per unit subject to a monthly minimum charge of Rs. 3 per K.W. connected. Above 7 HP. at 1 anna 6 pies per unit subject to an annual minimum of Rs. 35 per HP. connected.
		Kumbakonam Electric Supply Corporation.	Company ..	.. Do.	First 500 units per mensem—1 anna 6 pies per unit. Next 500 units per mensem—1 anna 3 pies per unit. Rest per mensem—1 anna per unit. When a minimum monthly consumption of 500 units is guaranteed for the first 1,000 units at 1 anna 3 pies per unit.
		Nagapattanam Electric Supply Company.	Do. ..	.. Seventy-five per cent of the rates for power.	First 250 units per mensem—1 anna 9 pies per unit; the rest up to 500 units per mensem—1 anna 6 pies per unit; for the rest units per mensem—1 anna 3 pies per unit. To those guaranteeing 500 units per mensem for the first 1,000 units at 1 anna 3 pies per unit. Monthly minimum Rs. 3 per HP. up to 10 HP. and Rs. 2-8-0 per HP. above 10 HP.

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6	Trichinopoly	Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation.	Do. ..	.. Nine pies per unit subject to an annual minimum of Rs. 10.	First 80 units per mensem—2 annas per unit. Next 920 units per mensem—1 anna per unit. Next 4,000 units per mensem—10 pies per unit. All the rest per mensem—9 pies per unit. To consumers guaranteeing Rupees 62-8-0 per mensem for the first 1,000 units at 1 anna. To consumers guaranteeing Rs. 200 per mensem at 9 pies per unit.
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	Karur Municipal Electric Supply.	Government managed.	First 250 units per installed HP. per annum 1 anna per unit. Next 250 units per annum .9 anna per unit. All in excess per installed HP. per annum .75 anna per unit. No minimum; but annual consumption of power shall not be less than that equivalent to Rs. 12 per HP. connected.	First 1,000 units per month—1 anna per unit. Net 2,000 units per month—85 annas per unit. All in excess per month—75 annas per unit. No minimum; but if less than 250 units per connected HP. are consumed during the year the rate will be 1-25 annas per unit, or Rs. 4 per K.W. of maximum demand per month as minimum plus .7 anna per unit, the over all maximum charge not exceeding 1 anna per unit without prejudice to the monthly minimum.
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7	Madura	Bodinayakanur Municipal Electric Supply.	Government managed.	One anna per unit. No minimum; but the annual consumption charges should not be less than Rs. 15 per HP. connected.	First 500 units per month—1-75 annas per unit. Between 500 to 1,000 units per month—1-5 annas per unit. Between 1,000 to 3,000 units per month—1-25 annas per unit. All in excess of 3,000 units per month—1 anna per unit. No minimum; but if the annual consumption falls below 300 units per HP. connected all the units consumed at 1-75 annas per unit.
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statement showing the districts supplied with electric power for agricultural purposes, the agencies employed for the distribution, and the rates for agricultural and industrial purposes—*cont.*

Number. (1)	District. (2)	Name of licensee. (3)	Agency. (4)	Rates—Agricultural including pumping. (5)	Industrial L.T. (6)
7	Madura— <i>cont.</i>	Periyakulam Municipal Electric Supply.	Government managed.	Same as for Bodinayakanur Municipal Electric Supply.	Same as for Bodinayakanur Municipal Electric Supply.
		Palni Municipal Electric supply.	Do.	First 250 units per installed H.P. per annum—1 anna per unit. Next 250 units per annum—9 anna per unit. All in excess per installed H.P. per annum—75 anna per unit. No minimum but annual consumption of power shall not be less than that equivalent to Rs. 12 per H.P. connected.	First 1,000 units per month—1 anna per unit. Next 2,000 units per month—85 anna per unit. All in excess units per month—75 anna per unit. No minimum but if less than 250 units per connected H.P. are consumed during the year the rate will be 1-25 annas per unit. or Rs. 4 per KW of maximum demand per month as minimum plus 7 anna per unit, the over all maximum charge not exceeding one anna per unit without prejudice to the monthly minimum.

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Undigul Municipal Electric supply.	Do.	..	One anna per unit; no minimum but the annual consumption charges should not be less than Rs. 15 per H.P. connected.	Up to 500 units per mensem—1-5 annas per unit. Between 500 to 1,000 units per mensem—1-25 annas per unit. Between 1,000 to 3,000 units per mensem—1-0 anna per unit. All in excess per mensem—75 anna per unit. If the annual consumption falls below 300 units per H.P. all at 1-5 annas per unit.
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Madura Municipal Electric supply.	Municipality	..	1 anna 6 pies per unit (connected H.P. to be not less than 3 H.P.). Minimum annual consumption charge—Rs. 15 per H.P. connected.	First 2,000 units per mensem—1 anna 3 pies per unit. All in excess per month—1 anna per unit. When the monthly consumption falls below 1,000 units a flat rate of 1 anna 6 pies per unit.
Madura district— Theni	Government	..	One anna per unit; no minimum but the annual consumption charges should not be less than Rs. 15 per H.P. connected.	Up to 500 units per mensem—1-5 annas per unit. Between 500 to 1,000 units per mensem—1-25 annas per unit. Between 1,000 to 3,000 units per mensem—1-0 anna per unit. All in excess per mensem—75 anna per unit. If the annual consumption falls below 300 units per H.P. all at 1-5 annas per unit.
8 Ramnad	Kanadukathan Electric Supply Corporation Limited.	..	No separate rate. Same as for power.	A minimum monthly charge of Rs. 4 per H.P. of installed plant up to 12 H.P. and a maximum monthly charge of Rs. 50 per installation above 12 H.P. irrespective of the number of motors and a unit charge of one and a half annas only for the unit consumed.
	Sri Meenakshi Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Devakottai.	Do.	Do.	Subject to a monthly minimum charge of Rs. 3 the first 40 units at 4 annas per unit. Next 200 units at 2 annas per unit. All in excess of the above per mensem—1 anna 6 pies per unit. or at the consumer's option subject to a monthly minimum of Rs. 15, first 200 units in any month, 2 annas per unit.

Statement showing the districts supplied with electric power for agricultural purposes, the agencies employed for the distribution, and the rates for agricultural and industrial purposes—*cont.*

Number. (1)	District. (2)	Name of licensee. (3)	Agency (4)	Rates—Agricultural including pumping. (5)	(6)
8	Ramnad— <i>cont.</i>	Sri Minakshi Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Devakottai.	Company	No separate rate (same as for power).	Rest in any month, 1 anna 6 pies per unit. When the annual consumption is more than 5,000 units but less than 10,000 units a rebate of 10 per cent will be allowed. When the annual consumption is more than 10,000 units a rebate of 15 per cent. Consumers guaranteeing 12,000 units per annum will be charged at 1-2 annas per unit and above 12,000 units at 1 anna per unit. Subject to a monthly minimum charge of Rs. 8 per K.W. of maximum demand. For the first 250 units per month 4 annas per unit. Next 3,750 units per month, 2½ annas per unit. Next 4,000 units per month, 1½ annas per unit. For the rest units per month, 1 anna per unit. Subject to a monthly minimum charge of Rs. 4 per horse-power of installed plant; subject to a maximum monthly charge of Rs. 50. First 2,000 units per month 2 annas per unit. Rest units per month Re. 0-1-4 per unit. When a monthly consumption of 1,000 units is guaranteed at Re. 0-1-4 per unit.
		Reliance Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., Okkur.	Do.	Do.	
		Nattarasankottai Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd.	Do.	Do.	

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		Sri Meenakshi Sundareswaral Electric Power Corporation, Karaikudi.	Do.	3 annas for the first 20 units and rest at 2 annas per unit subject to a monthly minimum of Rs. 2 per horse-power.	At 4 annas per unit for the first 20 units per month per K.W. of connected load and the rest at 2 annas per unit subject to the following monthly minimum up to 4 horse-power monthly, minimum Rs. 5 per K.W. of connected load. Exceeding 5 horse-power but not exceeding 10 horse-power, Rs. 25. Exceeding 10 horse-power, but not exceeding 15 horse-power, Rs. 35. Exceeding 15 horse-power, but not exceeding 20 horse-power, Rs. 40. Where the maximum demand does not exceed 25 K.V.A.— (1) To those who guarantee a monthly minimum of Rs. 75 for the first 1,000 units per month 2 annas per unit. Between 1,001 and 2,000 units As. 1-9 per unit. Above 2,000 units As. 1-6 per unit. (2) To those who guarantee a monthly minimum of Rs. 100— For the first 1,000 units per month As. 1-9 per unit. Above 1,000 units per month As. 1-6 per unit.
		Virudunagar Municipal Electric Supply.	Government managed.	1 anna per unit: no minimum but the annual consumption charges should not be less than Rs. 15 per horse-power connected.	Up to 500 units per month 1½ annas per unit. Between 500 and 1,000 units per month 1-2½ annas per unit. Between 1,000 and 3,000 units per month 1-0 anna per unit. All in excess units per month .75 anna per unit. If the annual consumption falls below 300 units per month power all at 1-5 annas per unit.

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Statement showing the districts supplied with electric power for agricultural purposes, the agencies employed for the distribution, and the rates for agricultural and industrial purposes—*cont.*

Number. (1)	District. (2)	Name of licensees. (3)	Agency. (4)	Rates—Agricultural including pumping. (5)	Industrial L. T. (6)
9	Salem ..	Salem-Erode Electricity Distribution Co.	Company	.. 1 anna per unit. No monthly minimum but the annual consumption should not be less than Rs. 12 per horse-power connected.	First 3,000 units per menssem 1 anna per unit. All in excess of 3,000 units per menssem .75 anna per unit. No minimum, but if less than 250 units per connected horse-power are consumed during the year the rate will be 1.25 annas for the total consumption. or Rs. 4 per K.W. of maximum demand as minimum plus .75 anna per unit. The overall unit being not more than 1 anna per unit without prejudice to the monthly minimum. First 1,000 units per month—1 anna per unit. Next 2,000 units per month—.85 anna per unit. All in excess units per month—.75 anna per unit. No minimum but if less than 250 units per connected horse-power are consumed during the year the rate will be 1.25 annas per unit. or Rs. 4 per K.W. of maximum demand per month as minimum plus .7 anna per unit, the overall maximum charge not exceeding 1 anna per unit without prejudice to the monthly minimum.
10	Coimbatore ..	Coimbatore Municipal Electric Supply.	Municipality.	First 250 units per installed horse-power per annum—1 anna per unit. Next 250 units per installed horse-power per annum—9 anna per unit. All in excess per installed horse-power per annum—.75 anna per unit. No minimum but annual consumption of power shall not be less than that equivalent to Rs. 12 per horse-power connected.	First 1,000 units per month—1 anna per unit. Next 2,000 units per month—.85 anna per unit. All in excess units per month—.75 anna per unit. No minimum but if less than 250 units per connected horse-power are consumed during the year the rate will be 1.25 annas per unit. or Rs. 4 per K.W. of maximum demand per month as minimum plus .7 anna per unit, the overall maximum charge not exceeding 1 anna per unit without prejudice to the monthly minimum.

[15th September 1937]

Number.	District.	Name of licensees.	Agency.	Rates—Agricultural including pumping.	Industrial L. T.
11	Nilgiris ..	Coonoor Municipal Electric Supply.	Municipality	.. First 250 units per installed horse-power per annum—1 anna per unit. Next 250 units per installed horse-power per annum—.9 anna per unit. All in excess per installed horse-power per annum—.75 anna per unit. No minimum but annual consumption of power shall not be less than that equivalent to Rs. 12 per horse-power connected. Do. Do.	First 1,000 units per month—1 anna per unit. Next 2,000 units per month—.85 anna per unit. All in excess units per month—.75 anna per unit. No minimum but if less than 250 units per connected horse-power are consumed during the year the rate will be 1.25 annas per unit or Rs. 4 per K.W. of maximum demand per month as minimum plus .7 anna per unit, the overall maximum charge not exceeding 1 anna per unit without prejudice to the monthly minimum. Do. Do.
..	Nilgiris ..	Coonoor Municipal Electric Supply.	Municipality	.. 2.5 annas per unit. Minimum annual consumption charge Rs. 12 per horse-power connected. Do. Do.	Rs. 2-8-0 per connected horse-power as fixed charge plus— For the first 1,000 units per menssem—1 anna per unit. Next 4,000 units per menssem—.8 anna per unit. In excess of 5,000 units per menssem—.6 anna per unit or For installations above 10 horse-power—Rs. 5 per K.W. of maximum demand per menssem as minimum plus .75 anna per unit. The above rate is subject to an overall rate of 1 anna 6 pies and 1 anna 3 pies for installations up to 20 horse-power and above respectively. One anna per unit with a minimum of Rs. 2-8-0 per connected horse-power per month.
..	Nilgiris ..	Coonoor Municipal Electric Supply.	Municipality	.. One anna three pies per unit with a minimum of Rs. 2-8-0 per connected horse-power per month.	For installations above 10 horse-power—Rs. 5 per K.W. of maximum demand per menssem as minimum plus .75 anna per unit. The above rate is subject to an overall rate of 1 anna 6 pies and 1 anna 3 pies for installations up to 20 horse-power and above respectively. One anna per unit with a minimum of Rs. 2-8-0 per connected horse-power per month.

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Statement showing the districts supplied with electric power for agricultural purposes, the agencies employed for the distribution, and the rates for agricultural and industrial purposes—*cont.*

Number.	District.	Name of licensees.	Agency.	Rates—Agricultural including pumping.	Industrial L.T.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
12	Coimbatore-Salem	....	Government	Power at 400 volts for bona fide agriculturists .. 1 anna per unit. .. 0-90 anna per unit. .. 0-75 "	(a) Industrial power at 400 volts or lower— First 1,000 units per month at 1 anna per unit. Next 2,000 units per month at 0-85 anna per unit. All in excess per month at 0-75 anna per unit. No minimum, but if less than 250 units per connected horse-power are consumed during the year, the rate will be 1-25 annas per unit for the total consumption. (b) Alternatively Rs. 4 per K.W. of maximum demand per month as a minimum, plus 0-70 anna per unit. The overall unit rate shall not be more than 1 anna per unit without prejudice to the monthly minimum charge. (c) Electric boilers, heaters, large cookers and baking ovens with a connected and utilized load of 4,000 watts or more— 0-60 anna per unit if used only between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. 0-75 anna per unit for 24-hour service. (d) Bulk supply at 400 volts— (i) For mixed loads of lighting, heating and power, lighting not to exceed 15 per cent of monthly consumption— First 1,000 units per month—1-25 annas per unit. Next 4,000 units per month—0-80 anna per unit. All in excess per month—0-60 anna per unit. Minimum monthly charge Rs. 100. (ii) For mixed loads of lighting, fan, heating and power, where the consumption for lighting and fan exceeds 15 per cent but is less than 30 per cent of the monthly total consumption— First 2,000 units per month—1-25 annas per unit. Next 4,000 units per month—0-80 anna per unit. All in excess per month—0-60 anna per unit. Minimum monthly charge Rs. 100.

[15th September 1937]

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 16th September 1937.

The House met in the Senate House, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

Proceedings began with the singing of Vande Mataram.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

* 116 Q. ^a

Contribution by municipalities for anti-rabic treatment.

* 117 Q.—MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the amounts paid by various Municipalities for anti-rabic treatment for 1935-36 and 1936-37 are;

(b) what the principle is on which such bills are collected from the municipalities;

(c) whether any representations were made by Municipalities against such collection; and

(d) whether the Vellore Municipality requested the Government for exemption from such collection and if so, the orders passed by the Government thereon?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The Government have no information.

“(b) The charges are held to come under obligatory medical expenditure under rule 44 of Schedule IV of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920.

“(c) Representations were received from a few municipal councils.

“(d) Yes; the Government were unable to comply with the request of the Council.”

* 118 Q. ^b

Progress of work connected with the revision of rules for the control of motor vehicles.

* 119 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the new rules under preparation for controlling the motor vehicles traffic in this Province are;

^a Vide pages 192-193 infra.

^b Vide pages 195-196 infra.

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(b) when they are likely to be brought into force; and

(c) when the work was originally started, and what the reasons for the delay are?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a) to (c) A committee was appointed in 1935 to advise the Government on the revision of the rules under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act. The committee reported in April 1935. The Government took up the examination after obtaining the views of a number of other officials and others on the recommendations and draft rules.

“In the meantime the Government of India took up the amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act, and in May 1936, this Government were informed that the whole question would be considered by the Transport Advisory Council in July 1936. They therefore decided to defer the general revision of the Madras Rules until the terms of the Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act were known.

“The Government of India introduced the Bill in September 1936 but dropped it and the question of legislation is still under consideration.

“The Government have at present under consideration certain proposals to revise the existing system of motor vehicles control, and a decision will be taken as soon as possible.

“In the meantime, the Government are taking steps to amend rules as far as is necessary and possible.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the report of the committee has been got ready?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“May I ask the hon. Member which committee he means?”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“The special committee appointed to enquire into the Motor Vehicles Act.”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“That committee submitted their report to this Government and they took it up for examination. After that the Government of India took up the question of amending the Motor Vehicles Act and this Government did not further consider the report of the committee appointed by them.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask whether the report of the committee was published; if not, whether it will be published at least hereafter?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“That report is no longer of any use, because the Motor Vehicles Rules are to be amended in the light of the amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act by the Government of India. The report which the hon. Member refers to in his question is with reference to the Motor Vehicles Act which is in existence to-day.”

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Supply of buttermilk to ‘C’ class prisoners in jails.

* 120 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that orders have been passed for the supply of buttermilk to ‘C’ class prisoners;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the order will be placed on the table;

(c) what the extra cost involved on account of this item is; and

(d) whether buttermilk is to be got through contractors or by rearing cows and buffaloes in the jails?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) A copy ^a of G.O. No. 3015, Home, dated the 2nd August 1937, is placed on the table.

“(c) About Rs. 80,000 per annum.

“(d) The Government have no information. The hon. Member is referred to the rules in Chapter XLI of the Madras Jail Manual which deal with the methods of procuring rations.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“With reference to the answer given to clause (b), may I ask whether a copy of the order was placed on the table of the House? It is stated here ‘A copy of G.O. No. 3015, Home, dated the 2nd August 1937, is placed on the table. As a matter of fact I do not find it.’”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“It will be placed on the table if it is not already placed.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“In view of the fact that buttermilk can be diluted to any extent, may I ask whether any steps will be taken to see that it is not done so?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The ordinary precaution of seeing that proper rations are given to prisoners is adhered to here also.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“With reference to clause (d), may I ask whether there is any proposal to get buttermilk prepared in the jail itself?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“To my knowledge buttermilk is being prepared in almost all the jails.”

MIR AKRAM ALI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask whether butter is utilized for the benefit of the prisoners?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Buttermilk is given.”

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MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—" May I ask whether there is any change in the diet? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" There is change in the diet to the extent that buttermilk also is given."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" May I ask whether any substitute will be given to those prisoners who are not accustomed to take buttermilk? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" Government are not so far aware that there is any class of prisoners who do not want buttermilk."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" May I ask whether the Hon. Minister has got information that all prisoners are accustomed to take buttermilk? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" That matter has not been gone into and no complaint has reached the Government so far."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" May I request the Government to find out whether there are any prisoners who are not accustomed to buttermilk and whether such people have requested the Government to give them any other substitute for buttermilk? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" If Government gets information to that effect, certainly the matter will be considered."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" May I request the Hon. Minister to get that information? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" That information is not to be got by making a roving enquiry into the matter."

MR. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—" Is the Government aware that the quantity of buttermilk supplied to the prisoners is not sufficient? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" It is sufficient. That is the information that Government have got."

Number of political internees in jails as on 1st April 1937, 14th July 1937 and subsequent to date.

* 121 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) what the number of prisoners who were interned in the jails of this Province for political considerations on 1st April 1937 was; and

(b) what the number was on 14th July 1937, and what the number now is?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" Clauses (a) and (b) The expression ' political considerations ' is not susceptible of precise interpretation. If, however, the hon. Member refers to State prisoners detained in jail, without trial, under the orders of

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this Government, the answer to both the clauses of the question is ' nil.' There were, however, three Mappilla State prisoners under detention on 1st April 1937; they were not in jail but were at large in certain towns outside Malabar and were receiving allowances from the Government. The restrictions imposed upon them have now been removed and there are no more State prisoners under detention in this Presidency other than the five Bengal State prisoners now confined in the Central Jail, Vellore, under Bengal Regulation III of 1818."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I ask whether it is not possible for this Government to apply to the Bengal Government and say that they will not keep those prisoners for a long time? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The detention of the prisoners of one province in another province is worked under certain definite rules and the consent of the two Provincial Governments and the Government of India is involved in this matter and this Government has no exclusive powers to deal with the case."

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I take it that this Government is at liberty to make recommendations with regard to such prisoners? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The recommendations must be more explicitly stated for me to answer the question."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether he will be in a position to have a classification of prisoners into ' political ' and ' non-political ' ? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" Does that question refer to the political prisoners referred to in my answer? If not, I submit the hon. Member's question does not arise."

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" With regard to the recommendation that I referred to above, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether this Government is at liberty to make recommendations for the release of certain political prisoners? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" We are certainly at liberty to make that recommendation, but we are likely to receive a rebuff."

Proposals for the re-amalgamation of bifurcated district boards and the abolition of nominations to the bifurcated district boards.

* 122 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any proposals for the re-amalgamation of district boards which have been bifurcated, and if so, what they are; and

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(b) whether there are any proposals for abolishing nominations to the bifurcated district boards and if so, what they are?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The question of re-amalgamating the district boards in the revenue districts of Trichinopoly is under the consideration of the Government.

“(b) The Government have decided to do away with the system of nominations and necessary legislation will shortly be undertaken to give effect to this.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I know whether there are other district boards with regard to which the Government are contemplating amalgamation?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There are no other district boards.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to re-amalgamate those district boards which have been bifurcated?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There is no such policy at present. We will consider it later on.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will consider the desirability of amalgamating the Ramnad district boards?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Yesterday I received a deputation regarding this question and the proposal is under consideration.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“May I know if there are any recommendations received from the East or the West Godavari district for the amalgamation of the bifurcated district boards?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Not to my knowledge, Sir.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I know whether any representations or resolutions have been received by the Government with regard to the amalgamation of the Salem District Board?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No, Sir.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Are we to take it that purely on account of financial considerations, the question of amalgamation of the Trichinopoly district boards is being considered and if so whether a similar principle will be applied to other district boards also?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is purely on account of the question of finance that the amalgamation of Trichinopoly district boards is being considered. If such instances are brought to the notice of the Government, they will consider them.”

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MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“May I ask whether it is the policy of the Government to amalgamate the district boards and bring into existence the original district board, or whether it is the policy of the Government to do away with the district boards altogether and substitute divisional boards for them?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I was referring only to certain district boards. I did not say anything with reference to other district boards.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“With reference to the answer given in clause (a), may I ask how long it will take for the Government to consider this proposal?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Perhaps in the course of the week the Government will come to a decision.”

Proposals for the amalgamation of boys' and girls' schools.

* 123 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are proposals for the amalgamation of boys' and girls' schools as a general policy or whether amalgamation is proposed only in special cases; and

(b) whether any instructions have been issued to the Inspecting staff in this direction and, if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) There are no proposals for the amalgamation of boys' and girls' schools as a matter of general policy. Such amalgamations are now only proposed in special cases when schools are found to be uneconomical in strength and the number of boys and girls of school-age justify only one school.

“(b) A copy^a of the instructions issued by the Director of Public Instruction is appended.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that inspecting authorities have issued a circular inviting the opinion of the public in the various villages with regard to the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' schools?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I was careful to say, Sir, that at present it is not a matter of general policy. When we have got the replies and when we note the feeling in the country the matter will be considered.”

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MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether when the boys and girls are amalgamated owing to the amalgamation of the schools, he will also consider the question of the amalgamation of the teachers in the boys and the girls schools? (Laughter) May I ask also whether these amalgamations are done under the orders of the Government? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ If the hon. Gentleman had taken the trouble to listen to my answer, he would have found that amalgamations are made only in cases where only one school is justified. Under such circumstances naturally the schools are amalgamated under the orders of the Government.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ With regard to the instructions which have been given to the inspecting authority, I find that they have not been placed on the table of the House this morning? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ They were placed on the table of the House. If the hon. Member has not taken the trouble to see them I am not responsible.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit that the papers have not been placed on the table of the House and we are handicapped in putting supplementary questions.

“ May I submit to you, Sir, that it is a matter for you to consider? The Government Secretariat does send these papers to the Assembly Secretariat and if they are to be placed on the table of the House, I hope you will take the trouble of having them printed and supplied to the Members of the Council.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether there are any proposals to abolish separate schools for Harijans such as Missionary schools and amalgamate them with schools for caste Hindu boys? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ That matter is not at present under consideration, though I personally feel that there ought to be only one kind of elementary school if we are to actively take up the question of introducing primary education all round.”

Progress of work connected with the supply of drinking water from the Mettur Reservoir to Salem town.

* 124 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the scheme for the supply of drinking water to Salem town from the Mettur Reservoir is at present;

(b) whether the actual work has been commenced; and

(c) by whom the work is to be executed?

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ (a) and (b) A scheme of water supply to the Salem municipality from the Mettur reservoir has been sanctioned by Government. The council has sent to the Sanitary Engineer for his approval the necessary tender documents for inviting tenders for the execution of the work.

“ (c) The execution of the work will be entrusted to one or more private engineering firms.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister how long it will take to have this scheme completed? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ I may inform the hon. Member that tenders have been called for and as soon as the tenders are accepted, the execution of the work will be taken on hand. It is difficult for the Government to say definitely when the scheme will be completed, because we cannot possibly calculate the amount of time which will be taken by the Engineering department.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ I think there will be some estimate of the length of time within which the work will have to be completed. That would be one of the conditions of the contract and I want to have the information on that point.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ Tenders have been called for and it is too early to give any definite answer on the point.”

Progress of the scheme for the supply of drinking water to Jalakantapuram, Taramangalam, etc.

* 125 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the proposal for the drinking water supply to the villages of Nangavalli, Jalakantapuram, Taramangalam, etc., from the proposed water-main from Mettur to Salem is at present;

(b) whether the district boards concerned have undertaken to meet the cost on behalf of the panchayats; and

(c) when these works are proposed to be undertaken?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ (a) The financing of the scheme is still under consideration. The Panchayat Boards of Taramangalam and Jalakantapuram have been requested to state whether they are willing to levy a reasonable rate of tax for financing the water-supply scheme and to credit the proceeds to the Dharmapuri District Board.

“ (b) The Salem District Board has agreed to meet the cost on behalf of the Suramangalam Panchayat. The Dharmapuri District Board has agreed to meet the cost on behalf of the other villages provided the panchayat boards concerned are prepared

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to bear a portion of the charges and the Salem Municipal Council agrees to reduce the rate of charges for supply of water from the Mettur Dam.

“(c) The works will be undertaken as soon as the financing of the scheme is settled and plans and estimates are ready.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether replies have since been received from the various panchayat boards? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ Some of the panchayat boards have replied and from the answer I have already given it will be found that the Salem District Board and the Dhramapuri District Board have on receipt of the replies agreed to undertake the scheme. The replies of those panchayats which have not yet replied are not before the Government.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I know the nature of the replies which have been so far received? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ No reply at all has reached the Government. What then can we say about the nature of the replies? ”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ It was stated that some of the boards have given replies.”

Representations from local bodies against the high price of drugs supplied from the Government Medical Stores.

* 126 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been received from the district boards or the Presidents, complaining about the high price of medicines in the Medical Stores Depot, Madras, and requesting permission to purchase from outside firms; and

(b) if so, from whom, and how they have been disposed of?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ (a) & (b) Representations were made by the Presidents, District Boards of Guntur, West Tanjore and Salem and the District Boards of Malabar, the Nilgiris and Chingleput. Permission to purchase medical stores in the open market was not granted. The Government are at present considering the question of the possibility of supplying medical stores to local bodies at cheaper rates by securing a reduction in the surcharge now imposed by the Medical Stores Depot.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“ May I ask whether more than 40 per cent of the cost is not charged as surcharge? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ No, Sir.”

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MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I ask the Government how long they will take to tackle this question of the cost of medicines supplied by the Medical Stores Depot and come to some decision? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The hon. Member is aware that the Government are already dealing with the question and the lines on which they are dealing with it are given in the answer.”

MR. M. J. SAMUEL:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government are aware that the indents for medicines from mufassal hospitals and dispensaries are unduly delayed in despatch from the Government Medical Stores thereby causing great inconvenience to the public? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The Government have no definite information on the subject, but if the hon. Member would put down a question I will call for the information.”

MR. G. B. READE:—“ Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Medical Stores Depot shows an annual profit on the sale of medical stores? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ I am not aware of it; I want notice of the question.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he is not personally aware that the prices of medicines in the Government stores are higher than the prices in the open market? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ I am not aware personally of anything.” (Laughter.)

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether the Government are aware that this question is being agitated for a very long time? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ Yes, Sir. The fact that seven district boards have already sent communications to the Government is proof of it and the Government is aware of it.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“ May I ask, Sir, why when the district boards are allowed to purchase other articles from the open market, they are restricted to purchasing medical stores alone from the Government depot? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The hon. Member will understand that this is a question of the supply of medicines for human consumption, particularly for diseased individuals and therefore there must be some restriction with regard to the place of purchase and the quality of the articles that are supplied and the amount of guarantee that is given as to the purity of these things.”

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MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"But is it not a fact that the private practitioner purchases from outside for his practice?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Well, Government are certainly in a more responsible position than the private medical practitioner."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Does it then mean, Sir, that the private practitioners are irresponsible?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The responsibility of private practitioners is only to the individual concerned while the Government is responsible to the whole public."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the profit earned by this Medical Stores Depot goes to the Military Department or to the Provincial Government?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Notice, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I may inform hon. Members that the procedure that will be adopted in this House with regard to the manner of putting questions and giving answers is this. If an hon. Member who has given notice of a question is absent at the time when the question is called, his question will be passed over. Hon. Ministers are expected to be present at question time to answer questions and if an Hon. Minister to whom a question is addressed happens to be absent when the particular question is called, then that question will be passed over. If, however the Hon. Minister turns up before the end of question-time, he will be allowed to answer the question so passed over. If he does not turn up during question-time, the Parliamentary Secretary concerned will be permitted to answer the question."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—"May I know whether Parliamentary Secretaries could not give the answers to the questions in the absence of the Ministers?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"My ruling is that they will be permitted to answer if the Hon. Ministers do not turn up at all during question-time. But such questions will be taken up only after the other questions which have been addressed to the Hon. Ministers who are present in the House have been put and answered. If the Hon. Minister himself turns up during question-time he will answer the questions. That is the procedure to be adopted here and that is being adopted in other Legislative bodies."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, owing to the absence of any microphone on this side of the House a number of Members here find it extremely difficult to address the House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Four more microphones will be coming in in a few days. The microphones we have at present have been arranged in a regular order so as to suit the convenience of all the Members."

* 127 Q. *

* Vide pages 196-199 infra.

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Installation of the latest model of a Linotype machine in the Government Press.

* 128 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) when and by whom the latest model of a Linotype machine was installed in the Government Press;

(b) whether it is an improved model with complicated mechanism;

(c) whether there was any breakage of parts of this machine during the course of its erection and what the reasons for such breakages were and what the value of damage and loss incurred was;

(d) whether the machine was running smoothly after it was erected;

(e) whether it is not a fact that Mr. Wynne had to re-erect the machine after his return from leave due to defective erection;

(f) who the operators were that were put on that machine by Mr. Wynne and what their experience and length of service were;

(g) whether they still continue to work on the same machine;

(h) if not, why they were transferred;

(i) who the operators are that are now working on that machine and what their service and experience are; and

(j) whether the present operators were paid 'class-rates' for a week when they were put on the machine and why; whether the previous operators were not paid in this manner?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) In August 1936, by the acting Lino Instructor.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) The Government understand that there occurred breakages involving an additional expenditure of only rupees three and that they were due to the fact that the erection instructions and drawings supplied by the company were not available at the time of erection. It was subsequently found that these had been sent by the company to a wrong address.

" (d) There was some trouble such as is incidental to most new installations.

" (e) The answer is in the negative.

" (f) C. Thayagasundaram, service 13 years and 7 months and T. Loganathan, service 12 years and 9 months.

" (g) The answer is in the negative.

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“(h) In order to have other operators trained on the new model so that the machines may not be idle when trained operators happen to be on leave.

“(i) A. Devadoss, service 6 years and 6 months and C. Balasubramanian, service 3 years and 7 months.

“(j) Yes; being new to the machine, their earnings based on out-turn would otherwise have suffered diminution. This consideration did not arise in the case of the previous operators as it was possible at that time for the previous Lino Instructor to give them full-time assistance.”

10-30
a.m.

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I ask whether this transfer of the old operatives and putting in new operatives on the new machine has not resulted in the reduction of the wages earned by these operatives, and if so, what steps the Government propose to take to compensate them? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ If the hon. Member had listened to the answer I gave, he would have found that the Government said that the wages have gone down for the simple reason that the new operatives who are asked to work these machines are not fully trained to work these; consequently their wages are lower. With regard to the steps the Government propose to take, the Government would, like other employers, like to have as many as possible to operate these machines and that is the reason why a change has been made so that all people attending the Government Press on piece-wage system might learn to operate these machines.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“ Will the Government put the machine in charge of an expert who is qualified? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ There is no question of expert at all. As I have said, the acting Lino Instructor is quite capable of dealing with the machine as any one else.”

Research into the dietetic value of Indian food-stuffs.

* 116 Q.—MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any investigations are being made into the dietetic value of Indian food-stuffs and if so, what those researches are; and

(b) whether the Government propose to make the results of the researches available to the Indian peasant and worker to enable him to have a balanced diet?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ (a) Yes; the Nutrition Research Institute, Coonoor, under the direction of Dr. W. R. Aykroid, M.D., is carrying on investigations into the dietetic value of Indian foodstuffs.

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“(b) The question will receive the consideration of the Government when conclusions regarding balanced diets are reached.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I ask whether it is not possible to publish the result of the investigations as they proceed, instead of waiting for final conclusions with regard to food-stuffs? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The hon. Member must be aware that the Government is issuing annual publications with regard to researches and the results of such researches that are being carried on at Coonoor.”

MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—“ May I ask when the results of the investigations are likely to be published? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ They are being published every year.”

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN:—“ Have any attempts been made to find out the superior nutritional value of hand-pounded rice? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The investigation has been carried on at Coonoor.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“ What is the result of the investigation? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ I am not the Director of the Nutrition Research Institute.”

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN:—“ Will the Government consider the desirability of imposing a small licence-fee on milled rice, in order to give protection to hand-pounded rice? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The question will be considered.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to place on the table of the House the result of the investigations that are being carried on with regard to hand-pounded rice? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The results of all investigations that are being carried on in the Coonoor Research Laboratory are being published and I am sure the result of this investigation also will be published in the usual course through the publications of the Institute.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I ask whether the Professor of Bio-Chemistry at the Medical College has made any contribution on the subject? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ That does not arise out of the question.”

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Salary of the present Commissioner of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams.

129 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Commissioner of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams was appointed on a salary of Rs. 600 per mensem;

(b) whether it is a fact that he is now receiving Rs. 1,200 within a year of his appointment;

(c) if so, under what circumstances and when he was permitted to draw the maximum salary fixed under the Act; and

(d) whether the Government propose to reduce the salary of the Commissioner?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) No. He was appointed on an initial salary of Rs. 1,000 in the scale of Rs. 600—50—1,200.

“(b) The answer is in the negative.

“(c) The question does not arise.

“(d) There is no such proposal.”

Scale of travelling allowance admissible in the case of the Commissioner, Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams.

* 130 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what the travelling allowance allowed to the Commissioner of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams is?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“He is paid travelling and halting allowance on the scale and subject to the conditions and restrictions applicable to Government servants of Asiatic domicile not being a member of an All-India Service drawing the same pay under the Madras Travelling Allowance Rules for the time being in force.”

MR. K. VARADACHARI:—“May I know, Sir, if the Commissioner certifies the expenditure incurred for journeys undertaken by him?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“I think he does.”

MR. K. VARADACHARI:—“May I know, Sir, if the Government is aware that the Commissioner made certain trips to Pithapuram last year at a time when railway concession was available?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“That is a matter which I am not aware of; the hon. Member may be aware of it.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“How long has he been in the office?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“I think it is for a year or so.”

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MR. K. VARADACHARI:—“May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the Auditor has recently reported that the travelling allowance bills in regard to the journeys to Pithapuram were not alright?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The Government are not aware of any such report.”

MR. K. VARADACHARI:—“Will the Government enquire into the matter?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The Government will consider the matter.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“May I know if his salary was increased from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1,000?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“If the hon. Member has listened to my answer to the previous question, he would have known that the starting salary was Rs. 1,000 and it was not raised later.”

Provision of adequate buildings for the High School at Chodavaram.

* 118 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations were received by the Government regarding the construction of adequate buildings for the High School at Chodavaram;

(b) whether the necessary land was acquired for that purpose; if so, in what year;

(c) when the construction work is going to be taken up by the Government; and

(d) what the reasons for the long delay in constructing the buildings are?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) Yes, in the year 1931.

“(c) & (d) The usual practice is for the local body concerned to construct the building, the Government meeting one-half of the cost. It has not been possible to undertake the work yet owing to lack of funds.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“May I ask whether it is not desirable that the Government should kindly see that every taluk is provided with High school. At present is there not great difficulty with regard to water-supply and house accommodation in Vizagapatam district?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“With all the will in the world to help these schools to have buildings, it will not be possible considering the financial state of the province, to undertake building schemes at present.”

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MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Will it be taken up next year?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"It depends on my Hon. Colleague the Prime Minister who is in charge of finance."

Re-employment of hands displaced by the introduction of the photo-stat system in Malabar.

* 127 Q.—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when the photo-stat system of registration was introduced in South Malabar;

(b) whether there were complaints and protests at the time of its introduction;

(c) how many permanent clerks were sent out of the department on account of its introduction;

(d) when vacancies of clerks subsequently occurred in the department, whether outsiders were employed, overlooking the claims of these discharged clerks;

(e) whether there are any among these discharged clerks not yet absorbed into the Government service; if so, how many;

(f) whether the Government are condoning the break in the service of these re-employed clerks;

(g) what the capital expenditure so far incurred by the Government is on account of the introduction of this system;

(h) whether the requisite appliances for photo-stat and the receptacles for keeping the photo-files are purchased from outside India;

(i) what the expenditure is under each of the above two heads [in clause (h)] in each year since the introduction of the system;

(j) whether there have been instances where documents or portions of documents were lost in transit by post;

(k) whether there is delay and inconvenience in the return of documents and whether the parties are put to additional expenditure on account of the system; and

(l) whether the photos are likely to remain intact and unfaded for all time?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM, Parliamentary Secretary, on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) The photo-stat system of copying documents was introduced in South Malabar from 1st April 1934.

" (b) Some objections were received to the introduction of the photo-stat system in September 1933.

" (c) 46.

" (d) None as far as the Government are aware.

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" (e) All the permanent clerks who became surplus to requirements on account of introduction of the photo-stat system have been re-appointed either in the Registration department or in other departments in the Malabar district.

" (f) Yes.

" (g) The Government have no information; a report has been called for.

" (h) The answer is in the negative.

" (i) The Government have no information; a report has been called for.

" (j) None as far as the Government are aware; a report has been called for.

" (k) The Government are not aware of any delay, inconvenience or additional expenditure to the parties.

" (l) The photos are likely to remain intact without fading for a long time."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"May I ask whether the introduction of labour-saving devices such as the photo-stat system of taking out copies does not conflict with the present policy of the Government in encouraging hand-spinning and hand-weaving of cloth and handpounding of rice and flour?"

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that they are throwing out a large number of people out of employment, and whether they have been absorbed?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. the Revenue Minister):—"The question has already been answered that all those who have been thrown out of employment have been assimilated in other departments."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the experience gained in the Malabar district, may I ask whether the Government propose to extend the system or to restrict it?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"The system is under trial until April 1939 and in the light of the experience gained until then, and of the reports that will be received, the Government will consider the question of retention, restriction or extension of the system."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"May I ask whether it is not found very difficult and great delay is not caused in getting the documents back after registration, and whether people, especially the litigant public are not put to great suffering and disadvantage, because the documents are not delivered back in time?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"No complaints have been received to that effect."

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MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" May I know the number of persons that were thrown out of work owing to the introduction of the system? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" Notice, Sir."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" May I know whether any iron safes have been purchased for the purpose of keeping these documents, and if so, what the number is? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I have not got the information ready; but I think that a number of moisture-proof safes have been ordered for."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" May I know whether all these iron safes were ordered for from Birmingham? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I have no information in the matter; it will be looked into."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to state what is the distinct advantage in the system so that the old system should be given up and that this photo-stat system should be introduced? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I have already submitted that this system is now under trial."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" May I know if the hon. Member is aware that according to the reports on the system, the system has failed or is likely to fail to keep the documents distinct for a number of years? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" The opinion of the experts is that they do not fade."

10-45 a.m. MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Will the Government be pleased to say whether they will have an actual examination of the documents made, apart from the opinion of the experts thereon? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" The question seems to be more an argument; but the question of actual examination and conclusion can arise only after a long time of trial."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Will the Government be pleased to institute an examination for this purpose, inasmuch as there have been complaints from the public that these documents are not distinct? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" The report, on the other hand, has been to the effect that the documents are very distinct."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Will the Government be pleased to institute an enquiry? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" There seems to be no case for it. Sir."

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MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—" Is there to be any further reduction of clerks in South Malabar on account of the introduction of his photo-stat system? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I don't think there will be any reduction in South Malabar."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" In view of the fact that the system has already thrown some people out of employment, will the Government stop this system altogether, or do they propose to extend the system to other districts? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I have already submitted twice that the system is now under trial."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Will the Government be pleased to state what is the aggregate profit or loss as a result of the introduction of this system, so far? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" There has been some profit, but the actual figures are not ready at hand."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" At least, have the Government any rough idea of the figure? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" Yes, Sir; in the first year there was a profit of Rs. 1,600; and in the second year, about Rs. 3,500."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Will the Government be pleased to state whether most or a major portion of the capital invested on the machinery required as a result of the introduction of this system goes to foreign countries? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I am not quite sure of that; but the matter has got to be looked into after the trial period is over."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—cont.

(4) DEMAND IV—FOREST.

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, within the short span of two months we have been in office, innumerable petitions have been received detailing various grievances. The Government are seriously considering the various points raised. To find out if better facilities could be given to the agriculturists. The Government are aware of the fact that small profits are being made from this department. I have to remind this Honourable House that the previous Government agreed to the creation of a section known as the Working Plan department which is taking away a big slice from out of the revenues of this department. That department will cease to function in the year 1939. Until then, I am afraid the profits will

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continue to be small. The Government are considering whether any retrenchment could be made in this department. They are also trying to find out ways and means to increase the revenue from this department. With these words, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,00,000 under Demand IV—Forest."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

that the allotment of Rs. 32,00,000 for Forest be reduced by Rs. 100.

"The Forest policy of this Government has been the subject of criticism on several previous occasions in the old Legislative Council. This is one of the top-heavy departments. There were formerly six Conservators of Forests and afterwards the number was reduced to five. Now, I understand, it has been again raised to six. Most of the work done by the Conservators has been distributed among Assistant Conservators and extra-Assistant Conservators, such as research work, utilization work and working plan. Such being the case, I do not think there is any need for six Conservators at all. There is, in addition, a Forest Engineer. That post is superfluous and unnecessary. The Retrenchment Committee remarked that that post could be abolished, but the Government said that they found it necessary to retain that post. The Retrenchment Committee, of which I had also the honour of being a member, went into the question fully and came to the conclusion, after hearing the Chief Conservator of Forests and others in the matter, that that post could be easily abolished. Again, Sir, the expenditure in the department is proportionately very high, when compared to the income. There is no doubt this department is a national asset, but the expenditure is proportionately very high. That can very well be reduced without detriment to efficiency or even the income that is now derived. In Northern India, there are several match factories. These are large demands for wood to be used for match-sticks. Our Forest department will do well to try to grow some light wood which can be used for making match-sticks. In that way, we can increase the income from this department to a large extent.

"Then again, Sir, in reserving forests, the department has encroached upon the rights of the people, especially in South Kanara. In South Kanara, forests and waste lands were owned by the people as they are even now owned in Malabar. South Kanara was once part of North Kanara; both of them formed one district. When North Kanara was divided and added on to the Bombay Presidency and forests in North Kanara were reserved, the rights of the people there were taken away and confiscated. Following that example North Kanara, the Madras Government also took away forests reserved them, thereby confiscating the rights of the people for

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forests. Even in those days when they did that, they did not take away all the rights; some rights were still left to the ryots, such as grazing rights, firewood gathering, taking small timber for building huts, etc. But later on, Government interfered even with these rights and passed orders prohibiting the people from taking leaves for manure, from allowing their cattle to graze in the forests and from taking even small timber for building their huts. That has caused great hardship to the people.

"The forest policy of the Government is contained in a resolution of the Government of India, dated 19th October 1894. With your permission, Sir, I may read that resolution. This is what it says:

"The needs of the communities dwelling on the margin of forest tracts consist mainly of small timber for building, wood for fuel, leaves for manure and for fodder, thorn for fencing, grass for grazing for cattle and adequate forest produce for their own consumption. Every reasonable facility should be afforded to the people concerned for the full and easy satisfaction of these needs. It should be distinctly understood that considerations of forest income are to be subordinated to this satisfaction. It should also be remembered that subject to certain conditions to be referred to presently, the claims of cultivators are stronger than the claims of forest preservation."

"When such is the case, the rights of the people of South Kanara which they were enjoying from time immemorial should not have been taken away from them. I appeal to the Government to restore to these people the rights which they have been enjoying all these years. I am sorry to find, Sir, in this House, the same indifference on the part of the Members, as in the previous Council, when anything concerning South Kanara is referred to. That is, I think, because there are only a very few Members here in this House who are interested in South Kanara. Excepting the five or six Members from South Kanara, I do not think anybody else is interested; and even out of the six Members or so, four are as it were gagged."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is requested not to pass such remarks."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
"I did not mean anything, Sir, but I only wanted to say that they prefer to keep quiet."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Nobody is gagged in this House. Everybody is at liberty to enjoy the privileges of the House."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
"Now, I find, Sir, there are only very few Members coming from South Kanara; in the former Council at least all of them were speaking, but now they have chosen to keep quiet."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should observe order. Every Member is at perfect liberty to speak in this House and nobody is gagged and nobody is restrained from speaking and exercising the privileges of the Members of the House."

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KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ I beg your pardon, Sir. I did not mean to say that anybody is deprived of the privileges of the House. I only said that they have chosen to remain quiet.”

* **MR. SPEAKER:—**“ It is open to hon. Members to keep quiet, but no comment is needed upon that.”

* **KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—**“ Thank you, Sir. Now, whatever it is (laughter), the whole burden seems to have fallen upon one or two of us. Coming to the question, on account of this abnormal and excessive reservation of forests in South Kanara, more than nearly half the district at present consists of reserved forests; and the consequence is, malaria has practically become a permanent feature of the district. Labour for cultivation purposes has become scarce and they have been driven away elsewhere.

“ Again, Sir, more than 4,000 cattle are devoured by wild beasts annually; this is according to the statistics furnished by the village officials themselves. The value of such cattle will be nearly a lakh of rupees. What a great loss? Will not the Government render help to the poor ryots who are suffering annually on account of the destruction of hundreds of cattle and on account of the death of many persons owing to malaria.

“ Then there is the wholesale destruction of crop by wild beasts including elephants and bisons. Because there are forests reserved close to living quarters and cultivated areas, there is no place for the cattle to graze and so it is natural that these cattle stray into adjoining forests and the result is these poor ryots are molested and prosecuted by forest officials. In addition to that, forest guards make illegal profits also by taking petty bribes from these poor villagers. In certain places, the reserved forests are not even 10 feet from living quarters. Therefore, Sir, unless the forest policy of the Government is reversed and overhauled, the poor people, especially in the South Kanara district, will be ruined.

“ I also request the Government to be pleased to restore to the people of South Kanara the rights, though not the privileges, which they have enjoyed previously.”

* **MR. SPEAKER:—**“ The question is that the allotment under Demand No. IV—Forest, be reduced by Rs. 100. The motion is now under discussion. There are twelve cut motions given notice of under this demand by hon. Members. All those Members may speak on this motion. Already there is a feeling of oppression on the part of some of the movers, because Mr. Mahmud Schamnad said he feels compelled to speak on every motion. I may say there is no compulsion upon the Members who have given notice of motions to speak at all or to speak at length. They may speak for a few minutes; they are at perfect liberty to exercise that right. Therefore, Members who have given notice of cut motions may move the motions and have a free speech upon each

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motion; they may not even move the cut motions at all, because they are entitled to speak upon this motion, and only one motion will be put to the vote of the House.”

* **MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—**“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just heard from the Hon. the Minister that the Government are trying to devise ways and means for increasing the forest revenue and I became a little nervous about it when he said that and I am sure hon. Members representing the other districts also would have felt likewise, because we find from past experience that the Forest department is incapable of increasing the revenue by way of enlarging the remunerative enterprises. They are incapable of devising ways and means of putting more money into the hands of the ryots. But what they are capable of is, taking as much money as possible from the ryots. Sir, everybody knows that quite a large number of ryots have been bled white and I do not think there is anything more for the Government to take from them. I am not exaggerating anything or using any sentimental language, but I am speaking from conviction when I say this. Of course there are ways of increasing forest revenue. There are large areas in which bamboos can be extensively grown for purposes of the paper industry which can be started. I don't think there is anybody in the service of the Madras Government to help us in that way. There is no reference to the capacity of the ryot to pay for the forest policy of the Government. The department itself must find the money from its remunerative enterprises to pay itself. Instead of that, taking money more or less purely from the ryot is a wrong policy. Here, I wish to point out that I have given notice of a cut motion suggesting the abolition of the Forest department and I am sure the Government must have seen the cut motion. I do not think they have got any suggestion for the abolition of the department. Sir, yesterday all of us congratulated the Government on their prohibition policy. I am not one of those who believe that the Government are sentimental in regard to the policy of prohibition, or are mere visionaries. I thought that was an earnest of what was to follow. It is a Government of the people by the people. They should continue the same attitude.

“ Then we find in the budget estimate for the present year an expected revenue of about Rs. 47,33,000. That seems to me to be rather on the optimistic side. The accounts for 1935-36 show that we got Rs. 44,97,000 and in the preliminary accounts for 1936-37 it is something more about Rs. 48,00,000. Under the ‘ explanation of variations,’ we do not find sufficient details for Rs. 47,33,000. Any way, even if we get it, I think, it is hardly worth while for Government to maintain such a big staff under this department. What I mean to say is that the bulk of the revenue is spent upon the establishment and that is not necessary.

“ Again, there are in certain areas extensive grazing grounds, whereas in certain other places there is none; and those who have no grazing facilities near the villages are suffering and those who drive

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their cattle to outside places where there is abundance of grass, have to pay and pay heavily too. Very few agriculturists take the trouble of driving large herds of cattle to places far removed from their homes, so much so there is plenty of grass left unused every year which goes to waste. It is as it were, in the midst of plenty, the cattle starve and so the people. In such cases why should not the cattle be allowed to graze free?

"Then there is the question of forest produce, like litter, cattle manure, etc. If you tax the poor people, they do not go there and what happens to the litter. It merely goes to waste. Then again we tax the cows. There is an objection from the ryots, particularly from a large section of the Hindu community, towards what they call 'taxation on cows.' Quite a large number of villagers say that it is a sin to tax the cow. 'The poor creature cannot plead for itself' they say.

11-15
a.m.

"India lacks nutritive foods. Milk is one of them and we do not get sufficient milk. Sir, in one of my rounds in the election campaign people complained to me that it was a pity that time did not come for removing taxation on the poor animals. I said that the time would come only with 'swaraj.' Now, I think, we have 'swaraj.' Let us abolish the Forest department. The Congress party will increase its popularity with the masses to a greater extent if it does this. What I say is if opportunities like this are lost they are lost for ever and people will never trust us any more. We are governing for them and this is one of their very bitter feelings which has got to be removed. By abolishing the department we save 40 odd lakhs. In this connexion may I suggest that the Government may be pleased to appoint a committee to go into the whole matter of retrenchment and overhauling the administration. It has become very rusty. It is an administration of the bureaucracy, against which the country has been complaining so long. If we go on with the administration with a change here and a change there we are making no contribution towards the better Government of our province. Let us set an example. We have got the reputation of having one of the foremost leaders of our country as our Premier. Let us show an example to the other provinces."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my remarks on the general discussion of the budget I have briefly indicated how the law of diminishing returns have been rigorously applied to the Forest department. It was my contention, Sir, that while the expenditure increased from year to year our revenues correspondingly decreased. We find from the budget of 1937-38 that a revenue of 47 lakhs is expected while an expenditure of 40.68 lakhs is anticipated leaving us a balance of 6½ lakhs for a department like the Forest department which has very great potentialities at its disposal. The area of forest under the control of the Forest department is 97,000 square miles, not taking into account the extent of unreserves

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which are not included under reserve. They are not under the control of the Forest department or the Revenue department. Excluding that area the area under the control of the Forest department is 97,000 square miles. That area, it must be remembered is exclusive of a lot of forest which was considered scrub jungle. Ninety-seven thousand square miles is real forest which could produce substantial income so that the department can pull its weight along with other departments. Unfortunately it is not the case. The hon. Member in charge of Forests just now made us understand that Government are quite alive to the fact that revenue is diminishing and ways and means would be considered to raise the revenue and bring down expenditure. We shall heartily co-operate with the department in doing so. But at the same time I feel it my duty to point out in what directions the Forest department stands in need of attention and improvement. I have given three cut motions with the object of placing before the Government pointedly the difficulties under which the Forest department now labours. I said in the first cut motion that there is a steady decline of revenue from year to year. I need not weary you, Sir, with the study of figures. But from the figures collected by me from 1932 to 1937 the quinquennial period for the purpose of comparison I find that the revenue has fallen under two important heads, of timber removed by the forest agency and timber removed by consumers and purchasers, from 45.46 to 37.81. One would like to examine the reason for the decline, Sir. So far as I can see there is a lack of co-ordination on the part of the Forest department and other departments of Government. In the administration report of 1935-36 it is stated that the Public Works and Jail departments were not able to purchase all their timber requirements from the Forest department due mainly to prohibitive railway freight. If the Public Works and Jail departments which are the largest consumers of timber take their requirements from the Forest department the money would be taken from one pocket of Government to another. Again, Sir, there has been lack of intensive work in the Forest department. One has merely to look into the portion relating to the forest utilization branch in the annual report of administration to prove this statement. I find, Sir, that there has been an increase in the quantity of timber supplied and sold to the outside public. But I see there is a fall in fuel. Even with regard to timber we find that 13,048 cubic feet of timber were collected, but was not disposed of during the year. It is there, one finds want of active and intensive exploitation of forests. There has been a fall in bamboo. There has been a slight rise under sandalwood. But under grazing revenue there has been no increase. I find that the grazing revenue has amounted only to six lakhs as against 5.83 lakhs of rupees last year. There has been very little advance in spite of the protestations that we have been making on the floor of the Council that in the matter of grazing privileges the ryots have not been treated with the consideration which they deserve. Agriculture is one of the foremost industry in our province, engaging 71 per cent of the population. Somehow or other it has been the policy of the departments other than

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Agriculture to wage a perpetual war against the ryot. With a view to remedy that evil the economic councils have been formed so that the efforts of the various departments may be co-ordinated to the benefit of the ryots. I hope the economic councils are functioning successfully. But then this want of co-ordination on the part of the Forest department with the ryots or in other words, with the Agricultural department is very clear from the fact that we do not see any increase in the matter of grazing. I find that a sum of Rs. 1,800 has been spent in the matter of finding water facilities for cattle that are taken to the forests for purposes of grazing. Fancy the sum of Rs. 1,800 scattered over 97,000 square miles of forests so that the ryots may be encouraged to send in more cattle year after year for grazing purposes. That aspect does not seem to have received its due attention.

11-30
a.m.

“There is one other factor, Sir, which contributes very largely to the fall in forest revenue, and that is the unnecessary interference with items of work in which the Forest department has no legitimate interest. I may quote the instance of the experiment carried on in connexion with lac and shellac. It is stated in the administration report that ‘a great deal of experiments has been carried on in Nilgiris, Coimbatore North and Godavari Upper Division, in shellac, sealing wax, lac polish, colourless wax and so on.’ One asks very pertinently as to why the Forest department is carrying on experiments of an industrial nature, which is in the purview of the Hon. Minister for Industries and his department. Carrying on experiments of an industrial nature in the Forest department, and spending away time which could be better utilized in forest development is a point which I would very much like to bring to the notice of the House.

“There is another instance which is also very pertinent, to which with your indulgence, Sir, I would like to refer, and that is the cultivation of casuarina in the forests of Nellore. I find during the year under review 50 acres of casuarina have been planted, making up a total of three hundred and odd acres under casuarina. Casuarina plantation has been definitely taken away from the purview of the Forest department. Why does the Forest department revert again and again to the cultivation of this most elementary fuel that can be done by any average ryot on the sea coast, cannot be understood? It is in this way that the labour of the Forest department is being frittered away to the detriment of real exploitation. I make this observation in order to help the Hon. Minister in considering the ways and means of increasing the forest revenue, so that the points brought forward may be borne in mind if possible.

“I now pass on to the next cut motion which I have given notice of, in order to discuss the possibility of reducing the cost of establishment commensurate with the reduced revenue. The increase of expenditure year after year while there has been decrease under revenue is a normal feature of this department. I find, Sir, that increase of expenditure has

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also been progressive from 1930-31 up to 1937-38. From Rs. 36.28 lakhs, it has gone up gradually to Rs. 37.74, Rs. 37.49, Rs. 40.90, Rs. 40.94 and Rs. 40.68. Sir, under expenditure we have two main heads which utilize all this money. The main heads are conservancy and works, and establishments. So far as conservancy and works are concerned, I have no complaint. I would like to see more money being utilized year after year. But under establishments, the cost has been on the increase. As already pointed out by two of my hon. Friends who have spoken before me, there is a top-heavy expenditure under establishment. Sir, it is difficult to see how a department which has an outturn of about Rs. 40 lakhs could employ no fewer than 34 officers of all-India grade. I find from the Budget estimate that there are 6 Conservators, 28 Deputy and Assistant Conservators, who can be put in charge of very responsible and independent positions, making a total of 34. There are Extra Assistant Conservators, who are also in charge of smaller forest divisions numbering seventy. Thirty-four and seventy makes up a total of 104; 104 officers earn the poor income of Rs. 40 lakhs per year. In other words, Sir, deducting the expenditure, they bring in a revenue of only Rs. 6 lakhs and odd from forests. Apart from the establishment, Sir, it has been my privilege to point out last year and the year before on the floor of the Legislative Council that steps should be taken to reduce the establishment by transferring the officers to other provinces where there is need, or to find some other work for them; because there has been over recruitment in the past, it does not mean that the budget of our province should be weighted down by highly paid officers for whom no work could be found. This is very well reflected in the Administration Report where it is stated that most of the officers have been out on leave for a very much longer period than was anticipated. Naturally, when officers do not find sufficient work to keep them engaged, they would like to take a longer holiday than otherwise.

“I shall quote one or two other examples with reference to the top-heavy expenditure. One example is the Forest College. That has been, Sir, the proverbial white elephant of the department. I find, Sir, the cost of the Forest College last year was Rs. 62,000. There are 20 students in the College, of whom Madras students are five. What purpose can a college serve if it caters to the needs of five students at an expenditure of half a lakh of rupees, at the rate of the very modest sum of Rs. 10,000 per student. I question that seriously, and I would commend it very heartily to the consideration of the Hon. Minister when looking into the ways and means of reducing the expenditure. Of the students admitted this year, I find five are from Madras, eight from Bombay, two from Hyderabad, two from Ceylon, one from the Kathiawar State, and two are private students from Madras who are asked to pay not Rs. 500 as before, but Rs. 2,000 to learn forestry. Can anything be more unreasonable? This seems to be an attempt to keep down the cost? Some Madras private students who have been very venturesome to get into the Forest College have been made to pay Rs. 2,000 per head as

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against Rs. 500 charged hitherto. This is a camouflage which the Hon. Minister ought to take notice of.

“There is another factor which goes to swell the cost of the Forest department, and that is the Forest Engineer. He is a supernumerary, who consumes a large portion of the forest revenue, and what has the Forest Engineer done during the whole year? Sir, it is very amusing to find that the Forest Engineer has been employed during the year in constructing a causeway over Kariar in the Tinnevely division, and in constructing a ghaut road. These are the two main works that the Forest Engineer has added to the assets of the Forest department. There is a third item, he has also investigated the possibility of improving water-supply in grazing grounds. What has the Forest Engineer got to do with water-supply in grazing grounds? As I pointed out already, there are a number of Imperial Forest Service officers and a number of Provincial Forest Service officers, who can I suppose with advantage be able to find out the water facilities in forests. Why should the Forest Engineer, who is deliberately intended for work of a very highly technical nature, fritter away his time in finding water facilities in forests? A Tahsildar on Rs. 200 can very easily do so. I say it to the credit of the Revenue department. It does not require the time of a Forest Engineer to do this work. As for ghaut roads and culverts any Public Works officer worth his salt ought to have been able to do this work. Imagine an officer with an establishment at a heavy cost, employed ostensibly for tackling questions of a technical nature being put on work which could have been done by less qualified subordinates! There are quite a number of other illustrations which I can put forward, but let me not take the time of the House by enumerating them.

“My third cut motion refers to the employment of a Forest officer of the I.F.S. grade as Personal Assistant. There also I have a complaint to make. The Personal Assistant who assists the Chief Conservator of Forests need not necessarily be a highly paid imperial officer. Any officer, on a salary of Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 ought to be able to take up the responsibility of the ministerial work and relieve the Chief Conservator of a lot of routine work, so that his time may be utilized in the matter of forest development and utilization of forest produce. Why should we employ an officer on the grade of Rs. 350 to Rs. 1,500 as Personal Assistant? He is only intended to do the work of a ministerial assistant. That is the point I would like to commend to the attention of the Hon. Minister in charge of Forests.

“Sir, my object in pointing out these instances is to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister pointedly to the necessity of a very close examination of the Forest department both in the matter of revenue and expenditure, in order to find out ways and means of removing the slur on one of the very good departments under Government, which should yield proportionately a very large income, so that that income may be utilized for ameliorative measures which the Hon. the Premier has in view.”

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* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, காட்டிலாக்காவிலுள்ள சர்க்காருக்கு நிறைய பணம் இருக்கிறது. ஜனங்களுக்கு நல்ல உணவு இருக்கிறது. மாடுகளுக்கு நல்ல புல் இருக்கிறது. ஆகையினாலே இதை மூன்று விஷயங்களாகப் பிரித்துச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். சர்க்காருக்கு இப்பொழுது பணமில்லையென்று நமது Premier கவலை அடைகிறார். காட்டிலே நிறையப்பணம் இருக்கிறது. எப்படிப் பணமிருக்கிறதென்றால் ரெங்குனிவிருந்து இங்கே மாங்கனைக் கொண்டு வந்து சப்ளை செய்கிறார்கள். காட்டில் தேக்கு மாங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. வீடுகட்டும் மாங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. இந்த மாங்களைப் பாதுகாத்து சர்க்கார் விற்றால் காட்டிலிருந்து எத்தனையோ கோடிக்கணக்கான பணத்தைக் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். காட்டிலே யிருக்கிற மாங்களை வெட்டிவிட்டால் மரம் எப்படி வளருமென்று சிலர் நினைப்பார்கள். முதிர்ந்த மாங்களை வெட்டினால் பின்னால் வளரும் மரங்களால் ஏராளமான பணங்கிடைக்கும். ஆற்றங்கரை, வாய்க்கால்கள் இருக்கின்றன. அவைகளில் தென்னை மாங்களை வைத்தால் ஏராளமான பணம் சர்க்காருக்கு வரும். ஜனங்களுக்குப் பிழைப்பு ஏற்படும். வேலையில்லாத ஹிட்லர் நாட்டில் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. அது போகும். நல்ல காடுகளில் நல்ல பழச்செடிகளை வைத்துப் பயிர்செய்தால் அதாவது சாத்துக்கடி, ஆரெஞ்சு, மாமாங்களை வைத்துப் பயிர் செய்தால் நல்ல பழ வர்க்கங்கள் கிடைக்கும். மலவாகக் கிடைக்கும். வடக்கே காலணவுக்கு ஒரு கூடை பழம் கிடைக்கிறது. ஆனால் இங்கே நாலணுக் கொடுத்தாலும் ஒரு கூடைப்பழம் கிடைப்பது அரிது. இதைச் சர்க்கார் கவனிக்க வேண்டும். காட்டிலே தழை எருக்கள் இருக்கின்றன. காட்டிலுள்ள தழைகளை இலவசமாக வெட்டிக்கொண்டுபோனால் மேற்படி தழைகளை விவசாயிகள் தங்களுடைய நிலங்களுக்கு உரமாகவைத்து நல்ல பலனடைவார்கள். அப்படி இலவசமாக இல்லாவிட்டாலும் ஒரு கட்டுத்தழைக்கு காலணு அரை அணுவுக்குக் கொடுத்து விவசாயிகள் கொண்டுபோனால் மேற்படி தழைகளை விவசாயிகள் உரமாகவைத்துப் பிரயோசன மடைவதுடன் அதனால் சர்க்காருக்கும் பணம்வரும். இப்பொழுது தழைகள் காற்றினால் வீணாகக் கீழே விழுந்து மக்கிப்போகிறது.

“காட்டில் விறகுகள் மக்கிப்போகிறது. அப்படிப்பட்ட விறகுளை எழைக் குடியானவர்கள் வெட்டும்படி சர்க்கார் உத்திரவுபோட்டால் மக்கிப்போகும் விறகு களை அவர்கள் உபயோகிப்பார்கள். அப்படி உத்திரவு போட்டால் காட்டிலுள்ள விறகுளை யார் வேண்டுமானாலும் வெட்டிக்கொண்டு போவார்கள் என்று நினைக்கலாம். ஆகையினாலே காட்டிலாக்கா சிப்பந்திகளை வைத்து விறகுளை வெட்டிப்போட்டால் எழைகள்கொண்டுபோய் உபயோகப்படுத்துவார்கள். அதற்கு சுமைக்கு ஒரு அணு அரை அணு வைத்துக்கொடுக்கலாம். அதன் மூலமாக எழைகளுக்கும் உபயோகமாக இருக்கும். காட்டிலாக்காவுக்கும் பணம் வரும். நமது நாட்டில் கால் நடைகளை மனிதர்கள் தனமாகக் கொண்டிருந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்தக்காலத்தில் எத்தனை கோடிப்பணம் இருக்கிறது. எத்தனை கோடிப் பவுன் இருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லுவதுபோல் பழயகாலத்தில் ரிஷிகள் என்ன சொன்னார்கள் என்றால் ஐம்பது பசுக்கள், நூறு பசுக்கள், ஆயிரம் பசுக்கள் பத்தாயிரம் பசுக்கள், நூறாயிரம் பசுக்கள் இருக்கின்றன என்று சொன்னார்கள். பசுக்களைத் தனமாக கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். இந்தக்காலத்தில் கால் நடைகளை அபிவிருத்தி செய்யவேண்டும் என்று நமக்குத் தலைவராயிருக்கிற வைசிராய் அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை வைக்கவேண்டும் கல்வியை அபிவிருத்தி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னது போக இப்பொழுதிருக்கிற வைசிராய் பெருமான் கால்நடைகளை அபிவிருத்தி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார். சமீபத்தில் அதற்காக ஒரு மகாநாட்டையும் கூட்டி இருக்கிறார்கள். கால்நடைகளை அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்கு காடுகள் போதுமானபடி வேண்டும். இப்பொழுது காட்டிலாக்கா முறை சரியாக இல்லாமல் மாடுகளுக்கு மேயவேண்டுமானால் வரிப் போடுகிறார்கள். காடுகளில் புல்லை அபிவிருத்திசெய்து கால்நடைகளை அபிவிருத்தி செய்யும் முறையை கண்டுபிடிக்கவில்லை. புல்லை அபிவிருத்தி செய்தால் காடுகளில் கால் நடைகள் நன்றாக மேய்ந்து பசுக்கள் அபிவிருத்தி அடையும், ஜனங்களுக்கு கேஷம் உண்டாகும்.

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [16th September 1937]

“திருவண்ணாமலையில் ஏழைப்பெண்கள் இலைகளை பறித்துவந்து இலை தைத்து ஜீவனஞ் செய்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு இலவசமாகக்கிடைக்கிற இலையைக் கொண்டுவரும்போது மறித்து அவர்களிடத்தில் இலைக்கு காசுகொடு என்று கேட்கிறார்களாம். இது யாருடைய சூழ்ச்சியினால் என்று தெரியவில்லை. இந்த விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் கவனஞ்செலுத்தி ஏழைப்பெண்கள் இலை எடுத்துக் கொள்ள ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். மேலும் (Forest Panchayat) பாரஸ்டு பஞ்சாயத்து ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். மேற்படி பாரஸ்டு பஞ்சாயத்து சபைகளில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் மெம்பர்களாக இல்லை. ஆகையினால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களின் மாடுகளுக்கு அவசியமாக அபராதம் போடுகிறார்கள். தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் விறகுகளை வெட்டினால் அபராதம் போடுகிறார்கள். ஆகையினாலே பாரஸ்டு பஞ்சாயத்துச் சபைகளில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் பிரதிநிதிகளாக இருக்கிறார்களா என்று பார்க்கும்படியாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.

“பாரஸ்டில் நல்ல நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் நல்ல பாரஸ்டு நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. மேற்படி நிலங்களில் ஹரி ஜனங்களை குடியேற்றினால் அவர்கள் பிழைப்பார்கள். சர்க்காருக்கும் மேற்படி நிலங்களைப் பயிரிடுவதில் வரி மூலம் வருமானங் கிடைக்கும். தரிசாக பாரஸ்டில் கிடைக்கும் நிலங்களை தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு பயிரிடக் கொடுத்து தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் காலனி (Harijan Colony) சர்க்கார் ஏற்படுத்துவார்களென்று எதிர் பார்க்கிறேன். ஏழை ஜனங்களுக்கு வீடு கட்ட மூங்கில் மரமில்லாத கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். மூங்கில்களையும் ஒலைகளையும் காட்டிலிருந்து ஏழை ஜனங்கள் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளச் செய்தால் நலமாக இருக்கும். வேலுருக்கடுத்து ஒடுக்கத்தூர் என்ற ஊரில் மாடுகள் மேயவேண்டுமானால் இரண்டு பாஸ் வாங்கவேண்டும். ஏனென்றால் அங்குள்ள பாரஸ்டு காடுகள் இரண்டு பிரிவுகளாக இருக்கிறதினால் அப்படி வாங்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இரண்டு பாஸ் வாங்கவேண்டுமென்றால் மாட்டுக்கு இரண்டு வயிறுவேண்டும். இரண்டு பாஸ் வாங்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுவது பொருத்தமாயில்லை. இந்தப் பொருத்தமில்லாத விதிகளை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

“காடுகளில் நல்ல விறகுகள் இருக்கின்றன. அவைகளை பெரிய பணக்காரர்கள் பணங் கொடுத்து எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோய் அபைவிக்கிறார்கள். ஏழைகளுக்கு சொற்ப விலையில் கிடைக்கும்படியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும் என்று சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஏதோ பட்ஜட் (Budget) சமயத்தில் இவைகளைப்பற்றிப் பேச சந்தர்ப்பங் கிடைத்துப் பேசுகிறோம். கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களை நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்வது என்னவென்றால்:—இந்தக் காதில் வாங்கி அந்தக் காதில் விட்டுவிடுகிறார்கள். பாரஸ்டு நிலங்களை ஏழைகளுக்குக் கொடுக்க வேண்டும். மாங்களில் இலவசமாக வெட்டிக்கொள்ள உத்தரவு போடவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இதற்கு நல்ல பதில் சொன்னால் சந்தோஷமாக இருக்கும். எங்களை அனுப்பின வோட்டர்களுக்கும் சந்தோஷமாக இருக்கும். காட்டிலாக்கா மூலமாக வேண்டிய உதவி செய்வார்களென்று எதிர் பார்க்கிறேன்.”

11-45 a.m. Mr. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU:—“Mr. Speaker, I have got a few words to say about the grievances of the ryots. Every department of Government is supposed to exist for serving the public, but the fact seems to be otherwise. Each department is in its own way responsible for many of the pin-pricks making the life of the people unbearable. And this Forest department is in no way an exception. The forest reserves adjoining the villages are more a source of trouble and annoyance to the people there than help.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“May I know whether the hon. Member is reading from manuscript?”

[16th September 1937]

* Mr. SPEAKER:—“He is only referring to his notes.”

Mr. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU:—“This question was raised many times in the previous Councils, and at one time, the Member in charge of the portfolio, Sir M. Krishnan Nayar, considering the strength of feeling on the subject, promised to appoint a committee to go into the question and alleviate the difficulties of the ryots. But nothing was done thereafter; the people are in the same helpless condition as before. I quite realize that the wealth in the forests must be conserved and improved, so that it may form the main source of income to the exchequer; but this can surely be done without causing trouble or inconvenience to the public. The rules may be amended, so that more grazing facilities may be given to the ryots. I therefore suggest to the Hon. Minister to appoint a committee to enquire into the grievances of the ryots and to amend the rules suitably.”

Mrs. JEBAMONEY MASILLAMONEY:—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, காடுகள் சம்பந்தமாக அரசாங்கத்தாரின் நோக்கம் அல்லது கொள்கை என்ன வென்பதைப்பற்றி பேசும்போது நான் சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். நாட்டில் பல இடங்களில் நிலங்களைக் காடுகள் என்பதாக ஒதுக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி ஒதுக்கிவைத்திருக்கிற நிலங்களில் ஆடுமாடுகள் போகக்கூடாதென்று தடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தப்பித்தவறிப்போன ஆடுமாடுகளைப் பவுண்டிச் அடைக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்கிறார்கள். இதனால் போது ஜனங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டங்களும் நஷ்டங்களும் ஏற்படுகின்றன. நமது நாடு விவசாய நாடு. விவசாயிகள் சேஷமமாயிருந்தால் தேசம் சேஷமமாயிருக்கும். விவசாயிகள் சேஷமத்திற்கு ஆடுமாடுகள் இன்றியமையாதன. இவைகளைப் பராமரிப்பதற்கு நல்ல மேய்ச்சல் தரைகள் அவசியம். ஆடு மாடுகள் மேயக்கூடிய மேய்ச்சல் தரைகளை காடுகளாக மாற்றிவிட்டால் ஆடுகளைப் பராமரிப்பது எப்படி. விவசாயிகள் சேஷமமாக இருக்கவேண்டுமானால் ஆடு மாடுகளுக்கு வேண்டிய மேய்ச்சல் தரைகளை ஒவ்வொரு பட்டணத்திலும் கிராமங்களிலும் ஒதுக்கிவைத்திருக்கவேண்டும். நாட்டிலுள்ள மக்களுடைய ஜீவனோபாயத்திற்கு எவ்வளவு ஆடுமாடுகள் தேவை? அந்த ஆடு மாடுகளுக்கு அவசியமான மேய்ச்சல் தரைகள் இவ்வளவு வேண்டுமென்பதைக் கணக்குப் பார்த்து அவ்வளவு நிலங்களை ஒதுக்கிவைத்துவிட்டு அதற்கு மேற்பட்ட நிலங்களைக் காடுகளாக ஒதுக்கி வைப்பது நலமாக இருக்கும். நாம் விவசாயிகளுக்குச் செய்யும் இந்தவிதமான சௌகரியங்களெல்லாம் மரத்துக்கு வைக்கப்படும் உரத்திற்குச் சமானம். மரத்திற்கு எவ்வளவு உரம் வைக்கிறோமோ அவ்வளவுக்கு நல்ல பலன் தரும் அதே போல விவசாயிகளுக்கு சௌகரியம் செய்யவேண்டும். நமது விவசாயிகளுக்கு நாம் செய்யக்கூடிய உபகாரங்களில் இது முதல் தரமான உபகாரம் என்று சொல்லலாம். இதை மனதில் வைத்து இந்த விஷயத்தில் காடுகளைக் குறைத்தோ, மாற்றியோ, ஒழித்தோ மேய்ச்சல் தரைகளை ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டிய உதவி செய்யும்படியாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* Mr. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that in the budget no provision has been made to give certain facilities to the agriculturists in the province. The object of the policy of the present Government is to give every facility to the agriculturists in the province and in that direction the Government has taken the first step by giving remissions. I submit, Sir, that the next step, and the most important also, is to give facilities to the agriculturists for free grazing of cattle, and to enable them to have free manure from the forests. I

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find that the Bombay Government though the Ministers have been there only two months have been able to make provision for these two things in their budget. This Government as was pointed out by the Hon. Prime Minister the other day, have permitted the Bombay Government to steal a march over us. I find, Sir, that in our province there are a number of agriculturists who own a large number of cattle, and they have been suffering enormously for want of these grazing facilities. The mere fact that one or two of their cattle entered a reserve forest area, brings with it not only the collection of a prohibitory fee, but prosecution to boot.

12 noon. "This burden, this disadvantage and this grievance which the ryots have been pointing out as pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, formed the subject-matter of discussion in the previous Councils.

"There is one other thing which I wish to touch upon and that is the growing of trees in forest area where trees have been cut away. There is no provision, made in the budget for this purpose. If at this rate the trees are cut away from the forests the forests will become depleted of trees and there will be no forests in future. I think hon. Members realize the importance of these forests and how they are responsible for the rainfall in the country. I hope the Government will consider the importance of this problem and make provision, if not in this budget at least in the next budget for planting trees in the forests. So much with regard to the general policy of the Government with regard to forests.

"With regard to Bellary district in particular there is a certain amount of grievance in a particular part of the district to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. In the taluk of Hospet in Daroji there is a reserved forest and a tank by the side of that forest. On the bed of this tank there are a number of babool trees growing. These trees, as most of the hon. Members are aware are thorny plants and no human beings dare approach that side for fear that these thorns will prick them. As hon. Members are aware Bellary is a district where it is very difficult to get drinking water. Unfortunately owing to this scarcity of water if the cattle that are grazing nearby this tank were to go to it to drink water, the owner of such cattle is made to pay twelve annas per head and he is also prosecuted for allowing his cattle to go to this tank for drinking water. I think that is a matter which requires consideration at the hands of the Government. I hope the Hon. Minister will give this matter his careful consideration.

"The next point to which I wish to refer is this: in the reserve forest of Moka, Bellary taluk in Bellary district, number of trees are being cut year after year. I think it has been found from experiment that casuarina trees can be planted in these reserve forests with advantage. So, I urge upon the Government to take up this question in right earnest and see whether they cannot plant casuarina trees in these reserve forests in view of the fact that it is paying also. That is all I have to say and I resume my seat."

16th September 1937]

* MR. N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity of participating in this debate. We have heard varying criticisms of hon. Members belonging to all parties in this House, from the speech of Mr. Ari Gowder expressing a feeling of despair down to that of Mr. Appadurai Pillai making constructive suggestions. Mr. Ari Gowder is feeling positively uneasy. I say there is no need for him to despair or be afraid that any more taxation on the poor people in the shape of grazing fees and such other fees will be levied by this Government. But, Sir, it should not be forgotten that our forests are the hidden wealth of the nation. I would call them the reserve wealth of our province. When everything else is gone, and what will be left to you will be only these reserve forests. Without allowing any one to pouch upon this reserve wealth and without allowing in the least degree to any subtraction from this reserve wealth, it will be the endeavour, honest endeavour of the Government, to find out whether revenues from the Forest department could not be increased and also to embark upon such activity as would be largely helpful to the people in regard to the utilization of such natural resources as abound in forests in a beneficial and proper manner. Pointed attention has been drawn to the fact that this department is top-heavy and suggestions have been made for the closure of the Forest College and the abolition of certain posts in the Forest department. But it is not always, as the Hon. the Prime Minister pointed out, that the abolition of a particular post or the abolition of a departmental service that makes you escape from the evils of that department. However matters mentioned will be carefully considered and proper decisions arrived at. Hon. Members may rest assured that Government will err on the side of leniency to the people rather than on the side of rigour towards them. I must also point out that we have been the recipients of many complaints from various parts of the Presidency, not only from this side but also from the other side regarding forest matters and I think much sooner than from the appointment of a committee can justice be expected from this Government. There has been an universal complaint about grazing fees. One Member pointed out that Bombay has already gone ahead of us. May I point out that the Bombay Government has not given up 27 lakhs of rupees from the Bombay Government has not given up 27 lakhs of rupees from excise revenue on account of the policy of prohibition. Nor has it embarked upon the policy of land revenue remission to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs. What is possible in one province ought to be certainly possible in our province also and steps will be taken to enquire into this matter of the reduction of grazing fees. And what may come first in one province may come a little later in another.

"Sir, I wish to draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that much has been said in regard to one matter, viz., that there is no proper co-ordination between one department and another. Without going into the merits of this question, I assure hon. Members that in the present Government there will be absolute co-ordination between the Forest department and other departments. One of the departments

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on which the Forest department depends for its co-operation is the Industries department. It also depends to a large extent on the co-operation of the Public Works Department. One or two suggestions has been made by hon. Members. I may mention that in the United Provinces Government over 800 miles of electric transmission lines are laid out on wooden posts. We are not unmindful of this very valuable hints thrown out by the various hon. Members. Every one of them will be carefully investigated. In this budget, I think the Hon. Minister for Public Works has made provision for 116 lakhs of rupees for capital works in the Electricity department and I think it should not be difficult for him to find out whether a portion of this cannot be absorbed by the Forest department by insistence as the utilization of treated wooden posts in the erection of transmission lines. I am not a technician but I hope specialists will find out the proper species of timber suitable and get this done.

"Then there is the tanning industry which is largely now importing wattle bark from South Africa. South Africa has spent enormous sums of money on this and made wattle their own plantation. They have captured the world market for the bark, so much so, they are exporting this kind of bark not only to England but also to other continental countries. While the demand for untanned hides from Madras is growing more and more, the demand for tanned hides is becoming less and less. Herein the Forest department can render useful service and find out whether this kind of bark cannot be grown on an extensive scale in our forests. Here again I may say I am not a technician and I only depend upon expert advice and such advice as is given in this direction will be carefully borne in mind and will be given effect to. I need not multiply such instances and nobody realizes the paramount necessity for the adoption of such advice as would secure the commercialization of the department more than the present Government.

"I think I have dwelt at length on the various points raised by hon. Members and they may rest assured that Government will leave no stone unturned to secure retrenchment. The Hon. Premier, as you may know and as I am very well aware of, will not spend an extra pie, if unwanted. He is the most careful and vigilant guardian of the nation's resources and not a penny will be spent or allowed to go to waste in any department whatsoever, and much less in the Forest department. I think I have fairly fully replied to all the criticisms which have been levelled against the Forest department. In this connexion I want to utter one word of caution. To imagine that the abolition of the department is the cure for all evils in that department is a terrible mistake. Mr. Ari Gowder spoke almost in the strain, which said 'if you cannot mend it you can end it.' I say if we have a will we can mend it, and can mend it in such a way that it could be made the most beneficial to the ryots. We know the importance of manure to the ryots. We know the importance of grazing facilities to the ryots as we know also the importance of

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land revenue remission or the banishing of drink and every hon. Member may rest assured that this Department will be able to function in such efficient and proper manner as would be an ornament to the resources of our Province."

MR. ARI GOWDER:—"On a point of personal explanation. I am much obliged to the Parliamentary Secretary for the assurance he has given. But he has not given me. . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is only to make a personal explanation that the hon. Member is entitled to speak."

MR. ARI GOWDER:—"Sir, I am not making any speech. I should not be understood to have suggested that the utility services, if any, should be given up. What I did mean to say was that the department as such should be abolished and its administration should be handed over to the local bodies and to Forest Panchayats who can administer more economically."

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must thank the various hon. Members who have advanced constructive criticisms and suggestions for the improvement of the Forest department. Before I proceed, Sir, I may say that the abolition or the reorganization of the Forest College has already received the attention of the Government and it will not be very long before an announcement is made in this connexion. Sir, the Madras Forest Act was passed in 1882 and under the provisions of this Act several areas have been constituted as what are known as reserved forests. The objects of this reservation were the conservation of the forest property and its working, not only to meet proper demands for timber and fuel and grazing but also to protect the soil from erosion by prolonged heat and rain and to regulate the flow of water in rivers. Every civilized country has recognized the need for reserving a certain area as reserved forest. Experts consider that about 20 per cent of a country's total area should be reserved as forest. If you take into account what is happening in other provinces I may say that Burma has a forest acreage of 67 per cent; Assam 38 per cent; Central Provinces 20 per cent; Bengal 14 per cent; Bombay 12 per cent; Madras 12 per cent; United Provinces 5 per cent. It will be seen thus that Madras has a smaller percentage than most other provinces and has a smaller area than what the expert opinion considers there should be. There is thus no over-reservation though there is a great clamour for dis-reservation of forests for purposes of cultivation. Though the forests retained under the control of the Forest department are important forests the preservation of which is in the interests of everybody, dis-reservations are often made mainly for the following reasons:

- (1) undue proximity to cultivation;
- (2) assignment for cultivation when no other land is available;
- (3) for construction of roads.

and

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find that the Bombay Government though the Ministers have been there only two months have been able to make provision for these two things in their budget. This Government as was pointed out by the Hon. Prime Minister the other day, have permitted the Bombay Government to steal a march over us. I find, Sir, that in our province there are a number of agriculturists who own a large number of cattle, and they have been suffering enormously for want of these grazing facilities. The mere fact that one or two of their cattle entered a reserve forest area, brings with it not only the collection of a prohibitory fee, but prosecution to boot.

12 noon. "This burden, this disadvantage and this grievance which the ryots have been pointing out as pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, formed the subject-matter of discussion in the previous Councils.

"There is one other thing which I wish to touch upon and that is the growing of trees in forest area where trees have been cut away. There is no provision, made in the budget for this purpose. If at this rate the trees are cut away from the forests the forests will become depleted of trees and there will be no forests in future. I think hon. Members realize the importance of these forests and how they are responsible for the rainfall in the country. I hope the Government will consider the importance of this problem and make provision, if not in this budget at least in the next budget for planting trees in the forests. So much with regard to the general policy of the Government with regard to forests.

"With regard to Bellary district in particular there is a certain amount of grievance in a particular part of the district to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. In the taluk of Hospet in Daroji there is a reserved forest and a tank by the side of that forest. On the bed of this tank there are a number of babool trees growing. These trees, as most of the hon. Members are aware are thorny plants and no human beings dare approach that side for fear that these thorns will prick them. As hon. Members are aware Bellary is a district where it is very difficult to get drinking water. Unfortunately owing to this scarcity of water if the cattle that are grazing nearby this tank were to go to it to drink water, the owner of such cattle is made to pay twelve annas per head and he is also prosecuted for allowing his cattle to go to this tank for drinking water. I think that is a matter which requires consideration at the hands of the Government. I hope the Hon. Minister will give this matter his careful consideration.

"The next point to which I wish to refer is this: in the reserve forest of Moka, Bellary taluk in Bellary district, number of trees are being cut year after year. I think it has been found from experiment that casuarina trees can be planted in these reserve forests with advantage. So, I urge upon the Government to take up this question in right earnest and see whether they cannot plant casuarina trees in these reserve forests in view of the fact that it is paying also. That is all I have to say and I resume my seat."

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* MR. N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity of participating in this debate. We have heard varying criticisms of hon. Members belonging to all parties in this House, from the speech of Mr. Ari Gowder expressing a feeling of despair down to that of Mr. Appadurai Pillai making constructive suggestions. Mr. Ari Gowder is feeling positively uneasy. I say there is no need for him to despair or be afraid that any more taxation on the poor people in the shape of grazing fees and such other fees will be levied by this Government. But, Sir, it should not be forgotten that our forests are the hidden wealth of the nation. I would call them the reserve wealth of our province. When everything else is gone, and what will be left to you will be only these reserve forests. Without allowing any one to pouch upon this reserve wealth and without allowing in the least degree to any subtraction from this reserve wealth, it will be the endeavour, honest endeavour of the Government, to find out whether revenues from the Forest department could not be increased and also to embark upon such activity as would be largely helpful to the people in regard to the utilization of such natural resources as abound in forests in a beneficial and proper manner. Pointed attention has been drawn to the fact that this department is top-heavy and suggestions have been made for the closure of the Forest College and the abolition of certain posts in the Forest department. But it is not always, as the Hon. the Prime Minister pointed out, that the abolition of a particular post or the abolition of a departmental service that makes you escape from the evils of that department. However matters mentioned will be carefully considered and proper decisions arrived at. Hon. Members may rest assured that Government will err on the side of leniency to the people rather than on the side of rigour towards them. I must also point out that we have been the recipients of many complaints from various parts of the Presidency, not only from this side but also from the other side regarding forest matters and I think much sooner than from the appointment of a committee can justice be expected from this Government. There has been an universal complaint about grazing fees. One Member pointed out that Bombay has already gone ahead of us. May I point out that the Bombay Government has not given up 27 lakhs of rupees from the excise revenue on account of the policy of prohibition. Nor has it embarked upon the policy of land revenue remission to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs. What is possible in one province ought to be certainly possible in our province also and steps will be taken to enquire into this matter of the reduction of grazing fees. And what may come first in one province may come a little later in another.

"Sir, I wish to draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that much has been said in regard to one matter, viz., that there is no proper co-ordination between one department and another. Without going into the merits of this question, I assure hon. Members that in the present Government there will be absolute co-ordination between the Forest department and other departments. One of the departments

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"I come now to grazing facilities. Although the unreserves and panchayat forests ought to meet the demand for grazing, a major portion of the departmental forests are also thrown open to grazing. This grazing is however permitted only on payment of a small fee and after taking out a permit. Generally a forest range is the unit of grazing, but the cattle are permitted to graze in an entire division if a division-wide permit is taken on payment of the highest rate of fee prevailing in the division. Complaints have often been received that the existing rates of fees are high and that a reduction is called for. The question of reduction is separately under consideration as I have already pointed out. Besides allowing grazing on payment of fees, the ryots are permitted to cut and remove grass in head-loads in all forests except in places where such removals have to be prohibited on silvicultural grounds.

"Some hon. Members have referred to the supply of fuel, green manure and small timber required by the ryots for their agricultural needs. As a result of the classification only important timber forests and forests which are important for climatic purposes and for the protection of water sources, rivers, etc., are retained under the control of Forest department. The administration of these forests is conducted with strict regard to silvicultural principles. Where the needs of the ryots come into conflict with the recognized principles of forestry, the latter get preference. There is therefore likely to be some discontent among the ryots who are immediately affected. But the department has been trying to meet the requirements of the ryots wherever possible, as will be seen from the following extracts from the administration report for 1935-36:—

'The domestic and agricultural needs of the people were supplied from departmental forests as far as possible. As usual, free grants of building materials were made for the reconstruction of houses destroyed by fire. In several divisions ryots were allowed to cut and remove fodder and thatching grass by head-loads free of charge, and the privilege was availed of to a large extent.'

"Arrangements have also been made to start the plantation of manure leaf species in a few selected areas experimentally where the demand for manure leaf is keen.

"As regards the financial aspect of the forest administration referred to by my hon. Friend Mr. Appadurai Pillai I may say that for the past five years the Forest department has shown an average surplus of 3½ lakhs on a total average annual expenditure of about 40 lakhs. The surplus is not much, I admit, but in judging the financial results, the following considerations have to be borne in mind:—

(1) With sound management for sustained yield forestry is a safe investment from which sensational returns in cash are not to be expected. Nothing would be easier than for an irresponsible administration to show large surpluses for a time.

(2) Madras is less fortunate, from the financial point of view, than some Indian provinces, in that a high proportion of its forest,

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though essential for meeting local demands and for conserving water-supplies, is not directly remunerative. And it is precisely this type of forest which is the most difficult and expensive to protect.

(3) Political considerations have led to the fixing of grazing fees at a point far below the market value of the facilities offered, and reluctance to admit regulation of grazing prevents the management of pasture lands to the best advantage. Run on purely commercial lines the revenue from grazing could easily be trebled.

(4) The department receives no credit for the value of produce given away as concessions and free grants, for example, free grazing, and timber and bamboos to rebuild burnt villages. The revenue foregone in this way is rather more than a lakh of rupees each year.

(5) The department's balance sheet leaves quite out of account the incalculable indirect benefits which the forests confer. The control of floods and the conservation of water, on which huge areas of wet cultivation depend, have no place in it. Not a penny is credited for preserving the streams feeding the Pykara Hydro-Electric project with all its ramifications and its crores of invested capital.

"I now come to the question raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Schamnad Sahib with regard to the encroachment of the Forest department in South Kanara. The Government issued an order in June 1933 giving permission to clear undergrowth in all reserves near the coast to a distance of 200 yards from the limits of private holdings and also permission to clear undergrowth in all areas sown with Hopea and permission for the free removal of (i) green manure leaves of unclassified species and dry leaves of all species; and (ii) dead fuel. These concessions were abused and consequently the department had to withdraw them. Latterly several deputations waited on the Members in charge of the portfolio and as a result of inspection the Government decided to allow the following concessions:—

(i) Removal of dry leaf;

(ii) removal of dry wood.

These concessions will be permitted also in the six sandalwood reserves, which were closed to the concessions, subject to the condition that no sandalwood, even if dead or fallen, is removed.

"The hon. Member during his speech said that there are no other Members in the House to plead for the cause of South Kanara. I am afraid, Sir, that the hon. Member has forgotten that there are three Parliamentary Secretaries hailing from South Kanara. Though they may not be speaking in the House, they are doing more things than are expected of them.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Ari Gowder raised the question of abolishing this department and handing the forests over to the local bodies. Of course the hon. Member desires that the Forest department should be abolished and that the entire forests should be handed over to local bodies and forest panchayats' management. Unfortunately there is no

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forest panchayat in the Nilgiris, which matter is under the consideration of the Government. The suggestion to abolish the department seems to be based on a misunderstanding of the work of the department. The following extracts from a booklet compiled by Mr. Dyson at the request of the Chief Conservator of Forests explain in some detail the work of the Forest department:—

'No one would suggest that a country should be clothed with forest from end to end. Every country denuded beyond a certain point has found bitter cause to mourn the loss of its forests. Where then lies the happy mean? Experts have put it at 20 per cent of a country's total area, but the figure must obviously vary vastly with circumstances. I have already shown how Madras stands in comparison with other Provinces. Madras has only 12 per cent. Those responsible for the forest settlement of Madras were able to set apart as reserved forest an area equal to about one-eighth of the Madras Presidency. There are of course, other lands under forest of a sort. There are the ordinary "unreserves" fast disappearing under expanding cultivation and degenerating through over-grazing, and privately owned forest land in Malabar and elsewhere. Practically none of the private forests is under any form of management other than a ruthless exploitation of anything worth having. Neither of these classes of land can be regarded as a permanent forest asset to the country.

'A very large part of a forest officer's time is taken up in protecting his forests against the various dangers which threaten their existence. Of these dangers, damage and abuse by man, direct or indirect, is by far the most acute. Deliberate theft for profit is the least of his troubles. It is the sum total of innumerable petty offences, each trifling in itself, that causes the most serious damage—offences such as the pilfering of timber fuel, and bamboos, and loppings for cattle fodder and green manure.

'It is an obvious duty of the Forest department to the public to arrange for a legitimate means of meeting local needs for forest produce wherever this can be done without violating the principles of forestry. The department is alive to its obligations in this respect, and does its best to meet them. Quite apart from the moral obligation it looks upon the arrangement of localized fellings where exploitation can be controlled and supervised and where the regeneration of the forest can be cared for, as the most effective means of protecting the forest as a whole against indiscriminate misuse.'

'Sir, under the present state of the administration of the local bodies, I do not think the time has come when the management of forests can be handed over to them. But I may say that all these matters are under consideration, especially the working plans of the department. As has been already pointed out by Mr. Appadurai Pillai the existence of the Forest College white elephant also will be very seriously considered. I may say it will not be very long before a decision is arrived at by this Government.

'Sir, there is one other point which was raised by Mr. Appadurai Pillai. He raised the question of the necessity for a personal assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests. The pay of the personal assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests is not included in this demand and is not therefore subject to the vote of the Assembly. Prior to 1913, the post of Forest Assistant in the Board's office was included in the cadre of extra assistant conservators. As the Board found it difficult to select a suitable officer from this cadre, the sanction of the Government of India was obtained to the appointment of an outsider to the post on the same pay and allowances admissible to an extra assistant conservator. I may say, Sir, that this question also is having our attention.

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"My hon. Friend Swami Sahajanandam also made some observations in regard to the facilities to be given to the agriculturists and others who live near the forests.

"I may say that whatever has fallen from the lips of the hon. Member will be carefully considered. He went further and stated that whatever was suggested in the House was received in one ear and disposed of without any result. I am sorry that the hon. Member has made such a remark at such an early stage when the Congress Ministry has assumed office. 12-30 p.m.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Bhakthavatsalu Nayudu has referred to certain grievances; he referred particularly to the system of taking permits and said that if it is taken for one division, they are not allowed in other divisions. As I have already informed the House at an early stage when moving this demand, innumerable petitions have come to the Government with regard to these matters and we will give the best consideration possible to them.

"The hon. lady Member, Mrs. Masillamani has referred to the difficulties of agriculturists in the matter of the impounding of cattle, and said that it is done without rhyme or reason. I may tell the lady Member that enquiries will be made and suitable action will be taken if oppression has been brought to bear on the agriculturists.

"Some of my hon. friends suggested that some forests should be thrown open without levying any fees for grazing. I may tell them that this matter will receive the attention of the Government. On the whole, Sir, very valuable suggestions have been made and all of them will be considered by the Government in due course. With these remarks I request that this demand may be granted and Mr. Schamnad Sahib may withdraw his token cut."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I know if the mover of the motion withdraws it?"

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not press my motion, Sir."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

(5) DEMAND V—REGISTRATION

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,52,900 under Demand V—Registration."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, ரிஜிஸ்ட்ரேஷன் டிபார்ட்மெண்டிற்காக வைத்திருக்கிற ரூ. 29,52,900-ல் நூறு ரூபாயை எடுக்கவெண்டுமென்று, இந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டிலுள்ள பொதுவான நிலை மைக்கைப்பற்றி விவாதிக்கவேண்டுமென்று மோஷன் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன்.

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [16th September 1937]

“சாதாரணமாக இந்த இலாக்காவானது ஜனங்களுடைய சொத்துக்களுக்கு இடையூறு வராமல் பாதுகாக்க பத்திரங்களைப் பதிவு செய்யும் இலாக்காவாகும். இதில் சிலர் ஆபீஸில் போய் பதிவு செய்கிறார்கள். ஆபீஸுக்கு செல்ல முடியாமல் போனால் வீடுகளுக்கு வந்து பதிவு செய்து கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டால் அந்தச் சமயத்தில் பதினைந்து ரூபாய் கட்டணம் **Registration fees** இல்லாமல் அதிகமாக பதினைந்து ரூபாய் வாங்குகிறார்கள். இது மிகவும் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. இந்தக் கட்டணமானது மூன்றிலொருபங்காக இருக்கலாம். பதினைந்து ரூபாயை ஜந்து ரூபாயாக்கலாம். அப்படிச் செய்தால் ஆபீசுக்குப் போக முடியாதவர்களுக்கு பெரிதும் பயனாக இருக்கும். மேலும் ஒரு கோர்ட்டில் நூறு ரூபாய்க்கு ஒரு ஏழைக் குடியானவன் டிக்கிரி வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வருகிறான். அவன் ஒரு நிலத்தின் மீது சென்று ஏலம் போடவேண்டுமென்றால் வில்லங்க சர்ட்டிபிகேட் வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். வில்லங்க சர்ட்டிபிகேட் வாங்க பீஸ் (fees) வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அது அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. வில்லங்க சர்ட்டிபிகேட் பீஸ் கொஞ்சங் குறைந்ததாக இருக்கவேண்டும். மேலும் இந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குப் போதுமான உத்தியோகங்கள் கிடைக்கவில்லை. ஏற்கெனவே மந்திரியாயிருந்த கனம் எஸ். முத்தையா களுக்கு இரண்டு சீட் (seat), **Scheduled** வகுப்பினருக்கு ஒரு seat, பிராமணர்களுக்கு இரண்டு seat, பிராமணரல்லாதாருக்கு ஐந்து seat, மூலம் ஒரு seat இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று முடிவு செய்திருந்தார்கள். அதன்படி எத்தனை ஸ்தானங்கள் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்களென்று பார்த்தால் மிகப் பூச்சியமாக இருக்கிறது. ஜில்லா ரிஜிஸ்ட்ரார் போஸ்டானது இப்பொழுது முப்பதுக்குக் குறையாமலிருக்கிறது. அப்படி இருக்குமானால் அங்கே சொல்லிய பிரகாரம் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு மூன்று ஸ்தானங்கள் கொடுத்திருக்கவேண்டும். இந்த விதமாகக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்களா என்பது சந்தேகமாக இருக்கிறது. இது விஷயத்தை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் ஆராய்ச்சி செய்யவேண்டும். **Selection grade**-ல் இல்லாமல் போய்விட்டாலும் கீழே இருக்கிற ஆர்டினரி கிரேடினான் ஆதித்திராவிட வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களை ஜில்லா ரிஜிஸ்ட்ரார் வேலைக்கு எடுக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். சாதாரணமாக பத்திரப்பதிவு இலாக்காவில் **ordinary grade** ரூ. 40—100, **higher grade** ரூ. 100—200, **selection grade** ரூ. 200—250 என்று வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். **District Registrar** போஸ்டு கொடுக்கிறார்கள், ஆனால் இதற்குமேல் பிரமோஷன் கொடுப்பதாயிருந்தால் **ordinary grade**-ல் இருக்கிறவர் **higher grade**-க்கு வந்து **selection grade**-க்கு வரவேண்டும். வகுப்பு வாரியாக பார்த்தால் இடமில்லாது போனால் **selection grade**-ல் இருந்தால் பிரமோஷன் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அதே மாதிரி ஜில்லா ரிஜிஸ்ட்ரார் பிரமோஷனிலும் வகுப்பு வாரியாகப் பார்த்துப் பிரமோஷன் செய்யவேண்டும். இப்படிச் கவனிக்காமல் போனால் தாமதப்பட்டவர்கள் கொஞ்சங்கூட முன்னுக்கு வர முடியாது. சர்க்கார் எடுத்த தற்கெல்லாம் **Public Service Commission** ஏற்படுத்தி அதன் மூலம் பாஸ் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜன மாணவர்கள் **Service Commission**-க்குச் சென்று இடம் கிடைப்பது கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. இந்த இலாகாவை மாத்திரம் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் தன்னுடைய கையில் வைத்துக் கொண்டு ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு உத்தியோகங்கள் **Registration Department**-ல் கொடுக்கும்படியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்யும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* **KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR**:—
“Sir, I have only one or two remarks to offer in this connexion. The Registration department does not seem to have given due consideration to the proper representation of Muslims in the department. Though there are several qualified Muslims for appointment as clerks, though there are several others who are qualified for promotion, they have not

[16th September 1937] [Mr. Mahmud Schamnad]

been receiving due attention from the head of the department. The proportion of Muhammadans to the total number of clerks is very low, in spite of the fact that the head of the department might have given effect to the communal order, and recruited some Muhammadans as clerks. Very few have been taken so far and the communal Government Order has been overruled. I know of several instances where the claims of fully qualified Muslim clerks for promotion as Sub-Registrars have been overlooked; when their turn came, their claims were overlooked and others were promoted.

“Then there is the difficulty in connexion with the attendance of Sub-Registrars at the residences of the parties. Sub-Registrars are asked to go over to the residences of parties when the parties concerned are seriously ill or are gosha ladies. In such cases, they charge Rs. 10 for each attendance. Even if the document is a mortgage for only Rs. 100 the party has to pay an attendance fee of Rs. 10 besides conveyance charges and other fees to peon of the Sub-Registrar and others. On the whole the man who borrows only Rs. 100 does not get more than Rs. 50 when the document is registered. There is provision in the case of poor people to refund the fee. A poor man has first to pay his fees; then he has to prove that he is a poor man; then he has to apply for the refund of the fee. The application is sent to the Revenue Inspector. It is all a round-about way and it is difficult to satisfy the Revenue authorities who hold enquiries. More than Rs. 10 will have to be spent to get a refund of Rs. 10. It would be a great hardship for the poor gosha lady. What I request the Hon. Minister is this: even if the attendance fees cannot be foregone, at last in the case of poor people the document may be registered without asking them to deposit the fee; the enquiry whether the party is poor or not, may be held after that, without first asking the party to first deposit the amount. Why should you ask the party to pay the fee and then refund it after finding that the party is poor?”

“Then there are some orders issued by the head of the department which are not quite consistent. I could give an instance. In the case of testamentary documents, such as wills, testamentary wakfs, it is well known that no stamp duty is necessary. There are some Sub-Registrars who have registered such documents without any stamp duty, others said that half the stamp duty should be paid; there are others who say that the full stamp duty should be paid, all of them quoting the orders received from the head of the department. Such orders are issued indiscriminately or without proper scrutiny.”

MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, 12-45
this is another field in which enhancement of fees was made in order p.m.
to meet a temporary situation. The fees could have been reduced as soon as the financial position of the province improved; but the Government did not seem to have any idea of reducing the fees. They did not pay heed to the appeal of the representatives of the public. It may be that huge amounts of surplus left with the Government in

[Mr. B. Bhakthavatsalu Nayudu] [16th September 1937]

certain years have been squandered; it may also be that only a small surplus has been budgeted for this year. But it is the duty of the Government to reduce the taxes that were increased as a temporary measure, when the finances of the province actually improve. Then only will the people have confidence in the Government, and then only will the people be readily willing to come forward to bear fresh taxes whenever any necessity for such new taxes arise. I therefore request the Hon. the Minister to reduce the registration fees and bring them to the original level, though not now at least during the next budget which will be presented very soon before this House. With these few words, Sir, I support the cut motion."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Sir, I have nothing more to point out, in addition to what has been stated by the previous speakers, except that I want to make the suggestion that the Government may be pleased to see how far they will be able to reduce the stamp and registration fees as early as possible."

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, the Registration department is an important department. The sum for which I have requested a grant from this House is for three sections of the Registration department. The first one relates to superintendence which consists of the amount required for the Inspector-General and his staff. That comes to Rs. 70,000. The second section is the District Registrars and their staff; and the amount required is Rs. 28,72,000. The third part relates to the cost that is being incurred in England for expenses relating to the cine-film process and the photostat process that have been introduced during the last three years. The amount required for this section is Rs. 11,000.

"I expected Sir, that hon. Members in dealing with this department, would give constructive suggestions with regard to all aspects thereof; but the two chief points that were urged in the course of the discussion on the cut motions related to the apportionment of certain seats. Swami Sahajanandam pleaded that provision should be made for giving more places in this department to Adi-Dravidas, etc. Mr. Schamnad Sahib pleaded for better representation in the services of this department, of Muslims. Taking the Muslims question first, I should like to point out how the matter stands to-day. There are 25 Registrars in the 25 districts, of whom 5 are Muslims. There are 611 Sub-Registrars, of whom 44 are Muslims. There are 71 reserve Sub-Registrars, of whom Muslims count 11. There are 1,980 clerks, of whom 118 are Muslims. The adult male Muslim population in the province may be taken to be 7.5 per cent of the total population. The total number of posts in the Registration department comes to 2,690, and 7.5 per cent of this would come to 202. Actually, however, the number of posts held by Muslims to-day is 178, i.e., 25 less than the full maximum. Against this small deficiency, however, 20 per cent of the District Registrars are Muslims.

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"Sir, as I submitted on a previous occasion, I admit the department does require reform; but I may say that this Government are not in for removing root and branch departments that have been built up and are working now. So far as our Government are concerned, we are anxious to take the best of the services in the future programme of work which will be placed before this House and the country. It may be that all those who have been doing service in this department or in any other department may not be required always in the future to be doing the same service which they have been doing hitherto. When the Government complete their labours with regard to the preparation of the framework for that future, all the departments, including the Registration department, would be availed of for fixing them into that framework, so that the expenditure would be reduced, efficiency would be increased and relief would be given as speedily as possible.

"In this connexion, I may say that the Registration department, as is the case with every other department, may have to be taken nearer home to the villagers, in regard to the registration of documents. Some hon. Members have pointed out certain difficulties with regard to expenditure, the heaviness of the fees and other things. All these will be taken into account when the new programme is drawn up and placed before this House.

"I shall say one or two words in connexion with the expenditure incurred on account of the cine-camera or cine-film system and the photostat system that have been newly introduced. Sir, the cine-camera system was first introduced in Madras-Chingleput. Then it was extended to Salem and Coimbatore in the south and East Godavari and Guntur in the north. The photostat system was introduced in Malabar. These are only experimental systems and it will be soon known how they have worked and whether we may advantageously replace in the future the system of copying documents with the hand, by these two new methods. Until now, the cine-film method adopted in the four districts for the year 1935 has been responsible for a profit of Rs. 781; i.e., the cost of copying documents by this method was less by so many rupees than the cost incurred previously by copying by hand. The result of the introduction of the photostat system in South Malabar on the 1st April 1934 has been a profit of Rs. 1,639 for the year 1934-35, and for 1935-36, the profit was Rs. 3,522. All the clerks and others who were sent out of their employment have been absorbed in the same department in other places, or were given places elsewhere.

"The whole point, as I expected hon. Members of this House to 1 p.m. discuss and throw some light upon is about the new method that has been introduced, by the adoption of which, no doubt, some profit is shown here and what the ultimate result will be if these methods are employed throughout; but when once it is done in the Registration department, it may have to be adopted in other departments also where the copyist establishments are now functioning. We have to consider what will be the extent of unemployment that will be created by the adoption of these methods. We have also to consider whether these

[Mr. T. Prakasam] [16th September 1937]

methods have really succeeded or they have to become a permanent feature of our administration. Whatever other suggestions are made here in this House by the hon. Members, they will all be taken into account by the Government in the attempt which the Government are making for reconstitution and reconstruction without destroying the departments as such in future."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

(6) DEMAND VI—MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ACTS.

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,07,700 under the head 'Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts.'

"The two items under which the amount is demanded by the Government are made mention of on page 75 of the Budget Memorandum and they are: (1) charges of collection, and (2) inspection of motor vehicles. As these two are absolutely necessary items of expenditure, I hope the House will grant the demand."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—"Sir, I move the cut motion standing in my name, namely:—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,07,700 for Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts by Rs. 100.'

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! இப்பொழுது மோட்டார் வரி மிகவும் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. சாதாரணமாக செளகரியத்திற்காக மோட்டார் வண்டி வைத்திருக்கிறவர்களும் வருஷத்திற்கு நூறு ரூபாய் கட்டவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இந்த வரியைக் குறைக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். முன் டோல்கேட்டு வைத்திருந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது டோல்கேட்டு எடுத்ததன் பின் ஏராள வரி போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதனால் இப்பொழுது மறுபடியும் டோல்கேட்டு வைக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லவரவில்லை. கிராமங்களிலுள்ளவர்கள் முன்னம் டோல்கேட்டுக்கு கொடுத்த பணத்தை எல்லாம் சேர்த்து மோட்டார் மீது வரியாகப் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் மோட்டார் வரியை குறைத்துக் கொடுக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

"மேலும் வெளியூரிலிருந்து சென்னைக்கு மோட்டார்கார் கொண்டுவந்தால் உடனே ஒரு ஷெட் (shed) பார்த்து விட முடியவில்லை. தெருவில் விட்டிருந்தால் சென்னைலிருக்கும் போலீஸார் பிராசிக்ஷியூஷன் செய்கிறார்கள். தெருவில் மோட்டார்காரை விடக்கூடாதென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். வெளியூரிலிருந்து வருகிறவர்களுக்கு அப்படிச் செய்யக்கூடாதென்று ஏற்பாடு செய்யக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். மேலும் ஏழைகள் கார் (car) வைத்திருந்தால் அந்தக் காரிலே ஓட்டை உடைச்சல் இருக்கத்தான் செய்யும். சென்னையில் காரில் கொஞ்சம் புகை ஏற்பட்டால் உடனே பிராசிக்ஷியூஷன் செய்கிறார்கள். இவ்வளவு கடுமையாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஏழைகளுக்காக இருக்கிற கவர்ன்மெண்டு கார் ஓட்டையாக இருந்தால் அவர்கள் அதை எங்கே கொண்டுபோய் போடுகிறது. ஓட்டை உடைசலாக இருந்தாலும் அதை வைத்துக்கொள்ள அவர்களுக்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்கவேண்டும். சாதாரணமாக கார் வாடகைக்கு வைத்து ஜீவிக்கக்கூடியவர்களுக்கு இந்தச் சட்டதிட்டங்கள்

16th September 1937] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

அதாவது ஓட்டை உடைசலாக கார் வைத்திருக்கக்கூடாது அப்படி வைத்திருந்தால் பிராசிக்ஷியூஷன் செய்யப்படும் என்ற சட்டதிட்டங்கள் வைக்கலாம். சொந்தத்திற்காக வைத்திருக்கும் காரர்களுக்கு இப்படிப்பட்ட விதி இருக்கக்கூடாது.

"மேலும் பஸ்களில் புனியைப் போட்டு அடைத்துக்கொண்டு போகிற மாதிரி பர்செஞ்சர்களை அடைத்துக்கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். இதற்குப் போலீஸார்தான் காரணம். போலீஸாருக்கு அரை ரூபாய் ஒரு ரூபாய் கொடுத்து விட்டால் பத்துப்பேர் போகக்கூடிய மோட்டார் பஸ்ஸில் நூறுபேர் கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். இந்த விஷயத்தை சர்க்கார் கவனிக்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இப்படிப் புனியைப் போல் பிரயாணிகளை அடைத்துக்கொண்டு போகிற மோட்டார் பஸ்ஸில் சில சமயங்களில் சப்மேஜிஸ்த்ரேட்டுகள் பிரயாணஞ் செய்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் இதைப்பற்றி ஒன்றுஞ் சொல்லுவதில்லை. ஏனென்றால் அவர்களுக்கு இந்த பஸ்காரர்கள் தயவு வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இந்த மாதிரியான விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

"கிராமத்திற்களில் hackney carriage எட்டுகள் என்று இருக்கிறார்கள். சிதம்பரத்தில் சுந்தரேஸன் என்ற ஒரு hackney carriage எட்டு கார் வைத்திருக்கிறவர்களை இடைஞ்சல் செய்கிறார். சிதம்பரத்தில் என்னுடைய நண்பர் ஒருவர், அவர் காங்கிரஸில் அங்கு தலைவராக இருந்தார். அவருடைய பேர் ராமலிங்கம் பிள்ளை. அவர் இறந்ததன் பின் அவருடைய காரை அவருடைய சமுசாரம் விற்க ஆரம்பித்தார். பாதி ராத்திரியில் hackney carriage எட்டு சுந்தரேஸன் அந்த அம்மாளிடத்தில் போய் கையெழுத்து போட வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார். பாதி இராத்திரியில் கையெழுத்துப்போடமாட்டேன் என்று அந்த அம்மான் சொன்னார்கள். அந்த அம்மான் கையெழுத்துப் போட்டதுபோல் hackney carriage head constable, forgery ஆகப் போட்டு சூப்பிரண்டுக்கு அனுப்பிவிட்டார். மறுநாள் அப்படிச் செய்யவில்லையா என்று கேட்டபோது (Retired Sub-Judge இன்னும் பெரிய மனுஷர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள்) அவர்களுக்குமுன் நான்தான் அந்தமாதிரி செய்தேன் என்று அந்தப் போலீஸ் ஹெட் காண்ஸ்டெபிள் சொல்லுகிறார். இதனால் தற்கால நிர்வாகம் கிராமங்களில் ரொம்பவும் மோசமாக இருக்கிறது என்பதைத் தெரிவிப்பதுடன் இதை சர்க்கார் கவனிக் வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். முதலாவது மோட்டார் வரி அதிகமாக இருக்கிறதை குறைக்கவேண்டும். இரண்டாவது Madras-க்கு கார் கொண்டுவந்துவிட்டால் பிராசிக்ஷியூஷன் செய்யக்கூடாது. பழய கார் வைக்கலாம் என்று அனுமதி கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இப்படிப்பட்ட விஷயங்களை கவனிப்பதோடு மோட்டாரில் ஏறும்போதுகூட தீண்டாம இருக்கிறது. சில ஊர்களில் மோட்டார் பஸ்ஸில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களை ஏற்றுவது கிடையாது. சில சமயங்களில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் மோட்டார் பஸ்ஸில் போனால் நடு வழியில் இறக்கிவிட்டுப் போகிறார்கள். இந்தமாதிரி மோட்டார் பஸ்ஸில் ஹரிஜனங்களை ஏற்றமாட்டேன் என்று சொன்னால் அப்படிப்பட்ட பஸ்களுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது. இப்படிப்பட்ட விஷயங்களை மந்திரிகள் பார்த்து ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a subject in which I am very much interested. I am speaking on behalf of the local bodies as a whole and I am sure many hon. Members of the local bodies who are here will agree with me that something should be done to increase the toll-free compensation or in the alternative to see that the toll-gates are thrown open once again. I hear some hon. Members saying 'No, no.' In their case it may be that their boards are better off, but in the interests of the other boards, I do hope they will take a sympathetic view of the case. Either the toll-gates should be revived or the toll-free compensation should be increased, but I do not think the Government are in a position to increase the toll-free compensation now

[Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder] [16th September 1937]

and so the other alternative will be to repeal the Act. The last year of the tolls in the Nilgiris fetched Rs. 1,87,000 and at the rate at which it was increasing it would have gone up to 2.50 lakhs or 3 lakhs by this time. Instead of that, we are now getting only about Rs. 60,000 or a little more than that by way of compensation. That is hardly enough. Everybody knows that the Nilgiris is a district which requires better attention, because it is a district full of ghaut roads, subject to heavy storm damages and ordinarily the maintenance charge will be higher than it is elsewhere on the plains and yet we are expected to maintain the services at less than one-fourth of the cost. It is really unfair. I can also assure the House that most of the motor vehicle owners are complaining that they cannot afford to find the large sums to pay the provincial fees and they would rather have the toll-gates opened. If it is not possible to repeal the Act, I may make a suggestion that a permissive clause might be introduced in the Act by way of an amendment, namely, such districts as would like to have toll-gates may have them, especially a district like the Nilgiris. Unless some such thing is done by the Government, I fear we may have to close down some of the roads. The fact is, we simply cannot maintain any of the roads on the mere maintenance allotment. We have to find funds for special repairs and comprehensive improvements. If you allow the local bodies to have toll-gates, it will relieve the Government of a great responsibility towards local bodies. And that will be an easy method of satisfying the local bodies and the people concerned. I am making this suggestion in the hope that Government will very carefully consider it."

1-15 p.m. * DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, just a word or two with reference to the cut motion that I have tabled to discuss the question of providing sheds on road sides of important centres. I need not say much to bring home to the Members of this Assembly the need to provide waiting sheds at suitable centres on road side for the convenience of the travelling public. One need not go very far to find the pitiable sight of the passengers waiting for buses. Just opposite to the central station, one would find on a summer day a number of women and children waiting for buses exposed to the sun and dust. There is absolutely no resting place there. It is a very cruel sight, a sight for the Gods to see how these people suffer for want of proper accommodation. It is very hard during the middle part of the day to stand on the pavement and unless one stands on the pavement it is not possible to catch the bus. Under such circumstances it is very necessary for the sake of the passengers to have some sort of shed arrangements through the course of the bus traffic. One would ask that this is no man's business, and who is to do this? If it is any man's business to receive a large share of the income under this head it is as much that particular man's business to undertake this small convenience for the sake of the travelling public. I find, Sir, under the head of Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts the receipts amount to Rs. 48 lakhs. There is an expenditure of about 43 lakhs leaving a

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clear saving of 5 lakhs. To whichever purse this 5 lakhs goes, the responsibility lies very heavily on the authorities concerned for the provision of this convenience. The Corporation of Madras in the city and the local bodies in the mufassal should shoulder this responsibility. Most of these bus-stands are located very near public urinals and latrines with the result that one gets very bad stench while waiting for buses. I have often experienced that. In some of the important roads in Madras I do not know how the Corporation in its wisdom or the Commissioner of Police who is the controlling authority for the motor vehicles taxation, allows these bus-stands near public latrines and urinals. Any one going along the Poonamallee road will find the bus-stand located near the tramway electric power station and one cannot afford to stand there for any length of time for the buses which are very unsystematic in traffic. There is another bus-stand located near the Rattan Bazaar road. That is also by the side of a public latrine. There is another bus-stand which I often had to notice on the riverside route leading to Nungambakkam. There we see the bus-stand by the side of the latrine. I do not know what special fancy the Corporation officials have in putting these stands by the side of the latrines. It is a punishment to the travelling public. On behalf of the travelling public I put forward this cut motion and I commend this to the notice of the Minister in charge so that he might deal with this inconvenience. I tried to interpellate the matter, but I was ruled out on the ground that I was furnishing information and not asking for any information."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not refer to them."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a reference to the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act in the interpellations this morning and I am very glad to learn from the Minister that the Government is contemplating revision of the Act and the rules. I believe as a person who uses the road considerably that this subject has not been given the importance it deserves. The motor vehicles taxation though in itself is quite a small factor in the administration of the country is closely related to the problem of transport, a problem that has become a growing and important problem and has to be reckoned with. Nobody who knows the history of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act can say that the transport problem as a whole has ever engaged the attention of the Government. The passing of this Act has been due to the clamour by the motorists and other interested parties against the toll system. The local boards complain now about the loss of revenue and they have got themselves to thank for the abolition of the tolls. They found that the traffic was an easy means of making money and tolls were established for every 20 miles by them, not to speak of the tolls in municipal towns. The agitation that was carried on for sometime by the automobile association and those interested in motor and allied trades met with success and the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act was the result. But very soon it was found that the Act was defective and that it was a hasty piece of legislation and that one could find a lot of loopholes in it later on. Then there were clamours from interested

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parties, people who owned buses and lorries and also people who work in the gasoline trade that the tax was not equitable and that its incidence was not such that everybody shouldered an equitable share of the taxation. There were deputations to the Government and amendments were promptly made on such suggestions. The Government of the day made a distinction between the casual user and the regular user of the road and that is why we find that the private lorry has to pay a smaller amount and the lorry that goes on hire has to pay a larger amount. The framers of the Act at that time did not take into account the fact that the demand for the Act was not so much for licensing of motor vehicles as a protest against the authority exercised by the local bodies. The hon. Member Mr. Ari Gowder wanted larger amount of revenue for local Government and the reintroduction of tolls by local bodies. But I strongly feel that the question of transport has got to be in charge of the Provincial Government and that the Local Government should have no control over taxation on transport. As I said before it is necessary to legislate for the entire problem and piecemeal amendments would only fulfil the clamour of a section of the people. The Ministry will have to give the transport problem a definite status and probably will have to make it a separate portfolio. There is a Minister for the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, there is the Local Self-Government Minister who is in charge of the tolls and there is the Prime Minister who is in charge of the Police who carry out the enforcement of the rules under the Act and there is the Public Works Minister who has got some kind of control over the roads. The principle of co-ordination is necessary for this subject more than any other. Transport should be considered as one problem and given charge perhaps to one of the three other Ministers who handle a portion of the problem. I hope that the Hon. Minister who is in charge of the amendments of the Act and the rules that are to be made will, when considering the problem, examine all the different phases of the problem and arrive at a conclusion whereby the taxation will be just and the incidence will fall on one and all of the road users. It may be necessary for him to come to the conclusion that the tolls are after all the best and most equitable form of collection of taxes from the vehicles using the road. If this is the decision I hope everybody will bow to it. What I would like to suggest is that no hasty legislation should be carried out and the problem has to be studied and necessarily it has to take some time. There is another aspect to this problem, viz., the Government of India's intention to amend the Motor Vehicles Act. This is the Presidency to first introduce this taxation. Other presidencies copied it later on. I do not think the amendment of the Act by the Central Government is a serious problem. If the Government is carrying out legislation in this respect they can modify it later on to suit the wishes of the Government of India. I would like to say at this juncture that every user of the road will have to be made to pay. The agriculturists already pay road-cess. The society has to pay by way of rates. There are no manufacturers in this country from whom we can expect a large amount of money by special taxation. The gasoline and motor trades are already

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heavily taxed. The Government can tax the tyre industry, as it will not be paying import duties, by imposing a sales-tax. The Government can use the proceeds derived from this source to popularize the use of pneumatic tyres for bullock-carts. The industry cannot complain as they will be ultimately profiting by it. The iron-tired carts do a lot of damage to good roads and the problem of replacing the present metal-tired carts used by agriculturists by subsidizing them can be usefully considered. I have myself used them and find the pneumatic tyres quite cheap in the long run. I have not got more to say to the Government by way of suggestions, but I would like them, before deciding on this important matter, to consider all aspects and make a comprehensive reform. Let us have a highway code. Let there not be any amendments to it from time to time whenever the Assembly meets, and let not the Government go on making any number of alterations to the regulations.

1-30
p.m.

“There is one other matter I have got to mention, and that is with regard to the lorries that ply for hire which are being heavily taxed by local boards. Some of them pass off as private-owned lorries. I am told Government contemplate removing the distinction between private-owned lorries and lorries plying for trade purposes. Whatever that may be, a Government Order was issued on the eve of the present Government taking charge in regard to the controlling of the load on lorries. A Government Order like that is very hard on the lorry-owners. I believe the Government's attention is engaged on that matter at present. But it will be worth while not to make such haphazard rules which tell upon the owners of motor vehicles.”

(At this stage Mr. C. P. Subbiah Mudaliyar stood up without speaking.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Hon. Members are requested not simply to rise up if they do not want to speak.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure hon. Members who have spoken upon this subject have already told the House that this Motor Vehicles Act, as has been referred to by the previous speaker, is a piece of hasty legislation. At the time when this Bill which has become an Act was on the anvil, members who were in the Opposition pleaded with the Government that they were wrong in enacting this measure and abolishing tolls. As a matter of fact, the Government were deriving large revenues by means of tolls. We do not know whom the Government wished to benefit when they substituted this provincial tax for the tolls. I do not know whether the owners of motor vehicles who travel long distances out of the city are benefited considerably. But all the same, I am apprised that the Government have by now realized that they have lost a large sum of money in the shape of revenue which they would otherwise have collected from the tolls. Though we are able to collect as a result of this tax only Rs. 44½ lakhs, the promoters of this Act which was in the shape of a Bill at that time expected that the Government would collect as much as 65 or 70 lakhs.

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At that time, some hon. Members in the Legislative Council drew the attention of the Government to the fact that the statistics of the number of cars and other motor vehicles that were plying then was considerably exaggerated, and that the Government would ultimately find that the revenues would go down considerably. Those members were not false prophets; for ultimately the Government came to know that the revenue in the first year after the passing of the Act was considerably less than what was expected, and they have not been able to make headway in the direction of collecting more taxes by means of this Act.

“There is one feature of this Act which in my opinion is immoral, and that is when the Government has a policy of levying a tax on motor vehicles, so far as buses and taxis are concerned, they wish to levy the tax per seat in the bus. When some hon. Members of the Legislative Council pointed out to the Government that it was wrong to levy the rate on the seats which were used by the driver and the conductor, they did not pay any attention to it. Subsequently, notice of a Bill was given in order that the Government might exempt those seats from tax. The plea of want of finance was advanced against the promotion of such a Bill. Now, I hope, Sir, that the present Government will realize that it is positively wrong to call upon the owner of the bus to pay for those two seats which do not bring him any revenue. To start with although the maximum rate per seat was Rs. 10, the Government of the day agreed to levy the tax at the rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per seat. I do not know what moved the Government later on to raise tax from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 9-12-0 per seat and at the same time not to see the justice of exempting those two seats from taxation, with the result that the owners of motor vehicles such as buses and taxis are considerably affected. They are not able to carry on this trade comfortably, for they do not make both ends meet. Somehow they are carrying on this trade for want of other employment. It does not pay them to carry on this trade for the reason that the tax is too heavy. I am sure this House is aware that the motor vehicles tax in this presidency is the highest. Nowhere else it comes near the rates at which it is levied in this presidency. Apart from this provincial tax, within the districts the municipalities and the district boards also have their own means of collecting tax from this source. The numerous taxes on the vehicles make it impossible for the persons who are engaged in this trade to carry on even for over a period of two or three years. One trader goes on for a period of two or three years and he breaks down and leaves the trade. Subsequently, in the absence of another man, a new man thinks that he could make sufficient money, comes into the trade and finds that there is no purpose served in the trade and becomes a bankrupt after a period of two or three years. The trade has thus been found to be unprofitable, and at the same time the Act has been working considerable havoc on those engaged in this trade. I therefore plead that the present Government would see the justice of not only reducing the rate of tax on the motor vehicles at least to Rs. 7-8-0 per seat but at the same time of exempting those two seats which are occupied by the driver and the

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conductor from taxation. Any hon. Member who is on this side of the House might bring in a Bill to exempt these two seats from tax, but I am not sure, Sir, whether there is any possibility of success with that Bill. Therefore, I suggest that the Government themselves might take up this matter and bring up legislation at an early date, so that the exemption which is legitimately claimed will be given to the persons engaged in this trade.

“There are many other difficulties, Sir, which are experienced by those engaged in this trade in the mufassal. I am sure hon. Members who represent the mufassal parts will bring to the notice of the Government the difficulties, and I am sure the Government will take notice of all those points and bring legislation if necessary, so that a remedy could be given to those who have been suffering under the dead weight of this motor vehicle tax.”

* MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, to an unstarred question of mine, the Government said that they had no information with regard to the rates and fares charged by public lorries and passenger buses. I would suggest that the Hon. Minister would do well to bear this in mind and bring in suitable amendments to the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, enabling Governmental control over rates and fares charged by public buses and lorries. Again, the Government should also bring in early legislation to regulate and co-ordinate road-rail competition. Road service must be complementary to service by rail. Nationalization of road transport must be made on the lines of the policy laid down by the present Bombay Government. Cut-throat competition, if encouraged by the Provincial Government due to the lack of certain well-defined policy in licensing, will result in loss of revenue to the railways, the biggest State-owned industry in this country. If railway revenues go down, it will be difficult for the Provincial Government to expect any contribution from the Central Government to subvent the province under the new constitution. The conditions of workers engaged in motor transport are awful, to say the least, and have to be enquired into. The motor transport industry to-day is a sweated industry, and flourishes at the cost of the workers engaged in that industry. Accidents due to motor transport have been heavy, and these must be ruthlessly put down by suitable legislative and executive action. There are roughly 4,600 motor vehicles on road in the province and these ply almost parallel to and within a distance of ten miles from the railway line.

“This results in a loss of nearly one and a half crores per annum for the railways operating in this province. Co-ordination and nationalization of road-rail and canal transport is urgently required in the interests of the workers and the users of the different means of transport in this province.”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Sir, more than one member referred to a reversion to the system of tolls and the levying of toll-gate fees from carts and other conveyances besides the motor

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conveyance. It seems to me, Sir, that it is improper to look upon taxation as merely compensation for particular damage done by particular citizens or for service done to particular citizens. What is this cart transit or business that is going on in the rural area in our country? It is perhaps not known to urban citizens so much, but everybody who is in the countryside knows that an agriculturist who keeps bullocks often finds no employment for them during great many months and the only supplemental earning that the agriculturist in his difficulty gets is by utilizing the bullocks for plying this trade of transport over short distances on the road with a bullock cart. If this means is hit over again, we are taxing really the supplementary income which this man who is very much in need of it is getting. No doubt, at the time when this abolition of tolls was pressed for and the consolidation of taxes on motor traffic was proposed, the pressure came probably from the people who did not like this uncivilized system of holding up high speed conveyances at various intervals at various places for collection of petty amounts. But as a result of that agitation we have had, this poor agriculturist who is trying to make a meagre supplementary income was saved from this tax. It may also be seen after a little examination that the toll which the cartmen are made to pay is not always transferable to the consumers over the products which are being carried. It is generally levied in such a manner and on such occasions that unlike the salt duty or tea duty it is not capable of being easily transferred to the consumer. Hence, it falls really upon the man who plies this business of carrying goods on roads in country bullock carts. If therefore the motor trade interests are so powerful and the local bodies are so poor in their resources and so strong in their agitation that as a result of this combine the toll is again introduced in this country, it would be a great hardship on the rural population which is supposed to be our primary charge for protection. I want this consideration to be remembered by hon. Members when they propose to find ways and means for meeting the loss of revenue to local bodies and for meeting the complaints and demands of the motor trade. After all, the tax levied on the motor traffic is transferred to a class of people who may perhaps bear it a little more than the classes who will have to bear the levy if the tolls are reintroduced.

“There are many points which need research in regard to taxation but I do hope that hon. Members will resist the temptation of pushing the tax burden down to the poorer classes.”

* MR. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not speaking on the points already raised by the hon. Members of the House; but, there are one or two points on which I should like to speak.

“My friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan has pointed out certain difficulties suffered by the bus-owners. Besides paying a heavy tax of Rs. 9-12-0 to the Government for every seat per term they have to pay licence fee to the district boards and municipalities. As if this is not enough they have also to pay for the numerous permits they have to obtain. They have also to pay an additional tax indirectly for the

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petrol they purchase. These taxes therefore come under several heads. I believe these several payments were justified when the number of buses plying in the districts was small. But now they have increased in number and there is consequently competition, and these people are not getting the same sort of profit they were getting before. Besides this there is also the competition from the railways. Instead of lowering these taxes therefore the Government have raised them with the result that the bus-owners are very hard hit.

“The next point I suggest is that the revenue the district board gets from this bus traffic may be earmarked for the improvement of roads and for putting up sheds on the bus routes and for providing such other facilities as may be required for the bus-owners and also passengers. This has become a very important problem. So we must see that ample facilities are given in this direction also. The other thing that I want to submit is about the Government distribution of the income to the different districts. In my opinion, it will be much better if this distribution is made in proportion to the amounts they get from various districts. With these few words I resume my seat.”

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. the Prime Minister has been pleased to answer the most important of the points raised by the hon. Members. The reintroduction of the toll system is sought very much by certain local bodies on the main ground that they were not getting sufficient moneys by way of contributions, after the introduction of the Motor Vehicles Act. The Hon. the Prime Minister has given the answer that the person whose interests they were there to consider much more than any other person is the poor agriculturist; and it will be very hard if for the benefit of the few rich the poor should be taxed. I need not say anything further on this matter. But so far as the local bodies are concerned, I may at once say in answer to Mr. Ari Gowder that there is nevertheless a provision in the Local Boards Act which entitles the local bodies to levy a contribution by way of taxes or otherwise, from the other vehicles. If local bodies are afraid of levying such tax, and at the same time complain of insufficiency of funds, I submit that is too hard on Government.

“One other matter on which there is just a prospect of increasing the revenue is by way of taxing the lorries on a uniform basis. The hon. Members are aware that there is a practice now of the levy of different taxes upon motor lorries plying for trade purposes and lorries plying for hire. Government have in view the idea of putting taxation on a uniform basis. They expect that a good deal of money will be forthcoming by making the taxation uniform, in which case the contribution will go to a considerable extent to local bodies and the share of the Government will not be very much.

“As regards the points raised by my Friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, I may at once say that it is not at all possible to have one Minister to be in charge of the whole transport department who will be able to carry on all the work in connexion with it.”

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MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I have never said that one Minister should co-ordinate all functions that are now being done by other departments. I said it would have been better that if one of the three Ministers was in charge of the motor vehicles department so that he might co-ordinate with the other departments."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Act is in the portfolio of one Minister; it also happens that the local bodies which are in charge of another Minister are entitled to certain taxes on motor vehicles; there are certain roads under local bodies, there are certain roads under Government, of which the Minister for Public Works is in charge; to say that all these matters should be taken over by one Minister so that he might co-ordinate them with all the other departments is, I submit, hardly possible. Anyway, I may assure the Hon. Member there is co-ordination between the various departments and all these matters are decided upon after consultation with the other Ministers."

"The Government have received various complaints regarding the working of the Government Order referred to by the hon. Member and the Government is giving due consideration to such complaints. I can assure the hon. Member that Government would certainly give due consideration to all the representations given by the public bodies and individuals when the new rules are framed."

"Swami Sahajananda has come forward with a complaint as regards the persecution at the hands of the police. There is a lot of complaint that accidents are increasing. I may say that the police set about their work in the best possible way and they are doing their duties properly. The police have been doing their duties in accordance with the rules framed by Government, to prevent accidents through motor vehicles. But if any specific instances of misuse of power by the police are brought to the notice of Government, proper action will certainly be taken. One of the members asked as to whether the police had been observing the instructions as regards overloading."

"Here again if specific cases are brought to the notice of Government proper action will be taken."

"The hon. Member also made mention of a specific case. I only regret that the matter was not brought to the notice of the Government in time."

"As regards Harijans not being permitted to go in buses, if specific cases are brought to the notice of Government I can assure him that they will receive the prompt attention of the Government. We are standing up for the rights of the Harijans, to give them all the facilities that any other citizen enjoys; in fact it is the programme of this Government not only to-day but it has been the policy of the party in power for a considerable time past."

2 p.m. "One of the complaints seems to be that the monies that are legitimately due to the local bodies are not being paid to them. At the

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same time my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, would have it that the motor lorries and buses are being over-taxed. Sir, the money that is being collected is not spent on any other purpose than by way of collection and inspection expenses and by way of contribution to local bodies. The monies that are being collected are certainly not sufficient for the purpose of carrying out the maintenance of road so as to ensure the safety of property and person."

"Sir, certain figures were given by my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan. I may at once state that the buses running on the Conjeevaram-Chingleput road were paying tolls to Madras, Vandalur and Chingleput municipalities and to a certain extent to the municipalities in South Arcot district. On the whole they were paying at Rs. 10 per day which comes to Rs. 900 per quarter. Now they are paying at the rate of Rs. 283 per quarter. If we are to revert to the old system of tolls and if the buses are asked to pay at that rate, the buses will be taxed much more than now. The only difficulty is they will have to pay now in a lump sum rather than pay in twos and threes. For the collection of taxes the Government is not taking much more than what is legitimately due to them."

"I have already submitted that the revision of Motor Vehicles Act is being considered by the Government of India and before they meet in the Legislative Assembly this Government is considering the advisability of recasting the rules with reference to the various complaints that have been raised not only on the floor of this House but also outside. I can assure hon. Members that all the suggestions made by them and by the public will be taken due note of. I hope that on this assurance the hon. Members will withdraw their cut motions."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 10 a.m. the next day.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 120 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 16th September 1937, page 181 supra.]

G.O. Ms. No. 3015, Home, dated 2nd August 1937.

The Government direct that all 'C' class prisoners be supplied with buttermilk at a cost of three pies per head per diem. The Inspector-General of Prisons is requested to take steps immediately to give effect to this order at the earliest possible date. A provision of Rs. 50,000 has been included in the budget estimate for 1937-38 for this purpose. The amount has been distributed over the several classes of jails in proportion to the total dietary charges.

2. The Inspector-General of Prisons is requested to submit for the approval of Government the necessary draft amendments to rule 347 of the Madras Jail Manual.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

H. M. Hood,
Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector-General of Prisons.
" Accountant-General (through the Finance Department).
" Finance Department.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 123 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 16th September 1937, page 185 supra.]

Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, C. No. 4152-B/36, dated 11th December 1936.

[Development of incomplete elementary schools.]

Under section 3 (v) of the Madras Elementary Education Act, Elementary Education is defined as "Education up to and including standard V of an elementary school or up to and including classes 5 of a secondary school." The aim of elementary education is that every child under instruction should attain permanent literacy and this is possible only if the child completes the fifth standard course. It is essential, therefore, that every elementary school should be a complete elementary school with five standards if it is to contribute permanent literates to the population. The existing position is however very discouraging as a large number of elementary schools though they have been in existence for a number of years stop with the IV or lower standards and are incapable of making any contribution to permanent literacy.

2. The immediate need, therefore, is that these schools, if they are to fulfil the purpose for which they are intended should be developed into complete schools. Every incomplete school should, therefore, be required to open the standards necessary to make it a complete school and the managements should be informed definitely that failure to do so may eventually entail loss of recognition. Overlapping, superfluous and uneconomic incomplete schools should not of course be asked to build up into complete schools. Exceptions can be made only in the case of feeder schools which are recognized as such by District Educational Councils. Inspecting officers should however take special care not to recommend indiscriminately to the District Educational Council, as they have been doing, the establishment of feeder schools. To enable them to come to a proper decision in this matter it is suggested that no feeder school should be allowed unless it is either a feeder to a complete school under the same management and is located sufficiently near to it or a feeder school to a complete school which offers to watch the progress of the feeder schools and make provision for its pupils in its own higher standards.

3. In isolated areas where there are not sufficient pupils to form a well-filled complete school, a single-teacher school may be permitted; but plural class teaching must be employed and the pupils must be regularly promoted through five standards.

4. The Director does not propose to take any action on the schemes of amalgamation and consolidation which were prepared by inspecting officers sometime ago and the proposals regarding central schools and junior schools may now be considered to have been dropped altogether. These orders, do not, however, preclude reference to these schemes if they can throw any light or offer any guidance on the educational problems of any locality.

R. M. STATHAM,
Director of Public Instruction.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 17th September 1937.

The House met in the Senate House, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

Proceedings began with the singing of the Vande Mataram song.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

I.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—*cont.*

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I wish to invite the attention of the House to the fact that the time allowed for the voting of grants is only 10 days. During the last three days we could finish only 6 grants. At this rate it would not be possible to finish the discussion on all the 37 grants and it seems to be the general desire of the House that the policies of the Government with regard to all these 37 Demands should be discussed on the floor of the House and that they should not be subjected to the guillotine on the last day as in previous years. I therefore suggest that the speeches on the various motions may be brief, direct and relevant to the discussion. That would facilitate the achievement of the object viz., the heart-felt desire of the House that all the 37 Demands should be discussed.”

(7) DEMAND VII—IRRIGATION.

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum, not exceeding Rs. 75,10,900 under Demand VII—Irrigation.

“ As the House is aware, this Demand is for expenditure on irrigation works. I have divided the items of expenditure into three groups—

(1) Rupees 32·99 lakhs representing the anticipated working expenses on works—productive and unproductive—for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.

(2) Rupees 38·63 lakhs representing the cost of original works for which capital and revenue accounts are not kept, the cost of minor works, working expenses of the existing works for which capital and revenue accounts are not kept and the cost of gauging and investigation of new projects.

(3) Rupees 3·49 lakhs for capital outlay on works which are unproductive but for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.

“ For the information of the House I may say that working expenses include expenditure on extensions and improvements which are necessary for the proper working of the irrigation system and maintenance and

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repairs of the system. The provision of Rs. 32.99 lakhs is mostly for the maintenance and repairs of the existing systems including conservancy operations on the Godavari, Kistna and Cauvery rivers and also for the completion of the works in progress in Kistna delta system, the Cauvery-Mettur Project and the Kattalai Scheme and for a new work, viz., the remodelling of Srirangapuram channel in the Kistna Delta System.

"As regards maintenance, Government have recently issued orders that the maintenance charges for the systems should not exceed a prescribed limit without their sanction with a view to keep maintenance expenditure as low as possible. Provision has also been made for cutting open the Pulicat bar in the Buckingham Canal.

"The second item of Rs. 38.63 lakhs mostly comprises expenditure on maintenance of works coming under the category of works for which no accounts are kept. It includes a provision for a new work, i.e., improvements to Murugamalai Odai in Madura district, and for expenditure on 17 works in progress. The cost of agricultural and other experiments relating to the Tungabhadra, Pennar, Kumudavati and lower Bhavani Projects is also met from this head. Government, with effect from 1st April, reduced the criterion of productivity from 6 per cent to 4 per cent and projects which have been abandoned with reference to 6 per cent criterion are being re-examined by the Chief Engineer and the local officers to ascertain whether they satisfy the revised rate of 4 per cent. The Papagni Reservoir Project, the Malampuzha Project (Malabar), Utteramerur and Prattur Pumping Schemes are being re-examined and other promising schemes will also be examined. The budget for the current year does not include provision for such projects but it is hoped that it may be possible to provide for at least some of them in the next year's budget after the Chief Engineer's examination is over.

"The third item of Rs. 3.49 lakhs is for expenditure on the Thippapalem Project, the Duvvuleru Project and on the construction of regulators across the Nattar and Vanjiyar at the Vanjiyar head in the Cauvery Delta.

"I have made it clear how 75 lakhs are to be spent under the three heads and this will help, I hope, in discussing this Demand."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I beg to move the cut motion which stands in my name and which runs as follows:—

*'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 75,10,900 for irrigation by Rs. 100.
(To discuss policy.)'*

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am moving this cut motion with a view to bring to the notice of the Government the injustice that is being done to districts like South Kanara, Malabar, etc. Crores of rupees are being

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spent on irrigation works such as Mettur Project, the Kistna Reservoir and their repairs and maintenance. I ask, Sir, wherefrom this money comes. Does it not come from the common fund? Do not the taxpayers in South Kanara also contribute towards this? What do they get in return? If we can fight for Provincial autonomy—if it is not a vice but a virtue—why should we not fight for District Autonomy as well? We all fought once against the Provincial contribution of 3 and odd crores of rupees and we got rid of the iniquitous impost. By this I do not mean to say that the Province should be divided into small autonomous units. What I meant is to say that our district also should be benefited and should not be neglected. Something has to be spent for irrigation and such other useful purposes in South Kanara also at least from the money that the Government gets from our districts. To questions like this the reply that was given in previous councils was that we were blessed with plenty of rainfall and that therefore we must give them a share from out of our savings. Will this not be similar to the impost made by the Government of India. Instead of the Government of India, the Tamils and Telugus are benefited by the taxes that we pay; and we don't get any benefit. Sir, in this connexion I may say that people who talk like this about the rains in Malabar and my district do not know the real facts. The country there is sloping towards the west and the Western Ghats are so very near that whatever rains that we get during the four months from June to September are rushed into the Arabian sea by means of the several small rivers that run from east to west. In doing so they carry away the fertility of the soil. During the 10-15 remaining eight months of the year the people have very little water a.m. either for second crops or for dry crops. The poor ryots have to cultivate their lands by baling water from the small rivers which are numerous in those parts. For this purpose they put up bunds across small channels at their own cost and undergo a lot of trouble. Some of the richer ryots put up bunds across the small rivers by removing earth from the neighbouring hills and putting it across the rivers and thereby make the rivers overflow the banks and irrigate the lands on either side. This is being done quite unscientifically and therefore more harm than good is being caused. The loose earth that is put in the river is washed down during the monsoon and the river becomes silted up and very shallow. As time goes on the rivers become very very shallow. Even a little rain causes floods and inundate the lands on either side and destroys the crops growing there. I would earnestly request the Government to consider whether some help cannot be given to us in the way of some minor irrigation works in our district also. I request that the Government might be pleased to appoint a committee consisting of an expert engineer, a revenue officer of the district and the Members of the Legislative Assembly representing the district. The committee might be asked to consider the possibility of constructing small bunds across the rivers scientifically for the purpose of irrigating the lands on either side so that the rivers are not silted up as is being done at present on account of the unscientific way of doing things.

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"Sir, the Hon. the Premier may not like the idea of spending money for this purpose, because he has to scrape up all the available money for making up the loss caused by the prohibition policy. But I may tell him that this may not cost much. I quite agree that we will have to make some provision for this purpose, but what I submit is that we need not spend the amount required all at once. First, let the committee be appointed and let it consider whether South Kanara cannot be benefited by some such irrigation work. For this purpose very little money will be required. I earnestly request the Government to appoint a committee to go into the question and see whether the district cannot be helped in this matter, whether much money will be required to undertake such schemes, and whether they cannot be executed by the expenditure of a proportionately small sum of money which will not interfere with any other big schemes now under consideration. With these words, Sir, I move the motion."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM :—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, காவேரியின் கீழ் இரண்டு அணைக்கட்டுகள் இருக்கின்றன. அவை கிராண்ட் அணைக்கட்டு, லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு என்பவை. இவைகளில் லோயர் அணைக்கட்டானது தென்னாற்காட்டு ஜில்லாவிற்காக ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தென்னாற்காட்டு ஜில்லாவில் லட்சத்து இருபத்தியிரம் ஏக்கர் பாயவேண்டும். தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் பதினெண்ணாயிரம் ஏக்கர் பாயவேண்டும். லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு தென்னாற்காட்டு ஜில்லாவிற்காக ஏற்பட்டதென்பது தஞ்சாவூர் டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் மான்யுவல் (Tanjore District Manual)-ல் இருக்கிறது. லோயர் அணைக்கட்டில் ஜலம் ஏற்றமாகப் போகாமலிருக்க சேத்தியாத்தோப்பில் ஒரு அணைக்கட்டு கட்டியிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த அணைக்கட்டுக்கு ஜலம் வீராணம் ஏரி மூலம் பயன்படாமலிருந்தது. 1902-ம் ஆண்டில் சில இஞ்சினியர்கள் யோசனை செய்து ஜலம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு ஏற்பாடு செய்தார்கள். வீராணம் ஏரிக்கு மூன்றடி ஜலம் வரக்கூடியதாக இருந்தது. அதை ஐந்தடி பிடிக்கும்படி உயர்த்தினார்கள். அப்படி ஜலம் வரும்படி உயர்த்தினபோது லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு (Shutter) ஆறடியாக இருந்ததை எட்டடியாக உயர்த்தினார்கள். வீராணம் ஏரிக்கு வரக்கூடிய அதிகப்படியான இரண்டடி ஜலத்தை சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டில் விடும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்தார்கள் அதன்படி அந்த அணைக்கட்டில் எண்ணூறு கனம் அடி ஜலம் விடவேண்டும், ஆனால் ஜலம் மாதத்தில் நூறு கனம் அடி ஜலமும், ஆகஸ்டு மாதத்தில் முன்னூறு கனம் அடி ஜலமும், செப்டம்பர் மாதத்தில் இருநூறு கனம் அடி ஜலமும் விடுகிறார்கள். இதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன? மேட்டூர் அணைக்கட்டினால் வெள்ளம் சரியாக வரவில்லை, ஜலத்தை மேட்டூரில் தேக்கி வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த ஜலத்தை தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் பட்டுக்கோட்டை தாலுகாவில் மூன்று லட்சம் ஏக்கர் நிலங்களுக்கு கொடுக்க தேக்கிவிட்டார்கள். இதனால் சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டின் கீழுள்ள முப்பத்துநாலாயிரம் ஏக்கர் நிலங்கள் பாழடைந்து வருகின்றன. இதற்குக் காரணம் மைசூர் கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கும் மெட்ராஸ் (Madras) கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கும் ஒப்பந்தம் ஏற்பட்ட காலத்தில் சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டு சொல்ல மறந்துவிட்டதுதான். இப்பொழுது அந்த அணைக்கட்டின் கீழுள்ள நிலங்களுக்கு வரவேண்டிய ஜலம் வராமல் ஏழை விவசாயிகள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் இஞ்சினியர்களைக் கேட்டால் அந்தக் காலத்தில் தென்னு சொல்லுகிறார்கள். லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு 1884-ம் ஆண்டு பிளா என்று நான்கு பிரிவுகளாக பிரித்திருக்கிறார்கள். குமுகமணி 1884-ம் ஆண்டு பிளானில் இல்லை. இப்பொழுது குமுகமணி மூலம் இருபத்தியிரம் ஏக்கருக்கு

17th September 1937] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

தண்ணீர் பாய்கிறது. புதுமணி என்று ஒரு ஆறு ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். அதன் மூலம் இருபத்தியிரம் ஏக்கருக்கு தண்ணீர் கொடுக்க சிபார்சு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டு ஜலத்தை தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லா நிலங்களுக்கு உபயோகிக்கிறார்கள். சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டுக்கு லோயர் அணைக்கட்டிலிருந்து தண்ணீர் வருமென்று நம்பி வெள்ளாற்றில் வருகிற ஜலத்தை தொழுதார் அணைக்கட்டில் தேக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். வெள்ளாற்றில் லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு ஜலம் இப்பொழுது சரியாக வரவில்லை. 1940-ம் ஆண்டு வரையில் பரீட்சார்த்தமாகப் பார்க்கச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். தற்கால ரெகுலேஷன் படி கிராண்ட் அணைக்கட்டிலிருந்து லோயர் அணைக்கட்டுக்கு 2,162 கனம் அடி ஜலம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். வடவாற்றிற்கு 1,012 கனம் அடி ஆக்கிவிட்டார்கள். வடக்கு ராஜன் வாய்க்கால், தெற்குராஜன் வாய்க்காலுக்கு நானூறு, ஐந்துநூறு கனம் அடி ஜலம்தான் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். மீதமெல்லாம் ஆற்றிலிருந்து கசிந்து வரும் ஜலம். அணைக்கட்டிலிருந்து கொடுக்கவில்லை. வெண்ணாற்றிலிருந்து சேத்தியாத்தோப்புக்கு முன்னூறு கனம் அடி ஜலம் தான் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதற்கு காரணம் பெரும்பாலும் தஞ்சாவூருக்கு வரக்கூடிய இஞ்சினியர்கள் தஞ்சாவூர் வாசிகளாக இருந்ததினால் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவின் கேஷமத்தைக் கருதினார்கள். தென்னாற்காட்டு ஜில்லாவின் கேஷமத்தைக் கருதவில்லை. இதுவுமன்றி ஜலம் வாய்க்காலில் வர கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. வீராணம் ஏரி வாய்க்கால்களை மராமத்து செய்து கொடுக்கவில்லை. வாய்க்கால்களின் அகலம் பன்னிரண்டு அடி முதல் இருபது அடி வரையிலுள்ளன. அதை சாதாரண குடியானவர்கள் மராமத்துச் செய்ய முடியவில்லை. இதனால் தண்ணீர் வாய்க்காலில் பாயாமல் நஞ்சைகள் பயிரிட முடியாமலிருக்கிறது. இதனோடு கூட சிதம்பரம் தாலுகாவில் வடத்தலைக்குளம் என்று ஒரு கிராமம் இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் கிராமத்தில் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு கொஞ்ச நிலங்களை 1923-ம் ஆண்டு ஒதுக்கி கொடுத்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது 1937-ம் ஆண்டு நடக்கிறது. பதினமூன்று பதினான்கு வருஷமாக தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சுவதற்காக அபராதம் போட்டுக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். சட்டப்படி ஒரு நிலத்திற்கு ஒருவன் ஐந்து வருஷம் தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சினால் தண்ணீர் கொடுக்கவேண்டியது நியாயம். அபராதம் போடக்கூடாது. இந்தச் சட்டத்திற்கு விரோதமாக அங்குள்ள ரெவினியூ உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் மேற்படி நிலங்களுக்கு தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சுவதற்காக அபராதம் போட்டுக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். வருஷா வருஷம் ரெவினியூ உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு மனுப் போட்டு தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சிக்கொள்ள டிக்கட்டு வாங்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இப்படி டிக்கட்டு கேட்பது கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் டிப்டி கலெக்டர் இஞ்சினியர் ஆபீஸ்களுக்குப் போய் டிக்கட்டு கேட்க முடியாது. ஐந்து வருஷத்திற்கு மேல் தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சின நிலங்களுக்கு இந்த மாநிலி செய்கிறது அநியாயமாயிருக்கிறதென்பதைப்பற்றிச் சொல்லத் தேவையில்லை. கனம் நீர்ப்பாசன மந்திரி அவர்கள் (Vadathalaikalam) ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு இருக்கும் இந்த கஷ்டத்தை நிவர்த்திப்பார்க்கின்றன, எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன்.

"மூன்று முக்கியமான விஷயங்கள்: வீராணம் ஏரி மூலமாக குமுடி மூலைக்கு ஜலம் பாய்ந்து பயிராக வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் தண்ணீர் போகிறதில்லை. நாலேந்து மைலுக்கப்பால் தண்ணீர் வருகிறது. அந்த ஊரிலிருக்கிறவர்கள் படையாச்சி ஜாதியைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள். நான் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு இருந்தும் அந்த ஊர் படையாச்சி ஜாதியாருக்கு இருக்கும் கஷ்டத்தை உணர்ந்து அவர்களுடைய கஷ்டத்தை நேரில் ஜில்லா கலெக்டருக்கும், Executive Engineer-க்கும் எடுத்துச் சொல்லி தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்ச உத்திரவு வாங்கினேன் சென்றவருடும். இந்த வருஷம் அப்படி உத்திரவு கொடுக்கமாட்டேன் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அந்த கிராமத்தில் இருபது வருஷமாக தண்ணீர் பாயாமல் போனதினால் ஏற்பட்ட கஷ்டத்தைப் பொறுக்க முடியாமல் பெரிய மனுஷர்கள் நாலு பேர்கள் தூக்குப்போட்டுக் கொண்டார்கள். இது வாஸ்தவந்தானா என்று சி.ஐ.டி. மூலம் விசாரித்துப் பார்க்க இதற்குமுன் இந்த சபையில் பேசினபோது சொன்னேன். இது பெரிய அக்கிரமமாயிருக்கிறது. ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் படையாச்சிகள் தூக்குப்போட்டுக் கொண்டு செத்தால் அங்குள்ள கஷ்ட நிலையையே என்னென்று சொல்லுவது? குமுடிமூலைக் கிராமத்திற்கு தண்ணீர் போகவேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு கனம் மந்திரி

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [17th September 1937]

அவர்கள் செய்து கொடுக்காமல் போனால் அந்த ஊர்க்காரர்கள் அடியோடு அழிந்து போவார்கள். இந்த சமயத்தில் ஒரு துக்கரமான விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சொல்லாமல் இருக்க முடியவில்லை. என்னைக்கூட இந்த அலெம்பிளிக்கு தென்னாற்காட்டு ஜில்லாப் பிரதிநிதிகளாக வந்திருக்கிற மெம்பர்களைப் பார்த்து நீங்கள் (Cut motion) கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னேன். ஆனால் அவர்கள் நாங்கள் (Cut motion) கொடுத்துப் பேச முடியாதென்று சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள். என்னுடைய வேண்டுகோளுக்கிணங்கியாவது உடனே குழுடிமூலைக் கிராமத்திற்கு தண்ணீர் கொடுக்கும்படியாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களை கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

“லோயர் அணைக்கட்டில் தண்ணீரை அதிகமாகப் பெருக்கி வீராணம் ஏரிக்கு தண்ணீர் கொடுக்க வேண்டும். வீராணம் ஏரியின் கீழுள்ள வாய்க்கால்களை மாற்றி மத்து செய்து ஜலம் நன்றாகப் பாய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு செய்து உதவி செய்யவேண்டும். குழுடிமூலைக் கிராமத்திலுள்ள ஜாதி இந்துக்களாகிய படையாச்சி வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் நிலங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்ச முடியாமல் தவிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு தண்ணீர் கொடுத்துக்காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். இந்த நாலு விஷயங்களையும் கனம் நீர்ப்பாசன (Irrigation) மந்திரி அவர்கள் கவனித்து தக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

10-30 a.m. * MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—“Sir, I wish to urge upon the Government the urgent need of taking up the Tungabhadra Project. I appeal to the present Government in the name of humanity to take up the project as early as possible. The ryots of the ceded districts are going from bad to worse day by day; year after year there has been failure of rain and consequently there is famine with all its attendant miseries. The ryot has been forced to sell his movables, his live-stock and finally his lands to satisfy the unscrupulous money-lenders. The proprietorship of the land has been speedily changing hands from the ryots to the money-lenders who are becoming the owners of lands. This Tungabhadra Project is mainly meant to relieve the ryots, and if it is delayed, it will ultimately benefit the money-lenders and not the poor ryots.

“We find that the Government has been spending large sums of money by starting famine and flood relief works and by giving remissions. I feel, Sir, that these two steps, though they relieve the ryot a little of their hardships, do not materially benefit the poor ryots. Of course they are saved from starvation; but it does not go to the root evil. If the condition of the ryots is to be improved and if the Government is anxious to see that their lot is improved, I appeal to the Government to take up the Tungabhadra Project as speedily as possible. We know that Mettur took many long years to mature. If the Tungabhadra Project is going to share the same fate, I am afraid, as I have already submitted, that it is the money-lender that will be benefited by it, because by the time the project matures, all the lands will go into the hands of the money-lender either by sales on account of execution of decrees or by voluntary transfers by the ryots for the purpose of discharging their debts. So, the matter becomes very urgent and I hope the Government will give due consideration to it. Of course we know that there are difficulties; there are other States with whom negotiations have to be completed. But I think there is bound to be much delay in.

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carrying on correspondence. We cannot expedite matters by correspondence. As has been suggested by hon. Members at question time, I request the Government to consider the proposal of sending somebody to these States concerned, so that the scheme might be expedited and the project taken up immediately.

“Sir, there is one other aspect of this matter which is the cause of much loss to our provincial revenues; we are spending large sums of money on famine-relief works and by way of remissions. This money can be saved and it can be utilized for other nation-building purposes.

“I wish to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the Government to the condition in the Bellary district in particular. In many villages of the district people are not able to get fresh drinking water. I have seen people drinking water which most of hon. Members here would not use for washing purposes; water is so bad. In many cases these people have got to walk a distance of 2 to 3 miles, rising very early in the morning, because if they go late, the small springs and wells from which they get water are exhausted. If the Tungabhadra Project is taken up early, I think it will go to the relief of these people. On account of scarcity of drinking water, there have been cholera and other disease in the Bellary district. The scheme, if taken up, will give relief to the people in that direction also.

“But, Sir, so far as the western taluks of the Bellary district are concerned, they are not going to be benefited even if the Tungabhadra Project is taken up for execution. There are a number of tanks in the western taluks of the Bellary district which have silted up on account of heavy rains. The Government later on established a department and opened an office of a Subdivisional Officer with all his staff with his headquarters at Kudligi to see to the repairs of these tanks. Though the scheme for restoration has not been completed, we find, Sir, that the office has been abolished and the staff removed. I appeal to the Government to see that the Subdivisional Officer with all his staff is re-appointed to carry on the work of storing water in these tanks. As I have already submitted, the Tungabhadra Project, even if it is taken up, will not benefit these taluks and the maintenance and repair of these tanks is a matter of vital importance to these taluks. Then there is the question of feeder channels to these tanks. In many cases there have been breaches of irrigation channels with the result that the tanks have not been getting proper supply of water. That matter also can be attended to by the Subdivisional Officer if he is posted to Kudligi or Harpanahalli. The minor irrigation works in these western taluks should be attended to immediately. I once again appeal to the Government in the name of humanity to see that the Tungabhadra Project is expedited as early as possible.”

* MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Sir, I find that the motion that has been moved is one to discuss the general policy of the Government with reference to irrigation. But you, Sir, will kindly

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see on a perusal of the cut motions that I have given notice of, that they refer to particular matters which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government for redress. May I suggest, Sir, that this cut motion with regard to the general policy may be voted upon and then these particular items be taken into consideration?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I would suggest that the hon. Member might speak, on this motion, with special reference to the particular grievances on which he wants the policy of the Government to be enunciated. The policy of the Government will be enunciated by Hon. Members of Government in their reply. I think the hon. Member will find it very convenient to speak about all the things of which he has given notice, while discussing this token cut motion. That will facilitate discussion."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I bow to your ruling, Sir, I always have some hesitation to speak about particular matters on a cut motion for discussion of the general policy. There is also one other point which I would like to touch upon; that is, when we speak of particular grievances, these grievances do not get sufficient response when they are discussed in a general debate regarding the policy of the Government. That is one of the apprehensions which I always feel when I speak about particular matters requiring redress in a general discussion of policy. That is why I suggested a different course."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not entertain any such apprehensions."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"The first motion which stands in my name relates to the question of the financial position of the Mettur Reservoir. There was a time when the Mettur Reservoir threatened to be a project which would have to be declared, sooner or later, as an unproductive one. The reports that were placed a number of times before the Public Accounts Committee revealed to a certain extent this state of affairs. There was also a confession on the part of the Government that the outturn they expected would not be materialized from the project on which they have invested nearly 6½ crores. Subsequently, Sir, the Government declared that they would take special steps to see that the cultivation under the project is extended and that they would afford special facilities to the ryots to take more and more water. Unfortunately for us, non-officials, the latest reports that we could get from the Government happen to be one or two years old and we are not really able to find out the latest position with regard to the reservoir nor up-to-date information. I do hope that the reservoir is being worked with profit and that the programme that the Government have laid down with reference to bringing 3 lakhs of acres under cultivation in the Pattukkottai taluk is proceeding according to the time schedule. But we do not have any definite information about this. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister in charge to tell us as to how exactly the project is working to-day with reference to extension of cultivation or with

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reference to the yield of profit and whether that profit is calculated at 6 per cent the old rate or at the rate of 4 per cent which is the present rate as the Hon. Minister declared the other day. I would also like to know what the future is of this project; whether it will continue to be a productive one at least in view of the changed circumstances that are obtaining to-day or whether it will have still to be declared as a project that is not yielding any profit as originally forecasted. It is only with a view to know exactly how the position now stands financially, that I gave notice of this cut.

"Passing on to the next motion, I would like to discuss briefly the principles of distribution of water from the Mettur reservoir. Hon. Members are aware that, after the Mettur reservoir was brought into existence, considerable quantity of water that flowed lower down in the Cauvery and the Coleroon rivers, has been impounded for the benefit of three lakhs and odd acres in the Pattukkottai taluk. Since then some rules have been framed with reference to distribution of water from the reservoir. I may at once say that these rules are no doubt tentative. But even in working these tentative rules, there has been considerable hardship caused to several vested interests who are not getting their legitimate share out of the water that is let down from the reservoir into the Grand Anicut and from there into the Lower Anicut. According to the rules, as I understand them, 2,160 cusecs of water ought to be let down into the Grand Anicut to be distributed among the Coleroon and other systems that are connected therewith. But there have been complaints time and again against the regulation of the required and stipulated quantity of water to be let down to the Grand Anicut from the Mettur reservoir. Before the reservoir came into existence, there were floods and freshes in the Cauvery and Coleroon and a good portion of water was being emptied into the other systems connected with the Lower Coleroon system. But now after the reservoir came into existence, there has been complete block of every drop of water, so that the Lower Coleroon Anicut system as well as the Shatiatope anicuts connected therewith, are not now having any flood or freshes in the Cauvery, available to their benefit or use. It is in the justness of things that these tentative rules now in force should be modified. I understood from the previous Revenue Member that these rules will have to be worked for five years and after a period of five years, they will be subject to revision and that the interests affected thereby would be taken into consideration and would be consulted.

"Now, nearly two or three years have elapsed and the difficulties felt by the mirasidars who are entitled to get water from the Coleroon lower down have not been redressed. On the other hand, more and more hardship is being felt by them. I would however refer to that matter later on, on the next motion. But what I am concerned with just now is that the system should be worked as per rules and the definite quantity of water that has been ordered to be let down through

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the Grand Anicut must be let down. What the Public Works department seems to be doing is this: a certain quantity only is let down from the Mettur reservoir and the balance of the stipulated quantity is made up by spring water and from other sources such as occasional floods on account of local rains. That, Sir, was not the original purpose or intention of the rules. The mirasidars want a definite and a fixed quantity of water; it is no use saying to those people, 'you shall have that quantity by means of spring water along with some portion of the Coleroon water.' Moreover, Sir, the Coleroon flood water or the Cauvery flood water is certainly different in quality from the spring water that is made available. These ryots under the Grand Anicut as well as the ryots under the Lower Coleroon and the Shatiatope anicut have got a legitimate right and it is no use letting down only 500 or 600 cusecs from the Mettur reservoir and giving spring water to make up the balance. Sir, it will be found that it is on account of the improper working of the rules that the required quantity of water has not been let down; the Government should see that the full quantity of 2,160 cusecs is let down at any cost to the Grand Anicut.

. "Now passing on to the next item, that is, to discuss the necessity and justice for earmarking a definite supply of water from the Lower Coleroon Anicut to the Shatiatope Anicut system, I shall be very brief. In the year 1906, at a cost of nearly Rs. 10,69,000, the Shatiatope Anicut system was connected with the Lower Coleroon system. At that time it was definitely understood and the Government Order says so—I refer in particular to Order No. 944, dated the 1st September 1906, which is the completion report connecting the Lower Coleroon Anicut system with the Shatiatope system—that water should be supplied to the Shatiatope anicut through the Veeranam of the Veeranam tank was raised purposely and the crest level of the Shatiatope anicut itself was raised. Then the Vadavar which is the feeding river from the Lower Coleroon to the Veeranam tank was also widened and deepened in order to carry more water to the Veeranam tank. It was also stated then that all the surplus over the full tank level of the Veeranam tank was to be let into the Shatiatope Anicut system. By this means there was a certain assessed quantity of water let down into the Shatiatope Anicut system for the cultivation and irrigation of about 35,000 acres of land. That was found in course of time to be unsatisfactory. Repeatedly, the mirasidars complained to the Government that the water that was supplied from the Coleroon suffering; and time and again, the Government had to come forward with remissions. Those remissions were of course very unsatisfactory. When crops failed totally, only two annas in the rupee could be remitted, under the Board's Standing Orders. But apart from that the complaint has been insistent and persistent, that there should be an adequate supply of water for the Shatiatope system. It is also

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a fact, Sir, that a good portion of the Rs. 10 lakhs odd that was spent was debited to the account of the Shatiatope Anicut system. It was also admitted by the officers responsible, on behalf of the Government at the time, that the Shatiatope Anicut system was not to be a north-east monsoon system, although the actual anicut was constructed on the Vellar river. It is a fact that the Vellar is a north-east monsoon river and floods come in it only late in September or in the beginning of October; and the cultivation of the 35,000 acres, if there was to be a first crop—and it is only a first crop that is being raised—had to be in the months of July, August and September. So that, the Shatiatope mirasidars of the 35,000 acres of land had ceased to depend on the floods in the Vellar which usually came, as I said, late in September or early in October. The Government had, by their orders, already decided the question, and the scheme report of 1918 also laid it down very clearly that the crop that was being raised in the 35,000 acres of land under the Shatiatope Anicut system was an early crop, on a par with the crop raised in the Tanjore delta area. The report also said specifically that there was absolutely no difference between the crop, the irrigation sources and the methods followed in the Chidambaram taluk and those followed in the deltaic portions of the Tanjore district. On that ground, Sir, the ayacut of the Shatiatope anicut was classed as one falling under a first-class irrigation source, and the tax was levied accordingly at a very high rate, which was later increased by 33½ per cent at the time of the resettlement, merely for the reason that Coleroon water was being supplied to the 35,000 acres of land. Taking all these considerations into account, the fact cannot be disputed, and the Public Works department will be wrong if they say that the Shatiatope Anicut system has not got a legitimate or a vested interest in the waters of the Coleroon. But what is actually happening? Whenever the Shatiatope anicut mirasidars ask for bread, stone is being given to them. That is the position to-day. Discontentment was so rife among these mirasidars that a conference had to be called in the year 1931 to reconsider the rules of the distribution of water, at the Lower Coleroon anicut. Accordingly, the old morai system that existed till then was revised, and by G.O. No. 1150 of 1932, as a result of the conference presided over by the then Revenue Member, an agreement was reached by which the Veeranam tank was to be supplied with water to the full, as often as possible, subject to variations of the quantity of water in the Coleroon itself, and that any surplus in the Veeranam tank over and above the 3 feet level should be let into the Shatiatope Anicut system. Definite rules were also framed and thereby a certain quantity though insufficient was assured to this effect; but when these rules were being worked, it was again found that the rules did not give much advantage to the Shatiatope anicut. Again, representations were made and an order was issued by the Government, in 1935 being G.O. No. 547, that in addition to the supply that was then being given to the Shatiatope Anicut system, an 'extra' supply should be given of

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nearly 100 cusecs in the month of July, 300 cusecs in the month of August and 200 cusecs in the month of September. The Chief Engineer was given the discretion to see that this 'extra' or excess supply of water was taken from the Coleroon or from the Grand Anicut through the Vadavar and let down into the Veeranam tank system. When the question of interpretation of G.O. No. 547, actually came up, a narrow view seems to have been taken of it. The Government Order was issued so recently as February 1935 and was intended to be worked until the year 1940 as an experimental measure; it was further intended to give the much-needed relief to the Shatiatope mirasidars, by allowing the Chief Engineer to take down an extra supply of 100, 300 and 200 cusecs of water respectively during the three months of July, August and September. What has now actually happened is that the Chief Engineer interpreted that Government Order to the utter disappointment of and disregard of the rights and interests of the concerned mirasidars in the Shatiatope system. He would seem to say by his order of June 1937 that only a total quantity of 100, 300 and 200 cusecs should be let in and nothing more. That is certainly a perverted interpretation of the Government Order which clearly says that the said supply is to be an 'extra' supply. Then, Sir, questions were put on the floor of the House and the Government stated again that the Chief Engineer had been given the discretion to give an 'extra' supply. The word 'extra' seems to have either escaped the attention of the Chief Engineer or it has been altogether ignored. The result is that to-day everywhere in the ayacut of 35,000 acres, the seedlings are withering. The other day the Collector elicited from the Tahsildar that in several areas crops had perished and in some other areas they were slowly perishing. On account of the rains in the Vellar area, for about three days, the crops showed some signs of revival, but nobody could be sure of it unless and until a steady supply of water was assured and continuously let in. Sir, the whole point is that the Government should now so frame the rules and revise them in such a way,—and they must issue instructions,—as to provide that a definite supply of water is ear-marked given to these 35,000 acres of land in question. These 35,000 acres must be in a position to get a supply of at least 850 cusecs from the Lower Coleroon without fail. It is no use giving discretion to the Superintending Engineer or the Chief Engineer to be abused.

"I must, with great pain, observe on this occasion that the Superintending Engineer has his headquarters at Tanjore; and invariably the Superintending Engineers are people drawn from Tanjore and therefore they are always having a bias in favour of the people of Tanjore, and to the detriment of the people of South Arcot. So it is that the ryots under the Shatiatope Anicut system have always been at great disadvantage in not being able to persuade and convince the Superintending Engineers about their needs and difficulties, that is because the Superintending Engineers have the interests of the Tanjore people nearer their hearts. It was therefore suggested often that the Superintending Engineer for this area should be placed in any of the

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towns of South Arcot, preferably at Cuddalore or Chidambaram which should be headquarters but the Government, for certain reasons, would not approve of that suggestion. The Superintending Engineers have also been sometimes people whose native place happened to be Tanjore itself. All these facts are no doubt strange and minor points, but still, when I am giving vent to the feelings of the people of South Arcot, I cannot refrain from making these observations. I hope, Sir, you and the Hon. House will pardon me for it.

"This being the case, if really the Government are intent upon getting their due share of revenue from the lands under the Shatiatope anicut, it is their bounden duty to see that there is no failure of supply, that there is always an adequate supply of water, and that, that supply is regularly given from the Coleroon waters. It must be remembered that there are no more freshes and floods in the Coleroon. The Shatiatope anicut system does not need any water from Vellar because the Shatiatope anicut system was not able to take advantage of the waters of the Vellar, for the first crop and because there was great possibility of turning that water to other uses that the Toludur project was brought into existence, and probably also the two further projects, viz., the Pelandorai project which is a completed one and the Kalroyan Hills project, further up, which seems to be under consideration. The contention therefore that the Shatiatope anicut is on the Vellar river and should accordingly get its water from the Vellar is a fallacy and cannot hold water. Besides, Sir, the waters of the Vellar have been definitely pronounced by experts, as not being fit for cultivation purposes in the Shatiatope anicut area. That being the case, it is only fair and just that a definite supply of water from the lower Coleroon anicut to the Shatiatope anicut system should be ear-marked, and that the rules should be so revised as to give effect to this demand for a definite and adequate quantity. The position to-day is this: that in spite of the fact that the Collector requested a week or so ago the Engineer to let in a certain amount of extra supply, I have received reports this morning, that water has not been supplied and the crops are withering. The Collector has called for a conference again on the 25th of this month to settle this matter and till then do not know what will happen; but until then, what is likely to happen to the withering crops is not known. May I, on this occasion, request the Hon. Minister to see that orders are issued by the Chief Engineer immediately that the required quantity should be supplied? In fact, there is a certain quantity, about 1,600 cusecs, already not having been drawn during the last rains; and it will be an act of great generosity, if I may say so, if immediate orders are issued for the supply of the required quantity of water to the Shatiatope anicut system. I also hope, Sir, that as soon as possible, even before the tentative period is over, rules will be revised to ensure and ear-mark a definite supply of about 850 cusecs to the Shatiatope anicut system from the lower Coleroon anicut.

"The next point is with reference to the working of the Toludur project. Sir, the Toludur project was intended to cultivate 26,000 acres

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of land but I understand from persons who are interested and affected by the project that only about 6,000 acres have been brought under cultivation. Of course the Government have spent large sums of money on the Toludur project, but no steps have been taken to extend the area of cultivation under that project, as it is to-day only one-fourth of the estimated area seems to have been brought under cultivation till now. I do not know definitely whether the project is actually working at a profit or at a loss and whether the Government propose to declare it to be an unproductive work. Surely, there is scope to increase cultivation, but only the Government should change their present rules; if only the Government would reduce the present rate of Rs. 6-4-0 to Rs. 4 or thereabouts per acre, I am sure there is every possibility of working the project with more profit and for bringing in a greater extent of land under its cultivation. Sir, representations seem to have been made by the ryots whose interests were affected by this Toludur project that the rate must be reduced if the Government wanted that more and more lands should be brought under cultivation and if there were to be more profit for themselves. I do not see what exactly is the objection to reduce the rate. If they fix the rate at Rs. 4 per acre and all the 26,000 acres of land are cultivated, then certainly it is a profitable venture. I suggest this to the Government so that they may try this as an experiment at least for a few years and then see whether it will be a project that can be worked successfully and the real object with which they started and completed the project is achieved. Otherwise the water will be there in the Toludur reservoir and will not be availed of by the ryots, and the lands will remain uncultivated and the Government revenue would be low. The object of the Government ought to be to find out ways and means of increasing the extent of cultivation and their revenues. It is true the department of agriculture failed in this regard, but why, when there are opportunities, the Government should not afford facilities to the ryots who are anxious to avail of such facilities and increase the extent of cultivation and production, which is sure to be the case if only the rates are reduced. I therefore, Sir, in all earnestness, suggest that it is up to the Government to see that their projects are worked successfully and at a profit, that all facilities are given to the ryots to take more and more water and that the present rates are reduced. It is with these objects that I gave notice of these three or four cut motions. I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given."

MR. MAHOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure the present Government are aware of the agitation that is being carried on by the ryot population with regard to the lowering of the high water rate that is being collected from them. I am personally of the opinion that the Government is entitled to water rate for supplying water from Government sources and I am also of the opinion that the Government must undertake remunerative projects, and thereby earn money so that the general rate-payer may be benefited. I am further of the opinion that the sooner the Government nationalize industries and make money the better for the country. At the same time I may also state as I have

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already stated once before that this burden is inequitably distributed. Whenever any money comes to the Government it is through the ryot. As I have already stated about 7 crores of revenue is derived from the ryot, either by way of land revenue or by way of irrigation charges. Therefore, my submission to this House is, no doubt the Government are entitled to water-rate for supplying water, but let not the profit be abnormal. I find, Sir, from certain projects, for instance, the Kistna delta project, the Government get not less than 18 per cent as profit. May I ask the Government, let the profit be marginal, let the ryot not suffer still more? The Government construct these works from capital or loans and they have to pay a certain amount of interest either to the Central Government or to others from whom they borrow, but there must be some proportion between the interest that the Government pay to their creditors and the money that they derive from the ryots in that regard. My submission is that 18 per cent profit from irrigation projects derived from the ryot is abnormal. I know that Government's criterion is 6 per cent profit and I think that is what the Hon. the Minister for Public Works stated before. May I request the Hon. the Minister to investigate this question and see whether the water-rate may not be reduced?

"Again, Sir, sometimes it happens that where an improvement is made to an original project, that improvement is taken to be the original project itself and interest is calculated thereupon. Here, I wish to submit, Sir, that it is not necessary that a separate account should be prepared with regard to improvements to a certain project. The East Bank canal in Kistna is a point in question. It is an improvement to the Kistna ancient project which was started as early as 1858 or 1859 when the Irrigation Cess Act was passed. Now, this is an improvement to that system and yet profits and losses are calculated separately, and not only the ordinary rate is sought to be collected, but a sort of inclusion fee also is sought to be collected. Now, Sir, this question of inclusion fee is peculiar only to the Kistna district, or perhaps even to the Godavari district. But, is there any justification to collect not only the ordinary rate at Rs. 6-12-0—which is now reduced to Rs. 6-4-0 I think—which works out at 18 per cent on the investment made by the Government for the Kistna project, but in addition, an inclusion fee also. It may perhaps be answered by the Government that the ryot or the owner of the land gains because of the fact that the value of the land is increased. Of course it is an unearned value. My submission to the House is, that even according to the calculation of the Government or the Superintending Engineer, Kistna, or even the Chief Engineer, and the Board of Revenue, it has been found that even without this inclusion fee, the profit will work out at 8 to 12 per cent. In view of these facts, the previous Government very rightly and justly stated that they were not going to collect the inclusion fee. In my cut motion I have asked for information from the Government, whether they have or have not decided to collect the inclusion fee. I hope, Sir, the present Government would not collect it.

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“From the figures furnished at page 37 of the Budget Memorandum it is seen that the decrease in the preliminary accounts for 1936-37 is due mainly to the inclusion fees collected in the Kistna district being less than was anticipated. I find from the figures that the revenue assessment for this year is below the preliminary accounts of the previous year. In the previous year the preliminary accounts show Rs. 5,71,329 and the budget estimate of this year shows Rs. 5,24,000 and that the decrease in the realization of this money last year was due to the fact that inclusion fee was not collected and so it fell short of expectation. This year also the estimate is less than the preliminary accounts for 1936-37. I therefore take it that the Government are not going to collect the inclusion fee this year also. If that be so, I should be very thankful to the Government for taking that step.

“Another point to which I wish to invite the attention of the Government is that in all places where irrigation projects have come into existence, canals have been dug, and channels have been excavated. But in many places, I know it from personal knowledge, in my own district, there are no bridges and not even small culverts to enable the ryots to pass from one village to another.

11-15 a.m. . “During the rainy season and the cultivation season, Sir, it is very difficult for people to pass and repass. I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Minister in charge of the Irrigation department to see that wherever any channel or canal is dug for irrigation purpose necessarily a small bridge or culvert may also be provided in the estimate. Another thing which is peculiar to our district is that in many places, especially Kaikalur division, the drainage system is bad; I am told that no attention is paid to drainage at all. The peculiar levels of the place are also responsible for it, but I submit that without drainage no irrigation will be satisfactory. The last point that I want to urge on the Government is the peculiar circumstances in which water is supplied to the ryots in their villages or near by. The officers live in distant places 50 or 60 miles away. In the circumstances it is impossible for doing justice to these ryots and these ryots depend upon the whims and fancies of the subordinate staff. The peculiar circumstances are such that it is impossible for the staff not to take advantage of the ignorance of the ryot or the necessity of the ryot. What I mean to say is that the immediate officers who will be letting down water are in a very advantageous position. It so happens that this letting down of water is not strictly supervised, no doubt it is supervised, but it is not strictly supervised by the higher officers who are in charge and that gives rise to so much trouble. Ignorance is taken advantage of by the petty officers and their subordinates. I need not say much more except to state that it is common knowledge that mamuls have grown and they have lost the seriousness of bribes. This has been in vogue for several years. This Government has come into existence by the sufferance of the people and they would do well to see that no occasion is given to lower officers who are in an advantageous position of getting their mamuls. I make a special appeal to purge the system of any

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longstanding mamul and see that the ryot gets his due share without making payments by way of baksheesh, mamuls or bribe.”

* MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I rise to speak on this grant to-day it is only to voice the great need that the people of Malabar feel that some sort of irrigation scheme should be introduced in that district. It is unfortunate that no steps of any kind for the introduction of any irrigation scheme in Malabar have been taken up, up to this time. Perhaps it might be due to the belief that we are getting proper seasonal rains. No doubt formerly the rains were regular and the crops were successful. But since the past few years rains have become very irregular and therefore crops have begun to fail. When the south-west monsoon appears it pours in one lump for some time and afterwards there is a great lull. Consequently there has been more or less regular failure of the second crop. The Premier in his budget speech stated that seasons were likely to be more favourable this year. But at least as far as Malabar is concerned this prognostication is not going to be true. There has been no rain at all in Malabar during the last six or seven weeks, Palghat will be benefited by the introduction of the regular irrigation system, for the nature of the country is more or less like that of the eastern districts. As regards the hilly Walluvanad and Ernad taluks big tanks and reservoirs may be constructed and when they are constructed large acres of lands could be cultivated. I earnestly appeal to the Hon. Minister to do something in this line. Agriculturists expect that at least this Government would respond to their needs.”

* MR. K. R. KARANT :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, various points were raised thus far. Sir, I shall submit some answers with your permission. I assure hon. Members of this House that on various matters of irrigation there have been repeated and constant complaints in the past and probably also stereotyped answers from time to time. But I could assure them that this Government though it has been in office only for a very short time will try its utmost to have a new outlook on the various grievances in all the districts, subject of course to the question of finance, because it is impossible to tackle all schemes in all districts. If we have to go in for loans for our large schemes we cannot do so for each and every scheme in every district. We have to put the limit somewhere. Subject to that qualification I might assure hon. Members that with all the earnestness that Government could command we shall look into and consider all schemes and grievances put forward by hon. Members. With regard to the points raised by my Friend Mr. Schamnad from the very district from which I hail I could say that with regard to the irrigation works in that district, it may be that he has rather overpainted the picture. Because though there are no irrigation works in that district and Malabar by Government and though there are difficulties it is not correct to say that except for four months in the year there is no rain or no water at all. At the same time it may be difficult for irrigation works to be constructed in those districts exactly of the kind which we have in the east coast

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districts because both the districts are full of hills and valleys and we cannot have a common reservoir and an irrigation system to cover any large area. But I may however say that Government would be willing to consider any practical and definite scheme that may be suggested. So far as Malabar is concerned I understand that there were six projects which were considered some years ago and because they were not remunerative under the then existing condition of six per cent return they were not proceeded with. But I understand that one of those projects, the Malampusha project, is under reinvestigation by the Chief Engineer and I hope Government will kindly take up the reconsideration of all these projects both because of the change in the rate of interest that has now taken place from 6 per cent to 4 per cent and because the old estimates were prepared while the materials were costly.

“With regard to the various points raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmad, though I am not going to reply as far as points raised by him are concerned, as far as I understand him, there is plenty of water in the Cauvery which goes waste to join the sea, and by a wrong understanding of a Government Order certain quantities are allowed and no more, even though 35,000 acres are suffering under disabilities for want of water. I request Government to consider whether they should wait till 1940 according to their previous order if the assurance given by the Member that there is not enough water is correct. (Hear, hear.)

“Then, Sir, with regard to the Tungabhadra project, I have read a little on this subject and have heard complaints from members of the Ceded districts. Probably this is a great project which has been the desire of many hon. Members of Governments in the past to put through. This has been going on for a long time and I was told that the hon. Member who was till recently holding the portfolio, Sir Charles Souter, was very anxious to put it through.

1-30 a.m. “But at the same time, hon. Members will realize that having embarked upon a big project like the Cauvery Project costing nearly 6 crores of rupees, which I understand, is to-day getting a revenue of only .9 per cent after deducting the maintenance charges, Government will have to consider seriously whether before any new and big project is to be launched upon, it is likely to be remunerative.

“With regard to the Tungabhadra Project, there are certain difficulties. First, there is the question of sharing the waters among the four Governments concerned, namely, the Bombay, the Hyderabad the Mysore and the Madras Governments. I understand, Sir, that there are certain negotiations proceeding, and, however much any Government may be anxious to put through the scheme, still there are difficulties when four Governments are involved. I do hope the Government will however, get through this project as early as possible. There is another difficulty also. I understand that the Cauvery project being a project for raising paddy, has become so reduced in its return because of the heavy fall in the price of rice over which, hon. Members are

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aware, this Government or this Province has no control. Those factors are regulated by the tariff control of the Central Government and by the exports and imports and world conditions. With regard to the Tungabhadra Project, I understand, Sir, that first it was estimated to be a wet project and that then, because wet projects were not very hopeful, it was estimated as a dry project some years ago. But, again, there is this difficulty now that with the experience of other projects elsewhere in this province it is feared—and that seems to be the view in the higher quarters of the Irrigation department—that the project may not be remunerative if it is a dry project and there may be failure again. So some time is necessary. I understand investigations are going on as to the suitability of the waters and the soil for dry crops. So, it may take some time. Hon. Members are aware that it will cost 10 crores to launch upon the scheme. I therefore request the Government, considering the sentiments and the claims of the Ceded districts—no doubt, any Government would be anxious and would try its very best—to put through this scheme as early as possible.

“Then, Sir, there are only one or two points. My hon. Friend Mr. Baig touched upon some matters. He said, if I am not mistaken, that the profits of the Kistna delta were 18 per cent. It is correctly 16.51 per cent in the year 1935-36. But the average profit of all productive works in the province works out at only 6.5 per cent in 1935-36 and unproductive works in the same year yielded 5.0 per cent, so that over all works it came to only 4.3 per cent. It would not be right to take any one project and treat it as a separate unit and ask for extensions. He also referred to the trouble given by petty officers and subordinates. I am quite sure, Sir, the House is aware that a Government cannot be carried on by only the high officers. In every place we must have also petty officers. No doubt, there is complaint against them, and probably there is a great deal of substance and truth in the statement that people are being harassed. But I have no doubt that the present Government will do its very best to remove all such traces of corruption and to see that they do not continue to deal with such questions in the same time-honoured way as their predecessors have done.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Hon. Members should not try to catch the ear of the Speaker; they must catch his eye.” (Laughter.)

* MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the district from which I come, I wish to lay before this House a few matters for consideration. Opinion is gaining ground in the Telugu districts that for some years past, the interests of those districts are being neglected in the matter of irrigation as in many other matters. You may know, Sir, that as early as in 1914, there was a scheme called the Kistna Reservoir Project, which was estimated to cost about 8 crores and 33 lakhs of rupees. The scheme received the sanction of even the Secretary of State for India, and it would have been immediately taken up for execution but for the claim pressed on behalf of the Mettur project, which was slightly less costly, the estimate being about 6 crores of rupees. Thus the Kistna Reservoir

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Project was kept in abeyance. Now that the Mettur project has reached completion, my submission is that it is high time that this Government should take up the work into their hands without further delay.

"The Kistna Reservoir Project will not only irrigate the uplands of the Guntur district, but as it will join the Sangam Project in the Nellore district, it will become one of the most important irrigation projects in this province, which would relieve distress in almost all the dry areas both in the Guntur and Nellore districts.

"Again, Sir, there are some smaller projects like the Gundlakamma Project in the Guntur district, pending consideration for a long time. It is not known to what state the investigations of the scheme have reached. The river Gundlakamma flows through areas where the rainfall is very scarce. The people of those parts are in constant distress for want of rain. The project will prove very useful and being a smaller project can be undertaken with much less cost and will indeed be a source of great relief to the people.

"There is another question, Sir, that calls for immediate consideration of the Government, namely, the question of inclusion fees. This fee is insisted upon even in respect of lands which are worthless. They are mostly saline lands which cannot be valued at more than Rs. 25 per acre. It works hard upon the people, if inclusion fees are insisted upon even in respect of such valueless lands.

"There are some other lands which were purchased by the people in Government auction, which have been under wet cultivation for several years past and for the inclusion of which in the permanent ayacut, the inclusion fees are now asked for by the Government. This demand of fees for inclusion in the ayacut is unjust. There was a talk during the term of the Interim Ministry that the collection of inclusion fees would be given up. But no final decision seems to have been arrived at. I hope this Government will soon consider the question and order abolition of the collection of inclusion fees in all cases."

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I would like to confine myself to the question of inclusion fees raised in this House during this debate. It was between 1917 and 1920 that the Government got a special survey made, with regard to the lands that were able to command and also the lands that were not able to get water. It was then decided that those lands which did not command should be excluded and the lands to which water could be given, might be included. The inclusion fees started then. There are five deltaic areas in this connexion, the Godavari Central, the Godavari Eastern, the Godavari Western, the Kistna Eastern and the Kistna Western. In the Godavari Eastern and the Godavari Western areas, inclusion fees were introduced in 1920. In 1923, the question was raised in the Legislative Council, and a resolution was passed for cancelling the inclusion fees. But the Government did not agree. With regard to the Godavari Eastern and Central deltas, inclusion fees had been collected between

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1926 and 1928. Between 1928 and 1932, they were cancelled. In 1932 again, the fees were levied in the Kistna Western delta. In 1934 the Government accepted proposals for the levy of these fees in this delta for extensions. The justification for the levy of the inclusion fees is three-fold; firstly, payment of compensation for extension of water-rights in the areas that have been excluded and the cost of special localization staff in the Kistna and Guntur districts; secondly, as had been referred to by the hon. Member, Mr. Mahboob Ali, the right of the State to a share in the unearned increment in the value of land arising from the inclusion in the ayacut; and thirdly, consideration for inclusion in the ayacut giving prior right for water over lands not included.

"I shall not detain the House over this matter at length just now, but I may refer to the G.O. No. 1419, dated 3rd July 1936, in which a special concession was made in favour of those who would not be able to find money for payment of the inclusion fees. The appeal now made for the cancellation of inclusion fees by the hon. Member, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, cannot be accepted. The question relating to this inclusion fee being retained or cancelled is yet to be considered by the Government, and a final decision will come to, when all the other matters covered by the recent Economic Enquiry Committee of Mr. Marjoribanks will be taken into account.

"Mr. Venkatappayya referred to what he had heard about and what had happened before this Government came into office. What happened during the three and a half months prior to our coming into office with regard to the recommendations of the Marjoribanks Committee, cannot be discussed now, because the Committee's report is not before the House, and we are not also free to take up these matters for discussion. But one thing can be said, that is, that whatever was done by way of recommendation in that report does not become final, as I have pointed out already in connexion with some other matter, for some technical reason. So, in this budget, the inclusion fee was included. And the inclusion fee relates to a very large area; it does not confine itself to the lands owned by poor people. Large extents of land are owned by zamindars, as their home-farm lands or lands of their tenants within those estates. I do not wish to take this House at this stage into all the details. The inclusion fee if it should be cancelled to-day will not enure to the benefit of the poor people only. The poor people would be very few when compared with the rich people, the zamindars, in some districts who stand to benefit more by this cancellation. The question of retention or cancellation will be considered and decided upon later by the Government."

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, the members of this House have formed committees to study certain subjects. One of these committees is for the purpose of studying the subjects connected with irrigation. And of this committee Mr. Karant is the convener as well as the Chairman."

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MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"May I ask whether it is a committee of this House?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"It is not a committee appointed by this House; if it was so, the hon. Member would have come to know of it without asking me for any information. The members have elected a committee of themselves to study certain questions."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Which members?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Members of the Assembly."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"We are also members of the Assembly."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I ought to have said that some members of the Congress party who are members of this Assembly have formed themselves into a committee. I suppose that is clear now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I think the Hon. Minister need not dwell at length upon the committees of parties."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"What I was going to say, Sir, is this, that this committee is studying the questions relating to irrigation. This is a departure from the procedure of the past Government with regard to the handling of important questions. The committee is going into the questions so thoroughly; not only the Minister but also the Parliamentary Secretary and a committee are giving all their attention to this subject."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I again request the Hon. Minister not to allude to the proceedings or reports of committees appointed by parties."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I was only anxious to show that we are giving so much attention to the questions relating to my department. There were some cut motions to discuss the policy of Government, but as one of the members who had a cut motion in his name had not taken part in this discussion, there was no occasion to speak about the general policy. Members who spoke made only some general remarks on certain projects in which they were personally interested. The first speaker, Mr. Schamnad, said that much injustice has been done to Malabar and South Kanara, and suggested that a committee should be appointed to go into this question. Sir, in the year 1935, this suggestion was also made but it was then pointed out that there was no necessity for such a committee. This question has been dealt with at great length in previous debates in the Council. In the year 1935, there was a programme for improving the minor works; an expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs was sanctioned; investigation was made, and it was reported that there was no scope or necessity for irrigation works in Malabar and South Kanara districts. No allotments were made on any project that was considered not to be productive. Now

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Government has resolved to reduce the criterion of productivity from 6 per cent to 4 per cent; the project known as the Malampura project is taken on hand and investigation is being made, and I shall soon be able to report what the Government's decision is on the matter.

"In regard to South Kanara, a deputation waited on His Excellency the Governor in October 1935, and three proposals were made by them, (1) provision of a tube well pump in the bed of the rivers which go dry during hot weather; (2) construction of a reservoir for storage of surplus water; and (3) the repairing of tanks like Anamasamudram, Beraperu tank. These were examined by the local Public Works Department officers and Collectors in consultation with Mr. Sreshta, a member of the deputation, and all of them were found impracticable.

"I might also mention that the conditions prevailing in Malabar and South Kanara are the same as those in Travancore and Cochin. An enquiry is being made as to what is being done in the matter of irrigation in those two States, with a view to evolve a policy that could be applicable to those two districts.

"Swami Sahajanandam has given a long list of grievances. Some of these have been covered by Mr. Basheer Ahmed as far as Chingleput is concerned. I shall come to them by and by. I may mention that in the matter of pathways and wells, powers have been given to the Collector of the district to sanction anything up to Rs. 2,500, under which come the miscellaneous measures connected with the welfare of the depressed classes. The provision of wells for the depressed classes is one of the main activities of the Labour Department. In this connexion I would suggest that the facilities that are placed at the disposal of the Collector should be availed of to a larger extent than they seem to be at present.

"Mr. Abdul Rawoof has spoken mostly on Tungabhadra project. Sir, the Government is quite alive to the necessity of proceeding with this project as soon as possible.

"I am personally well aware of the great distress that prevails in the Ceded districts and what all Mr. Abdul Rawoof has said so eloquently was not necessary to convince me as to the necessity of this scheme being taken up as soon as possible. I am aware that much time has been wasted over this matter, but I can assure hon. Members that the present Government will make the Tungabhadra project as one of the most important items in their programme to be given their special attention. As has already been stated, in this case the Mysore Government and the Nizam's Government are involved. The proposal is that the waters of the Tungabhadra should be shared between Mysore, Hyderabad and Madras. Naturally therefore we have to come to some understanding with Hyderabad and this matter is engaging our special attention. I can assure hon. Members that I will not allow grass to grow under my feet until I make the waters of the Tungabhadra grow corn by flowing all over the Ceded districts.

12 noon.

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“The question of supply of drinking water, the question of repairing tanks, the question of keeping in disrepair all the feeding channels to these tanks—all these questions have been gone into in detail by Mr. Abdul Rawoof and I assure the hon. Members that every one of them will receive our attention.

“Sir, this is not the first time when my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, has spoken on this subject of irrigation in South Arcot district in this House. He spoke last year also on the very same thing and almost in the same strain. I studied his speech to see whether I might improve on the reply that Sir Charles Souter gave him last year. My hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, said that the rules which are tentative for five years are working hardship and they are being interpreted in such a way as to result in hardship to the people. Therefore he has suggested that they should be considered again, and that even before the five years period is over something may be done to give relief in the directions enumerated by him. I think I will be doing him very much injustice if I do not go through the whole thing and give him a reply off-hand. I think I would be doing better service to him if I promise that I will make a minute study of all the points raised by him and try to meet them as much as possible.

“I now come to the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig. As pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Karant, the actual return that has been fixed from a certain irrigation project named by him is not as high as 18 per cent. I may mention that the return that was previously fixed for a productive project at 6 per cent has now been reduced to 4 per cent. The fixing of a return of 6 per cent or 4 per cent is done only to classify the projects as productive and unproductive and not with a view that these projects should be made to yield that return or more. When a project is undertaken some estimates have to be made whether it will be paying or not. In some cases, after the project has been worked for ten years, it has to be found out whether the amount of return that was expected from that project is forthcoming or not. It is only after some years that it is found whether the project is paying or not. All the productive projects are generally financed from loans and the other projects are financed from the revenue.

“Sir, Mr. Basheer Ahmed has spoken about the Mettur project. It was only about three years ago that the project was completed, and that was a period of widespread economic depression. It is therefore no use in seeing now whether the project has fulfilled the expectations. It is too soon to expect any beneficial results from it now. With the revival of normal conditions, the project may come up to our expectation. I have got a statement showing the total extent of lands to be served by the Mettur project and the return to be realized in 1936 according to the forecast made in 1932. But, Sir, so far as the

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returns are now concerned, at the present stage of development and with the present water-rates, the percentage of gross revenue to capital outlay is only 1.13; excluding maintenance charges it is only .9 per cent. As I have already said, the project was completed only two or three years before.”

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed spoke in a low tone to the Hon. Minister in charge across the Bench.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Chair has not heard what has passed between Mr. Basheer Ahmed and the Hon. Minister.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“I wanted to know how the position stands in relation to the extent of lands brought under cultivation.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Hon. Members are requested to address the Chair and not carry on conversation across the benches.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“I am sorry, Sir.”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“I must not omit Mr. Venkatappayya, who was the last speaker. He observed that the Telugu districts were rather neglected and added that Kistna Reservoir project was set aside in favour of Mettur. In this connexion I may point out that there is not much ground for this remark. Very many projects in this Province which have always drawn the attention of the Government were investigated from time to time. Government have taken necessary steps to push through some schemes. But it was pointed out in several cases, especially in Ceded districts that such projects would be a failure because of the peculiar condition of the soil, the poorness of the soil and the insufficient supply of water, etc.

“Sir, Mr. Venkatappayya in his speech has drawn my attention to one particular project. I will have that examined again.

“I need not take up the time of the House any more for my reply. On the assurance of the careful examination that I have given I hope the cut motion will be withdrawn.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“I do not press my motion.”

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(8) DEMAND VIII—HEADS OF PROVINCES, MINISTERS AND HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Sir, I rise to 12-15 p.m.
move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,00,400 under Demand VIII—Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters Staff.

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" In moving this Demand, Sir, I have only to say that General Administration is divided into three demands, viz., this one that I have moved, the next demand for Legislative Bodies and the next after that for District Administration and Miscellaneous. Hon. Members may also note that full details in respect of this matter which may not only be informative but interesting will be found at page 84 onwards of the Budget Memorandum supplied to them. They will see from it how figures cannot always show the real purport of the work of the administration and how the expenditure is distributed. They will see from the interesting and detailed explanation of the position at page 91 of the Memorandum that under the head of Land Revenue the demand is only for 28 lakhs, but really if the expenditure on the services is distributed in a proper manner they will find that under Land Revenue actually 133 lakhs and odd are to be spent. Under General Administration about 285 lakhs would be the total of the three heads I have referred to. As a matter of fact not all this is spent merely on General Administration, but much of it goes to the Administration of Justice, Police and Land Revenue. In that way only 134 lakhs is really the budget allotment for General Administration. So also for Administration of Justice, the particular demand is only Rs. 97 lakhs, but they will find on a reappropriation of the various heads that I have mentioned under General Administration that really Rs. 130 lakhs are spent on that account. I explain this because a large part of the House consists of new Members who may like to be guided in this matter and I hope older Members will forgive me for giving what they may deem to be very elementary information.

" The Demand which I have moved just now is in addition to the expenditure on His Excellency the Governor, his personal staff—secretariat as well as household, the expenditure in connexion with quarters Establishments, the Public Service Commission, the Board of Revenue and certain miscellaneous items which come in, such as the Local Fund Audit establishments, etc. I do not think, Sir, anything more need be said by me at this stage. There are a number of cut motions arising questions of policy and I await hon. Members' references to those points.

" Sir, I join with you in appealing that the speeches may be as far as possible on different points instead of going over the same ground. I hope hon. Members will forgive me for making this appeal, because I also desire on behalf of Government that if at all possible, all the 37 demands might be gone through substantially and the guillotine need not be dropped on the discussions."

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respectfully beg to make a very humble suggestion with regard to the Demand for the Salary and Allowances of His Excellency the Governor."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—" Under sub-section (1) of section 79 of the Government of India Act, the House cannot discuss the salary and allowances of the Governor. The sub-section runs as follows:—

' 79 (1) So much of the estimates of expenditure as relates to expenditure charged upon the revenues of a Province shall not be submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly, but nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as preventing the discussion in the Legislature of those estimates, other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of the last preceding section.'

" And paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 78 refers to—

' The salary and allowances of the Governor and other expenditure relating to his office for which provision is required to be made by Order in Council.'

" Therefore no discussion will be permitted in this House on the salary and allowances of His Excellency the Governor."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" Sir, I beg to be enlightened on the point. There are certain charges which are voted. On some of these votable items I propose to say a few words."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The salary of the Governor about which the hon. Member wanted to speak is not a votable item. Section 79 read with section 78 of the Government of India Act specifically excludes the discussion of the subject here. The hon. Member may proceed to discuss the remaining points."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" I only wanted to suggest, Sir, that the future Governors of this Province"

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I do hope that the hon. Member will not speak on it. He may proceed with the rest of his speech."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" I am really at a loss to know whether any reference could not be made to the Governor under this Demand."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The ruling of the Chair will have to be obeyed."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" I obey your ruling, Sir. It is regrettable that the powers of this House are limited. I would suggest very seriously for the consideration of the House that they should take up the matter with the Government of India and the British Government. If necessary a resolution may be tabled to that effect."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I hope that the hon. Member will understand the position under the Government of India Act and not comment on it. He may proceed with the rest of the heads under the Demand."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" I beg your pardon, Sir; I do not comment on the Act."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I will have to stop the hon. Member from speaking if he continues in this strain."

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MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Very well, Sir, I want to say something about the Services Commission.

"Sir, that Commission seems to be unnecessary. It is the opinion of many Members of this House as well as the enlightened people outside that this Commission is superfluous. If the Commission exists only for the purpose of applying the principle of communal representation, I do not think that it will do it much better than the appointing authorities who are now permitted to apply the rules as far as the subordinate ministerial posts are concerned. I am not one of those who are in favour of continuing the principle of communal representation in the services, because I find that it is not quite logically followed, the principle of it at any rate. Secondly, in the interests of the nation at large, we should have the support of as large a body of the public as possible for the national cause. We have not recognized the importance of the backward communities in the services. Sir, I am not one of those who are considered to be communal, but the only way in which the communal feeling can be overcome is by educating the people. By education I do not mean merely the academic education, qualifications, etc., but education that one gets from the exercise of one's powers in the discharge of one's duties in the public service. If you give such education to communities which are backward, I am sure that sooner than later you will find the support of the entire people for the Indian National cause. It is in that spirit that I urge the representation of backward communities in much larger proportion in the public services. I may make a very serious suggestion to the Government that hereafter in the matter of the recruitment to the services backward communities should be given representation to the exclusion of all other communities for some time to come. I make this suggestion for what it is worth. It is nothing but pure public spirit which actuates the foremost leaders of Indian nationalism. It is all right for people who have come up to the stage at which they can see things from a purely nationalist point of view. But there are people who have not yet reached that stage and the only way in which you can make them trust you is to place them in positions of trust. What is objected to generally is what may be called parochialism which is wrongly called communalism. Parochialism is, I understand, that which subordinates nationalism to communalism. But communalism is not that; it is merely patriotism limited to a certain community. That is not necessarily opposed to nationalism."

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p.m.

"I make this humble suggestion to the leaders who have been exhorting people to give up what they call communalism in favour of nationalism. I can understand it; but I am afraid that the people whom they address, the majority of them, do not understand it. It is a matter of psychology that has to be taken into account. You simply cannot satisfy a man by telling him, 'I love your brother, love another man as your brother and there is no difference between man and man.' I would suggest that the present Government should modify the communal rule, in view of the present circumstances and that recruitment

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should be made from backward communities to the exclusion of others; it will go a long way to get the support of the masses. You must understand that all those who are communal are not less patriotic than anybody else, if not more. Only they do not speak out.

"Then there is the other question of the Board of Revenue. The Board of Revenue has come in for a lot of criticism in the old Council and I am sure there are a large number of members here who are in favour of the abolition of that department. The Board of Revenue does not serve any good purpose; it is also supernumerary. With these words, I move that the allotment of Rs. 19,00,400 for Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters Staff by Rs. 100 (to discuss policy)."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Sir, I have given notice of a cut motion on this Demand. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the demand for the formation of the Andhra Province. I need hardly labour very much to convince this House as well as the Government how keenly this question is felt by the Andhras. Speaking on the previous demand, the hon. Member, Mr. Venkatapayya, has given us an inkling of the mind of the Andhras. I am not going to narrate the irritation the Andhras have been subjected to in the past. It is unnecessary for me to go into details. It is enough for me to say that, for no other reason but for the solitary reason that they want to manage their own affairs, the Andhras must be given a separate province. It is the right of every man to manage his own affairs. People have been carrying on agitation for self-government, for the purpose of managing their own affairs. They want to impose taxes, to collect them and to spend them as they please. The very fact that this House is debarred from discussing certain items of expenditure is galling to us. Of course, present conditions are such and office has been accepted knowing full well all the defects. That is by the way. It is a well-known fact that everybody desires to manage his own affairs. Unless he is incapacitated by unsoundness of mind or immaturity, one ought to be given the right to manage his own affairs. The argument that you may be better off in the company of another, does not appeal to anybody at all. We want self-government not because the present system is not beneficial to us. We do not want the British Government, not because it is not beneficial to us, but because we want to rule our own country, to manage our own affairs. The whole point that we should consider in a matter like this, is why should we not concede the right of the Andhras and try to help them. I am glad to state that the previous Government and the party to which the present Government belongs, have already recognized the principle of determination as I may put it. Andhras are entitled to have their own province. There was discussion with regard to this question every time Reforms were granted to India. This agitation came into being as early as 1913. Andhras have been meeting in provincial conferences presided over by very

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eminent persons, some of whom I might mention, Sir, M. Ramachandra Rao, Sir B. N. Sarma, Mr. C. R. Reddi and several others. You, Sir, and some hon. Members on the Treasury Benches here have taken a leading part. The agitation began in the year 1919 when the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms were granted. The British Government also recognized the right of the Andhras to have a separate province. Even when the present Reforms were granted to us, this matter was foremost in the minds of the Andhras. It is the misfortune of the Andhras. Other people have their own provinces though their provinces are small and though their income is so small that they cannot get on without a special subvention from moneys that we are bound to contribute. I do not deny their right. But why should not Andhras be given a separate province? I do not throw any blame at anybody's door. I only say that Andhras being sentimental, we must come to a decision on this point. Some Members may say that we will be better as it is. It may be that we may be better. But what I want is a separate province and wish to have an independent province of my own. I have taken the time of the House in order to impress upon it and on the present Government how unjustly the Andhras have been denied the right of having a separate province so long. The minds of some Andhras are agitated very much over this question. We cannot wait any longer. Here and there some people are saying that Federation has not come into existence; although we are willing to give you and to help you to form a separate province, Federation has not come into existence. Federation may come or may not come. You cannot therefore say, wait until the unknown future, until uncertain future. May I ask whether it is necessary that Federation should come into existence before this Government can recommend it to the Governor-General who would make his recommendation to the Secretary of State? Section 290 of the Government of India Act, 1935, says:

'Subject to the provisions of this section His Majesty may by Order in Council, create a new Province, increase the area of any Province, diminish the area of any province, alter the boundaries of any province: Provided that, before the draft of any such Order is laid before Parliament, the Secretary of State shall take such steps as His Majesty may direct for ascertaining the views of the Federal Government and the Chambers of the Federal Legislature and the views of the Government and the Chamber or Chambers of the Legislature of any province which will be affected by the Order

"Sub-section (1) of section 313 runs thus:—

'Subject to the provisions of this Act for the time being in force, such executive authority as is hereinafter mentioned shall be exercised on behalf of His Majesty by the Governor-General in Council, either directly or through officers subordinate to him

"Sub-section (3) of section 313 is as follows:—

'References in the provisions of this Act for the time being in force to the Governor-General and the Federal Government shall, except as respects matters with respect to which the Governor-General is required by the said provisions to act in his discretion, be construed as references to the Governor-General in Council, and any reference to the Federation, except where the

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reference is to the establishment of the Federation, shall be construed as a reference to British India, the Governor-General in Council, or the Governor-General, as the circumstances and the context may require.'

"The section does not debar the present Government from making its recommendations. There is no impediment for our doing so. The Congress Party to which the present Government belongs, has in its programme of the separation of the provinces on a linguistic basis. There is no difficulty in the way of allowing the Andhras to work out their own destinies in their own way, according to their culture. I hope the Government will at once take steps to recommend to the authorities concerned, the formation of a separate Andhra Province."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே மாகாணத் தலைமை ஆபீசு பிளீஸ்டர்கள் என்ற வகைக்கு ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கும் ரூபாய் 19,00,400-ல் நூறு ரூபாயைக் குறைக்க வேண்டுமென்று பிரேரேபிக்கிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு இரண்டு மந்திரி ஸ்தானமும் இரண்டு செக்ரட்டரி ஸ்தானமும் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்தை சொல்லுவதற்காக இந்த பிரேரேனை கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறேன். இதனால் இப்பொழுதுள்ள காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகளிடத்தில் எங்களுக்கு விசுவாசம் இல்லாமல் இதைக் கொண்டுவந்துவிட்டோம் என்று நினைக்கக்கூடாது. ஹரிஜன மந்திரி பன்னிரண்டு மந்திரிகள் இருந்தாலும் இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற மந்திரிகளிடத்தில் இருக்கிற சந்தோஷமிருக்காது. ஹரிஜன மந்திரிகளுக்கு ஒரு காரியத்தையும் செய்ய சக்தி இருக்காது. அழுத பின்னால்தான் பால் குடிக்கும் என்ற பழமொழிக்கிணங்க எந்த ஜனங்களால் நான் அனுப்பப்பட்டேனோ அந்த ஜனங்களின் வேண்டுகோளைத் தெரிவிக்க வேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்தைக் கொண்டு இந்த பிரேரேனையைக் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறேன். இரண்டாவது தீண்டாமை ஒழிவதற்கு இந்தப் பதவிகள் ஒரு காரணமாயிருக்கிறது என்பதைத் தெரிந்து கொண்டதால் இந்த மோஷனைக் கொடுத்தேன். எப்படி என்றால் எங்கள் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த கனம் M. C. Raja அவர்கள் இடைக்கால மந்திரியாக இருந்தபோது பல ஊர்களுக்குப் போனபோது பல ஜாதி இந்துக்களும் அதிகார வர்க்கத்தினர்களும் அவர்களை வரவேற்றார்கள். அதைக்கண்டு ஆனந்தமடைந்தேன். இப்பொழுது கனம் வி. ஐ. முனுசாமி பிள்ளை எங்கள் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் மந்திரியாக எங்கள் ஜில்லாவுக்கு வந்தபோது அவர்களை அழைத்துக் கொண்டபோய் கோவில் சந்தித்தானத்தில் வரவேற்றார்கள். அதைப்பார்த்து அளவிலா மகிழ்ச்சியடைந்தேன். தீண்டாமை ஒழிகிறது அதிகாரத்தில் இருக்கிற தென்பதினால் இந்த மோஷனை நான் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறேன். சாதாரணமாக இந்த மாகாணத்தில் நாலு கோடியே இருபது லட்சம் ஜனங்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். இதில் ஆறிலொரு பங்கு ஹரி ஜனங்களாக இருக்கிறோம். இந்தக் கணக்கைப் பார்த்தால் பத்து Ministerகளுக்கு 1½ Ministerகள் எங்களுக்குக் கொடுத்துத் தீரவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. இன்னும் நூற்றுக்குப் பத்து பதினைந்துபேர் என்று அதன்படி பார்த்தாலும் 1½ Ministerகள் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஆகையினாலே இரண்டு மந்திரி ஸ்தானங்கள் ஹரிஜன மெம்பர்களுக்கு கொடுத்திருக்கலாம். ஆனால் இது வகுப்பு வாதத்தைக் கிளப்பி விடுவதுபோலிருக்கிறதென்று சொல்லலாம். வகுப்புவாதமில்லை இதில் அதுவுமில்லாமல் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கொடுத்திருக்கிறோம் என்று சொல்லியிருந்தால் சந்தோஷமாக இருந்திருக்கும் காங்கிரசானது இந்த மாகாணத்தில் பொதுஸ்தானத்தில் நிறுத்தி வெற்றி பெறச் செய்திருந்தால் அது அளவிலா மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தரும் அப்படி ஒரு மந்திரியைக்கொண்டுவந்தால் அதைவிட மோட்சம் ஒன்றும் கிடையாது. ஆனால் முதன் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அப்படி வேண்டியதில்லை. அதில் நாங்கள் எங்கள் ஸ்டீட்டில் நிறுத்தி மந்திரி வேலை கொடுக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லி அபிவிருத்தி இலாகா மந்திரி 1-ம் லேபர் மந்திரி 1-ம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இங்கே இருக்கிற பத்து மந்திரிகளையும் எங்கள் மந்திரிகளாகக் கருதுகிறோம்.

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [17th September 1937]

கனம் சி. ராஜகோபலாச்சாரியார் அவர்களை எங்கள் மந்திரியாகக் கருதுகிறோம். கனம் பிரகாசம் அவர்களை எங்கள் மந்திரியாகக் கருதுகிறோம், கனம் ராமன் மேனன் அவர்களை எங்கள் மந்திரியாகக் கருதுகிறோம், டாக்டர் சுப்பராயன் அவர்களை எங்கள் மந்திரியாகக் கருதுகிறோம். ஆகையினாலே எல்லா மந்திரிகளும் எங்கள் மந்திரிகள்தான். இந்த இடத்தில் ஒரு விசேஷம் என்னவென்றால் எங்களுடைய மந்திரிகள் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டாலும் கனம் வி. ஐ. முனி சாமி பிள்ளை மந்திரி அவர்களிடத்தில் இதைச் செய்யவேண்டும் அதைச் செய்யவேண்டும் எங்கள் வகுப்பாருக்கு என்று உரிமையோடும் கேட்பதைப்போல் கனம் லேபர் (Labour) மந்திரி கிரி அவர்களிடத்தில் கேட்க முடியாது. ஆகையினாலே எங்கள் வகுப்பு மந்திரிகள் இரண்டு பேர்கள் இருந்தால் நல்லதாயிருக்குமென்று சொல்லுகிறேன். இதைக்கொண்டு இரண்டு மந்திரி ஹரிஜன மந்திரியாக இருக்கலாமென்று அபிப்பிராயப்பட்டுள்ளேன். வங்காளத்தில் பதினாறு மந்திரிகள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டில்லை. அங்கே இரண்டு ஹரிஜன மந்திரிகள் இருக்கிறார்கள். முப்பது அங்கத்தினர்கள் ஆதிதிராவிட அங்கத்தினர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அதில் இரண்டு மந்திரிகள் ஹரிஜன மந்திரிகளாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அதைப்போல் இங்கேயும் கொடுத்திருக்கலாம். தீண்டாமை மிகவும் கொடுமையாக இருக்கிறது. இந்தத் தீண்டாமை ஒழிவதற்கு இது ஒரு காரணமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையினாலே எங்களுடைய ஹரிஜனங்கள் நன்மையை முன்னிட்டு இரண்டு மந்திரிகள் கொடுத்திருக்கலாம். எங்களுடைய ஜனங்களுடைய வேண்டுகோளுக்காக சொல்லுகிறேன். இதனால் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகளிடத்தில் நம்பிக்கை குறைவாயிருக்கிறதாக நினைக்கக்கூடாது, தீண்டாமையை ஒழிப்பதற்காக 93, 94-வது மோஷனைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன்.

“இந்தச் சமயத்தில் தீண்டாமை என்பது மதத்திலிருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லுகிறதை அப்படிக்கில்லை என்பதை நிரூபிக்க சாமவேதம், பகவத் கீதை, துவாதச உபநிஷத்து முதலியவைகளைக்கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறேன். தீண்டாமை ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு பெருந்தடையாக இருக்கிறது. ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஒரு வேலை செய்யப்போனால், ஒரு பயிரிடப்போனால், ஒரு உத்தியோகத்திற்குப் போனால் அவர்களை முன்னுக்கு வராமல் தடுக்கிறது. இந்தத் தீண்டாமைப் பேயை ஒழிப்பதற்காக பண்டைக் காலத்தில் சங்கரர், ராமானுஜாச்சாரியார் என்ன, பெளத்தர் என்ன, இப்படிப்பட்ட பெரியோர்கள் பாடுபட்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸில் தலைவராயிருந்த தாதாபாய் நௌரோஜி முதல் இப்பொழுது தலைவராயிருக்கிற மகாத்மா காந்தி அவர்கள் வரையிலும் கனம் முதல் மந்திரி சி. ராஜகோபலாச்சாரியார் அவர்களும் தீண்டாமையை ஒழிப்பதற்காக பாடுபட்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களுக்கு மேல் படுபடுகிறவர்கள் இல்லை என்று சொல்லலாம். காங்கிரஸ் திட்டத்தில் தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்கிறது முக்கியமாக இருக்கிறது. இதற்கு முன்னிருந்த சபையில் கனம் டாக்டர் சுப்பராயன் அவர்கள் தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்க ஒரு பில் கொண்டுவந்தார். அதை ஜஸ்டிஸ் கட்சியார் தோற்கடித்துவிட்டார்கள். ஆகவே இந்த சமயத்தில் ஒரு பில் கொண்டுவரும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். அந்தக் காலத்தில், சேலம், ஈரோடு, தூத்துக்குடி முதலான இடங்களில் காப்பிக் கிளப்புகளில் ஹரிஜனங்களை விடவேண்டுமென்று ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களில் தீர்மானம் செய்து அனுப்பினார்கள். அந்தத் தீர்மானங்களை Raja of Bobbili காலத்தில் கொளுத்தி எரித்துவிட்டார்கள். இந்தச் சமயம் நல்ல சமயம். யார் எங்களை முன்னுக்கு கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்களோ அவர்கள் கையில் அதிகாரம் இருக்கிறதினால் தீண்டாமைப் பேயை ஒப்பொழுது ஒழிக்கவேண்டியது முக்கியமாகும். மகாத்மா காந்தியை இந்த தீண்டாமை இருபது நாள் சாப்பிடாமல் செய்தது. உடனே தீண்டாமையை ஒழித்துவிடுகிறோம் என்று பலபெரியோர்கள் காந்தியினிடத்தில் போய்ச் சொன்னார்கள். எங்கள் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த ராஜ் பகதூர் M. C. Raja, திவான் பகதூர் R. Srinivasan, கனம் முனிசாமி பிள்ளை முதலானவர்கள் Poona ஒப்பந்தத்தில் கையெழுத்துப் போட்டார்கள். கையெழுத்துப் போட்டபோது காங்கிரஸ் கஷியைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் தீண்டாமையை ஒழித்துவிடுகிறோம் அதற்காக சட்டம் கொண்டுவந்துவிடுகிறோம் என்று சொன்னார்கள். அந்தக் காலம் முதற்கொண்டு

17th September 1937] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

தீண்டாமை ஒழிப்புச் சட்டம் எப்பொழுது வருமென்று எதிர்பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். வாஸ்தவத்தில் நாங்கள் தீண்டப்படாதவர்களா? தீண்டாமைக்குக் காரணம் எங்கேயாவது இருக்கிறதா என்று ஆராய்ச்சி செய்து பார்க்கும்பொழுது மனு ஸமிருதியில் தீண்டாமையை மூன்று விதமாக காட்டுகிறார்கள். (1) பெரு நோயாளிகளைத் தீண்டக்கூடாது. (2) நாயைத் தின்கிறவனைத் தீண்டக்கூடாது. (3) சண்டாளனைத் தீண்டக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. நாங்கள் பெருநோயாளிகளா? ஆறுகோடிப்பேர்களும் பெருநோயாளிகளாயில்லை. நல்ல சரீரமுடையவர்களாயிருக்கிறோம். இரண்டாவது நாயைத் தின்கிறவர்கள் இந்த நாட்டில் கிடையாது. மூன்றாவது சண்டாளன் என்பது யார் என்பதை ஆராய்ச்சி செய்தால் இரண்டு விஷயம் சாஸ்திரத்தில் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த இடத்தில் என்ன சொல்லுகிறார்கள். தங்களுடைய பெண்களின் கற்பை ஒழுக்கத்தைக் காப்பாற்றச் சட்ட திட்டங்கள் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள், ஆரிய வகுப்புப் பெண்களில் விவாகமாகாத பெண் நெறி தவறி அந்நிய ஜாதி ஆடவனோடு கூடிப்பெற்ற பிள்ளைக்கு சண்டாளன் என்ற பேர். அவன் ஜென்ம சண்டாளன். உயர்ந்த வகுப்பில் பிறந்து சாஸ்திரத்தை விட்டு விட்டு அந்நிய விஷயங்களில் தலையிட்டு வைதீக கருமங்களை விட்டுவிட்டவர்களுக்கு கருமச்சண்டாளன் என்று பெயர். இந்த இரண்டு வகுப்புச் சண்டாளர்களும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஒரு பிராமணப் பெண் அந்நிய வகுப்பு ஆடவனுடன் சேர்ந்து பெற்ற பிள்ளை சண்டாளன் என்றால் நான் அப்படிப் பிறக்கவில்லை என்னுடைய வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களும் அப்படிப் பிறக்கவில்லை. நாங்கள் எங்கள் கருமங்களைச் சரிவரச் செய்துவருகிறோம். ஆகையினால் கருமச் சண்டாளர்களும் இல்லை. ஆகையினால் இருவகைச் சண்டாளர்களும் இல்லை. பெருநோயாளிகள் கிடையாது. நாய் தின்கிறதுமில்லை. ஒரு குற்ற முமில்லாது எங்களை தீண்டப்படாதவர்கள் என்று சொன்னால் சிரிக்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது.”

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“May I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker? I should like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that the hon. Member seems to be speaking on untouchability. Is it relevant to this subject?”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“That is the cut motion. (Laughter). May I know how long Swami Sahajanandam intends to speak?”

SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—“இன்னும் 15 நிமிஷங்கள் பேச வேண்டும்.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Out of regard for the usual practice of this House rising at 1 o'clock on Fridays, I now adjourn the House to meet again at 10 a.m. to-morrow.”

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 18th September 1937.

The House met in the Assembly Buildings, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

The proceedings began with the singing of Vande Mataram.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

List of wells dug by the Labour department in Malabar.

* 131 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to lay on the table a list of the wells dug by the Labour department in Malabar since the present District Labour Officer for Malabar, Mr. Joseph Eapen, took charge and the cost of construction of each well?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ The particulars are given in the statement * annexed.”

Diversion of the Railway Cess Fund by the South Arcot District Board.

* 132 Q.—MR. R. VENKATASUBBA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of the Railway-Cess Fund of the South Arcot District Board at the beginning of 1930–31;

(b) the amount of Railway-Cess Fund of the District Board on 31st December 1935;

(c) whether Government authorized the President of the District Board to separate the Railway-Cess Fund into corpus fund and interest fund;

(d) whether the attention of the Government was drawn by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts to the fact that the South Arcot District Board utilized unauthorizedly Railway-Cess Fund;

(e) whether the Government have approved of this irregular procedure;

(f) whether the Government took into consideration the capacity of the South Arcot District Board to maintain the roads formed out of the Railway-Cess Fund from its general resources; and

(g) why the Government now insist upon meeting the cost of completing the road works, started out of the Railway-Cess Fund in previous years by taking a loan of four lakhs of rupees from the Railway-Cess Fund repayable in eight instalments from general funds?

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THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) Rs. 20,78,085.

“(b) The amount of railway-cess funds as on 31st March 1936 was Rs. 10,58,356. The figure for 31st December 1935 is not available.

“(c) There are no specific orders of Government authorizing the President to separate the railway-cess fund into corpus fund and interest fund. The District Board was permitted to utilize the interest on the railway-cess funds for expenditure on road and bridge works included in a programme approved by the Government.

“(d) The Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has reported that there was no unauthorized diversion of railway-cess funds up to the end of 1935–36.

“(e) The question does not arise.

“(f) It was recently reported to the Government that want of funds for maintenance of the roads newly formed was keenly felt and that many of the roads built at considerable cost had badly deteriorated.

“(g) As the Board had committed itself to heavy expenditure and started a large number of works, the Government permitted a temporary diversion of four lakhs from the railway-cess fund, to enable it to meet the claims of contractors in respect of work already done and to complete the works which could not be left in an unfinished state.”

MR. R. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—“May I know the amount of the corpus which was originally held at the disposal of the district board?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have no information at present.”

MR. R. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the district board was permitted to spend from the principal of the railway-cess amount on road works?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Yes, Sir.”

MR. R. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House the report of the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The suggestion will be considered.”

MR. R. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—“Was the loan sanctioned for maintenance of roads or for completing incomplete roads?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“For completing incomplete roads only.”

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MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the four lakhs which is now sanctioned to be diverted, was meant for completing the incomplete works, or for maintenance of existing works, or both?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“For completing incomplete works.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“May I know the terms on which the amount of four lakhs was diverted from the fund, Sir?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have no information at present.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“Is any interest to be charged on that amount, Sir?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Notice, Sir.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“In view of the shortage of funds will the Hon. the Minister consider the desirability of utilizing the railway-cess fund on new road works?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am not in a position to state the position at present.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have satisfied themselves that the funds so diverted have been properly spent?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Yes, Sir.”

Irrigation projects relating to Salem district.

* 133 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many projects were investigated or were proposed to be investigated for the last 50 years in the district of Salem; and

(b) what they are?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) & (b) The following projects were investigated:—

- (1) Barur tank system.
- (2) Vaniar project.
- (3) Badathalev project.
- (4) Gudumalai project.
- (5) Krishnagiri Reservoir project.
- (6) Thoppiar project.
- (7) Marandahalli project.
- (8) Construction of an anicut across the Sarabanganadhi at Thevur.

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“ In connexion with the provision of irrigation facilities for Salem district from the Cauvery river and the Mettur reservoir the following schemes were considered:—

- (1) Excavation of a contour channel from the Mettur reservoir.
- (2) Excavation of a channel from the Mettur reservoir further east from the river past the watershed cutting.
- (3) Extension of irrigation under the present open head channels.
- (4) Construction of an anicut across the Cauvery somewhere below Mettur and above the junction of the Bhavani and taking off a channel therefrom.
- (5) Pumping scheme from the Mettur Reservoir to irrigate about 15,000 acres in Omalur taluk and to feed tanks, channels, streams and small rivers in Tiruchengodu, Salem and Namakkal taluks.
- (6) Pumping water at convenient points down the river to irrigate blocks of lands in Tiruchengodu and Namakkal taluks.”

Publication of the audit and administration reports of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams for the years 1933-34 to 1936-37.

* 134 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place on the table the reports of auditors appointed by the Local Government under section 31 of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Act and the Administration reports submitted under section 32 of that Act for all the years from 1933-34 to 1936-37 together with the orders passed by the Government thereon?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The reports are voluminous and the cost of printing them will be high. The Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by placing them on the table of the House.”

MR. K. VARADACHARI:—“ May I ask the Hon. the Minister whether he will consider the desirability of publishing the reports every year? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ They are published every year, but they are not printed.”

MR. K. VARADACHARI:—“ May I know, Sir, whether he will consider the desirability of printing them every year? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ So far there has never been any noticeable demand from the public, and if the hon. Member would insist on such publication, the department will certainly consider the matter.”

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MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ May I ask, Sir, what the present method of publication of these auditor's reports is? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The auditors' reports are on the files of the Government department.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ Does the Government consider it sufficient publication to keep them in the archives or files of the Government departments? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The auditors' reports are for the information of the Government.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Government will not make them available also to the pilgrim public the expenditure of whose money it is that is the subject of the audit? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The Government will certainly consider the question if there is a demand. Till now we have not had any demand; hereafter if there is a demand it will be considered.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“ May I know, Sir, whether they will be made available in the Fort St. George for inspection if anybody is interested in the matter? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ It is not in the Library, but if any hon. Member makes any specific demand as to what information he wants, I shall be only too glad to give it.”

* 135 Q.*

Abolition of the Middle School section attached to the Government Brennen College, Tellicherry.

* 136 Q.—MR. M. P. DAMODARAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have ordered the abolition of the Middle School section (i.e., classes 2 to 5 and Forms 1 to 3) attached to the Government Brennen College, Tellicherry;

(b) whether it is not a condition of the donor, Mr. Edward Brennen, that the college should have the whole of the High School section including the Middle School attached to it; and

(c) if so, what the need and justification are for the abolition of the Middle School section?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ (a) Yes.

“ (b) Mr. Brennen made no such condition.

“ (c) The lower classes and forms were abolished as a matter of economy and also to provide better and more adequate accommodation for the College, which the University insisted upon. There is a branch middle school at Tiruvengad in Tellicherry itself to meet the requirements of the pupils studying in lower classes and forms.”

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KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that Tiruvengad is far away from the Tellicherry town and whether it will not be inconvenient for the boys in Tellicherry town to go to Tiruvengad? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ Probably the Hon. Member is not aware that there is a high school very near this college.”

Failure of freshes in the Wadada Irrigation channel.

* 137 Q.—MR. C. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government are aware of the general failure of the Wadada Irrigation channel to supply sufficient water on account of its head being silted up often and also on account of the water in the river, when it is low, not flowing freely into the channel the level of which is a little bit higher?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ Government have no information but have called for a report.”

MR. C. NARASIMHAM:—“ May I ask, Sir, whether the Government will consider the desirability of constructing an anicut across the river? ”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ We will consider it.”

* 138 Q.*

Inadequacy of grants payable to the Municipal High School, Chicacole.

* 139 Q.—MR. C. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has ever been made to the Government in April 1929 about the inadequacy of the grant under secondary education for the Chicacole High School as compared with grants to sister municipal institutions in the Presidency;

(b) how the matter was disposed of and what orders were passed thereon;

(c) whether the orders were communicated to the Municipal Council, Chicacole;

(d) whether the Chicacole Municipality has requested for a full building grant for extension of its buildings; and

(e) whether any, and if so, what orders were passed thereon and communicated to the municipality?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ (a) & (d) Yes.

“ (b), (c) & (e) A copy ^b of G.O. No. 1880, Education, dated the 17th September 1930, which was duly communicated to the municipal council is placed on the table.”

^a Vide pages 290-291 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix II on page 346 infra.

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Scheme for protected water-supply to Chicacole Municipality.

* 140 Q.—MR. C. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the policy of the Government regarding the extension of the system of protected water-supply to municipalities and towns or villages situated in non-municipal areas;

(b) with reference to paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 915, L.S.G., dated 6th March 1937, reviewing the administration of the Chicacole Municipal Council for 1935-36, what steps were taken by the Municipal Council, Chicacole, and whether proposals for protected water-supply were submitted through the Sanitary Engineer; and

(c) if proposals have not been submitted, whether the Government will call upon the council to expedite the same?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ (a) The policy followed by Government is to give a free grant of one-half of the cost and to sanction a loan of the other half for all protected water supply schemes in both urban and rural areas. In exceptional cases which will be decided on their merits more than a half-grant is also given.

“ (b) & (c) The council has not submitted any report as to the action taken by it. A report will be called for.

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“ What are the conditions necessary for such a grant, Sir? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ There are no conditions. Each case will be considered on its own merits.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ Do I understand the Government to say that they are continuing their old policy or they have made any deviation therefrom? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ I do not know what the Hon. Member means by ‘old policy’.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED:—“ The policy in force prior to the coming into existence of the new Government? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ All the policy that has been laid down by the previous Government is being followed.”

Refusal of the Commissioner, Chicacole Municipality, to allow access to records demanded by a municipal councillor.

* 141 Q.—MR. C. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the Commissioner, Chicacole Municipality, has not given access to municipal records to a municipal councillor on a written requisition by the latter as per section 20 (3) of the District Municipalities Act in May 1937;

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(b) if so, what orders were passed thereon by the Government;

(c) whether the Commissioner has, in May 1937, contrary to section 13-B of the Municipal Act, addressed two letters to Government without forwarding them through the Chairman of the Chicacole Municipality;

(d) whether even after being demanded by the Chairman for access to those letters to him under section 13-B of the Municipal Act, the Commissioner refused to give him access;

(e) whether the Government sent the two letters for the forwarding notes of the Chairman as the two letters did not pass through the Chairman to Government as required by section 13-B of the Municipal Act, and if not, why not;

(f) what orders were passed by Government on the letters; and

(g) whether Government would, at least, in future, deal with cases falling under violation of the rights of chairman and councillors, in an exemplary manner to prevent such abuse of duties by the executive?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) The Government declined to interfere.

“(c) Only one letter of the kind was received by Government.

“(d) The Government have no information.

“(e) The answer is in the negative; the letter referred to in clause (c) which was received direct merely explained his previous letter sent through Chairman, Municipal Council.

“(f) The Commissioner was asked to show cause why he should not be asked to make good the avoidable expenditure in the suit filed by the late acting clerk Kurmanadhan.

“(g) Each case will be dealt with on its merits as it arises.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Commissioner is subordinate to the Chairman?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I think so.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Is there any power under the Act for the Commissioner to refuse records to the Chairman?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No, Sir.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Then, what made him refuse access to the records, Sir?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“His own discretion.”

10-15 a.m. MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Are the Government aware Sir, that no reasons have been recorded in writing by the Commissioner for refusing access to the records?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“As I said, this particular letter explains the previous letter sent through the Chairman Municipal Council.”

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MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask whether any action has been taken by the Government with regard to the subject-matter of this question?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The answer to (b) is that Government decline to interfere.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I know the reasons why the Government decline to interfere?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am not in a position to state at present.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether the Government are aware that the dignity of the Chairman of the Council has been infringed by the conduct of the Commissioner?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“We shall consider the suggestion, Sir.”

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“Am I to understand that Government is satisfied that the Commissioner has used his discretion rightly and refused access to records?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is a matter of opinion, Sir.”

MR. K. BASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“What is the opinion of the present Government on the action of the Commissioner?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“We have already stated that we do not propose to interfere in this matter.”

MR. K. BASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“Why, Sir, that is what we want to know?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Because we do not think it proper to interfere in this matter.”

MR. K. BASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“A serious allegation is made that the Chairman of the municipality was not allowed access to records by the Commissioner. The reasons must be known. If the reasons are good, well and good. If the reasons are not good, Government must not defend the action of the Commissioner?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“This particular case, as I already said more than once, is the case of a letter explaining the previous letter. That is why Government did not interfere in the matter.”

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that under the Act and the rules under the Act no correspondence can take place between the Commissioner and the Government except through the Chairman?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Yes, Sir.”

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MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Then why is it, Sir, that when a letter was sent to the Government independently and not through the Chairman, the Government has not taken action against the Commissioner?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"This particular letter explains the previous letter sent through the Chairman."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Is the Government aware that the relationship between the Commissioner on the one hand and the Chairman and the councillors on the other hand is not cordial in many municipalities?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is a matter of opinion."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—"May I know if there is any rule that letters explaining previous letters need not be sent through the Chairman?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There is no such rule."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, whether the opinion or the statement made by the Minister just now that the Chairman is subordinate to the Commissioner is based upon any interpretation to any section of the Act or any rules framed thereunder?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I did not say anything of that sort."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I heard the Hon. Minister say that he thought that the Chairman was subordinate."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question has not been put. The Hon. Minister will wait until the question is put. (Laughter.) The question is not put and therefore there will be no answer to that. Hon. Members are requested to put supplementary questions in the form of questions and not mere arguments."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Commissioner is subordinate both to the Chairman of the Council and the Government?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Have there been instances of Commissioners of other municipalities addressing Government direct instead of through the Chairmen?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As far as I know there is no such case."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Will the Government be pleased to go into the question of the relationship between the Commissioners and the Chairmen in the near future and lay down specific rules governing their relationship?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, the suggestion will be considered."

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MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—"May I know, Sir, if the Hon. Minister will call for explanation from this particular Commissioner?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We do not think it necessary."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"In view of the fact that hon. Members from all parts of the House have brought the fact to the notice of the Hon. Minister in the most effective manner that they do not regard the action of the Commissioner in this matter as wholly acceptable to this House, at least in view of that will the Hon. Minister take action that is very necessary in this case?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I shall look into the papers again."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"If the Commissioner of the municipality is subordinate to the chairman, is not the action of the Commissioner *ultra vires*?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In this matter I do not think it is the case."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I know whether instances have been brought to the notice of the Government where instead of sending a communication through the chairman it was directly sent."

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have already answered that question, Sir."

Working of the District Economic Council, Vizagapatam.

* 142 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) how many times the District Economic Council, Vizagapatam, has met from the date of its constitution till now;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied with the work of the said Council; and

(c) whether the Government would place the progress reports of the Council for the past three years on the table?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) & (c) Orders of Government directing constitution of District Economic Councils were issued only in July 1936; nomination of non-officials to the Council in Vizagapatam was made only in November 1936. Apart from a preliminary meeting convened by the Collector in September the Council held no meeting in 1936. There was thus no progress to report for 1936. The first meeting of the Council after its constitution was held on 9th January 1937. The reports ^a of the Collector on the progress of work of the Council during the quarters ending 31st March 1937 and 30th June 1937 are appended.

" (b) The Council has only just begun to function."

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MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"When the Government is considering the proposal where is the scope for the economic council's usefulness and in what manner?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The matter is under consideration."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Do the Government also think it necessary to retain the economic councils?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"It is a matter of opinion, Sir."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"What are the kinds of work done by the economic councils?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The hon. Member is referred to the Government Order constituting the councils."

MR. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that they attend to laying roads, which work is also attended to by the district boards?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"It is not so, Sir."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether there are any sources of income to these economic councils?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Grant from the Government of India."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government of India will be paying every year?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"We have to wait and see."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If not, may I know whether this Government propose to give any grant to the council?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"It will be considered later."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"What are the special duties that are being performed by these economic councils?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The hon. Member is referred to the Government Order constituting these committees."

MR. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN:—"Is it a fact that the work of these boards and their responsibilities are also attended to by the district boards?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"It has been answered, Sir, more than once, on the floor of the House."

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AN HON. MEMBER:—"In view of the duplication of work that is being done by the councils, will the Government abolish them?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"It is a matter of opinion, Sir."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"In view of the opinions expressed from various sides of the House, will the Government consider the desirability of abolishing these boards?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Yes, Sir."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Government aware that the function of the District Economic Council is to co-ordinate the activities of all the Government departments of the district?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Yes, it is so."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"When do the Government propose to abolish these economic councils?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Not at present, Sir."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Does the Government know that the Government of India has not allotted any funds this year?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"I do not know, Sir."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—"May I know whether, 10-30 when there are no funds available, there is any use in continuing this a.m. council?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"At present, there is a provision of Rs. 2,80,000."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"What is the amount of daily allowance drawn by a member of the economic council for each sitting?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Notice."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know when the Local Government came to know that there would be no further grant from the Government of India?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Notice, Sir."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know if the sum of Rs. 2,80,000 is available for all the economic councils in the Presidency?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"It is the balance available at present, Sir."

MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Are the functions of the economic councils only advisory?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Yes, Sir."

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Enquiry into the grievances of workers by the Inspector of Factories.

* 143 Q.—MR. V. V. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the factory inspector is consulting the workers in factories about their grievances during his visit to the factories; if so, where; if not, what the reasons for it are?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Representations in regard to violation of factory regulations by owners of factories brought to the notice of factory inspectors during their inspections either by individual workers or by trade unions will be looked into by the Inspectors.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the Government will consider the desirability of insisting upon the factory inspectors to have personal contact with trade unions and find out from them whether there has been any violation of the regulations?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Trade unions from time to time meet the factory inspectors and the factory inspectors when they come make enquiries as to whether there has been any violation of the regulations.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I ask whether the Government are aware of the fact that rules 90 and 91 of the Madras Factory Rules prescribing the method of factory inspection do not statutorily compel the factory inspectors to consult or enquire into or receive representations from the workers or their trade union representatives during their visits, and if the answer is in the affirmative whether the Government propose to exercise their rule-making powers in this respect in favour of the factory workers?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Directions are being given to the factory inspectors in this behalf?”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister proposes to empower certain members of the Assembly representing Labour constituencies to work as honorary factory inspectors in view of the inadequacy of the present strength of the paid-inspection staff?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The matter is being considered, Sir.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“Will the Government consider the desirability of making it a part of the rules so as to compel the factory inspectors to meet the workers?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The matter will be considered, Sir.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“In cases where there are no trade unions, may I ask, Sir, whether it is not possible to instruct the factory inspectors to meet the workers collectively?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“I can't do it, Sir.”

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MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—“May I ask how many factory inspectors there are in the Presidency?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Notice, Sir.”

MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—“What is the supervision over the work of the factory inspectors?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The Government have supervision over them.”

MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—“How many districts are within the jurisdiction of a single factory inspector?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Notice, Sir.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Has Government any proposal to appoint any factory welfare inspectors to look after the welfare of the workers?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Not at the present moment.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Will Government take the question into consideration?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“It will be considered.”

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“Do Government consider it desirable to ask the inspectors not to consult individual workers but to consult the unions as otherwise it would be creating trouble between the worker and the employer?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“No, Sir.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I know whether Government have any proposal to widen the application of the factory inspection rules to more factories just as the Bombay Government have recently done?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Yes, Sir.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I know whether the Government will extend the application of factory inspection to printing presses employing five or more people, whether the presses use power or not, since the sanitary condition of these presses is anything but satisfactory and they very often smell like public latrines?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Notice, Sir.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to issue orders to the factory inspectors to associate themselves with the workers or their trade union representatives in inquiring into accidents occurring in factories and railway workshops in the province including those resulting fatally, pending the exercise of rule-making powers by Provincial Government?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“I have generally answered that question. But if the hon. Member wants a particular answer he may put a question down.”

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MR. J. NUTTALL:—" May I know whether it is the intention of the Government, when these enquiries are made by the Inspector of Factories, to allow the employers to know what those enquiries are? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Yes, Sir."

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—" May I know whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Factory Act? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Not at present, Sir."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether, when the inspectors are making enquiries of the workers, they would do so in the presence of the managers of the factories concerned? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" It depends on the Factory Inspector. The Factory Inspector is at liberty to do so."

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that there are many children working in the beedi factories and does he not therefore think it desirable to amend the Factories Act so that all these petty factories may be drawn under his review? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" The matter will be investigated."

Collection of land revenue in South Arcot on pattas paying Rs. 5 and less in a lump sum in a single instalment.

* 135 Q.—MR. R. VENKATASUBBA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that in South Arcot alone land revenue for pattas paying Rs. 5 and less has been ordered to be collected in the January instalment itself;

(b) whether the Government are aware that in 1935-36 and 1936-37 this method of collection has particularly rendered useless the remission of land revenue in those years;

(c) the total number of pattas in the district;

(d) the total number of pattas paying Rs. 5 and less in the district;

(e) whether the Government are aware that several pattas paying less than Rs. 5 are held by the same person; and

(f) whether the Government will consider the desirability of cancelling the said order?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam):—" (a) Yes, as an experimental measure for four years from fasli 1345. The orders relating to fasli 1345 were given effect to only in February 1936, and in fasli 1346 the collection was postponed to February 1937 at the instance of the Collector.

" (b) The Government are not aware that this was the case, and they do not understand how the collection of the kist in one instalment could have interfered with the remission granted.

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" (c) 707,255.

" (d) In fasli 1345 there were 188,281 pattas paying one rupee and less and 396,490 pattas paying ten rupees and less but more than one rupee. No information is available as regards the number of pattas paying Rs. 5 and less.

" (e) The Government are not aware that this is so on any large scale.

" (f) The question is under consideration."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask, Sir, why this order was passed insisting upon the collection of the kist of Rs. 5 and less in one instalment instead of in four instalments as in other cases? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" It was found by the Collector of the district that the collections were very slack and on his recommendation this new order was passed."

MR. M. DORAIKANNU:—" Is it not a fact that for the small pattadars it will be easy to pay in one instalment because it is only in the beginning of January and February that these people will have some thing to pay and if it is delayed, the money will be spent by them and it will be very difficult to collect it afterwards? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" That is exactly the view which prevailed with the Collector, with which the Government agreed."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether this order of the Collector had the approval of the Government? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" Yes, Sir, it was a Government order."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether it is not a fact that in the month of January, in several parts of South Arcot district, the harvest is not completed and the produce is not in the hands of the ryots to pay the kist? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" To an extent only it is true. Generally it was found that dry crops are harvested in January and the ryot would be able to pay the instalment."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask whether the Government are aware that, except in the case of a few taluks, in the majority of taluks, the ryot is deprived of the very produce harvested on the field in order to pay the kist to Government? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I submit, Sir, that with regard to the dates of payment, not only in this district but also throughout the Presidency, the Government will consider the question of rearranging the dates for the payment of land revenue, with due regard to the time of harvesting and the time and facility for marketing by the tenants."

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MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether there has been an insistent demand that the Collector should fix six instead of four instalments, and, if so, will Government consider the desirability of collecting this amount as the last instalment? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" It is not quite desirable to postpone it till the last instalment because by that time the tenant will have gone into the hands of the creditor and the Government will have to go to a tenant with no money."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" There has been already agitation in this particular district that the payment of kist be postponed by two months; so will Government be pleased to issue orders before the end of November for the collection of kist in the last instalment? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I have submitted that the orders were passed in January 1936 and July 1936, and the present Government will consider the question of rearranging the dates not only in this district but throughout the Presidency."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether Government will arrange to issue orders before December? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" Immediately after the examination of the question is finished, orders will issue."

Imposition of a high water-rate for second crops in the Parlakimedi Estate.

* 138 Q.—MR. C. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government are aware of certain representations made by the ryots of the Parlakimedi Estate in the Madras Province regarding the exorbitant water-rates for second crops charged by the estate quite out of proportion to the Government rates?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" The answer is in the negative."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" May I know whether the Government is aware that the High Court has fixed the second-crop water-rate in a favourable manner to the ryot? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" The rates cannot be fixed by the High Court; and so far as the zamindari is concerned, it is a matter which is covered by the provisions of the Estates Land Act and the Government do not directly come into the matter."

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MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" May I know whether the Government is not aware that in the representation made by the tenants, reference is made to the High Court decisions regarding water-rates which are far below the rates demanded by the estate? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I have submitted that there was no representation and in the one representation which is now before the Government, no reference has been made to the exorbitant water-rates for second crop charged by the estate."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" Will the Government consider the desirability of extending the benefit of the High Court's decision to all the ryots in that estate? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I have no doubt that the hon. Member is aware that the Government intend moving before this Assembly for the formation of a committee to go into the question of the condition of tenants in all zamindari areas, and may I suggest that the hon. Member may put all these matters before that committee? "

Remission of kist by the Revenue authorities in the Chandragiri division.

* 144 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the jamabandi conducted in March 1937 by the Revenue authorities in the Chandragiri division of Chittoor district, the jamabandi officer was pleased to grant a remission of the kist payable by the ryots of the ayacut under Peddacheruvu and Chinna-cheruvu in Thukkivakkam village, Chandragiri taluk;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said remission was granted on the ground that the lands in the ayacut were uncultivated and kept waste in fasli 1346; and

(c) whether the remission was granted after personal inspection of the lands and making other local enquiries by the Revenue authorities concerned?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) to (c) The Government have no information."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—" Will they call for the 10-45 a.m. information? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" They will certainly call for the information, if it is asked for."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—" I ask for it, Sir."

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" Yes, Sir."

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.*Protection against the import of foreign coconuts and products.*

107 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has been brought to his notice that there are heavy imports of coconuts and coconut-oil and other products into this Presidency;

(b) whether it is a fact that the heavy increase in imports of coconuts during the last four or five years has affected the coconut prices both in the East and West coasts of this Presidency;

(c) the quantity of imports during the four previous years;

(d) to what extent and how these imports affected the prices in the local market; and

(e) what steps the Local Government have taken or propose to take to impress upon the Government of India the necessity and urgency to prohibit the imports of foreign coconuts and other products into our Presidency thus to protect the coconut industry from ruin?

A.—(a) Yes; of the total imports of coconuts and copra to India in 1936–37, roughly one-third was to Madras Presidency; of coconut-oil, Madras took one-eleventh.

(b), (c) & (d) The imports of coconuts, copra and coconut-oil during the past four years were as shown below:—

Year.	Coconuts in million number.	Copra (tons).	Coconut-oil in million gallons.
1933–34	2.33	3,942	.19
1934–35	6.63	5,101	.65
1935–36	7.78	7,044	.57
1936–37	5.37	14,855	.70

It is not possible to say definitely to what extent the increased imports of coconut products have affected the local price of the coconut. The increasing demand for the products from the rapidly growing soap and vegetable ghee industry has also had a tendency to arrest the fall in prices.

(e) Foreign imports to Madras were mainly from Ceylon. Strong representations were made to the Government of India for imposition of a heavy duty on these imports but the Government of India did not agree. Further representations have been made in the matter and it is believed that these will be given due consideration in the Indo-Ceylon trade negotiations.

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Electric installation in the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore.

108 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether any complaint has been brought to the notice of the Government that the electric installation of the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore, has been tampered with?

A.—No.

Milk supply in the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore.

109 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a sample of the hospital supply milk in the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore, was sent to the Public Analyst in Madras on 4th June 1937, which showed plenty of sugar; whilst the duplicate sample of the same sent by the District Medical Officer on 23rd June 1937 at the contractor's cost for analysis showed no sugar at all; and

(b) if so, what the explanation given by the District Medical Officer is?

A.—The Government have no information, but have called for it.

Welfare of the Harijan coolies employed in the plantations of Mysore, Coorg and Wynad.

110 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to call for a report on—

(a) the number of Harijan coolies of South Kanara and Malabar working in the different plantations in Mysore, Coorg and Wynad;

(b) the extent of the indebtedness of these coolies; and

(c) whether they are subject to frequent attacks of malaria?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have no information, but they are trying to collect the same.

Alleged racial discrimination in the assignment of house-sites in Valparai, Pollachi taluk.

111 Q.—MR. V. K. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 1929 an extent of 204 acres of land was surveyed and allotted as Valparai township, for house-sites, in the Anamalai Hills, Pollachi taluk, Coimbatore district;

(b) whether it is a fact that hundreds of applications from Indian settlers requesting to grant sites for building houses were refused till now, while many sites were assigned to the English companies and other English concerns;

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(c) whether it is a fact that applications for house-sites from Indians were forwarded to the Anamalai Planters' Association and sites were refused to them in accordance with the recommendations of that association;

(d) whether it is a fact that recently on the recommendation of the Anamalai Planters' Association a plot, far away from the main road and by the side of the Christian and Muhammadan burial grounds, situated in an unhealthy low level, was promised to be assigned to the Indian settlers and that they refused to accept that;

(e) whether the Government have received any representation that for want of proper dwelling houses of their own, many of the Indian merchants and others suffer a great deal by paying exorbitant rents to the English planters for dwelling in their inadequate and unwholesome sheds; and

(f) whether it is a fact that a site of 10 cents was assigned to the Hindu settlers at Valparai township to build their Subrahmanyaswami temple and whether it is true that the assignment was subsequently cancelled and a site which is near the Christian and Muhammadan burial ground and, as such, quite unsuitable to the religious sentiment of the Hindus, was promised to be assigned?

A.—(a) The area reserved for the Valparai township was first computed as 234 acres. On survey it was found to be 202.76 acres.

(b) to (d) The Government have no information but have called for a report.

(e) The answer is in the negative.

(f) In 1931 the Government sanctioned the alienation of 15 cents of land in S. No. 41-5 of Anamalai township in favour of the trustee for the time being of a Subrahmanyaswami temple for use, as the site of the temple. In 1933 the Collector reported that the alienee was not anxious to have this site but proposed to apply for another site and the Board of Revenue accordingly passed orders resuming the site. The Government have no information on the other points raised in the question but they have called for a report.

Refusal of recognition to the Vizagapatam Medical College by the Indian Medical Council.

112 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Indian Medical Council refused to recognize the Vizagapatam Medical College;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such refusal;

(c) whether the authorities of the Indian Medical Council suggested any, and, if so, what improvements as the *sine qua non* of recognition;

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(d) whether any estimates were prepared regarding such essential prerequisites;

(e) if so, what the estimated cost thereof is; and

(f) whether the Government made any, and if so, what arrangements to carry out the recommendations made by the authorities of the Indian Medical Council?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The Indian Medical Council are not satisfied that the college is at present sufficient for the training of students particularly because of—

(1) the inadequate accommodation and arrangements for treatment and teaching in the out-patient department and

(2) the antiquated provision made for teaching midwifery and gynaecology.

Other improvements and additions to buildings are also required.

(d) & (e) Approximate plans and estimates for all the works have been prepared. The total estimate amounts to about 16 lakhs. If certain additional buildings suggested by the Surgeon-General are included the approximate cost will amount to 23.89 lakhs.

(f) The Government are making all possible arrangements.

Total estimated cost, etc., of the Lower Bhavani Project.

113 Q.—MR. D. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the Lower Bhavani Project stands;

(b) what the total estimated cost of the above project is;

(c) what time it will take for its completion;

(d) what the total acreage is in Gobichettipalaiyam and Erode taluks that the project is intended to serve;

(e) whether it is proposed to sanction double-crop cultivation for the Tadapalli and Arakkankottai channels ayacut after the completion of the project;

(f) whether the object of the project is to ensure a steady and regular water-supply only for dry cultivation;

(g) what the maximum assessment is per acre of dry land the Government propose to levy for the water-supply;

(h) what the return is the Government expect on the outlay; and

(i) whether all the riparian owners to be benefited by the project have agreed to pay the enhanced assessment?

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- 4.—(a) The scheme is still under investigation.
 (b) 247 lakhs
 (c) About six years } as at present estimated.
 (d) Gobichettipalayam—46,960 acres.
 Erode—141,973 acres.
 (e) There is already second-crop irrigation under these channels;
 it is not proposed to extend it after the completion of
 the project.
 (f) Yes.
 (g) Rs. 9.
 (h) 5.78 per cent.
 (i) Not all of them.

Labour Department staff and the work done by them in South Kanara.

114 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of labour schools opened by the present District Labour Officer, South Kanara, and the total number of labour schools in South Kanara;

(b) the number of wells dug in South Kanara by the Labour department; and the total number of wells dug by the present Labour Officer for South Kanara and the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the total number of teachers appointed by the present District Labour Officer;

(d) how many Special Labour Inspectors were appointed by the Government for South Kanara; what work the Special Labour Overseer has turned out for the last six months, i.e., from January to June 1937; and

(e) how many acres of plots were given on darkhast by the Labour department in South Kanara by the present Labour Officer?

- A.—(a) The number of labour schools opened by the present District Labour Officer is 9 and the total number of labour schools in the district is 44.
 (b) The total number of wells dug by the Labour department in South Kanara is 175. The number dug by the present District Labour Officer is 30 and the expenditure incurred thereon is Rs. 13,886-13-0.
 (c) The total number of teachers appointed by the present District Labour Officer is 13.
 (d) There are two Special Inspectors in South Kanara district. The Special Overseer who was in service for six months from December 1936 to May 1937 had to supervise and check-measure well and school works and inspect old wells, labour schools and colonies.
 (e) The District Labour Officer is not empowered to assign land on darkhast. However, the assignment of 320.80 acres of land to 562 members of depressed classes was made on the recommendation of the present District Labour Officer.

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Proposal to put an end to the adulteration of ghee in the market.

115 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps will be taken to put a stop to the growing malpractice of adulteration of ghee in the market;

(b) whether the Government are aware that hydrogenated fats and oils are freely used in adulterating ghee; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to control the import and sale of hydrogenated fats and oils?

A.—(a) The Government have already prohibited the sale of adulterated ghee in areas where the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act is in force by the issue of rules under section 20 (2) of that Act.

(b) Yes. That was why the sale of adulterated ghee was prohibited.

(c) There is no need to consider this question now.

Particulars regarding the number and pay of I.C.S. officers in the Presidency.

116 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of I.C.S. men in this Presidency;

(b) the number working in each department; and

(c) the total amount of salaries and allowances paid to them?

A.—(a) The actual strength of the Madras cadre of the I.C.S. at present is 156.

(b) A statement^a showing the position as on 1st September is annexed.

(c) About Rs. 2,25,000 a month. [This excludes the salaries and allowances of officers of this Province who are employed under the Government of India and other Provincial Governments and Administrations and on foreign service, which are not debitable to this Government.]

Appointment to the posts of Chief Conservator of Forests, Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests and Deputy Conservator of Forests.

117 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) the qualifications for the office of Chief Conservator of Forests, his personal assistant and of the Deputy Conservator of Forests;

(b) by whom these appointments are made; and

(c) the salary of each?

^a Printed as Appendix IV on page 351 infra.

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A.—(a) No specific qualifications have been prescribed for the office of the Chief Conservator. The officer is selected for his capacity, merit, experience and service. The Personal Assistant is of the grade of Deputy Conservator of Forests. He is selected with reference to his aptitude for secretarial work. The Deputy Conservators are members of the Indian Forest Service. Direct recruits to the service are called Assistant Conservators. Officers drawing pay at the rate of Rs. 575 and upwards rank as Deputy Conservators. No special qualifications apart from the qualifications required for recruitment to the service are prescribed for Deputy Conservators. Rules of recruitment are published in Notification No. 232-F, dated 20th February 1930, at pages 147–152 of the *Gazette of India* (Part I), dated 22nd February 1930.

(b) Recruitment to the Indian Forest Service was made by the Secretary of State. The appointment to the grade of Chief Conservator and Personal Assistant is made by the Local Government.

(c) Chief Conservator—Rs. 2,500—125—2,750.

Personal Assistant—His grade pay as Deputy Conservator.
Deputy Conservators—Those drawing Rs. 575 and upwards in the time-scale—Rs. 325—50—725 efficiency bar—Rs. 800—50—1,350.

The pay above mentioned is exclusive of overseas pay granted to officers of European domicile.

Bifurcation of the Tinnevely District Board.

118 Q.—MRS. JEBAMONEY MASILLAMONEY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the District Collector for Tinnevely was asked to report on the advisability or otherwise of the bifurcation of that district;

(b) what his report was;

(c) whether the bifurcation now followed was in accordance with his report or against it; and

(d) if the latter, what the reasons were for acting against the Collector's report?

A.—The answer to clause (a) is in the negative; the questions in clauses (b), (c) and (d) do not arise.

Proposal to discontinue the practice of appointing pensioned gazetted officers to temporary posts in Government service.

119 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR P. M. ATTAKOYA THANGAL: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any pensioned gazetted officers have been provided with temporary Government appointments;

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(b) if so, for how many years past this practice has been going on;

(c) how many such appointments had been made during such period;

(d) what was the necessity for filling up such vacancies with pensioned officers and why competent men already in service were not appointed to them; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to discontinue that practice?

A.—(a) to (e) The position is as follows:—

Article 520 of the Civil Service Regulations which has been in existence for a long time permits the re-employment of pensioners on public grounds. But in view of the statutory rules for Provincial and Subordinate Services which prescribe a maximum age-limit for appointment, re-employment of pensioners is not possible because they cannot satisfy the age rule. In only one case, viz., that of Assistant Curator, Madras Record office, provision has been made in the rules for the appointment of a retired officer of the Provincial service and even that only for special reasons; no age-limit has been prescribed for such appointment.

Bifurcation of the Ramnad District Board and nominations thereto.

120 Q.—MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) what the grounds were on which the Ramnad District Board was bifurcated into the north and the south boards;

(b) what the total strength is of members of the North Ramnad District Board; how many were nominated to the said board;

(c) what the principles are which were adopted for these nominations;

(d) whether it is a fact that a candidate defeated at the election for the Tiruppattur Circle was immediately nominated by the Government to the said board;

(e) if so, on what grounds;

(f) when the seat for the Sivaganga Circle of the said board fell vacant; and

(g) when Government propose to hold the by-election for the above seat?

A.—(a) The Ramnad District Board was bifurcated as in the opinion of the then Government the area comprised within its jurisdiction cannot, after the abolition of taluk boards, be conveniently administered by a single district board.

(b) The total strength is 26. Eight members were nominated.

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- (c) The principle was to secure adequate representation on the district board of the communities referred to in subsection (1) of section 9 of the Madras Local Boards Act and women.
- (d) The answer is in the affirmative.
- (e) The member under reference was not disqualified from nomination.
- (f) The Government have no information.
- (g) In view of the answer to clause (f), this clause does not arise.

Acceptance of higher tenders for road contracts by the President, North Ramnad District Board.

121 Q.—MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether any complaints were received by Government regarding the rejection of lower tenders and the acceptance of higher tenders for road contracts by the President, North Ramnad District Board, for the current year; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government did not consider that any action was necessary.

Formation and maintenance of new roads in the South Arcot District Board.

122 Q.—MR. R. PONNUSWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of railway cess fund that was in the custody of the South Arcot District Board during the end of 1930–31;

(b) the amount of railway cess fund that was shown in the accounts of the South Arcot District Board during the end of 1934–35;

(c) whether there is any order from Government authorizing the President of the District Board to separate the railway cess fund into corpus fund and interest fund;

(d) whether the attention of Government has been drawn by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts to the action of the South Arcot District Board in unauthorizedly utilizing the railway cess fund under the plea of interest funds;

(e) whether the Government have approved this irregular procedure;

(f) whether the Government have taken into consideration whether it will be possible for the South Arcot District Board to maintain the roads formed out of railway-cess funds from its general resources;

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(g) how many roads have been formed out of the railway-cess funds;

(h) why the Government now insist upon meeting the cost of completing the road works taken up under railway-cess in previous years by diverting four lakhs of rupees from railway-cess funds and then making good the amount by eight instalments from general funds; and

(i) what action the Government have taken against those who are responsible for this waste of funds?

A.—(a) Rs. 20,32,771.

(b) Rs. 12,86,551.

(c) There are no specific orders of Government authorizing the President to separate the railway-cess fund into corpus fund and interest fund. The district board was permitted to utilize the interest on the railway-cess funds for expenditure on road and bridge works included in a programme approved by the Government.

(d) The Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has reported that there was no unauthorized diversion of railway-cess funds up to the end of 1935–36.

(e) The question does not arise.

(f) It was recently reported to the Government that want of funds for maintenance of the roads newly formed was keenly felt and that many of the roads built at considerable cost had badly deteriorated.

(g) The Government have no definite information.

(h) As the board had committed itself to heavy expenditure and started a large number of works, the Government permitted a temporary diversion of four lakhs from the railway-cess fund, enabling it to meet the claims of contractors in respect of work already done and to complete the work which could not be left in an unfinished state.

(i) The expenditure was incurred by the district board in the exercise of the powers vested in it under the Madras Local Boards Act. Any irregular or unauthorized expenditure will in due course be dealt with by the auditor under the surcharge.

Proposal for the construction of a bridge across the Coleroon river near Vallampadugai, Chidambaram taluk.

123 Q.—MR. R. PONNUSWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a proposal to construct a bridge across the Coleroon river near Vallampadugai, Chidambaram taluk;

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(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, why such a proposal was dropped; and

(c) whether the Government propose to sanction the construction in the near future?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The proposal was dropped on account of the prohibitive cost of the bridge.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Construction of the bridge across the Pennar at Nellore.

124 Mr. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the bridge over the Pennar river at Nellore will be taken up for construction during the budget year;

(b) if so, what is the amount allotted for the purpose; and

(c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the limited funds available for the construction of major bridges, it is not possible to take up the construction of the bridge in the current year or in the near future.

Provision for the construction of a bridge across the Bharata river in Malabar.

125 Q.—Mr. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned any amount for the construction of a bridge over the Bharata river in the Malabar district; and

(b) when and where the bridge is to be constructed?

A.—(a) & (b) The construction of a bridge across the Bharatapuzha river at a suitable site to give a bridged road from Tirur to Ponnani at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,77,000 has been approved by the Government. Of the total cost, rupees two lakhs is to be met by loan and the balance of Rs. 5,77,000 is to be debited to the Road Development Fund. No sum has yet been allotted for expenditure in the current year pending the passing of the Civil Budget Estimate for 1937–38 by the Legislature and the sanction of the estimate by the Chief Engineer.

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937–38—cont.

(8) DEMAND VIII—HEADS OF PROVINCES, MINISTERS AND STAFF—cont.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Discussion on the cut motion of Mr. Ari Gowder under Demand VIII will now continue. Swami Sahajanandam will continue his speech."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே நேற்றைய தினம் இந்த டிமாண்டின் கீழ் கொண்டுவந்த Cut motion-ல் பேசினதை தொடர்ந்து பேசுகிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு தீண்டாமை போகவும் ஆலயப்பிரவேச உரிமை கொடுக்கவும் சட்டம் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்பது என்னுடைய கோரிக்கை. நேற்றையதினம் தீண்டப்படாதவர்கள் ஹரி ஜனங்கள் அல்ல என்பதை விளக்கிக் கூறிவிட்டேன். சாஸ்திரப்படி தீண்டாமை என்பது பெரு நோயானிகள் விஷயத்திலும் நாயைத் தின்னிறவர்கள் விஷயத்திலும், சண்டாளர்கள் விஷயத்திலும், அனுஷ்டிக்கவேண்டியது என்று இருக்கிறது. இந்த மூன்று சபாவங்களும் ஹரிஜனங்களிடத்தில் இல்லை. ஹரிஜனங்களாகிய நாங்கள் பெருநோயானிகளுமன்று. நாயைத் தின்னிறவர்களுமன்று, சண்டாளர்களுமன்று. ஆகையினாலே நாங்கள் தீண்டப்படாதவர்கள் அல்லவென்பதை விளக்கமாகச் சொல்லிவிட்டேன். பிறகு ஆலயப்பிரவேச உரிமை ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு இருக்கிறதா இல்லையா என்பது கேள்வி. சாஸ்திரத்தில் பார்த்தால் ஆலயப்பிரவேச உரிமை யாருக்கு வேண்டுமென்பதைப் பற்றி சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கீதை 18-வது அத்தியாயம் 20—22-வது சுலோகத்தில் பகவான் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார் (சமஸ்கிருதம்) தாமத ஞானமுடையவர்களுக்கு கோவில் வேண்டும். சாத்வீக ஞானமுடையவர்களுக்கு கோவில் வேண்டியதில்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறார். தாமத ஞானமுடையவர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்கள். சாத்வீக ஞானமுடையவர்கள் அந்தணர்கள். அதாவது பிராமணர்கள். ஆகையினாலே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கோவில் வேண்டும். பிராமணர்களுக்கு கோவில் வேண்டியதில்லை என்பது பகவானுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். பிராமணர்கள் கடவுளை எங்கும் வியாபகமாக காண்கிறார்கள். கடவுளைக் கட்டையிலும் கல்லிலும் மரங்களிலும் காண்பவர்கள் தாழ்ந்த ஜாதியார்கள். கல்லிலும் கட்டையிலும் கடவுளைக்கண்டு வணங்குகிறவர்கள் தாழ்ந்த ஜாதியாராயிருப்பதனால் தாழ்ந்த ஜாதியாருக்கு அதாவது ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கோவில் பிரவேச உரிமை வேண்டும். உயர்ந்த ஜாதியார் பேரறிவுடையவர்கள். கடவுளை எங்கும் வியாபகமாக காண்கிறவர்களாயிருப்பதினால் அவர்களுக்கு கோவிலில் பிரவேசித்து கடவுளை வணங்கவேண்டிய உரிமை இல்லை. அறிவிற குன்றிய சபாவமுள்ள ஹரிஜனங்கள் கோவிலுக்குப் போய் பகவானைக் கும்பிடவேண்டியது அவசியமென்பது பகவத்கீதை 18-வது அத்தியாயம் 20—22-வது சுலோகங்களில் இருக்கிறது. ஆகவே சாஸ்திரங்களில் சொல்லி இருக்கிறபடி ஹரி ஜனங்கள் தீண்டப்படாதவர்களல்ல. அவர்களுக்கு ஆலயப் பிரவேச உரிமை இருக்கிறது. எண்ணப்போன்றவர்கள் சாஸ்திரங்களைப் படித்து இப்பொழுது தெரிந்து சொல்ல முன் வந்திருக்கிறோம். இப்படி இருக்கிறது என்று சொல்ல ஆள் இல்லாமல் போனதினால் நாங்கள் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களாக கருதப்பட்டு வந்திருக்கிறோம். சாஸ்திரத்தை ஆராய்ச்சி செய்தபின் மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகளின் உண்ணாவிரதத்திற்குப்பின், ஹரிஜனங்கள் தீண்டப்படாதவர்களல்ல அவர்களுக்கு கோவிலுக்குப் போக உரிமை கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்கும் நிலைமை உண்டாகிவிட்டது. இந்த விஷயத்தில் பல விஷயங்கள் சொல்லவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. திருக்குறள் என்பது ஆதிதிராவிட வேதம். சைவசமயத்தார் தேவாரம் திருவாசகங்களைத் திராவிட வேதமென்பர், வைணவர்கள், நாலாயிர பிரபந்தத்தை திராவிட வேதமென்பர். இவ்விரு சமய திராவிட வேதங்களும் தமிழ் மறையாகிய திருக்குறளிலிருந்து தோன்றியவை, ஆகவே திராவிட வேதங்களுக்கு ஆதியாக நின்றலின் திருக்குறளை ஆதிதிராவிட வேதமென்பர். ஆகவே ஆதிதிராவிட வேதமாகிய திருக்குறளைப் படிக்கிறவர்கள் ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள். நாங்கள் மாத்மியம் படிக்கிறோம் என்கிறதினால் மற்றவர்களுக்கு படிக்கும் உரிமை இல்லை என்று வைத்துக்கொள்ளக்கூடாது. திராவிட

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [18th September 1937]

வேதத்தை மற்றும் வேதத்தைப் படிக்கிறவர்களும் படிக்கலாம். திராவிட வேதத்தைப் படிக்கும் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களாகிய எங்களுக்கு ஆலயப் பிரவேச உரிமை கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஆனால் வகுப்பை புண்ணிய கேடத்திரமாகிய கோவிலுக்குள் எங்களை போகக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லுவது மகராஜா. இந்த விஷயத்தை அறிந்த மகாராஜா காந்தியடிகள் இருபது நாள் பட்டினி கிடந்தார். உடனே பூதா ஒப்பந்தம் செய்யப்பட்டது. காங்கிரஸ் ஆதி வரும் அப்பொழுது தீண்டாமை ஒழிப்புச் சட்டத்தை முதல் சட்டமாகச் செய்யப்படும் என்று வாக்குறுதி கொடுத்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு வந்திருக்கிறது. காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகள் வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். நல்ல காரியங்களைச் செய்ய தொடங்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். மதுவாகிய அரக்கனைக் கொல்லக் கங்கணங் கட்டிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஏழை விவசாயிகளுக்கு உதவி செய்யக் கங்கணங் கட்டிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்கக் கங்கணங் கட்டிக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். கணம் முதன் மந்திரி அவர்கள் நாங்கள் பத்து மாதமிருந்தாலும் பத்து நாள் இருந்தாலும் மது என்ற அரக்கனை ஒழித்துவிட்டுத்தான் போவோம் என்று சொன்னார்கள். அதே மாதிரி தீண்டாமையையும் ஒழித்துவிட்டுப் போகும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம். காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகளுடைய கொள்கை என்ன ஹரிஜனங்களை முன்னேற்றவும் தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்கவும் என்ன செய்யப்போகிறார்கள் என்பதை விளக்கிக் கூறும்படி கேட்கிறேன். மேலும் நான் கேட்கிற தற்கும் அரசாங்கத்திற்கும் சம்பந்தமில்லை என்று நினைக்கக்கூடாது. திருமூலர் திருமந்திரத்தில் அரசாங்கம் இந்த விஷயத்தைச் செய்யவேண்டும் என்று இருக்கிறது. சட்டத்திற்கு விரோதமாக நடப்பவர்களை அரசாங்கத்தார் துப்பாக்கியினால் சுட்டுவிடுவார்கள். ஈஸ்வரன் சட்டத்திற்கு மாறாக நடக்கிற இதைத்திருத்த வேண்டியது அரசாங்கத்தின் கடமை. இதைப்பற்றி திருமூலர் திருமந்திரம் ராஜதோஷம் என்னும் அதிகாரத்தில் விளக்கமாக கூறி இருக்கிறது. ராஜாக்கள் என்ன செய்யவேண்டும், என்ன மாதிரி நடக்கவேண்டுமென்பது அந்த அதி காரத்தில் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகையினாலே இதை ராஜாங்கம் கவனிக்க வேண்டுமென்பது திருமூலர் திருமந்திரத்திலிருந்து தெரிகிறது. ஆலயங்கள் 1810-ம் ஆண்டு முதல் 1857-ம் ஆண்டு வரையில் அரசாங்கத்தார் கையிலிருந்தது. சர்க்கார் ஆலயங்களைப் பரிபாலனஞ் செய்துகொண்டு வந்தார்கள். 1860-ம் ஆண்டு தில் பாதிரிமார்கள் சிறிஸ்தவ மதப் பிரசாரத்திற்கு தடையாக இருக்கிறதென்று சர்க்கார் மத விஷயங்களில் தலையிடக்கூடாது என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். விக்டோரியா மகாராணி அவர்கள் மத சம்பந்தமான விஷயங்களில் தலையிட மாட்டோம் என்று சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள். அதன் பிறகு கோவில் கமிட்டிகள் ஏற்படுத்தி ஆலய நிர்வாகங்கள் நடைபெற்று வந்தன. சில கோவில்களுக்கு இன்னும் மோகினி தஸ்தீக் கொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். இப்பொழுதே கோவில் களை அரசாங்கத்தார் ஒரு சட்டம் செய்து தங்களுடைய கையில் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நிர்வாகத்தை நடத்தலாம். இப்பொழுது நமது காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கள் செய்த முயற்சியால் திருவாங்கூர் மகாராஜா அவர்கள் அங்குள்ள கோவில்களை ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு திறந்துவிட்டு விட்டார்கள். திருவாங்கூரப்போல் ஹரிஜனங்களை மிகவும் கொடுமையாக நடத்தின ஊர் கிடையாது. அப்படிப்பட்ட ஊரில் இரண்டாயிரம் கோவில்களை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு திறந்துவிட்டு விட்டார்கள். இதைப் பார்த்து சில சமஸ்தானாதிபதிகள் பல கோவில்களை வடக்கே ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு திறந்து விட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். நமது மாகாணத்திலும் தெற்கே நாடார் ஜனங்களில் கோவில்களை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு திறந்து விட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த நிலைமை கிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஆலயப் பிரவேச உரிமை கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னவர்கள் கையில் அரசாங்கம் வந்திருக்கிறதினால் இந்த ஆலயப் பிரவேச உரிமையை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள் ளுகிறேன். இது விஷயமாக நமது முதன் மந்திரி ராஜாஜ் அவர்கள் என்ன சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்பதை தெரிந்துகொள்ள இந்த Cut motion கொண்டு வந்தேன்.

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Andhra public and urge upon this hon. House the importance of this question. The necessity for a separate Province is universally felt by all the Andhras. To whatever political party or persuasion they may belong, the need for a separate Province is universally felt by all the Andhras. My friends the Andhras, on this side of the House or on that side of the House, will agree with me that there can be no two opinions on this question. This demand has been agitating our minds for over two decades and yet it has not been put into effect. This demand for a separate province, based on linguistic principles, is a very legitimate demand. Telugu is the common language of the Andhras; from the standpoint of culture and traditions also they have got a peculiar individuality of their own. Sir, it was to satisfy the cultural aspirations of the Andhras that a separate University, the Andhra University was formed. But that has gone only half way and it has only pushed up a bit the principle which underlies the creation of a separate Province and emphasized further the need for it.

“Sir, only the other day, the Oriyas began their agitation for a separate Province and already they have got their province. Their success has further increased our hopes. Geographically considered, Sir, the Andhra Province extends over a number of districts covering a huge population with clear-cut boundary limits. Therefore there is no reason why a separate province should not be formed. With the assumption of office by the Congress Party, new aspirations and hopes have been created in the minds of the people. I may say that the Andhras sincerely trust that the present Government will look to their needs and do their utmost for the creation of the Andhra Province. My hope is strengthened further by the fact that the Hon. the Premier will give a sympathetic and even indulgent consideration to this matter. Sir, another reason for strengthening my hope is the fact that most of the Andhras who have been sympathizing with this movement and cherishing these ideals are occupying important positions on the Treasury Bench. This question has been postponed time after time. I therefore appeal to the Government to take it into consideration at the earliest possible moment.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that, as a result of the Congress having decided to accept office we have before us as Ministers Gentlemen who are able and honourable persons and who have earnestly taken upon themselves the task of carrying on the administration of this province. Although these Ministers have come into office as a result of the introduction of provincial autonomy, an incident democratic in its nature, and although for the first time, they are responsible to the Legislature, yet in their hands is concentrated power for doing good or bad to the people of this province. When such extensive power is concentrated in their hands, I believe, Sir, I will not be wrong in asking them to function with full realization of the fact that they are occupying the position of trustees, and the people of this province look up to them for doing them not only service but also justice. I have no doubt, Sir, that these Hon. Gentlemen have

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a.m.

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a breadth of vision and a width of outlook which will help them to look upon the people of this province as a whole and not as so many communities. When I say that the Hon. Ministers in their day to day administration should forget the fact that they belong to one community or another but on the other hand remember, deliberately remember, that they are people belonging not to one community or one section of a community but to very many communities who constitute the people of this province. When I say this, I have with your permission to state the supposed antithesis between nationalism and communalism. My hon. Friends who believe in nationalism, pure and simple, should not forget the fact that the machinery will not function unless all the component parts of that machinery are sound and are in a working condition. It will be wrong, positively wrong, to believe that a machine will work only if certain parts of that machine are in working order, although some other parts are in disorder. Although that machine can for obvious particular purposes be made to run, even though certain of its parts are defective, yet time may come when that particular machine will come to a stand-still, if particular care is not taken to see that all the parts that go to make that machine are kept in good order or if particular care is not taken of every part of that machine. In this connexion, Sir, I should like to draw the attention of the Hon. the Premier to the fact that the question lies entirely in his hands to see that everything that is necessary is done to bring contentment to the people. (Interruption.) Sir, I would like to give up the general way in which I have been speaking, and I will for the information of the Hon. Ministers say, Sir, that we in this province are looking up to the Hon. Ministers, the Premier particularly, to let us know whether it is the policy of the Government to help the minorities in every possible respect, so that they could come to the level which other communities have reached.

“There is the question of the communal Government Order. In answer to some interpellations, the Hon. Ministers had not been able to tell the House what exactly the Government's attitude to that question was, whether they are going to keep in tact that order, or whether they are going to effect any changes in that order, or whether they are going to cancel it altogether. We are certainly not satisfied with the existing communal Government Order. But yet it does give certain relief to the minority communities. The Madras Services Commission through which this communal Government Order is working, I am afraid I have to confess it, is not functioning properly. When the communal Government Order was issued, it was intended that patronage should be taken away from the hands of parties, for it was feared that as a result of party factions and party politics, services would suffer. On that account and on account of the fact that justice, although it was meagre in its character, was sought to be done to the minority communities who did not have representation in the services this order was passed. The Madras Services Commission, I am afraid I have to say it, did not satisfy the requirements that we originally expected of that Commission. If a member of a particular community

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is not available for the service in the rotation, it was expected that the chances belonging to that particular community would stand over and that all those chances would be accumulated, and when members of that particular community became available later on, all those chances would be given to the members of that community. I do not know whether that is being done, although that was intended originally. The people of this province, particularly those belonging to minority communities were really upset when certain hon. Members who are now Ministers gave expression to their opinion that efficiency would be the only consideration in making appointments in the services, and that in endeavouring to see that efficiency is maintained no claims of the minority communities would be considered or as a matter of fact that the communal Government Order would have to go.”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. Member quoting from the Ministers' speeches or paraphrasing them himself? Mr. Hameed Khan said that some Member who is now a Minister had said something about efficiency being the only criterion, and then he added that the communal Government Order would have to go and that no other consideration than efficiency would come in. Is he quoting from any speech or is it his own inference from it?”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Hon. Minister is requested to state the point of order raised by him.”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“I would rather say a point of information. I want to know whether he is quoting from any speech on the question of the communal Government Order or is what he states only his inference? I refer to the latter part of his speech, Sir.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not been quoting the exact words of any one of the Ministers, but I do remember now that the Hon. Minister, Mr. Yakub Hasan, has in one of his speeches promised that the claims of the minorities would be considered and that they would be safe in the hands of the Congress Government. But, Sir, on the other hand, there were other Hon. Ministers whose speeches led me to believe that the Government were not anxious to give place to the claims of minority communities against the maintenance of efficiency. I want, Sir, to avail myself of this opportunity to know from the Hon. the Premier what exactly the Government's attitude in regard to this matter is. The Hon. the Premier I think, knows that in provinces, like the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province, the Premiers of those provinces have been actively engaged in trying to tackle the communal problem in a very satisfactory manner, and we were glad to hear that they have succeeded to a very large extent. Will it be too much for me, Sir, if I ask the Hon. the Premier, our Premier, when once this budget session is over, to interest himself in this question and try to see whether the communal problem is not solved in our province to satisfy the requirements of this Province?”

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11-15 a.m. "We the Members of the Muslim League party, I wish to make it clear, are agreed almost in regard to the aims and ideals of the Congress party and it is our endeavour to co-operate with them in everything that pertains to the good of the nation and to the people of this Province. But if we are sitting separately, it is in order to find out from the Hon. the Premier whether he will not take up the question of the solution of the communal problems in this Province. I am sure he will not ignore us as a negligible number. The number of Muslim members in this House which consists of 215 members is only about 30 or so and I do not say that the present Government can carry on their Government only with our co-operation. I am not making it imperative that they should do so. Nor am I to be understood that we are in a supplicant mood asking the Hon. the Premier to take us into his party. But we are anxious that in the interests of the nation, in the interests of solidarity and in the interests of the high aims that we have for the country it is necessary as in the case of the Punjab and North-Western Frontier Province where the Muslim Premiers have gone out of the way to give to the minority communities more than they deserve, that in our Province also our claims should be met on a population basis. The Hon. the Premier may be aware that as a result of some understanding that was reached between the Government and the people in the North-Western Frontier Province where the Hindus and Sikhs put together are not more than 6 to 7 per cent of the population—the same percentage which the Muslims have got in this Province—the latter were given 25 per cent not only in the public services but everywhere, even in local bodies. Will the Hon. the Premier here take up this question of the communal problem and try to see whether he will not also solve this problem for the good of the people of this Province? I have nothing more to add except once again to wake up the present Ministry, for I believe that they will certainly do their best to serve the best interests of the people of this Province."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members of this House have been informed more than once that there will be only one token cut motion put to vote. Discussion on all matters will be permitted on that one token cut motion. All the motions that have been given notice of are merely token motions and there is no substantial cut motion at all. That is why this arrangement has been announced and the discussion has been proceeding on the whole demand on one token cut motion, of course with reference to the various aspects of the questions that hon. Members wanted to discuss. I would therefore request hon. Members who have given notice of several cut motions to speak on all of them with regard to this demand. Hereafter under each demand there will be one token cut motion on which Members will be allowed to discuss with reference to the various aspects of the problems while they are talking on that motion."

"Another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of hon. Members is this: it is only a few Members that have given notice of cut motions and they have had full indulgence of their oratory on the floor of this House to the disappointment of the silent sufferers of the House."

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[Mr. Speaker]

There are at least 100 new Members in this House who desire to speak on this occasion. Opportunities should be given to every new Member in this House. I have tried my best to give opportunities to new Members but by the indulgence that I have shown to other Members in regard to time-limit they have not observed the brevity expected of them. There was a general desire on the part of Members of this House to finish the discussion on all the demands without subjecting them to guillotine and the Premier yesterday appealed to the Members of the House to be brief, so that the Government might be able to enunciate the policy on each demand after the demands are taken up for discussion. I would therefore request hon. Members to kindly be brief in their speeches and observe probably five minutes as the longest duration for a speech hereafter. I do not however propose to impose a time-limit. I have always informed the House of this, but I hope that Members who have spoken half a dozen times from the Opposition will find it a great pleasure to give opportunities for other Members of the House who want to speak on the floor of the House. Therefore I would suggest to all the Members of the House that the speeches hereafter may be as brief as possible restricted possibly to five minutes at the longest. Hon. Ministers in their replies may limit their time to ten minutes at the longest. Of course if the debate is considerably longer, some latitude will have to be shown to Hon. Ministers because they will have to enunciate the policy which the hon. Members of this House expect from the Government. I suppose with these observations hon. Members will regulate their time and afford facilities to new Members to enable them to speak, however brief the time may be."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are very grateful to you for enlightening us more fully with regard to the arrangement to be followed in speaking on the various Demands. With your permission, I wish to make a submission with reference to the observations that you have made. Regarding most of the observations with regard to the curtailment of time for making speeches we entirely agree with you and we can assure you of our co-operation in the matter. With regard to the manner in which cut motions will have to be moved and voted upon, as far as possible, we shall try to follow the suggestion that you have made. But I wish only to submit for your consideration certain difficulties which may crop up either to-day or to-morrow but which have not yet arisen. There may be several cut motions given notice of under a particular Demand, some of which may be of a general nature to discuss the policy and some others might relate to specific matters. For instance Cut Motion No. 98 under Demand VIII reads thus: 'To discuss the policy of elections to local boards and municipalities.' It may be that one Member of our Party may like to have a vote taken upon it and on such occasions I request that you should make exceptions, provided the party or the particular Member comes to you earlier and informs you that he likes the motion to be voted upon. If there had been only one kind of cut motions, your suggestion that only one cut motion will be moved is quite all right. But if a party or a Member of a party desires to have

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another motion moved, I request that in such circumstances the Chair may be kind enough to allow that party or the Member to move that motion and if necessary to allow them to ask for a vote upon it. I suggest that there may be occasions in future to adopt such a procedure. It is only with that object that I make this submission to you. Otherwise you may rest assured that we shall as far as possible try to follow the instructions which you have given to-day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If there is a necessity for moving such motions, hon. Members may give previous notice and the matter will be considered."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I make a submission, Sir? With reference to the cut motions which have been given notice of, it is difficult to bring these motions under any particular category. These motions do not involve any questions of policy at all. What they seek to impress upon the Government is the redressal of just grievances. There are many such motions which cannot be brought within the scope of 'general policy' of the Government. In such cases, may I suggest that discrimination and distinction may be made and you will be pleased to allow particular motions to be moved on their merits?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members may speak upon particular aspects of the question while discussing policies on these demands. They will be permitted."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"They do not involve any questions of policy at all. They have nothing to do whatsoever with the question of policy. It is only a question of trying to get a redressal of a just grievance either from the Minister concerned or the Government that is involved in these cut motions. That is what I wanted to say."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I understood your advice—I advisedly use that expression because it is not a ruling—to be that though only one cut motion has been moved, Members who have given notice of other motions may participate in the discussion on the primary cut motion and take up questions which they had in their minds and discuss them. I understood you also to say in answer to the Leader of the Opposition that if in any particular case a division was requested on any particular motion by any Member and if that request is reasonable, you in your discretion, Sir, would permit him and nobody can have any complaint against that."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"With reference to what the Hon. the Premier said at the end of his speech, I say that it should be the right of a Member to ask for a division on any particular motion and it should not be left to the discretion—I beg your pardon for saying so—of the Hon. the Speaker."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"My hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan should remember that I started saying 'I understood your advice,' etc. So there is no case of anybody's right being taken away, and can it not be claimed that we have a Speaker who will grant all rights equally to all?"

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have been saying from the very beginning that this is an arrangement made for the convenience of the House in the matter of carrying on discussions on the Demands. I would therefore suggest to hon. Members to observe as far as possible brevity in their speeches in connexion with all these Demands."

* MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 19,00,400 be reduced by Rs. 100."

11-30
a.m.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may proceed with the discussion of his subject without formally moving the cut motion."

MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that the allotment of Rs. 19,00,400 be reduced by Rs. 100."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I invite the hon. Member Mr. D'mello's attention to the suggestion I have made, namely, that the cut motion need not be formally moved but that the hon. Member is entitled to speak on the substance of his motion."

MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"The object of my motion is to discuss the necessity of nominating Anglo-Indians to district boards and of reserving seats for that community in municipalities. I want to appeal to the Ministry to recognize the claims of the Anglo-Indian community for representation in the local boards and municipalities. The clamour for communal representation has driven the authorities in power to recognize in law and in practice the existence of minorities. When other minorities are given representation in the local boards and municipalities there is no reason why a minority like the Anglo-Indian community should not be given representation on the local boards and municipalities. Minorities like the Harijans, Muslims and Christians are given representation on these bodies. Anglo-Indians also are given representation in a few of the local boards and municipalities, but there are a number of other local bodies where Anglo-Indians have got no representation. I see from Press Reports that the Local Boards Committee have recommended the abolition of nominations to bifurcated district boards and proposed the introduction of co-option of members of minority communities like Muslims and Depressed classes. If the principle of co-option is applied to these minorities, I appeal to the Ministry to apply the same principle in the case of Anglo-Indians also. If, taken on a population basis, the Anglo-Indians cannot be given representation on some of the local boards and municipalities, I appeal to the Ministry to give them representation on educational basis, because in almost all the municipal and local board areas the Anglo-Indians are literate; in fact almost cent per cent of the Anglo-Indians are literate."

"Congressmen assured that the interests of minorities would not suffer at their hands. I have no doubt that they meant what they said. In fact experience has shown that they can be taken at their word. When the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils suggested some time back the desirability of nominating Anglo-Indians to the bifurcated district boards, the Ministry then in power turned down the proposal, I am not aware for what reasons. May we not appeal to the

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Congressmen now occupying the treasury benches not to let down the interests of small minorities like Anglo-Indians? May we not appeal to them to see that Anglo-Indians become members of these local boards and municipalities? I assure the House that my community by its education and outlook is not behind any other community in shouldering its responsibilities as members of local boards and municipalities. At any rate, the Anglo-Indians should discharge their duties as well as any other."

* Mr. H. S. HUSSAIN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, my purpose in speaking on this token cut is to draw the attention of the Government to the hardship and difficulties caused by the abolition of taluk boards and by placing the entire area of districts under the direct control and administration of district boards. It is also my intention to speak on the condition and status of the employees of the local bodies. Sir, whatever was the object in abolishing taluk boards, it has certainly resulted in one thing and that is the deterioration of the administration of district boards. It is almost impossible for district boards to reach all parts of the district and manage the affairs of all the areas with efficiency, usefulness and promptitude. It has become a sort of far-flung empire for the district boards to manage from the headquarters of the district. Each taluk or each area has its own peculiar difficulties, its own peculiar needs and its own peculiar conditions. That being so, Sir, is it possible for district boards to manage the affairs of all areas carefully so as to benefit the people of those areas? In the interests of good local administration it will be better if the administration of these areas is localized under local bodies such as taluk boards, panchayat boards, circle boards or boards for groups of villages. This sort of arrangement will undoubtedly facilitate effective administration of all the different parts of the district by division of labour. I may say, Sir, that wherever districts are very large, bifurcation may to some extent help in this direction. There are district boards which are always handicapped for want of sufficient funds and in the case of some their financial need is chronic. And added to these difficulties the burden of taluk boards has also been thrown on them. It is really very difficult for these local bodies to collect the taxes and fees from all parts of the district. The administration suffers and the proper maintenance of roads, schools and hospitals and dispensaries has become a problem. The hospitals and the schools are not properly equipped. I may cite here the instance of the poorly equipped hospital at my own place, Karkal, which is the headquarters of the taluk. It is, Sir, I may say, a standing disgrace to the headquarters of the taluk. In this connexion I would like to urge the provincialization of all hospitals at taluk headquarters, the posts of headmasters and graduate assistants in secondary schools, the posts of Assistant Engineers and of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in hospitals and dispensaries which are at present under the management of local bodies. Money thus saved for local bodies can be better utilized by them for buildings, equipment, and playgrounds for schools, for communications and for supply of diet, medicine and up-to-date equipment to hospitals and dispensaries under them.

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"Coming now to the status and condition of the employees under local boards, I should like first of all to refer to the case of taluk board servants who have been absorbed in the cadre of the district boards. The G.O. No. 831, L. & M., dated 31st May 1934, revised the scales of pay and brought down the pay of ex-taluk board clerks."

Mr. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI :—" On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think the subjects with which the hon. Member is dealing do not come under this demand; they relate to local boards—health and medicine."

Mr. H. S. HUSSAIN :—" My name has been put down under this demand for the discussion of the several specific items and I am now speaking on them."

* Mr. SPEAKER :—" No. 101 is the cut motion referred to and the hon. Member is discussing the administration and the needs of local bodies. In this connexion he is referring to the Ministry's policy with regard to local bodies. The hon. Member may continue. I would request him to be brief and finish soon."

Mr. H. S. HUSSAIN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, G.O. No. 252, L. & M., dated 21st January 1935, sanctioned personal pay only to district board servants, and it was not granted to the taluk board clerks. In this connexion, I would like to say that while personal pay has been sanctioned to the old servants of the district boards, no such personal allowance has been granted to the ex-taluk board servants. 11.45 a.m.

"There is also another grievance of these ex-taluk board employees. Benefits of leave which have been granted to these taluk board servants who were absorbed in the service of the district boards on the abolition of the taluk boards have not been extended to the ex-taluk board servants who were on the waiting list and subsequently entertained. As the matter now stands, an outsider entertained directly in the service of the district board is granted this benefit, while the ex-taluk board servant who is still on the waiting list and who is subsequently entertained, is not granted the benefit.

"There is another matter to which I wish to refer, and it is this: G.O. No. 4619, L. & M., dated 20th October 1934, which was brought into force on the 1st November of the same year fixed the maximum pay of headmasters at Rs. 170, and the grade was made applicable to the old entrants as well, only with a provision that personal allowance should be given in the case of those who had gone beyond the maximum fixed. This, I submit, has worked great hardship on the old entrants who had not gone beyond the maximum fixed in the Government Order; only a few got the benefit, while a large majority of teachers who have made their commitments have been disappointed. It is really a great hardship on these teachers, especially as they have made their commitments in the hope of reaching the old maximum. My submission, Sir, is that the present Government should take into consideration the hardship caused by the Government Orders not only in the matter of the ex-taluk board employees but also of the teachers on whom G.O. No. 4619 sprung a surprise and shattered their hopes.

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“ One more matter, Sir, and that is with regard to the recruitment of district panchayat officers. If my information is correct, it seems the previous Ministry has left behind a list from which district panchayat officers are to be recruited. It will not be a wholesome practice, Sir, to recruit raw men from outside, when experienced men who are already in the department as assistant panchayat officers, are available for filling up the posts of district panchayat officers.

“ In the end, Sir, I hope the present Ministry will spare no pains to stabilize local administration by introducing such a scheme as would not necessitate further experiments, but would give real training to the people of this province in the art of local self-government.”

* MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the plea put forward by my colleague Mr. D'Mello on behalf of the Anglo-Indians of this Presidency; and in so doing, I would approach the matter from a somewhat different angle and invite attention to the special conditions facing my people in this Presidency. Anglo-Indians, Sir, have for many years past been charged with indifference to public affairs. Many of my numerous Indian friends have told me that my people really do not care to be mixed up in public matters. Sir, there is not even the faintest doubt that every Anglo-Indian is at heart keenly interested in the welfare of India, and I would earnestly request this House to consider the fact that the Anglo-Indian claims to love India as much as any member of the great Hindu or Muslim community loves it. For the past three years, I have been touring up and down this Presidency, and I have from many platforms asked my people to publicly work for the welfare of this great country. I am glad to state that at the present moment, I see a great awakening. Men from all corners of this Presidency are asking to be permitted to have a share in public matters. Just two or three days ago, I received a letter from Bimlipatam asking me to press for an Anglo-Indian to be appointed to the municipal council in that place; and I am sure, Sir, that the Government will respond to this very healthy sign on behalf of the community to take its share in the public service of India. It is a contribution, Sir, that we as a community are willing to make. It is possible that we may, in our own little way, have a special contribution to make, which other communities may not have. I do not say that we will do it, but I say there is a possibility that we may do it; and I therefore ask for this assurance, that so far as district bodies are concerned, provision will be made for an Anglo-Indian, at least one Anglo-Indian, on each district board. As for the municipalities, I do not press for provision for a seat in every municipal council; but I do ask that at least in the larger ports, in railway centres and in district headquarters, an Anglo-Indian may be provided for.

“ Now, Sir, I approve so highly of your advice that speeches should be cut short as much as possible that I hasten to resume my seat.”

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, *this* cut motion opens out a fairly big field for discussion; but I have *only* two aspects of governmental activities to speak about. Ordinarily, *any*

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person who is not connected with the Party in power has no business to discuss questions of the allocation of portfolios; but the public are interested in the efficient carrying on of the administration. And it is for this reason that I make bold to offer a few suggestions to the Members on the Treasury Bench with regard to the allocation of the portfolios.

“ Sir, Members of this House are aware that the previous Government consisted of seven Members; at present we have ten Ministers. The Hon. the Premier has taken on the work of two of the previous Members of Government, leaving to the other nine the work of five of the former Members of Government. Sir, on the face of it, it looks that there has been an unequal adjustment in regard to the work. The position of the Premier who is a great personality . . . ”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ On a point of order, Sir. It appears to me that the point that the hon. Member is discussing is not a matter for the House to discuss.”

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—“ I submit, Sir, that the public are interested in the allocation of portfolios. As a matter of fact, I suggested the other day that there should be a portfolio for transport. I take it, Sir, it is within the rights of the House to discuss the question of portfolios.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I submit that it is in the purview of the Members of this House to express public opinion on the question of the allocation of portfolios, in order that the administration may be carried on smoothly and satisfactorily? ”

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite realize the reason which made the hon. Gentleman, the Leader of the House, raise this point of order. He is technically right; for the Governor is the person who allocates portfolios. But I dare say every one of us knows that it is on the definite advice of the Hon. the Premier of the Province that he allots the portfolio to a Member and fixes the subjects also. So Sir, it is appropriate on the part of the public and the representatives of the public here to voice forth their feelings. After all, it is not to condemn the action of the Governor or the Premier in having done this or that thing; it is only a suggestion with a view to co-ordination of work. I think, Sir, that this House is entitled to hear and dispose of the matter as far as possible.”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Sir, I submit that the observation of the Leader of the Opposition with reference to this matter does not help. It is quite true that under the constitution and the instrument of instructions the advice of the person who commands the confidence of the majority in the House is taken as the basis for the constitution of the Cabinet. But considering the case as to the responsibility of the Cabinet as a whole, the joint responsibility and the responsibility of the person on whose advice all this is done, it is for you, Sir, to decide whether such a delicate matter can freely be made a matter for discussion. The test, I submit, would be *this*:

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whether it can be put to the vote. Ultimately, a matter of right like this will have to be decided on that standard. Can it be put to the vote? And if it cannot be, I submit, Sir, it cannot really be a matter for debate."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The allocation of portfolios is a matter and a result of confidential communications; and as such, I do not feel any useful purpose will be served by discussing them. The hon. Member may proceed to discuss other matters."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I shall not deal with personalities at all. I am really dealing with allocation of portfolios and inclusion of certain subjects in certain portfolios. That is the submission I propose to make."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Even then, it necessarily involves certain aspects of the question which cannot be taken up for discussion. Therefore, the hon. Member is requested to pass on to other matters."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"My contention really is this . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order. The ruling has been given, and the hon. Member may pass on to other matters. There is no question of contention."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Well, Sir, since I cannot discuss the portfolios, I shall pass on to the administration of particular portfolios."

12 noon. "Sir, what I am really concerned with is about the administration of the Finance Department. My own feeling is that this department does not get the amount of importance and attention that it deserves, for the Minister in charge of this department, the Premier, has got other work also and is in charge of two other big portfolios, as he is the Leader of the party inside the House and outside the House. It is therefore manifestly impossible for him to give that amount of attention to this portfolio as it deserves. No doubt he has done his duty in the first budget very well, but for the efficient carrying on of the work he requires lot of leisure and time and considerable intimate touch with the interests that are so inextricably involved in the matter of the financial administration of this province. I cannot do better than quote here . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is indirectly doing what he directly wanted to do. It is not permissible."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Sir, I am only suggesting that more time should be given to him for being in touch with the business interests and the general public and I will be glad if the Prime Minister is able to spare the time for these things."

"I will now pass on to the next subject that I have in view, Sir. I have here to refer again to what I spoke the other day in regard to the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act. I am afraid I was misunderstood by the Hon. Minister in charge when I said that three Members of the

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Government have normally, in the exercise of their functions, to interfere with the administration of the Act. I repeat that it would be easier for three people to sit together and discuss about the working of the Act without adding a fourth man. I am not saying that the Hon. Minister is not fitted to carry on the work, but I am only saying that it is multiplication of the number of persons . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat. The discussion on the demand relating to the Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts shall not be resumed again indirectly here, and reference to those debates is also out of order."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I bow to your ruling, Sir. I am, however, making a suggestion here in regard to the new policies that have been laid down by the Government, namely, the prohibition policy and the question of finding supplementary income to the agriculturist. Both these happen to be within the portfolio of one Minister. Excise, Sir, in the very nature of the commitments that the Government have at present, ought to be, I think, in sole charge of one Minister. In regard to finding supplementary income for the agriculturist, a subject that has been talked of at such length on the floor of this House, there is room for ample investigation, and I think if a person is placed in charge of this department, it will considerably benefit the country and the agriculturists whose interests the Government have so much at heart."

"Sir, the next aspect of Governmental activities which I would like to refer to here is that the public have a feeling that the Government are influenced by totalitarian ideologies. At this stage of democracy in this country, I think even the very suggestion is one to be brushed aside. We can see how the mind of the Members of the Government is working in their promulgating different policies of the Government and frequent references have of course been made to the technique adopted by rulers in totalitarian States, which indicate the direction towards which the mind of our Government is working. The anxiety of the public, I think, is reasonable and it is high time that Government take it into their head to dispel this impression. All the same I would like you to consider one or two aspects of their activities. They do insist upon certain of their policies with a certain amount of conviction and force which give them the dignity of doctrines, but there does not seem to be any feeling or consideration to the opinions of others. There is always the other point of view and this obvious intolerance of the other's point of view it is that makes me bring this question to the notice of Government. I do not want to speak at length on this matter for it is not very pleasant, but I think it is only fair that I should warn the House that totalitarian ideas inflict a considerable amount of spiritual damage on its surroundings; and in the words of Professor Gooch it leads to the stunting of the growth of individuality and dwarfing of human nature. Sir, there is an impression in this House that the Leader of the party is keeping the reins of the party taut. Of

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course it is their affair and it is not the affair of this side of the House. Nevertheless, it is also an indication how their mind works. In the initial stages of democracy, development of individuality should be encouraged rather than curbed, because as everybody knows, democracy is a belief in the worth of personality. Development of personality need not be confined to the Members of the opposition only and it can usefully be employed in the case of the Members on the other side as well. I cannot do better here than to borrow the analogy of . . .

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order, may I request the hon. Member to pass on to the other subjects he has got to speak about instead of advising the other party?"

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I am not advising the other party at all."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is requested to pass on to other aspects of the question which he has got to speak of."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"One word more, Sir. It is the duty of the Government at this stage of experimenting with democracy, to see that the opinion of the other side is recognized if the success of democracy is to be ensured. I cannot do better here than to quote the words of the Master of Balliol. He says, it is the wearer of the shoe that knows where it pinches. Human personalities are not made in stock sizes and you cannot make one size and say that it fits everybody; and Government shoe-makers are not entitled to think that the shoes they make must fit other peoples' feet and they are apt to become infuriated if they are told that the shoes do not so fit. I repeat once again that the success of democracy in this country depends upon the degree of recognition that is given to the views of the opposition and of the people outside, though they may not exactly conform to the views held by the Government. If this is conceded, I have no doubt that democracy will succeed in this country."

MR. C. P. SUBBAYYA MUDALIYAR:—

"தலைவர் அவர்களே இப்பொழுது நிர்வாக சபைக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டிய கிராண்டிஷன் பேரில் நூறு ரூபாய் cut motion வெட்டுப் பிரேரணை கொண்டு வரப்பட்டு விவாதம் நடந்தது. அதில் ஆந்திர மாகாணத்தை பிரிப்பதைப்பற்றியோ ரெவினியூ போர்டை ஒழிப்பதுபற்றியோ மந்திரி அவர்கள் பதில் சொல்லுவார்கள். ஆனால் நம்முடைய ஸ்ரீஸுரீ சகஜானந்தசுவாமி அவர்கள் தீண்டாமை விஷயத்தில் வெகு வேகமாகப் பேசி அதை உடனே ஒழித்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். சுமார் பதினெட்டு வருஷ காலமாக நாட்டில் அத்துறையில் வேலை செய்துவரும் என்போலுள்ளவர்களுக்கு இருக்கும் சிரமத்தை சுவாமியவர்களுக்கு சொல்லவேண்டுமென்ற அபிப்பிராயமுண்டு. அவர்கள் இரண்டு மந்திரி வந்துவிட்டால் உடனே தீண்டாமை ஒழிந்துவிடுமென்று நம்புகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் வீதாச்சாரப்படி 1½ மந்திரி என்று சொன்னார்கள். என்னுடைய கணக்குப் பிரகாரம் 1½ மந்திரிதான். தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்கிறது மந்திரிகளாக இருந்தால் எப்படி முடியுமென்பது சந்தேகமாக இருக்கிறது. இன்னொரு மந்திரி இருந்தால் அவர் காதைப் பிடித்து காரியத்தைச் செய்யச் சொல்லலாமென்று சொன்னார்கள். அதில் அந்தந்த ஒன்றுமில்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறேன்."

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றேன். தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்கவேண்டியதைப்பற்றி பேசும்போது ஏராளமான சாஸ்திரங்களையும் புஸ்தகங்களையும் கொண்டு வந்து குவித்து ஹரிஜனங்களை தீண்டப்படாதவர்கள் என்று கருதுவது தப்பு என்று விவாதித்தார். மேற்படி வேதாந்தங்களையும் சாஸ்திரங்களையும் குழி தோண்டி புதைக்கவேண்டும். அவைகளை ஒதுக்கி வைக்கவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது முதலில் எல்லோரும் இந்தியர்கள் என்பதை உணரவேண்டும் என்று எல்லோரும் ஆவல் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்காக நாங்கள் பதினெட்டு வருஷங்களாக வேலை செய்து வருகிறோம். பிராமணர்கள் ஹரி ஜனங்கள் என்ற பேத உணர்ச்சி வேண்டாம். எல்லோரும் இந்தியர்களாக இருந்தால் போதுமென்று நாங்கள் நினைக்கிறோம். சண்டாளர்கள் எப்படிப் பிறந்தார்கள் என்பதைப்பற்றி வியாக்கியானஞ் செய்தபோது பிராமணப் பெண் அன்னிய ஜாதி ஆடவனோடு சேருவதனால் பிறந்த குழந்தைகள் சண்டாளர்கள் என்று சுவாமி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். அப்படிப் பிறந்த குழந்தைகளை சண்டாளர்களாக ஒதுக்கி வைப்பதாக இருந்தால் இந்த தேசம் பாழாகி விடுமென்று என்னுடைய நண்பர் உணரவேண்டும். தாய் செய்த குற்றத்திற்காக குழந்தையை சண்டாளன் என்று ஒதுக்கி வைப்பதா?

"இந்த தேசத்தில் ஜீவகாருண்னியத்தை முன்னிட்டு மாகாத்மா சாந்தியடிகள் தீண்டாமை ஒழிப்பை ஆரம்பித்து செய்த உபதேசத்தினால் எவ்வளவோ பெரிய காரியத்தை சாதித்து வந்திருக்கிறோம். அடுத்தபடி ஒன்று உணரவேண்டும். நாங்கள் தீண்டாமை ஒழிப்பு விஷயமாய் பல துறைகளில் வேலை செய்தபோது சில கிணறுகளை ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு விடவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லும்போது ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்குள்ளிருக்கும் பல சமூகங்களில் சக்கிலியர்கள் தண்ணீர் எடுக்கும் கிணற்றில் பள்ளர்கள் எடுக்கமுடியாதென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். பள்ளர்கள், பறையர்கள், சக்கிலியர்கள் என்று வித்தியாசத்தை வைத்துக் கொண்டு போட்டி போடுவதை சுவாமிகள் உணர்ந்திருப்பார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி இருக்கும் வித்தியாசங்களை ஒழிக்க சுவாமி அவர்கள் தயவு செய்து எங்களோடு ஒத்துழைக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சுவாமி அவர்கள் என்னுடைய ஜஸ்டிஸ் கட்சி என்று சொன்னார்கள். அவர்கள் எந்தக் கக்ஷியில் இருந்தார்கள்? எந்தக் கக்ஷி ஆதிக்கத்திலிருந்தாலும் அந்தக் கக்ஷியில் அவர்கள் இருப்பார்கள். இன்று முதற்கொண்டு எங்களோடு ஒத்துழைத்தால் எங்களிடத்தில் வந்து தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்க வேலை செய்தால் நன்றியிருக்குமென்று சொல்லுகிறேன். மேலே இருக்கிறவர்களை கீழே கொண்டுவரவேண்டும். கீழே இருக்கிறவர்களை பாதாளத்தில் அமுக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் சொல்லுவதில் பிரயோஜனமில்லை. ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குள்ளிருக்கும் பிளவுகளை ஒழிப்பதற்கு எங்களோடு ஒத்துழைக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு இந்த வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை நான் எதிர்த்தேன்."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say a few words with reference to the principle underlying the rules for the recruitment of services by the Madras Services Commission. In regard to Secondary School-Leaving Certificate holders, the Madras Services Commission has introduced a difference between the candidates eligible for University course and those who have secured some specified number of marks and the making of the difference has resulted in considerable hardship. If qualification of eligibility for University course is not taken as a criterion for appearing for the Madras Services Commission examination, it leads to this inference that you are making the University course rather cheaper and lighter than the examination qualification insisted upon by the Madras Services Commission."

"I would like to explain my point a bit further. For eligibility 12-15 for admission to college, 35 per cent or 40 per cent of the marks is P.M. required in the subjects under group 'A' and 35 per cent in each of

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the case, it is very highly deplorable that the Government themselves should influence a body which is considered to be impervious to outside influence. The object with which the Commission was formed is frustrated by the Government giving the lead to the Commission in this matter. In the case of the appeals to the Services Commission of Simla, we find that even very small cases receive a comprehensive, self-contained and well-reasoned consideration and judgment is given by the Commission. But in the case of our Commission, we find that judgment is given only in a few words, one or two lines to say that they see no reason to interfere or that they agree with the finding of the Government. I submit that the Government should make rules to the effect and take the necessary steps to see that the Commission gives a comprehensive judgment setting forth the full reasons for the conclusion it reaches. In the case of appeals by gazetted officers and such matters, it is found that individual members of the Commission dispose of the matter. It would be much better that the whole Commission take up the matter and decides the case. It would be very hard to leave the destiny of the gazetted officer to the whims and fancies of one individual member of the Commission. It would be much better and in the interests of justice that the whole Commission should consider the case. The procedure is against the principles of the Act as passed by the Legislature and I hope the present Government will do the needful.

"There is another point which I hope the Government will look to. When there are short vacancies in districts and no candidate is available on the spot, sometimes clerks are recruited from other districts. The most unfortunate thing is that even if they are made to come down for short vacancies they are not paid any allowance for travelling. Clerks from Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and other districts are made to go to Vizagapatam and vice versa and all this for a 15-day vacancy. I think, Sir, that in the name of justice and humanity, these people should be given their travelling allowance. If they are not paid the allowance, it will mean great hardship to them.

"Coming to the Secretariat, Sir, I am sorry I have to bring to the notice of Government that there is not one single Muslim Assistant Secretary. I may be accused of being communal; but I am glad that myself and my party represent special interests and come from communal constituencies. If we do not raise our voice in this regard, I wonder who else would. I do not think it can any longer be said that qualified hands are not available. There is no longer the paucity of suitable men from that community. There is no dearth of qualified Muslims. The other day answering a question of mine the Hon. Minister for Local Administration said that this question of communal representation in compartments should be discouraged.

12-30 P.M. "I quite understand the significance of the observations of the Hon. Premier. But I think if we go on enumerating there are a number of compartments which must be looked into and justice done. Then, Sir, up to 1932 there was what was called the exchange system

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by which the clerks from the mufassal were taken in the Secretariat. That was greatly helping the disposal of papers. People who come from the mufassal were aware of the conditions in the mufassal and they were able to render valuable service. I understand that the system has been discontinued with the result that the clerks in the Secretariat are not in a position to understand the situation prevailing in the mufassal. I think it is much better the system is revived and Government bring in mufassal people to the Secretariat so that they may have first-hand information about the conditions prevailing there. I strongly urge on the Government the fact that both in the Secretariat and Public Services Commission there is no representation of Muslims. Neither among the Assistant Secretaries, nor among the Secretaries nor in the personnel of the Commission do we find a single Muslim. Then it will be also found that the number of persons in the Revenue Department has decreased seriously. I personally worked the statistics. I may be wrong. But I request the matter may be looked into and justice done to the community."

* E. KANNAN:—"Mr. Speaker, it was not at all my intention to take part in the discussion on this demand, but for some remarks that come from some of the hon. Members on the other side. Swami Sahajananda made some complaints that it would have been better if the portfolio of the depressed classes were placed in the hands of the Hon. Mr. Muniswami Pillai instead of the Hon. Mr. Giri. And he also complained that, on the analogy of Bengal, the depressed classes here should have two Ministers instead of one. I believe that these remarks relate to subjects falling under what is called the special responsibility of the Governor over which the watchful eyes of the British Government are perhaps constantly at work. I desire no misapprehensions should therefore go abroad in this matter. With regard to the complaint that the subject of labour should be in the hands of Mr. Muniswami Pillai . . ."

MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"On a point of order, Sir, in view of the ruling of the Chair I think the subject of portfolios under discussion is not in order."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member is referring to the allocation of portfolios, he will stop it."

MR. E. KANNAN:—"I submit, Sir, I was not going to criticise the action of His Excellency the Governor."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Much less can he criticize the Congress Ministerialist party. The hon. Member may go on with other aspects of the question."

MR. E. KANNAN:—"With regard to the complaint that there should have been two Ministers I have to say there is absolutely no necessity for two Ministers when we find that the Chief Minister himself is the greatest and the most unsophisticated Harijan in the Presidency. The idea of communal representation is justified on the ground that

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there are still suspicions between communities and communities and that the interests of one community are unsafe in the hands of another. Looking at the past history of the Chief Minister who in heart is himself a member of the depressed classes, so long as he is the chief of the Government I claim no necessity for even Mr. Muniswami Pillai to sit on the Treasury Bench."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I would request the hon. Member not to develop his argument on the allocation and distribution of portfolios. He may proceed with the next aspect of the demand he wants to touch."

* MR. E. KANNAN:—"Then with regard to the question of untouchability, I may say that I have to speak under very great oppression of mind. I do not think there is anybody in this House who can raise a greater complaint against the system of untouchability than myself. Coming as I do from Malabar where the problem is not one of untouchability alone but of unapproachability, unseeability and even unthinkability I may say that whatever efforts that are now being made to remove these evils are to be appreciated by every member of the depressed classes. As one of the hon. Members has pointed out, when the Congress party is earnestly trying to tackle the problem, I am sure that under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi and with the co-operation of all the members of this House, this problem will be solved easily and untouchability will soon become a thing of the past. But at the same time I wish to point out that in spite of the whirlwind campaign conducted against this system by Mahatma Gandhi and in spite of the activities of the religious reformers and others untouchability is still rampant in its worst form in almost every part of the country and it is too much to say that untouchability has entirely disappeared. Much work is required to remove this evil. The Ministry has now given its attention to this matter and I hope the problem will be solved easily."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, it is not my purpose to take up much time . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may use the microphone."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I find my voice is at a high pitch, and I am advised by people who are experts in it not to use it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I appreciate the hon. Member's confidence to address the House. But the visitors here are also expected to hear the speech of the hon. Member. The hon. Member may kindly use the microphone."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, it was not a question of my own confidence. Better authorities who are better experts in using the microphone have advised me to the contrary."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will cultivate the habit of speaking through the microphone as it will do great good to him."

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MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I would like to impress upon the Government, particularly the popular Government which has now come to office that there is a great need in this province for carrying on the minorities with them. The question of minorities has been looked upon from several points of view. Owing to historical reasons Muslims, Christians and the great Hindu community are the three great distinct communities which are natives of the soil. Among these communities, Sir, the Christian community within whose fold has been included the Anglo-Indian as well as the European and Muslim community seem to be the most important minority communities so far as this province is concerned. It has always been asked as to why all the minority communities should not combine to drag the chariot of freedom to its goal. I do not think, Sir, there is any person who can dissent from that view. Everyone who has got even an iota of faith will be willing to put his shoulder to that wheel. But it cannot be forgotten that there are some facts which have got to be recognized and taken into account when this goal of freedom is to be fought for and achieved. Sir, situated as we are, no congress friend including myself can deny the fact that there is a certain amount of substratum of suspicion on the part of the minority community towards the attitude, conduct and activity of the majority community in the country. So far and so long as there is the suspicion that the minority communities are likely to be trampled upon or that the legitimate interests and rights will not be recognized or that the minority communities will not get their due share in the administration of the country, by majority vote or in the Government departments, in the local bodies and in the municipal councils; for so long it is no use expecting the full-hearted co-operation of the minority communities. It is a very great ideal and a necessary ideal that all of us should act as one nation and as one man for the achievement of the freedom of the country. But the time has come when the party in power, the party that represents the greatest organized political party in the country should reconcile the Muslim community. Towards that end I suggest that there should be a new policy initiated by the party in power in this House, of course, in conformity with and in consonance with their avowed principles. I would like to know what exactly the present Ministry is going to do in the matter of removing those suspicions which minority communities rightly or wrongly entertain with regard to the feelings of the majority communities. In the matter of the State services some do lay emphasis on it, because services mean a substantial part of the administration of the country. A post here and a post there forms no doubt only a part of the whole and it may or may not matter. But a certain amount of share in the administration and in carrying on of the Government of this country means a great deal to the minority communities. If members of the minority communities are, in the services, in the administrative departments, in the executive line, it will inspire a certain amount of confidence in those minority communities from whom they are drawn. That is really

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the crux of the question. It is not the case of merely A or B being appointed from the minority communities, while there is a number of competent men among these communities. That does not really satisfy the community or solve the question. The question is that the minority communities are such minorities only on the ground of difference in religion or on the ground of distinction in race to some extent, or on the ground of linguistic differences. It is these bases that really distinguish the communities from one another, and so long as they are distinct and so long as fears are still entertained by them, it may be necessary that the communities should be taken as a whole and provision for adequate representation should be made for these communities, with a view to reconciling and inspiring greater and greater confidence in the minority communities, so that their full co-operation may be had to the best advantage of the country at large. Sir, taking a few instances, I would only refer to the most important thing from the point of view of certain minority communities, and that is the representation of these communities in the Government services. It was asked time and again whether the Congress Government in this province is going to override the communal Government Order, or whether it is going to improve upon it and remove certain grievances which are existing here and there, or whether the Government Order is likely to be worked to its logical conclusion to the advantage of the communities for whom it has been introduced. So, it is fair on an occasion like this that the Government should be pleased to declare their policy with regard to the working, the continuance and enforcement of the communal Government Order now in force.

“ There is another question, Sir, which troubles certain sections of the minorities, and that is what they call the special interests. If there is anything called special interests for the Muslims and for any community, it is the cause of their education and the privilege of receiving instruction in the religion of the respective communities. The question of separate education as opposed to common education is a question to be considered. I do say, Sir, that the first step in common education, i.e., education of all communities in non-denominational schools and colleges will be the result of a certain amount of liberal education given to the minority communities through what are called separate institutions. Separate institutions are not an end in themselves. Separate institutions are intended on account of the fact that the necessary and ample facilities are not available in those non-denominational schools, either aided or Government institutions. The imparting of religious education has not been provided for in every school, either state-managed or otherwise. Until the time comes when the Muslims are able to come to the level of the other communities, certainly there is need for separate schools. I say, if in every school, aided or state-managed they will make adequate provision and give adequate facilities for the imparting of religious instruction for any community which requires it and in whose case it is feasible to do so, and also if they will make adequate provision for the imparting of

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education in the language in which they would like to have instruction—Muslims would like to have instruction through the Urdu language—and lastly if a sufficient proportion of the staff in each school or college were to consist of members of the Muslim community, efficient for the purpose of imparting religious instruction, then I say that there will be no need for separate schools or colleges any longer. There is also difficulty with regard to certain manners and customs peculiar to the Muslim community and the granting of holidays. I think that this latter question is a very simple or a trivial one, and it has been almost solved now. Most of the important holidays have been made public holidays, and there are five or six other holidays which have been recognized as sectional holidays. So, there is no great difficulty in that matter.

“ There is another question which pertains to a very long-standing issue with reference to special interests in the field of religion, viz., religious observances and the question of music before mosque. No doubt, no definite policy has been adopted by the Congress till now, although it was attempted to be solved in 1927, 1928 and 1929 at Calcutta and Bombay, when they passed certain resolutions. But those resolutions, I am sorry to say, have been scrapped. Several other complications arose after those resolutions of the All-India Congress Committee which were approved of by the Congress, and they are not now in force. If that question of music before mosque and the problem of the observance of one's own religious rites and practices are tackled by this Government, by the representatives of the Congress in this House and by those who are in power to-day, I do not think, Sir, there is anything that can be conceived legitimately to keep Muslims away from the general majority community or any other community for the matter of that.

“ Now, Sir, there is one point I would like to suggest to the Hon. the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House holds an important position in the Party which he has the honour to lead and to represent in this House, and it is up to him to try an experiment which has not been tried elsewhere. There are certain provinces where the settlement of this difference between Hindus and Muslims has become a very difficult question, and attempts to solve it have not proved successful in that direction. Now, Sir, why not try a novel experiment? Let the Leader of the House try to bring together representatives of the Muslims, the Christians and other minority communities in this province and then settle the questions of difference among them. The question of settlement of differences between Hindus and Muslims on an all-India basis has not achieved any success. In so far as this province is concerned, the difficulties are not so insurmountable. They are a few. An honest serious and earnest attempt, may succeed in removing all those difficulties which have been often exaggerated and which have been found by experience to be not insolvable. I believe we can solve all questions in this province by a straight negotiation

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with the representatives of the communities concerned. I would therefore suggest that province by province, may be worked up, to settle the differences between the Hindus and Muslims on political, religious and social questions, especially in the matter of religious education and in the matter of music before mosques. The most important points of difference are only few and they are amenable to easy solution. Only it has not been tried so far, on a provincial basis. There is no use in attaching blame to any communities or to the members of any particular communities. I would therefore suggest that this responsible Ministry should do its best to reconcile the minorities in this province and to drag them along with the majority community in the battle for the freedom of the country. This would inspire greater and greater confidence in the minorities, instead of widening the gulf which exists. Let them be assured that their interests are absolutely safe in the hands of the Government, that the Government would do everything that lies in their power to improve the lot of the minorities and that the minorities would be considered an integral part of the Indian nation, and not considered from a narrow point of view as a community distinct and different from the rest of the communities in the country. I would therefore appeal, Sir, in the general interest of the progress of the province, to the Leader of the House to enunciate his policy with regard to the minority communities in respect of matters that I have referred to at some length."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India Act has given provincial autonomy, and according to that, we have, subject to certain limitations, full swaraj. The Government has all the powers necessary, and the limitations do not operate in the day to day work of the administration. The destiny of the province and the destiny of the people are in the hands of the Party in power. I may say, Sir, that I am not speaking on behalf of the party or group to which I belong, nor on behalf of the minority communities, because, there are members of the different communities in this House, and they have themselves spoken on their behalf. I have to speak here now because the other day in replying to a cut motion, the Member of Government stated, when I asked about the inadequacy of the representation of Muslims in the Registration department, that on the basis of population—he quoted some figures in this connexion—there was some deficiency in the clerical staff which was compensated for by two or three officers among the District Registrars. I do not want to ask the Government to make any statement or pronouncement on the communal Government Order. That is quite immaterial to me. I only want to know whether in giving representation to Muslims they are going to do it on the population basis or whether they are going to give any weightage, as has been done in certain provinces like the Punjab, the North West Frontier Province and Sindh. Because there is some suspicion in the minds of the people about it. I only want to bring to the notice of the Government the feeling that is in the minds of the Muslims

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about the attitude the Government will take in the representation of Muslims in services and in giving due weight to the rights and privileges of the Muslims. I do not want to enter into details. Because I am sure the Government, especially the Premier, is able to know more than what I may be able to say.

"In this connexion, I want to say a word about the administration of district boards. The abolition of the taluk boards has thrown the local board administration almost into chaos. Such an amount of work has been thrown upon the district boards that it is almost impossible for the district boards to administer their affairs satisfactorily. Hundreds of elementary schools that were being managed by taluk boards are now under the management of one district board, which had its hands full already. So also is the case with the medical and other institutions which were being managed by the taluk boards and which are now entrusted to the care of the district boards. It seems to me a mistake to have abolished the taluk boards.

"I think it will be better if all these boards go and only the panchayat boards are allowed to function, because all the three boards, ^{1 p.m.} are doing the same work, in which case there will also be a good saving to Government. The engineering work and the sanitary work can be taken up by the Government departmental heads, and the staff of these departments can be absorbed in the respective Government departments. In that case, the work also will be done more efficiently. Minor roads, village schools, village sanitation and the work of rural upliftment can be entrusted to the panchayats. The Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils will be able to co-ordinate the work of the panchayats and give them the necessary advice with the help of his assistants. But there is a complaint from the panchayats that the Government sometimes insists and the Inspector of Local Boards has been advising not to include more than one village in one panchayat. For one village will not have sufficient income to run any rural school or dispensary. So two or more villages may be allowed to be clubbed under one panchayat board. The panchayats may also be allowed to form into federations or unions in order to make more efficient the village institutions, village roads and such other things."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Demand has enabled various hon. Members of this House to deal more elaborately with many aspects of Government policy, and many members have referred, particularly members of the minority communities, to the safeguarding of the interests of minority communities, particularly in the administration of the local self-government department of this province. In regard to the apprehensions of the minority communities. I only wish to urge on the Government that the apprehensions have to be considered in this aspect, that we should sincerely respect the feelings of the minority communities. The minority communities' interests in this province have been, I may say, looked after by the Government during the last seventeen years. It is that that makes the members of the minority communities to ask Government still further to safeguard their interests.

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“Some fear has been expressed by members in regard to the proposals to amend the communal order. So far as I can see, during the last two months the Government have been in power, particularly with reference to the answer given by the Leader of the House, no proposal is there to amend or in any way go behind the communal order. It was a refreshing assurance to representatives of the minority communities here. I only wish to urge that communal justice for which my party stands and which other parties respect equally, should in no way be disregarded so long as the communal problem is there. I do not know whether a time will come when there will be no minority problem at all, but so long as it is there it is impossible to ignore it; and I sincerely trust that the Government in power, whoever they may be, will do their best to allay the apprehensions of the minority communities.

“There are many suggestions made with regard to the control and administration of local bodies. I am myself going to make one suggestion with regard to the conduct of elections which I shall refer to later. For the present I shall only urge on the Hon. Gentleman the Minister for Local Administration that this department had to pass several amending Acts, more than 15 or 20—I am not able to count the number—during the last seventeen years. So I would urge that it is essential that an elaborate enquiry be made into the working of the local self-government institutions of this province before any far-reaching changes are undertaken by this department. We are concerned that we should afford more amenities to the villagers by way of panchayats and other things. I have many suggestions to offer but suffice it to say on this occasion that it is absolutely necessary for the Government to undertake an elaborate enquiry into the success of local self-government and how far the various amending Acts have had effect with regard to improving the administration. Some think that non-officials have no control at all in the administration of the local bodies; several others feel that only the permanent officials should control them. There is a divergence of opinion in this matter. So with a view to clear up matters I suggested a committee of enquiry which will enable Government to come to better conclusions.

“One other suggestion I wish to make, and that is with regard to the proposal to adopt the colour-box system of voting in the elections to municipal councils and local boards. I wish to assure the Hon. Gentleman the Minister for Local Administration at the very outset that I am not here speaking in any partisan spirit or because of the defeat of the Justice Party in the last election conducted on the colour box system. I am free to own that the main cause of the defeat was not the colour box system alone; but at the same time I wish to say that the Congress Party does not say that it requires the colour box system as an aid to success in the elections. The Congress Party does not need any such extraneous source of help for success in elections. The recent successes of the Congress Party during the last two years in local boards

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and municipal elections prove my point beyond any doubt. The Congress leaders have from time to time declared that the success of a party at election should be with reference to the merits of the policy and programme they have followed. In attempting to point out some of the important defects which I consider to be inherent in the system of colour box voting, I have full confidence that the Minister in charge of Local Administration will give his very careful consideration to them. I believe the two main objects which are intended to be achieved by the colour box system is to prevent corruption and secure secrecy of voting. With regard to the first, I may say that the colour box system is not a remedy for corruption. The remedy lies in an enlarged electorate. An enlarged electorate such as the Assembly electorate will practically remove corruption. That was a very satisfactory feature of the last election. In an enlarged electorate of 60,000 or so no man can think of bribing the voters. That last election has demonstrated very clearly that corruption is impossible in an enlarged electorate. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: ‘Question.’) My hon. Friend representing the City questions. I shall only say I shall not answer the question. With reference to this question we now learn that there is a proposal by Government to introduce a large electorate in the municipal and local board elections. Once the electorate is enlarged there is remedy against corruption. And there is no need for any colour box system. The panacea for corruption is not the colour box system. The second object aimed at is to secure secrecy of voting, which is a very essential factor, I agree. The essence of voting depends upon the manner in which a person records his vote in secrecy. Then only the individual has the freedom to record the vote for the person he likes. How far it would be achieved practically, is the question. I would ask the Government whether a colour attached to a voting paper does not offend against secret voting, voting not only by illiterates but by literates too. The watcher is stationed at a place where he could hear the name of the person who is being ushered in to vote and at the same time sees the ballot paper is deposited in the ballot box.

“It may be said that the watcher will be done away with. I quite agree. Once it is done the problem is not solved. You must devise a system of machinery which may ensure expeditious voting and also the depositing of voting papers in the ballot box. So far no proposal has been made before the public. Otherwise it will lead to corruption. Where they had a colour box system of voting and no watcher, what happened was some voters went away without putting the voting papers into the box; and I am told by a previous Member of the Government who was in charge of this subject that they had therefore to resort to the watcher system. Unless some suitable remedy is thought of we cannot eradicate the evil. It may be said that the colour box system will suit very well so far as the party system goes. People are asked to vote for a party and not for individuals. In the case of local board and municipal elections the candidates should get into touch more with the constituents; it is not like the case of the Assembly candidates.

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"One other thing. During the last election there were various complaints with regard to the confusion of colours. The more the number of candidates the more the trouble. I only urge all these points with a view that Government may take note of them when coming to a decision as to the introduction of the colour box system."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether I shall be able to deal with all the points that have been raised by the hon. Members within the time that you have advised me to keep. But I shall endeavour to do my best and if I treat some matters briefly it is not because I consider them unimportant or because I wish to brush them aside with a couple of words, but in order, to economize time and in the confidence that the Members will trust that Government will continue to exercise their minds over the points raised and bring about confidence and satisfaction all round and not merely push forward a policy because they have a majority behind them. It is in that confidence that I say, even though I deal with certain subjects very briefly, it may not be thought that this is a very supercilious way of dealing with the opposition; especially do I say this because the debate started this morning with some extensive references to the necessity for any government to care for the opposition and for minorities. I do not think, Sir, that we have acted in any manner deserving that especial caution of this morning. In the few days we have spent in office we have exhibited, I claim, more consideration for the opposition than the party to which we belong. I think, Sir, this will be granted, especially because it was admitted even from the opposition, the voicing forth of discontent in our own party, a process which I think members of our party do not wish to be taken up by members of the opposition. They are quite able to take care of themselves, when they meet downstairs, in the cellar. We shall be able to manage, and it is not necessary for members of the opposition on the floor of this House to take up party feelings and discuss the relationship between leaders and Ministers and the party on the other side. I shall not take up more time on this point, Sir.

1-15
p.m.

"I should ask, for another preliminary matter, forgiveness from one hon. Member for having raised a point of order when he was proceeding to discuss, certainly very important matters, but in my humble opinion, not relevant matters or at any rate permissible matters. It is very nice that Members of the Opposition have suggestions to make as to how we should allocate the work among the Ministers, but such advice or suggestions should be most welcome if they are brought to us in the privacy of our rooms and certainly not in the manner in which they have been offered here. I do not question for a moment either the utility or the sincerity of the suggestions, but I do question the wisdom of discussing such matters on the floor of this House like this.

"Then it was said that I am not good enough for all the weight and burden I have taken on. That again is not a matter for discussion. Of course I do feel grateful for so much consideration with regard to me and if I err, I want that consideration to be extended in tolerating such

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errors rather than in merely suggesting changes in the portfolios on the floor of this House. There are matters of executive importance and there are other matters which are really matters of deliberation. I don't think we will do well, whoever may be in office, to mix up these matters. Today we may be in office and tomorrow another might be in office and it would not do to make executive matters, matters of deliberation in a legislature. It is not any desire to wield dictatorial powers that makes me wish that such matters should not be discussed in the legislature; on the contrary, I think we will soon establish a different kind of inefficient dictatorship if we take up such matters for discussion on the floor of the House. It is very easy to go wrong if you take up executive matters as subject-matter of discussion in a deliberative body.

"Then, Sir, with reference to the demand that we should consider the claims of minorities, it is certainly most important and most vital in the art of good government. I do admit that straightaway and if I have anything to say on this subject which I feel important it is this: that the members of the Moslem community, the members of the Harijan community, the members of the Anglo-Indian community and the members of the Indian Christian community have found very strong expression for the safeguards necessary. It appears as if they felt frightened by the strength of the majority behind Government and thought that it was necessary to caution us in this way. I wish to assure the hon. Members that the Government now in office will forget the strength behind the Government and if they have faith in the Congress to which they belong they will ever remember that the protection of the minorities and the confidence that they generate in the minorities is their true asset. I, however, beg all these enlightened representatives of the various minorities not simply to follow the easy task of pitching their claims as high as possible and making their demands as pleasant as possible to their constituencies, but to take into account the just claims of other minorities than those for whom they speak, and also to take into account the pressing claim of the majority though that may not be a mere demand for sympathy but a claim. All these have to be taken into account. I do hope, whatever people may say, whatever constituencies may demand of such cultured representatives of the minorities, that they will explain the actions of Government to the minorities to whom they belong, that they will explain the justice of the matters and not merely be satisfied with pitching their demands as high as possible. For this co-operation on their part, I assure the leaders of the various minorities in this House that I shall be their most humble servant as far as it lies in my power and I should be deemed to be speaking on behalf of my colleagues as well in this respect. It is not an easy task. We are faced with the difficulties of arithmetic in this matter. It is not merely enough to be sympathetic; we have to sometimes fight with the laws of nature and laws of mathematics.

"Well, we are here in the legislature as representatives. There is no quarrel about that. There is the Communal Award which is the

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basis on which we are working. Then what is the other thing remaining? The real thing remaining is the amenities that the various communities—the masses of the population belonging to the various communities—have to expect at the hands of the Government. That is the largest question and the most important question for Government. I have no hesitation in saying that we shall do any mortal sin in preference to doing injustice with reference to the claims of the population of the various minorities in regard to good government. Nobody has dared to urge—and I am glad nobody has found reason to urge—that we have erred or has expressed the fear that we are going to err in any matter affecting the large masses either of the Anglo-Indian community, or the Indian Christian community, or the Muslim community or the Harijan community.

“Then music and conversions were also brought in and religious education too with reference to the question whether it should be taken under Government auspices or whether Urdu should come in and all that. I hope that this catalogue will not be increased, because, as far as I am able to see in this province we have no fight over music before mosques and we have no fight over conversions. Thank God, we are not fighting over Urdu and other matters. We are fighting if at all only between Tamil and Hindi as far as we are able to see. And I take the earliest opportunity to mention that, if we wish to introduce Hindi, in addition to the mother tongue which will have the most prominent place in the scheme of education, we would do so only to enable the South to know what is going on in the other provinces and to create an All-India unity. We propose to offer the Urdu script for the Muslim and the Hindi or Devanagari script for the others. We do not propose to flinch from that and we do not propose to inflict any script or language on any person who does not want it. Therefore, I submit, there will be no quarrels in this Presidency of ours over the script or over the music or over the conversions. I am trying to do my best and I think that we have the highest authority on our side to prevent any quarrels extending or growing over conversions. I hope our Province will enjoy the same peace which it has luckily enjoyed up till now over these matters. We have set an example not only to the whole of India, but to the whole world, I may say, by our tolerance of one another in regard to religion. There is no part of the world where Christian churches were allowed to be constructed from time immemorial on a soil populated by a vast majority of Hindus and ruled by Hindu Kings. There is no place in the world as our province where mosques have been erected without any complaint from anybody that land should not be given or anything of that kind. I think we may rest assured that we shall not do any injury to the good claim that our province has attained from time immemorial.

“Then, Sir, the only thing remaining and, perhaps hon. Members will laugh in appreciation, when I say that *the* thing remaining is the demand for jobs in Government service which is given the high and dignified name of the communal problem by the hon. Member Mr. Hameed Khan. Sir, it is very tragic that these places in the Government service still occupy the most important part in our consideration

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of public affairs. It is tragic, I say, not because I wish to play the schoolmaster and say it is wrong. I say it is tragic because it shows how poor our country is. It shows there are no industries. It shows that we are not getting on very well as a nation and that is why we are quarrelling over these Government and local body jobs as the most important thing in the world and raising it to the dignified level of a communal problem. But I assure hon. Members of all parties here whether they belong to the Opposition or whether they belong to separate parties going by the names of communities themselves, whatever parties they might belong to, as long as I feel that our problems are different and other than these, that nothing shall be done by this Government which will put any community or group in a worse position than it was in before we took charge. This I can say categorically, but because I am not in love with that kind of division of jobs I will not get eloquent over justice being rendered to this community or that community. I do maintain that it is on account of our poverty that all this attention is given to this matter. Here is an arrangement with which we began. We are not going to make things worse. If anywhere it has gone worse it is the duty of hon. Members to point it out and it will be the duty of the Government to set it right. If anything has not been done which was being done, it should be the prompt duty of hon. Members to bring that to light and it will be the duty of Government to set that right as far as it is in the control of the affairs of administration. But if you ask the Government to set right things which happened five years, ten years or twenty years ago, it would not be possible for Government to function for all past years. They can only function for this year they have taken office or for the year in which they are in office. They cannot, under the pretence of carrying on the Government in 1937 dig up the incidents of the past years. We have begun where other people have handed over things to us. That is all I wish to say on this subject. I repeat again that no community, certainly not the Muhammadan community, need imagine that we would put them in a worse position than they were in.

“It was stated by me in answer to a question the other day that the Government—I am very grateful to the Leader of the Opposition who drew attention to it again today—is not considering any variation or any cancellation or modification of the communal Government Order. They have good reason for not considering it, not because they have adopted the policy of the party whom they have displaced as the right policy to be adopted by the Government but because they do not propose to create any confusion over that matter. They do not think they would be serving all things well by taking up that problem now and to the detriment of other subjects of more fundamental importance so far as the party to which we belong can consider.

“Therefore, Sir, that assurance and the frank expression of the motive behind that assurance I have placed before the House. I do hope that hon. Members will accept that assurance as satisfactory. They cannot ask us to alter our fundamental faith but they can ask us not to disturb the existing state of affairs and I say yes to that question.

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" Then with regard to certain other matters I am glad that those matters which I thought would be the subject of heated debate have not been taken up at all. The one thing that has been raised by the hon. Member who started the debate yesterday but which seems rather out of place in this discussion is the question of the Andhra Province. The hon. Member of the Muslim community from Bezwada and I think one other hon. Member, Mr. Akram Ali, took up with great energy the question of the Andhra Province.

1-30 p.m. " I am glad that Members of the party led by the Government did not fall into the trap and definitely refused to participate in the debate on these lines. It is, I think, wrong for the House, I would not merely say the Government, to take up a matter of that kind and of such importance by a side-wind as it were. It is wrong to allow our policies to be shattered by divisions over matters which are of practically no importance just now. I submit that this question of the formation of an Andhra Province or of provinces on a linguistic basis had better be left to those who started the question, fostered the movement and are abiding by that policy day-in and day-out in their own institutions. I do not think the party to which the Government belongs is likely to forget the question of the formation of an Andhra Province, even if the Members of the Opposition fail to bring it forward. I think such questions by reason of their fundamental importance may be left to the Congress. The Congress will consider a hundred times before it changes its attitude, if it comes to a question of changing its attitude at all. I do not think that this demand I have moved should be cut, because our province has not been divided into Tamil, Andhra, Malayala and Karnataka provinces. That, I submit, is the only plain issue if we are to look at it in a businesslike manner and I think we should be businesslike in this matter and not merely carry on the old traditions which we were carrying on in the old councils when we had no powers, viz., the system of talking on every subject possible thus taking up the time of the House as a compensation for not having the power to vary or alter the demand that was under discussion. So, to the question before the House, this division of the province into two, three or four areas is not quite relevant. Surely resolutions on the subject may be brought forward, but recommendations like that stand on a different footing and hon. Members will be at perfect liberty to offer their remarks at the time.

" Sir, with regard to the Harijan problem, as distinct from the problem of minorities, it is true and I admit this and say with an emphasis equal to and even greater than that laid on it by the Member from Chidambaram, Swami Sahajananda, that the position of the untouchables has to be attended to. If we are here for two or three major things, we are also here for helping the untouchables to attain the status which they in common justice and humanity should attain. There is no one here who would admit the misfortune of the position of Harijans more clearly than the Members of this Government. But we must recognize that we cannot abolish untouchability by legislation. I wish to say that to every one who has spoken on the subject. We can, as in the case of drink, prevent our own mischief; we can give up what we

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do in regard to that matter, but we have to depend upon the people to correct themselves. If untouchability were to go it cannot be done merely by an order of the Government. I who have worked for legislation in that line admit this. I have admitted it all through. As far as I have examined this legislation, I say it cannot work. Of course we are bound to pass any legislation that may be necessary and the Government are bound to do it.

" The hon. Member from Chidambaram made a slight inaccuracy in quoting the Poona Pact and the declarations made at the time. I was certainly connected with that arrangement, and therefore it is that I remember it slightly better than Swami Sahajananda. It was not promised at that time—it is necessary that I should make this clear because the hon. Member's words are taken to be important and broadcast throughout—that legislation would be introduced as soon as the Congress people attained Swaraj. It was not promised that legislation would be introduced to abolish untouchability. What was promised was that legislation would be introduced to remove social, political and economic disabilities. As regards religious disabilities what was promised was that every effort would be made from that day onwards to remove them. It was clearly seen and admitted at the time that entry into temples and mosques could not be legislated upon, whether by a Swaraj Government or any other Government. But they could remove the legal difficulties that existed. This, I submit, was what was promised, and I may assure hon. Members of the Harijan community that that will be done in time. For this I say that I want not only their co-operation but I crave something more from hon. Members who spoke on that subject. I want them to have confidence in us in this matter. Have they, I ask, anybody else in whom they have greater trust and good will in regard to this question? In practical life I wish to submit to my Friends one can only choose the best of the lot. You cannot get God himself to take up the Government of the country; you can only get the best men. I ask hon. Members to tell me whether they can choose a Government of any other persons who are committed by their policy, by their institutions, by the creed of the party to which they belong, by their acts, by the work they have done and by the lives they have led, to work for the removal of untouchability in the manner in which this Government is pledged to work? With that confidence we shall proceed to work. It is not necessary for hon. Members to mention everything to the Government. Do I not know all that Swami Sahajananda repeated here? Do not my colleagues know all that? It is better that we all work together. If all those hon. Members who spoke for the Harijan community will co-operate with us, I am sure that we shall be able to achieve a great deal even within a short time and then it may seem to be a miracle. We have examples of miracles in this matter and I do hope that some of us too will be enabled to work a few miracles and we will be the happier for them. We want, therefore, co-operation all round. It was stated that more schools, wells and other things should be provided for Harijans and that what was being done was not enough.

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I am sure that when the subject comes up under a different head, my hon. Colleague will be able to explain how much has so far been done and how much more is expected to be done. I, therefore, beg of all Harijan Members and Leaders to trust this Government in respect of this matter.

“ Then, as regards the question of communal representation, reference was made to one of my observations. So, it is important that I should explain the position. It was an observation of mine that communalism in compartments is dangerous. Let me make the position clear as to what I meant by that. For instance, if we have communal proportion it is one thing; if we have communal rotation it is one thing. But if you go further and say that in the office of the Public Service Commission we should have communal proportion, in the Cabinet we should have communal proportion, among District Registrars we should have communal proportion and among Commissioners of Municipalities we should have communal proportion, if we go on like that it becomes ridiculous. A man cannot be cut up into decimal fractions or percentages. If we go on like that very often we may have to round off fractions up or down. If we round them off upward and we do that in regard to all minority communities, what will be the ultimate result? What will be the position of the majority community? Where will it be at the end of it all? We cannot therefore compartmentalize even for the sake of Arithmetic. Further it is a dangerous thing to efficiency. It is a danger to the very plea that hon. Members put forward. If we carry this principle to a ridiculous extent, I may tell my Friends through you, Sir, that it will be suicidal for them. The country will condemn it wholesale and ultimately the whole thing will be wiped out. You must stop at a certain stage. For instance, if you take High Court Judges, where is the communal proportion there? So, if you carry it to a ridiculous extent, the whole thing will become inefficient and rotten, if I may be permitted to use that word. The thing will work to the extent that it has been laid down already. But to extend it further with reference to compartmentalization and imagine that it is progress will be a suicidal delusion. If we press farther than is proper, there will be a great revulsion of feeling against it and the whole thing will go. You must stop at a reasonable limit. If you take 50 or 100 or a larger number of persons and apply this principle it will be all right. But if you want to take it still further down to 5, 10 and 20 and so on and try to get the communal ratio for every community, then I say you will be going to a ridiculous extent. That is all that I meant. I am open to correction in such matters. I have explained what I had in my mind. If hon. Members will show me that ‘ such and such thing is wrong; it is important, and it is possible to get such and such things done ’, no one will be more ready to yield to those demands than myself. (Hear, hear.) I do not want, however, to be taken merely on trust. Let us be tried and let us be taken after trial. I do not want even an assurance to be given by hon. Members. Now it is my duty to make

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an offer and give an assurance on behalf of the Government and I do not ask in return for more than this: that we should be tried, mistakes should be pointed out to us and remedies should be offered wherever we go wrong, and these will as far as possible be adopted.

“ A question was asked with reference to the number of Commissioners of Municipalities whether this communal proportion was applied to them. I said I would examine it. On further examination I have found that no such thing was observed nor would it be wise to do so, as I have stated already.

“ Then, Sir, with regard to the Indian Christians it was a welcome thing to hear from the hon. Member for the Madras Indian Christians. It was his clear conviction that this community did not want this communal arrangement, but if it was there, he wanted to raise the proportion. Sir, here also I may say that it is not possible to raise it, as here again it would reduce itself to a question of Arithmetic. However, I may say that I have not examined this point. If hon. Members will show me that Indian Christians are at a disadvantage on account of the working of this rule, it will be corrected provided it does not give rise to commotion or confusion among other communities. To that extent I can give the assurance. It is not possible to blow hot and cold at the same time and claim in one breath proportion according to the total population and in another breath according to literacy or illiteracy. You will be able to solve this problem only if you apply the rule ‘ either blow hot or blow cold.’

“ As regards the Harijan representation in the Cabinet, the Cabinet is not a mere compartment but the engine of the whole train. We cannot go on loading it too far. Otherwise the engine will not draw the train. If we make the compartments too heavy, the steam boiler that is inside will not be able to draw the train and the whole thing will collapse. That is the difficulty about the Cabinet. Hon. Members who spoke about it will be satisfied that I am a Harijan. My Hon. Colleague Mr. Muniswami Pillai is a Harijan. So that, there are at least two Harijans on the Cabinet and I am grateful to the statement made by the hon. Member that I am a Harijan. As a matter of fact that is a statement that will apply not only to the Cabinet but to the whole House. I imagine that all of us are so confirmed in the policy that we have to adopt with regard to the Harijans that no Member or the Leader of the Harijan community need have any difficulty or anxiety in this matter.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ Why this special consideration for the Harijan community? ”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ I think that the question is not put seriously. But if it is, I do want him to give some special consideration to the Harijan community, as that community is in a very peculiar position. I want the Muslim community to show as much special consideration and sympathy to the Harijans as the Hindus

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do to them. But I think the question was not seriously put. (Laughter.) Then a small point was taken by the hon. Member for the Madras Indian Christians with reference to the Public Services Examination and the marks obtained in it and all that. Though it is small it is important. Therefore I should explain it. It will be examined, I may say at the outset, whether there is anything wrong there. It has to be examined and if it is found wrong we shall correct it. But it appears to me that he did not prove any case at all. However, I may say that, when a boy finishes his S.S.L.C. he chooses either to take up University study or to take up office under Government. Then comes in the Public Service Commission examination. If the Government is to take over a lad and recruit him for public service, then certain qualifications are necessary for him. The Secretary or the Superintendent of the office cannot continue to give him education in English or Arithmetic. They will have to take a boy who is absolutely fit. But as regards the University, the boy receives further education. Therefore, a small percentage in certain subjects can be excused by the University, because it is going to give him many more years of education in a college. But in the case of an office, the boy's education cannot be continued and therefore a higher percentage of clerical equipment is necessary for him if he is to be taken over as a clerk or anything else. That is the explanation for this mysterious demand of 40 per cent or 37 per cent or whatever it may be, a slightly higher percentage than what the University desires in regard to the students taken over by it. I have taken so much of the time of the House to say all this, because it is possible that in many matters where we think a thing is absolutely and obviously wrong, it may not be so wrong as we imagine. I wanted to show to hon. Members the necessity for a careful examination of what has been accepted by Government, not by this Government alone, but even by previous Governments. They had no grudge against these poor boys for putting down this percentage, nor any capricious fancy for these percentages. There must be some reason for it. I imagine that this goes to prove that things done by a Government where there is no obvious bad motive should be carefully examined before we haul them up for public ridicule. This is a case which seems on the face of it to look ridiculous: the Public Service Commission demands a higher percentage than the University. The obvious reason is this: we cannot afford to open classes in language and spelling in the Secretariat. Bad spelling spoils a whole letter, a whole problem. An issue may go to the Government of India with a bad spelling and come down with quite a different answer to that which a correctly spelt letter would have got. I have seen many cases like that. Everything must be presented accurately and much more so is it the case in the work of the Government. Therefore I submit that Indian Christian leaders especially who claimed that their community was more literate than other communities even should not be frightened by a demand for a few more marks. For a lad who is recruited to-day may rise up to the top and we cannot afford to give him continuous education in the office in all that is necessary.

1-45
p.m.

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“ Sir, the representative of Anglo-Indians claimed that there should be Anglo-Indian representatives in the local bodies also. I am informed by my colleague that wherever there is a large Anglo-Indian community provision has been made and provision will be made for such representation. But it is not possible to demand the distribution of Anglo-Indian members in local bodies and municipalities everywhere. It would not be fair, as I think the hon. Member himself would admit. It is not as if there is any particular race personality to be satisfied. After all, taking all these various communities we propose to satisfy the demands, the just demands of persons actually living in a particular area. Therefore if there are very few Anglo-Indians in a particular district or in a particular town we may not have an Anglo-Indian member on the local body concerned. But if an Anglo-Indian gentleman is otherwise competent, not on the ground of the community to which he belongs, but as a friend of the masses and a worthy representative of the people there on the civic body, then he will certainly be there apart from any rule or regulation on the subject. Every attempt will be made where there is a large population of the Anglo-Indian community as such and where they demand regular representation as such, to meet that demand. I am sure that provision will not be refused to them, provided there is a demand from that locality. I know that there are many places where the members of that community have a better chance in an open election by all than by reservations of this kind or by nominations. In such places we should not for the sake of mere theory spoil the situation.

“ As regards the colour box system of voting to which my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition referred, I assure him that there is no desire on the part of the Government to push forward this colour box scheme merely because it gave them success in a particular election as it is imagined or that they have any particular fancy for this colour scheme. The real problem is how to deal with the large number of voters who either are illiterate or claim to be illiterate and enable them to vote in the ordinary manner on the occasion. It has been found—unfortunately experience has shown—that many people are compelled or by agreement made to claim illiteracy. An unfortunate experience it is, but it is there all the same. So we have to provide not only for genuine illiterates but also to prevent claim of illiteracy being put forward in order to take away the secrecy of the vote for the obvious motive, which I need not repeat, that some persons are interested in the vote being given openly and being verified instead of being given in the ordinary ballot way. The problem is how to solve this difficulty.

“ The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition referred to secrecy and corruption. I would add intimidation also. There are three things to be considered. With regard to secrecy there is no difficulty felt. The watcher's presence I think, has been exaggerated. The man who is generally put as a watcher in order to avoid the other difficulty of votes being stolen away is generally one of a class who hon. Members and the

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Hon. the Leader of the Opposition know, will not be able to do much mischief by watching. However if any scheme could be invented by which the watcher could be dispensed with, it will be done.

“ With regard to corruption, if the electorate is extended, I quite admit the statement of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition that bribery and corruption will become practically impossible. It is quite correct and that is enough. That is why the Government are trying to enlarge the electorate even for the local bodies and even at the risk of being misunderstood they have issued orders postponing these elections for a few months in order to get the Assembly roll practically adopted as the roll for the other bodies, the Assembly roll being much bigger.

“ With regard to the literacy problem, the literacy element will be introduced in the new electorate as it takes shape. So this problem of literacy will be reduced to a minimum.

“ Dealing with corruption, I have to point out there is another kind of corruption. In spite of the enlargement of the electorate there is a kind of group corruption going on and the leaders of groups are corrupted. And those leaders want to know their corrupt group voting publicly so that they may carry out their bargains and their contracts. I am very sorry to expose the whole sordid thing in its details. That is the reason why Government are interested in preventing this publication of group votes of people who either are illiterate or claim to be illiterate. We cannot therefore simply depend on the enlargement of the electorate. We have to have a method by which these groups are independent of their leaders who have bargained away their rights so to say, or who may bargain away their rights. Hence this clamour for some method by which the voting paper can be deposited without other people knowing exactly how it is done. Then we should also take it that with a very enlarged electorate and the greater interest taken in these elections, it is difficult for the officers who are actually in the polling booth to be entirely divested of all interest in the matter. It is very right and very natural. That is why there is a demand that it is not enough to go to the polling officer or somebody there and tell him. We have to be cautious about this matter, in order that our democracy may not fail altogether and become a scandal. Hence this colour scheme. Nobody on this side believes or has any superstitious feeling that a particular colour brought them success. They want only that the literate should be enabled to deposit his vote without intimidation or corruption. That is the problem. If any scheme, if any method be invented or suggested by hon. Members on the opposition in place of this colour system which would meet this difficulty, I for one promise to receive every such suggestion and see that my colleagues accept such suggestions. But I submit that so far as we have been able to see, there is no better thing than this. It is only in a temporary way that I plead for this colour box system. We wish to reduce all the disadvantages to the minimum in that connexion. I do not think I need dwell on this subject any more.

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“ There were suggestions that the administration of the local bodies was not quite good and improvements could be made and all that. Of course they are bound to be heard, considered and given weight to. Even the suggestion, the bold suggestion, that all these boards may be abolished and that we may go back to panchayats and taluk boards and the like—all these things will be gone into. But we do not think we would be right in making large changes without due consideration straightaway in all departments of the Government at the same time. There are many crying demands and they ought to be attended to. The improvement of the local administration system will also be looked into carefully.

“ With regard to the services, there are grievances. They also come under the general claim that I make that we shall be just with regard to minorities.

“ Sir, I think that I have dealt with all the topics that have been raised in the debate. I hope that hon. Members who raised these discussions and other hon. Members who joined in them in the course of the debate will see that we deserve their confidence and withdraw their cut motions.”

Mr. Ari Gowder's cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand VIII was put and carried and the Grant was made.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 10 a.m. on Monday, the 20th September 1937.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 131 asked by Mr. E. Kannan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 18th September 1937, page 273 supra.]
Statement showing the details of the wells sunk by the Labour Department in Malabar district in the years 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37 during the time of the present District Labour Officer (M.R.Ry. J. Eapen).

Locality.	Amount spent on					
	Construction.		Acquisition of sites.		Total.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
1934-35.						
Ernad—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pookkottur	..	..	522	0 0	7 12 0	529 12 0
Koduvayur	..	..	439	0 0	3 0 5	442 0 5
Vellimukku	..	..	562	0 0	3 6 5	565 6 5
Trikkolam ..	..	..	921	0 0	7 12 0	928 12 0
Chirakkal—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madai ..	..	..	180	0 0	7 1 7	187 1 7
Pamburuthi	..	..	227	0 0	5 9 2	232 9 2
Kurumbanad—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iringal ..	..	..	387	0 0	8 0 0	395 0 0
Calicut—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chathamangalam ..	..	..	959	0 0	3 10 5	962 10 5
Palghat—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Akethethara	..	..	546	0 0	3 14 5	549 14 5
Odannur ..	..	..	644	0 0	3 6 5	647 6 5
Kattusseri ..	..	..	857	0 0	25 4 0	882 4 0
Edathara ..	..	..	653	0 0	3 6 5	656 6 5
Walluvanad—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nethirimangalam ..	..	..	660	0 0	4 2 10	*664 2 10
Total ..	..	..	7,557	0 0	86 6 1	7,643 6 1

* Work completed in 1935-36.

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1935-36.						
Chirakkal—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pappinisseri	..	..	281	0 0	7 10 0	288 10 0
Kottila ..	..	..	208	0 0	5 15 2	213 15 2
Calicut—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palangad ..	..	..	655	0 0	4 2 10	659 2 10
Ernad—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thiruvalli	..	..	689	0 0	4 8 10	693 8 10
Pulpatta ..	..	..	574	0 0	4 8 10	578 8 10
Walluvanad—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thekkumangalam	..	..	608	0 0	2 15 5	610 15 5
Akalur ..	..	..	478	0 0	14 0 0	492 0 0
Palghat—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paruvasseri	..	..	507	0 0	25 12 0	532 12 0
Akethethara (two wells)	..	..	1,194	0 0	4 12 10	1,198 12 10
Kuthanur ..	..	..	749	0 0	5 0 10	*754 0 10
Kavasseri	..	..	654	0 0	14 0 0	*668 0 0
Total ..	..	..	6,597	0 0	93 6 9	6,690 6 9
1936-37.						
Ernad—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mannur (two wells)	..	..	478	0 0	30 4 10	†508 4 10
Chirakkal—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puzhathi (two wells)	..	..	987	0 0	14 12 0	†1,001 12 0
Total ..	..	..	1,465	0 0	45 0 10	1,510 0 10

* Work completed in 1936-37.

† The excavation and steining up to parapet alone completed and payment made. The remaining work is progress.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 139 asked by Mr. C. Narasimham at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 18th September 1937, page 278 supra.]

G.O. Ms. No. 1880, Law (Education), dated the 17th September 1930.

The Chairman, Municipal Council, Chicacole, is informed that the Government are unable to sanction any additional subsidy towards the maintenance of the Municipal High School, Chicacole, beyond the five per cent increase admissible under the orders in paragraph 2 (1) of G.O. No. 1157, Education, dated the 12th June 1930.

As regards subsidy for extensions to the buildings of the school the Chairman's attention is invited to paragraph 2 (2) of G.O. No. 1157, Education, dated the 12th June 1930, according to which a subsidy equal to only one-half of the cost can be given for the extensions. If the municipal council is prepared to meet the other half of the cost from its own funds it may apply to Government separately with the necessary plans and estimates for a half grant.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

U. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chairman of the Chicacole Municipal Council.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" Local Self-Government Department.

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 142 asked by Mr. D. V. Ramaswami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 18th September 1937, page 283 supra.]

I

Letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, dated 17th April 1937, R.C. No. 4843/36-B-5.

[District Economic Council for rural reconstruction, Vizagapatam—Quarter ending 31st March 1937—Work.]

The District Economic Council met for the first time on 9th January 1937. A copy of the minutes of the meeting was submitted to Government with my letter R.C. No. 4843/36-B-5, dated 17th January 1937 (copy annexed). In pursuance of the District Council's resolution, dated 9th January 1937, all Divisional Officers except Divisional Officer, Parvatipur, have formed sub-committees and submitted in this month schemes for rural water-supply, village sanitation, and communications for consideration of the District Council. These schemes will be placed before the District Economic Council during the current quarter and better progress shown. The elections to the new Provincial Legislature seriously impeded the progress of the Council in the last quarter.

Copy to the Commissioner of Labour and Rural Uplift.

ANNEXURE

Proceedings of the District Economic Council meeting held on 9th January 1937 in the Collector's Office at Vizagapatam.

The Treasury Deputy Collector is appointed Secretary of the Council. The Council resolve that an allotment at the rate of Rs. 2,000 per taluk should be made to each revenue division for expenditure on village wells, in each division. A sub-committee of the Council should be formed under the Revenue Divisional Officer to consider the requirements of the villages in this direction, and to make recommendations with estimates for the actual construction of wells,

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special attention being paid to whether the necessary one-third contribution in money or labour will be forthcoming. In areas where festivals are usual, and requires special consideration, recommendations for additional allotment for expenditure in those areas will be considered.

The sub-committee should comprise the members of the Council having jurisdiction or residing in the divisional area, and should co-opt any local officers whose assistance is required.

Expenditure within the limits proposed will be sanctioned by the Collector without further reference to the Council being necessary.

Sub-committees should choose not less than one village or compact group of villages in each taluk, in which intensive propaganda in Public Health work generally might usefully be done. They should recommend to the Council whether expenditure on latrines is necessary and whether contribution will be forthcoming for them in a village in which a panchayat already exists, and whether the panchayat should be urged to appoint a small sanitary staff towards the cost of which the Council would contribute. Sub-committee should endeavour to limit these proposals to Rs. 1,000 per taluk.

The sub-committee should choose suitable areas in which additional village communications are urgently required or in which repairs are necessary. Their proposals should be submitted to the Council through the district boards concerned who should be requested to contribute the necessary quota towards such works. When district boards so agree, the Council desires that works should be executed by the district board staff. The Collector will ask the Government if there is any objection to the allotment to be on the basis of Rs. 2,500 per taluk.

Sub-committees should endeavour to select in their areas, village or groups of villages in which rural reconstruction work on an intensive basis may be inaugurated with reasonable prospects of lasting results. In this connexion copies of the questionnaire issued in South Kanara and copies of a scheme already considered for the Kottavalasa area will be sent to the sub-committees for consideration in formulating proposals. Such schemes will be considered in detail by the Council which will then be in a position to submit proposals to the Government for allotment of necessary funds.

G. H. COOKE.

*Collector and President, District Economic Council,
Vizagapatam.*

II

Letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, dated 23rd July 1937, R.C. No. 4843/36-B-5.

[District Economic Council for rural reconstruction—(Vizagapatam)—Quarter ending 30th June 1937—Progress.]

The Economic Council of this district met on 21st May 1937 and considered the several schemes formulated by the local sub-committees for rural reconstruction. A copy of the Proceedings, dated 21st May 1937, of the Council was submitted to the Government (copy annexed).

The Council sanctioned 64 schemes under 'Rural water-supply,' 27 under 'Village Communications' and 1 scheme under 'Village Sanitation' and instructed the local sub-committees to submit estimates for them. The question as to the agency to be employed for the preparation of estimates, for supervision and for the preparation of final bills for works approved was also considered. It was agreed that in such matters, all departments employing staff for such work should co-operate; chiefly the Revenue department, Public Works department and the district boards. In zamindari areas, where there is no minor irrigation staff, the co-operation of other departments is necessary.

The Council discussed the possibilities involved in coir-retting and coir-production by fishermen in the Baruva area; and decided to consider very favourably any specific directions in which it could assist the industry for the benefit of the fisherfolk. A co-operative society was formed for the benefit of the persons engaged in the industry and the question of employing a demonstrator to work the society in its initial stage is under consideration.

The President brought to the notice of the Council a book on village sanitation in Telugu. The District Health Officer promised to examine the book and to let the Council know whether it could take steps to popularize this book in the district.

ANNEXURE

Proceedings of the District Economic Council, Vizagapatam, dated the 21st May 1937.

The Collector pointed out to the meeting that it was not possible to report much progress since the last meeting, as during the intervening period elections had taken up a great deal of the time of the officers of all departments especially the Revenue department and that the officers of the latter had subsequently been engaged with jamabandi.

The suggestions received from the sub-committees appointed for the various divisions were all considered and received general approval. It was made clear, however, that where expendi-

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ture on communications is proposed, a contribution from a local body will not meet with the requirements of the Government Orders and that there should be a contribution either in money or in labour by the persons affected.

The following comments were made on the programmes submitted :—

Narasapatam.—Estimates should be prepared for the works proposed, and sent to the Collector for sanction.

Vizagapatam.—(1) The Council considered that the well proposed at Simhachalam should more properly be constructed by the temple authorities.

(2) That the well suggested at Paravada seemed to be required more for the occupants of the local fund bungalow than for the villagers.

Vizianagram.—The Council did not approve the proposal to employ sweepers in villages. They could give no assurance as to any contributions where such posts were concerned.

The question was considered as to the agency to be employed for the preparation of estimates, for supervision and for the preparation of final bills, for works approved. It was agreed that in such matters, all departments employing staff competent for such work should co-operate; chiefly the Revenue department, Public Works department and district boards. Minor irrigation overseers will be able to undertake supervision of well works in Government tract, but in zamindari areas where no minor irrigation overseers are employed, the co-operation of the other departments will be necessary.

The District Board Engineer, Bobbili, proposed that a careful survey should be made throughout the district into the selection in regard to water-supply, so that the needs of the areas where wells are most urgently required should first be met, so that the work should progress according to a proper plan. The District Health Officer states that a survey had already been made and offered to show the District Board Engineer the information already on record. The District Board Engineer will, if necessary, place the matter before the Council again, after consultation with the District Health Officer.

The Council was greatly impressed by the information given by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Chicacole, regarding the possibilities of coir mat and rope manufacture by fishermen in the Baruva areas, and should urge on the Co-operative and Industries departments the great possibilities involved. The District Economic Council will be willing to consider very favourably any specific directions in which they could assist what appears to be a very promising industry for the fisherfolk.

The Collector brought to the notice of the Council a book on village sanitation in Telugu. The District Health Officer promised to examine the book and to let the Council know whether it could take steps to popularize this book in the district.

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 116 asked by Mr. K. Veeraghavaswami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 18th September 1937, page 297 supra.]

Statement showing the number of I.C.S. officers in the various departments as on 1st September 1937.

I Under the Government of India	17
II Under other Provincial Governments and Administrations	8
III Foreign Service—	
Court of Wards	2
Sivaganga estate	1
Madura Municipality	1
Hyderabad Government	1
IV Secretariat including the Governor's Secretariat	16
V Revenue Department—	
Board of Revenue	6
Collectors	20
Sub-Collectors	27
Assistant Collectors	7
VI Judicial Department—	
High Court Judges	7
District Judges	13
Judicial training	4
VII Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards	1
VIII Co-operative department	2
IX Labour department	1
X Excise department	1
XI On leave	21
Total	156

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 20th September 1937.

The Assembly met in the Senate House, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

Proceedings commenced with the singing of the Vande Mataram song.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

* 145 Q. ^a

* 146 Q. ^b

Release of political prisoners.

* 147 Q.—MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the number of political prisoners released after 15th July 1937;

(b) the number of political prisoners not yet released; and

(c) why they have not yet been released and when they will be released?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a), (b) & (c) (1) The Government have considered the cases of certain prisoners and remitted the unexpired portion of the sentences of 38 prisoners who would fall in the category to which the question presumably refers. A list ^c of persons so released is placed on the table.

“(2) The restrictions placed on the following three Mappilla State prisoners have also been withdrawn:—

Parapurathil Mammunni.

Kuthrithodi Alavi.

Kolleru Kunhalavi Kurikkal.”

Inspection of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

* 148 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams are contributing to the Hindu Religious Endowments Board an annual amount of about Rs. 16,000; and

^a Vide pages 366-368 infra.

^b Vide pages 368-371 infra.

^c Printed as Appendix I on page 410 infra.

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(b) how many times the President or any Commissioner of the said Board visited the said temples and inspected the working of the institution or the proceedings of the Devasthanam Committee during the years 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937 and what reports they have made to the Government?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) Under section 35 of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Act, the Committee shall annually pay to the Board out of the funds of the devasthanams a contribution equivalent to one and a half per centum of their income calculated in such manner as may be prescribed. On this basis, the following contributions were made by the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams to the Hindu Religious Endowments Board during faslis 1343, 1344 and 1345:—

	RS.
Fasli 1343	10,000
Fasli 1344	10,000
Fasli 1345	21,516

“(b) A statement^a containing the information is appended.”

MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied that the Board has been exercising its power of inspection under the Act regularly and to the satisfaction of the public?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The Board has been doing the work of supervising the devasthanam; but for the last two years, no member of the Board has visited this devasthanam.”

MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to intimate to the Board the necessity for the exercise of its powers under the Act?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The Board has got the power; there is nothing to intimate to them.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—“Are there any complaints that the Board is not exercising its powers?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“As far as the Government are aware, there has been no complaint about it.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Is not the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Act a separate Act from the Hindu Religious Endowments Act? Is it not a fact that a separate committee has been formed for the management of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam? If so, under what authority can the President and members of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board inspect or supervise the management of this devasthanam?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Act is controlled and operated by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.”

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Proposals for opening a new channel on the Vamsadhara.

* 149 Q.—MR. C. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government will be pleased to consider the necessity of constructing a new channel on the Vamsadhara near Mokhalingam so as to irrigate many rainfed villages in the Narasannapeta taluk;

(b) what the Government have decided regarding the proposals; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take up the scheme and when?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member presumably refers to the proposal to extend the Nagarikatakam channel beyond Narasannapeta. This channel takes off at present from the left bank of the Vamsadhara river near Karakavalasa and irrigates 3,062 acres. There is a proposal to extend this channel to a point three miles beyond Narasannapeta for the irrigation of 4,816 acres of which 4,042 acres are already irrigated by rainfed tanks and 774 acres will be new irrigation in Narasannapeta taluk. The scheme is under the consideration of the local officers.”

* 150 Q. ^a

* 151 Q. ^b

Particulars regarding the constitution of the bifurcated Dharmapuri District Board.

* 152 Q.—MR. V. R. PERUMAL CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) when the bifurcated Dharmapuri District Board was constituted;

(b) what the number of elected members on the Board was at that time; and

(c) how many seats were general seats and how many were reserved seats, and to what community each of the members elected to the reserved seats belonged?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) On the 1st December 1936.

“(b) Twenty-four.

“(c) There were twenty non-reserved seats and four reserved seats. Two of the members elected to the reserved seats belonged to the Muslim community and the other two to the Adi-Dravida community.”

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MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"How many have been nominated to the reserved seats?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"That is coming in the next question."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It will be better if, according to your ruling or instruction, when you call the name of the questioner, the member gives out the number of his question, otherwise, we cannot follow the questions."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The number of this question is 152."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Was it not obligatory that the number of members of the board should have been fixed even before the board was reconstituted as such?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Just before the presidential election, further nominations were made, and the president's election was conducted."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"How many days before the election of the president were the nominations made?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Two days before."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Was it by wire or was it by written order?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The names were published in a Gazette Extraordinary."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"The Gazette Extraordinary would have been published in Madras; how did it reach Salem quickly?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"By ordinary post, Sir."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"May I know whether the Gazette Extraordinary reached the hands of the president before the election?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As I said, it reached him by ordinary post."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the total strength of the board was not fixed till very long after the date of the president's election?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I think so."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Would the Hon. Minister be pleased to give the date when the strength of the board was fixed?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"At present, I have no information."

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MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Was not one of the nominated members, by name Mr. Muniswami Rao, a person who could not be nominated under the law?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"That is coming up in connexion with another question; I shall be able to answer this question when that question is reached."

Particulars regarding the strength of the Dharmapuri District Board after its constitution.

* 153 Q.—MR. V. R. PERUMAL CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) what the strength of the Dharmapuri District Board is as fixed subsequent to its constitution; and

(b) how many of them are general seats and how many of them are reserved seats, and to what community the said reserved seats are assigned?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) Thirty-one.

" (b) There are twenty non-reserved seats; eleven seats have been reserved for the minority communities and for women as shown hereunder:—

	SEATS.
Muslims	2
Indian Christians	1
Adi-Dravidas	5
Europeans	1
Women	2
Total	11 "

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"What was the total number of seats for the board before the bifurcation was effected?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"That question does not arise from this answer."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"I put that question in order to know the proportion that was nominated."

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Perhaps it was one-fourth of the total strength of the board."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—"Were these nominations made by the present or the previous Ministry?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"They were made by the Ministry which was in Government in December last."

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MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—“ Is it necessary to nominate persons to eleven seats in a board consisting of twenty general elected seats? ”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The then Minister nominated eleven people.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—“ Does the Hon. Minister think it necessary to rectify such a defect in all the boards where nominations have been made? ”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ That is under consideration.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—“ When the Hon. Minister says it is under consideration, may I know what action is proposed to be taken? ”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The kind of action to be taken is under the active consideration of the Government.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—“ In what way is the Hon. Minister taking action, may I know? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I think the question put by the hon. Member does not come within the sphere of supplementary questions. Supplementary questions must have all the characteristics of the principal question, and therefore such questions relating to action will not be allowed as supplementary questions.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—“ Sir, when the Hon. Minister says that it is under consideration . . . ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Any other supplementary questions, please? ”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Is it a fact that the Government are contemplating to do away with the nominated seats in the Dharmapuri District Board? ”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Not exactly Dharmapuri District Board alone; but as regards all the bifurcated district boards, the suggestion is being considered.”

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI :—“ May I know whether the nominations were based on the qualifications of the nominees? ”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ What qualifications does the hon. Member refer to? Literacy qualification or property qualification, or what? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Order, please. The Minister answering questions cannot put a cross-question. He may choose to reply to the questions put, or not.”

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI :—“ Is it necessary that the nominee's name should find a place in the electoral roll? ”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Yes, Sir.”

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MR. B. VENKATACHALLAM PILLAI :—“ How many of these persons are literate and how many of them are illiterate? ”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I have no information.”

Nomination of members to the Dharmapuri District Board.

* 154 Q.—MR. V. R. PERUMAL CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the members nominated to the Dharmapuri District Board, the community each of them belongs to and his native place;

(b) whether the Hon. the Minister received applications from the nominated members of the board;

(c) what the community is which is mentioned by each of them in his respective application as the one to which he belongs;

(d) how many applications for nomination were received in all for the seats to be nominated from the area of the Dharmapuri District Board and the communities they belong to as mentioned in their applications;

(e) what the special reasons were for the selection of the present nominated members;

(f) what the number is of general and reserved seats after the nominations were announced; and

(g) whether the determination of the number of reserved seats is in conformity with section 9 (3) of the Madras Local Boards Act of 1920 as amended?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ (a) A list * of members nominated to the Dharmapuri District Board with information regarding their community and native place is appended.

“ (b) An application was received by the Government in one case.

“ (c) The application received from the nominated members by Government and by the Inspector show that they belong to the communities or sex as the case may be, mentioned against them below :—

Mrs. C. Govindammal Woman.

Mrs. D. Ramaratnammal Do.

M.R.Ry. S. Seeran Avargal Adi-Dravida.

„ M. Ramaswami Avargal Do.

„ B. M. Muniswami Rao Avargal Kuruman.

„ S. Swamidass Avargal, B.A., B.L. Indian Christian.

The Rev. Duncan S. Stevenson (Community not mentioned).

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“(d) Forty-eight applications were received by Government. No useful purpose will be served by furnishing the details regarding the community to which all the applicants belong.

“(e) The nominations were made after enquiry as to suitability.

“(f) After the nominations, there were 20 non-reserved and 11 reserved seats.

“(g) The nominations were made under clause (cc) of the Transitional Provisions of Madras Act II of 1934 according to which the number of reserved seats in the bifurcated district boards need not be limited to the maximum number prescribed in sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.”

10-15 a.m. MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“May I know, Sir, whether any limit has been fixed in the Statute for the nomination of members from the reserved communities?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“That is with regard to non-bifurcated districts.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“What is the limit, Sir?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“One-fourth of the maximum strength.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“In that case may I know why more than one-third has been given to the reserved communities in that district board?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have already answered the question in my answer to clause (g), namely, ‘the number of reserved seats in the bifurcated district boards need not be limited to the maximum number prescribed in sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.’”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“Then, Sir, can he go beyond the number of elected seats in that case?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I think it has not gone beyond the number of elected seats here.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“Have they not nominated beyond the necessities of the case in so many district boards?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is a matter of opinion.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“May I know, Sir, whether they are not nominating from day to day till the elections were over?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I do not understand what the hon. Member means by ‘day to day’.”

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MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“The thing is, they have not nominated all the members on one day; they have nominated on one day some five candidates, another five on another day and so on.”

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—“On a point of order, Sir. Is that a question, Sir? It is more a statement than a question.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member putting a supplementary question must stick to the original purpose of a question, namely, the obtaining of information. He cannot give information to the House. Supplementary questions are intended to further elucidate the answers given to the primary question, but they are never intended to supply information to the House. Therefore, that question may be put in the proper form.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“Sir, when the Minister says that he has nominated ten members, should I not . . .”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The question may be put in the proper form.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“I am submitting to the Speaker . . .”

MR. SPEAKER:—“I have given a ruling. The hon. Member may put it in the form of a question. Then there will be no difficulty.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“Is it not a fact that the nominations were not made on one particular day, but on so many occasions to suit the party candidate who was to be set up as President of the board?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“In this particular case, my information is they were all made on the same day.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to look into the papers and see whether his answer is correct?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Order, order. Members putting questions cannot impute incorrectness to Ministers. They must put definite questions of fact and seek information on any matter of public concern.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the Government who are responsible for the large number of nominations have given any special reasons as regards deviating from the general statutory provisions?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There is no statutory provision for these bifurcated boards. I have already stated more

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than once that in the case of bifurcated boards, the number need not be limited to the maximum. So, the question does not arise."

MR. P. M. ADIKESAVALU NAYAKAR:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether there are any reserved seats for ladies in that board?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, there are two Muhammadans and two Adi-Dravidas."

MR. E. KANNAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether Kurumbas are treated as Adi-Dravidas?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"That is coming in a subsequent question."

MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Advocate-General was consulted as regards the interpretation put by the Hon. Minister that for bifurcated district boards one-fourth of the total number shall be nominated afresh?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have no information. I do not think the Advocate-General was consulted, but I think legal opinion was taken."

MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—"Will the Hon. Minister please examine the question and see whether the Advocate-General has given an adverse opinion as regards the matter?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the Advocate-General's opinion can be taken up on the floor of this House. Legal opinion is generally considered to be confidential."

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, whether these nominations were questioned in a Court of law, and with what result?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know, Sir."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"So far as Mr. Muniswami Rao is concerned, is the Hon. Minister aware that he is a Kurumba and not an Adi-Dravida?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"That is coming in another question."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"So far as Rev. Duncan is concerned, is the Hon. Minister aware that he is not a resident of the locality?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members are expected to stick to the main purpose of a question, namely, seeking information; and they are not expected to supply answers to the House."

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MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"These questions are asked in order to elicit opinion with a view to further action as well?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"So far as the Member putting questions is concerned, I have given my ruling and that is to this effect, that an hon. Member can put a question to seek information and not to supply information to the House."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that so far as Muniswami Rao is concerned, his nomination was *ultra vires* of the powers of any Ministry?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am coming to the question of Muniswami Rao in another question."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Has the Government thought it fit to set aside his nomination at once?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Again I submit that it will come under the subsequent questions."

Publication by a Gazette Extraordinary of the names of members nominated to the Dharmapuri District Board.

* 155 Q.—MR. V. R. PERUMAL CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the nomination to the Dharmapuri District Board was announced on a public holiday by the issue of an extraordinary gazette; and

(b) what the extraordinary circumstances were that led to such notification in an extraordinary gazette?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The nominations were published in an extraordinary issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 3rd January 1937 so as to enable the nominated members to take part at the election of the President of the Dharmapuri District Board which had been fixed for 5th January 1937."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"May I ask, Sir, what was the necessity for publishing the nominations in an extraordinary issue of the gazette?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The answer is quite clear in (b) wherein it is stated, 'to enable the nominated members to take part at the election of the President of the Dharmapuri District Board which had been fixed for 5th January 1937'."

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Inclusion of the 'Kurumba community' under the 'Adi-Dravida' community.

* 156 Q.—MR. V. R. PERUMAL CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether 'Kurumba' community is classed in the 'Adi-Dravida' community?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The 'Kurumba' community has not been prescribed under section 3 (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and section 3 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, as a community within the meaning of the term 'Adi-Dravida'."

MR. E. KANNAN:—"If Kurumbas do not come under 'Depressed Classes,' how can any member of that community be nominated to a seat reserved for Scheduled Castes?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No member belonging to the Kurumba community has been nominated."

MR. E. KANNAN:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the previous Government have nominated several members other than the Depressed Classes to the seats, they said, are reserved for these classes?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am not aware."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state that, as a Kurumba does not come under 'Adi-Dravida,' the nomination of Muniswami Rao as an Adi-Dravida is against law?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Muniswami Rao does not belong to the Kurumba community, but he belongs to the 'Kuruvan' community which is included in the list of Scheduled Castes."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether there is any community by that name in the Salem district?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have no information, Sir."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether in several district boards, seats reserved for Scheduled Classes have been filled up by persons not belonging to those communities by the previous Government?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have no information."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Is the Hon. Minister not aware that Muniswami Rao is a caste Hindu and not an Adi-Dravida and does not belong to the Scheduled Castes?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"My information is that Muniswami Rao belongs to the Kuruvan community and that particular community is included in the Scheduled Castes."

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Appointment of the sanctioned number of overseers in the Dharmapuri District Board.

* 157 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the President, District Board, Dharmapuri, has given effect to the G.O. No. 1025, L.S.G., dated 13th March 1937, fixing the strength of engineering subordinates (overseers); and

(b) when the Government Order was despatched to the President, District Board, Dharmapuri?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The Government are not aware that the President, District Board, Dharmapuri, has not given effect to the orders in G.O. No. 1025, L.S.G., dated the 13th March 1937.

" (b) On 23rd March 1937."

Alleged misuse of the funds of the Dharmapuri District Board by its President for contesting an election suit against him and the vice-President.

* 158 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of the Dharmapuri District Board used and uses the funds of the district board for the purpose of contesting an election suit against the President and Vice-President of the Board without the sanction of the District Board, Dharmapuri, till now;

(b) whether it is a fact that the President sought the sanction of the Government for such expenses to contest his election suit;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government refused such sanction for expenditure from the funds of the District Board;

(d) whether the copy of the order refusing to grant such sanction will be placed on the table;

(e) what steps have been taken against the President for using the funds of the Board without the sanction of the Board and the Government; and

(f) what the total amount expended is by the President to contest the election suit and on what dates?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The Government have no information.

" (b) & (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (d) A copy ^a of G.O. No. 1059, L.S.G., dated 16th March 1937, is placed on the table.

" (e) & (f) In view of the answer to clause (a), the question raised in these clauses does not arise."

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MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the president has been using the funds of the bifurcated board later on? "

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" In answer to clause (a) of the question I have stated that the Government have no information."

MR. K. P. YEGNESWARA SARMA:—" Will the Government call for the information, Sir? "

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Yes."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" After calling for the information, will the Hon. Minister investigate into the matter? "

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" If found necessary."

Reduction of water-rate in the Godavari deltas.

* 159 Q.—MR. K. VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government issued a communiqué in October 1936 reducing water-rate for the fasli in the Godavari deltas;

(b) whether the concession was made to apply to the second crop; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The concession was made to apply to the water-rate on second crop.

" (c) Does not arise."

Proposals for opening a paper factory at Papanasam in the Tinnevely district.

* 145 Q.—MR. K. P. YEGNESWARA SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether numerous representations have been made to the Government to investigate the question of the opening of a paper factory at Papanasam in the Tinnevely district; and

(b) whether any and what steps the Government propose to take for that purpose?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (a) Some representations have been received by Government.

" (b) The establishment of a paper factory at Papanasam depends for its success on a hydro-electric scheme in conjunction with the Tamparaparni river. Private enterprise having failed so far to come forward for the development of water power from the river,

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the Government are considering the possibilities of a Government hydro-electric scheme. If and when a paper factory is established, Government will consider with sympathy any application on its behalf for State aid."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether this load is contemplated in the proposed hydro-electric scheme for Papanasam? "

10-30 a.m.

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I shall be glad to have notice, Sir."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government will put through the Papanasam scheme next year? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" It will be considered."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—" Are the Government aware that some of the oil engines, etc., used by the various mills in the Tinnevely district are about to be scrapped and if the scheme is to be put through, it has to be done as early as possible? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I am afraid that this question ought to be addressed to the Hon. Minister for Public Works."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" May I know whether it is a fact that the Government are investigating into the possibilities for the manufacture of paper out of sugarcane pith and if so, will the result of such investigation be made available to the hon. Members of this House? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" It will be possible to know the result only after the investigation has been made."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" Are the Government aware of the fact that the prices of paper generally and imported newsprint in particular have risen very high within the last six months and whether the Government will take this opportunity to enquire into the possibilities of starting early a paper factory for the manufacture and production of indigenous newsprint paper? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" The matter will be considered."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" Pending enquiry and investigation into the possibility of the manufacture of newsprint in this province, may I ask whether the Government will be pleased to enter into correspondence with the Mysore and Travancore Governments and also with the existing paper manufacturers in this and other parts of British India to secure the manufacture of newsprint at considerably cheaper rates? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" Are the Government aware of the fact that the Rajahmundry Paper Mills has been closed down for some time and will they be pleased to state whether the Government will

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investigate the possibility of taking over the mill and running it themselves in view of its geographical position and easy and cheap access to raw-materials such as bamboo pulp and forest grass, etc? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" This is too long to be answered as a supplementary question."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Will the hon. Member put it concisely? "

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" It cannot be put more concisely."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I am sure he can so put it as to make it more brief and direct."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" Is the hon. Minister aware that the Paper Mills at Rajahmundry have been closed for some time past? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Yes, Sir."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" Have the Government considered the feasibility of taking it up and running it themselves? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I cannot say anything at present until the matter has been investigated."

MR. K. P. YAGNESWARA SARMA:—" May I know whether the Government have investigated the availability of raw-materials in the Papanasam Hills? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" The suggestion will be considered."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" May I know whether the Government would consider the question of taking over the Rajahmundry Paper Mills as a business proposition? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I have already stated that the matter will be considered."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—" Are the Government satisfied that proper raw-materials are available in Papanasam for the starting of a paper factory? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" It is too early to say anything about it until a complete investigation is made."

Extension of electric power-supply into the interior parts of the Chittoor district.

* 146 Q.—MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether power is being supplied now in the Chittoor district for any purposes; if so, from when and for what purposes;

(b) what the arrangements the Government are making for extending the lines into the interior of the Chittoor district; whether the Government intend to construct any such lines throughout the district and, if so, what they are and when the work is to be taken up;

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(c) whether it is the intention of the Government to continue the private agency in Chittoor town and, if so, how long, or whether they intend establishing their own agency and, if so, when;

(d) what the rate is at which power is being supplied to the Chittoor Electric Supply Corporation and what the rate charged by the Corporation for supply to the consumer is;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Government expect a return of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the outlay for extending a line and that power will not be supplied except under a special agreement providing for such a rate; and

(f) whether the Government have prepared any comprehensive leaflet dealing with the scheme explaining its advantages and giving all the necessary details and information for propaganda and, if so, whether they will be pleased to place it on the table and if not, whether the Government intend doing it and when?

MR. K. R. KARANT (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. Yakub Hasan:—" (a) Power is being supplied in the Chittoor district by the licensees at Chittoor and Tirupati from March 1935 and January 1932 respectively for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes.

" (b) A proposal for extension of the transmission line from Chittoor to Tirupati via Pakala is under investigation. Feasibility of the extension of supply to Madanapalle, Palamner and other places has been investigating and the report is under the scrutiny of the Chief Engineer for Electricity.

" (c) A licence was granted to Messrs. The Chittoor Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, in 1932 and they will continue to supply electric energy within their licensed area for a period of 20 years as provided for in their licence. The Government have no intention of establishing their own agency to serve in that licensed area.

" (d) Power is supplied to the licensees in accordance with clause I of the standard high tension tariff which is set out in clause 14 of the form of agreement for supply of power in bulk to distributing licensees in the Mettur Hydro-electric area. The form of agreement was placed on the Table of the House with reference to the answer to clause (c) of Legislative Assembly Starred Question No. 76. The rates to be charged by the licensees for supply to their consumers are contained in Part II of their booklet of conditions and rates of supply, copies of which can be had from the licensees.

" (e) In the case of Government distribution schemes, extensions of existing lines and feeders are undertaken only when the additional investment does not exceed eight times the estimated average annual gross revenue over the first eight years of operation, i.e., a minimum revenue of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the capital cost of the extension should be earned. In calculating the gross revenue, no deduction is made for interest, operation and maintenance expenses and depreciation.

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Similarly, in order to develop load in hydro-electric licensed areas the Government adopt the procedure of constructing high tension lines and supplying energy in bulk to the licensees concerned, subject to the main condition that they guarantee a minimum revenue of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the capital cost of extension.

“(f) The Electricity department does commercial work for popularizing the use of electricity and for educating the public in the matter. The department has issued pamphlets which give all particulars regarding the uses to which electricity can be put. A separate pamphlet entitled ‘Electricity in Agriculture’ has also been issued which gives particulars about the use of electricity on farms quantity of water required for different crops, type of pump sets cost of pumping with electricity and how to get supply to the farms. Copies of the pamphlets can be obtained from the Chief Engineer for Electricity.”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“Sir, regarding answer to clause (a), I think that the question has not been properly understood because the question has been separated. What I wanted to know is . . .”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Will the hon. Member please put the question without arguments?”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“May I know, Sir, for what purposes power is being supplied from Mettur?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“Power is being supplied for all purpose contemplated in the agreement.”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“What I want to know is whether power is being actually supplied to industrial and agricultural purposes in Chittoor district?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“Yes, Sir. The agreement contains all such clauses.”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“The agreement no doubt contains such clauses. But is power really being utilized for such purposes in Chittoor district?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“I require notice of that question, Sir.”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“Arising out of answer to clause (b), may I know if the Government intend to survey the eastern portion of this district also?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“That will be considered after the report of the Chief Engineer for Electricity is received.”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“With reference to answer to clause (c) are we to understand that the present arrangement is to continue for another 20 years?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“Yes, Sir, the licence has to continue and there is no option.”

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MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“Are the Government aware that the rates charged by the present agency are abnormally high?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“The rates were initially higher; but subsequently they have been slightly reduced. The question of still further reduction will be considered if objections in that behalf are received.”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“May I know whether the expected return of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent will conduce to the extension of electricity in Chittoor district?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“That has been the policy in the past. But if any case is made out for a change, it will be considered.”

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—“We know it is the policy. But I want to know whether the Government will consider the desirability of a lowering of the expected return?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“They will do it.”

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—“When the Government have raised loans at the rate of 3 per cent, will not the Government reduce their expected return on the outlay from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“That may not be possible. But the question will be considered.”

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—“May I know whether it will be possible for the Government to supply electric power for agricultural purposes at cost price in villages through which the transmission lines from Mettur Hydro-Electric Project actually pass?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“The present rate of one-anna per unit for agricultural purposes is sufficiently low; and as the load develops sufficiently, Government will consider the position. But I may state for the information of the hon. Member that the rates have been reduced from time to time in the past five years.”

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—“Will not the Government consider the possibility of using wooden beams, instead of the iron pillars they are now using, as in many parts of Mysore State?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“An hon. Member of Government has answered that point recently on the token cut that the matter will be considered.”

Protest against the withdrawal by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Chandragiri, of the kist remission concession.

* 150 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the remission granted in March 1937 to the ryots of the ayacut under the Peddacheruvu and Chinnacheruvu in

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Thukkivakkam village, Chandragiri taluk, by the Jamabandi officer was subsequently cancelled by the Revenue Divisional Officer of Chandragiri;

(b) if so, for what reasons;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ryots of the said Thukkivakkam village petitioned the Revenue Divisional Officer, Chandragiri, praying for the remission being given effect to;

(d) whether it is a fact that the same was dismissed on 21st April 1937;

(e) whether it is a fact that the ryots petitioned thereafter to the Collector of Chittoor for the cancellation of the order of the Revenue Divisional Officer of Chandragiri;

(f) if so, with what result; and

(g) what the reasons recorded by these officers are for refusing to grant the remission and whether the Government will be pleased to lay the same on the table?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“(a) to (g) The Government have no information.”

MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—“Will the Government be pleased to call for information?”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“With great pleasure, Sir.”

Appeal against the order of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Chandragiri, withdrawing the kist remission concession.

* 151 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the ryots of the ayacut under the Peddacheruvu and Chinnacheruvu in Chandragiri taluk have petitioned the Board of Revenue praying for granting the remission;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ryots were never granted an opportunity to make their own representations before the remission was cancelled by the Revenue Divisional Officer of Chandragiri; and

(c) whether it is a fact that on account of the withdrawal of the said remission, the ryots of the said village have been forced to incur a loss of nearly Rs. 780 during the fasli 1346?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“(a) to (c) I am sorry, Sir the Government have no information; but they will call for it.”

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

(9) DEMAND IX—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—cont.

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Mr. Speaker, 10-45 a.m.
Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,86,000 under Demand IX—Legislative Bodies.

“I do not think I need say anything further except this that a number of cut motions have been given notice of to discuss matters under this head which deal with the procedure in the House with reference to interpellations, time of meeting and such other matters. I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members, Sir, that the rules that we are now working under strictly are the old rules now in force. The modified rules are now being considered by you, Sir, in connexion with the committee which has been appointed under statute by you and after you make the recommendations, Sir, the Government will bring proposals with regard to these and they will be before the House and the proper time to consider amendments will be then, and enough time and opportunity would be available to all sections of the House to discuss all these matters. I wish that the time that we have, be not taken for consideration of such matters. If there are any other matters which the cut motions are intended to deal with, we intend to answer after we hear the debate. I therefore move that the Government be granted the sum mentioned by me for this demand.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 8,86,000 for Legislative Bodies be reduced by Rs. 100 (to discuss policy).”

“I may say to begin with that I will not take more than the minimum time allotted by you. (Mr. Speaker: ‘Five minutes is the maximum time.’) I think the mover has ten minutes and the others five minutes. However, I have given notice of this cut motion in order to bring to the notice of the Government certain difficulties and also to bring to their notice some matters which require their urgent attention. First of all I may mention, Sir,—it may appear to be a trivial matter but it is a thing which goes to the very root of the usefulness of these legislative bodies—I mean, Sir, the hours of attendance. Now we have to come to this House at 10 and be here till 2 o’clock. This, I submit, Sir, is a very inconvenient time and you will, Sir, see that even some of the Ministers are not able to come so early as that. Many of us have been coming late. At any rate those of us who have not got their own houses and are living in hotels are not able to get our food so early as that. In fact one day I had to come without food. The Indian custom is to have the midday meal between 10-30 and 12 and the next meal which is called the night meal in the night. But even those who

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are accustomed to take coffee in the morning find it difficult to remain till 2 without taking their breakfast. I submit, therefore, that the time may be suitably changed. In this connexion, I may say, Sir, that we have no objection, of course, if the former time is restored, i.e., from 11 o'clock to 5 o'clock with an interval of an hour. Otherwise it may be fixed between 2 and 6. If there is a meeting of the Upper House I do not think they require much time and that may be held between 11 and 1. So there is an interval of one hour between 1 and 2. So this House may sit between 2 and 6. This is my suggestion, Sir, with regard to the sitting of the House."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It looks as if my appeal has not been either heard by the hon. Member or he does not agree with my suggestion. I do not know if he has adverted to this matter on any other ground. I suggest that there is going to be an opportunity for the whole House to discuss the question of time, procedure and all that when we pass the rules. These matters might then be taken up."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The next thing that I want to refer to is that I do not find any provision for the Parliament House. You know, Sir, and the Government is well aware that the present building is not at all suitable for a Parliament House. You are obliged, Sir, instead of spending your valuable time in giving rulings, to ask the Members every now and then to go to the microphone. So much time has been wasted on its improvements and yet we are not able to hear well on account of the bad acoustic properties of the House. I do not know why no provision has been made for a Parliament House. It may be perhaps for want of funds. But this is a matter which is so important that it is worth while raising a loan for this purpose. The rent paid for this building now can very well be utilized for giving interest for the loan. Such a large amount has been unnecessarily wasted in the improvements and other things for this building. We do not want a very costly or luxurious building. A simple and plain building may not cost more than a lakh of rupees. It will be quite sufficient. I hear a site has been selected on the Island Ground close to the Bodyguard lines adjoining the tramway and bus road. If that is a fact I do not think the site is a suitable one at all; because there will be too much disturbance, owing to the noise and the horn of the buses and the tramway and so it will be very difficult to carry on our work there. Moreover if a site cannot be got within the Fort it may be as near the Secretariat as possible. Even if it is the island, the eastern side of the island close to the bridge between the building for the military mess house and the bridge will be more suitable. Instead of taking to the other side of the island it may be taken this side which is nearer the Secretariat so that we may be enabled to use the excellent Secretariat Library and to get any information necessary from the Secretariat and we will be also able to attend and watch the meetings of the Council if it is near the Secretariat where the Council meeting is held."

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"Then about the salaries of Members I have said enough, Sir, last time and I do not think there is very much to say now. However it was not clear to me when last time the Premier said while speaking about the Salaries Bill that those of us who do not want to draw the salaries, may draw the old rate of allowances. I do not know whether I am correct in interpreting it like that. It was not also clear whether Members who do not want to draw salaries, have to make their statements at the very beginning or whether they can do so whenever they like whether they prefer salary or the old rate of allowance. I had something to say about interpellations; but as Government is going to consider the matter fully I am not going to say anything now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will alternately call Members from either side of the House. Hon. Members have already been informed that new Members would be given a chance. A new Member who has not previously spoken is generally under Parliamentary practice called upon to speak by courtesy in preference to other members standing at the time. So if new Members stand up I will call them alternately from this side as well as that side so that the discussion may have life."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in deference to the appeal made I will not refer to the hours of the Assembly. In order to draw the attention of the Government in regard to the information that is generally obtained in regard to the location of the new Assembly Chamber I wish to say that I agree with my hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad, that if the new Chamber is to be constructed in the portion of the island, triangular piece which is very adjacent to the Body Guard Lines, it will cause a good deal of disturbance and I am afraid we will not be able to carry on the work of the Assembly without disturbance from outside. As it has been pointed out, buses are running on both the sides and the place is too small to locate all the buildings, the chamber, the library and many other buildings that will be required for the Assembly as well as the Legislative Council. Therefore, Sir, I draw the attention of the Premier to these things with regard to the building of the chamber."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I would like to put the question to the vote of the House, unless Members are very anxious to speak. I have already informed the House that Members should rise in their places if they want to speak, and if so, they must rise immediately after a speech is finished."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"May I be permitted to state, Sir, that I have already risen in my seat?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"At present, the hon. Member will be permitted. Hereafter, unless Members rise in their seats, the Chair will look this side and that side, and if no hon. Member stands up, the question will straightaway be put to the House."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I thank you, Sir, for the indulgence given to me in spite of the fact that I did not stand up at the proper time. I wish to take this opportunity to raise two or three

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questions which will not be dealt with in the rules that are to be brought forward for discussion on the floor of this House later on, as the Hon. the Leader of the House mentioned just now. My points are intimately connected with the rights and privileges of the Members of this House, and I cannot see a better occasion to deal with them than on this demand. In the first place, I wish to enquire of the Leader of the House whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation in this House under section 71 (2) of the Government of India Act, regarding the privileges of this House. I submit that it is within the power of this House to adopt all the privileges enjoyed by the House of Commons in England, by an enactment. It is not necessary for me to read section 71 (2) of the Government of India Act, here, because every Member of the House, I believe, has a copy in his possession. It is well-known that in similar circumstances, according to the Acts of Parliament in regard to other Dominions, the Dominions have made enactments assigning to themselves powers and privileges similar to those enjoyed by the House of Commons. In this connexion, I can suggest to the Government a reference to Prof. Keith's 'Responsible Government,' Part III, Chapter 5, which gives a clear indication of what an infant democracy has to do in these matters.

"I next proceed to point out the importance of having on the Statute Book a comprehensive enactment with regard to the privileges of this House. The immediate necessity to raise this question here was the unhappy incident which happened some time back on the floor of this House. It has brought firmly to my mind and to the minds of those who are of my way of thinking, that there should be without the least possible delay, on the Statute Book, an Act embodying the privileges of the Members of this House. It also places on you an embarrassing responsibility, Sir, for the reason that while the privileges of the House are not definite, it is not possible for you, Sir, to give a ruling on an issue which may, by reference to the custom obtaining in other and similar Parliamentary institutions, be considered as an infringement of the privileges of the House. Your position now, Sir, as the custodian of the interests of the House, nevertheless, does not give you a position which is superior to the custom which can be embodied in an Act defining the privileges of the House. I say, Sir, that in order to prevent any inadvertent curtailment of the power of the House on your part, it is necessary that this Bill should be brought forward without the least possible delay. The House in a case of such possible errors, so common to human beings, has no alternative except to resort to an extreme measure which nobody will think of, where the issue that has risen was a matter of simply a mistake. I will state a hypothetical case, with regard to the privileges of the House which might come up for discussion some time later on. The House, I contend, is entitled to discuss all subjects which are not forbidden to us by the Government of India Act of 1935. The exceptions are clearly mentioned there. It might be that the Government might take cover under one or two exceptions mentioned there. But it is definitely a matter of

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opinion. I will say this, for instance; if the House wants to discuss the advice tendered by the Ministry that is responsible to this Legislature to the Head of the Executive, I think it is entitled to do so. It may be that the Executive is not willing to vouchsafe an answer; that is also in their power. But the right of the House to raise the question on the floor of the House and to discuss it in the interests of the public is there. So I earnestly recommend to the Government that they should place on the Statute Book as early as possible a comprehensive enactment on the privileges of the House.

"The second point that I am taking the opportunity to mention here is also in relation to what has taken place in the past. But the excuse that I offer for bringing it again is that this demand covers the entire range of legislative activity. The Hon. the Leader of the House in the course of a discussion which I happened to initiate on Saturday last made a point which luckily you did not take into account, but which has an intimate bearing on the proper scope and work of the legislature. I am speaking from memory, and I will refer to what the Hon. the Leader of the House said that the House cannot discuss a question . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member cannot bring up for discussion what has passed on previous Demands."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"No, Sir, I am not discussing what has passed on the previous Demands."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is requested not to refer to the speeches on previous Demands made on the floor of this House, in the course of this discussion."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"May I be permitted to state that I am speaking on the powers of the legislature, and I shall not refer to the previous demands at all. I am merely referring to an opinion which is held by the Members of this House that the Government view is that the House cannot discuss a question which cannot be submitted to the vote of the House. You will see that the Government of India Act provides innumerable instances in regard to which a discussion can be initiated but a vote cannot be taken on the same. If that elementary right is denied to us, Sir, what shall we do when we want information?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"That right has not been denied by the Chair. The hon. Member is requested to proceed to his next point."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"The next point, Sir, is also a matter with which the House is seriously concerned. There must be some definite idea in the minds of the Members of the House as to what the powers of the House are in relation to the Executive. I think it is only fair that I should request the Government that they should enlighten the Members of this House about their views on this matter, whether the House can discuss acts of the Government in their day to

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day administration. It may be, Sir, that the House has no control over the executive acts. It may be for particular reasons that the Government would not give the information required. But nevertheless, the power of the House in regard to checking the Executive in their acts in the course of their administration is there, so that the House claims the right to discuss the acts of Government. I would therefore like to have a statement from the Government on this matter. I thank you, Sir, very much for giving me this opportunity for raising a matter which to my mind is a rather serious infringement of the privileges of the House."

* Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel constrained to observe, that my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnamachariar, has made out a very strong case to urge upon the Government to bring in a Bill to define the privileges of this House. Sir, after what has been going on during the deliberations during the last day we met here and this day, I feel honestly that some cut and dry limits should be prescribed within which the Members can talk on the floor of this House. I do realize, Sir, in order that the dignity of this House and the dignity of the Chair may be maintained that every Member of this House must bow to the ruling of the Chair. It is only then that the dignity of the Chair can be maintained. Every Member of the House is alive to the fact that it is that attitude on the part of the Members that will conduce to it. At the same time, Sir, the privileges of this House might not by any means, by even any oversight, be not curtailed by an infringement. I do not mean to say that I am attacking your finding or ruling given the other day. However, I really feel that sometimes we are in a helpless condition. It may be we are wrong, and the Chair is always right. But what I urge on the Government is that in order that the dignity of the Chair may not be affected and at the same time the privileges of this House also may be set on a definite understanding and within clear and definite limits, legislative action, such as my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnamachariar, referred to, is necessary. Under section 79 of the Government of India Act, the salaries of the Governor and under section 86 of the Act, the conduct of the High Court Judges, according to my reading of the Act, Sir, are the only two things . . ."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is not entitled to comment on the salaries of the Governor and the powers that have been given to him."

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I was going to say that, Sir, beyond that, the other items mentioned in section 79, I am sure cannot be voted upon but can be discussed. For instance, the salaries of the Ministers cannot be voted upon; I do agree. But section 79 does not prevent the House from discussing any matter connected with the salaries of Ministers."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will please note that under section 79 (1), paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of the preceding section relating to the salary and allowances of the Governor is taken away

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from discussion, while the others are not taken away and on them discussion is permitted. So he should not labour the point any further; but he may go on to the next aspect of the question."

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"So also under section 86, 'No discussion shall take place in a provincial legislature with respect to the conduct of any Judge of the Federal Court or of a High Court . . .'"

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may proceed to the next point."

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Therefore, Sir, the rules and interpretation of the Statute are that where certain acts are specifically prohibited, those acts only are prohibited and none others. I therefore submit, with due deference, Sir, that there might arise in the minds of Members . . ."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"As and when questions arise, they will be decided by the Chair, and no discussion need be made upon questions that might in the opinion of the hon. Member arise in future. Such arguments need not take up the time of the House. The hon. Member is requested to proceed to the next point."

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I am making out a case for legislation; I am not discussing whether this topic is within the province of this House or not. I am just laying a foundation for my proposition, that it is absolutely necessary that legislation must be made in order that each one of us, including you, Sir, may proceed on definite lines, within the limit prescribed by the Statute. That is my purpose. As I submitted, Sir, the question of salaries of Ministers may not be voted upon, but it can be discussed.

"May I submit, again, Sir, whether or not . . ."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Details as to the privileges of the House need not and ought not to be discussed on this motion. The policy of the Government with regard to such a Bill may be dwelt upon, but the details of a Bill that may come up in the future should not be taken up on this motion."

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I bow to your ruling, Sir, but what I submit is, in what aspects this question of legislation could be viewed by Government and this House and how necessary it is from certain aspects legislation must be brought forward before this House; for instance if, instead of ten Ministers only one or two have been appointed, is it or is it not the privilege of this House or the duty of this House to raise the question that so many subjects cannot be managed by one or two Ministers; taking the other case, supposing 20 persons are appointed as Ministers; although we may not vote on their salaries we are privileged to discuss the advisability of appointing 20 Ministers or two Ministers only; or taking another instance, supposing there are two portfolios—I am not transgressing any limits . . ."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is certainly transgressing his limits in elaborating a point which is so clear; he is paraphrasing the same arguments."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"It is sometimes difficult, Sir, for the Industries portfolio and the Labour portfolio to go together; but according to me and according to some members here, the two portfolios must be combined in order that there may be no conflict. Now, the question is, is this House not privileged to praise the Government for putting these two portfolios in the hands of one Minister? If it is intended to praise the Government . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The House is quite at liberty to praise the Government or criticize it. So the hon. Member is requested not to take up the time of the House on this point but to proceed to substantial arguments."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I think, Sir, I have made out a very strong case (Laughter) for the legislation which has been moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnamachariar."

MR. SPEAKER:—"May I point out that the hon. Member, Mr. Krishnamachariar, has not moved it; he has only suggested to Government to consider the bringing in of a privileges Bill in the near future; there is no such motion before the House."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I am supporting his view that urgent legislation in this respect is necessary. I am glad, Sir, that it has been realized, according to me that there is an urgent necessity for it. Beyond this, I do not want to speak anything. This topic was uppermost in my mind, and spontaneous too and I thank you, Sir, for having given me this indulgence to speak on it at some length."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, as to the points referred to in the debate, so far as the procedure goes, it has been agreed to be dropped for the present from this debate. The hon. Member from South Kanara referred to the Assembly buildings. This building, Sir, is exceedingly beautiful, and we must thank the department that made it as comfortable as possible within the limitations that they had to work under. Even if the new building work be started now on the lines expected, I do not think that the lifetime of this House is long enough to get to the completed building. However, all that I submit on behalf of the Government is that every attention will be paid to the suggestions made and I need not take up the time of the House over any points that arose in my mind in the course of the debate, because the whole thing will have to be considered by experts and in a very much fuller measure than can be done on the floor of this House. I do hope that we shall not put too heavy a burden on the tax payer in order to get the best House possible for our deliberations. That is all I wish to say in this connexion. About the site, Sir, I may say that the Government of India want exorbitant prices for some of the grounds belonging to them, but that is really taking up a matter which must be considered later."

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"As regards the main question that was raised in the debate as to the privileges of the House, I am sorry that the debate took a turn which looked as if we are sitting in revision over a ruling of the Chair given the other day, but I believe that the idea is that something should be done to make legislation under the provisions of section 71 of the Government of India Act. If hon. Members who referred to this point will kindly examine that section, they will see that nothing that could be done by a provincial Act passed under that section would really cover the ground which was in their mind and which was definitely referred to in the course of the debate. A Bill in terms to regulate the rulings of the Chair with respect to what matters are relevant or permissible and what are not, is more than I can possibly imagine. At the same time, the privileges of the House might no doubt under section 71 be covered by a Bill. It is not the privileges of the House really but privileges of the members of the House. The privileges of the members of the House are well known; they are both inside the House and outside it, and in a subordinate legislature like the one our legislature is, the question is really a moot point, whether it is desirable to put down our privileges in black and white in terms of the Government of India Act, or whether it may not be preferable to allow the privileges of the members of the House to grow, as they have grown in certain other parliaments. I am not sure at all in my own mind whether it will not be wiser to leave the privileges of the members of the House to grow. It is possible that grown up men may wear tight clothing and not suffer thereby but babies ought not to be allowed to wear tight clothing; and we are in this position, and an Act of the legislature will be like tight clothing. Once we begin to put down our privileges in black and white they will be reduced to a minimum and not defined at the maximum, whereas if we allow privileges to grow they may grow up to the maximum that political development can permit. Therefore, I think at the moment it is not desirable to launch as one of the earliest steps of the legislature on reducing to writing the privileges which we desire the members should enjoy under the Government of India Act. At the same time, I submit, Sir, that it does not mean that we shall not or cannot have any Act of the legislature under section 71. If most members feel that it would be desirable to enact a measure like that, to define the privileges of the members of the House, in course of time it will be duly drafted and all sections of the House will have the right and the liberty to consider the measure in full and to put it before the House. But I feel very strongly that it would not be desirable."

"Apprehensions were expressed over an observation of mine. The procedure of the House is different from the privileges of the members of the House. The procedure of the House cannot be taken away from the Speaker and taken over into an Act. Something was said about the liberty of the individual members being curtailed. Even with reference to the executive operations of the Government, the members' right of expression of opinion is not curtailed. The right of interpellation, the

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11-30 a.m. right of general discussion on the budget, and the right of public discussion are not taken away by any ruling given with reference to cut motions on the Budget. In the general discussion over the Budget, members have the right to discuss general matters of policy and administration. What I referred to is their relevancy with reference to a cut motion. When a cut motion is taken and when a point is reached under that head, certainly whether the House can give a vote is a safe and proper guide for finding out whether a point is in order or not. What I wish to say is that such a matter can never become part of a Bill that we can introduce under section 71."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I did not make any reference to section 71. Probably the Hon. the Premier has somebody else in his mind."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am glad that the hon. Member says he made no such reference. If the statement of the hon. Member is correct I cannot see what the point was that was referred to by him. The only thing he could possibly refer to was that, and if that was not the thing that was referred to, I have no observations to make."

"On the general question that it would be desirable to lay down the privileges of the House, I have already stated my views. With these few words I request that the House may grant the Demand that was made and that the cut motion may kindly be withdrawn because there is no substantial point under discussion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

(10) DEMAND X—DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS.

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,24,64,200 for District Administration and Miscellaneous."

"Under this Demand there are five heads. The first relates to the cost of the District Administration and the cost is Rs. 20,29,000; the second is for the Subdivisional Establishments and costs Rs. 16,68,900; the third relates to Taluk and Village Establishments and costs Rs. 1,79,52,300; the fourth relates to Discretionary Grants by Collectors and amounts to Rs. 24,000 and the fifth is for Miscellaneous expenditure, Rs. 7,82,200. These do not include a sum of Rs. 14,65,400, charged on Revenue. I would like to say a few words in this connexion."

"The Revenue Department is the backbone of the administration and the cost which I have demanded is sufficiently big. The question that has been engaging the attention of the Government, as has been already pointed out, is, how to meet this cost. Is it by raising fresh taxation or by reducing the cost? I do not refer in this connexion to the cut in the salaries or the abolition of some appointments and so on. Taking

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the administration as a whole, it is the District Administration which costs us the most. We are spending on it nearly Rs. 3 crores. Of this amount, Sir, village officers' salaries and other expenses come to nearly one crore of rupees. Our problem is to see how we can reduce the cost. We have to see whether the cost can be reduced without a change in the system that has been adopted until now in the Revenue department. The hon. Members of the House are aware that before the present system was started, developed and built up, the system prevailing in the country was rather different. Before the present system was started, it is an acknowledged fact that the village administration in our presidency, as in other parts of the country, was autonomous. What is meant by autonomy? How did it work in those days? The rulers or the Government of those days did not look to each cultivator for the payment of his share of the assessment. They looked to all the people of the village as a whole. The villagers had their organization known as the Village Panchayat consisting of elected members. The whole administration was carried on by that panchayat which was an elected body. It had civil and criminal jurisdiction too. It had power to levy taxes; it had power to control water distribution and every other thing connected with their existence. So far as the Government were concerned, they got their money from that representative body which made itself responsible to pay. If only that foundation had been maintained and the present system had been built upon that foundation, there would not have been so much trouble as I see now. But that was not what was done. The old foundation, the old nucleus of village autonomy was practically abandoned and a system was built up without a real foundation as it were. The deterioration of village autonomy began with the establishment of civil and criminal courts and also the establishment of revenue courts and police organizations by the British Government. Ever since these courts and other organizations were started the cost of the establishment increased enormously. If only hon. Members will take the trouble to look into the past state of affairs with regard to the expenditure of Government, they will find that even in 1919 it was about 9 crores. Now it is as much as 15 crores. If we go further back we will find a different state of affairs altogether. Within our memory we have known how the Government of Madras was run by the Governor and one or two Executive Councillors. We have known how this number was increased to seven, how the departments increased gradually and how the cost also has increased. All these were built up at the cost of village autonomy. If that had been sustained and linked up with the Central Government here in Madras, the affairs would have been quite different. The village was not left to itself and the cultivators were not left to themselves. The departments were built upon them and the result is that the villagers are in law courts always with factions among themselves. They have to go to distant places to get water from the Engineering department or to get redress from the Revenue or other departments."

"They have been divorced completely from what they had in their own hands. That is how the whole of the present system has been built 11-45 a.m."

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up. Now the question is when we have come into office on behalf of the people after 150 years British rule, what is the thing that we have to do in regard to the Revenue department if we wish to reduce the cost of its administration and make people masters of their property in their own villages? With regard to what I have stated I may say that this is not a new thing or any inspiration which I am getting from any outside place or from outside Madras. There was a Commission, the Decentralization Commission, appointed to investigate into these matters and a report was submitted by that Commission in or about 1919. What that Commission wrote in it I would like to place before this House. This is what they wrote:—

‘We are of opinion also that the foundation of any stable edifice which shall associate the people with the administration must be the village as being the area of much greater antiquity than the administrative creations such as Tahsils and one in which people are known to one another and have interests which converge and define well recognized objects like water-supply and drainage. It is probable indeed that the scant success of the efforts hitherto made to introduce a system of rural self-government is largely due to the fact that we have not built up from the bottom.’

‘That is what the Commission wrote after recording evidence and after giving their careful consideration to the matter. The village had been abandoned for nearly 100 years—no doubt some efforts were made to reintroduce rural self-government in villages and each time these efforts failed. It was while referring to these efforts that the Decentralization Commission wrote those lines which I have just now read to the Members of this House. Notwithstanding all these happenings, the villagers have not lost their spirit, their power and their interest to maintain their ancient corporate life. During the last twenty years every one in the House knows, how the people in the villages struggled hard to carry on the constructive programme that they had been called upon to carry out by the Indian National Congress. In the beginning, i.e., in the year 1920–21, the constructive programme was carried out almost to perfection. I can tell you there were villages, model villages, where the constructive programme was almost carried to perfection in 1921. I know of villages where panchayats were established and both civil and criminal jurisdiction was exercised without allowing a single case to cross the limits of the village for decision outside. In every respect they made the programme a perfection but unfortunately for them in those days the Government were not in favour of carrying out the constructive programme chalked out by the Congress as they saw some danger in it. So these organizations were broken up and in the end there was complete stoppage of the constructive programme attempted in those days. But I say that the spirit of the people is there even now, the patriotism is there and their interest for a corporate life to carry on the administration is there. Now, only if the present system goes we can think of village autonomy. When village autonomy is established and all these departments are re-established in village areas, not in cities or districts, I have every hope that the cost of administration would not be so high, and people would not be in trouble in future. That is how I look at the things as they exist to-day. For the introduction of autonomy in villages, we require the services and co-operation of all

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experienced persons. More than once a point was raised here whether the Revenue Board could not be abolished or whether the post of the Deputy Collectors could not be abolished or some other department could not be abolished. While these questions were put we were always thinking whether all these departments and the existing services and all the officers that have gained experience in building up the present system, could be abolished, or whether their services could be utilized for building up village autonomy. No doubt it is a different point of view altogether whether all these establishments would be required to reconstruct the village autonomy. But I say it is not merely by counting rupees, annas and pies that the success or the failure in the attainment of provincial autonomy can be estimated. It is only by undertaking to effect a fundamental change that it can be done. And that change must be a correct one and a change for the better. You must remember that not long ago, the leader of this country, who has brought this country to this stage to-day, cut himself off from politics. He said ‘hereafter I am going to live in villages and I am going to work for villages.’ I submit, therefore, in this connexion that it is not merely the village industries, but every other department, wealth, health, credit, water and every other department, must be taken nearer the village. The villager should not be compelled to leave the village for either legal relief, or for medical relief or any other thing. That is the picture I have in my mind. We have not discussed this subject in the Cabinet yet. Of course I may tell you that the future policy of the Government will be to work on these lines. Let me tell you if this is followed up and if it meets with success the whole cost of the administration of the Revenue department would be minimized. I have no doubt about it. Now look at the number of village establishments. There are karnams, village munsifs, monigars, talaiyaris and vettis numbering 80,024 in ryotwari villages and 27,610 in the proprietary villages. I am not going to take you into the figures of higher services or the Civil Services or the services of Sub-Collectors or Assistant Collectors or District Collectors. The total cost on account of these officers charged to Revenue is comparatively a very small amount when compared with the total amount that I have mentioned in the Demand that I am moving. In the Demand I have made just now, I have mentioned Rs. 2,24,64,200 as the charges for District Administration, without taking into account the charges for the higher services. I think that, in future, when we are able to introduce the scheme of autonomy and when that policy matures, we will be able to minimize the cost and I hope in later years I will not be making a demand of this magnitude for District Administration and Miscellaneous.”

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—“I beg to move the motion that stands in my name and which runs as follows:—

‘To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,24,64,200 for District Administration and Miscellaneous by Rs. 100.
(To discuss policy.)’

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do understand, perhaps much more than I do, how important this question is and how necessary it is that this separation should be made."

MR. G. B. READE:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise for the purpose of drawing the attention of hon. Members of this House to the anxiety with which the group for whom I speak view the proposal to reduce the salaries of the provincial and subordinate services. I want to make it clear, at the outset, Sir, that we are not questioning the advisability of reducing the scales of pay for new entrants into the service. A new entrant about to enter the service will know what he is going to be paid, can weigh the pros and cons, and if he thinks that he can do better elsewhere, there is no need for him to enter Government service. There is no hardship in that, Sir, though some of us taking a long view may think that Government may lose in the long run. However, if it is the definite conviction of this Government that the salaries of all new entrants into the provincial and subordinate services shall be reduced, as I have already said, we on these benches are not likely to raise any objection. On the other hand, Sir, we do view the suggestion for the reduction of salaries of people who are already in Government service with considerable alarm. I think, Sir, when the Hon. Minister in charge who spoke earlier in the debate comes to look into this question in detail, he will find that it is not right. One point which I have heard mentioned on the floor of this House is that many of these officers in these services, thinking that the Government would not break faith with them in this manner, have already committed themselves financially either in respect of life insurance policies or for the purchase of houses or land on instalment systems. I ask you, Sir, what is the position of these Government servants if for no fault of their own they find themselves unable to meet their financial commitments? The Government cannot liquidate them on their behalf. Another point, Sir, is the question of education. I think that almost all people wish to give their children as good an education as they can possibly afford to give. I am afraid, Sir, that many of these unfortunate gentlemen would be forced to take away their children from school, college or university and they will find the children instead of being an asset, to be a liability. As the leader of our group pointed out the other day, I think, Sir, the main thing about Government service from the point of view of the employees is that a man knows or could know where he stands and look forward to a pension on the completion of his service to Government. I submit, Sir, that this cut, if put into force, would strike at the root of the fundamental terms under which a man goes into Government service. The repercussions thereto will last for a generation. I do not want to labour this point, Sir, but I do hope that the Hon. Minister in charge of this portfolio may be able to reassure the House on some of the points I have raised and that he may be able to re-establish that feeling of security in the provincial and subordinate service which, I am afraid, at the moment is greatly impaired if not almost altogether lacking."

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* MR. R. M. PALAT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I desire to call the attention of the Government to the absolute necessity of increasing the salaries of the lowest-paid servants of Government and quasi-Government servants. I refer to the village officers, constables, peons and the employees of local bodies. I am of opinion that a minimum pay of Rs. 30 at least per mensem should be given to them. A living wage must be guaranteed to everyone. In my opinion this is more important than the excise policy of the Government, and the payment of salaries to Members of this House. Nor can I understand why a Government which professes that equality is its goal and that the care of the poor is its chief concern, should make any differentiation in the pay and allowances of any Minister or Member or Secretary or for the matter of that of any official be he an Indian or be he an European? I would of course exclude from this the class of experts who could always command a higher rate of pay; but they need only be a few and need be for limited periods of time only. No one will deny, Sir, that at present the ill-paid clerk or the peon finds it difficult to obtain the necessary family comforts. Therefore, I would suggest that immediate steps should be taken to increase their salaries as well as the salaries of the local board employees, including the elementary school teachers.

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"Next, Sir, all the schemes that have been placed before the House about salaries cut affect only the Indian services. I am definitely of opinion that no discrimination should be shown by the Government in this respect as between race, creed and caste. Though the Europeans themselves some time ago voluntarily submitted to a salary cut, the Government now seem to be more anxious to save them than they are themselves. It seems to indicate that the Government wish to retain large numbers of Europeans still in service by making this cut not to apply to the salaries drawn by the European services. Or is it because they still believe in what a Secretary of State called the 'steel frame'; or is it because they are of opinion that the Indians themselves are not able to administer this country? Sir, the Hon. the Leader of the House mentioned in a speech, I believe, made outside this House, that the reason why the Europeans should be paid a higher rate of pay, or why their salaries should not be touched is that they have generally to maintain two households. If I am wrong, I hope the Hon. Gentleman will correct me. Two households they have to maintain, one in England for the education of their children and one in India for themselves. Sir, so have many Indian officers. It has become a habit with certain classes of Indians also, both official and non-official, to send their children to England or to European countries for purposes of education. Will the Hon. Minister make an exception in the case of such people? I may refer, Sir, to a very prominent case, the case of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who has sent his daughter to England for purposes of study.

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"Then, Sir, when the question of the salaries of the Ministers was discussed in the Upper House, the Hon. Mr. Rajagopalachariar stated . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is requested not to refer to any proceedings of the other House in his speech."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"Well, Sir, I shall not refer to it."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Do I also lose the right to reply to the statements already made?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the attention of the Chair was drawn to the matter previously, those statements would have been prevented."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"Anyway, Sir, I believe the salaries of the Hon. Ministers were fixed under the impression that they were ample, considering the salaries paid to the members of the cabinets of other Asiatic countries. But, have the Government made enquiries into the salaries which are paid to European employees in other Asiatic countries such as Afghanistan, Persia or China? There also the European employee presumably has to face the same difficulties as in India. There also the Europeans should be presumed to have to maintain two households. In fact, in India the position of the European employee is far more secure in that he is serving in an Empire of which the head is a European State. At the same time, Sir, I realize that, under the Government of India Act, the salaries of services which are mainly European could not be touched by this Legislature; so also, under the Act, the emoluments of the present incumbents of the provincial services could not be touched by this Government. The Hon. the Leader of the House however told us that he has addressed the Secretary of State with reference to the latter. Why has the Government not addressed the Secretary of State with reference to the former as well and for the necessary change in the Act? Sir, it is notorious that England is now in a defeatist mood. We have seen this in Abyssinia where Italy was concerned, then with reference to Spain and with reference to Japan in China; and not the least we have seen this in India also. Sir, is this a case of two extremely timid people getting frightened at each other's shadows? The fact that the Cabinet has not addressed the Secretary of State for a change in the Act shows that it is unwilling, even in small matters, to combat the Act. Therefore, Sir, I believe that they have come here to work the Act most loyally and wholeheartedly, and this is contrary to a resolution which was recently passed by this House about the constituent assembly. Sir, I believe this is definitely against the pledges given by the Congress Party during the recent elections, when they promised that they would wreck the Act. I consider that their addressing the Secretary of State on the question of the salaries of the present incumbents of the provincial services does not amount to combating the Act; on the other hand,

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they are simply following the procedure laid down under the Act. Sir, it seems to me that the only straight course is that such members as support the Government should resign and stand for re-election on this definite issue as to whether they should work this Act or wreck this Act."

* MR. B. RAJA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of a cut motion for the purpose of discussing questions relating to acquisition of waste lands under the Land Encroachment Act. In respect of waste lands occupied by the poor ryots, Sir, the ryots are put to considerable difficulties and troubles merely on account of their ignorance and poverty. Whenever members of this class apply for land on darkhast, in almost all cases, their applications are rejected on some ground or other through the mischief of karnams and other lower grade revenue subordinates. The ryots are therefore forced to occupy the lands in anticipation of formal assignment. They then cultivate the land for a year or so, pay the assessment in addition to penal fees, etc., which they are charged; and after remaining some time in occupation and making the land fit for cultivation and after effecting improvements thereto at the cost of considerable labour and money, the poor ryots concerned are very often driven out of the land under the Land Encroachment Act. This is their real grievance. When the Land Encroachment Act is applied to poor ryots, the poor ryots are forcibly evicted, the crops which they have raised are seized and sold in auction. It is a pitiable sight to see these poor ignorant people suffering such difficulties. They are driven to occupy lands in the first instance not out of mere pleasure but only for the purpose of eking out a livelihood, since they have no other means of living. If it is objectionable really to assign these lands to the poor, there is no object in keeping them on the lands for some time and ousting them subsequently. There should be some improvement in this matter. In this connexion, Sir, I would like to mention that large tracts of land are locked up on the ground that they are required for use as grazing ground, cattle-stand, water-spread, etc., while, as a matter of fact, only a very small portion of the land will be required for such purposes. A major portion of the land remains vacant from year to year. There must be some remedy for this state of affairs. An enquiry should be set on foot to find out how much of the waste lands which are fit for cultivation are now kept idle. Human beings, Sir, need more attention than cattle and if lands are not provided for them, where else will they go to get a living? Emigration has attracted large population of our agricultural classes and able-bodied men have been lost to the country. It is really regrettable that while a large portion of our agricultural population is suffering for want of lands, a good portion is kept locked up in the name of cattle. I appeal, therefore, that attention should be paid to this aspect of the question."

"I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity."

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* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, history repeats itself, and retrenchment in public services, Sir, offers the best illustration of this statement. From time to time, this question of retrenchment has been looming very large in the eyes of the public. In 1922-23 there was a large scheme of retrenchment, a great deal of consideration was bestowed on the subject and a great deal of retrenchments were effected and salaries of public servants were cut to an appreciable extent. Again in April 1931, Sir, about ten years later, the question of retrenchment was taken up and a very representative committee was appointed under the presidency of no less a person than Sir Hopetoun Stokes, a very senior financier and a person who relentlessly handled the scissors that were placed in his hands. That committee took up the question in April 1931, but before they could enter upon their duties, the Government of their own accord considered that very urgent measures were necessary to retrench the salaries of officials and an emergency cut was therefore introduced in July 1931, whereby they effected a flat-rate cut of 10 per cent on the salaries of all officials, either high or low. Meanwhile, Sir, the Retrenchment Committee held its meetings and after due deliberations, they considered the question for a year; they went very leisurely over it examining a lot of accounts and a mass of details, so that they might be in a position to offer to the public and to the House then functioning, a cut and dried programme which might be acceptable to all. Sir, in March 1932, the Retrenchment Committee placed their report before the Government, and the Government, in their turn, took a year to examine the scheme, and to scrutinize it in all its aspects. Then in 1933 the Government laid their scheme before the Legislative Council for its consideration and the Legislative Council examined the various aspects of the scheme and its implications and then finally decided on a certain line of action which was later on given effect to by Government in G.O. No. 311, dated 13th April 1933. Sir, it was the intention of the Retrenchment Committee that the pay of officers drawing Rs. 25 and below ought not to be touched, but the Government was insistent upon it, and applied the axe to all classes of officers irrespective of the fact whether they were provincial, subordinate, ministerial or menial, so much so they effected a saving of about 57 lakhs to be spread over a series of years. The Retrenchment Committee anticipated a saving of 1 to 7 per cent when they started the work, whereas it really turned out to be 11.7 per cent of the then existing salaries. Sir, 11.7 of the total expenditure was the saving that was effected by the Retrenchment Committee and it was upheld by the Legislative Council. But in going about this retrenchment, the committee very rightly laid down one or two broad principles under which retrenchments were considered justifiable. One of them was whether it would bring about financial equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. That was the main consideration on which the Retrenchment Committee proceeded to examine this question. They then found that revenue considerably fell and that it was necessary, in

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order to bring about equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, the salaries of officials should be cut down appreciably. In all questions of retrenchment, it is this principle that should be observed. Further the Retrenchment Committee considered that there should be two factors before any retrenchment is considered necessary. In its words 'an employer of labour may justify a reduction in the pay of his employees by one or both of two general grounds, either that he cannot afford to pay as much as before, or that there has been a fall in prices.' Sir, the committee went into this question separately in detail and held that the Government were not, as then circumstanced, in a position to pay as before, and that there has been a considerable fall in prices. Therefore the action of the Retrenchment Committee was amply justified. Now, applying those two principles to the present circumstances, do we find that the employer is not in a position to pay as before, or that the prices have fallen? Sir, the prices have not fallen, nor has the revenue in any way shrunk. We find from the statement of the Hon. the Premier placed before the House at the time of the introduction of the Budget, that this was a very prosperous revenue year and that we get 32 lakhs in the shape of revenue in excess of anticipations. The normal expenditure amounted to 15 crores and odd leaving a balance of 16 lakhs and odd; and we cannot therefore say that this retrenchment has been brought about in order to effect equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, nor can the Government say that they are not in a position to pay their employees as before or that the prices have fallen to an extent necessitating retrenchment.

" Now, Sir, let us take the two main heads of revenue that have contributed to the total collection of 16 and odd crores. In the case of land revenue, as we all know, the amount of revenue comes to nearly 9 crores, and that the whole of this 9 crores has been collected at a cost of about 227.10 lakhs; out of this amount about 119.60 lakhs or 120 lakhs in round figures has been taken up by the village establishments and 107 lakhs is taken up by the other establishments consisting of collectors, divisional officers, tahsildars and a host of other revenue officials. Sir, taking this 107 lakhs into account, as compared with the 9 crores that has been collected by this establishment, we get a percentage of 13 per cent. Sir, if an employer like the Government spends Rs. 13 to collect Rs. 100, I question whether it should be considered excessive. Sir, 13 per cent is an amount which any employer will be prepared gladly to invest if the whole of the collections are expected to come in.

" Now, let us take the other big head of revenue, the Excise. Under this head, we find that the total receipts are 4.10 crores collected by an establishment costing 8.6 lakhs including other items of expenditure. Confining ourselves to the main item of expenditure, viz., pay of establishment and their allowances, we find that the cost of collecting 4 crores and odd is only 25 lakhs and the percentage comes to only 6, and an employer incurring an expenditure of Rs. 6 to get

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a revenue of Rs. 100 would not consider that his establishments' cost was very high. If it is possible to reduce the cost of establishment still further, I think other measures should be thought of, for as we all know the Madras Government has been proverbially parsimonious in the matter of their establishments.

"But, then, Sir, besides these public considerations, there are what are known as personal considerations. My hon. Friend, Mr. Reade, who spoke before me very pointedly brought to the consideration of this hon. House the enormous commitments which the officers have already undertaken. Sir, from the point of view of education, insurance, provident fund, and from the point of view of getting a house to live in and the purchase of motor cars to keep themselves in tune with modern conditions and requirements of life, officers, both provincial and subordinate, have committed themselves to reasonable items of expenditure. To call upon them all of a sudden without notice to surrender a portion of their pay on grounds other than the grounds which have been laid down by the administrators and the public on previous occasions, namely, the question of financial equilibrium, and fall in prices, is a question for serious consideration.

"Secondly, Sir, there is also the indefiniteness of the cut. We have not been taken into confidence as to how the cuts are proposed to be applied. It is stated in the introductory remarks of the Hon. the Premier that there will be a graded cut from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 30 per cent, but where the 30 per cent would be applied and where the $2\frac{1}{2}$ would begin, we have no information. Sir, the indefiniteness of the cut and the ever-present idea of a cut being effected in the salaries of these unfortunate officials from time to time, have its own embarrassing effect on the efficiency of their work. The Retrenchment Committee expected that there would be a graded cut ranging from 1 to 7 per cent and it thought that it would be a very reasonable cut. As I have already stated, Government went to the length of effecting a 10 per cent cut, and the Retrenchment Committee went to the length of effecting a 11.7 per cent cut. If, Sir, the present Government think of going beyond this limit and introducing a cut not only in the case of future entrants but also in the case of officers in receipt of the present scales of pay, I think considerable hardship would be involved.

"Sir, on the last occasion in connexion with the general discussion of the Budget, I mentioned that recourse might be had to the abolition of some of the supernumerary posts in the several departments of administration in preference to a cut in the salaries. Sir, it was explained that it was less cruel to effect cuts in the salaries of officials than sending away members which would directly or indirectly affect their families. Sir, it was not my intention when I said that supernumerary posts could be abolished, that all the existing officials should be sent away bag and baggage. My intention was only that as and when occasion arises, owing to retirement, casualties and such like, supernumerary officers, as determined as a result of the deliberations of

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a committee which goes into the matter very carefully, might be dispensed with. I cannot do better than invite the attention of the present Government to the broad principles laid down by the last Retrenchment Committee in its closing remarks. The Committee stated:

"The Committee on the other hand considers the reduction in the pay of existing incumbents, however intrinsically justified, as in the nature of a breach of contract and must therefore be regarded as a most serious step. 12-45 p.m.

"I would respectfully call the pointed attention of the Hon. the Minister in charge of the portfolio to kindly bear this observation of the Committee in mind. The Retrenchment Committee went a step further and stated that 'in view of the paramount need for security in Government service, the disadvantages of the present proposal outweighed the possible advantages.' The question of the contract and the question of the security of Government service which have been engendered for the last so many years should not be jeopardized with a stroke of the pen. I would appeal earnestly to the Hon. the Minister in charge of the portfolio who is contemplating a cut in the salaries of officials, provincial and subordinate, to kindly bear these remarks in mind and give them their best consideration before they finally give effect to their proposals."

* MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only to say a very few words regarding the cut motion I have given notice of. The demand for the separation of the judicial and executive functions is as old as the Congress. Ever since its inception, the Congress had been demanding it and the greatest men of the land have spoken in support of the demand. But the alien power would not heed it. They were probably afraid that with the separation of the executive and judicial functions they would be deprived of the only power they possessed to misuse authority to keep political ferment in check. But they could not give it out as the reason for not carrying out the demand. An examination of the position that had existed in this country for the last 50 years, notably during the last 20 years, is more than enough to show how justice had failed in the hands of the executive officers so far as they related to political offences. In the year 1925, a question was raised by the late Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu in the Montagu Reformed Council and the reply was that the question was engaging the attention of the Government of India. Later on, Sir William Vincent, the Home Member of the Government of India, stated that if any Provincial Government wanted a reform in this direction, the Government of India would not stand in their way and two Secretaries of State for India stated in the House of Lords that they were prevented from carrying out this reform for want of funds. This was before 1927. The advent of Provincial Autonomy and the acceptance of office by the Congress had raised considerable hopes in the minds of the public that this much-needed

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and long-delayed reform would be considered without any delay. This reform had already been introduced in the premier state of Hyderabad and from all accounts, it appears that the reform is a great success. The Congress which had all along been pleading for this reform is, I believe, still of the same opinion. Any change in the system of administration cannot in any way alter the position. And it is in that sense that the Congress Government of Bihar have accepted a resolution moved in the Assembly for the separation of the judicial and executive functions; and in the United Provinces also they have taken the first step in the direction by transferring for trial cases of one district to another district. What about the Ministry in Madras? In reply to an interpellation some time back in the Assembly the Hon. the Premier stated that this reform is no longer called for in view of the changes introduced in the system of Government. No wonder that this reply of the Premier has given rise to a good deal of agitation in this province. Even the Congress Committees which have been directed to keep mum over the activities of the Government would not put up with such an astounding statement. The Andhra Congress Committee resolution, though mild in language, is yet a vote of censure upon this Government. (The Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar: 'Question'). Let us coolly examine the reason advanced by the Premier. It is true that the system of Government has changed. It is equally true that the power has now been transferred to the hands of the elected representatives of the people. But the introduction of party Government has only made the reform all the more necessary. At least in the pre-Reform era, except in political cases there was no distinction between man and man. In a party Government where civil servants have to carry out the orders of the Ministry, what is the guarantee that the Ministry will not use the officials to tyrannize the minorities to enable them to remain in power without any hindrance? I request the Hon. the Premier to consider the views of the public regarding this demand and to take all possible steps to bring about this reform. Regarding the other cut motions which I have moved about village officers, I have only to say a few words."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I suppose the hon. Member means the motions of which he has given notice."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"That is what he means."

MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU:—"Village officers are being summoned to taluk headquarters unnecessarily by the taluk staff and by other departmental heads. They are summoned for flimsy and trivial reasons; and they are not paid any travelling allowance and batta for the days for which they are to stay at the taluk headquarters and they have to remain one or two days there by spending their pocket money. The village officers have represented their grievances many times through their associations and conferences, but the Government have not taken any action upon them. I request the Hon. Minister to

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issue necessary instructions to the Revenue Officers not to summon village officers to taluk headquarters frequently and put them to considerable hardship.

"Jamabandi is nothing else but a tamasha and for these functions the village officers are summoned and are to stay at the jamabandi for one or two months to prepare the accounts and this thing should be put an end to. The village officers were paid a small allowance but this allowance had been stopped as a measure of retrenchment. During land revenue collection season, village munsifs are summoned to headquarters at least half a dozen times in a month and they have to bear unnecessary expenditure from their own pockets. I request the Hon. Minister to issue instructions to the officers of the concerned department not to summon the village officers to headquarters frequently. With these few words, I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House."

* MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Mr. Speaker, I am not going to detain the House for any great length of time. I am going to say a few words only to express surprise when I heard what the Revenue Minister said, some time ago, namely, that the Government do not consider the question of the separation of the executive from the judiciary as of immediate importance."

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"I never made any such statement."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, if my memory does not fail me—and I am sure it will not fail me—in an answer to a question the other day, the Hon. the Revenue Minister said that the Government . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will have to accept the statement made by the Hon. Revenue Minister that he has never made such a statement."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"That is what my memory tells me and I have no option but to depend upon it. In addition to that I have heard what the Premier has stated, namely, that since there is a change in circumstances of the Government, there is no need for considering this question now. May I ask whether the Hon. Premier and the Revenue Minister have considered the utterly pernicious effect that has been caused upon the minds of the general populace in the country by the continuance of this system of combining the judicial and revenue administrations. Do they realize that there is any the least chance of the spirit of freedom and independence growing in the country among the masses as long as this system of combination of judicial and executive functions continued? Do they realize that there is a permanent fear among

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the general masses in the villages and in the taluks that at the hands of the 'Bada Sahibs' like the district collectors, the sub-collectors, the tahsildars and the magistrates they are not able to get their just grievances redressed, by shaking off their fear of these big officials and putting their case before them in a fair and fearless manner and getting the relief that they justly deserve? Sir, the first, second and third-class magistrates who are also often the executive officers in the district move about clothed with this judicial power and very often the poor ryot and the poor cultivator who stand in great need of personal contact, personal acquaintance and personal enquiries, are afraid to approach them because of these powers. Do the Government think, there may be few exceptions, or feel from their experience in the past, I mean the present party in power, that these officers who have been hitherto and are likely to continue to be bureaucratic, do really serve the people in the spirit of public servants? There is an absolute and thorough want of the spirit of public service in these district and sub-district officials and administrators. If the President of the Congress is anxious that a revolution should come about in this country in the mentality of the people with a view to achieve freedom and independence, it is necessary that that spirit should be infused in the lowest masses with whom we have to rely upon. They are now subjected and cowed down because of the combination of the judicial and executive functions in the same man and in the same authority. So the Government should look at it from that aspect.

"Then what about the enormous inconvenience caused to persons who have legitimate grievances to be redressed by persons in the judiciary or the magistracy? Let me say without fear of contradiction that 90 out of 100 of these magistrates who are given first, second and third-class powers have no legal training whatever. All the legal training they have is only departmental and administrative training. They look upon issues from narrow points of view. They are never able to appreciate points of law. They are unable to see questions of fact as distinct from questions of law. They are unable to appreciate the sections of the Evidence Act and they are unable to get rid of that atmosphere of a revenue official and office mentality. So long as that continues the discontent among the public will continue to be what it is. So long as the administration of criminal justice is in the hands of those revenue officials in whom the executive and the judicial combine, so long there will be a general failure of criminal justice. It has been very often the case that the I.C.S. who is unfit to hold executive functions is shoved on to the judiciary. Some training is only latterly being given to the officers who are ultimately to be Sessions Judges and District Judges. If the I.C.S. officers are also to be sub-magistrates and sub-deputy magistrates, then certainly there is every justification for some legal training being given to them. The training that is being given to the magistrates is nothing but what is made available by the revenue officers. The training is insufficient in quality and insufficient in quantity. So criminal justice suffers, and seriously too.

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"Then, Sir, there is another inconvenience caused by this combination which I want the Government to take into account. The sub-magistrates, the taluk magistrates and the district magistrates are touring officers and they post the cases of parties wherever they happen to be at the time. What about the enormous cost to the witnesses and parties, not to speak of the inconvenience which is least justifiable? Is it not fair that the litigant should be given the facility to see that he gets proper and speedy dispensation of justice? Besides, several written complaints have been received by me that the magistrates post certain cases in certain places at certain hours and never turn up at that hour or at that place. Is it fair for the officer to post the case at 11 o'clock and then turn up at 4 o'clock and then say 'I have been detained by some revenue works, kindly excuse me'? The parties have had to wait there without attending to their work and without attending to their physical needs, not caring even for the ill-health of their children and relatives. Is that the system that the Congress Government would perpetuate in this country?

"There is again enormous delay in the administration of justice with regard to criminal affairs. Cases which could be decided within a fortnight with a separate judicial officer take considerably longer than they should ordinarily, though there seem to be orders that cases should be disposed of within a prescribed period. Well, I contend that the period will be certainly minimized if there is a separate magistrate to inquire into those cases. Sir, by reason of this combination, for one thing there is the failure of justice in revenue affairs, and for another there is enormous delay in the matter of the dispensation of criminal justice. Consequently there have been numerous revisions and appeals against several decisions and a good number of them usually get reversed by the superior courts. If these criminal matters are dealt with only by a trained man, if only a trained man is to dispose of these criminal matters, if a man with judicial training is allowed to do that work and not revenue administrators then certainly the cost of the litigant, the cost of courts and the cost of Government can be avoided and there will be an easier, speedier and more satisfactory system of judicial administration brought into existence, in this country. Therefore, Sir, on these grounds it is but necessary that this Government should not brush aside their own scheme of judicial and executive functions being separated as being unnecessary at the present moment. The justification still exists and if really they want to strengthen the stamina of the people in the rural parts, if they are to get a spirit of independence, if they are to get a spirit of fearlessness and if they are to breathe the air of freedom, these revenue officials must be rid of their judicial functions at the earliest moment. These powers must be taken away from them. There are many men with legal training available. Government can start a scheme to recruit people with five or six years' training at the bar. (At this stage the bell was rung.) Does it mean that I must close the speech, Sir?"

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has had so long a time that he has been elaborating very small details. He will close his speech in one minute."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I will briefly refer to one other point which I would like to and that is cut motion No. 133 which refers to the cut in salaries of Government servants. I have already said in general what exactly should be the attitude of the Government in this matter. In the first place to be brief I must ask the Government to say what is the emergency that has arisen that prompts them to cut the salaries. I can understand the revision of the general scale of salaries because there is some justification for their view that the cost of administration is high and out of all proportion to the standard of life that the tax-payer is living to-day. That will not be tantamount to a necessity for an immediate cut in the salaries, which they have proposed. First of all there must be some emergency and that emergency may be the reason for a cut. I would like to know as to what exactly is the amount of salary that they are going to exempt from the operation of cut. Even during the time of the bureaucratic Government we have been agitating that there was need for minimum wage being fixed in the country and at least this representative Government should fix it up now at Rs. 100. A person drawing Rs. 100 should be exempted from this cut. If the Government is serious they ought not to consider what profit or what saving is got by cutting all salaries below Rs. 100. I want the Government to fix the lowest rate at Rs. 100."

(At this stage an hon. Member was noticed speaking to Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There should be no conversation amongst hon. Members. Hon. Members should not converse with a Member who is making a speech and he must be enabled to finish his speech as early as possible."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"There is another aspect that I would refer to and that is a question of detail. There is a great deal of wastage and leakage in Government spending departments. It cannot be claimed that the tax-payer realizes 16 annas worth of the amount spent by the Government. On the other hand it is nearer the truth if I were to say that not even 8 annas worth of return is got by the tax-payer. There are departments where a committee can go into and suggest enormous retrenchment, and the prevention of leakage and of wasteful expenditure is of paramount concern. That should be done before they proceed with the cut of salaries. The rate that they propose to levy uniformly is not just and is not warranted. They must have a graded cut and the salary taken into distinct slices and each slice must be brought under the respective rate in the grade. That would afford a certain amount of relief to the Government servants."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may finish his speech."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Only one more point, Sir, and I am done. I would urge on the Government, if they want to get the imprimatur of a popular opinion, if they want the support of the

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entire House with regard to their proposals, that it is necessary that they should appoint a committee to investigate how far retrenchment is possible and by what means it should be given effect to. By further economy they can abolish supernumerary and unnecessary posts. That also would effect a larger amount of saving. I would submit these to the Minister for his consideration and examination."

* MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to place my opinion before this House about the low pay that is given at the very bottom of the administration. I mean the village officers who collect all the revenue and who are subjected to very hard work throughout the year and especially the collection season. Village munsifs and karnams are one of the lowest paid classes in this category. It is true that the Government may suffer for finding the necessary finance. But the Congress Government, which wants to look after the poor, low paid employees, especially at the foundation or at the bottom rung of the hierarchy of services in a country where the payment is very much high in the higher stages, must remember the condition of the village officers."

"In a country where everybody is paid only according to the need and according to the standard that is necessary for a decent life, nobody will have to contend against the salaries given. But in a country like ours where the pay of the higher services is quite out of proportion to the necessities of a decent life, whether it is judged by the national standard or individual standard, certainly the case of the poorly-paid village officials must command and arrest the attention of this Government. I think the party in power that is interested in the lot of the poor people will certainly take immediate steps to improve the pay that is being paid to the village munsifs and village karnams. I need not state that there are an innumerable set of people, or in fact there are as many village munsifs and karnams as there are villages in this Presidency. As far as I know, these are not a body of people who are paid even at the rate of 8 annas per day. Especially the village munsifs have to dance attendance on a number of officials above them and to administer to the needs of the officials who tour through the villages, and at the same time when they are commanded to go to these officials, they are not paid anything. So also is the village karnam who has to maintain a number of accounts and who has to work both day and night. So I emphasize that this aspect of the matter has to be taken into account when any comprehensive scheme regarding the pay of the services is to be introduced by the Government."

"Then as regards salary cut, it is said that it is a breach of contract. Certainly the services can never be taken seriously as based on contract, nor could there be any breach of contract in respect of them. If it is a question of breach of the contract, the officers will be liable for it almost every hour. The service is not governed by any specific contracts under the Contract Act. It is only a matter of holding office so long as the Government can afford to pay, and national considerations may well justify the Government to impose cuts in salaries. One hon. Member

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representing Malabar said something about the cutting of salaries of Indians letting off Europeans. He also referred to the salaries of district board officials. I tried my best to follow him, but I could not understand what he wanted to convey. I suppose he is very sympathetic to the district board officials just now."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"On a point of explanation, Sir. What I meant was that if the salaries of the Indians are cut, then the salaries of the Europeans also should be cut. If not, neither should be cut. There should be no distinction made between one set of people and another."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Very good, Sir. We are for cutting the salary of everybody. We want that every officer's salary should be reduced to the necessary national standard. They are paid more than what is necessary. Certainly for exigencies of State, they should surrender a part of their salary and submit to this cut. My hon. Friend wanted that we must combat the Act on this point. I do not understand what he meant by combating the Act. Every Government, especially the Congress Government, must impose a cut in the salaries, and if they cannot do it in the case of salaries of certain officials whose interests are safeguarded, it is no argument to say that the salaries of the other officials also should not be touched. An attempt will have to be made to bring these others also within the purview of this cut."

"I find that abundant sympathy was shown by one of the hon. Members for district board officials now, whom he classed as lower paid officials. I only want to remind him that it is a happy augury, when he pleaded for equal wages. That is a very good proposition, for the party for which I speak is for equal wages. But where was the question of equal wages in his own case a few months ago? I do not know what he has in mind when he spoke of equality of wages now. I think my hon. Friend would have done well if he had this idea in view, that we must only take what we are entitled to. Anyhow it is a happy augury though late for him. As regards the cut, he has exhibited unusual enthusiasm for district board officials, though it has come a little too late. My only submission to the hon. Members of this House is that the case of the petty officials, especially the village officers, may kindly be remembered by the Government in any scheme regarding the pay of officials."

* MR. K. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will only offer just a few remarks on the question of the separation of the executive and judicial functions. This question, as has been pointed out by several hon. Members of the House, has been a moot question for a very long time. It has been talked about on various platforms, and has also been raised in the various Legislatures. So the question we are discussing to-day is not a new one, and I am sure the Ministry will pay proper attention to this question and it is not for them to postpone the solution of this problem to a distant date."

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"Sir, as we are all aware, the administration of criminal justice in our province is vested in the hands of the first, second and third-class magistrates who are the subordinates of the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate is also the Executive head of all branches of administration in the district as District Collector, and in the interest of the Executive administration he often issues circulars about the general administration of criminal law. It is these circulars which are proving an impediment in the way of the administration of criminal justice. I may point out to the Ministry the immediate necessity of withdrawing all such circulars. Unfortunately, these circulars are not available to us. They are very confidential. They are said to restrict the discretion of the magistrates in according punishments in cases like illicit distillation, where the magistrates are at discretion to either award imprisonment or impose a fine. But so far as I have seen, the magistrates have always shown an inclination to resort to the punishment of imprisonment not because of the Criminal Code but because imprisonment is made imperative by the Executive."

"Again in cases of criminal tribes, who are registered under the Criminal Tribes Act, it is said that when they fail to give information to the village officer and leave the village, the punishment inflicted must be imprisonment, though the law provides fine or imprisonment. In the case of criminal tribes it sometimes happens that at the time when they leave the village, the village officers are absent from the village. If a member of the criminal tribe who is always a rustic informs some relative of the village magistrate and goes to attend a marriage or to see his sick relative and returns home, and though all these facts are proved, still for this small breach or technical offence, he is sent to prison. Even there, the magistrate does not think it enough to confine himself to the four corners of the Act and to impose a fine. He takes the other reports against him and then gives him imprisonment. Therefore we apprehend that perhaps there are circulars issued to this effect, and that the hands of the magistrates are fettered in this way. Thus, the administration of criminal law by means of confidential circulars very often restrains the discretion of courts. Sometimes, offences in penal law like causing grievous hurt or simple hurt with dangerous weapon which are compoundable with the permission of the court are opposed by the police. In my opinion, in matters like this the discretion of courts must be absolutely unfettered. People who go to court in such cases are close relatives in most cases, and it is not good to see that the inimical relations existing between them are allowed to continue. But unfortunately the magistrates are fettered in their discretion and they have no option of allowing such cases to be compounded. So, my request is that the Ministry will be pleased to see that these circulars in force in this province are immediately withdrawn and the magistrates are given full discretion to act within the four corners of the law. It must be noted that the magistrates are primarily bound by the provision of the law as laid down by the Codes, Acts and Statutes. But those circulars being confidential,

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people cannot know where they stand and which course the administration of justice is going to take.

“The other point I wanted to speak about is the conduct of the prosecution in magisterial courts, and we find here that the police is entrusted with this task. It is the police that investigates the case and it is the police that conducts the prosecution. I am afraid, Sir, in doing so the police people may not be able to take a disinterested view of the whole matter as a Public Prosecutor does. So, just as the Government appoints public prosecutors for sessions cases, it should appoint additional public prosecutors to carry on this work in magisterial courts. In contrast to the administration of justice by the magistracy, the administration of criminal law by the Sessions Judge stands on an entirely different footing. The discretion of Sessions Judges is not fettered, and the whole administration is not affected by external influence. I am sure the difficulties which exist at present in the magisterial courts will soon disappear when the suggestions that I have given are followed.

“The Hon. the Premier gave a disappointing reply that this question will not be taken up at present. Sir, I am afraid the circumstances which demand this kind of reform have not vanished. They exist there in spite of the fact that the Congress has chosen to accept office. It is not possible for any one to say how long the present Government is going to be there. They may be there to-day and they may not be there to-morrow. Then, why should they postpone a reform which will protect the rights of the public? I must say that the postponement of this reform will be a great hardship to the people at large. There will be thousands of criminal cases, and I am sure no Ministry will be able to go into each of them. It may be possible for us to point out a particular case to the Premier or the Minister in charge. But it is not possible for the Ministry to have in view all the criminal cases that are going on in this Presidency, and they cannot possibly understand what amount of hardship is being worked out.

“Another suggestion that I would throw out is that all the subordinate magistrates must be made subordinate to the Sessions Judges, and they must have nothing to do with the existing head of the executive administration. The powers of the District Magistrate must be retained as at present for emergency sections of the Criminal Procedure Code like sections 144, 145, 107 and 106, and this is necessary in the interests of the administration.

“I hope these words of mine will receive the attention of the Ministry.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“There is still a desire on the part of a large number of members on the opposition benches to speak on this motion. For the last five days I have been giving very great indulgence to the members of the opposition. They have been in possession of the House and they have been making very long speeches without affording, even after my reminding them of their duty in the matter, opportunities for

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new members to speak. I will therefore say that members are entitled to speak on this demand for four hours, and if at this rate it is the desire of hon. Members that each demand should be discussed for four hours; then the guillotine will have to be placed on most of the Demands. It seems to me to be the desire of many members of the opposition, including the Leader of the Opposition, that the Government should be given the opportunity to state their policy on all the 37 Demands, and members sitting on the left will have to help the discussion in such a manner that their desire for speaking on each Demand must be consistent with a desire to discuss all the Demands, and they should also be pleased to give opportunity, once again I tell them, for new members of the House to speak.”

(Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar rose to speak.)

MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member will set an example by speaking only for five minutes.” 1-30 P.M.

* MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for the opportunity given and also the indulgence for allowing me to speak and the kindness with which you have advised me to finish my speech within a short time. I am speaking here on behalf of the village headmen, village officers and karnams in the zamindari areas. I have experience of their work in zamindari areas. I myself have been managing my own estate, and I know the difficulties of the village officers. I may say our village officers were very happy and contented when they were getting only Rs. 3 per mensem and were doing their work very satisfactorily also. Now, they are getting very much more but their work is very slack. The collection work is very unsatisfactory. This I may say is due to the increased interference on the part of the Government with the work of these officers, so much so the help given to the zamindars by these people in the matter of collection is much less than before and outstandings are very large. The village officer is not available for evidence in courts on behalf of the zamindar. The tahsildar utilizes the services of the village officers for sending tapals and other things. Two days in a week are taken up by them for this work. The zamindar not only spends his money to summon the village officers, but he has also to take process of summoning, through the revenue authorities to see that these village officers are present on the hearing date of the summary suits. I therefore request the Government to which I have also the honour to belong to arrange a new system of payment like the one I suggest. That is, each village headman may be given a piece of land which he may cultivate and take the produce as remuneration for his service. He may be exempted from payment of anything to the Government or zamindar. Then he will be quite happy and render service very willingly also. The same concession may be extended to the village officers also. Direction may also be issued to the revenue officers not to interfere with the zamindari village officers. This will also result in less number of suits being filed against the tenants and less burden to the headmen.

[Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar] [20th September 1937]

“ I earnestly appeal to the Government to give some consideration to this my suggestion and also see that the village officers are not interfered with by the revenue officers in respect of the zamindari areas.”

* **MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:**—“ Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak regarding the proposals to raise the salaries of the village servants. I congratulate the hon. Member (Mr. Palat) for the sympathy he has shown to the village servants. But I feel that in the present circumstances it will not be practicable. It is a trap set for the Congressmen. My friend wanted that the giving of a living wage to all servants was the watchword of the Congress and that they should give effect to it at once. Of course it is the watchword of the Congress to raise the salaries of low-paid servants and to give a living wage to every labourer; and no Government is worth the salt, least of all the Congress Government, if it does not work up to these ideas. But, let us remember our limitations. Everyone knows that the funds at the disposal of the Government are not as much as we should desire, and what little power we have in the matter of cutting down the salaries of higher officials is also known. We have not got power to suspend or abolish a single post which has been created in recent times. With all these limitations before us, to say now that we should raise the salaries of the village establishment to Rs. 30 is a thing which cannot be easily understood, for as I have already pointed out the increased salaries if given effect to would nearly amount to 1.15 lakhs. We know that in the villages a ‘ karnam ’ or a village munsif gets Rs. 15 a month. Besides, there are a number of ‘ vettis ’ and ‘ talayaris ’ numbering five to seven in each village. If we are to raise the salaries of these people to Rs. 30 the amount would mount up to more than 4 crores. Now, to ask that this increase in pay should be made at this time of the day when the Government have set its heart on the prohibition programme is really quite ununderstandable. I think that this is a trap set for Congressmen. But, I am sure that they will not fall into it. I am sorry to see that one Congressman has given support to this proposition for increasing the pay for the village establishment. However much we may sympathize with the low-paid servants of the village this is not the time for it but it will be the first duty of the Congress Government when it gets into power to give effect to it, and translate that sympathy into action. Still at this time of the day the Congress has got power and vitality enough to oppose any such proposal because it is utterly impossible now. Congress has enough faith in the electorate. They know that Congress has always been on the side of the village officers and low-paid men and these people also know what service the Congressmen have done for them, and are still doing for them.

“ Then, about the salary cut there has been still some objection. It is too late in the day to raise any such objection. My hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed asks, what is the urgency? Everybody knows the urgency of cutting down the salaries of high-paid officials.

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It is not a question of yesterday or to-day. It has been there for a long time. The prohibition programme is one emergency; then the raising of the salaries of the village establishment is another, and then the amenities we will have to provide for the villages in the way of drinking water-supply, hospitals, roads, schools and such other things. And everyone knows that these could not be done now from want of funds, and this money should come not only from the ryots alone but also pleaders, lawyers, doctors—everyone must take up the burden according to his measure and the capacity to pay. These officials have got commitments. What are those commitments? They say that they have been accustomed to a high standard of living. I ask, ‘ Have not the thousands of men and women who have joined the Congress ranks also commitments? Have they not been accustomed to living princely lives getting princely incomes? Have they not abandoned it all, given up their professions at the call of the country and joined the Congress ranks for serving the cause of the motherland? Everyone of them had commitments. Commitments or no commitments we have all to remember that we have a great cause before us and that great causes require great sacrifices. Sir, what greater cause can there be than the cause of Swaraj, the cause of liberty for India, independence for India and the liberation of 350 million inhabitants of this hoary nation who are living in bondage? Viewed in that way, all people should do their duty and help the cause; because the fight is for Swaraj and independence. I submit that everyone should contribute to that cause. All must join the sacrifice; irrespective of one’s profession or occupation, all people should help the cause and prepare for the salary cut. Not only that. People should induce their brethren in the services to consent to the salary cut and also ask to effect voluntary cuts in their salaries. Recently there has been an agitation among the officials to form associations and send deputations and representations to Ministers asking for increase in salaries. I hope the officials will view the matter in a more just and equitable light and refrain from adopting these courses to preserve their standard of living, or maintain their status.”

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—“ Mr. Rangayya Nayudu will now speak in Telugu.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“ Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak. . . .”

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—“ Will the hon. Member come to the microphone and speak in Telugu in which he is very proficient? ”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“ Sir, I wish first to speak a few words on the question . . .”

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—“ Perhaps the hon. Member has not understood me. He is a very proficient orator in Telugu and, as such, he could speak in Telugu very much more effectively, beautifully and intelligibly too.” (Laughter.)

[20th September 1937]

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—“జీతముల తగ్గింపు సమస్యపైన నేను కొలది మాటలు చెప్పదలచియున్నాను. ఉద్యోగస్థుల జీతములు తగ్గించినచో వారు జీవించు కష్టముని యెదిరి పక్షమున కూర్చున్న సభ్యులు మనవిచేసిరి. ప్రపంచమునందలి తక్కిన దేశము లన్నింటికంటెనుగూడ భారతదేశమున స్వల్పవ్యయముతో జీవనము చేయవచ్చును. ఎంత గొప్పవాడైనను, ఎంతటి విద్యావంతుడైనను, ఎంతేని జమీందారైనప్పటికిని నెలకు రూ 500 లు జీతముతో సుఖముగా జీవించవచ్చును. ఈ దేశములో నూరు రూపాయలు సంపాదించువారు సుఖముగా జీవించుచున్న విషయము నేనెరుగుదును. ఈ చెన్ననగరమున నే నొక విహుకుటుంబీకుడను. పిల్ల, జిల్ల, నాకరులు అందరు కలసి ముప్పదిమందికి అన్నవస్త్రములిచ్చి ఆనుదినము నేను పోషించవలసినవాడను. వీరుగాక, ఆతిథి, అభ్యాగతులు, చుట్టపక్కము లనేకులు వచ్చుచుపోవుచుండురు. వారిసందర నాదరింపవలెను. ఇందర నిన్ని విధముల పోషించుటకు నాకు మాసమునకు రూ 300 లు ఖర్చుచున్నవి. కాబట్టి యింత గొప్పవారికైనను రూ 500 లతో జీవనము గడపుటకు సాధ్యమని నేను చెప్పగలను. నా బిడ్డలు చాలామంది చదువులు చదువుచున్నారు. వారింకను సంపాదించుటలేదు. ఇంత సుఖముగ నేను జీవనము చేయుచున్నప్పుడు యెందుకయ్యా వేయి రూపాయలు, వేయిన్నీ ఐదువందలు, అరువందలూను? ఇంతకుముందు ప్రభుత్వం ఆక్రమించుకొన్న పెద్దమనుష్యులందరు నాలుగు వేలు, ఐదు వేలు తీసుకున్నారు. అది అంతా ప్రజల ద్రవ్యముకాదా? కష్టపడి, వెనుటబూడ్చి పనిచేసిన రైతుల పన్ను రూపేణ తెల్లించిన ద్రవ్యముకాదా? సుఖంగా చల్లనీడను కూర్చుని రోజుకు పది కాగితములవైన చేవ్రాలుపెట్టిన పెద్దమనిషికదా ఆ ద్రవ్యము నుండి వేలకొలది వేతనము పుచ్చుకొన్నది? మరొక మంత్రిమహాశయుడు తన కార్యదర్శికి పనిసంతను వొప్పగించి ఆపాకూషిగా ఆఫీసుకు వస్తుండేవాడు.

“మన ప్రభుత్వం వచ్చేవరకు, మనవారు మంత్రులయ్యేవరకు యిదంతా మనం చూస్తూ నేలెత్తము. ఏడు సంవత్సరాలు మంత్రులుగా వున్నవారు ఏడు లక్షలు సంపాదించి ధనవంతులై లక్షలంగా మోటారుకారుల్లో తిరుగుతూ, విర్రవీగుతున్నారు. తోటి మొదలు హోర్టు జడ్జీవరకు ప్రభుత్వ నాకరులంతా ప్రజల నాకరులే. ప్రజల నాకర్లు ప్రజలను మించి వుండరాదు. నా డబ్బు తినే నాకరు మోటారుకారులో తిరగటము నేను క్రింద నడవటమూనా?

“నా నేవచేయటానికి వెట్టుకున్న నా నాకరు మోటారుకారులో తిరుగుతుంటే, నేను వాటి రిక్సాలో పూగులాడటమా? ఎక్కడైనా ఈ న్యాయం వున్నదా? భారతదేశ చరిత్ర తీసుకోండి. వేదకాలంనుండికూడ చరిత్ర చదివిదూడండి. ఇప్పుడుండే ఈ జీతములు, ఈ దుర్వ్యయాలు పూర్వముండేవా? జీతాల తగ్గింపుకు విచారపడవలసిన పనే లేదు.

“వేయి రూప్యములు సంబంధం తీసుకుంటే తన భార్యకు, కొడుకుకు, కూతురుకు, అల్లుడుకి అందరికీ షో-ష్యూరు చేస్తాడు. ఉద్యోగంనుండి రిటైరయిన తరువాత హాయిగా యిదంతా మూటకట్టుకొని వెళ్తులాడు. యెవడి అబ్బసామ్యుండీ యిది? కాబట్టి ఈ జీతాల తగ్గింపునుగూర్చి యెవరుగాని విచారించవలసిన పనిలేదు.

“Our country is the cheapest country in the world.”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“I take it that the hon. Member is finishing his speech.”

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MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—“రెండు నిమిషములలో ముగిస్తున్నాను. నేను ఒకప్పుడు గ్రామ ముససబుగా వున్నవాణ్ణి కాబట్టి నాకు కరణము, ముససబుల కష్టములు తెలియను. గ్రామోద్యోగులు సంపాదించే డబ్బుతోటి ఈ రెవిన్యూ ఉద్యోగస్థులు భోజనంచేస్తారు. గ్రామోద్యోగులు పన్ను వసూలుచేయకపోతే ఈ కలెక్టరులు, తహశీల్దారు లందరూ గొడ్డుగిల్లుకుంటూ పొర్చోవలసిందే. గ్రామోద్యోగులే రెక్కలన్నీ తయారుచేయాలి. ఏ రేమీ చేయలేరు. కలెక్టరు, ట్రెజరీ డిప్యూటీ కలెక్టరు, సబ్-కలెక్టరు, ఎండ రెండరు ఉద్యోగులు! అచ్చా! ఎవడబ్బ సామ్యుండీ? ఎందుకండి యిదంతా? నా చిన్నతనంలో తహశీల్దారును నెలకు రూ 75 లు. ఇప్పుటి జీతాలా; అన్యాయం! అన్యాయం!! అన్యాయం!!! ఇప్పుడు గ్రామోద్యోగులకు ఇచ్చేజీతం చెన్నపట్టణంలో ఒక జవానుకు యిచ్చేంతమాదాలేదు. ఈ విషయమై వెప్పటానికి చాలావున్నది కాని యిప్పుడు సమయంకాలదు. ఈ అవకాశం యిచ్చినందుకు అధ్యక్షులకు నమస్కరిస్తున్నాను.”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“Hon. Members must be aware that there are dozens of Members in this House, including most of the Harijan Members, who do not know English. They want to follow the debates in the House, but it is not possible to have the English speeches translated into the mother-tongue of those Members.

“There is no obligation upon people who know some English to speak in that language, if they are able to speak more effectively, efficiently and lucidly in their own mother-tongue. Just a while ago, there was an example. There was a certain amount of speaking in broken English. On the other hand the hon. Member, Mr. Rangiah Nayudu has made a most eloquent speech in Telugu and some who have a knowledge of Hindi or Hindustani may be able to express themselves better in that language than in English. I know there are members who are able to make beautiful speeches in their own mother-tongue and so, I am only reminding them that there is no obligation upon them to speak in English when they are not so well acquainted with English as to be able to express themselves very clearly and effectively. With these observations I adjourn the House till 10 a.m. to-morrow.”

[20th September 1937]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 147 asked by Mr. B. Bhakthavatsalu Nayudu at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 20th September 1937, page 353 supra.]

1 Munipalli Ramarao.	20 Puchalapalli Sundarayya alias Venkatasundararama Reddi.
2 Kambam Satyanarayana.	21 Gam Nallu Dora.
3 Mylavarapu Ramarao.	22 Sankoji Moogadu.
4 C. P. Elango.	23 K. A. Kesaleeyan alias Kunhappa Nambiar.
5 Alluri Satyanarayanaraju.	24 K. P. Gopalan.
6 Uttararaju Suraparaju.	25 Chandroth Kunhi Raman Nair.
7 Ravi Adisheshaiah.	26 A. K. Gopalan Nambiyar.
8 Sakiri Krishnaswamy.	27 Chinnappan.
9 Beeram Ramanatham.	28 Gnanapragasam Pillai.
10 Pusapati Narasimharaju.	29 Vellayan alias Sourippan.
11 Kosuru Subbaraju.	30 Ponnuswami.
12 Kalidindi Bangaruraju.	31 Sundaram.
13 Sagiriraju Satyanarayana.	32 Koyitha Abdulla.
14 Kota Abbayi Chetti.	33 Pottayil Ayidru Musaliar.
15 Thimmavajjhula Narasimhamurthy.	34 Mecheri Thazhathveetan Marakkar.
16 Vasireddy Narayanarao.	35 Palliyal Kunhali.
17 Yusuf Meharally.	36 Panampuzha Moideen Molla.
18 S. Mikundalal Sircar.	37 Manichathodi Uthan.
19 Kakarala Kameswara Sastri alias Kameswara Rao.	38 Ossan Ali.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 148 asked by Mr. K. Varadachariar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 20th September 1937, page 354 supra.]

Year.	Number of times the temples were visited and inspected by President or any Commissioners of the Board.	Number of times President or any Commissioners inspected the proceedings of the T.T.D. Committee.	Number of reports submitted by president or Commissioner to Government.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1933	Two times, i.e., on 21st June 1933 and 29th July 1933 by the then President.	Two times, i.e., on 21st June 1933 and 29th July 1933 by the then President.	Nil.
1934	One (16th August 1934 to 19th August 1934 by the then President.)	One, i.e., on 16th August 1934 by the then President.	Nil.
1935	One, i.e., on 10th October 1935 to 12th October 1935 by the President.	Nil.	Nil.
1936	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
1937	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

20th September 1937]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 154 asked by Mr. V. R. Perumal Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 20th September 1937, page 359 supra.]

List of Members nominated to the Dharmapuri District Board.

Name.	Community or sex.	Native place.
(1)	(2)	(3)
1 Mrs. C. Govindammal	Woman	Karur.
2 Mrs. D. Ramaratnammal	Woman	Krishnagiri.
3 M.R.Ry. S. Seeran Avargal	Adi-Dravida	Krishnagiri.
4 M.R.Ry. M. Ramaswami Avargal	Adi-Dravida	Dharmapuri.
5 M.R.Ry. B. M. Munisami Rao Avargal	Adi-Dravida	Krishnagiri.
6 M.R.Ry. S. Swamidas Avargal	Indian-Christian	Krishnagiri.
7 The Rev. Duncan S. Stevenson	European	Krishnagiri.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 158 asked by Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 20th September 1937, page 365 supra.]

G.O. No. 1059, L.S.G., dated 16th March 1937.

[Election—President—Dharmapuri District Board—Objection petition—Expenditure—District Board Funds—Sanction—Refused.]

READ the following:—

From the President, Dharmapuri District Board,
R.C. No. 280-37-A2, dated 4th February 1937.

Order—No. 1059, L.S.G., dated 16th March 1937.

The Government decline to sanction any expenditure from the funds of the Dharmapuri District Board on the petition filed before the Election Commissioner, Salem, questioning the validity of the election M.R.Ry. D. Krishnamurti Avargal as its President.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government)

M. V. SANKARA VARIAR,
Assistant Secretary to Government.

To the President of the Dharmapuri District Board.
" Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 21st September 1937.

The House met in the Assembly building, Chempauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

Proceedings began with the singing of the Vande Mataram song.

STARRED QUESTIONS

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Withdrawal of the order of proscription on certain books.

* 160 Q.—MR. K. V. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether, in view of the change in the political situation, the Government propose to remove the ban on books such as the Telugu Edition of Gorky's 'Mother' which in their original editions are not proscribed;

(b) whether the Government are aware that District Educational Officers object to the keeping in libraries of books that are not prescribed either by the Central Government or by the Provincial Governments; and

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the 'History of Indian National Congress' by Dr. B. Pattabhi is not allowed to be kept in a public library receiving Government grants in the village Bhatlapenamarru in Kistna district?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) In some cases, the ban has already been removed. Government will review the other cases if and when any representations are received from parties concerned.

“(b) One of the ordinary conditions on which grants are sanctioned by Government for public libraries is that books of an objectionable character should not be kept in them. Managements of libraries are required to obtain the approval of District Educational Officers, to the purchase of books. These officers have been advised that no objection should be taken to political books unless they are such as to be deemed to be subversive of constituted authority. Other books the purchase of which may be objected to are—

(1) obscene literature,

(2) books of a standard which cannot be appreciated by readers particularly in rural libraries, and

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(3) books of such a nature that they will not be useful to any members of the library concerned.

“(c) Government are enquiring into this matter.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to repeat the answer to clause (c)?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I said the Government are enquiring into this matter.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—“Are we to presume that all books except those which have been banned will be allowed hereafter?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I do not quite appreciate the import of this question.”

MR. R. VENKATA RAO BALIGA:—“Have complaints been received from Bezvada Library regarding ban on books?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I said the whole matter is under enquiry.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of representing to the Central Government urging upon them to vest all powers of proscription of books and literature in the hands of the Provincial Government?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“This is a matter to which I cannot give an answer at the present moment.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that some Telugu books other than political books have been proscribed?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“If they come under the three conditions I have laid down in answer to clause (b) of course they will be proscribed.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I know whether the Government are aware that the Tamil translation of Lenin by the Hon. Minister Mr. Ramanathan is still proscribed, while the English edition of the same is not and whether Government will be pleased to remove the ban immediately on the Tamil translation also?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I have read both the books, the Tamil translation as well as the English edition and I shall see that the ban is kept no more on the Tamil edition.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I ask whether the Government will not consider the desirability of making an early statement laying down the future policy of the Government in the matter of proscription of books?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The hon. Member must be aware that this is a matter for the Central Government to deal with. The Provincial Government will certainly bring it to the notice of the Central Government if any complaints are made to that effect.”

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Expenditure on account of travelling allowance paid to the members of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Committee for the years 1933 to 1937.

* 161 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) at what rates the members of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Committee have been drawing their travelling and daily allowances; and

(b) the amounts spent on these items during the years 1933 to 1937?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The members of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Committee are entitled to draw travelling allowance and daily allowance at the following rates:—

- (1) One and a half first-class railway fare for journey by rail,
- (2) Mileage at the rate of eight annas per mile of journeys performed by road or canal,
- (3) daily allowance for halt at Rs. 10 per day, and
- (4) actual expenses in lieu of mileage in the case of journeys between Tirupati and the Hill.

“(b) The total amount paid towards travelling allowance and daily allowances to the members of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Committee from fasli 1343 was as follows:—

Fasli.						RS.	A.	P.
1343 (1933-34)	..	..	..	..	..	1,260	6	0
1344 (1934-35)	..	..	..	..	..	2,539	0	0
1345 (1935-36)	..	..	..	..	..	4,302	13	0
1346 (1936-37)	..	..	..	..	..	2,678	11	0
1347 (up to August 1937)	..	..	..	..	..	675	10	0
Total ..						11,456	8	0

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to reduce these rates?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“No, Sir.”

MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—“May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to order an enquiry to find out whether the administration of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams is now more costly than before?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“First of all the fact has to be proved, before the Government undertake an enquiry. As it is, the Government do not consider that the administrative cost is very heavy.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Does not the Government think that these rates are abnormal?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“No, Sir.”

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MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—" May I know what the total income of the Devasthanams is? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" I want notice of that question."

Representation against the District Medical Officer, Malabar.

* 162 Q.—MRS. A. V. KUTTIMALU AMMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Malabar District Medical Association made any representation to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras on the 1st July 1937, regarding the conduct of the acting District Medical Officer, Malabar; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The Government are making an enquiry into the matter."

MR. M. A. SALAM:—" May I know whether the grievance of the Malabar District Medical Association is against honorary medical men? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" No. The matter referred to in this question relates to the acting District Medical Officer."

MRS. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—" May I know whether honorary medical officers in the General Hospital are subjected to ill-treatment? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" That question does not arise out of this question."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May we know what is the nature of representation made against the acting District Medical Officer? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" I have already said that Government are making an enquiry into the matter."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know what is the nature of the enquiry? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" The nature of the enquiry is on the representation that has been sent to the Government by the Malabar District Medical Association at Calicut."

MRS. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—" May I know whether similar instances where complaints have been made about the treatment of honorary medical officers will be enquired into? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Yes."

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MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister what is the nature of the complaint made in this particular case? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" The complaint was against the behaviour of the acting District Medical Officer."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" How did he behave? "

(No answer.)

Treatment meted out to the Honorary Medical men in the Government Hospital, Calicut.

* 163 Q.—MRS. A. V. KUTTIMALU AMMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Hon. Minister has been drawn to the fact that there is discontent among the Honorary Medical men in the Calicut Government Hospital that they were not being properly treated in the hospital;

(b) whether there has been a complaint from any Honorary Medical men in the hospital that they were not given proper facilities to work up successfully the special departments in their charge;

(c) whether there has been a complaint from any Honorary Medical man of the Calicut hospital that there was an altercation between him and the acting District Medical Officer; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) No specific case has been reported or brought to the notice of the Surgeon-General or the Government by any of the Honorary Medical Officers at Calicut.

" (b) Honorary Medical Officers who have been appointed to the Dental, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Ophthalmic sections of the Headquarters Hospital, Calicut, claimed facilities for treating cases in the Government Hospital for Women and Children, Calicut. This was not allowed.

" (c) A complaint has been received by the Surgeon-General from Mr. Vaidyar, Honorary Medical Officer in charge of the Dental and Ear, Nose and Throat sections, regarding an altercation between him and the acting District Medical Officer, Mr. S. Ramdass.

" (d) The matter is being referred to the permanent District Medical Officer for enquiry and report."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" May I know whether Government have received representation either orally or in writing that the honorary Medical Officers in Government Hospitals are addicted to corruption and bribery? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" No, Sir."

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MR. E. KANNAN:—" May I know whether, in cases of conflict between the honorary medical officers and permanent officers, Government will not invariably transfer these honorary medical officers from one place to another? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Not necessarily."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—" Are honorary medical officers paid by the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" The hon. Member must understand that the word 'honorary' connotes no payment."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—" I meant whether any allowance is paid? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Nothing, Sir."

Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India.

* 164 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India; and

(b) if so, what are its recommendations which they have given effect to and which they propose to give effect to?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) & (b) Yes. The progress made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India is published by the Government of India. A copy of Part II of the report dealing with the action taken by the Local Governments is available in the Council Library."

✓ *Representation of Adi-Dravidas on excise advisory committees.*

* 165 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued orders to District Collectors to appoint Adi-Dravidas to excise advisory committees; and

(b) if so, what the purpose is for which Adi-Dravidas are given representation on these committees?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) & (b) The Government have issued no such specific orders. But the existing rules for the constitution and working of excise advisory committees provide for one member of the committee being elected by recognized labour organizations, from among the labouring or depressed classes residing in the area or nominated by the Collector if no such organizations exist."

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MR. J. SIVASHANMUGHAM PILLAI:—" May I know whether 10-1 there are representatives of depressed classes in all the advisory committees? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" No, Sir."

Proposed reduction of the number of liquor shops in Malabar.

* 166 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Malabar District Board requested Government in 1933 to reduce the number of liquor shops in Malabar by 50 per cent and, if so, what Government have done in the matter; and

(b) what the report of the Collector of Malabar on the subject was?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) & (b) In March 1933 the District Board, Malabar, forwarded a copy of the resolution passed by that board to reduce the number of liquor shops situated in the administrative area of the district board by 50 per cent. No action was taken on the resolution. No report from the Collector of Malabar was received."

Work done by the officers of the Veterinary department in Malabar.

* 167 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of travelling allowance drawn by the officers of the Veterinary department in Malabar during each of the last ten years; and

(b) the work done by them in Malabar?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) A statement^a is laid on the table.

" (b) The work done by the touring subordinate staff and the hospital staff during each of the last ten years is furnished in the three statements^b laid on the table.

" The municipalities of Calicut, Palghat and Cannanore also utilized the services of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons for meat inspection work.

" During 1927-28 and till 31st July 1929, Malabar was in charge of the District Veterinary Officer, Coimbatore, whose jurisdiction extended over four other districts also, viz., the Nilgiris, Salem, South Kanara and Coimbatore. From 1st August 1929, the District Veterinary Officer, Calicut, has been in charge of Malabar

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 474 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix II on pages 475-477 infra.

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along with South Kanara district. The District Veterinary Officer, Calicut, inspected the veterinary institutions and touring billets in his jurisdiction twice in a year. He visited the Headquarters Veterinary Hospital (Calicut) frequently during his stay at headquarters and helped the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in charge in treating difficult cases. He inspected the Government livestock at the Paddy Breeding Station, Pattambi. He attended the cattle fair at Kizhur in almost all the years, attended important outbreaks where rinderpest was prevalent, visited inoculation camps and did propaganda work in respect of preventive inoculations."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether this officer ever visited South Kanara? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" It does not appear like that."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" May I know whether the Government consider that the work done by the Veterinary department is efficient? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Yes, Sir."

Abolition of the Fisheries Training Institute, Calicut.

* 168 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fisheries Training Institute, Calicut, has been closed, and, if so, what the reasons are that led to this decision by the Government; and

(b) in what manner Government have disposed of those who were employed in the Institute?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) Yes; the institute has been closed as there is no necessity for training any more teachers.

" (b) The discharge of the persons holding the posts sanctioned for the institute will be regulated by the Statutory Rules published on pages 2143-2145 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 11th December 1934."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the Government have decided to close down the fisheries schools also as they have closed the fisheries training school? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" The matter is under consideration."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of taking over the headmasters and other members of the staff who have put in long service to the Education department? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" It is not possible to do that, Sir."

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KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask whether the fisheries schools have not done immense good in educating the fisher-folk who are poor and uneducated? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" It is a matter of opinion."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government will provide for the headmasters at least as far as possible? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" The matter will be considered, Sir."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—" May I ask what is the nature of the education that was given in these institutes? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Along with ordinary education, education pertaining to fishing."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—" Is it not a fact that there are very many people who do not know the present-day methods of fishing? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" I do not know, Sir."

Proposal for making pensionable the service of copyists employed in courts.

* 169 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received representations and memorials praying that the service of copyists employed in courts should be made pensionable; if so, whether the matter has been considered by the Government; and

(b) whether there is any difference in status and remuneration between the copyists in civil courts and those in the Registration department?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) & (b) The answer is in the affirmative."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" May I ask whether there is any difference in status and remuneration between the copyists of the criminal courts and copyists in other courts? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" No, Sir."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether there is any prospect of the status of the copyists being improved? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" Not in the near future, Sir."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know whether the copyists of the Judicial department can avail themselves of medical leave which is enjoyed by other officers and servants of the department? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" No, Sir."

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MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask whether there is any other class of Government servants who do not get that privilege? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" Notice, Sir."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the copyists in the civil courts do not get pensions? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" They do not receive pensions, Sir."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the copyists in the Revenue department bring an income to the Government which is much more than what is paid to them? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" I am not able to answer the question relating to the Revenue department."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government have received any representations from the copyists? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" There have been several representations."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask whether this grant of medical leave was one of the requests in the petition? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" Yes, Sir."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I request the Hon. Minister to consider the request favourably? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" The whole matter is being considered by the Government."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I request the Hon. Minister to give it immediate consideration? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" As early as possible, the matter will be considered."

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—" May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the copyists are paid so miserably low— 9 pies per page? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" It is 15 pies per 150 words."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that the work done by the copyists of the Judicial department brings a profit to the Government? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" It is not really profitable, Sir."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—" Is not the Government making a profit out of the civil copying department? "

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THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" There is no profit, Sir, if all the necessary amount of expenditure is taken into account."

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—" May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of paying the copyists Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 a month? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" The Government will consider the question; I do not think there is an early possibility of doing it."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" May I ask what are the rates paid to copyists in the criminal courts? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" I should think it is the same, Sir."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" Can any Government which does not afford protection to any of its servants in their old age be called a civilized Government? "

(No answer.)

Demanding of bakshees by the peons in the Government offices in the city.

* 170 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have received representations to the effect that the peons in the Secretariat and other Government offices in Madras invariably ask for some bakshees from persons going thereto on purposes?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The answer is in the negative."

Supply of information to the Members of the Legislature by district authorities.

* 171 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Members of the Legislature are at liberty to ask the district authorities and heads of departments for information other than of a confidential nature, which they may require in the exercise of their function as Members of the Legislature?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" Heads of departments and district officers are at liberty to furnish Members of the Legislature with information within their cognizance as to statistics or facts relating to local matters of public concern. They are not, however, permitted to divulge the contents of correspondence or to communicate any information that is marked as confidential or is, in the opinion of the officers, of such a nature as in the public interest should be kept confidential, or which involves a statement of general policy for which the Government are responsible."

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MR. E. KANNAN:—" May I know, Sir, whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the Collector of Malabar refused to give certain Members of this House information of the nature described in the answer to the question? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The Government is not aware, Sir, and would be glad to know."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I request the Government to instruct the Collectors and other heads of district offices to give Members of the House information which is not of the nature described by the Hon. Minister? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The answer given to this question will no doubt be conveyed to all district Collectors if necessary."

* Q. 172 *

* Q. 173 *

* Q. 174 *

Proposal to transfer the schools now conducted by the Fisheries Department to the charge of the Labour Department.

* 175 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state whether the Government have ever entertained the idea of transferring the schools now conducted by the Fisheries Department to the charge of the Labour Department?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Yes. The question is under consideration."

Assignment of land abutting the railway lines in the Bellary district.

* 172 Q.—MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that about 30 years ago lands near by and abutting the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway lines were relinquished by the railway and the same lands were given on temporary patta to the ryots;

(b) if so, what the extent of such land in each taluk of the Bellary district is;

(c) whether the condition of the land relinquished was poor at the time of relinquishment;

(d) what the value was per acre of the land at the time of relinquishment;

^a Please see after starred question No. 175.

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(e) whether orders have been passed by the Government evicting the patta-holders;

(f) whether the Government are claiming from those patta-holders the present value of the said land to confirm patta in their names permanently;

(g) whether it is under the consideration of the Government to fix the value of lands to be confirmed on permanent patta, at the same rate the land was valued at the time of relinquishment and grant permanent patta in the names of the temporary pattadars; and

(h) how many pattadars have paid the present market value and got permanent pattas in the Bellary district in respect of the lands relinquished by the railway?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) to (h) The Government have no information. But a report has been called for."

MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" May I know how long the Government are likely to take to get the required information? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" Not very long, Sir; the departments are very active."

MR. K. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN:—" Sir, with your permission, I should like to put the questions standing in the name of Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Yes."

Recognition of the medical degrees of the Andhra University.

* 173 Q.—MR. K. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN for Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the medical degrees of the Andhra University are not recognized by authorities; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that 250 students of the Medical College, Vizagapatam, assembled in a meeting a few days ago and resolved not to attend the unrecognized College; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to secure recognition for the medical degrees of the Andhra University?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) This question has already been answered in reply to unstarred question No. 112.

" (b) Yes. The students did not attend the college on the 25th and 26th of August. They rejoined on the 27th August.

" (c) Yes."

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Rules for communal representation in the services under municipalities.

* 174 Q.—MR. K. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN for Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether rules have been issued by the Government under section 73 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, regarding communal representation in the services under municipalities; if not, why not; and

(b) when the said rules under the District Municipalities Act are likely to be issued?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The rules for the representation of communities in services under Municipal Councils have not been issued. The whole question will be considered.

“(b) It is not possible to forecast a date.”

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—BUSINESS BEFORE THE HOUSE.

10-30 a.m. * MR. SPEAKER:—“I have to inform the House that on the 24th instant, Friday, at 5 p.m., all the outstanding demands will, if not finished earlier, be put to the vote of the House. Afterwards, the resolution of the hon. Member Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddiyar on the subject of the Travancore Temple Entry Proclamation, copies of which have already been distributed to the Members, will be taken up for discussion. At the request of Mr. Reddiyar, the hon. the Leader of the House has consented to give that day for the said resolution, and as the arrangement does not interfere with the transaction of financial business by the House, I have consented to it.”

III.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—cont.

(10) DEMAND X—DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS—cont.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The discussion on the cut motion moved by Mr. Ari Gowder under Demand X will now continue.”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the debate was long but also very important. Two matters were referred to, of very great importance, and I thought that though the mover of the demand should reply to the whole debate, it was my duty to intervene and offer a few remarks with reference to the points raised on certain important aspects of the position. One was with reference to the dissatisfaction felt with regard to the attitude that on behalf of the Government I took in a certain answer in regard to the separation

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of the executive and judicial functions, and the debate on the part of many members leaned towards suggesting that such separation should be effected immediately. The other point was with reference to the policy of Government with regard to the reduction of the salaries of the public services.

“Taking the question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions first, I submit, Sir, at the outset, that the policy of the Government as stated was that at present they did not have before them any policy of making a change in regard to the functionaries that were referred to; and, on behalf of the Government, I offered a reason that in the present situation, the specific causes that led to the longstanding and ancient agitation on this subject did not apply. Even now, I do not propose to lay it down on behalf of the Government, Sir, that we have come to the definite conclusion that these functionaries referred to should carry on as before; but I shall not be right if I do not express on the floor of this House my feeling that still I hold the same view, and I wish to induce the Government to hold the same view with regard to this matter. I concede it may be a perfectly correct principle, in any State, to have the judiciary entirely separated from the executive departments; but generally we go wrong, not on principles, but either because we are moved by bad motives or because we apply a good principle to wrong matters. The application goes wrong. Principles are generally very good, but applications are very often wrong. I therefore submit that it is not enough merely to point out that the Congress or any other national organization swore by the principle of separation of executive from judicial functions for so long a time, and therefore it must be taken up now for execution. What is right one day does not become wrong another day. But what is right and applicable one day may become inapplicable another day. That is the position I consider, which applies to the present case. It is true that the national organization that represented the voice of the people for many years, for a long time, did want the separation of the executive and judicial departments in the State. But that was at a time when it was taken for granted that a certain overseership was providential or absolutely irremovable, and then the Indianization of the services and many other similar questions were tacked on to that assumption. And then also it was pointed out that surely at least the judiciary in which the State was not so extremely concerned, should be made completely independent of the executive. But, to-day, Sir, as any student can find out when working a sum in algebraical expression, a minus inside a bracket becomes a plus when the bracket is removed and a plus inside a bracket becomes a minus when the bracket is removed, if it is preceded by a negative sign. We are not enjoying independence now; we are not enjoying Swaraj now; we are enjoying what is called autonomy in the provincial sphere. And if anyone reads with patience the provisions of the Government of India Act with reference to the control over the services—I say, Sir, advisedly with patience, because I have often failed to do that—if anyone reads the provisions of the Government of India

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Act with regard to the services, it will be seen that the services are put in a very widely extensive parenthesis. It will be seen that what are called the All-India Services are beyond the control of the Government of the day in the provinces, though they function and function only within the provinces. It will be seen that the High Court, that the civil judiciary, that the criminal judiciary of the districts, the highest courts in the district, are all within this bracket. While I unhesitatingly grant—grant perhaps is not the word, I should say, I unhesitatingly swear by—the independence of the judiciary and I would not do anything on behalf of any Government, if I have the power or the opportunity, to interfere with the independence of the judiciary, be it the smallest magistrate or the biggest judge, I say, Sir, that to adopt the principle that the judiciary in the present state of things should be entirely separated from the executive and should be made independent, not in the correct sense of the word, but independent of all control in every administrative matter, would result in an *imperium in imperio* and that what we gain by provincial autonomy we would, by more than half, lose by this so-called adhesion loyally to an old principle. I say this, Sir, as a politician; I say this as a Member of Government in charge; I say this as one who hopes for independence all round in our country. And I hope I shall not be misunderstood as having become a retrograde or a bureaucrat because I have explained my position in this matter in this form. I do think it would be a danger to take up this question now and carry it out as proposed, a danger, not to the criminals who are tried or to the civil litigants whose case is being enquired into, but a danger to the political advancement of the country. The old idea that the State is an enemy of the individual and that the judiciary is an arbitrator between these two enemies and opponents is an exploded doctrine of social or political organization. I do maintain that the State is one and indivisible, that its social life, its economic life, its political life, its judicial quarrels and arbitrations, as I would call them in common language, are all one and indivisible. That is the reason and the basis on which, Sir, my remarks were made, and I hope I shall not be misunderstood. Far be it from me, on behalf of any Government, or even personally, to suggest that the independence of any judicial officer should be interfered with. That is one thing; but another thing it is to say that every magistrate who has got the peace of the country in his charge and every judge and all these should form a separate State within a State. That cannot be worked in modern times. Policies run through even principles of criminal law, policies have to run even through the exercise of the powers of the criminal law. It would be wrong to mete out the same punishment at all times for the same offence. It would be wrong to mete out the same punishment in the same manner at all times going by a formula. Therefore, I repeat that life is one and indivisible, and the State is one and indivisible. So much for the theory of it.

“I think, Sir, I have rightly analysed the situation when I summarize the position taken up in the debate by some hon. Members as this; that the whole suggestion comes to this, that there should be direct

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recruitment for certain offices. It simply means that direct recruitment should replace promotion to magisterial posts. I am not quite sure that this is right or this is wrong. The Government are not committed to either one or the other view, but it is obvious and easy to see that it would be a very heavy addition to the burden of the tax-payer if we take up such a venture just now. The question was examined previously many times, and what was possible was done; but any further extension, even though it might be desirable, would mean a very great additional burden to the tax-payer. It may be said that instead of one smaller area having a magistrate who does both executive and judicial functions, you may give each officer a larger area and thereby you may not lose much or spend much more. But this is not true in practice. It is found that we are going on departmentalizing, and every department wants its people, its staff, its peons, its menial services, its accounts, its audit and so on, and thus the increase of expenditure goes on. If I should state the mind of those who form the present Government, I think I am right and fair to them when I say that even on a future occasion when they consider this question, they would have to take the responsibility for reducing the needless departmentalization and putting more and more together in a certain area and making it cheap and easier for the tax-payer to bear.

“Sir, it is also a wrong thing to imagine that only the unsocial elements of society demand the attention of justice. I submit, Sir, that the daily life of the citizen is concerned more with the executive than with the judiciary. And we want that the executive should be as judicial and impartial as we want that the judiciary should have all the common sense of daily practice in life. I maintain, Sir, that exchange is beneficial between the two departments, that for instance, a revenue official who finds out what the crop is or what the assessment should be, and the executive officer who has to deal with the daily life of the citizens, should have a judicial and impartial spirit which can only be cultivated by practice, and therefore, Sir, there is a great gain in exchange between the two sets of officers. And the expenses also would be greatly enlarged if we divide them as two separate cadres and group them in water-tight compartments. Much, I think, would also be the deterioration of the intellectual calibre in either department.

“Sir, the departmentalization that is going in is well-known. Everything is done into a separate department. Thus in regard to road-making, one department works on this mile and another department runs at the other mile; check-measurement of stones is done by a Local Fund engineer here and by the Public Works Department Engineer in another place; and travelling allowance runs across the country from all sides cutting one another across. All this is really not relevant perhaps to the present question. But this departmentalization of the executive and judiciary would lead to the same excessive expenditure.

“Direct recruitment is good. There is so much of unemployment and there are so many departments where educated young men can

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be employed. Direct recruitment is very attractive, but I must warn hon. Members who touch this subject, that they may overdo it. They must be aware, Sir, that now many eminently qualified young men are going in for subordinate services and people who are capable of filling the highest posts in course of time are going to the subordinate services, because of the pressure of unemployment and the difficulty of securing secure posts with a secure tenure and the like and if we cut off the possibility of these men who have been recruited to the subordinate services getting any real promotion and say that all these things should go by direct recruitment, it will be removing a great ambition which induces these young men to take up for the time being these subordinate posts. All these things must be considered from the practical administrator's point of view.

"Now, Sir, I shall leave this at this point. I assure hon. Members that my opinion is not necessarily the opinion of the Government in this respect. Some hon. Members even went so far as to quote the whole of the Congress against me, and some others proceeded to quote the recent decisions of other provinces. I do hope that some of my friends will quote me in other provinces. (Laughter.) We cannot be quoting like this in every matter of detail, as I said at the outset, in the course of this sitting. I do maintain we have a right and we have a duty to come to independent conclusions in such matters. And, after all, he laughs best who laughs last and therefore I do say that it is possible for hon. Members to find that the policy that I advocate may perhaps be advocated even in the other provinces in course of time, if after a fuller consideration the matter is gone into. Sir, I shall leave it at this.

"I would next crave your indulgence to give me more time for dealing with the question of reduction of salaries. So much space has this question taken up that the Government is faced with a first-class issue and that it has at last received first-class attention. The control of recruitment and the conditions of service and the pay and privileges of certain services called the All-India Services are nothing else but a political impost. It is no argument for answering the suggestion that the salaries should be reduced where they can be reduced. Hon. Members referred to the disparity that would result if we did not touch the All-India services but touched only the provincial and subordinate services. Sir, the disparity is true, but disparity should not become a reason for further injury to the tax-payer or for the maintenance of an unreasonable burden upon him. The disparity is no doubt ugly, or it may be explainable, but under no circumstances can we admit that because of that the tax-payer should suffer between these two. The answer is plain and perhaps hackneyed, but the objection too is hackneyed and we cannot get an answer newer and newer every day for a hackneyed objection. As regards the difficulties raised of the individual concerned in the matter of commitments, domestic budget, standard of life and the like, may I point out to hon. Members that all reform of any importance in politics or in the social system or in

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the economic organization of the country involves changes in the conditions previously taken or taken as absolutely stable and are bound to affect the expectations and commitments of one or another? If Governments were administered on the basis of excessive solicitude for such people, all reform, I say, would be impossible. We cannot touch, for instance, wages in a factory, because the factory was built, the capital was raised and shareholders were paid their money on the basis of the previous prevalent wages. What right have we to touch the hours of labour; what right have we to touch the wages? All these points would be raised not only with reference to the factories and proprietors, but with reference to their salaries also by those who speak in the interests of those who were drawing those salaries before. Conditions are changing and are changing every day and Governments are not merely employers and the employed, but Governments are in charge of a trust, and the employers and the employed are a partnership together to run and govern this trust, and when the conditions of the trust change, both the employer and the employed will have to change accordingly. It is no use saying whenever a reform is proposed, 'here are our contracts, here are our ambitions and expectations and here are our commitments'. The contractual obligations have in recent times been very much extended in definition. It would be difficult to make any reform if mere ambitions and expectations are to be defined as contractual obligations. Professional earnings are constantly referred to as very high and the phrase 'market value' of an officer and other things are referred to. I maintain there is no market whatsoever for such as those referred to; there is no market for those whom we take in as Government servants, because we have a monopoly in this service and there is no market. And, as for what goes by the name of the other market, namely, professional earning and the like, let me remind hon. Members of the great difference between two young men, one of whom succeeds in getting a Government job and another who just fails in competition in the *viva voce* examination. How much more lucky is the man who succeeds considered in other peoples' estimation? It shows there is some charm in Government service, some attraction in Government service. It is not true to say that there is an equally good market elsewhere. If salary is reduced by, Rs. 50, Rs. 30 or Rs. 100, there is an illusion created in the mind of the Government servant, that after long service and after drawing his pay for a long time, he can earn that wherever and whenever he goes out. The unemployed middle classes know how false this delusion is; the unemployed middle classes know how much competition there is; and everyone knows how ready the unemployed middle classes are to enter Government service even if the salaries be cut by 50 per cent, even as they are. Therefore, all these arguments, and the market value argument, are no answer to the suggestion made, provided there is a national necessity and need for cutting the salaries down and it is that that I claim on behalf of Government. The eagerness of the people to get jobs is a better test

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in regard to the market conditions than any statistics that do not exist and which are really there in the shape of mere impressions of various gentlemen who argued on this matter.

“ Sir, I think the general opinion throughout the country, among the people and among the electorate who returned this Government, to whom we are responsible, is that these salaries are far too high and far too attractive to meet the needs of the situation and that the emphasis on Government service should be reduced and that should be the basis of the policy of Government. What exactly should be the gradation that is to be given and how it should be, or how slopy it should be, or what should be the maximum or what it should be at the top, these are matters of detail about which we have not made up our minds. I say on behalf of the Government that the whole thing is being examined by the department and examined very carefully and those who examine the question are persons who are not hasty themselves; they are persons who have every consideration leaning towards conservatism. And, if the Government impose its will as a result of that examination, it will be such as would appear in the long run to be fair and proper and just as between the tax-payer and the persons concerned. That of course depends ultimately on the result of the examination and the orders passed thereon. No doubt, Sir, I want this also to be considered by the House, that we are taking great risks in this. It may be thought superficial; it may be thought that we are touching the danger-zone; and that the persons who support the Government and its policy are going to be disappointed if we touch this. But I have greater faith in the intelligentsia of our country, and that is why I do believe that the intelligentsia of our country will judge the matter as I do and as the Government does. If, on the other hand, we are to look to the intelligentsia which care only for their own sectional interests, I maintain humbly and respectfully that their support is not worth wooing, if that is their attitude. I say, Sir, we take a great risk, but it is our duty to take risks. People are crying against this expenditure. But it may be said that this expenditure is after all not likely to be curtailed very much and that we may not make a great saving in order to help us towards our pet schemes, this, that and so on. That is not the point, Sir. We have necessarily to come forward with nation-building programmes and with programmes that will cost; and apart from nation-building, we have necessarily to give water and food to the people so that nobody should starve in our country as they are. All that means money and we must therefore tax some people. In order to tax some people we must have a basis and we must have a moral basis. We cannot successfully govern this country as before, when people merely raised taxes by writing down four lines on a piece of paper and putting them in print in Government gazettes. We have to get the consent of the people for levying taxes, in substance and in every detail. As the House is aware, everything has to be closely examined when the poor man's interests are sought to be guarded by all sections of the House. It is not therefore an easy matter to levy new taxes. We must therefore levy new taxes

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upon those who are able to pay. So, how can we approach these problems unless we have the money ourselves? I say ‘ourselves,’ because as I said at the outset, the Government and the services are one partnership who are in charge of the trust and therefore this partnership, both the services and the Government are one and they should make sacrifices themselves in order to approach the tax-payer with fresh proposals. If, therefore, we reduce the salaries to a certain reasonable extent, we prepare ourselves morally for approaching without disgrace and without an apology to the tax-payer and asking him to pay more taxes. It is true, we shall get only a few lakhs of rupees by these salary cuts, but if you levy even one rupee more per head of the population of the country we may get four crores extra. Quite true. But, you cannot ask the four-crore population to pay one rupee extra each unless we do what we can do by ourselves, even though the net result may be only a few lakhs of rupees. That is the reason why I say this salary cut is a moral basis and a moral foundation for approaching those classes of the community who are capable of being taxed further to pay more taxes for the benefit of the poor people who cannot pay more taxes; and that is the importance of this proposal with reference to the salary cut and not merely the net amount. It is not as if we set greedy eyes on a few lakhs of rupees extra that these Government servants have been receiving all these days; but it is because we feel a compulsion or a moral necessity that we are making this proposal.

“ Then, Sir, it is said that people will become corrupt and that what you gain in one way may be lost in another way. This, I say is a libel; it is an exaggeration. I do not think that a gentleman who draws Rs. 150 this year and who is absolutely honest, when promoted five years hence to Rs. 500 and if reduced to Rs. 450, will become corrupt. Again, if he was honest with Rs. 150 this year, why should he become dishonest when he gets Rs. 350 three years hence? Corruption and honesty are the result of character and the moral tone of the services and the upbringing of the persons, who had entered the services. We are being over-prejudiced by certain ancient history. With reference to the Indian Civil Service, during the company times I think, history has prejudiced us. Greed has no limits. Let me confess there is no salary that we can pay, there is no salary however so high, that will keep a man content, that will keep a man pure, if he is not a good man.

“ There is no relationship; there is no co-efficient between honesty and the salary that one draws. The cure for corruption is not certainly, at any rate, to ruin the nation by excessive taxation. If corruption must be, let us bear it as a misfortune. But I do not hold that view; and it is not possible to libel our whole nation like that. I think that we can pay our people 10 per cent, 15 per cent, 20 per cent or 2½ per cent less and live in the hope that our people will be as honest and as just as they were hitherto, especially those who have been given the very best education that is possible and which alone qualified them to enter service.

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a.m.

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“Then it was said—I think that it was my hon. Friend Mr. Palat who said it—‘Do the Government propose to retain the European Service? They have not made any proposal or sent any letter or recommendation to the Secretary of State to change the Government of India Act. Has the Congress given up its policy of destruction of the Government of India Act?’ Such questions were asked. I really welcome the conversion—this conversion of our opponents to a more extensive prohibition than we are doing, to a more extensive cut than we are proposing to make and a more revolutionary nationalism than that we have put into practice. After all we want the conversion of our opponents and if our friends on the opposite side are not speaking merely for tactics but are really speaking out their minds, it pleases us very much to see such rapid conversion is going on on the other side of the House. (Loud applause.) And if it is not mere tactics of a certain kind to meet a certain situation, they will strengthen us and enable us to proceed with greater speed. Even though our present attempts may be very feeble in every respect, if our friends on the opposite side will continue to demand more and more extreme measures, it will be far easier and we are bound to make every effort in our further progress in this direction. I do not therefore belittle their statements. I do not want to minimize the value of these statements. I want Mr. Palat to be as revolutionary as this. I want every member on the opposite side to ask us to be more revolutionary than we are so as to maintain the same level and of egging us on to a forward step; and then it will be easier for us to proceed. Therefore, I welcome it. I hope, Sir, that all this is not mere tactics but really spells courageous co-operation and support as we are going to proceed step by step. This is all I have to say on these two points and I crave the forgiveness of the House for having taken so much time.

“A slip has been handed to me about certain confidential circulars that were sent to magistrates to decide cases in a particular way. Sir, I may at once state that if there is any strength in us on the side of the Government and as long as the slightest power vests in us to affect the administration, such interference with the independence of the judiciary will not be tolerated. What has been heard by the hon. Member may not be true. I want to tell my hon. Friends who think in these past history. Since my colleagues and I took up office, particularly the Hon. Minister for Courts and Prisons and I who have charge of Public Services and Finance and Police and the policy with regard to these matters, I maintain that I am in closest touch with every circular that would possibly have been sent and this allegation is not true.”

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“Before I reply to the points raised on the cut motions, I would like to make a statement with regard to the restoration of the village officers who had either resigned or were dismissed since 1921 on account of their politics.

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“There is one matter about which hon. Members of the House are anxious, whether Government are going to adopt the policy of restitution in regard to village officials who resigned or were dismissed as a result of politics. The same policy will, as far as possible and consistent with good administration, be pursued for the restoration of good atmosphere as in the case of political prisoners.

“The Hon. Premier has dealt at length with the main questions relating to the separation of the executive from the judicial functions and the cut in salaries. I shall leave the two questions for the present and add a few words in the end after dealing with the other points raised in the debate.

“My hon. Friend Mr. Ari Gowder urged that Collectors should go. I have stated already in this connexion the view of the Government and I would now like to add to what I said already that the District and Sub-Collectors and other officers are all persons with whom I have had dealings, both judicial and executive, for over forty years. In the short period after assuming this office, I went round at least twelve or thirteen districts and got into touch with them. I may tell now, Sir, that they are officers of such vast experience that to-day we cannot afford to dispense with their services at this juncture when we want to reconstruct the whole of the administrative system. It is not a wise policy and it is not a reasonable policy either. It has been pointed out already that their position has been statutorily safeguarded under the constitution. One Collector with whom I had a few hours' talk, the moment a suggestion was made to him with regard to our future work in village reconstruction, and one direction was pointed out to him, could see a vista before himself and when I put one matter before him he could point out to me half a dozen ways of developing and completing it. I was so much impressed with what that officer told me and I am sure that that would be the case with almost all the officers. True the officers had been serving under a different system. The system is changing to-day. So far as this province is concerned, it has completely changed and their help and experience are required now.

“Then it was said that it would not be enough if autonomy is established in the villages alone. It must also be established in districts and other places where local boards and municipalities have not been doing as well as they ought to have been. It is a well-known fact how the local board administration has been managed ever since its establishment a long time back. I do agree with him that there has been something wrong with regard to local administration in the past, for which all of us are in a way responsible. Local boards and municipalities have gone in one direction before and they had to maintain a particular position during the last twenty years. Really there has been such a great deterioration that they ceased to be local boards functioning for the benefit of the people. They became sectional and communal. Now is the time for all the members of the House

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to co-operate with the Government to remove the defects of the administration of local boards and municipalities. So far as the Government are concerned, I need not say that they have made it a part of their duty to see that everything that is necessary is done. The Minister in charge of Local Administration is strong and energetic and he will do all that is necessary with regard to this matter. And the Government will leave no stone unturned with regard to reforming the local boards and municipal administration. The hon. Member asked how long the suggested village autonomy will take. It is far beyond my power to fix any time. Every one of us here is anxious not to lose any time and to be quick to put forth our schemes as soon as possible.

11-15
a.m.

“The Hon. Member Mr. Palat wanted increase of salaries of village officers all round. I do not believe he was very serious when he was talking about it. This Government would not hesitate to increase the salaries of village officers or other officers if we succeed in making this country sufficiently rich removing the poverty. The hon. Member Mr. Raja Rao referred to emigration. That is a subject about which the Hon. Minister for Labour should speak. But I may say although I am not in charge of that department, that there is no country overseas which I had not visited and in which I had not studied the labour conditions. There is no place even in India where I had not visited and studied the problem. If at all it was possible for us to be in office and to see that emigration is stopped and the poor people of this land are not taken away for labour under other places, it will be the first thing our Government would undertake. It is not a pleasure to see in a country like this where there is scope for development of labour and other things that the people should become so poor and should not get wages here that they should be sent away on boat to other areas where they are suffering in so many ways. The hon. Member Mr. Bakthavatsulu Nayudu said that the resolution of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee with regard to the separation of judicial and executive functions was a censure upon this Government. I could not really understand the hon. Member when he was uttering those words. Where is the censure? The Andhra Provincial Congress Committee met and considered and passed a resolution suggesting that there should be separation of executive and judicial functions. If they make a request it will be a request or a proposal similar to the proposals of this House made by any hon. Member. How can such a proposal become a vote of censure and how the hon. Member put it in that form I was not able to understand. He said the party Government made it all the more necessary. The party Government, my hon. Friend ought to have known at least by this time, proved that there was no necessity for any such thing. Then he referred to the jamabandi and the trouble of the village officers attending the jamabandi. The jamabandi is an annual audit function. It is a very ancient one and it has survived all this period. If there are any defects in it they have to be removed. If there are any improvements to be effected they have to be carried out.

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I am not unaware of the defects of the jamabandi system and I am not unconscious of the good that can be done. There will be a re-adjustment of the policy when we begin our work with regard to the establishment of village autonomy. With village autonomy other things will be linked and all these matters will come up and they will receive the best consideration with regard to the various aspects. The hon. Member, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, referred to the magistrates and their qualifications. He said they had no legal training and they were not able to understand questions of law or fact—a very sweeping remark. There was a time when the law colleges did not exist; lawyers had not obtained their degrees and the pleaders did not pass their tests. That was the time before the establishment of the council of legal education in England and the law institutions in India. Certificates or sanads were simply distributed amongst those who did not understand even a word of English. Sometimes we were obliged to refer to the judgments delivered by judges who interpreted laws. It was a matter of the sense of the individuals. After becoming masters of law, are there not people who are not able to practice law successfully in courts? So we cannot say that those who have no legal training will not be competent as judges. Let me tell you there was a good time then. There were civilians, Englishmen, who were able to discharge both judicial and executive duties as perfectly as possible. (“Hear, hear.”) I had occasions to know those officials and to deal with them when they sat as judges or magistrates and they did do justice as well as the judges of the High Court of England, I would say. When they were doing executive duties they could detach themselves from the judicial side of it and carry on their business. Everything depends on the way in which men are trained. Here we in this country are all trained under this system. I can say with authority that it is the establishment of the law courts and the establishment of the institutions of lawyers and the infringement of law that dragged the villagers into the courts and thus the economic trouble in the villages started. I do hold to-day after long experience even more than half of the economic troubles in the villages would have been saved if there was not this trouble of their going to courts from morning to evening, finding out money and borrowing money from sowcars or whoever could lend them. They have become wrecks as much because of this as of any other. Although I was holding the view at one time that separation of executive and judicial functions was absolutely necessary I would tell you it does not depend so much upon the separation of judicial from executive functions as it does upon the quality and character of the officials who hold the posts. There has been deterioration on account of the development of particular bureaucratic system in the administration. The hon. Member, Mr. Raja Rao, gave a note to the Premier with regard to some circulars. There have been circulars and nobody could deny that. But what the Hon. the Premier says and what I say in support of it is that there would not be such circulars issued under the present administration. (“Hear, hear.”) By this time

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opinion would have changed and it has been changing all over the country whether they have been able to do anything substantial or not. The mere fact that they have assumed office has created sufficient atmosphere. So far as the Revenue Department is concerned there has been reference with regard to corruption. Corruption is a difficult thing to prove under the law as it stands to-day. The giver as well as the taker are punishable under the law and so it has not been possible to get at those offenders. I had a talk with Collectors and other officers during a recent tour of mine. Most of them admitted that they had their reports but failed as people were not forthcoming to say where it is and who it is. One officer was good enough to say that Government will have to take the risk of relaxing the rule when offenders would cease to commit offences at least in future. Of course our Government will give best consideration in this matter. It is a matter for gratification that one English Judge, the Chief Justice of Lahore, has taken cudgels against this corruption. It is stated openly and of course so far as my department is concerned there is corruption throughout and it is my duty to root it out and it is the duty of the public to help me. All this has appeared in the press. If there is any such thing as the Hon. the Premier has pointed out, I may say that it will be rooted out without the least hesitancy on the part of the Government. Mr. Abdur Rahiman Khan pointed out that the police are the prosecutors and they are also the conductors of cases. The Hon. Premier has given reply with regard to these matters. In conclusion, Sir, all that I would like to say is only one word. This insistence upon the separation of judicial from the executive functions on the part of several friends is due to a wrong understanding of the situation in the country as has been pointed out. I shall not repeat what the Hon. Premier has stated but will add to it by saying that as was stated in the Decentralization Commission Report which I referred to the other day, the disintegration of village autonomy began with the establishment of the civil and criminal courts and the establishment of a revenue policy under the outgoing system. Because we have always been practising in these courts that were established under certain circumstances and felt certain difficulties, we have been urging that the judicial functions should be separated from the executive functions. When we look into the old village autonomy, as has been pointed out by the Hon. the Premier, it would be found that the same officer may be doing executive duties and also judicial duties. Everything depends upon the atmosphere that the people would create and the environment in which they proceed to work and the character which they develop. We have been dwarfed during all these years on account of want of freedom. Now, it is a time when you have got some freedom to move about the province, to make your own laws, to establish your own courts, to levy your own taxes and to reconstitute your own districts and villages. It is now for you to look at these questions, like the separation of the executive and judicial functions, from an altogether different point of view. I urge this upon you.

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because nobody ever felt this more than myself and I once thought that the necessity for the separation of these functions was imperative. The situation to-day is so different, and everything depends upon the way in which you give your help to the present Government. When the people co-operate with the Government, you will find that everything will be all right. It is only when you have complete independence like Great Britain to do things as you like that you could make a complete change. I move that the demand be granted and appeal that the cut motion be withdrawn."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Ari Gowder has sought permission to say a few words by way of personal explanation before withdrawing his motion."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Sir, the replies from the Treasury Bench, as far as major issues are concerned, are most disappointing."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is only by way of personal explanation the Hon. Member is permitted to speak."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"The Mover of an amendment has got a right of reply."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is a cut motion; he has no right of reply."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Every cut is an amendment to the original motion, and therefore there is no right of reply."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"May I request you to kindly let me know whether I can press the motion that I have moved, to a division? Personally, I am not quite sure that I am competent to do so, because it is a motion to discuss policy and because it does not raise any specific issue. If I am permitted, I may think of pressing it to a division."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Ari Gowder has specifically informed me that he wants to withdraw the motion. He has sought the permission of the Chair to say a few words by way of personal explanation. Simply because he is not permitted to reply, which he has no right to, I do not think he should take up this attitude. At any rate, I want to know if he withdraws his motion or wants to proceed formally."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Thank you very much, Sir. If I withdraw this motion, it is because I am oppressed by a feeling of despondency at the sight of the solid block before me (laughter). If my hon. Friends had only known how their replies would strengthen the arguments against any more transference of powers to Indians. . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Member is requested to say a few words by way of personal explanation, not by way of reply. That will

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not be permitted in this House. What cannot be done directly should not be done indirectly. The hon. Member may speak by way of personal explanation, if any."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"I regret, Sir, that I have not got any personal explanation (laughter) except to state my disagreement with the reply given to the House. As I said before, if I withdraw the motion, it is not because I am satisfied . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member wants to withdraw the motion, he may do so. But he cannot have the liberty of expressing disagreement or disapproval when withdrawing the motion."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"I regret to have to withdraw the motion, Sir (laughter)."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

DEMAND XI—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 77,67,200 under Demand XI—Administration of Justice.

"The various items in this Demand are given at pages 92 and 93 of the Budget Memorandum and details thereof are at pages 125 to 142 of the detailed Budget estimates. I do not propose to take up the time of the House to say anything now, because the Government may have to give expression to their views after the various cut motions are moved."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 77,67,200 for Administration of Justice by Rs. 100.'

"I tabled this motion in order to bring to the notice of the Government the difficulty that the public are undergoing in the matter of getting justice in civil courts. The cost and delay connected with the administration of justice is well-known, and that has been the subject of criticism several times before and there has been no improvement at all. In 1923 or so, the Civil Justice Committee made enquiries and suggested remedies to secure speedy, economical and satisfactory disposal of suits and executions. In spite of their recommendations, no improvement has so far taken place. A man filing a suit for Rs. 500 or a man filing a suit for Rs. 5 lakhs, all the same, has to undergo the same kind of delay and ever so many difficulties. If a man files a suit

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even in the original court, say the District Munsif's Court, the time for disposal is generally from two to three years; if there is an appeal, another two years and if it goes to the High Court, four or five years more at least are taken. The average duration of suits in the district courts is about two years and in the High Court it is nearly 2½ years. So, in the majority of cases, it takes nearly ten to fifteen years for a case to be finally disposed of. The long delay is caused by so many causes. A case happens to be adjourned ten or fifteen times by the first court itself before it is disposed of. Every time the plaintiff or the client has to go to the court, he has to spend money for the journey, for vakil fees and for hotel charges which together amounts to Rs. 5 each time. These things together with the initial cost of filing the suit come to nearly half the amount sued for. Of course, it is true that if the court decrees the case, he can recover the expenses along with the suit amount. But when? After execution is successful which takes another three or five years, because we have got an excellent set of process-servers and amins. I am sorry to observe they are very corrupt, and summonses and processes are sometimes never served, and for trivial reasons they stop away even without going to the villages or doing any attempt for serving. It has been asked whether a better means of serving summonses and notices cannot be devised. It was once suggested that it can be better done through the postal department. I do not know whether according to law it will be admissible in evidence. But, if it is not, I hope the Government will see whether any better method cannot be devised for this purpose. This delay in the service of the processes is one of the chief causes of delay in dispensing justice.

"With reference to the difficulty with regard to the serving of notices, I would suggest to the Government to devise or create a separate agency for supervising the services of notices and also the execution of decrees. From my experience I know that not more than 25 per cent of the amounts decreed are realized by the decree-holders. It is really hard that after so many years of trouble and litigation, and after succeeding in all the three courts the money is not realized. The Hon. Revenue Member has drawn for us the picture of autonomous villages which settled all their disputes themselves.

"Some such thing was tried some years ago, at the time of non-co-operation movement by the boycotting of law courts. But that had to be dropped. I hope Government will be good enough to see whether any such thing cannot be done, and the picture drawn by the Hon. the Revenue Member cannot be realized.

"Now difficulty is with regard to getting back the amounts advanced to the ryots. Therefore, those who have got any money at all have discontinued lending to the poor ryots, with the result the ryots are suffering. As these people are depositing their money in the banks, the poor people cannot get any money for buying seeds, etc.

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They are suffering as there is no money forthcoming to enable them to carry on the agricultural operations. That is another cause of depression in the country.

"In connexion with the criminal administration of justice I wish to say a few words. I have found that the jury system is not at all satisfactory. I think there is much miscarriage of justice. It is easy for people to influence the jurors who are generally not educated people. In preparing the list of jurors no care is taken to see whether the persons included in the list are men of knowledge, ability and character. These are persons who have to weigh evidence and give their verdicts. So if proper men cannot be got for the discharge of this responsible work, it is better to abolish the jury system altogether and devise some other method in its stead.

"It was suggested, Sir, in this connexion that criminal administration should be handed over to the munsifs. This will make matters worse. Because there is already enormous delay in civil cases in the munsif's court. Under the present system there is some control over the Sub-Magistrates, and so they are afraid of delaying disposal of cases. So I think that for the present the separation of the judiciary and the executive is not at all desirable. I am glad Government have assured us that there would not be any change in this respect."

With these few words, I move my cut motion.

MR. B. VENKATA RAO BALIGA:—"I rise to speak on this motion only to bring to the notice of Government three points, firstly, the necessity for speedy disposal of suits, secondly the necessity for reduction of court-fee and thirdly the necessity for improving the status of the copyists. The Government is aware that some time ago, as the hon. Member for South Kanara has pointed out, there was a committee appointed to devise ways and means to ensure the speedy disposal of suits. As was shown by him, nothing material has been done. Sir, if litigation is only a vice to be discouraged then it is wrong in principle to give facilities.

"If on the other hand, as I think and I believe many hon. Members hold the same view, it should be the concern of the State to see that private and individual rights are easily determined and vindicated, then it is necessary that the administration of justice should be cheap, quick and satisfactory to the litigant. I wish to press on the Government the necessity for a thorough investigation and to devise ways and means to see that litigation is made cheap and speedy.

"No one has suggested that the delay is due to the inefficiency of the judiciary. I venture to think that the judiciary are given more work than they can cope with. In the statement giving explanation for the variations it is suggested that the fall in litigation is due to debt relief measures. I venture to think that the real cause is the economic depression. On account of the high court-fees and the difficulty of realization of money, people do not find it profitable to go to courts.

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All the same I do not think it has gone to decrease the work of the judicial officers. On account of economic depression and on account of the development of insolvency law, insolvency work has increased, and I think the Government may well consider the desirability and advisability of having insolvency courts for the mufassal. This might give some relief to the ordinary civil courts in the mufassal.

"Coming to court-fees, the court-fee may be left as it is in suits of a small cause nature up to the value of Rs. 1,000 but with regard to appeals from decrees in such suits the court-fee is levied on a high scale. I believe that some relief should be given to the litigant by lowering the scale of court-fees in appeals from such decrees.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the condition of the copyists in the judicial and revenue departments. I should think, Sir, that their lot is a very hard one. They are not entitled to leave except on loss of pay. They are paid only Rs. 20 and for that they have to turn out a certain amount of work, and for extra work done they are paid some remuneration. But having regard to the time and work available this extra remuneration is negligible. I would urge on the Government that their posts also should be made pensionable or that they should be admitted to the provident fund benefits. If the work is not much, the Government may consider whether their number could not be reduced. I think such things require speedy redress."

* MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of my giving notice of a cut motion on this demand is to press on the Government to take up the consideration of the condition of copyists in the Judicial Department. I am glad, Sir, that this question was already discussed not only at the question time, but also by the hon. Member who preceded me. I do not think I need add anything to what he has said except to bring to the notice of Government the fact that the copyists of the Judicial Department suffer and suffer very much on account of the fact that they are not entitled to any leave except on loss of pay. At the risk of repetition I have got to point out that there are a number of copyists who are obliged to do work because if they do not, they cannot earn a living wage (and will have to starve). He is not entitled to any leave, either privilege, casual or medical. This is a matter which I think the Government should immediately take into consideration and see that relief is given. Then, Sir, they are not entitled to any sort of pension, gratuity or anything of the kind at the time of their retirement. I think, Sir, it is very unfair that a man who has given the best part of his life for the service of the State should, in his old age, be sent away to shift for himself when he is not fit for any work. I am aware, Sir, that so far as the judicial copyists are concerned, there is no age-limit fixed for their retirement. I say that does not materially benefit the copyists, because when the question of retrenchment comes up, people who have been long in service are generally sent out. Sir, when a man with long service is sent out in his old age, what is his position? He goes out with only the knowledge

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of transcribing documents without anything substantial to fall back upon. The hon. Member who spoke before me referred to the fact that these copyists are given some extra remuneration for work done beyond the minimum fixed. In this respect the copyists of the Judicial department stand on a different footing from the Government servants in other departments. In other departments, the Government servants are given salaries but no minimum of work is fixed for them, whereas the copyists of the Judicial department are expected to do a minimum amount of work. Under this system, during many months when the outturn falls short of the minimum, the extra work that a copyist might do in the succeeding months is adjusted towards the deficiency. This is really very hard. I therefore request that the rules regarding this should be relaxed. I find, Sir, that the clerks in the Registration department, who do more or less the same kind of work as these copyists, stand on a better footing. They get a minimum pay of Rs. 35 and also the increments attached to the cadre. They are entitled to leave and pension. Their work is in a sense easier than that of the copyists, because they only copy documents that have been drawn up neatly by professional document-writers and lawyers, whereas in the case of the copyists of the Judicial department the documents that are presented for copying are very badly written ancient documents and the notes and orders hastily scribbled by Judicial officers. The work of the latter is therefore very difficult and it is but fair that they should be brought on a par with the Government servants in other departments. Of course I realize the financial implications of the suggestion that I am making. But that cannot be helped. I feel that this is one of the hard cases that need re-consideration and some measure of relief afforded.

“Then there is another point on which I would take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the Government, and that is the salary of the process-servers of the department. I find, Sir, that the process-servers of the Judicial department are paid Rs. 14 a month, while the amins are paid between Rs. 25 and Rs. 30. The work done by the process-servers is, in most cases, more onerous and more difficult than that done by the amins, and yet we find this discrimination against them. Simply because a man is called amin, although his work is less, he is paid a higher salary. In the mufassal in particular, the lot of the process-server is very hard. Talking about my own district—pardon me for bringing my own district every time, as then I can speak from personal experience—in Bellary there is a munsif's court with jurisdiction extending over five taluks. The process-servers attached to this court have sometimes to travel fifty or sixty miles to serve the processes entrusted to them. They are not entitled to any mileage or travelling allowance for these journeys. Out of their meagre pay of Rs. 14 a month, they are expected to maintain their family and meet also the expenses in connexion with these long journeys. This is a thing which should be taken into consideration and the salaries of these people raised at least to the level of that of the amins.

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“My hon. Friend Mr. Schamnad said that sometimes these process-servers never took the trouble of journeying long distances when in the case of the service of some processes it is necessary to do so, but that they simply endorsed on the processes that the addressee is not to be found. He said also there is delay in service. What else can you expect them to do when they are asked to undertake long journeys for serving the processes without being paid for such journeys? It naturally leads to a sort of shirking of duty. This poor paid man without being paid any allowance or mileage cannot be expected to do better. If you expected better work from him, I think it is but right that you should pay him something more. You should give him at least mileage for his journeys whenever he goes out on official work. So far as his salary is concerned, if the Government feel that they cannot at the present moment give him an increase, at least some sort of mileage should be paid to him when he goes out on duty.

“Coming next to the question of cost of litigation in civil courts, Sir, I think this is a matter that has engaged the attention of the previous Governments. I hope the present Government with all its power and popular support behind it will see that litigation is something from which the poor need not run away. It may be made cheaper and easier. Sir, the question of the fall in the work of civil courts is mostly due to the fact that the laws regarding the realization of decrees has been relaxed a bit. A lender is not now willing to advance money. He finds that he has no hope of realizing his dues even if decrees are obtained. I think that the laws that have been recently modified need reconsideration at the hands of Government. Practical difficulties have to be taken into consideration. Government will do well to take into consideration every aspect of the case and not always take the side of the debtor. I think it is but right that the position of the lender is also taken into consideration and given some measure of relief.”

* **MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:**—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this cut motion I wish to speak a few words about the High Court. I am aware of the fact that this department of the administration is statutorily protected; I shall therefore confine myself to such points as are open to interference by the Government.

“I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the pendency in the High Court in regard to first appeals, second appeals and so on. There has been no appreciable diminution in the number of these appeals pending, notwithstanding the fact that, owing to the economic depression we are passing through, the number of appeals that are being filed is getting lower and lower. It would be unnecessary for me to mention here the mal-effects and the inconveniences the tax-payer is put to owing to this delay. The delay in the case of first appeals is six years and in second appeals four to five years. Particularly during the depression period, this delay has in many cases made it impossible for the parties to prosecute their cases till the final stage. Often to get a decision in his favour it has taken a party seven years. Parties get

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little solace from a decision in their favour after such a long waiting. I am saying this to emphasize the necessity for taking some action to expedite the hearing of these appeals.

“ In this connexion it will be worthwhile for the Government to ask the High Court what they have done with regard to the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee of 1925 popularly known as the Law's Delays Committee. I would also like to make two other suggestions to the Government in regard to the clearing up of this heavy pendency. The High Court does not work on Saturdays; the reason often alleged is that the Judges write their judgments on Saturdays. Sir, in these days when stenography has developed to a fine art, if only the Judges take advantage of this facility, there will be no necessity for them to employ a day a week for writing judgments. By working an extra day in the week they can certainly reduce pendency.

“ Then there is the question of the vacation. The High Court enjoys a vacation of ten weeks. The Civil Judicial department is the only department that gets this benefit barring the Education department. There may be necessity for giving rest to an officer who works single-handed for short periods after a period of continuous service. But in the High Court which has so many Judges, it should be possible to do away with the vacation altogether and give the Judges relief by rotation, giving each one of the Judges ten weeks holiday in the year. This will ensure continuity of the work and will also be of some sort of help to the junior members of the Madras Bar.

“ There is another suggestion I have to make in this connexion. It is not mine. It was a suggestion made by a senior member of the Bar, Mr. S. Ramaswami Ayyar, in an address at an Advocates' gathering. He made some suggestions which to us in this country might appear novel. They are not novel by reason of the fact that they are being adopted as common practice in England. The suggestion made by him was to appoint honorary Judges, or rather to recall retired Judges of the High Court and ask them to work for limited periods in an honorary capacity. This is a practice which is in vogue in England and it may be usefully adopted in this country. It should also be possible for the Government to employ retired District Judges also.

“ Sir, there is another method which can very well be adopted for reducing pendency. Senior members of the Bar can be employed on this work as honorary Judges. It is common in England to employ King's Counsel to preside over Circuit Assize Courts when for any unforeseen reason one of the regular Judges is unable to do so. These are the suggestions which I desire to place before the Hon. Minister for his consideration.

“ I know there will be some difficulty in regard to making all these changes. But I am sure by negotiation with the Secretary of State this can be arranged. This will help considerably in bringing down pendency to such a state that possibly first appeals can be disposed of within one year of filing and second appeals in a lesser period.

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“ The other matter in connexion with the High Court which I have in my mind is the Original Side which it is supposed is specially intended to protect the interests of commercial men of the city. It is however a luxury of doubtful utility so far as the commercial men are concerned. They have to pay heavily for this special privilege. This system would have been justifiable if the English dual system of Counsel and Attorney continued to exist. I am afraid it has now outlived its usefulness. There are certain functions which have to be administered by the Original Side of the High Court pertaining to certain special enactments and certain rights have been assigned to them by Letters Patent. But I say at the same time the ordinary original civil jurisdiction need not be entrusted to such a costly administration. A District Judge with unlimited civil jurisdiction is quite capable of doing more than 80 per cent of the work now carried on by the Original Side of the High Court. 12-15 p.m.

“ There is another advantage to the litigant public by taking this side of the work away from the High Court, because it will save them much of the cost. Now, ordinarily, a petition before the Original Side, if decided against the defendant, costs the petitioner Rs. 35. We can go on multiplying instances like this. The Original Side has therefore become a burden rather than a useful institution.

“ In regard to the Original Side there are one or two matters which I want to mention here and which the litigant feels are operating against him. For instance there is the chronological order with regard to trial of cases. Supposing there is a big case and it is taken up for trial earlier than some of the very small cases below it according to chronological order and it goes on for twenty days or so, until it is finished the cases which may take an hour or less will have to wait by reason of the fact that the chronological order is strictly followed. So the Government may draw the attention of the High Court to these matters and ask them, in matters where the interests affected are small, to give speedier relief.

“ There is another feature so far as the posting of cases is concerned. A case is posted in the Judge's list for the 120th time or 130th time and the litigants have to come prepared for the case every time. It involves so much cost and trouble to the litigants.

“ I think, Sir, that if the methods I have suggested are adopted, it will lead to a considerable amount of saving as there is the possibility of cutting down the number of High Court Judges. There are vacancies likely to arise in the next two or three years owing to retirement of some of the High Court Judges. Surely by leaving these posts unfilled the Government will be able to effect a larger saving than they would by cutting down the salaries of 200 gazetted officers in the Civil Judicial Department.

“ Another aspect I would like to stress upon while on this subject is with regard to law reform. Anybody who looks into the law reports

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will find two words prominently sticking out, viz., 'Procedure and limitation.' Procedure has become so complicated that it takes precedence over law. This is something like shadow taking precedence over substance. With regard to the law of limitation it is a comparatively simple affair in the English law and even a lay man like myself can understand it as against the 183 articles in the Indian law. I suggest that this is a case for law reform on the lines suggested by me. The Government can best tackle it by appointing a committee. A committee composed of lawyers who are so smugly satisfied with ventilating their own grievances and have hardly time to think of anybody else's interest would not be desirable. It would be worth while considering the inclusion of some of the representatives of the business community in any committee that may be appointed which will only be following a practice already in vogue in England."

Mr. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"I desire to suggest a few points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister in charge of the portfolio. The first thing is with regard to the village panchayat courts. Of course there is criminal jurisdiction vested in these panchayat courts which is not exercised by the munsifs' courts. Those that are acquainted with the constitution, the actual working and the way in which the whole procedure is being observed in these courts which are presided over by very inexperienced persons, mostly either belonging to landholder section, or the village munsifs or the karnams, will understand that the justice attempted to be administered there is practically anything but justice. The villages are full of factions particularly after the advent of village courts. On account of these factions the presiding officers mostly belong to one or other of these factions and these panchayats are really no panchayats representing the people at all. This leads to lot of difficulties especially in execution proceedings. As one who has personal experience in dealing with these panchayats, I may say that sooner these panchayat courts are abolished the better. I am sure that this is the opinion of several friends of mine sitting on the opposite side.

"Secondly, with regard to the costliness and the delay in the administration of justice, I beg to submit another suggestion. There are a number of additional courts that are maintained by the Government for relieving the accumulated work at the headquarters. Instead of that I submit, if economy and service to the poor is our aim, that it would be more advisable to appoint, as my learned Friend Mr. Krishnamachari suggested, either retired Government judicial officers or senior members of the bar for a few months to dispose of the arrears quickly. That is to say, temporary special courts have to be constituted so that justice may be more speedily and effectively meted out to the public. I would also submit that the cases that may be transferred to such courts may not be restricted only to civil cases, but they must be extended to criminal cases, whenever efficient person or persons who are imbued with a desire to serve the cause of the country and help the poor

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litigants are available. When such persons offer their services, Government must make use of their services by giving them a small allowance if necessary. I submit these points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister in charge."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"I would invite once more the attention of hon. Members who have spoken more than half a dozen times to the desirability of giving new Members opportunities of speaking. It is the practice of Parliaments elsewhere—we must take note of parliamentary procedure and practice—that a new Member who has not spoken previously is generally called upon to speak by courtesy in preference to other Members rising at the same time. I therefore once again request hon. Members who have spoken half a dozen times not to be offended if they are not called upon to speak and new Members are called."

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know whether this rule applies to Members who have given notice of cut motions on the subject under discussion."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Supposing 100 motions have been given notice of by various Members, all those Members that have not given notice of cut motions are not, as a matter of fact, entitled to speak on the subject. The time allotted for the demand has been limited to four hours. During these four hours it is in the discretion of the Chair to call on any Member to speak and if hon. Members want to speak for all the four hours on any demand, of course, new Members will be given preference when they rise to speak."

* Mr. P. A. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே இந்த தேசத்தில் விவசாயிகள் ரொம்ப ஜாஸ்தியாக இருக்கிறார்கள். விவசாயப் பொருள்களின் விலை இறங்கிப்போய்விட்டது. சொத்துக்களின் மதிப்புக் குறைந்துவிட்டது. இப்பொழுது வியாஜ்ஜியஞ் செய்ய ஜனங்களிடத்தில் பணமில்லை. சொத்துகள் மதிப்பு இறங்கிவிட்டது. விவகாரங்கள் குறைந்துவிட்டன. கோர்ட்டுகளில் முன்சீப்களும் சப்-ஜட்ஜ்களும் பன்னிரண்டு மணிக்கு வருகிறார்கள். ஒரு மணிக்கோ இரண்டுமணிக்கோ போய்விடுகிறார்கள். காரணம் என்ன? சிலில் கோர்ட்டுகளில் வேலை இல்லை. கோர்ட்டுகளுக்குப் போனால் சொத்தின் மதிப்பு குறைந்துவிட்டதினால், கொடுத்த பணமும் வட்டியும் வருகிறதோ இல்லையோ என்ற சந்தேகத்தினால் வியாஜ்ஜியங்கள் குறைந்து அநேக இடங்களில் கோர்ட்டுகளில் வேலை இல்லை. நமது தேசத்தில் தற்பொழுது அபிவிருத்திக்கான காரியங்களில் செலவு செய்ய ஏராளமான தொகை வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அநேக கோர்ட்டுகளை எடுத்து விடுகிறதினால் பணம் சிக்கனஞ் செய்யலாம். அப்படிச் சிக்கனஞ் செய்த பணத்தை அபிவிருத்திக்கான காரியத்திற்காக செலவு செய்யலாம். அடுத்தபடியாக கிராமாந்திரங்களில் இருக்கிற ஜனங்கள் கோர்ட்டில் விவகாரத்தைப் பண்ணி ஒரு காரியத்தைச் சித்திக்க ஏராளமான பணம் செலவழிக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ரொம்பக் காலதாமதமும் ஏற்படுகிறது. கோர்ட்டில் விவகாரத்தை செய்து ஜெயிக்கிறவனுக்கு ஏராளமான பணம் செலவாகிறதினால், ஜெயித்த கசுக்காரனுக்கும் பண நஷ்டமுண்டாகிறது. தோற்றுப்போன கசுக்காரன் அடியோடு கெட்டுப்போய்விடுகிறான். தற்கால சிலில் கோர்ட்டு விவகார முறை எவ்வளவோ கெடுதலாகவும் அதிகப் பணஞ் செலவிடக்கூடியதாகவு மிருக்கிறதினால் வில்லேஜ் (village) கோர்ட்டுகளை ஏற்படுத்தி நியாயங் கிடைக்கும்படியான ஏற்பாட்டைச் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த விஷயத்தில் மந்திரிகளுக்கு பூரண

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பொறுப்பு இருக்கிறதென்பது தெரிந்திருந்தபோதிலும் இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் இதை அவர்களுக்கு தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

* MR. R. MARUTHAI:—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே பஞ்சாயத்து கோர்ட்டு விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி பேசுகிறேன். திருச்சி ஜில்லாவில் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகள் நடக்கின்றன. பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளுக்கு வரக்கூடிய மெம்பர்கள் நாமினேஷனில் வரக்கூடியவர்களல்ல. எலெக்ஷனில் வரக்கூடியவர்கள். எலெக்ஷனில் வரக்கூடியவர்கள் ஒரு சாராராயிருந்தால் அங்கே கேஸ்கள் ஒரு சார்பாய் தீர்ப்பு அளிக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் பல பேர்கள், பல ஜாதியார்கள். ஏழுபேர்கள், எட்டுப் பேர்கள், பல ஜாதியார்களாயிருந்தால் அப்படிப்பட்ட கோர்ட்டில் இன்ன ஜாதி இன்னார் என்ற பாகுபாடில்லாமல் ஒரே சமத்துவமாக நன்மையாக விவகாரங்களில் நடவடிக்கை நடைபெறும். எங்கள் ஊர் புத்தூரில் ஒரு பஞ்சாயத்து கோர்ட்டு நடக்கிறது. அதில் நடக்கும் மாதிரியைப் பார்த்தால் யாரும் ரொப்ப சந்தோஷப்படுவார்கள். பல கோர்ட்டுகளில், தீர்ப்பு அளிக்க முடியாத விவகாரங்கள் எங்கள் ஊர் கோர்ட்டிற்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டு தீர்ப்பு அளிக்கப்படுகிறது. அவ்வளவு திறமையாக நடக்கிறது. இந்தப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டில் (புத்தூர் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டில்) நான் ஒரு மெம்பராக இருக்கிறேன். இந்தக் கோர்ட்டின் (result) ரிசல்ட்டைப் பார்த்தால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளலாம். விசேஷமாக கிராமங்களில் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளை நியமிக்கும்படியாய்க் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

12-30 p.m. * MR. P. MADHAVAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, in continuation of the speeches which have just been made with regard to the reform of panchayat courts, I should like to place some points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject..

“First of all, Sir, the principle of electing the members of the panchayat court should be done away with. It is both impracticable and bad in principle. I would suggest that the members of the panchayat courts should be appointed directly by the Collector or by some judicial authority.

“Secondly, Sir, the panchayat court should have a permanent clerk who should be authorized to receive complaints whether the court is sitting at the time or not, just as it is done in the case of the district munsifs' courts.

“Thirdly, Sir, at present it is not the practice of the panchayat court to receive the signature of the people concerned to the proceedings that have already gone through. I should like to suggest that every proceeding, whether it is the deposition of the witnesses or of the parties concerned, should receive the signatures of the party concerned as soon as the proceeding is over.

“Fourthly, Sir, it is a very mischievous fact that almost all the members of the panchayat courts in several places are very incompetent to deal with certain complex cases. Therefore, I would suggest for the consideration of the Hon. Minister that the nature of the cases to be tried by them should be more clearly specified.

“Fifthly, Sir, the pecuniary jurisdiction of these courts ought to be reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 20. This will bring in more revenue to the Government.

“In this connexion I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister another matter though it is a very delicate one. I suggest that

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hereafter the members of the bar should be allowed to appear before these courts, because I understand that till now there has been a statutory prohibition against the members of the bar appearing before these courts. The reason why there was this statutory prohibition was that Government themselves realized when they constituted these panchayat courts that the members of the courts had not sufficient status to admit the members of the bar appearing before them. If as I have suggested above the courts are constituted of more dignified members and persons of higher status, I would suggest that the members of the bar might be allowed to appear before them.

“Sir, there is a mischievous section, section 14 in the Act, which must certainly go. That section enables a plaintiff to file a suit in the panchayat court up to the value of Rs. 200 if the other party agrees to it in writing. The other party will be unable to agree to it in writing unless the summons reaches him. What the defendant generally does is not to give his consent to the plaint, but it occasionally happens that during the time of the presentation of the plaint and the non-signification of the consent of the defendant, the plaint gets barred on account of limitation. But if on the very day the plaint is re-presented in the district munsif's court, it will not be barred. But sometimes the defendant colludes with the president of the panchayat court and he is not allowed to withdraw his plaint till about 4 o'clock in the evening. By that time the district munsif's court would have risen and that means that the plaint gets totally barred. As a remedy to this state of affairs I would like to suggest that the parties must be allowed to file their suits either in the district munsif's court or in the panchayat court as they please. These are some of the matters which I wanted to place before the Hon. Minister in charge of Courts for his consideration.”

Swami A. S. Sahajanandam rose to speak.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member Swami Sahajanandam has spoken a dozen times on other questions. I would request him to give an opportunity to new Members and other Members who have not given notice of cut motions to speak on the demand. Every Member who has given notice of a cut motion is not entitled to speak when there are other new Members who have not spoken so far. If it were not so, all the four hours allotted to this demand would be taken up by Members who have given notice of cut motions.”

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. When a Member has given notice of a cut motion on the budget proposals, I believe he is entitled to be given an opportunity to express his opinion. That is the reason why cut motions are given notice of.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“As regards that point, I have already ruled, on a point of order raised just now by Mr. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib, that if 100 Members give notice of cut motions, these 100 Members are not entitled to speak. The time is limited to four hours for each demand. If hon. Members want to speak for the full time of four hours I shall

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call them one after the other and those who have given notice of cut motions will have their opportunity to speak if other new Members do not rise up. But if new Members who have not spoken even once on the floor of the House rise to speak, they must be given preference, even as a matter of courtesy, by other Members on the left who have had opportunities half a dozen times to speak on the budget and at very great length."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, with your permission, if I may reply, I should like to point out that the fact that hon. Members have given notice of cut motions and have already had the privilege of speaking need not operate against them. They have taken the trouble to study the budget and give notice of cut motions in time and these motions have been allowed to get into the agenda. Now to prevent them from speaking would be rather unfair to the Members of the House. It is entirely within your discretion as Speaker not to call them but it is a different thing altogether from denying them the privilege of speaking. It is open to you to give such Members a chance to speak or not, but I do not think it is fair to the Members of the House who have taken considerable trouble to go through the budget and give notice of cut motions to be prevented from expressing their opinion."

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I rise to a point of order. I want to know whether the ruling just given by the Chair applies to hon. Members who have given notice of cut motions."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes."

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I say a few words on this point?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, any hon. Member who has got to say anything on this point may speak on it."

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I wish to add only one point to what Mr. Appadurai Pillai has said on the question now before us. We have only six cut motions and after all only six members can . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I do not want to shut out any speech on the general point of order we are now discussing. The Chair will give a ruling on the general point whether a Member who has given notice of a cut motion is as a matter of right entitled to speak upon the first motion discussing the general policy."

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As I was pointing out just now, Sir, on the question now before the House there are only six cut motions . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I pointed out to Mr. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib that I am not referring to any particular cut motion. The point of order that has been raised and that will be decided to-day is whether as a

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matter of right everybody who gives notice of a cut motion is entitled to speak on the motion which has been moved with the object of discussing the general policy of the Government."

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On this point, my humble submission to you, Mr. Speaker, is that Members take the trouble of studying the budget, and on public grounds want to raise some questions. With that object they give notice of cut motions expecting at the hands of the Hon. Speaker some chance of ventilating the grounds on which they are making the motions. So far as the other Members of the House are concerned, we may take it that either they do not consider there are questions of sufficient importance in their opinion to be raised on the floor of the House or they think that it is not in the public interest to raise them here. My humble submission therefore is that Members who have given notice of cut motions must on general principles be given preferential treatment over Members who have not thought it fit or necessary to give notice of cut motions on any subject under the discussion of the House."

* MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"With all due deference to you, Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that you do not give your final decision in the matter to-day, that you may defer it till to-morrow and in the meanwhile look at what has been done in Delhi? I do feel that the procedure that you are now adumbrating is entirely different from the procedure followed in the Imperial Assembly at Delhi. So far as my experience goes, that Assembly has followed the procedure of the House of Commons. So important a thing should not be decided on the spur of the moment, and I suggest that precedents be looked into."

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"May I know, Sir, whether any discussion can be raised on a point of order?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have allowed this discussion on this point of order. The Chair wants to be enlightened on the point of order."

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Sir, I should like to draw your attention to rule 65 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules which says that the Speaker shall decide all points of order which may arise and his decision will always be final."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Certainly his decision will always be final, but he has got the right to be enlightened by all sides of the House. Even if all the Members of the House want to speak on the point of order they may do so."

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I just raise the point of order whether a discussion can take place like this."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"This is no discussion. The hon. Member for Madras should realize that this is no discussion. This question is not going to be put to the vote of the House. This is a very important

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matter on which the Chair wants to be enlightened by any Member of the House who has got to say anything on the point."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
"I submit, Sir, that no serious difficulty has arisen now with regard to the transaction of the business relating to the moving of cut motions, for you made it clear the other day what procedure you intended to follow with regard to these motions, as a matter of convenience without in any way infringing the ordinary privilege enjoyed by any Member of the House. You were kind enough to lay down a procedure for the quick despatch of business by this House. There was some discussion on the procedure to be followed and ultimately it was agreed that one motion would be moved on the demand and that the discussion would proceed on that motion. If any Party or individual Member desired to move any other cut motion, it was agreed that he might do so after informing the Chair in advance if possible. That being the case, no Member who has given notice of a cut motion is denied the right of moving his motions. If that procedure is adopted it should at the same time not ordinarily infringe the privileges of any Member to speak on the demand."

45. "Now, if that arrangement had not come into force, what will happen
m. is this: the various cut motions under a Demand will have to be moved, provided there is time, one after another; one cut motion will be moved, then speeches thereon will take place; then the Government will reply and a vote will be taken upon it. Then only we will proceed to the next cut motion. In that case, the whole of the cut motions may or may not be moved."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Suppose on the very first cut motion, all the members desire to speak and the full four hours are taken up. Will not the other cut motions lapse? If the Members think that the few members are taking up an unduly long time thus preventing other members from speaking, will they not be able to continue the discussion for the full four hours by rising in their places, so as to prevent the other cut motions being moved?"

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
"I myself concede that point, that all the motions would not be reached and the time of the House would be wasted if the hon. Members choose to adopt such methods and drive the House to the necessity of passing over several cut motions. It is for that purpose, Sir, that a person presides over this House and regulates the business of the House. But ordinarily, I wish to submit, inasmuch as a person who has given notice of a cut motion has the right to move it provided there is time within the four hours allotted for the demand, you may be pleased to allow him to speak on the cut motion moved first. The practice in the previous House had been for persons who had given notice of cut motions to be given precedence over other members, to speak on the first cut motion if they chose to. Once the members have spoken on the first cut motion, it was taken for granted that they were not going to speak again on the

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other cut motions, unless it be some extraordinary matter on which they wanted to have some information through speaking on those cut motions, of course with the permission of the Chair obtained in advance. Therefore, Sir, I wish to submit that the members who have given notice of cut motions ordinarily expect that they will have a chance to move their cut motions, at any rate, will have a chance to speak on the first cut motion before the House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The attention of the Leader of the Opposition is invited to the fact that in this House, on the previous Demands, a large majority of the members who talked on the cut motions were from the left benches. They took up quite a large amount of the time of the House without affording any opportunity for any other member on the right side to join in the discussion. The Chair also permitted it. The Chair showed very great indulgence to the Members of the Opposition on the left side. The Chair drew attention to this repeatedly, twice or thrice, and requested the Members to deliver brief speeches. The Chair was never in favour of placing a time-limit on speeches, and appealed to the Members to be brief; but the Members disregarded that appeal from the Chair to make only short speeches, and even when the bell was rung, it was not heeded. The Chair wanted to give every opportunity to every Member sitting on the Opposition to speak, provided the other Members were also given an opportunity to speak. But when they rise along with the others, it is not obligatory on the Chair to call only the Members of the Opposition who have had full opportunity of speaking on the previous cut motions for a long time. Otherwise, it will be depriving the new Members altogether of any opportunity. I think I have made it clear that every member who has given notice of a cut motion has a right to move it, and has a right to speak on his motion; but he has no right to speak on another's motion unless permitted by the Chair. Once a motion has been moved by him, he has no right to speak again, unless permitted by the Chair. That has been agreed upon. The Chair is always prepared to give full time and full indulgence to every member of the House provided he does not encroach upon the time of the other Members who want to speak. Probably the Hon. the Premier has some suggestions to make."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think you will permit me to suggest a course out of the present difficulty. It is not right to say that every cut motion stands as a cut motion. When once by agreement and under your advice, one cut motion stands as the cut motion and the other cut motions are reduced to the position of merely important subjects of debate which will be brought up in the course of the debate on the primary cut motion, technically we are reduced to this position: that there is one cut motion and a number of members desire to speak on it. Some of them have, by reason of having given notice of their cut motions, indicated the subject-matter which they would take up with reference to the Demand. Others have not so indicated the subject-matter, and we

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have to wait till they rise and speak. I submit, Sir, and suggest that you, as Speaker, might call those persons who have taken the trouble and the advantage of the procedure, to give notice so to say of the particular subjects which they proposed to speak on. If they are to be given their chances, those Members who have simply indicated in vague language 'to discuss policy' do not come within the description that I am putting forward, i.e., of those who have definitely referred to certain matters and therefore have to be certainly given a certain amount of preference. Other members, by simply saying 'to discuss policy' should not, in my humble opinion, have any preference over those who as Members of the House are here also to discuss policy, although they have not given any notice of cut motions in their own names. From among these persons, Sir, it is your right to choose. I understood, Sir, when you read an extract from May's Parliamentary Practice and gave your opinion also, that you did not lay down a ruling. You suggested a certain convention as to the courtesy of older Members waiving their rights in favour of new Members. And understanding it that way, no question of ruling arises as to preference among speakers; and you will, I imagine, exercise your discretion in choosing the speakers not only with reference to their being new and therefore being preferred to the older Members of the House, not only with reference to general and vague matters being passed over in favour of Members who have particular points to bring forward, but also with a view to making the debate useful, by not choosing entirely from one section of the House in succession. Therefore, when Members rise, as you indicated, Sir, I suggest that you choose Members from either side. I think I am voicing the feelings of those on this side of the House when I say that they do not mind very much if you, Sir, call on Members from the other side and the advantage of the discussion is given more to those who are less in number rather than to those who are more in number and therefore have more voting power. After all, so far as we have seen, the cut motions furnish simply the basis for discussing certain points and no difficulty has so far arisen before this morning. Even now, I think we have been more or less led into it without one side intending to take up the time of the House altogether. I suggest therefore that if a ruling is necessary, as suggested by the hon. Member for the Anglo-Indian community, Mr. Bower, your ruling may be given after the fullest consideration to be necessary. If a motion stands on the paper and many members rise to speak on it, you may choose such members as, in your opinion, are entitled to be heard, in such order as you may decide."

Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig rose to speak.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member wants to speak on the point of order, I think it has been sufficiently discussed."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I want to reply . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No question of reply arises. (The Member was standing in his seat.) I have repeatedly pointed out to Mr. Mahboob

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[Mr. Speaker]

Ali Baig that it is very inconvenient for both the Speaker and the Member to be standing together at the same time and to pass words between each other. It is very unfair on the part of Members to be standing when the Speaker stands in his seat. The rule must be strictly observed hereafter that when the Speaker stands, every Member should sit, although the latter may be speaking.

"The point of order having been discussed sufficiently, I would ask the hon. Member Mr. Khalif-ul-lah whether he wants a ruling to be given."

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I may at once submit to the Hon. the Speaker that my point was not to elicit a definite ruling on this question. If it is the general understanding that preferential treatment would be shown to Members who have given notice of cut motions, I am satisfied."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I ask the hon. Member to be pleased to state whether such preferential treatment has not been given up to this moment?"

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I may again at once state that it has been given in the past. But now that the question was raised that it should not be given, I had to stand up and raise the question. Otherwise, I should have had no necessity to raise this question at all."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Then the hon. Member has misunderstood the Chair. The same preferential treatment that has been hitherto given will continue to be given. Hitherto, the older members were given the preference, but such preference will not be given hereafter. The older Members as well as the newer Members will be treated alike, and when newer Members get up, they will also be given a chance; new Members also must have some opportunities. That is the understanding come to now, at this stage, when we have only three days more to complete the voting of Demands for Grants. I suppose the Members on the Opposition will welcome the suggestion I have made."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"I beg your leave, Sir, to just refer to one important point which the Hon. the Leader of the House has mentioned. He wanted to discount those who have given notice of cut motions for discussing the policy of the Government. I submit, Sir, that it is the ordinary right of every Member to discuss the policy of the Government on a particular Demand; if that is not allowed, then it would be a serious curtailment of the rights of Members. I am sure Government themselves do not want any Member not to raise questions of general policy on any Demand. Very likely, such general discussion will enable the Government to give us detailed and full replies to the points raised. It will be, I think, in the public interests, if such a procedure is adopted. The other points which you referred to the other day

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and even to-day can certainly be adhered to; and I may assure you, on behalf of the Members sitting on this side, that we will co-operate with the Hon. the Leader of the House and you, Sir, in the quick despatch of business. There should not however be any hard-and-fast rule that persons who have given notice of cut motions to discuss general policy, ought not to be allowed to speak, or some such thing."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There has never been such a thing. I think the Hon. the Premier never meant to say so. We shall now proceed with the business, as I understand that the point of order is not pressed for a ruling. Mr. Khalif-ul-lah has withdrawn it."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as one who has raised the point of order, it is up to me now to thank the Chair for the very considerate reply that has been given; we, for our part, are entirely prepared to leave the whole matter in your hands."

1 p.m. MR. BARU RAJA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I rise to speak on this motion, it is because I wish to place before the House one or two grievances from which the people in what are called the Partially Excluded Areas suffer. There is one grievance particularly from which those people suffer most, namely, there is no provision in those parts for what are called small cause suits, but there all causes are considered as original suits. In several matters they have got to pay Rs. 11-4-0 per hundred and this is really working a great hardship on those poor people. It is hardly necessary for me to say that the people of this country are the poorest in the world and even in our country, Sir, the people of these Partially Excluded Areas are the poorest and it is really a great hardship that they should be made to pay such heavy cost on the basis of original suits at the higher rate of Rs. 11-4-0 instead of the Rs. 7-8-0 which is obtaining in the unexcluded areas.

"There is yet another grievance, Sir, and that is in addition to criminal and revenue jurisdiction, the magistrates and revenue officials are allowed to exercise civil jurisdiction in those areas. I am not here speaking about the separation of the judicial and executive functions; on the other hand I am wholeheartedly in support of the policy adumbrated by the Hon. the Leader of the House. But, I here wish to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons to this grievance from which the people in the Partially Excluded Areas are suffering, namely, allowing the revenue officials to exercise civil jurisdiction in addition to criminal and revenue jurisdiction. I would therefore appeal to the Hon. Minister in charge of this portfolio to remove this civil jurisdiction from the revenue officials, because it works a great hardship on the poor people. Apart from the hardship of the poor people, one or two officers themselves told me when I had occasion to visit those areas recently that it was really impossible for them physically to deal with criminal, revenue and civil matters together which they are asked to do at present. I would therefore invite the

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attention of the Hon. Minister to these two important matters and suggest that these grievances be redressed at the earliest possible moment."

* MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having allowed those members who have not been allowed so far, to speak at least to-day. There seems to be a definite grievance amongst the members of the Congress party in respect of this matter of village courts and I think Mr. D. V. Ramaswami wanted the abolition of these courts outright, whereas some other hon. Members wanted to give more powers and certain others on this side wanted the retention of the courts. So, I as a villager and a representative of the rural area wanted to partake in this discussion. Sir, yesterday the Hon. the Minister for Revenue stated that the uplift of the villagers . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order, the hon. Member must not refer to speeches made by Ministers or others on the previous Demands."

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—"Yes, Sir. Now, with regard to these village courts, my information is that they are not now properly constituted. I think the various interests in the village should be represented in the village courts. Now, what happens is, the revenue authorities conduct elections; and the franchise is not wide enough. At present there are a number of statutory bodies in a village; for example, there is the panchayat court, forest panchayat, co-operative society, panchayat board, so on and so forth. Here I would like to suggest that a single statutory body in the village will do much better work in discharging several functions than a number of such bodies, but the only thing is that it must be properly constituted. Swaraj must really begin at the bottom; otherwise there is no hope of salvation and no justice will really be done. So, the village court must be made to work properly, by sympathetic treatment and by giving them greater powers."

"In regard to compulsory elementary education, I must also point out, Sir, that at present literacy is at a very low ebb, and if by the introduction of compulsory elementary education, many people get educated in the villages, they will be able to take up this work and I am sure there will be no room for complaints."

"With regard to appellate powers, there should be only one appeal from the village court and then even if there is miscarriage of justice, it does not matter, because the matters will settle themselves and then the parties will begin to look after their avocations and will also avoid delay and cost involved in prosecuting litigation which are the causes of economic ruin of many a villager. So, sympathetic attitude towards these village courts should be shown and if they are controlled properly and on right lines, it will lessen a great deal of litigation and will go a long way towards the building up of self-governing institutions in this country."

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* **MR. KARUNAKARA SUBBA RAO:**—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the bribery that is going on in the courts. If you want to file a suit, you have to pay some rupees to the clerks; if you want to file a revision application, you have to pay some money to the clerks; and more especially in the Nazir department there is no limit to the bribing that is going on at present. In the courts, even the walls require bribes. I therefore request the Hon. Minister to find out ways and means of putting a stop to this colossal nature of the bribery going on every minute in all courts.

“ Another important point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister is this. Sir, the previous Government flouted the opinion of the High Court in the matter of locating sub-courts in various places. For instance, the High Court recommended the location of a sub-court at Vizianagram, but that opinion has been flouted by the Government. The question was again referred to the High Court for reconsideration; again the High Court recommended the location of a sub-court at Vizianagram, but the Government did not pay heed to the recommendation of the High Court and had its own way and located the sub-court in another place, flouting the High Court's opinion. Instances of this nature are not wanting. I therefore request the Hon. Minister to see that such things are not allowed to continue hereafter and see that such wrongs are rectified.”

* **MR. V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:**—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to urge on the Government the necessity of constituting the village court in such a manner that it will help the villager to settle his own case in his own way without much cost. The present policy of the Government seems to be to make the village itself a unit of administration and therefore, I think, the present time seems to be a good augury for giving an encouragement in that direction. I therefore beg to request the Government to make the village court as less costly and impartial as it can be.

“ Another point that I wish to mention in this connexion is, as has been pointed out by one of the previous speakers, there are more than one body in a village. I would particularly mention only two bodies, namely, the village panchayat board and the village court. Now, Sir, the village court has got criminal and civil jurisdiction and it has also got a right to impose fines, but these fines go to the provincial funds. I do not see any reason why these fines should go to the provincial funds; on the other hand they should be credited to the village fund, i.e., to the village panchayat board. One very important thing we very short of funds and if these fines are diverted to the funds of this board, they will be in a position to do some public good. Originally, Sir, and even now, in several villages, there are panchayats not recognized by Government and which are run by people themselves. They also exercise both these civil and criminal jurisdiction by themselves; and they have also got every right to fine people and these fines are

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collected and utilized for common good. But in the case of the recognized panchayat boards, these fines are taken away from the village and credited to provincial funds. I therefore request Government to see their way to divert these fines when realized to the resources of the panchayat boards. With these remarks, I resume my seat.”

* **SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:**—“

கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! மற்றையவர்களுக்கு இடங் கொடுக்கவேண்டி நான் பேசாதிருக்கவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்திருந்தேன். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது என்னைப் பேசும்படி சொல்லிவிட்டதினால் இரண்டொரு நிமிஷம் பேசி முடித்து விடுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது கோர்ட்டுகளில் கேஸ்களை சீக்கிரம் பூர்த்தி செய்வ தில்லை. ஒருவன் போட்ட கேஸ் அவன் பேரன் காலத்தில் கூட முடிக்கிறதில்லை. அப்படி நடக்கிறது. மலையா முதலான இடங்களில் இரண்டு நாள் மூன்று நாள்களில் பூர்த்திசெய்து விடுகிறார்கள். நமது நாட்டில் அப்படி இல்லை. இப்பொழுது காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டில் ஒரு வாரத்திற்கு மேல் நெதக் கேஸ் களும் நடக்கக்கூடாதென்று ஒரு உத்திரவு போட்டால் ரொம்பவும் நன்றியிருக் கும். டிப்டி கலெக்டர், தாசில்தார் முகாம் போகிறார்கள். ஒரு டிப்டி கலெக் ட்டருக்கு இரண்டு தாலுகா மூன்று தாலுகா இருக்கிறது. 90 மைல் 100 மைல் தூரத்தில் முகாம் போடுகிறார்கள். முகாமில் கேஸ் போட்டால் கஷ்டக்காரர்கள், வக்லேகள் மேற்படி கேஸ் விசாரணைக்கு முகாமிற்குப் போனால் சோறுகூட கிடைக்காமலிருக்கிறது. அவ் வித கஷ்டங்களுண்டாகின்றன. ஆகையினால் மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டுகள் ரெவினியூ அதிகாரிகள் கேஸ் நடத்துகிறது தலைமை ஆபீஸில் நடத்தவேண்டும். முகாம்போகிற இடத்தில் கேஸ் நடத்தக்கூடாது.

“ மேலும் நீதியையும் நிர்வாகத்தையும் பிரிக்கும் விஷயமாக பலமான விவா தம் நடந்தது. கிரமினல் கேஸ்களில் யார் பிராசிக்ஷிஷன் செய்கிறார்களோ அவர்களே நீதிபதியாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் நீதி சரியாக வழங்கப்படுகிற தில்லை. சர்க்கார் தரப்பில் போலீஸார் கேஸ் போடுகிறார்கள். போலீஸார் கேஸ் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறார்களே என்று மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டு ஜனங்களுக்கு பிரதிகூலமாக தீர்ப்புச் செய்கிறார்கள். போலீஸார் காண்டுவந்திருக்கிற கேஸ் யதார்த்தமா இல்லையா என்று பார்த்துவிடவில்லை. ஆகையினால் போலீஸார் கொண்டுவரும் கேஸ்களில் மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டுகள் செய்யும் தீர்ப்புகளை ஆராய்ச்சிசெய்து தவறான ஜட்ஜ்மெண்டு கொடுத்திருந்தால் அப்படிப்பட்ட கேஸ்களில் ரிமார்க்ஸ் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். உதாரணமாக இப்பொழுது சேலம் ஜில் லாவில் மதுவிலக்கு அமுலுக்கு வரப்போகிறது. அங்கே போலீஸார் அது விஷயமாய் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்கள். ஒரு கள் குடத்தை ஒருவன் வீட்டில் வைத்துவிட்டு கன்குடமிருந்ததாக கேஸ் கொண்டுபோனால் மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டுகள் தண்டிக்கலாம். கன்குட மிருந்ததாக யார் கேஸ் கொண்டுபோகிறார்களோ அவ ர்கள்தான் கன்குடம் இருந்த விஷயத்தை நிரூபிக்கவேண்டும். குற்றவாளியை குற்றவாளி இல்லை என்று நிரூபிக்கும்படியாக கேட்கக்கூடாது. ரெயிலுக்கு போகிறோம் பட்டுத்துணி இருந்தால் எங்கே இருந்து கொண்டுவந்தாய் என்று பிடித்துப் பிராசிக்ஷிஷன் செய்கிறார்கள். பட்டுத்துணி விலக்கு வாங்கி இருக்க லாம். வவுச்சர் (voucher) தவறிப்போயிருக்கலாம். அதற்காக தண்டிக்க கூடாது. சர்க்கார் யாரைக் குற்றவாளியாக்குகிறார்களோ அதற்கு வேண்டிய ஆதாரத்தை பிராசிக்ஷன் செய்யும் அதிகாரிகளே சொல்லவேண்டியது நியா யம். குற்றவாளிமேல் அந்தப்பாரத்தை ஏற்றுவது நியாயமாகாது. சப்-மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டாக இருக்கக்கூடியவர்கள் கலெக்டர் ஆபீஸிலிருந்து வருகிறார்கள். அவர்களில் சிலபேர்கள் சட்டம் படித்தவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். சிலபேர்கள் சட்டம் படிக்காமல் வருகிறார்கள். சட்டம் படிக்காமல் வருகிறவர்கள் திணறு கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் படித்தவர்களை மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டுகளாகப் போடவேண்டி யது நியாயமாகும்.

“ கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்து கோர்ட்டுகளை நியமித்தால் மற்றுமிருக்கிற கோர்ட்டு களுக்கு வேலை குறைந்துவிடுமென்று சர்க்கார் நினைத்தார்கள். கிராமப் பஞ்சாய

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [21st September 1937]

யத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளில் யார் வாதிடக்கூடுமானால் அவர்களை ஜட்ஜ்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் கலியாணத்திற்காக பணம் கடனாக வாங்குகிறார்கள். அந்தப்பணத்தைத் திருப்பி கொடுத்துவிடுகிறார்கள். அதற்கு ரஜீது வாங்குகிறதில்லை. பிறகு அவர்கள் வேலைக்குப் போகவில்லை என்றால் மறுபடியும் கொடுத்த பணத்தைக் கொடுக்கவில்லை என்று பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டில் பிராது போடுகிறார்கள். அது எவ்வளவு அதிகாரம் என்பதைப் பாருங்கள். அப்படி இருந்தும் பணம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று தீர்ப்பாகிவிடுகிறது. ஆகையினாலே இந்தப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளினால் ஹரி ஜனங்கள் எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அவர்களை நசுக்குவதற்கு இந்தப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகள் இப்பொழுது இருக்கின்ற நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறது. ஆகையினாலே இந்தக் கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளை அபாலிஷ் (abolish) செய்யவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு (cut motion) கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன். அப்படி (abolish) செய்யாமல்போனால் ஒவ்வொரு பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுக்கும் இரண்டு ஹரிஜன மெம்பர்கள் இருந்து தீரவேண்டும். இப்படிப்பட்ட முடிவை சர்க்கார் செய்யும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். சமீபத்தில் ஒரு பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டு எலெக்ஷன் வந்தது. காங்கிரஸ் வாதிடக் கொடுத்திருந்தார்கள். மற்றவர்களையும் நிறுத்திவிட்டார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் காரர்களையிருந்தாலும் யாராயிருந்தாலும் யோக்கியதை யுடையவர்களை நிறுத்த வேண்டும். சாதாரணமாக ஒன்றுந் தெரியாதவர்களை நிறுத்தினால் அது ஜனங்களுக்கு பெருத்த நஷ்டத்தை உண்டாக்கும். மேலும் நியாய இலாக்காவிலும் மற்றும் இலாக்காக்களிலும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு பிபூன் (peon) வேலை கொடுக்க வேண்டும். கிராம அதிகாரிகளாகவும் ஹரிஜன வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களை நியமிக்கலாம். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சர்க்கார் இலாக்காக்களில் வேலை கொடுத்தால் தான் தீண்டாமை ஒழியும். சர்க்கார் இலாக்காக்கள் எந்தெந்த இலாக்காக்கள் இருக்கின்றனவோ அவைகளில் எவ்வளவுதரம் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கமுடியுமோ அவ்வளவு வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

1-15
p.m.

* MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, I wish to touch upon a few small matters with regard to the administration of justice. The first thing I wish to deal with is the disposal of civil suits in both munsifs' courts and sub-courts. One of the reasons for the piling up of arrears in our sub-courts has been that our Civilian District Judges and our Provincial Service District Judges do not do much of any original civil work. They have not much work in any of the district centres. They have not much work to do except for a few days beyond sessions days. Civil work as such has been very small for them and I suggest that it will be better if the Local Government through the High Court could issue instructions to them to do some original work also. Then much of the piling up of arrears in the sub-courts will go down. Another important matter is that periodical statistics of pending cases in different courts in the district are not taken into consideration for purposes of clearing arrears pending in any court. If the District Judges transfer some cases from the heavy courts to the lighter worked courts from time to time, the difficulty of delays will be obviated to a large extent.

“ During the last several years, it has been our experience that public prosecutors once appointed continue for a number of terms by hook or by crook. The practice of renewing these appointments must be definitely given up hereafter. I would suggest the appointment of public prosecutors from the bar each year, so that the common feature of unemployment in the bar in this Presidency may to a certain extent

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be minimized. It is not a personal request and I am merely voicing the general feeling in the Presidency. Unemployment in the bar has gone up so much that it would be a wise policy if members of the bar are put on session work year after year by rotation. The second thing that I want to suggest is that the term of office of Government pleaders may be three years. As a matter of definite policy the post of Government pleader should be given to persons with the requisite legal acumen and civil experience and they may do civil work. As regard public prosecutors in the sessions courts, that work may be done by people of ten or more years' standing at the bar. I submit this for the consideration of the Government. Another thing I want the Government to consider is that the fee of Government pleaders and public prosecutors must be reduced. In the olden days they were drawing Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 and it has now been increased to Rs. 35. It is unnecessary to keep the figure so high. It may be reduced to the original figure of Rs. 25 per day or a consolidated salary may be given to them which should not be higher than the average that they receive at the rate of Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per day.

“ I have a suggestion with regard to judicial work both in the rural areas and in the headquarters. There are a number of able-bodied people retired from service who are willing to do judicial work either in the rural areas or in the regular courts. There are several such men who feel that they are going to die a premature death for want of work. I know several instances where honest and able men have died premature deaths for want of something to do. On retirement from judicial service, they may be asked whether they wish to do any work honorarily without any burden to the Government. By such means the pensioners may be made to settle in the village parts instead of crowding in cities like Bangalore and Madras. I will go further and say that it may be made a condition for receiving their pension that they settle in the village parts. Not only would judicial work be done with ease but also several kinds of work which would really be beneficial to the rural population.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ We have taken two hours for the discussion of this Demand. Does any Member of the Opposition want to speak? If hon. Members want to take the full four hours, I have no objection, but it will mean that the other Demands will not be reached, and there will not be a discussion upon them.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ Mr. Speaker, hon. Members who have preceded me have spoken enough about law's delays. I do not wish to repeat it. If I have risen to speak, it is because I want to bring to the notice of the Government and particularly the Minister in charge of this portfolio, the inadequacy of representation of the Muslim community in the Judicial department. I am sorry that certain Members of the Government hold the view that it is not necessary to give compartmental representation to minorities in each particular service. I am afraid, Sir, that it is by holding these opinions that

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they have been responsible for creating cleavage between the majority and minority communities. I wish they had a different outlook on this question. I wish their outlook is more sympathetic so that they could give a preferential treatment to different communities. It is argued that it is wrong on the part of minorities to ask for representation in the services on the ground that services are to be regarded as an untouchable commodity. I know that there is a good deal to be said for that view. All the same membership of a service carries with it not only a salary but many more things which go to give the community concerned an importance which it ought to hold among other communities in the country. I do not know whether it is with this object in view that the majority wants to keep out minority communities from the service. I do not think that they hold that opinion. I am sure they are desirous, as we are, that they should give a legitimate share to the members of other communities also. Speaking upon a question like this, the Government tried to bring about an artificial conflict between minorities on the one hand and the majority communities on the other. The claims of the majority are put forward whenever and wherever the claims of the minority are put forward. I am not asking that the claims of the majority communities for a share in the service ought to be ignored. I am only asking for a legitimate representation of the minorities in the service. I do not think it is communalism, nor is it nationalism to keep out any particular community from what is its just due; this would be communalism. Of course, it may not appear to be the avowed or deliberate policy of the Government to keep out a particular community as a whole. That they will never do. But subtle and clever methods are adopted resulting in keeping particular communities altogether out. If there is any department of Government wherefrom the Muslim community has been kept out generally and where representation is inadequate, it is the Judicial department.

1-30 p.m. “Whenever the question of appointment of minorities like Muslim or depressed classes community comes up then the question of efficiency comes up. Sir, that bogey of efficiency has been blown off long ago. Efficiency is not the monopoly of any community. It has been shown that given the opportunity, any community can rise equal to the occasion. I do not know, Sir, whether any such arguments will continue to be advanced. Here is a specific case which I want to refer to. Take the High Court. The Hon. Minister in charge says that he is not directly in charge. I am sure the Hon. Minister in charge of the portfolio can bring to the notice of the High Court the fact of the inadequacy of representation. There is hardly any Muslim in any clerical or in any of the many numerous posts in the High Court. Now we know of the power having been transferred to the people of the country. In those days we were certainly far better. There is no member on the High Court bench. It is due to our having democracy or due to power having been transferred to the people. Gradually posts have been taken away from Muslims and we are not able to move the Government to

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say that adequate representation should be given to the Muslims. There are many appointments where members of the legal profession are not given an opportunity. There was a time when the post of the public prosecutor and some of the posts in the High Court were occupied by members of the Muslim community. When we consider the number of district judges the number is very limited. So also is the case with the number of sub-judges. With regard to the Muslim munsifs I know the policy is one of keeping out the Muslim community. For the last very many years not a single munsif has been appointed. Are there not qualified and competent people to occupy the district munsifs' posts? Are there not members of the legal profession in the Madras High Court and the mufassal qualified to occupy these posts? I do not know what exactly is the justification for not selecting a single Muslim. I am glad, Sir, that the appointment of munsifs has now been taken away from the High Court and hereafter it will have to be made by the Public Services Commission under the Government Order so that two at least out of twelve appointments made will go to the members of the Muslim community under the communal rotation. Sir, even that is not adequate. Sir, all these years we have been kept out of these and to make up for that unless the number now to be given is sufficiently increased justice will not be done to the community. Even when the number is so small and even when the Muslim occupying the post is the seniormost when the appointment in the High Court is made, he is kept out. The principal reason is he may not be up to the mark. Some argument therefore is advanced to keep down the members of the community although by reason of the right of seniority in the department they have got a right to become the High Court Judge. Of course the argument will be advanced, 'is that not communalism?' It may be also said because there is already one Muslim, another should not be appointed even though he has the right to become the High Court Judge by virtue of his seniority. Why is he kept down? This is rank communalism. Therefore I hope the Hon. Member who is in charge of the portfolio, I know he has got very liberal views on these matters, will not look upon this question with a narrow outlook as heretofore.”

* KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LA SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me associate myself with the previous speaker in emphasizing before the House the paucity of representation of members belonging to my community in the judicial service. It was as long ago, Sir, as 1926 that I moved a cut motion to the effect that Muslims should find representation in the High Court of Madras. I may also submit for the information of this House that it was the only cut motion carried without a division out of the 1,000 and odd cut motions and it took the Government of Madras nearly a dozen years before it could see fit to appoint one individual Muslim to the High Court of Madras. So also, Sir, in the other spheres of the judicial service the paucity is really very keenly felt. In the district judgeship, in the subordinate judgeship and in the munsifship also the representation is too meagre to be

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called just or fair to the community to which I have the honour to belong. Of course, I expect the answer that the present Government will not think in terms of communalism in matters of appointment. I may also be permitted to state that however much Congress might have fought shy of it, it has come to stay even under the Congress regime not only in this Province but in other provinces also where the Congress has come to power. Even in Bombay they made Herculean efforts to see that a Muslim representative was given a place in the Ministry. Here too, Sir, my Hon. Friend, Mr. Yakub Hasan Sait, and my Hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, find a place in the Cabinet because they are expected to make effective representation of the different communities to which they have the honour to belong. With particular references to our province the communal Government Order is still in active force and I may therefore say without being questioned that communal considerations have come to stay in this province even in the Congress regime. That is why I have made bold to appeal to the Minister in charge of the Courts of Justice to see eye to eye with us and see that redress is made. One of the standing answers that we had in the past was that there was not qualified men belonging to the community so that effective representation might be given to communities like mine. Now, Sir, that argument will not find a place in the hands of the present Ministry because I may boldly assert that there are very many representatives of my community who are eminently qualified to occupy any of those positions of sub-judge, district judge or district munsif. The objection is already too old to be repeated with any reason or as my friend put it with any grace. With these words I would submit to the consideration of the Hon. Minister in charge of this portfolio that he may bear in mind the utter paucity of representation of our community in the judicial service and redress our standing grievances.

“The next question that I would like to touch upon is this, the question of the pay of the copyists and of the process-servers. So far as the process-servers and the copyists are concerned I think the Hon. Minister will agree that they are not getting even a living wage in these hard days. I feel sure so far as this point is concerned we will get the strongest support of the Congress Government to meet the reasonable demands of this ill-paid servants of Government. So far as the copyists department is concerned it is high time that they should be made into a regular cadre of Government servants with the full privileges of Government service regarding leave and other matters. With regard to the process-servers I may say that I shall be voicing forth the feelings of this House and of the people outside if I point out that the most serious charge is levelled against them is the charge of corruption. That charge is not without good reasons, Sir. If this charge is to be removed the remedy is to be sought far more in the hands of the Government than in the hands of the process-servers themselves. As I had occasion to point out on another occasion the remedy lies in improving the scales of pay and in making their scale of

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pay meet the demands easily without compelling them to the necessity of earning bad money. It is only that way their status can be improved and corruption can be removed from that service. I only hope that the Hon. Minister in charge would lose no time in taking up the question and rectifying that service which is a blot on the administration of justice in this province.

“The next point that I would touch upon is the question of the panchayat courts. Of course several representations have been made in this House and if I may briefly put it I may say it is a disgrace to the administration of justice in this province. Let me at once state that I am not one of those who are against the institution of panchayats as suggested but it is only against the constitution of these boards that the mistake lies. People appointed to these boards must be such as can be reasonably expected to render justice to those that stand in need of justice. But as a matter of fact, Sir, to-day as we find these courts working we come across very very curious instances of absolutely ignorant men placed in charge of these courts and presiding over them. The poor panchayat court judge as he may be called knows nothing absolutely as to what a statement means, how he has to deal with it, what a judgment is, whether he has to obey the dictates of one party or to the other and what his duties really are. I would therefore suggest to the consideration of the Hon. Minister in charge that this matter deserves his most serious and urgent consideration. Because I am one of those who believe in really dealing justice at the very doors of the litigants. Because our country is poor we cannot afford to spend moneys for the purchase of stamps or for going from place to place for getting justice done. I stress that these panchayat courts should be continued but they should be reformed altogether. It is only persons who can be expected to understand what law and justice mean and stand for that must be made members of these panchayat courts, and people who are absolutely ignorant and innocent of things connected with the administration of justice should at all costs not find a place in these panchayat courts.”

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the assurance that the Hon. the Prime Minister had given, one would have thought that the fears, if fears were entertained by my Muslim friends about the Government policy in respect of the demands of the various minorities for fair representation in the services, would have been removed altogether, and I thought that after that assurance the representatives of the minority communities would feel reassured on this point. But I find from the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, the Leader of the Muslim League party that the speech of the Hon. the Prime Minister has only provoked him at least to make remarks on the floor of the House, which, I may be excused if I say, do not show that sense of responsibility which is expected from the people who claim to speak on behalf of the Muslim community. Sir,

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he said that Muslims are kept out of certain services. I can understand if he had said that Mussalmans have not received that proportion of representation in certain departments that he thinks was due to them. I can understand that, and I may also agree with him that that proportion has not been secured by the Muslim community. But to say that the Mussalmans are kept out of certain services is making a remark which cannot be justified by facts. Sir, he must remember that when he speaks about the policy of Government of keeping out any community or of not having employed sufficient number of persons from a certain community, he is speaking only about the past Government. As to what the present Government is going to do, he can only express hopes, or he may even express fears. But to condemn us and to speak in such a way as if he was condemning this Government and saying all that he has said about nationalism and communalism, is deplorable, and I can only say that he is very much confused in his ideas. It is recognized by the Congress as well as by everybody that minorities should be properly represented in the services. There is no need of any new declaration of any new policy on that point. In the last Government, for the last so many years, it was not a question of minorities being represented in the services but of the majority, the Non-Brahman community, receiving representation in the services. The communal Government Order was the result of that demand. The communal Government Order was not created in order to satisfy any minority, but it was created to satisfy the majority community of the Madras Presidency, viz., the Non-Brahmans, as against Brahmans. I will say that that Government Order has done great harm to the Muslim community because, before that, the Muslim community was the only minority community that demanded a fair share of the services but after the communal Government Order was introduced more attention was paid to the Non-Brahmans, and Muslim interests were neglected to a large extent. Sir, when the Prime Minister said that the claims of the majority community also must be recognized, he certainly meant the Non-Brahmans; he did not mean the minority, the Brahmans. So, if any share comes to Mussalmans in excess of what is due to them, it has to come from the Non-Brahmans. It is the Non-Brahmans who were responsible for the communal Government Order. There was a fear expressed that the communal Government Order would be taken away, and the minorities might suffer. If so, the majority also will suffer thereby, because it will be to the detriment of the majority, the Non-Brahmans, if that is taken away. Though the Prime Minister has expressed his personal opinion that this kind of representation in service should not be encouraged on principle, yet he has given the assurance that no departure will be made from what was the practice in the past, and that no minority will have any reason to feel that they will be placed in a worse condition under the Congress Government than it was in before. I think the best manner of doing away with this agitation among the communities for shares in the Government service, which is at the root of much bad feeling between communities, is that these

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communities should have full share in the services, so that they may cease to agitate on this point. Time may come when representatives of a minority community may instead of asking for more try to hide their proportion in the services for fear that it might be reduced, as it was being reduced in the case of the Brahman community, and the Brahman community is a minority community.

“As regards efficiency, the Muslim community has always said that efficiency must come first, and they have always said that no Muslim should be appointed simply because he is a Muslim, but that he should be appointed if he is qualified for the post. Mussalmans claim that they have produced a sufficient number of qualified people who can fill all the appointments due to the community. The communal Government Order continues to remain in force and is being worked properly and Mussalmans must take their turn according to that Government Order and they need not be afraid that their proportion would be removed. As regards their share in the judicial service, I have been working for several years to secure it and I have been inviting the attention of His Excellency the Governor to the paucity of Muslims in the judicial service. And as regards the High Court Judgeship, three years ago I raised this question, and in the year 1936, in the month of April when His Excellency was leaving for the Hills, he sent for me and said that he had been trying to find a Mussalman for a High Court Judgeship. He said that in the Chief Justice's opinion there was no Mussalman who could fill this post, and that he tried in many provinces but he could not get a suitable person. I said to His Excellency that his efforts should not stop there and that he must try again. And I was glad that before the year was out the appointment of Sir Abdur Rahman was made. Sir, this is the policy with which I have been working for the Muslim share in all branches of services. Then we had to go and beg the Governors for favours. Now that the Congress Government has come into power, it is not necessary to turn to the Governor or other high officials for justice. This Congress Government will as far as possible try to meet the legitimate demands of the communities including the Muslim community; and as regards the demonstration on the floor of the House, show of want of confidence in the Government, I can only say, this is not the way by which the best interests of any community can be promoted.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“On a point of personal explanation, Sir. When I referred to the Government, I did so without reference to time.”

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter over which there has been some sort of feeling in discussing the cut motion is as regards the communal representation of Muslims in the Judicial department. I may be permitted to give certain figures from which it will be quite clear to the House that the Muslim community has not only not been kept out of any appointment in this department but that they, viewed from the standpoint of the population basis, are

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2 p.m. getting all they are entitled to. I am not meaning thereby that the Muslims ought not to have anything more. I am for giving them as many appointments as possible. Of course, they will also agree that efficiency is one of the matters that will have to be taken into consideration. I may be permitted to say that one out of fourteen High Court Judges is a Muslim; that works up to a figure of 7 per cent. On a population basis the Mussalmans get 7-1/5 per cent."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Is it not a fact that the Government has already given the go-by to population basis and has fixed certain proportion as 2 to 12? What is the fun of arguing about it now?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is not entitled to make that remark."

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"If that statement has been meant for me I must request the hon. Member to repeat what he has said, so that . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Member may go on with his speech."

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"In Sessions Judges' cadre there are 3 out of 25 and it works out at 12 per cent. It is much more than what is the legitimate share of Mussalmans if they view these matters purely on the proportion of population in the country. Out of three Small Cause Court Judges one is a Muslim; and that works out at 33½ per cent. It is true that there is no Muslim in the City Civil Court. Unfortunately there is only one Judge there. The Hon. the Prime Minister has reminded them that in the matter of these appointments you cannot cut an individual so as to give communal representation. Among the Presidency Magistrates, one out of four is a Mussalman. That works up to 25 per cent. The least among the officers in the Judicial department are munsifs. It is true that there the Mussalmans do not get as much share as they are entitled to on the proportion according to population; they only get 8 out of 152, and Mr. Hameed Khan has given the explanation that the appointments have been made till now by the High Court Judges who coming into contact with all the advocates have probably been giving preference to efficiency rather than communal representation. I am not here to answer what has been done by the learned Judges of the High Court; it is not within my province. Any way it has to be seen that if you work out all these figures the Mussalmans get 7 per cent of the judicial appointments that are available and that is just the proportion they are entitled to on the population basis. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'Question.') There is no suggestion made that they are entitled to more. (A voice: 'The communal Government Order.') But the communal Government Order, I may remind my hon. Friend, is not applicable to any one of the appointments I have mentioned. (A voice: 'The communal Government Order must be made applicable.') If

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the Mussalmans are getting as much share as they are entitled to, I do not think they should care for the communal Government Order to be made applicable to these appointments.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan has adduced various arguments and said that when Mussalmans are concerned efficiency is trotted out as an argument to keep them out. I must answer by saying that so far as this Government is concerned, we are not going to use this as an argument to keep out Mussalmans, because all qualified Mussalmans are efficient. On the general question of communal representation, the Hon. the Prime Minister has, when replying to Demand VIII, stated the position this Government is pleased to take. It is true that the Congress party as such, on account of its antecedents, principles and policies, is against any communal representation. But having accepted office and seeing that in this Presidency there is the feeling of communalism, there are communities which feel that they ought to be given a proportionate share in the public services, he has allowed the communal Government Order to stand. But we do hope that the minority communities will come round sooner or later, sooner than later and say 'we don't want this communal representation.' We do hope that the Congress Ministry will arouse so much of confidence in them that the communally minded will say soon, 'we will not assert our rights on communal ground but will be satisfied with efficient service.' (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: 'That is what I want.') There was no reason for any apprehension. The Prime Minister had given almost an undertaking that the communal Government Order would stand and not be tampered with, even though we may have reason to tamper with it. This communal question was before the electorate at the time of the elections. In spite of the fact that the Congress fought communalism and got into this Assembly with a great majority, all the same, to satisfy the minority communities, we have allowed this communal Government Order to stand inasmuch as it is seen necessary just at present to get on with the administration of the country. It is not in keeping with the tide of nationalism that is sweeping the country.

"One other matter on which there has been some argument is the constitution and functions of panchayat courts. On that matter the Hon. the Revenue Member has given an indication as to what the Government will do. The panchayat bodies were once the nucleus of a big organization and they were flourishing well in olden days. But for various reasons these panchayats have been given the go-by and they were relegated to the rank of mere courts with little or no administrative powers. The Government has got a scheme for resuscitating these panchayats and in doing that they will increase the powers of these panchayats in civil as well as criminal matters. Of course, at present, these panchayat courts are not being run properly; there is faction in various panchayats. With all that various attempts are made by the Collectors to see that the factious spirit does not prevail in the administration of justice; and the reports we are getting from various authorities are to the effect that these panchayat courts are working

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properly, even though in certain places the panchayat courts were not working properly and have to be disestablished. When these panchayat courts are reconstituted, with greater powers given to them they would again be the centre wherefrom the whole affairs of the village would begin to be administered. Various suggestions have been made by various non-official members regarding minor details, and I have submitted that Government have in view the reorganization of the panchayat courts so as to make them a live organization.

"As regards process servers and copyists, they have come in for a good deal of sympathy at the hands of members. I will only say that the Congress party long before it came into this Assembly had committed itself to the view that the minimum pay for any Government service should be Rs. 30, and they stand by it. But under the Government of India Act, we have no right to cut the higher salaries, and so far as our finances go we cannot raise the pay so as to give a living wage to every person. So I think it would not be quite easy for us to give Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 to the copyists and process servers just now. But that is the idea with which the Government would be working; and as and when money is available the claims of these people would be considered. It has been stated that there is no provision for them for pension or provident fund. So far as pension is concerned, this matter has been before Government for a long time and it was considered almost impracticable. If their qualifications or terms of service, etc., are considered they certainly have no claim. The nature of their service is different; they are piece-workers. That is one matter. To say that like clerks in the regular service they may also be given Rs. 35 is a claim which cannot be held valid, considering the nature of their recruitment and qualifications. As for providing a provident fund, the Government is considering the matter. Whenever there is a possibility of finding some little money to give them, we would gladly do justice to them.

"Various suggestions have also been made by my hon. Friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari. As regards the High Court, he himself said that the various suggestions are meant for the purpose of communication to the Secretary of State for consideration. Though the matter of law's delay is as old as Shakespeare's Hamlet yet this Government have certain ideas which for want of time they could not get examined by the various departments concerned. But we do hope that we will be able to do something in the matter of reducing the law's delays. Only such an undertaking could be given now.

"Then Mr. Schamnad complained against the jury system. This system is not bad; it is perhaps the persons who are in the jury that are bad. It is our fault if we have not been able to educate the public. I hope Mr. Schamnad will try to educate the people for the purpose of getting good jurymen and good people for the panchayat courts also.

"Then about insolvency courts, referred to by Mr. Baliga, I may say that a committee consisting of a High Court Judge, a District

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Judge and one Member of the Government has gone into the question and suggested certain reforms. Their report is not yet ready for publication.

"Then the hon. Member, Mr. Karunakara Subba Rao, complained about bribery and corruption. A complaint of that sort can easily be made if only we avoid the names of persons. Unless we know something more definite, it is not possible for Government to do anything by way of executive action. He was also referring to the location of the Sub-Court at Chicacole instead of at Vizianagram, the place recommended by the High Court, and said that Government have flouted the opinion of the High Court; and he wants this Government to flout the decision of its predecessor. I submit it is a matter which cannot be discussed on the floor of this House.

"There has been some complaint that the Court-fees are high. It is true it is so, but the financial condition of the country does not permit of any reduction; but there are certain anomalies in the Court Fees Act, which will be examined by this Government through an expert and all that is possible will be done to remove them. The reduction of court fee for certain classes of suits and increase of court fee in certain classes may possibly be brought about as early as possible.

"With these words, I commend the Demand for the acceptance of the House and I am sure the hon. Member who has moved the cut motion will gladly withdraw it." 2.15 p.m.

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There is a certain section, a large section I should say, of the House who desire to have additional hours for the discussion of the grants in the evenings. I shall consult the Leader of the House on the subject and if a working arrangement can be arrived at, I shall announce it tomorrow.

"The House will now adjourn and meet again at 10 a.m. to-morrow."

The House then adjourned.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to clause (a) of starred question No. 167 asked by Mr. E. Kannan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 21st September 1937, page 419 supra.]

Statement of travelling allowance drawn by the officers of the Veterinary Department in Malabar during each of the last ten years, i.e., 1927-28 to 1936-37.

Year.	Circle officers.		Touring staff.		Hospital staff.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
1927-28	1,873	1 0	2,884	15 0	111	11 0
1928-29	2,909	1 0	3,711	6 0	77	5 0
1929-30	2,265	0 0	3,524	1 0	114	12 0
1930-31	1,488	8 0	3,904	1 0	343	12 0
1931-32	2,073	11 0	2,812	15 0	206	9 0
1932-33	1,018	12 0	1,845	8 0	148	12 0
1933-34	1,167	4 0	2,194	4 0	16	14 0
1934-35	1,431	11 0	1,994	15 0	192	8 0
1935-36	1,721	7 0	2,565	3 0	105	9 0
1936-37	1,834	4 0	2,673	5 0	90	4 0
Total	17,782	11 0	28,110	9 0	1,408	0 0

Note.—(1) The figures under Circle officers for each year include tour and transfer travelling allowance of the Circle Officer and his office establishment, and they represent the expenditure for the whole circle comprising of the districts of Salem, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Malabar and South Kanara till 31st July 1929 and the districts of Malabar and South Kanara from 1st August 1929 onwards. Separate figures for Malabar district alone cannot be worked out.

(2) The figures under the Touring staff include the expenditure both under tour and transfer travelling allowance in each year.

(3) The figures under the Hospital staff include the expenditure of transfer travelling allowance and tour travelling allowance of only such of those as have got touring work.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to clause (b) of starred question No. 167 asked by Mr. E. Kannan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 21st September 1937, page 419 supra.]

Statement I—Work done by the touring staff.

Malabar district.

Year.	Veterinary Assistants employed.			Number of villages visited.			Castrations performed.						Treated for contagious diseases.						Treated for non-contagious diseases.						Total number of castrations performed or cases treated.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)
1927-28	4	710	1	118	1	120	..	1,315	..	1,315	4	338	29	371	1,806	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1928-29	4	694	1	83	..	84	..	1,673	..	1,673	8	550	47	605	2,382	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1929-30	6	879	..	163	1	164	..	1,860	2	1,862	..	776	38	813	2,839	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1930-31	5	939	..	259	3	262	..	1,101	4	1,105	..	1,254	81	1,335	2,702	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1931-32	5	821	1	1,692	22	1,715	..	584	..	584	3	2,808	97	2,905	5,207	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1932-33	5	821	..	2,369	49	2,418	3	1,430	53	1,486	10	3,361	233	3,604	7,508	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1933-34	5	906	..	2,764	83	2,847	..	1,061	28	1,089	4	4,007	233	4,244	8,180	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1934-35	5	658	..	1,915	91	2,006	..	423	54	477	4	2,510	205	2,719	5,202	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1935-36	6	612	..	2,339	105	2,444	..	281	9	290	2	2,538	236	2,776	5,510	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1936-37	6	566	..	2,032	75	2,107	1	1,858	41	1,900	6	2,022	271	2,299	6,306	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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Malabar district.

Year.	Number of Veterinary Institutions.	Number of in-patients treated during the year.					Number of out-patients treated during the year.					Castrations performed.				
		Equines.	Bovines.	Others.	Total.	Equines.	Bovines.	Others.	Total.	Equines.	Bovines.	Others.	Total.			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)		
1927-28	..	4	13	117	91	221	201	2,391	5,238	5,459	..	110	33	143		
1928-29	..	4	19	188	98	305	225	3,170	6,355	6,660	1	105	31	137		
1929-30	..	4	32	177	117	326	175	2,670	6,035	6,361	2	108	30	140		
1930-31	..	4	18	171	117	306	168	2,748	6,745	7,051	1	90	39	130		
1931-32	..	4	24	213	91	328	191	2,863	7,560	7,888	2	206	37	245		
1932-33	..	4	25	214	79	318	187	3,353	8,969	9,287	..	354	55	409		
1933-34	..	4	29	271	77	377	219	5,764	9,514	9,891	5	535	59	599		
1934-35	..	4	23	221	53	297	213	6,669	10,710	11,007	1	577	51	629		
1935-36	..	4	27	195	63	285	187	6,566	11,018	11,303	3	547	53	603		
1936-37	..	4	18	204	73	295	182	6,958	11,623	11,918	1	633	85	719		

Statement III.—Number of inoculations performed by the Veterinary Officers in Malabar district.

[illegible]

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 22nd September 1937.

The House met at the Assembly building, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

The proceedings commenced with the singing of 'Vande Mataram' by Mrs. Lakshmi Sankara Ayyar.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

* Q. 176.^a

Repayment of loan advanced to the Panchayat Board, Tiruvallur, for electrification scheme.

* 177 Q.—MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Panchayat Board of Tiruvallur, Chingleput district, has paid the Government the first instalment of the loan for the electrification scheme in time;

(b) whether the panchayat board has paid the Government the interest for the loan from the loan amount;

(c) whether the Government imposed any penalty against the panchayat board for violating the conditions and, if so, how much; and

(d) whether the Government received an application from the panchayat board for a further loan of Rs. 25,000 for the electrification scheme and, if so, whether they propose to grant such a loan?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—“(a) & (c) A sum of Rupees 5,277 on account of the first instalment of repayment of the loan was due on 19th December 1936. It was actually paid by the panchayat board on 5th January 1937 and a sum of Rs. 24-9-0 representing penal interest on the sum at 10 per cent per annum from 19th December 1936 to 4th January 1937 was also recovered from the board on 4th May 1937.

“(b) The answer is in the negative.

“(d) The panchayat board has applied for an additional loan of Rs. 25,000. The application is under the consideration of the Government.”

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MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say what the amount of the loan applied for by the panchayat board was?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"They applied for a loan of Rs. 75,000 in the first instance, and that was granted. They have again applied for a loan of Rs. 25,000 and that application is under the consideration of Government."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"May I know why the panchayat board wants this loan?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"They want it for electrification purposes."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Was there any estimate for a definite amount prepared for the electrification scheme?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There was an estimate for a definite amount."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"How did it happen that the panchayat board exceeded the amount?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have no information at present."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to find out that information from the panchayat board?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly I will call for the information."

Objections to the location of the mortuary attached to the Government Hospital, Tenali.

* 178 Q.—MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware—

(1) that the people of Tenali, Guntur district, living in the close vicinity of the local Government hospital are seriously aggrieved by reason of the mortuary building in the hospital compound which is separated from their dwellings only by a narrow road eight yards wide;

(2) that it is a source of intolerable nuisance and is a menace to the health and comfort of those living in the neighbourhood;

(3) that it was built in spite of the protests through petitions and memorials of the people living in the neighbourhood and in spite of the resolution of the Tenali Municipal Council, dated 17th April 1931, requesting the Government to stop its construction in the hospital compound; and

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(4) that the compound of the hospital is comparatively small and that the mortuary building is very near the in-patients ward of the hospital; and

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of removing the mortuary building from the hospital compound to a less objectionable place?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) (1) A mahazar signed by 31 persons complaining against the mortuary being near their dwelling houses was presented to the District Medical Officer, Guntur, on 20th September 1933, and the District Magistrate, Guntur.

" (2) The mortuary was built in 1932; since the people continue to live in the neighbourhood as before the nuisance if at all there is any, cannot be intolerable. The Government have no information that it is a menace to the health of the people in the neighbourhood. The report is that it is free from any foul smell.

" (3) The Government have no information except that the municipal council passed a resolution on 17th April 1931.

" (4) The mortuary is in the hospital compound which is small but not very small. The mortuary building is not very near, though it is near the in-patients' ward.

" (b) The Government are examining the practicability of moving the mortuary to a distant site."

* MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA:—"Are not dead bodies highly decomposed in several cases of death by drowning brought to the mortuary and kept there for many hours till the doctors in the hospital find time to attend to them?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Sometimes it happens like that."

MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that on one occasion in a house nearby when the guests had assembled for dinner, a dead body was brought to the mortuary in a highly decomposed state and the guests left the house on account of the unbearable smell?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"That is what I find from a registered notice sent to the Government by certain persons."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"The Hon. Minister said: 'Sometimes it happens like that.' Is it not then detrimental to public health?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Since 1932 several cases have happened like that and the Government have no information that anything has happened detrimental to public health in consequence thereof."

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Number of foremen and section heads in the Lino department, Government Press, Madras.

* 179 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) how many foremen, assistant foremen and section heads there are in the Lino department of the Government Press;

(b) what their qualifications, scales of pay and length of service are; and

(c) whether a proposal to appoint for such posts senior Lino-operators with superior technical knowledge and experience of the machines was made by the Works Committee in July 1935?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) One junior foreman and three assistant foremen.

“(b) The junior foreman's pay is Rs. 30—2—60 while the assistant foremen are in the scale of Rs. 28—37: their services vary from 10 to 18 years. All the four possess the knowledge and experience required for the work; three of them have also the additional qualifications noted below:—

Junior foreman.—Compositor's work, City and Guilds of London Institute, 'Typography.

Assistant foreman.—S.S.L.C., Government Technical Examinations, Composing (Lower) and Compositor's Work, City and Guilds of London Institute.

Assistant foreman.—S.S.L.C., Government Technical Examinations, Composing (Lower).

“(c) Yes.”

Election of the President of the District Board of Dharmapuri.

* 180 Q.—MR. V. R. PERUMAL CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) when the election of the President to the Dharmapuri District Board was fixed;

(b) whether it was done by the Collector (who was the ex officio President) in consultation with the Government;

(c) what the communication made by the Government to the Collector (ex officio President) was;

(d) what the date fixed for the election of the non-official President was;

(e) whether the nominated members were informed about their nominations by telegram on the eve of the presidential election; and

(f) whether the Collector (ex officio President) was asked to allow the nominated members to take part in the election of the president and vice-president on the eve of the election?

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THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) & (d) 5th January 1937.

“(b) & (c) The date was fixed by the Collector, but not in consultation with the Government; consequently the question in clause (c) does not arise.

“(e) & (f) The answer is in the affirmative.”

MR. AHMED THAMBI MUHAMMAD MOHIDEEN:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether any defeated candidates had been nominated?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Not in this particular case.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Was sufficient notice given to all nominated members for the presidential election?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Twenty-four hours' notice was given.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Does the statute prescribe any time for this notice?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There is no statutory provision for giving notice to nominated members.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Is it not necessary that sufficient time must be given to the candidates for the presidential election?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Not in the case of nominated members.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Supplementary questions are intended only to elucidate the answers given and should not be used for cross-examination.”

Fish-curing yards under the Fisheries Department in the Presidency.

* 181 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether for the year 1936-37 the Fisheries Department has profited by the fish-curing yards in the Presidency or whether it has incurred loss;

(b) if there was profit, how much; if there was loss, how much;

(c) whether the fish-curiers had petitioned to the Fisheries Department to get the price of salt (duty free) reduced;

(d) whether any step was taken by the Government in response to that petition;

(e) how many fish-curing yards there are on the West Coast and how many on the East Coast;

(f) what the profit or loss was to the Government on account of fish-curing yards in the West Coast and the East Coast respectively;

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(g) whether the Government have closed any fish-curing yards on the West Coast on the ground of their not being profitable;

(h) if so, how many such yards were closed since the inception of the Fisheries Department;

(i) whether the Government propose to reopen those fish-curing yards which were closed;

(j) whether the Government propose to open fish-curing yards afresh;

(k) whether, in respect of those fish-curing yards which were closed, any annual repairs have been carried out; and

(l) whether there are watchmen posted on the fish-curing yards which were closed?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) For the year 1936–37 the yards have worked at a profit.

“(b) The profit was Rs. 48,060.

“(c) Yes.

“(d) The question is under consideration.

“(e) There are 51 yards on the West Coast and 49 on the East Coast.

“(f) The profit to Government on account of fish-curing yards on the West Coast in 1936–37 was Rs. 58,530 and there was a loss of Rs. 10,470 in the East Coast fish-curing yards.

“(g) Yes.

“(h) Eight yards (Bemballore, Uppala, Kizhur, Moolky, Agathi, Vekkode, Kadalundi and Calicut South) were permanently closed and eight other yards (Hosebettu, Nattika, Kodumbi, Meladi, Elathur, Beypore North, Tanur North and Kaipamangalam) were closed temporarily. Of the latter, three (Hosebettu, Nattika and Kodumbi) have been subsequently re-opened.

“(i) Yes. The temporarily closed yards will be re-opened if the curers concerned undertake to make good the loss, if any, in working them and also make a deposit against such loss.

“(j) Yes.

“(k) Yes. Repairs were carried out in four out of the five yards which remain temporarily closed, where buildings exist.

“(l) Yes. Watchmen are posted in the four yards referred to in the answer to clause (k) above.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—“May I know the capital expenditure incurred on the yards closed?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Notice, Sir.”

* 182 Q.*

MR. P. MADHAVAN:—“I put the question, Sir.”

MR. T. VISWANADHAM (Parliamentary Secretary):—“May I answer, Sir?”

* Vide pages 505–507 infra.

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MR. SPEAKER:—“Questions addressed to Ministers who are absent at the time when they are reached will be taken up after all the other questions are over.”

Private libraries aided by Government grants.

* 183 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) how many libraries in the Presidency conducted by private associations are aided by Government grants;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Auditors charged with the duty of checking the accounts of such Library Associations have insisted on the expunging of political books from the libraries as a condition precedent to the sanctioning of Government grants; and

(c) whether there are any rules which prohibit the keeping of political books in private libraries aided by Government grants?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) In 1936–37, 71 libraries were given grants.

“(b) The answer is in the negative.

“(c) Political books as such are not objected to, but books which are deemed to be subversive of constituted authority are objected to in libraries receiving Government grants.”

MR. T. S. CHOKKALINGAM PILLAI:—“Is it a fact, Sir, that some books written by Mr. M. S. Subrahmanya Ayyar were prohibited from being put in the libraries?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I am afraid I have not got any information on the subject.”

MR. T. S. CHOKKALINGAM PILLAI:—“Is it a fact that some reading rooms were searched by the police in Chettinad and some books written by Mr. M. S. Subrahmanya Ayyar were taken away by them?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“If the hon. Member will put down a specific question on the subject, I will give an answer.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Hon. Members should resume their seats when an answer is being given by a Minister.”

MR. AHMED THAMBI MUHAMMAD MOHIDEEN:—“Will the Hon. Minister please state whether there are any libraries which have not been registered under the Societies Act?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“This is a question which, I submit, does not arise out of the question which has been put. If the hon. Member is keen on information, he should put down a specific question and I will answer it.”

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MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister what is meant by the term 'subversive of constituted authority?' "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I am afraid I am not versed in the definition of terms."

Closing of the Russellkonda Saw Mill.

10-15 a.m. * 184 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

- (a) when the Russellkonda Saw Mill was started;
- (b) when it was closed;
- (c) whether it ended in loss or gain;
- (d) how much in each case; and
- (e) if it ended in loss, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) The mill started work in April 1922.

" (b) July 1928.

" (c) Loss.

" (d) About Rs. 4 lakhs.

" (e) The mill was located in an area which has since been transferred to Orissa. Most of the important papers connected with it have been transferred to the Orissa Government. Detailed reasons for the losses are not therefore available. The mill had to be closed as the original anticipations regarding the supply, percentage of outturn on conversion and the cost of production could not be realized."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—" May I know why the mill stopped from working, how long it worked and what is the cause for such a great amount of loss? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" It is not possible to answer that question."

Receipts and expenditure in the Forest Department.

* 185 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state with reference to the forests in the Presidency—

- (a) the revenue in each of the last five years;
- (b) the expenditure during those years; and
- (c) the average net income per acre during those years?

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THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a), (b) & (c) Figures for 1936-37 are not yet available; those for the five years from 1931-32 are as follows:—

Year.				Revenue.	Expenditure.	Average net income per acre.
				RS.	RS.	RS. A. P.
1931-32	..	..	..	42,54,874	39,80,787	0 0 5
1932-33	..	..	..	47,38,169	37,89,150	0 1 6
1933-34	..	..	..	39,43,068	39,20,340	Less than ½ pie.
1934-35	..	..	..	42,26,220	38,83,301	0 0 6
1935-36	..	..	..	42,89,611	40,74,358	0 0 4"

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—" May I know whether such a large amount of expenditure is due to heavy salaries and too many hands employed? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" It is a matter of opinion, Sir."

* 186 Q.*

Activities of the Working Plans Department of the Forest Department.

* 187 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

- (a) when the department of working plans in the Forest Department was introduced;
- (b) the cost incurred on account of this department in the first year it was started;
- (c) the same during the last year; and
- (d) what the chief improvements made by this department are?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) The working plan circle was constituted on the 1st May 1925.

" (b) The expenditure during 1925-26 was Rs. 1,14,228.

" (c) Figures for 1936-37 are not yet available. The expenditure during 1935-36 was Rs. 2,65,127.

" (d) The working plans circle is engaged in the preparation of new working plans or the revision of working plans in the various forest divisions. The area of reserved forests for which working plans have been revised or newly prepared to the end of 1935-36 is 12,343 square miles."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" May I know whether a Special Committee has been appointed to enquire into the state of expenditure incurred on the various establishments and the feasibility of entrusting if possible the whole administration of forests to the forest panchayats? "

* Please see after question No. 187.

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* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"No Special Committee have been appointed but the department itself is making an enquiry."

THE SAME MEMBER:—"Has any report been received?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"No, Sir."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to consider whether retrenchment is possible in the Forest department?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Certainly."

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he will be pleased to consider the advisability of increasing the industries in the Forest department like the manufacture of paper and other kindred industries?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Generally the matter of retrenchment is being considered. The starting of cottage industries and other industries connected with forest are also being considered."

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know whether the Working Plans circle of the Forest department makes investigation in the various zamindari estates also?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"No, Sir."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"May I know whether the officers of the other branches can do this work?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Yes."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"In view of the heavy expenditure incurred on account of the existence of this circle, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to abolish it?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Cost on account of the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice.

* 186 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the cost of administration of Civil Justice during the last year; and

(b) the cost of administration of Criminal Justice during the same period?

[22nd September 1937]

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) & (b) It is not possible to apportion the expenditure debited to the departmental head "27, Administration of Justice" between Civil Justice and Criminal Justice, as figures for 'Civil' and 'Criminal' are lumped together in the budget and as the District Judges, some of the Subordinate Judges (those appointed as Assistant Sessions Judges) and the High Court Judges try both civil and criminal cases. Nor is it possible to make a similar apportionment in respect of expenditure incurred on the construction and maintenance of buildings occupied by, the cost of stationery supplied to, and printing done for, pensions of officers who served in, and other indirect expenditure on account of, the Judicial department."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to state approximately the apportionment of expenditure between Civil and Criminal Justice?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The information sought for can be got by going through the Budget Memorandum."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of requiring the district munsifs who have no sufficient work to dispose of criminal cases also?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I may be pardoned, Sir, if I say that, that question does not arise here now."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I ask whether it is not desirable to work out the figures from the Administration Reports regarding cost of Civil and Criminal Justice and find out the profit or the loss incurred by the Government in the administration of civil justice?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Since it is impossible to collect such figures, the Government do not contemplate taking such steps."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I ask whether it is not possible for the Government to arrive at some approximate figure? Is it absolutely impossible for this Government to collect such statistics?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"For this Government it appears to be absolutely impossible."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I point out that in previous years the then Government never pleaded the impossibility of working out approximate figures, whenever we asked them whether they were making profit in administering civil justice, though they did not admit they were making any profit, and may I point out that it is necessary to find out so that the Government may neither lose nor make any profit out of administration of civil justice?"

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MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may put questions but not argue."

Revenue derived from and expenditure incurred on the sandalwood plantations in the Presidency.

* 188 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) the area covered by the sandalwood plantation in this Presidency;

(b) the revenue derived from the same in each of the last five years; and

(c) the expenditure on the same during the same period?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) There are no sandalwood plantations. This species is a parasite and grows scattered over extensive areas of reserves and unreserves, mainly in the North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore districts. It regenerates itself readily from seeds and is also being introduced to other forests, where climate and soil are favourable, by means of small propagation centres, from which the species will spread in due course.

" (b)—

Year.						Revenue.
						RS.
1932-33	...	...	...	...	...	5,33,391
1933-34	...	...	...	...	...	4,97,869
1934-35	...	...	...	...	...	4,56,254
1935-36	...	...	...	...	...	5,04,300
1936-37	...	...	...	...	...	7,40,974

" (c)—

Year.						Expenditure.
						RS.
1932-33	...	...	...	...	...	60,303
1933-34	...	...	...	...	...	57,145
1934-35	...	...	...	...	...	60,636
1935-36	...	...	...	...	...	71,908
1936-37	...	...	...	...	...	91,449 "

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"May I know what is done with the sandalwood?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"After collecting the sandalwood, it is sold."

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MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Is it not possible to extract the oil by machinery, so that better profits may be realized?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The matter will be considered."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Those questions which ask for a large number of figures should be tabled as unstarred questions to which written answers can be given with advantage. Hereafter hon. Members are requested, where large tabular statements are required to be given by way of answers, to table their questions as unstarred questions."

Expenditure incurred on and revenue derived from irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works.

* 189 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state for each of the last ten years—

(a) the total expenditure incurred on irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which capital accounts are kept;

(b) the gross income from the same; and

(c) the net income therefrom?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a), (b) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the general abstract on the financial results of irrigation works appended to the Annual Administration Reports of the Public Works Department (Irrigation) which are available in the Secretariat Library."

Expenditure on and revenue from the minor irrigation works.

* 190 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state for each of the last ten years—

(a) the total expenditure incurred for minor irrigation works;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the same for their maintenance and repairs; and

(c) the revenue from the same?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a), (b) & (c) The information required will be found in the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report (Part II—Irrigation) in the portion relating to 'Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are not kept.' The report for 1935-36 has been published. The figures for 1936-37 are not yet available."

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AN HON. MEMBER:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider the possibility of taking up minor irrigation works, especially tanks, etc., in districts like Chittoor where projects like the Tungabhadra project, etc., will not be reached?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"That does not arise from this question."

ANOTHER HON. MEMBER:—"May I ask whether the amounts that are in the hands of the District Collectors are not spent year after year?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I am not aware of it. On the other hand they are spending all the money and demanding more money."

Total expenditure in the Jail Department under several heads.

* 191 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

- (a) the total expenditure for jails during the year 1936–37;
- (b) the daily average of prisoners in all the prisons;
- (c) the dietary charges for each prisoner per day;
- (d) the medical and sanitary charges for the year;
- (e) the clothing charges for the year;
- (f) the charges for superintendence for the year; and
- (g) the total expenditure on buildings for jails?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) to (f) The hon. Member is referred to paragraphs 29 to 34 of the Jail Administration Report for the calendar year 1936 and the General Summary and statement No. IX—(Financial) appended thereto. Figures for the financial year 1936–37 are not available.

" (g) According to the preliminary accounts for 1936–37, the expenditure on jail buildings for that year was approximately two lakhs of rupees."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the prisoners belonging to the various communities derive benefit according to the fines they pay?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I have not been able to get a classification of prisoners in jails according to communities." (Laughter.)

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister to give proper attention to these prisoners?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Every attention is being paid to them."

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MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"May I know how much is spent for each prisoner per month?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I should like to have notice of the question."

Proposal for the repatriation of the political prisoners kept in jails outside the Province.

* 192 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any political prisoners are kept outside this province;
- (b) if so, where and how many; and
- (c) whether they will be brought back to this province?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Clauses (a) to (c) The term 'political prisoner' admits of different definitions and consequently it is not possible to give precise answers to the hon. Member's questions. If the hon. Member has in mind the Madras prisoners confined in the Andamans, he is informed that there are in the Andamans seven terrorist prisoners convicted by Courts in Madras. Two of them belong to the Madras Province, five to other provinces. The question of the repatriation of the two Madras prisoners is under consideration and correspondence between this Government and the Government of India."

Number of State prisoners in the jails of this province.

* 193 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there are any State prisoners in the jails in this province; and
- (b) if so, how many and to which provinces they belong?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Five. They belong to Bengal."

Work and maintenance of the Live-stock Research station at Hosur.

* 194 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the object of the livestock research station at Hosur;
- (b) how many cattle were maintained there last year;
- (c) how many bulls and cows were maintained last year;
- (d) what the cost of maintenance per head, per year is;
- (e) for how long this station has been maintained at Hosur; and
- (f) whether any bulls and cows are sold to ryots from this station?

10-30 a.m.

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THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) The chief object of the farm is to breed Kangayam, Sind and Hallikar cattle, Bellary sheep, poultry and pigs.

“(b) & (c) The average strength per month during 1936–37 was as follows:—

Cows, dry, milch and nearing parturition	...	178
Heifers above one year	...	155
Stud bulls	...	12
Young bulls above one year	...	102
Calves, male and female, under one year	...	143
Work cattle	...	63
Total	...	653

“(d) The cost of maintenance including attendance per head is as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Cows including milch and nearing parturition	...	...	...
Heifers	...	...	...
Stud bulls	...	...	...
Young bulls	...	...	...

“(e) The farm was taken over by the Madras Government from the Army Remount Department on 1st September 1924 as a Livestock Research Station.

“(f) Yes.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of opening some more livestock stations in other parts of the Presidency as India is purely an agricultural country?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The matter will be considered, Sir.”

ANOTHER HON. MEMBER:—“May I ask whether the station is paying at present?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Yes, Sir.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister thinks that the cost of maintenance of this station is very high?”

(No answer.)

Object in maintaining the Fisheries Department.

* 195 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) what the quantity of fish got by the Fisheries Department last year was;

(b) what was done with them;

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(c) whether any quantity of the fish got by the Fisheries Department is or can be sold to the public for food purposes;

(d) what the object in maintaining the Fisheries Department is; and

(e) how far that object has been realized?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) The Fisheries Department does not engage itself in general fishing in which it would compete with private industry. It conducts deep-water fishing only in the Mopad reservoir in the Nellore district. Fish weighing about 11,300 lb. were caught there in the year 1936–37.

“(b) They were sold for Rs. 862–9–2 to the local public.

“(c) The whole quantity was sold for food purposes.

“(d) The objects for which the Fisheries Department is maintained are briefly as follows:—

- (1) to increase the food supply of the masses by developing fisheries;
- (2) to stimulate the main and allied industries by improving existing methods and introducing new methods, with the ultimate object of increasing catches, preserving fresh fish for the interior markets and converting the fish which cannot be consumed as food into oil, manure and other bye-products;
- (3) to educate the fisher children and to assist the study for natural history generally by maintaining the public aquarium, and by the supply of biological specimens;
- (4) to improve the material and moral condition of the fisher-folk; and
- (5) to propagate and distribute larvicidal fish in malarial localities as an anti-malarial measure.

“(e) The objects are being satisfactorily realized.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I ask whether there is any proposal to amalgamate this department with the Industries Department?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“That is a matter which is under the consideration of the Government.”

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government will consider the purchase of one or more steam trawlers in order to increase the quantity of fish available for food consumption?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The matter will be considered, Sir.”

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—“Will the Hon. Minister be also pleased to consider the possibility of having one or more ice installations so that the fish can be conveyed upcountry and be available for food consumption in the interior?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“I think, Sir, that that matter was considered and given up as it was found to be costly.”

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MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government have any plan for the development of deep sea fishing in order to exploit the food wealth of this province? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" This matter also is under the consideration of the Government."

Total cost and revenue of the Fisheries Department in each of the last five years.

* 196 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) what the total cost and revenue of the Fisheries Department in each of the last five years is;

(b) what is done with the manure and oil prepared by this department; and

(c) whether they are sold, and if so, to whom?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a)

				Expenditure.	Revenue.
				RS.	RS.
1931-32	..	..	..	6,50,605	4,41,224
1932-33	..	..	..	5,47,341	3,86,410
1933-34	..	..	..	6,04,339	4,34,521
1934-35	..	..	..	5,69,208	4,42,122
1935-36	..	..	..	5,93,861	5,48,667

" (b) & (c) Whatever is prepared is sold to the public."

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" May I ask whether there was any general propaganda about the use of this manure in the villages? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" I do not think so, Sir."

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" If not, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to undertake to have such propaganda carried on in the villages? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" The matter will be considered, Sir."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether a large quantity of the manure prepared here is sold outside the Presidency? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" I request notice of the question, Sir."

MR. C. OBI REDDI:—" May I ask what is the annual output of fish guano? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Notice, Sir."

[22nd September 1937]

Loans granted under the State Aid to Industries Act.

* 197 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications made for loans last year under the State Aid to Industries Act; and

(b) the number granted?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (a) Two.

" (b) One."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—" May I ask why these applications are so unpopular? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" If more applications are received the Government will consider them."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—" I want to know the reason why the number of applications is so small? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I cannot give any reason, Sir."

Investigation of the industrial possibilities of Mettur area.

* 198 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government have examined the question as to what industries could be started in Mettur area, and if so, what they are?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Yes. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the following pamphlets issued on the subjects:—

- (1) Mettur: its industrial potentialities; and
- (2) Report upon the prospects of developing the Mettur Settlement into an industrial centre.

Copies of these pamphlets are available in the Library of the Assembly Secretariat."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—" May I ask the Government whether any private company has applied for the purchase of the machinery and plant from Mettur? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" If the hon. Member puts down a question, it will be answered."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—" May I ask whether the Government intends to start any industry in the Mettur area? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" The matter is under consideration. The Government is prepared to go into that question. If an application is made by outsiders, the Government will consider that also."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—" May I know what are the industries which can be carried on with profit in the Mettur area? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Notice, Sir."

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Companies started to work in the Mettur area.

* 199 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether any companies were started to work in Mettur area in recent years;

(b) what the names of those companies are and what the manufactures they desire to develop are; and

(c) whether the capital is purely Indian or foreign or mixed?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) & (b) The following three companies have been formed to carry on industrial operations at Mettur:—

(1) *The Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation, Ltd.*—For establishing an alkali industry and for manufacturing caustic soda, liquid chlorine, bleaching powder, hydrogen and other chemicals.

(2) *The Mettur Industries, Ltd.*—For establishing a cotton spinning, weaving and finishing mill and also for developing a handloom weaving colony in conjunction with the mill.

(3) *The South India Dye Works, Ltd.*—For acquiring the assets of the Salem Dye Works Syndicate, Ltd., Salem, and to carry on dyeing operations at Mettur.

“(c) The capital of the Mettur Industries, Ltd., has been subscribed partly locally and partly by foreign (English) interests. No definite information is available with regard to the other two companies but the capital is believed to be wholly Indian.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—“May I know how much of the capital is Indian and how much foreign?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Notice, Sir.”

* 200 Q.*

Provincial and District Economic Councils and their functions.

* 201 Q.—MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) for how many years the Provincial Economic Council and the District Economic Councils have been functioning;

(b) what the objects and duties of the Economic Councils are; and

(c) what work has been done by them within the last one year?

* Vide page 507 infra.

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THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) These were constituted only about the middle of last year.

“(b) The Provincial Economic Council was constituted to co-ordinate the activities of the various departments of Government and to advise them on schemes of economic and educational uplift and industrial and cultural advancement of the people of the Province. The Council has also the power of initiating economic measures and placing them before Government through the head of the department concerned.

“The main functions of the District Economic Councils are to co-ordinate the work of the several departments in the district, to see that money allotted to the district for expenditure in each of the departments is spent to the greatest advantage and to take such steps as may be necessary with the willing co-operation of the people for the improvement of village life in all its aspects.

“(c) Two sub-committees of the Provincial Economic Council, one for Elementary Education and the other for Agricultural Development, were constituted and their reports have been submitted. The Elementary Education Sub-Committee's report has already been considered by the Provincial Economic Council, while the report of the Agricultural Development Sub-Committee has yet to be placed before it.

“As regards the work of the District Economic Councils, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.Os. No. * 2218, Development, dated 7th December 1936, No. ^b 581, Development, dated 10th March 1937 and No. ^c 1389, Development, dated 21st June 1937, reviewing their activities during the three quarters ending with 31st March 1937, which have been placed at the disposal of the Press.

* MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU:—“May I know whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to reorganize the district economic councils with a view to introduce an element of elected representatives of the people in their composition?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Yes, Sir. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.”

MR. J. SIVASHANMUGHAM PILLAI:—“May I ask on what principle or on what basis the nominations are made to these economic councils?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The nominations are made according to the conditions laid down in the Government Order that was published constituting these councils.”

* Printed as Appendix I on pages 572-575 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix II on pages 576-581 infra.

^c Printed as Appendix III on pages 582-585 infra.

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MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU:—“ May I know if the Government are in a position to state whether they are going to do away with the nomination of non-officials to these bodies? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Not so, Sir.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“ May I know, Sir, whether only title-holders and candidates defeated in the general election are included in these economic councils? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ I request notice of the question, Sir.”

Proposal to grant to persons who are now paid from “ Contingent Charges ” the privileges enjoyed by other Government servants.

* 202 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any employees in every department who are paid under what are called “ Contingent Charges ” though their work is of a continuous and permanent character;

(b) what the number and designation of such employees are in each department;

(c) on what basis and on what grounds those employees are paid under “ Contingent Charges ”;

(d) whether such employees are denied definite scales of salaries, permanency of tenure, leave, provision for sickness and old age and such other elementary privileges given to other similar employees of the Government;

(e) whether the remuneration of these employees is variable from year to year according to the Collector's report on market conditions; and

(f) whether the Government would consider the need to reclassify such employees and admit them to the privileges open to other similar Government servants?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ (a) There are employees, e.g., Masalchis, Sweepers, Watchmen, Water-suppliers, Scavengers, Gardeners, Maistris, Carpenters, Engine-drivers, etc., whose pay is debited to contingencies in the various Departments of Government. The detailed rules relating to these employees are given in item No. 65 in Appendix No. 12 on pages 116-117 of the Madras Financial and Account Code, Volume II.

“(b) The designation of some of the employees is given in the item in Madras Financial and Account Code referred to above. The Government have no figures at hand regarding the number of such employees in each department.

“(c) They are not regular Government servants with right to leave, pension, right of trial and charges being framed for dismissal, etc. They are employed when required and their remuneration is fixed with reference to the nature of the work and the prevailing market rate of wages and the charges are debited to contingencies.

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“(d) Their remuneration is regulated with reference to market rates and the leave and pension rules do not apply to this class of employees.

“(e) As stated in the answer to clause (d) above, their remuneration is fixed with reference to the prevailing rates and within the maximum rates laid down by Government. It does not necessarily follow that the remuneration is varied in every case from year to year.

“(f) The proposal would involve large extra cost which would be impracticable to incur now.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“ May I ask, Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table, for the information of the House, the number of gazetted, non-gazetted and inferior subordinates respectively treated as temporary in each department of the Provincial Government, classified so as to denote the percentage of the temporary staff to the total respective strength? ” 10-45 a.m.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ If the question is a suggestion, it will be taken into consideration.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“ Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will consider the question of the removal of disqualification of the temporary staff, at least after a prescribed maximum period? ”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ I am sorry, Sir; I want the first part of the question to be repeated.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“ Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will consider the question of the removal of disqualification of the temporary staff at least after a prescribed maximum period? ”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ I am unable to understand what the reference is to, Sir, with regard to disqualification.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“ May I explain my question again, Sir? For example, if an employee puts in a service of about one year, he may be treated as permanent, instead of being treated as temporary, even after an employee puts in a service of 25 or 30 years? ”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Do I understand that the question is whether Government will make all these temporary employees into permanent regular staff? ”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“ That is not my question. After putting in a service of say one year, every employee should be treated as a permanent employee.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ I do not think there is any difference between my understanding and what the hon. Member is asking. (Laughter). The answer, Sir, is in (f),

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viz., 'the proposal would involve large extra cost which would be impracticable to incur now.' The Government have no objection other than financial."

Release of the workers convicted in connexion with the South Indian Railway strike.

* 203 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether any workers convicted in connexion with the South Indian Railway strike are still in prison, and if so, their names, periods of unexpired sentence, the jails in which they are confined and their present condition; and

(b) whether appeals for the release of these prisoners have been received by the Government from public bodies, labour organizations and leading citizens, and what action the Government propose to take to release these convicted workers in view of the sentence already undergone?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a) & (b) All the prisoners connected with the South Indian Railway strike have been released.”

Proposal to give Hindi as much importance as English.

* 204 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal for giving Hindi as much importance as English for the purposes of “Public Instruction” in this province?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The Government are giving attention to the matter.”

Transfer of all the labour schools in the presidency to the control of local boards.

* 205 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in 1929 Government held a conference of the representatives of the depressed classes, the Director of Public Instruction and the Commissioner of Labour at which it was decided to hand over all the labour schools in the presidency to local boards, and if so, what action was taken by Government in the matter?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“A conference was held on 29th November 1928 and it was decided that Labour Schools in districts where the Labour Department's programme of opening schools had been completed and where the schools had been placed on a stable footing, should be transferred to local bodies. It was also decided

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that in case of neglect or failure on the part of the local bodies to conduct these schools properly, the subsidies payable in respect of these schools, and if necessary also due in respect of other schools maintained by them, should be withdrawn. The Labour schools in the completed areas in East Godavari, South Arcot and Guntur districts were transferred to the local boards in 1931.”

MR. E. KANNAN:—“May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that labour schools in Malabar have already fulfilled the purposes for which they were established?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The matter will be considered.”

Proposal for abolishing the system of aided private managements of primary schools in this presidency.

* 206 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration any proposal for abolishing the system of aided private managements in the field of primary education in this presidency?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The general question of management of elementary schools is under the consideration of Government but it is not proposed to abolish the system of aided private managements altogether.”

Treatment of Harijan convicts in jails.

* 207 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Harijan convicts are sometimes asked to do scavenging work in the jails?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Yes.”

MR. E. KANNAN:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister for Courts and Prisons has already issued an order on the subject, and if so, what the substance of that order is?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“No order was issued. The Inspector-General of Prisons has been asked to make a recommendation for making the necessary alterations to the rules, so as not to regularly qualify a particular class of persons, on the ground of their caste, for doing scavenging work.”

MR. K. P. YAGNESWARA SARMA:—“May I know whether the Jail Manual is available to the public, whether for sale or free?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Notice.”

MR. J. SIVASHANMUGHAM PILLAI:—“Am I to understand that all Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras do not come under this class of persons who are asked to do scavenging work in the jails?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Not all.”

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MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras alone were asked to do scavenging work in jails when we went there?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I am afraid, Sir, I am not able to answer the question. The time both of us were together in jail, I am sorry I am not able to say now definitely."

Interference with the freedom of movement of a Congress member by the C.I.D.

* 208 Q.—MR. K. V. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. K. Satya narayanamurti, one of the Joint Secretaries to the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, who is leading a batch of peasants to present a petition to the Assembly is being followed by the C.I.D. reporters?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Without admitting the statements made in the question as to the composition and character of the marchers, the answer is in the affirmative, i.e., a reporter is accompanying the party and recording the speeches made."

MR. K. V. NARAYANA RAO:—"Is it to cow down the peasants who are coming to the meetings?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It is not to cow down the peasants, but to report the speeches made on the occasion."

MR. K. V. NARAYANA RAO:—"Ordinarily they will not attend the meetings; why this special attendance of the C.I.D. in case of the peasant meetings?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"As far as I am informed, Sir, reporters ordinarily do attend meetings and take down speeches; for it is the duty of the Government to be aware of what is going on in the country."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"May I ask the Hon. the Premier whether even after the Congress Party has taken up office in this province, the continuance of the C.I.D. for political purposes is necessary?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Yes, Sir."

* 176 Q.

(Mr. Basheer Ahmed who gave notice of question No. 176 was not in his place.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Minister may answer the question, if he thinks it is necessary to do so in the public interest."

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Provision of additional accommodation in the Government Mental Hospital, Madras.

* 176 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the amount sanctioned for providing more accommodation in the Government Mental Hospital at Madras is;

(b) at what stage the construction work is and when it is programmed to be completed; and

(c) whether any provision is being made in the ensuing budget for further works in the said hospital, and if so, what those works are?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) The sanctioned estimate for the work amounts to Rs. 1,65,150.

" (b) Work has not yet been started. Tenders have been called for so as to reach the competent authority by 25th September 1937. Immediately after a tender is accepted work will be started and completed as soon as possible.

" (c) Three minor works are proposed to be carried out during the current year, namely:—

(a) An additional shed for dhobikhana boiler and provision of two more copper boilers with necessary ovens, to cope with the enormous increase in the washing of soiled linen at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,440.

(b) Two wells, one in the female enclosure and another in the warders and sweepers quarters at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,680.

(c) A shed costing Rs. 30 in the main kitchen with zinc sheet and fly proof arrangements, for dressing meat."

* * * * *

Appointment of clerks thrown out of employment consequent on the introduction of the photo-stat system in the Registration Department.

* 182 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) in how many districts the photo-stat system has been introduced in the Registration Department;

(b) how many clerks in the Registration Department were thrown out of employment in consequence of the introduction of the photo-stat system;

(c) whether any of them were absorbed in other departments; and

(d) if not, how many of them are now without employment?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) The photo-stat system has been introduced only in the district of South Malabar.

" (b) Forty-six permanent and 59 officiating clerks.

* A supplementary question put by an hon. Member was ordered on 23rd September 1937 by the Hon. the Speaker to be expunged from the official reports.

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“(c) & (d) All the permanent clerks have been re-appointed either in the Registration Department or other departments. As regards the officiating clerks, one died, eight are employed in other departments and twenty are working in short leave vacancies in the Registration Department. Thirty officiating clerks are still unemployed.

“The Inspector-General of Registration has furnished a list of the officiating clerks to the appointing authorities in the district of Malabar and requested them to consider their claims whenever vacancies were filled up in the offices under their respective control. In April 1937, 15 of the discharged officiating clerks submitted memorials to Government stating that they were either out of employment or that they were shortly to be ousted and requesting the Government to issue orders directing their re-employment and absorption in any department of Government. The Government thereupon communicated the names of the 15 memorialists to the appointing authorities in the district of Malabar and invited their attention to the letter of the Inspector-General of Registration on the subject of their re-employment.”

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
“On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Such a long answer, could you not direct the Government to place on the table of the House?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Absolutely so; long answers may be placed on the table, and questions involving long answers may not be put as starred questions.”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“What about long questions, Sir?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Questions with long or numerous limbs will not be allowed to be put as starred questions. For the benefit of the House, I may explain that questions having clauses (a), (b), (c) and so on up to (z) will not hereafter be allowed to be put in as starred questions.”

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
“Sir, I raised one point and you have referred to another, which I am afraid it is difficult to follow. It may not be possible, Sir, sometimes not to have various clauses to a question. It is only with a view to enable the Government to be more specific in their answers that a question is generally subdivided into various clauses. Otherwise, members will have to resort to numbering the clauses as separate questions instead of as (a), (b) and (c) clauses. Then the number of questions will mount up. The only criterion for such clauses should be, I submit, that they should all be on the same point. If they relate to different points, then you are entitled not to accept them as parts of one question.”

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MR. SPEAKER:—“It is the Parliamentary practice that questions should not have too many limbs, especially starred questions. Therefore, hon. Members will observe hereafter that if there are too many limbs to their questions, they will have to be put down as unstarred questions.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“Who is to judge it, Sir?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The Speaker.”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“May I point out, with your permission, that under rule 28, clause (9), a question must not be of excessive length, and you have got the power to refuse it?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The Chair knows it and has applied it.”

Collection of betting tax and the amount spent on its collection.

* 200 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the different sources from which the betting tax is collected;
- (b) the rate at which it is collected from each source; and
- (c) the total amount that is spent on each head of source?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“(a) The following taxes are collected under the Madras Betting Tax Act XX of 1935:—

- (1) A totalizator tax on backers in respect of all moneys paid by them into any totalizator by way of stakes or bets.
- (2) A betting tax on book-makers in respect of all moneys (exclusive of the amount of the bets) paid or agreed to be paid by them to backers in consequence of the winning by the latter of bets made in a place within the race enclosure which the director of the race-meeting has, with the sanction of the Government, set apart for the purpose of such betting.

“(b) The rate at which the taxes should be collected was originally fixed at $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. It was increased to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent with effect from 1st June 1937.

“(c) The only expenditure incurred is towards the cost of two forms printed and supplied to the Race Club for furnishing a return and a statement under Rule 6 (1) and Rule 9 (b) respectively of the rules framed under the Act. The actual cost is not known but it is bound to have been very small.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether the Government propose to prevent betting?”

(No reply.)

MR. T. S. CHOKKALINGAM PILLAI:—“May I know, Sir, whether bucket shops are still doing business in the Madras City?”

(No reply.)

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—cont.

(12) DEMAND XII—JAILS.

11 a.m. * THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Sir, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,61,900 under Demand XII—Jails."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

that the allotment of Rs. 22,61,900 for jails be reduced by Rs. 100 (to discuss the policy and the question of jail reforms).

"Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the purpose for which the jails were constituted has not been achieved on account of the policy pursued by the Government. What we have to see is whether the jails are there simply for punishing the convicts or for reforming them, so that they may turn out to be good citizens in future. Are the jails intended to take revenge on the offenders or are they intended to reform them? Sir, the theory of sending persons to jail as punishment has long ago been exploded. It is a well-known fact that the real object of sending offenders to jail is not fulfilled; and instead of their being reformed, they are subjected to all sorts of cruelties, for instance, they are put in bar-fetters and in dark cells, etc. I need not dwell upon this aspect of the matter at length, for many of the hon. Members of the Government have themselves seen the difficulties from inside the jails—not to speak of the experience of the Hon. the Speaker. It will be seen, Sir, that the treatment accorded to the prisoners is really inhuman. What is really required is that section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code must be largely made use of and short-term convicts must be let off with mere fine, instead of sentencing them to imprisonment; first offenders must be let off on probation and given an opportunity to reform themselves. Otherwise, if such offenders are sent to jail, their moral instinct becomes dull and they become as a result confirmed offenders.

"I also beg to submit, Sir, that capital punishment is very very inhuman and it has been abolished in all civilized countries. I suggest that our Government will do well to see that this capital punishment is also abolished here.

"Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is in regard to transportation of prisoners to the Andamans. I know what the condition in the Andamans is, because I have had occasion to visit the place when I was deputed by the Government of India to investigate into the condition of prisoners there, especially the Mappilla prisoners. Then I found that the place was unhealthy. It is malarious and I may even say that it is a hell on earth. The only place where it is not malarial is Port Blair where the officers live, but all the other places are full of malaria. The convicts have to work

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in the interior. In an adjoining small island the Chief Commissioner's bungalow is situated. There is no malaria in this island where the Chief Commissioner lives; but in all the other places there is malaria and the prisoners are asked to work under quite unhealthy conditions. I therefore hope the Government will consider the desirability of abolishing this form of punishment of transportation to the Andamans. Sir, the Indian Jails Committee has also recommended that measures should be taken to avoid sending people to the jails and has recommended the system of probation. I think that recommendation has not been fully given effect to.

"Again, Sir, the conference of Inspectors-General of Prisons which was held in Madras in 1925 stated that short-term sentences were harmful and recommended that sentences especially of less than a month should not at all be given, but such persons should be let off with fine. I understand that the system of jail administration in the Punjab is by far superior to the system followed in most of the other provinces and there it seems there is a system by which special training is given to the jail staff. I do not think that such a system is followed here. I think it will be well if this Government also introduce such a system of giving training to the jail staff for at least six months. With these few words, I move the motion."

* MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the jail administration in this province, or even in this country, is one of the most neglected. I make bold to say that this is a department which ought to receive the best consideration of the Government. The department where we have to reform the criminals who have been sent to the jails, is most neglected. Of course, there is one consolation that the Government is now manned by a number of jail experts who have personal experience of jail life. The jail institution, though it is very very important and though much attention is paid to it in other countries of the world, yet in our country, it is completely shut out from the rest of the world. Now, Sir, there are three classes of persons who are allowed admission to the jails. One class is, those persons who are taken round the jails under the direction or permission of the jail authorities, and they can see only as much of the jail as the authorities want them to see; the second class of persons are the ordinary visitors who with the permission of the Superintendent are allowed to enter the jails; and the third class—a peculiar class—is known as non-official visitors to jails. These last are appointed for their pre-conceived notions of jail administration. But those people who have very great experience in prison system and who will fall into line with any reform that is needed in the jail administration are not the persons that are appointed as such non-official visitors. That is what I have seen in my own experience. I know among the non-official visitors, there are persons who have stated that the 'kolambu' and 'kali' prepared in jails are much superior to those prepared in their own homes, and that the cells, these bug-ridden cells in which the convicts are shut up, are considered by them to be better than their own homes; and these are

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the kind of persons who continue to be jail visitors. I would humbly place before the Government that the system of jail supervision must be thoroughly overhauled. I would here suggest that if M.L.As. living in the respective districts—of course if this suggestion is accepted they may be selected from all parties in this House—are appointed as non-official visitors to the jails, it will be very helpful, but there is no use appointing persons who have no experience of the jails. Otherwise, these visitors will visit the jails only according to the terms and conditions prescribed by the Government. It is true that the Government has now changed, but I am afraid it will take a long time for these non-official visitors and the administrative officials to conform themselves to any civilized standards. I may be pardoned if I say that, if jails have to be better administered, certainly the class of persons administering the department should be changed and better men must be appointed. Sir, I hope I may be excused for asking, who the persons who constitute the administrative staff of the jails are and how many of them are educated and cultured people. I am of course aware there are certain I.M.S. officers, but barring them, shall I put the question, who are the persons who are in charge of these thousands and thousands of people, among whom are many educated persons who if properly reformed would become useful citizens? To whom are these persons entrusted? It is for the present Government to see that at least hereafter the jail staff is properly manned; I would even go to the extent of saying that those people who are not in a position to reform people be given full pension or even double pension and sent away. Let us have instead educated men as warders, jailors and Superintendents, etc. Let us at least hereafter have a system by which the person who goes to the jail as a casual offender does not return as a confirmed criminal because of the treatment he gets there.

“Let us now look to the manner in which the prisoners are treated in jails. Are they given proper food? Are they given water to drink, the one fundamental thing necessary for life? I know from my own experience—I do not know whether any change has been made after this Government came into power—that prisoners are not given sufficient water to drink. There is nobody even to ask them, ‘do you want water?’ Again, when we consider the question of clothes, they are not given enough clothes to cover their nakedness. Will the present Government be pleased to change these conditions? If you look into the diet that is supplied to them, you will find it is not satisfactory. Who examines the diet? There is of course no use of a Minister who is a jail-returned gentleman—I am sorry, a veteran jail-returned gentleman—being at the head of the department. Can he go and make surprise visits? Because, the moment he starts from Madras, every jail Superintendent receives communication that the Minister is making a sudden visit; and how can he know the real condition of the food and other things? That is why I said, it is not possible even for the Minister to do anything in the matter. I therefore suggest M.L.As. being made non-official visitors to jails so that they may make surprise visits and find out the real condition.

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“About diet the less said the better. The conditions require improvement, especially for the ‘C’ class prisoners. It is true that for ‘C’ class prisoners buttermilk is to be supplied. I am not sure in what stage it will reach them unless some reforms are effected. I am aware that the Government will do its best and I will request them to take early steps regarding this reform.” 11-15 a.m.

“The reformatory side of the Jail administration must be attended to. Why not introduce some constructive work for convicts? Much of the man-power is now being wasted. I would suggest the introduction of spinning and weaving in jails. Is not sufficient material available? What is there against the introduction of spinning and weaving? How much of human energy is being wasted by not employing them on constructive work? They are merely taken out every day on some barren work and brought in at the close of the day. I am sure all these will be kindly considered by the Government and necessary steps taken to avoid waste of energy and funds.

“Speaking of waste of money, I am reminded about the amounts involved in the transfer of prisoners from one jail to another. For whose fault are the transfers effected? The prisoner might have asked for some water of the warder. The warder communicates it to the deputy jailor and the deputy jailor communicates it to the jailor and in turn he communicates it to the Superintendent. The man is considered to be undesirable to be kept on in the jail. What is the reason? Did he not ask for water; that too of the warder? Therefore, he ought to be transferred. Whereas it should be the other way round. It ought to be the warder or the jailor that is to be transferred; but what really happens is that the convict is being transferred to another jail at public cost. I think a lot of money will be saved if this system of transfer prompted by inefficient officers, is done away with.

“I submit it is necessary that there must be a classification of prisoners. What objection is there for the classification of prisoners into political and non-political? Those convicted of offences involving moral turpitude ought to be classified separately from those who go to jails owing to their political opinions. If this difference is kept in mind, the question of defining who is a political offender may be easy. I do hope that the Government in power will see what can be done in the matter.

“It is high time that this retributive system of Jail administration ought to go. The reformatory side ought to be strengthened and reforms should be so introduced that a person once entering the jail will get out of it as a normal citizen with his criminal tendencies effaced out of him.”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Mr. Speaker, there has not been much criticism of the Jail administration by this Government and I feel safe that I am to answer no serious charges in the matter of Jail administration by this Government. Many important suggestions have been thrown out by my hon. Friend Mr. Raghava Menon. Some of

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those suggestions are already under the consideration of the Government, for instance, appointment of non-official visitors to prisons and other matters which would make reduction of expenditure under the Jail administration possible. These matters are under the consideration of the Government and I could not develop them further for want of time; but all the same I can assure the House that these matters will receive the best consideration both in the interests of the prisoners that are there and of those that may go there.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Schamnad referred to the necessity of reforming the prisoners in these institutions. I may assure the House that the policy of the administration has always been to reform the convicts and it is with that idea that prisoners are being provided with some kind of useful work so that when they leave the jails they may take to some useful occupation and become better citizens than what they were when they went inside.

"As regards the abolition of capital punishment, I am sure the House is aware that it is a matter for the Government of India and this Government has very little to do in the matter. As a matter of fact, amendment of the Indian Penal Code is not within the province of this Assembly. (An hon. Member: 'We can surely recommend to the Government of India the abolition of capital punishment.') A recommendation no doubt could be made and this Government would make the necessary recommendation.

"As regards the abolition of the convict settlement of Andamans, I may inform the House that at present, only convicts who express a willingness to go there, who volunteer to go there, are sent there. Certain conveniences and advantages are available to them there. But if and when the Government are satisfied that people are not desirous of going to the Andamans, no more prisoners will be sent there. That is the policy the Government have followed for some little time past. I may assure hon. Members that the various suggestions that have been made will certainly receive the best consideration of the Government. As usual, I request my hon. Friend Mr. Schamnad to withdraw his cut motion."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

III.—ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* EVENING SITTINGS.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have just to make an announcement with regard to the timings of the House in consultation with the Hon. the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. It is considered desirable that we should have evening sitting to-day, to-morrow and the day after. The House will adjourn at half past one and meet at half past two and continue till five o'clock. To-day the whole of the evening will be given for the Demand on Education so that there may be a full dress debate on it. Hon. Members are requested to finish Demands XIII and XIV before lunch. Movers of cut motions will

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[Mr. Speaker]

have 10 minutes and other hon. Members 5 minutes. In special cases, Members will be allotted the maximum limit of 10 minutes and no more under any circumstances. With this time-limit, we shall be able to give opportunities to a large number of Members and it is expected that we shall have a full dress discussion upon every Demand. The Hon. the Premier will now move Demand XIII—Police."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"May I ask, Sir, whether I can take a longer time than what you have fixed? I am afraid that I shall have to take at least 20 minutes for moving the Demand for Education."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister will reconsider his request. He will have a longer time by way of reply."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"In view of the fact that we have, out of courtesy to the Chair, to address you, and the time at our disposal is limited, would it not be better to have a clock somewhere in the southern side of the hall so that we may, with ease, have an eye on it?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will make the suggested arrangement if possible."

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—*cont.*

(13) DEMAND XII—POLICE.

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,51,58,500 under Demand XIII—Police.

"I do not think it would be considered improper if I suggest that we should make history this time by having this Demand granted without any harsh language being employed towards the Police administration. I think this may mark the change that has taken place in the political conditions of the province as of the whole of India if we could get a grant from the popular assembly for the Police administration without any hard words in regard thereto. But I notice in the cut motions, of which notice has been given, that there seems to be an impression that, now that the Congress Party has come into power and are holding office, the Police administration may practically be abolished. It looks as if we were the only criminals in the land and that now that we have become the Government, the establishment for the suppression and detection of crime may as well be removed. I hope that this was not the intention of at least some of the cut motions which read like that. 'Now that the change has come' and 'now that the Government is in the hands of the Congress, we should reduce expenditure' may well mean that the only criminals in the land having been brought round and put in office instead of the prison, the way is quite clear for reduction of expenditure. I submit it does not mean that the C.I.D. or any other department which is popularly associated with political work is doing only that work or has to do that work alone and that when a great change has taken place in the political conditions of the country, there is no work for the police at all. If what

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literate and know to read and write. If men of higher education are recruited as constables they dislike the work that is expected of them. They look up for promotion immediately they join the department. They are always discontented. So what I say is, Sir, that it is quite enough if they are literates, and if graduates are recruited as constables work will not be as efficient as it is necessary. There is also a complaint, Sir, that the police people are wanting in courtesy and good manners. It is politeness and good manners that will make the Police department popular. People are trying to avoid going to the police because they do not receive the necessary attention from the police people. I therefore suggest that Government should be pleased to instruct the Superintendents of Police to inculcate this principle in all the subordinate officers and the rank and file of the department."

11-45 a.m. * SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM :—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, போலீஸ் இலாகாவானது குற்றஞ்செய்தவர்களைக்கண்டு பிடிக்கவும் மறுபடி குற்றஞ்செய்யாமல் தடுக்கவும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அது இதற்கு எதிர்பாராததற்போது இருக்கிறது. ஒரு ஜில்லாவில் 1,500 காண்ஸ்டேபிள்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். குறைந்தது 200 தலைமை (ஹெட்) காண்ஸ்டேபிள்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள்; சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் சுமார் 60 பேர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள்; இதற்கு மத்தியில் போஸ்டாபிஸ்களைப்போல் சர்க்கின் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்களும் டிப்டி சூப்பிரண்டுகளும் டி.ஐ.ஜி.களும் (D.I.G.) இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களுக்கு வேலையே இல்லை. இவர்கள் கையெழுத்துப்போட்டு அனுப்பத்தான் இருக்கிறார்களேயொழிய இவர்களுக்கு யாதொரு வேலையும் இல்லை. இந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களை எடுத்துவிட்டால் சர்க்காருக்கு ஏராளமான பணம் வராமலாகும். இந்த மாகாணத்தில் போலீஸ் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் 376 பேர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். பிரசிக்கியூட்டிங் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்களைச் சேர்த்து சுமார் 400 பேர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களுக்கு ரூ. 175 முதல் ரூ. 225 வரை சம்பளமிருக்கிறது. சராசரி 350 இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் என்று வைத்துக்கொண்டால் சராசரிச் சம்பளம் ஒருவருக்கு ரூ. 200 என்று வைத்துக்கொண்டால் எட்டு லட்சத்து நூற்பதினாயிரம் ரூபாய் செலவாகிறது. இந்த இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் போஸ்டை எடுத்துவிட்டால் இவ்வளவு ரூபாயும் மிச்சமாகும். டிப்டி சூப்பிரண்டுகள் இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களுக்கு ரூ. 250 முதல் ரூ. 800 வரை சம்பளம் இருக்கிறது. சராசரி ஒருவருக்கு சம்பளம் ரூ. 500 என்று வைத்துக் கொண்டாலும் மொத்தம் டிப்டி சூப்பிரண்டுக்காக இந்த மாகாணத்தில் ஏறக்குறைய மூன்று லட்சம் ரூபாய்கள் செலவாகும். இந்த டிப்டி சூப்பிரண்டு போஸ்டை எடுத்துவிட்டால் இந்த மூன்று லட்சம் ரூபாய் மீதமாகிறது. டிப்டி இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் ஜெனரலுக்கு மாதம் சம்பளம் ரூ. 2,600. இவர்களுக்காக செலவாகும் பணம் ரூ. 31,200. முப்பதினாயிரம் என்று வைத்துக்கொண்டால் இந்த டிப்டி இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் ஜெனரல் போஸ்டை எடுத்துவிட்டால் முப்பதினாயிரம் ரூபாய் மிச்சமாகும். ஆக மொத்தத்தில் இந்த இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் டிப்டி சூப்பிரண்டுகள், டிப்டி இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்-ஜெனரல் போஸ்டுகளை எடுத்துவிடுவதால் பதினொரு லட்சத்து எழுபதினாயிரம் ரூபாய் மீதமாகும். இதைத்தவிர போலீஸ் சூப்பிரண்டு ஆபீஸ்களில் மாஜேஜர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களுக்கு ரூ. 125 முதல் ரூ. 200 வரை சம்பளம் இருக்கிறது. இந்த மாஜேஜர்களுக்கு வேலையிலில்லை. அக்கவுண்ட்டுகள்தான் வேலை செய்கிறார்கள். மாஜேஜருக்குப் பதிலாக ஹெட் கிளார்க்குகளைப்போட்டுவிட்டால் இரண்டு லட்சம் ரூபாய்க்குமேல் மிச்சப்படுத்தலாம். இது இப்பொழுது ஏற்பட்டவில்லை. சிக்கனக் கமிட்டியில் இதை முடிவு செய்தார்கள்.

"ஏற்கனவே இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்-ஜெனரலாக இருந்தவரும் ரெவினியூ போர்டில் 1915-வது ஆண்டில் மெம்பராக இருந்தவருமான (Mr. Stuart) மிஸ்டர் ஸ்டுவார்டு போலீஸ் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் போஸ்டை ஒழித்துவிடலாமென்று

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அபிப்பிராயப்பட்டார். அவர் இருந்த காலத்தில் திருச்சி ஜில்லாவில் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்களை எடுத்துவிட்டு பரீட்சார்த்தமாக செய்து பார்த்தார்கள். அதற்குள் மிஸ்டர் ஸ்டுவார்டு போய்விட்டார். அதை அனுஷ்டானத்தில் கொண்டுவருவதை விட்டுவிட்டார்கள். இந்த மத்தியிலுள்ள மேற்கூறிய போஸ்டுகளினால் பன்னிரண்டு லட்சம் ரூபாய் போகிறது. இப்படி வயர்த்ததாகப்போகும் பன்னிரண்டு லட்சம் ரூபாயை நல்ல காரியங்களுக்கு செலவு செய்யலாம்.

"மேலும் ஒரு ஸ்டேஷனுக்கு பத்து காண்ஸ்டேபிள்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களில் இரண்டு மூன்று பேர்கள் அவசர காரியங்களுக்காக ஸ்டேஷனில் இருந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். மீதமிருக்கிறவர்கள் கிராமங்களுக்கு செல்கிறார்கள். பெட்ரோல் செய்யச் செல்கிறார்கள். ஒருபோலீஸ் காண்ஸ்டேபிளுக்கு நூலைந்து கிராமங்கள் என்று பிரித்துக்கொடுத்து அங்கேயிருக்கிற ஷார் கமிட்டி மெம்பர்களுடன் கலந்து வேலை செய்யச்சொன்னால் கிராமங்களில் யாதொரு குற்றமும் உண்டாகாமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம். போலீஸ் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் நல்ல வேலை செய்தால் ரிவார்டு கொடுக்கிறது என்று ஒரு திட்டம் ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள். அது தீமையாக முடிகிறது. போலீஸார்கள் குற்றங்கண்டு பிடித்தால் ரிவார்டு கொடுக்கிறார்கள் என்பதற்காக நேர் வழியை மீறி சில தவறான காரியங்கள் செய்து ரிவார்டு பெறுகிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் இந்தப்புது கவர்ன்மென்டில் குற்றமுண்டாகாமல் பார்த்தால் ரிவார்டு கொடுக்கிறது என்று ஏற்படுத்தினால் குற்றமே நிகழாது. பழைய காலத்திலிருந்த கிராம குடிக்காவல் வரிஸ் டத்தின்படி கிராமக் காவற்காரர்கள் குற்றமுண்டாகாமல் பார்க்கவேண்டிய பொறுப்பாளிகளாயிருந்தார்கள். கிராமங்களில் இப்பொழுதும் இதே மாதிரி குற்றமுண்டாகாமல் பார்க்கவேண்டிய பொறுப்பாளிகளாய் போலீஸ் காண்ஸ்டேபிள்கள் இருந்தால் குற்றமே நடக்காது.

"மேலும் இப்பொழுது போலீஸ் காண்ஸ்டேபிள் வேலைக்கு ஆட்கள் எடுக்கிற விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி இரண்டொரு வார்த்தை என்னுடைய அனுபவத்தில் தெரிந்ததைச் சொல்வவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. போலீஸ் வேலைக்குப்போனால் அளவு எடுக்கும்போது அளவு உயரம் ஜந்தரையடியிருக்கவேண்டுமென்றால் ஒருவன் அந்த உயரமிருந்தாலும் அரை அடி குறைத்துச்சொல்லி அவனை லாயக்கில்லை என்று அனுப்பிவிடுகிறார்கள். ஒருவன் ஜந்தடி உயரமிருக்கிறவனை ஜந்தரையடியிருப்பதாக ஏற்றிப்போட்டு அவனை எடுத்துக்கொள்கிறார்கள். இதற்குக் காரணம் மாஜேஜர், டாக்டர், டாக்டருக்கு லஞ்சம் கொடுத்துவிட்டால் குறைந்த உயரமாயிருந்தாலும் உயர்த்திப்போட்டுவிடுகிறார். இதனால் குறைந்த உயர முன்னவர்களுக்கு வேலை கிடைத்துவிடுகிறது. உயரம் சரியாயிருக்கிறவர்கள் லஞ்சம் கொடுக்காவிட்டால் அவர்கள் உயரத்தை குறைத்துப்போட்டு வேலைக்கு லாயக்கில்லாமல் செய்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் போலீஸ் Constable recruitment சரியாக நடக்கிறதில்லை என்று தெரிவிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது.

"கேஸ் உண்டாகிறது போலீஸ்காரர்களால்தான் உண்டாகிறது. போலீஸ் காரர்களில்லாமல்போனால் கேஸ் உண்டாகாது. கனம் சட்ட மெம்பர் போலீஸ் காரர்கள் சட்டப்படி நடப்பார்கள் என்று சொன்னார்கள். அசட்டமாகத்தான் அவர்கள் நடப்பார்கள். சட்டப்படி நடக்கமாட்டார்கள். ஏதோ எங்கேயோ இரண்டு பொருவர் சரியாக நடக்கலாம். போலீஸ்காரர்களினால்தான் கேஸ் உண்டாகிறது. குற்றமுண்டானால் remarks செய்கிறது என்று இருந்தால் குற்றமுண்டாகாது.

"போலீஸ் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் நான் கூறியபடி சிக்கனஞ் செய்வதுடன் ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்த காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மென்டில் ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவோ நன்மைகளைச் செய்யிறோம் என்று சொன்னார்கள். நாங்கள் அதை நம்பிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு பெரிய உத்தியோகம் வேண்டாம். போலீஸ் காண்ஸ்டேபிள் வேலை கொடுத்தால் எவ்வளவோ முன்னுக்கு வரலாம். போலீஸ் உத்தியோகத்தில் கௌரவம் இருக்கிறது. சிதம்பரத்தில் ஒரு ஆதித்திராவிட காண்ஸ்டேபிள் இருக்கிறார். அவருக்கு கௌரவமிருக்கிறது. தீண்டப்படாதவராக கருதப்படுகிறதில்லை. தீண்டாமையை ஒழிப்பதற்காக போலீஸ் காண்ஸ்டேபிள் வேலையில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களை நூற்றுக்கு ஐம்பது வீதம் நியமிக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

[Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar] [22nd September 1937]

has happened to the country in regard to politics has to make any change, it will no doubt make some change; but the police will, all the same, have an equal amount of work on the average. It is the character of work that will change. Probably, policemen who were previously engaged in watching political activities, may find some time for their normal duties of putting down crime more efficiently and the like consequences may result for the country. But we cannot afford to reduce the cost of the administration in this department. We cannot yet say that we have reached that stage of non-violent civilization as to abolish coercive processes altogether or the establishment for the detection and punishment of crime.

11-30 a.m. "As regards particularly the spying department, if I may give the most popular phrase for it instead of using the obscure letters of the alphabet, C.I.D. as it is called, spying is not a new institution which was brought either by the British Government or the Congress Government. Spying is an ancient institution in political science and in all countries. The King has to have million eyes to see all over the country even as he has to have million hands to act all over the country. Therefore if the Congress has to function satisfactorily, satisfactorily to its own conscience and satisfactorily in regard to the members of the Government, they cannot dispense with the spy system any more than the other Government. But everything depends upon the morale of the department; everything depends on the motive of the department and everything depends on the control of the department. I submit, Sir, therefore that even in the Sanskrit books like the Artha Sastra or any of our own Dravidian books with regard to the spying system numerous chapters are devoted as to how the King must have not only well-trained, well-ordered spying system but spies upon spies and spies yet again upon those spies. That is the explanation for making a demand even in the new regime. That is the explanation I give for the brief answer that I gave this morning. We cannot dispense with the intelligence department itself. I therefore with no more words request the House to make this grant."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
"I move, Sir—

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,51,58,500 for police be reduced by Rs. 100 (to discuss policy of Government).'

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as was pointed out by the Hon. the Premier there were days when the Police department was the subject of severe criticism from all sides, from inside the last Council and also from the public outside. There were several adjournment motions also to censure the police. But I think those days are gone and now as a popular Government is in charge of the Police department I hope no occasion for such censure motions will arise hereafter. For the past five or six years since the present Inspector-General, Sir Charles Cunningham has been the head of the department I think the administration has been carried on very satisfactorily. It is true there were complaints and there were also lathi charges. But it is due to the system and the policy of the

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then Government and not to the officer. He has to obey the injunction of the Government in power. To say what I honestly feel, Sir, he is one of the ablest officers of the department."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I have not studied the Parliamentary practice as you must have done, Sir. Is it right to refer to particular officers in a debate like this? At any rate we might avoid such references."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is being done in Parliament. I shall not refer if required."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The mover of the cut motion having undertaken not to make that reference, the point does not arise."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I have to bring it to the notice of the Government, Sir, that in recent years there were several murders in my district of South Kanara, especially in the interior and those murders have not been detected. The police have not been able to detect these murders as most of them were committed in the nights and they were by gun shots. Some murders were committed even in the day time and they too have not been detected. In the eastern part of the district life is very insecure; it is full of forests and the culprits avoid detection or arrest by escaping into the forests. I hope the Government will institute an enquiry and find out the reasons for such a large number of murders in a particular district. My own idea about it is that it is due to the abolition of a large number of police stations in the district. Sir, formerly there were several police stations in the district. In the Kasaragod taluk itself there were ten formerly but now they have been reduced to three police stations. In the hilly part of the taluk there were three police stations and now they have all been abolished. Instead of the ten we had we have now only three along the coast. So I request the Government to consider the question of re-opening some of the stations abolished. It is again a matter of finance. But it is a question of life and death and so is it too much to expect Government to spend some money for this purpose? Government must consider the question of the number of stations abolished and the very meagre number that have been given. I think they will be able to find that there is a great necessity to re-establish some of these stations. In this connexion I may, if permitted, suggest a method of finding money to meet this urgent demand. There are three Deputy Inspectors-General of Police. I do not know whether there is any necessity for all the three. Further the Deputy Superintendents of Police and the Inspectors of Police both do the same kind of work. Is it not advisable for the Government to abolish either of them if they find after enquiry that there is no need for such duplication? I hope they will effect some retrenchment and make use of that money to start stations where they are very badly needed. I want to say a few words about recruitment. While it is necessary to have men of higher education recruited as Sub-Inspectors and so on it is not necessary to recruit men of higher education as constables. It is necessary no doubt that they should all be

[22nd September 1937]

MR. K. SUBBA RAO:—

“అధ్యక్షా! ఈ సందర్భమున మాట్లాడుటకు నాకు ఆవకాశమిచ్చినందులకు వందనములు. ప్రజల స్థితిగతుల దెలిసి ప్రజలయొక్క ముఖ సౌభాగ్యములకు అనుగుణములు రాజ్యాంగ విధానమును సవరించి, పరిపాలన చేయుటకు కంకణము కట్టుకొన్న మన మంత్రివర్గమువారు అధికారములో వున్నప్పుడు మా జిల్లాలో ప్రజలు ఆనుభవించుచున్న కష్టములు చెప్పుట నావిధి అని తలచినాను. రెండవ విషయము, ఆత్మవసరముగా పోలీసుశాఖలో కావలసిన సంస్కరణములనుగురించి కొన్ని సూచనలు చేయ సాహసించినాను. దుర్మార్గుల బారినుండి, ప్రజల నిత్య జీవితములో, శాంతి భద్రతలను కాపాడుట పోలీసువారి ధర్మమని నాకు తెలుసును. కాని ఆ సూత్రములకు వ్యతిరేకముగా, కంచెమీ చేసే మేసినట్లు, శాంతి కాపాడువారు అశాంతికి కారకులై పెరిగుచున్నారు. రక్షకభటులు భక్షకభటులుగా నున్నారు. కలెక్టరు కంటేను కానిష్టబులును చూచిన భయపడుచున్నారు, మేజిస్ట్రేటుగారి కలము పోటుకంటేను, కానిష్టబులు, లేక పోలీసు అధికారియొక్క దుర్బాసలకు భయపడి, నిలువున నీరైపోవువారును నా జిల్లాలో గ్రహితులన్నారు. యెవరో కొందరు దుర్మార్గులు దొంగతనము చేసినారని గ్రామ ప్రజలు అందరు అనేకభాషలకు లోనగుచున్నారు. ఈ దుర్మార్గులు కొందరు పోట్లాడి ఆ సందర్భముగా కూని జరిగినచో వెంటనే పోలీసు బృందమువారు ఆ గ్రామములను ముట్టడించుట, బంధుకాలు కాల్పుట, తర్వాత దానికిభయపడి, ప్రజలు యెక్కడో దాగు కొన్నప్పుడు, గ్రామములోనికి దూర దోపడిచేయుట, స్త్రీలను అవమానపరచుట మున్నగువి జరుగుచున్నవి. యివి అధికారులకుకూడా తెలుసును. చెప్పకొన్నను చెవి చెట్టువారు లేరు. విచారించేవారు లేరు. ఒకసారి చెప్పకొన్నను అటువంటి భీతావహము కలుగచేయకపోతే న్యాయం దొరకదు అని చెప్పే అధికారులు యేర్పడినారు ఇక అధికారులలో పోలీసు అధికారులలో ముఖ్యముగా లంచగొండితనం ఆపారంగా యిప్పటికికూడా వున్నది. ఏ గ్రహచారంవల్లనో, యెక్కడనో ఒక దోపడిగాని, దొమ్మిగాని దొంగతనంగాని జరిగినప్పుడు, ఆ ప్రాంతములలోని పెద్దల సందర్శనకూడా ఆ కేసులలో అనుమానదార్లుగా వేసి, వారినిపట్టి, బాంధించి, మధ్యవర్తులద్వారా లంచాలుతీసుకొని వ్యవహరించుట, యీ నాటికిని జరుగుచున్నది. యివి అన్నియు నేను అతిశయోక్తిగా చెప్పచుండుటలేదు. పోలీసు శాఖాధికారిగావుండే మంత్రిగారుగాని, వారి తరపున యెవరువచ్చినాగాని, సాక్ష్యం యిచ్చేవారికి తగిన సరిక్షణ యిచ్చినట్లయితే రుజువుచేయుటకు సిద్ధముగావున్నాను. యింకొక విషయము నా జిల్లాలో సుమారు 11 గ్రామములలో punitive పోలీసు 5 సంవత్సరములుగా వున్నది. గ్రామములో యెవరైనా నాయకులతో కొట్లాట జరిగితే, ఆ నాయకులకు బుద్ధివెప్పి సరిచేయవచ్చును, లేదా శిక్షింపవచ్చునుగాని గ్రామ ప్రజలను అందరను యీ బాధకు లోనుచేయుట చాలా అక్రమముగనూ, అనిష్టగనూ కనపడుచున్నది. యివి అన్నియుకూడా విచారణచేయుటకు ప్రభుత్వాధికారులు యిచ్చగించినచో, యితర రాష్ట్రములలో వేసినట్టు కమిటీవేసినను లేకపోతే తగిన సరిక్షణ యిచ్చినచో సమాధానము యిచ్చుటకు సిద్ధమైనవారున్నారు. ఒక అధికారి, షుబ్బ ఇన్స్పెక్టరు మొదలు స్కిలు ఇన్స్పెక్టరువరకు, ఒకచోట వుంటే శత్రువులు మిత్రులు యేర్పడుచున్నారు. ఒకసారి ఆ అధికారి న్యాయపరుడైనచో శత్రువులు యేర్పడకుండా పోవచ్చునుగాని, తన మిత్రునియొక్క మిత్రులు శత్రువులు తనకు మిత్రులుగా శత్రువులుగా భావించుట యేర్పడుచున్నది. యింతేగాక ముఖ్యముగా యీ సూత్రమును అనుసరించి, 2 సంవత్సరములకు వైబిడి యే పోలీసు అధికారినిగాని, ఒక చోటవుండకుండా యితర జిల్లాలకు మార్చవలెనని ప్రభుత్వము వారిని ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను. రెండవది సంస్కరణములను గురించి ముఖ్యముగా నేను వున్న గ్రామములో, ఆంధ్రదేశమునకు సంబంధించిన

22nd September 1937] [Mr. K. Subba Rao]

పోలీసు శిక్షణకాల వున్నది. న్యాయంగా చూచినచో, ఆ పోలీసు శిక్షణకాలములో మనుష్యులను పశువులుగా మార్చు తరిబీతు కలుగుచున్నది. మనుష్యులకు మానవత్వము, పోలీసు శిక్షణలో కలుగుచుండుటలేదు. దానిని సవరించి పోలీసు ప్రజలకు నేవకులని తెలియచెప్పుట ఆత్మవసరము. ఇప్పుడు జరిగిన మార్పు, పోలీసులో జరిగివుండ లేదా ఒని మీరు అడుగ వచ్చును. నాకు తెలిసినంతవరకు పోలీసు చిన్న అధికారులలో యీ మార్పు దుఖకరముగానున్నది గాని, సంతోషముగా యీ మార్పును తీసుకొనుచుండే వారు నేరు, Secretary of State, వైస్రాయి గవర్నరులు యిక్కడ Secretaries యీ మార్పును అనుసరించి, కాలానుసారముగా ప్రవర్తించుచుండవచ్చును గాని చిన్న పోలీసు అధికారులుగా వున్నవారి వరు గాని యీ మార్పుకు సంతోషపడుచుండ లేదని నేను చెప్పుచున్నాను. దీనికి గాను ఆ విషయములో గవర్నరు మెంటు శ్రద్ధవహించి, చిన్న చిన్న పోలీసు అధికారులకు, వారు క్రజా నేవకులు అను భావమును చక్కగా నచ్చేటట్టు చెప్పి, ప్రజానేవకు కంకణబద్ధులుగా చేయుట మంత్రిగారి కార్యము. యింకా కొన్ని పాటలు యింతవరకు వారు సవరించకుండా, ప్రజలలో వుండేకముకలుగజేసే పాటలు పాడుచున్నారు. ఆ పాటలకు బదులు “యిది నా దేశము, యీ దేశములో ప్రజలకు నేను నేవకుడను” అనే పాటలు తయారు చేయించి, పోలీసువాళ్ళకు బోధించి, వారిని దేశముయొక్క నేవకులు అనే వుండే ఉత్సాహపూరితులను చేయవలెనని నేను అధికారులను కోరుచున్నాను. యింకొక మాట. ఆత్మవసరముగా కావలసినది. రహస్యముగా పోలీసులపై రిపోర్టుచేయుటకు అవకాశము. యీ దినమున యెవరిని మేము అరెస్టుచేసి, మీరు రుజువుచేయగలరా, సాక్ష్యం యిప్పించగలరా అని అడుగుచున్నారు. సరిక్షణ యిచ్చినచో సాక్ష్యం యిప్పించగలరని చెప్పియున్నాను. యీ విషయములో, అలోచనచేసి బుద్ధివంతులు న్యాయపరులు, ధర్మజ్ఞులు అయిన, బాబాకాలో వుండే వారిని అధికారులు చేయుచున్న చర్యలను గురించి విచారించుటకు పట్టి తయారుచేసి, సర్వాధికారిములు యిచ్చి, గవర్నరు మెంటుకు తోడ్పడుటకు యేర్పాటు చేయవలెను. గ్రామ పోలీసు తయార చేయవలెను. ప్రతి గ్రామమునకు కొంతమంది పోలీసులను తయారుచేసి, జీతం యిచ్చుటకు శక్తిలేకపోయినా, నేటి ప్రభుత్వమున వారికి కావలసిన యూనిఫారం యేర్పాటుచేసి, కొద్దికొద్ది తిరునాళ్ళ ప్రశస్తిములలో కష్టకార్యములకు యెల్లప్పుడూ కూడా, సంసిద్ధులుగా నేవచేయుటకు తయారైనటువంటి గ్రామ నేవకుల దళమును తయారు చేయవలెనని ప్రార్థన చేయుచున్నాను. యింకొక విషయము. చదువుకొన్న వారు అనేకమంది పోలీసులో వున్నారు. వారందరను పోలీసులను పట్టణములలో యితర విషయములకు తయారుచేసి రిజర్వు పోలీసువారిని దొమ్మి జరిగినప్పుడు వారిని పంపించి పదువువచ్చినవారిని వేరే వ్యవహారములలో నేవచేయుటకు యేర్పాటు చేయవలెను అని ప్రార్థనచేయుచున్నాను. Prosecuting line విషయములో యెక్కడ చెప్పవలసినది లేదు. పోలీసులు యెల్లప్పుడూకూడా తానుచేసిన కేసులు స్థిరపరచుటకు concoction చేయుటకు యేర్పాటు చేస్తున్నారు. యిప్పుడు Prosecution లుగాని Prosecuting Inspector లుగాని, నారుచేసినది స్థిరపరచుటకే తాను పూనుకొను చున్నాడుగాని న్యాయరీత్యా ప్రజలయొక్క నేవకడను, తాను చేసినపనులు తప్పు, పోలీసులు చేసినది తప్పు అని ఓప్పుకొని దానిని రద్దుచేయుటలేదు. యింకా పోలీసులో బి. ఎల్. ప్యాసుచేసినవారు అనేకమంది వున్నప్పటికి వారిని విడిచిపెట్టి సాధారణ పోలీసువారిని prosecuting లో యేర్పాటుచేసి అనేకవిషయములుగా చేయుచున్నారు. వారిని సరించవలెనని ప్రార్థనచే న్నాను.”

* Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of a cut motion to invite a pronouncement of the policy of the Government in regard to the continuance of the Special Branch of Police for political purposes.

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noon.

" You will see, Sir, that I realized that this Government has come into existence only recently and that no criticism can be levelled against it for any acts that were done in the past by other Governments. Therefore, I advisedly, not only with regard to this cut motion but also with regard to other demands, have either sought to elicit information or invited a pronouncement of the policy of the Government, with regard to certain matters. I invite the attention of the Hon. the Premier through you, Sir, to the words used by me in this cut motion, viz., 'to invite a pronouncement of the policy of the Government in regard to the continuance of the Special Branch of Police for political purposes.' I have not suggested therein that it should be discontinued. The Hon. the Premier is not correct in saying that some persons like myself who tabled these cut motions were thinking of the possibility of the discontinuance of this branch. That is the reason why I advisedly used the words 'the policy with regard to the continuance of the Special Branch.' I may submit, Sir, that the army force and next to it the police force have been always loyal to the Government in power, whether it was the bureaucratic Government, or the Executive Government, or half responsible and half irresponsible Government, or responsible Government as it is now. Therefore, Sir, I submit that unless the policy of this present Government is changed with regard to spying on persons who carry on political propaganda as different from the Congress propaganda, they may be subject to the very same difficulties which the Congressmen suffered when they were opposed to the Government prior to their coming into power. What I mean to say is that the Congressmen previously to their taking up office had always complained that the C.I.D. branch went beyond its limits, and that the Government prosecuted persons on information given by the C.I.D., though it was half correct and half concocted. That was the complaint made by the Congress people when the Congress was in opposition. Now, Sir, I request the Premier to make a pronouncement of his policy with regard to the limits within which the C.I.D. can carry on its work. No doubt, Sir, this spying system has been in existence from immemorial times. As far as the action of an individual who wants to help a foreign government is concerned, it is good there must be spies to spot out persons who may be in collusion with other governments in order to subvert the government of the country. But spying on Indians themselves, who may be of different persuasion from the Congress, I consider, is not right, and this is what every congressman said when congressmen were in opposition to the previous Government. Now, Sir, I take this opportunity to request the Premier to define the limits of freedom of speech of a person who may not belong to the Congress party or who may belong to some other party, say the party of Socialists or Justicites or Liberals or some other persons. It is a well-known proposition of law that nobody should be charged with subversive activities if he holds views different from those of the present Government as by law established. It is only when he does any acts of violence in pursuance of his views that he is liable to be punished. That is the opinion of the High Court of Calcutta. So, I request this Government

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who have suffered under the past Government by the acts of the C.I.D., to define the limits within which liberty is allowed to persons of different persuasions. That is the main purpose of my cut motion.

" Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of this Government through you, Sir, is a matter which must be uppermost in the minds of several persons who sympathize with the Summer School of Kottapatnam incident. Here and there, voices have been raised and complaints have been made that while releasing those prisoners who were put into prison on account of the Summer School activities, the Government stated in their order that no indulgence will be shown to persons who might take to of subversive activities, and these persons I think, belonged to the left wing of the Congress itself. It is therefore necessary to define in a clear way what are the liberties of persons who belong to different persuasions, such as the Socialists, the Justicites and the Muslim Leaguers. Suppose to-day we, the Muslim League people, launch a propaganda against certain remarks made by Members of this Council. For instance, a question was asked as to how communal rotation or communal representation is observed in jails and mental hospitals . . . "

* MR. SPEAKER:—" That question was disallowed, and the hon. Member need not comment upon it and waste the time of the House."

* MR. ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN:—" It was passed over and not disallowed."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Passed over means disallowed. When the Chair passed over a question, it means that it was not allowed to be answered."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" What I mean, Sir, is that if a certain . . . "

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member is requested to pass on to the next aspect of his speech."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" If certain sections of the people carry on propaganda in order to assert their own rights, what would be the function of the C.I.D. people? As far as political propaganda is concerned, it is necessary to be defined. We have not yet known how the Press Act is going to be amended and it is not yet known how the C.I.D. is going to be instructed in their duties. It is therefore necessary, Sir, that a clear pronouncement of the policy of the Government should be made with regard to the activities of the C.I.D. people.

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the Government demand and against the cut motion. The Hon. the Prime Minister, when he moved the demand originally, has asked the Opposition not to pass any serious remarks against the police at this stage. But many Members of the Opposition have said many things, and I feel, Sir, that it is surprising to note that Members of the Opposition should begin to criticize the present Government for the general policy of the police administration. It is hardly three months since this Congress Government assumed office. and it is very

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unfortunate that this Government should be held responsible for all the acts of the police administration in the past. Congress had never been in office before, and it is only the Members of the Opposition who administered the province for a period of sixteen years in the past, and were responsible for the present policy of the police administration in this province. I therefore say that if there has been abuse of power by the police, if they have acted high-handedly in the past, it is the old Government and not the new Government that must be held responsible for all those things."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
"On a point of order, Sir. No one from this side has so far criticized the present Government for the police administration or for the misdeeds of the police. Only some reforms were suggested. There is nothing for the Member who is now speaking to complain about the speeches of the Opposition."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There is no point of order at all. Any hon. Member can criticize the police, and if hon. Members of the Congress party want to criticize, they can do so."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am sorry that my hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad, has not been able to explain himself well. What he wanted to say was that no Member of the Opposition had so far criticized the present Government with regard to the activities of the police. They had merely suggested certain reforms. But on the other hand, the hon. Member, who is now speaking, has stated that the Members of the Opposition have criticized the present Government for the actions of the police."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member is building up a speech on that imaginary ground, he may stop it there. He may proceed to the next part of his speech."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"After all, what could the Police department do? They were obedient and loyal to the party in power. They have all along been trained to act in a particular way. They have been asked to beat innocent, helpless Congress volunteers. They were ordered to disperse law-abiding citizens with lathis. They were asked to insult and humiliate respectable women satyagrahis. All this was done in the name of law and order and the present Members of the Opposition have all along supported the repressive policy of the Government in the past. The Police department was always reminded that they are only responsible to the foreign bureaucracy and to none else, not even to the people who were maintaining them. They are often told that they are there to command and rule and not to serve the public. That is why the presence of a police constable has become a terror and a sign of impending danger to the villager. The police have never been taught, Sir, to think and act in terms of the country or the people. The lofty principles of patriotism and public service are foreign phrases which have no meaning in the police dictionary. This is the legacy of the past handed down to the present Government and it is not

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so easy to rectify matters so soon. Political parties there are and there will be in every country but not to wreak vengeance on one another and use any department to advance party interests.

"The hon. Member who moved the cut motion referred to some murder cases which were not detected by the police. Nobody disputes the fact that the investigation and detection of crime by the police is defective and inefficient. In my own area, I know of some murder cases which have not been detected till this date. I know of some day-light robberies and thefts which are undetected and in which the offenders are at large. The complaints are referred as false. I know of an old man who was convicted for six months, on the other hand, for making a false report. He was acquitted, no doubt, in the appellate court and ultimately died with a broken heart having lost all his life-earnings. The Sessions Court had passed strong strictures against the investigating officers. Instances are not therefore wanting, Sir, to show that the investigation and detection of crime by the police is highly defective and inefficient.

"But now, under the changed conditions ideas are also rapidly undergoing a change and the outlook and angle of vision of many a highly placed police official has considerably changed. Under the new regime, we may fondly hope that the police will not be what it was in the past and the legacy handed over to us by our predecessors in office will be completely wiped out.

"Let us therefore hope, Sir, that in future this department will prove the most serviceable and honest of departments in our country."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the Government a particular grievance as the cut motion I have given notice of indicates. It is in relation to the action of the C.I.D. in seizing books that are imported into this Presidency. I know of a few cases personally, and there must be many others, in which books imported into this Presidency are not delivered to the parties concerned. I have in my mind the case of a bookseller in Mylapore, a perfectly harmless man, by name Mahadevan. He himself is a book-lover and is studying all the reviews and notices of books published in the several newspapers and he imports certain kinds of books which, I believe, appeal to the youth of the country just at present. Most of the books imported are publications dealing with socialist philosophy and socialist politics, and the systems obtaining in Russia. He has become the subject of attention of the Police department and they started persecuting him from 1926. It appears that at one time books to the value of Rs. 2,000 were taken away, of which a portion was returned and the rest destroyed. You can imagine how absurd the action of the C.I.D. must have been to seize copies of 'H. G. Wells' Anatomy of Frustration,' a copy of which is in the Legislative Assembly Library—it is catalogued on page 31 of the supplemental list. I can cite a few other instances. Mr. Venkateswara Sastrulu, the Editor of the *Federated India*, who gets a number of books for review besides purchasing some himself, has complained to me that the books in many post parcels

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addressed to him have been seized without any notice being given to him to send back the books and claim money from the publishers. There are several instances of this kind brought to my notice in which even useful and harmless books have been seized by the police.

“Recently I heard that the house of Mr. Sankaran Nambudripad of Malabar was searched to find out whether he had any literature on Russia. The policy of Government with regard to freedom of speech ought to make it very clear to the Police department if it is not already clear, that it means freedom in the matter of study of books. I have given notice of the cut motion merely to draw the attention of the Premier, so that he may take action in the matter.

“The Police department are handicapped when they seize books, because they are not literary people and they cannot be expected to have literary discriminations. It is necessary to create machinery to give them advice in this matter. When they seize books they may be asked to consult the Librarian of the Connemara Library or the Librarian of the University Library; and it is also good for the Government to give them a clear indication as to what books are to be seized. I have in my hand an authority on this subject. The book is entitled the Banned Books of England, written by Alec Craig, a well-known author. The author has given a summary of the legal opinion with regard to the banning of books and concludes that there is no justification for banning any type of books in a civilized country. I hope the Government will be able to adopt that suggestion. I would also like the Government to make clear to the police that the books they want to prevent from circulating in the country may be arranged to be returned to the book-sellers so that the importer can get his money back. If books are to be banned at all there are certain kinds of books that may be usefully banned. For instance there is the book called ‘The Land of the Lingam’ which is more loose than Miss Mayo’s Mother India. It is a libel on India and it can be usefully banned. To ban books relating to Russia and socialist philosophy and politics is hardly desirable. I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. the Prime Minister to this aspect of the matter.”

* MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demand. In doing so I should first thank His Excellency the Governor and the Prime Minister and all the Members of the Cabinet for having cancelled the Mappilla Outrages Act which was an Act most outrageous to humanity and to the self-respect of any community. I think the Government, Sir, on behalf of my community and myself on this occasion for the reason that that Act had virtually handed over my community to the tender mercies of the police. To-day I take this opportunity to speak in this House for the reason that though the Act has been repealed, its effects still remain. The Mappillas who have been deported from Malabar have been sent back to their homes but in Malabar itself, I am sorry to say, the old game is still going on. The Hon. the Prime Minister as Minister in charge of Police has every

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right to ask this House and the public to give him our confidence. But I say, Sir, while we give him the confidence he asks for most ungrudgingly, we ask him, Sir, to show to us that the Congress having come into power will show us practically that it is the people’s government.

“Yesterday, Sir, in this House, I received a letter from one of my constituents saying that he has been dragged to the police sub-inspector’s bungalow and given a nice thrashing. If you know the conditions in the rural parts of Malabar, I am sure you would not ask me that complaints must be lodged before the proper authorities. It is impossible to get justice there. It is my experience, Sir, during the election when I stood as a candidate on the Congress ticket, that the police openly challenged any one supporting my candidature and persecuted him. That is past history, perhaps the Prime Minister may tell me. But to-day I see the same game going on. In spite of the fact that the Superintendent of Police gave me an assurance that he would enquire into the matter and take steps to see that nothing of the sort happened again, the subsequent reply he gave me was that he was satisfied that no such thing happened. Afterwards I sent him the written letters coming from my constituency that sub-inspectors and the police officers have asked them personally, both individually and collectively not to work for me during the elections. Those who opposed me have been declaring openly that the Collector of Malabar and the Sub-Collector of Malapuram have asked them to put up opposition to me. I may be permitted, Sir, to say that even after the elections, on the 12th July a public meeting was held at Malapuram, I am told, with the Collector’s aseervadam, and that some people were, at the instance, I am told, of the Collector and with the aid of the police, going to the villages and telling people that the Congress would be turned out of authority to-morrow and the British Government will rule and rule with a ruthless hand. In that way the public is being intimidated. I ask the Hon. the Prime Minister, Sir, if he is going to allow such things to go on under his own regime.

“Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar, referred to the 12-30 search of Mr. E. M. S. Nambudripad’s house. I know, Sir, that the p.m. C.I.D. and the spying must go on; but is it necessary that it should go on in this offensive manner poking its nose into respectable houses? Should it go on and go on so disturbingly in the houses of persons who are considered most honourable in our land? Mr. Sankaran Nambudripad is the Organizing Secretary of the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee. If the police suspected that he was in possession of any banned book, they could have asked him about it in writing and Mr. Nambudripad, the honourable gentleman that he is, Sir, would have surrendered the book to the police if he had it and faced even a prosecution for the possession of the book. I have absolutely no doubt about it. I request the Hon. the Premier to see that the C.I.D. works more humanely and without humiliating honourable people. I know, Sir, spying departments exist in free countries also, but they are employed in detecting thefts and such other crimes and not for shadowing politicians. If in India, in the seven Congress provinces also we are to

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continue the old method, I do not understand in what way, Sir, we are to tell the people that we have changed the Government. We have been telling the people that the Congress is fighting for Swaraj, the Swaraj by which we can change the methods though not the personnel of these departments. It is immaterial to us what the personnel is. It is the mentality and the method that we want to change. I am sorry to see that the police have not changed their methods and their mentality.

“ Then coming to the case of the police administration, I would suggest to the Hon. the Premier that the Malabar Special Police, which, from its very inception, had been opposed not only by Mappillas but by every other community, every other respectable community in Malabar be abolished. They were opposed to installing this force among them. I do not know, Sir, whether you have got any idea as to how these people are behaving there. The people living in the areas adjacent to the barracks of these policemen are suffering untold miseries and humiliations. If the will and pleasure of these constables are opposed, they subject the people of the neighbourhood to all sorts of tyranny and oppression. I wish therefore that the Hon. the Premier looks into the matter and abolishes the Malabar Special Police as early as possible by which we can save at least six lakhs of rupees and use it for better purposes.”

MR. G. SELVAPATHI CHETTI:—(In Tamil) “ Mr. Speaker . . . ”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Unless an hon. Member is called, he should not begin to address the House. The hon. Member will please sit down.

“ The Hon. the Premier will reply to the debate.”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Sir, on the whole I cannot complain that my appeal fell on deaf ears. I think, except that certain appeals were made that the present Government should dispense with or at least reform the methods of certain departments, there has been no bad language used, if I may use a rough phrase to describe a rough thing.

“ The hon. Member from South Kanara, with his usual commonsense, tact and gentleness, suggested that there was a large percentage of crime of a particular sort in his district and that attention should be bestowed on it. So also, another hon. Member referred to crimes and illegalities in one of the Ceded districts. These local matters will receive the best attention that the Administration can give. I may give that assurance on behalf of the Government.

“ With regard to the suggestion that, apart from a certain standard of literacy, good education was bad for the constables, I am sorry I do not agree. I do not think good education is bad for anybody. Bad education may be bad. What the hon. Member referred to, or was thinking of, was probably this, that the peculiarly defective education that is now being given to young men unfits them for the very arduous physical duties of a constable. I quite agree, and I think the remedy is not that education should be banned and that the constables should

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always be recruited from the uneducated people. I think the remedy lies with the Hon. the Minister for Education. The suggestion must be taken to my Hon. Colleague in charge of Education and he must improve the system of education which unfits men for national service in any particular department. As far as I can understand it, Sir, education is good only if it fits a man, or at any rate does not unfit a man, for any kind of service which the nation requires. If a man has received a good university education, he can retain all the qualities which are necessary to be a watchman, a scavenger or a constable and so on. I do not think, Sir, I need take up more time of the House on that, especially in view of another very good suggestion that was made in the course of the debate that policemen in certain grades of the department if they have much time, should be put to work on other civil duties so that their brain and their temperament may be kept alert and elastic. I very cordially agree with that suggestion. I do hope on behalf of the Government that steps will be devised by which the spare hours even of the Police department will be utilized in other departments of the civil service without detriment to the peculiar features that we want in the Police department. In fact, I may say that this has been engaging, if not my active work, at least my mind.

“ As regards the suggestion that certain ‘ post-office appointments,’ as they were called, should be dispensed with,—I should probably be allowed to reply in Tamil to that Tamil speech; but perhaps it is unnecessary as the hon. Member is quite able to follow the discussion even in English with his great experience in this House—I may say that sometimes post-offices too are important. We cannot dispense with a post office. I suggest, for instance that there are many parts in the human body which may seem unimportant to us, but if you once remove them, you will feel their absence. Similarly, if the deputy superintendents of police or the inspectors are removed, I think the hon. Member who asks for their removal now, will be the first to come up and say that the subordinates are doing just as they like, that there is no sort of check over them and that there must be someone above them to supervise their work. I am sure that such complaints will be made. But I think that the subject is not to be disposed of either in the manner in which the proposal was made that all these are post offices and should be dispensed with, or in what my words will be misinterpreted to be that all this should be allowed to remain, cost what it may, whatever their relative importance may be and whatever places they may occupy. I wish to warn the hon. Gentleman that a silent post office also functions as a very effective check on misdeeds below especially when it is near. There are certain officers whose function comes in only preventively, only by way of check and by the dread of errors being found out. In such cases, to say that the Inspector-General of Police at the head is quite enough and that the constables at the bottom are quite enough, would only lead to disorder. I am not saying that that is the suggestion, but that is the line in which, I submit, hon. Members should examine retrenchment measures. All the same, if hon. Members say

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that the man who occupies the higher post has less work and therefore he may be paid less, I am quite prepared to examine it. But the services may say it is too revolutionary that a man above should be paid less than the man below. It is not revolutionary. I say even now the Government is paying themselves less. They are overseeing the work of men who are certainly paid more and who do more work. We are simply looking over policy and laying down conditions and terms of work, but the work itself is very much heavier. In that way, I submit, sometimes those who are above may be paid less than those who are below. It is mere superstition that status and dignity and power should run parallel to the amount of pay that one carries.

“ With regard to the suggestion that rewards to the Police are bad, I quite agree personally. This matter has not been considered by the Government; but I am very much personally against it. As far as my personal views can shape the Government, I promise that very much will be done away with in the way of making money rewards for the performance of duties, be they in the civil service or the police. It is a mercenary thing and should not be tolerated. Every policeman is bound to do his duty and is expected to do it and not look forward to money payment. The mischief that such a system works has been pointed out rightly, as it sometimes happens that collusive offences are committed in order to make out a statistical claim for reward. It may be true. But whether the mischief is true or not, the system of making money rewards is wrong. In that way, I may even personally prefer titles being given to officials for the proper performance of duties rather than that purses should be distributed among them for the just performance of what is their ordinary duty.

“ Another suggestion made was to the effect that quick transfers should be made in order to avoid gentlemen who serve the Government getting into friendships or enmities either directly or indirectly. I am referring to the speech that was made in Telugu.

12-45 p.m. “ This is a suggestion which will receive consideration. But I think it is wrong to press it too much. It is not always right to say that the experience gained by an officer should be lost to us and that he should be transferred to a virgin soil simply because he might have cultivated friendship or enmity with certain people and simply because a particular officer might happen to be bad or corrupt. I think a fair trial should be given to officers, and if it is done, I am sure hon. Members will see that there is removal, if not all at once at least gradually, of corruption to which reference was made. After all, it is only a certain amount of cry—party cry if I may so call it—that maintains these evils and other doings. It looks as though hon. Members are saying: ‘ you have come into power and you propose to change your skin; but the leopard says: ‘ I am not going to change my spots whoever comes into power.’ It looks like that. It is merely a party cry rather than corruption. The very talk that we indulge in and the criticisms that we level against these officers maintain a bad atmosphere which governs all administrative work. Therefore I make bold to say once again on this

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occasion that we might be given a little more time to consider all these changes that you ask us to make. But I say this much: there are in human elements a certain percentage of evil which we can never do away with and I do hope that the services will have the smallest amount of percentage of this evil. As if direct selection of officers can put down corruption completely and as if we have not accepted that policy, hon. Members suggest that transfer of officers from one place to another would put down corruption to a very great extent. But I say the loss and the difficulties that such transfers would entail would be more than the gain that we expect by undertaking such risks. A very strict rule that every officer should be transferred after so many years service will look as if we are thinking that officials are always open to suspicion, that every officer is bad and that citizens alone are to be trusted. After all, we employ the services. The services are the outcome of the citizens. Do we change the citizens, do we change the inhabitants, because some of them develop friendship with some people and enmity with others, and sometimes some of them are dangerous to society? Similarly also we should consider the position of the services. We must trust the officials. As a matter of fact a lot of transfer is going on particularly among departmental heads. With regard to the inconvenience that may be caused to officers by such transfer hon. Members may not perhaps be aware of it. It is something like this: Supposing a boy is sent to a school, there are schools which refuse admission to him; there are schools which would say ‘ we are not going to admit you; we want previous attendance certificate and so on.’ Similarly if certain officers are transferred to particular places, people in those places may not readily take them. In such cases it will be very difficult for the Government to make adjustments for such transfers. In that way transfers sometimes become a cruelty, and they should not be insisted upon beyond a certain measure.

“ As regards the complaint that there is still not a willing change in some cases, I cannot understand it. You cannot compel a willing change. It is a contradiction in terms. If there is no willing change, you must find out the cause for it. We cannot simply extract a willing change. Perhaps it would be a mistake on our part if we did so. ‘ A willing change!’ I give that as a twit for the consideration of our Friends. It is not possible psychologically to compel a willing change. That much is certain. If there is no whole-hearted change, we must try our best to bring about that change as our leader Mahatma Gandhi tries to bring about, and not by compulsion. Compulsion is something like a blow which does not leave any mark upon the physical body, whereas it does leave a mark upon sensitive men and in that way it is worse than a physical blow itself, as our Tamil proverb would put it. When there is no change of heart among services, and when you compel, it does tend to maintain the old state of things. I would caution friends on that point. As regards the remedy for all these, it is not as if there is no remedy. The remedy lies really in the morale of public life and in the education we give to our boys. After all people are usually

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taken in service after their education in schools or colleges. So if, in our educational system and public life, a certain standard of conduct is maintained, as it is done in other civilized countries, we are bound to have the same state of things in our country. After all, the men in the services are there to go after some time. Even as in the case of prohibition we have to look after the interests of new drunkards, so also with regard to the services, we have to look only to the conduct of the new entrants. So we need not talk too much of corruption among old officials. Therefore I crave for tolerance and patience from hon. Members in that matter.

“ Now about freedom of speech, reference was made by my Hon. Friend Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig and he stated he wanted a definition of the word ‘ freedom of speech.’ I would ask him to read out the order to which he referred. I would ask him to read the order relating to the release of Kothapatnam political prisoners. That order contains in succinct form the policy of the Government with regard to this matter. I am sorry I have not got it just now; otherwise I would read it. But I maintain that the policy there stated does not interfere with freedom of speech and that is the policy of the Government. Freedom of speech or the right to speak one’s opinion is not to be defined either now or at any particular time in accordance with the party or the persuasion to which the man belongs. Freedom of speech which this Government proposes to maintain in regard to every citizen does not depend upon the will or upon the party to which the man belongs. It depends upon the substance of his speech or what the written language contains and its relationship to the order of the State. It does not refer to the gain or the loss of a particular party this side or that side. Freedom of speech to a man to propose changes in the order of the day, social, economic or political will be completely protected, provided it does not tend to create organized or unorganized violence in the land and provided it does not tend to organized subversive movements, subversive of the State, State meaning as the State stands to-day. Therefore, this Government cannot support a movement to destroy itself or to destroy law and order. That is the only limit within which freedom of speech will be permitted. Any arrangement or policy has no bearing upon the manner in which it is to be applied. If the appeal is that the rule is being applied improperly at present and that it should be properly applied, I cordially agree and ask hon. Members for trust and confidence in us in regard to this matter. We are not going to interfere with the freedom of speech of anybody because it refers to one particular party or other. As might have been observed from this discussion, we do not propose to interfere with any gentlemen to whatever party they may belong for any expression of opinion and we will be untrue to our creed if we did so. In fact, it would be absolutely impossible for us to conceive of any such interference and no one need imagine that because the Congress has come into power it will begin to interfere with freedom of speech of those who do not belong to the Congress or anything of that kind.

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“ As regards certain books, the hon. Member for the Indian Chamber of Commerce referred to the difficulties felt by certain members of Book trade in regard to proscription of certain books by Government for political or other reasons. There are two grounds on which interference is undertaken, two large grounds though they may not be exhaustive. One is obscenity and the other political. Regarding obscenity it is impossible to lay down the same standard everywhere. The Hon. Member suggested that Government might study some book which he referred to and act according to the principle laid down therein. It might be that it is a very good book and we have nothing to say about it without reading it beforehand. All the same I have a feeling that different standards prevail in different countries and must prevail. What is considered virtuous in England may not be permissible in our country. With regard to obscenity different standards can be insisted upon only by those who are in charge of administration in different countries. There is no use of talking of books written in particular countries. There may be several other matters in which we might agree with the principles laid down in those books. There is no difficulty about understanding that point. Books for instance which are libellous in any part of the world should not be allowed. Books which are libellous against any religion that prevails in this country or against any community that lives in this country should not be allowed to be imported. All these libels towards society or men and manners are very dangerous things. But at the same time interference is a very dangerous thing and a certain amount of tolerance is necessary. Men should learn to develop thick skin and if they do so, they will think, when certain new measures are adopted, that they are done with no motive behind them but with good intentions. As regards interference with the literature on the ground of its political character, according to the rules, I may mention for the information of hon. Members that the Sea Customs Act and the Post Office Act are the two major pieces of legislation on which this interference is undertaken. These are not matters with which this Government can deal effectively. Under the various provisions of these two Acts the importation of books was interrupted in the past and much damage was done, I admit. Many such cases have come to the notice of the Government. They have found that the previous Government in confiscating books confiscated the whole of the packages. It is only when large packages were concerned, steps were taken to have them examined and sift the contents as to which of them should be confiscated and which not. In regard to small packages the same care was not taken by the previous Government before this Government came into charge. In such cases packages were destroyed wholesale or lost in any manner. All this is wrong and I may tell the House this: in a recent case that has arisen we have ordered that all unobjectionable books found in small or large packages should be returned to the addressees and that the addressees should be given the liberty of returning the objectionable ones to the publishers if they did not want to lose the value of those books. It has also been ordered by this Government

that no books published in England to-day, especially when they are permitted to be published in England, should be subject to destruction. This is clearly contemplated in the India Act and it appears that the previous Government went wrong in destroying such books. Therefore we are taking into consideration the question of entrusting this business of sifting and censorship of books published in England to some other authority. The matter is being gone into and it may be welcome to hon. Members if I say that we are taking steps in regard to this and other matters which have been referred to by them. This is all about books, and I do hope that the grant will be made in toto by the House and that the cut motion moved by the hon. Member will be withdrawn."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the satisfactory reply given by the Hon. Minister, I beg to withdraw my cut motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

(14) DEMAND XIV—ELECTRICITY.

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,52,300 under Demand XIV—Electricity. The provision that is demanded is required for expenditure under the following two heads:—

	RS.
(1) Scientific Department Hydro-electric survey	51,200
(2) XL. Receipts from Electric schemes working expenditure	9,03,500
Total	8,52,300

1 p.m. "Under 36—Scientific Departments, Hydro-Electric Survey, a sum of Rs. 1,60,800 is required for expenditure on account of the Chief Engineer for Electricity, other headquarters supervising staff and the special staff employed for the investigation of hydro-electric schemes and projects.

"The Chief Engineer for Electricity as the head of the Electricity department controls the whole organization and both works and supervises various kinds of work in the department such as operation and maintenance works, construction work of big schemes, work connected with municipal electric supply undertakings, work connected with the administration of the Indian Electricity Act, construction and maintenance of electric installations in Government buildings. In proportion to the services rendered to each kind of work by the Chief Engineer and other supervising staff, the expenditure on their account is transferred

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from 36—Scientific Departments—Hydro-Electric Survey, to other heads and schemes to which the works relate. Such recoveries are expected to amount to Rs. 2,21,700 and if this amount is adjusted towards the expenditure of Rs. 1,70,500, there will be a small credit of Rs. 51,200. This accounts for the minus figure shown against 36—Scientific Departments—Hydro-Electric Survey. Under the head of 40—Receipts from Electric Schemes—Working Expenses—the working expenses of the electricity schemes which form part of the expenditure from the revenues are shown. The electricity schemes now in operation are the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme, the Mettur Hydro-Electric Scheme in partial operation, the Dindigul—Virudhunagar—Palni thermal scheme, and the Periyakulam—Bodinayakkanur thermal scheme. The provision required for the working of these schemes is Rs. 9,03,500, the main items being maintenance proper Rs. 2,50,700, establishment Rs. 3,36,100 and suspense Rs. 2,87,900. Under the two former the requirements of the Pykara system are naturally the largest, that is to say Rs. 1,61,000 for maintenance, and Rs. 2,31,700 for establishment. The Pykara system is the biggest system now working and is in the fifth year of its operation. The revenue from the system during 1936—37 was Rs. 2343 lakhs. The system has now grown so much that reorganization and formation of a third division at Madura is imperatively required. The provision for establishments under Pykara includes provision for the organization of the Pykara operation staff.

"The Mettur Hydro-Electric system commenced partial operation from 1st July 1937 and hence the amounts required for that system are comparatively small.

"I might add just a word in explanation of the item shown under 'Suspense'.

"In order to promote electrical development the Government have sanctioned a system of supplying electrical plant and materials to industrialists and agriculturists on hire purchase terms—the repayments being made in easy instalments. Under the head 'Suspense' is shown the provision for making advances to cover the cost of electrical plant and materials to consumers and the recoveries effected from them are taken in reduction of expenditure under the same head. The net provision required on this account is Rs. 2,87,900."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 8,52,300 for Electricity be reduced by Rs. 100.

"Sir, I gave notice of this cut motion with the object of finding out from the Government whether it is not possible to extend the supply of power from Pykara to South Kanara. South Kanara is very close to Pykara and it should be very easy to extend this supply to it. This power will be useful not only for lighting purposes but also for agricultural purposes in South Kanara.

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“ I have got another suggestion also to make on this Demand. There are many rivers in South Kanara and they have been mentioned also in Mr. Vipani's report as rapid cataracts. I think it will be possible to harness those rivers and generate electricity. Without spending much, it will be possible to find out whether electricity cannot be easily generated by harnessing those rivers. I only wanted to elicit information on these points and with that object I have moved my motion.”

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, while discussing the policy of the Government in regard to the several electric schemes, I would urge upon the Government firstly that there is plenty of scope to reduce the cost not only of production but also the rate that is charged to the consumers. Government must by this time have gained plenty of experience and they must know as to how the rate can be lowered. If the policy of the Government is to industrialize the whole of South India, the only means that they can easily adopt is to supply current at a cheaper rate. The cost of production is only one-fourth of an anna or so per unit, while the price at which it is sold to the consumers is three to five times that. I have had discussions with experts and they say that if the electrical ventures could be managed properly it is quite possible to supply current at a lower rate. How else could Government expect more and more industrial concerns to come into existence? It is no use keeping the rate at such a high figure. I do not think that the present method of working is the most satisfactory one. After all, Sir, we are moving in a vicious circle. Every accessory is imported from England instead of its being produced here on a mass scale. We are unable to establish our own factories for the production of the materials required for extension lines, mains and the various kinds of apparatus. If electricity is made cheaper it will encourage people who have got money and do not know the means of utilising it to invest it in the establishment of these factories. In other countries the cost of production is low and the cost of sale is a little over the cost of production. I do not see why we should starve the development of industries in order that the Government may make some profit on their electrical undertakings. Of course the Government ought to make some profit, but no Government, particularly the Government which is now in power, should exploit the people and the merchants who come forward to invest money. On the other hand they must encourage them to the utmost limit so that there may be rapid industrialization of the country. It is well known, Sir, that without industrialization by merely going back to nature, this country cannot develop economically.

“ Sir, there is one other policy which I should like to condemn. The present Chief Engineer would appear to be importing every material from one country only. If the same Chief Engineer continues he will think of no other firms except those he has known for some years. I would urge that there should be some change in that. A cheaper Engineer, a Japanese Chief Engineer may be appointed. Some time back when the Corporation wanted to enter into a contract with a Japanese firm for the supply of high tension cables, there was a big hue and cry.

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The Japanese cables were much cheaper and the reduction in cost was somewhere about Rs. 30,000 out of a cost of Rs. 1,20,000. Yet the Chief Engineer protested and the Corporation was advised not to go in for that tender. Sir, the Government should take steps to develop that side of industry which will enable the country to produce the materials we require.

“ I come now to the other point which I wanted to discuss, namely, the rates at which electricity is now being supplied in the City of Madras. I want to make a few brief observations with regard to it. The Government wisely or unwisely entered into a contract with the Madras Electric Supply Corporation and gave them a lease which expires in 1944. Ever since the lease was entered into—it was revised from time to time—there had been no reduction at all in the rates charged to the consumers. Once upon a time the rate was four annas. That was the pre-war level. Afterwards, when the cost of materials rose very high, the Government allowed the Madras Electric Supply Corporation to raise the rate. Then, Sir, the rate was five annas for a long time. Then in 1933, against heavy odds, I am told, the then Law Member and the Secretary to the Public Works Department were able to persuade the Madras Electric Supply Corporation to reduce the rate by 20 per cent or one anna. It was then stated that when the agreement came up for revision, the rates also would be revised. If I am wrong in my statement I hope I will be corrected. These five years will come to a close very soon. In the meanwhile the Corporation of Madras and the public have been agitating for a reduction in the rates charged for the supply of current. But clever as the Electric Supply Corporation managers are, shrewd businessmen as they are, even before the Government approached them, even before the public opinion could assert itself, they seem to have come forward with a small reduction in the rates. It was a good gesture no doubt but that has put the Madras Corporation and the Government on a wrong scent. Last December or sometime thereabouts, the Electric Supply Corporation seem to have volunteered certain reductions in the rates. The Government felt very happy over it and they thought they were getting a very big reduction. They passed a Government Order saying that the reduction was very welcome and that for the next two years they might work it up, after which they thought they might consider the question of revision.

“ I say, Sir, that Government were very shortsighted in having passed that Government Order for the voluntary reduction that the company offered. The Government should even then have taken up the question seriously and stated that the reduction offered to the people was so small that the Government would not accept it and that they expected a further reduction. I am sure, Sir, that even experts will bear me out when I say that there is every possibility of reducing the rate for the current at least by 50 per cent, if not more. That being the case, the Government ought not to have accepted that offer made by the company. It was merely to take the wind out of the sails of the public and the Government and the Madras Corporation who are paying heavily

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for current in the City that that offer was made by the company. Now, what is the exact position? The company has now and then been coming forward with small reductions with a view to hoodwink the Government and the public; but the Government have been hitherto interested in a foreign venture, to the great detriment of the people at large, particularly the middle and the poorer classes who are using current. Sir, in the City of Madras, it is a disgraceful thing to tell this House that there are still several houses which are not fitted with electric installations, purely on account of the heavy rates that are being charged by the Supply Corporation. There is really a very large number of houses which have not been"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is time."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I have not finished."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You may take two more minutes. Perhaps the hon. Member was not present at the time when it was announced to the House that, in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House, it was decided that this Demand should close at 1-30 p.m. to-day, so that full discussion may be had on the Education Demand in the afternoon. So, the hon. Member may make his remarks as brief as possible, so that the Hon. Minister may finish his reply also before 1-30 p.m."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I am obliged to you, Sir, for the information. Anyway I shall make the best of the situation."

"I was saying, Sir, that it is a matter of regret that in the City of Madras, the capital of the Presidency, there are still very many houses which are not fitted with electric installation on account of the high rates."

"The next point I would like to dwell upon is the exact position of the company. The company has no doubt invested a million pounds by way of capital; but as against that, it has got nearly 500 to 600 thousand pounds built up by way of reserve fund and depreciation fund. Every year, it has been adding on from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 by way of depreciation fund alone, and that is a profit made at the expense of the consumer. There is no necessity for adding on to the depreciation fund beyond a certain limit. The Government may well fix what exactly should be the maximum limit for the depreciation fund."

"Again, Sir, the cost of production has gone down enormously; it has, I contend, gone down to about 3 ps., and it is not known why the resulting advantage should not go to the consumer."

"As regards the actual revenues that the Madras Electric Supply Corporation has been making during the course of the past few years, ever since 1933, I may state that the consumption has grown from about 28 millions to 42 million units. And since consumption has grown all these years, all the bogey of a loss being sustained by the Corporation ought not to weigh with the Government any more. There has been a steady increase in consumption, and the company is making good profit. It is also said, Sir, that the company is suffering a loss in the

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matter of the dividend. But the dividend is all the same throughout; there has been no change in that. The investors are all people living outside India, almost all of them being Englishmen; and probably with one or two exceptions, there is not a single Indian who has invested his money in this company. The company has got a London office, where it has a heavy establishment, costing nearly 38 per cent of the total investment. Other companies no doubt have got their own establishments but at a smaller cost; but the Madras Electric Supply Corporation runs an establishment which costs nearly 38 per cent."

"There is also a big levy imposed on the consumer in the shape of metre rent. Sir, it looks absurd that I should pay a rent to my supplier who measures out water or milk or a syrup for me. The first and immediate point for consideration is for Government to remove this metre rent at once. Nearly Rs. 6,000 is being collected by the company in this way."

"Again, Sir, there is no question of Indianization in this company at all. Except one or two Indians the entire staff is non-Indian. I do not see why the Government should not insist, in so far as they have given the company a licence, that a fair proportion of Indians should be employed in the company and insist also upon a fair percentage of Indian capital being invested in the Corporation. These things have been going on for a long time without anybody looking into them, in a bureaucratic fashion; but to-day the circumstances have changed, and a national Government cannot be a party to the continuance of these things. I am sure, Sir, that this Government is not going to be hoodwinked any more by this Electric company. I therefore submit that the Government should certainly see to it that the rate for electricity is reduced by at least 50 per cent, if not more, and that the middle classes and the poorer classes of consumers are given the benefit thereof."

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, although the discussion on this subject was limited to speeches by two Members, I can assure other Members who have given notice of cut motions that all the points covered by those cut motions will also receive the attention of the Government, and that particular attention will be paid to the question of the reduction of rates. Mr. Schamnad spoke about the necessity of electricity being taken to South Kanara; he also suggested that there are rivers in his district which have cataracts from which electricity could be generated. Sir, this is not a question that can be taken up off-hand. We have at present got enough supply from Pykara and from Mettur Project which has just commenced working from July 1937. Then there is the Periyar Project also to be taken up. We will have therefore sufficient electricity from these places, without going to small rivers in South Kanara."

"Sir, Mr. Basheer Ahmed stated that the cost of production came only to quarter of an anna, and if that is so, he could not understand why such high rates should be charged. I do not know, Sir, whether he was speaking about the cost of electricity produced by the Government or by the companies. If it is by the Government, I do not know how he

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arrived at that figure of one-fourth anna. The working expenses which are heavy have to be taken into account; again, when transmission lines are taken to certain places, their cost also has to be taken into account. Considering all these things, and that a certain percentage is also insisted upon as a return, even if you reduce the interest and depreciation charges, it will be very difficult to say that the actual cost will come to one-fourth of an anna. Sir, it was mentioned—not on this motion, but once before in the course of questions—that the rates should be reduced to those obtaining in Mysore. Sir, Mysore has been working this system for many years now, for nearly a quarter of a century, and the Mysore Government know exactly where they stand. They have calculated the working expenses and other costs and have accordingly standardized their rates. But ours is a new scheme; we are gathering the necessary data which will be useful in the future. At present, therefore, it cannot be said that our cost is so much and that accordingly the rates should be reduced, or that the rates for industrial and other purposes must be lower than they are now.

“As for the Madras Electric Supply Corporation which is supplying electricity to the Madras City, the question of rates in that case has been gone through very recently and the rates were reduced. Whether those rates are satisfactory or not is of course a matter to be looked into. Mr. Basheer Ahmed stated that much money is taken to the Reserve Fund and to the Depreciation Fund and that is how the company is able to show only 8 per cent dividend, and that, if these things are taken into account, it is possible to show that the company is making more profit than the public is made to believe. Sir, in asking any company to reduce its rates, we have to look into its working cost and the profit that it makes. When companies invest large amounts in such concerns, naturally a good return and a reasonable return is expected. The only thing that we should guard against is to see that there is no room for profiteering. In this particular case, whether there is profiteering or not, I shall investigate.

“As for the question of the import of materials from foreign countries, it was asked, why not these materials be produced in India itself? This of course is a question of enterprise. Unfortunately, our people are not so enterprising. The electricity that is now available can be utilized for industrial purposes, for example; but as a matter of fact, so far very little industrialization has taken place, and there are only two or three or four companies now coming forward to take electricity for industrial purposes. When a sufficient number of companies are not coming forward to utilize even the electricity that is available, the idea that they will manufacture the materials required for the electrification of the country, is not quite promising. This is a matter which merchants and capitalists should take up seriously. If enterprise is forthcoming, Government of course will encourage it as far as possible.

“On the question of extending power to South Kanara, I have already said that it will be attended to as soon as possible.

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“I don't think I need go into minor details, Sir, within the short time before me. I hope that the cut motion will be withdrawn on the assurance I have given, that the Government will pay attention to all the points raised to.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Does the hon. Member withdraw his cut motion?”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I withdraw the cut motion, Sir.”

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The House will have an interval of one hour for lunch. It will now adjourn and re-assemble at 2-30 p.m.”

(After Lunch—2-30 p.m.).

(15) DEMAND XV—EDUCATION.

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,47,000 under Demand XV—Education.

“In doing so, I want to deal with the salient features of this budget, though most of it is found in the Memorandum supplied to hon. Members by the Finance Secretary. The amounts are made up of:

	LAKHS.
Grants to Universities	6.16
Government Arts Colleges	11.43
Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges	3.67
Government Professional Colleges	6.31
Grants to non-Government Professional Colleges	0.04

Then, under Secondary Education—

Government Secondary schools	2.00
Direct grants to Aided Secondary schools	18.00
Grants to Municipal and Board Secondary schools	8.83

Under Primary Education—

Government Primary schools	31
Grants to Aided Primary schools	66.60
Grants to local bodies for Primary education	90.87
Government special schools	17.80
Grants to non-Government special schools	4.46

“Sir, there has been a great cry that the Government are spending more on direction than is necessary under the circumstances. As far as I have seen the figures, I do not think the Government are spending as much on direction as people think they are at the present moment. Direction and inspection together, to-day cost, out of a budget of 250 lakhs, only 18 lakhs odd. Therefore, I do not think it is right to say that the Government are spending most of the money on direction. The total provision, as I have said though some of which is not votable by the legislature, is 258.84 lakhs, of which about 47 lakhs represent the charges on account of salaries and allowances of officers, etc., but it must be realized that some of these salaries are paid to professors and other people who run the Government Arts Colleges and so really they do not come under the question of direction at all.

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“ With regard to the University grant I talked of, the Government are committed statutorily to pay the three Universities which are in this area under the Acts passed by the local legislature, but we have a certain difficulty with regard to both the Andhra and the Madras Universities at the present moment, because they have come under what is called the Federal Legislative List; they do not even find a place in the Concurrent Legislative List. Both the Universities have represented to the Government that legislation should be undertaken by the Government in order to rectify some of the defects in the Acts under which they are working at the present moment. The Government have addressed the Government of India and the Secretary of State that the Government of India Act should be amended to this extent, so that both the Universities will come at least under the Concurrent Legislative List. There is a certain amount of complication with regard to this, because the Andhra University to-day works also in the old Madras portion of the new Orissa Province and the Orissa Government feel that it may be difficult if it was placed on the Concurrent List, but I hope they will withdraw this objection because at the present moment the Orissa Government are not paying anything towards the Andhra University. I also hope that the Orissa Government will realize their responsibility to give a certain amount of statutory aid to the Andhra University.

“ My hon. Friend, the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, has given notice of a cut motion with regard to grants to the Andhra University. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am trying to see whether I cannot minimize the number of cut motions so that we may go on to the other grants and not really waste $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours on Education. I would like to point out to the hon. Member that when the Andhra University Act was originally passed, there was no provision at all for grants to that University. It was only after it was pointed out in the year 1927 that an Act was passed by the then legislature giving a statutory grant of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs and an endowment grant of 27 lakhs and a building grant of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs to the Andhra University. So, I am sure the hon. Member will realize that the Government has done what is possible towards the Andhra University and has treated the Andhra University in the same manner as other Universities in this Province have been treated. I am sure also the hon. Member will realize that with the limited finances at the hands of the Government, it will not be possible to spend more on what I would call higher education in this Province, because the crying need to-day is that of primary education and the Government must devote the money that is available—and it is not very much to-day—towards getting better results in respect of primary education. At the same time, I want to tell the hon. Member that the Vice-Chancellor saw both myself and my Hon. Colleague, the Prime Minister who is in charge of Finance, and we have agreed to meet him again in November to see what can be done towards the urgent needs of the Andhra University, but I would beg of hon. Members not to take this as an assurance that the Government are going to find the money to give grants to the Andhra University, because I must again repeat my first proposition that it is not possible for the Government as situated to-day to find more money for higher education.

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“ The second point raised in the cut motions is with regard to Hindi-Hindustani, as I would prefer to call it now. My hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, has put down a cut motion particularly to enquire as to what the Government would do with regard to the Muslim pupils who might have to take Hindi-Hindustani. I am sure that my hon. Friends on the other side, especially the Members of the Muslim League, will realize that the Congress has laid it down as a policy that they will not force the Muslims to adopt the Devanagari character. The Congress has laid it down that Hindi can be learnt in both characters, Devanagari and Persian characters. (Interruption.) I am sorry that the hon. Member calls it Urdu. I may tell him that Urdu has no character of its own, but what really happens is it is the Persian character that they have adopted for Urdu. Therefore, my hon. Friend need have no apprehension on this point. There has been a lot of agitation, as I said the other day, both ways, and as stated by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, there has been opposition to the introduction of Hindi and that some people in the Tamil country are apprehensive that this might result in the killing of the mother-tongue. I am sure my hon. Friends will realize that as long as myself or the Prime Minister or any Member of the Government is here, we shall certainly stand for the growth of the mother-tongue.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“ Will not the difference in character mean difference in language also? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ If the hon. Member wants only an assurance and is not going to speak, I shall give it now. Mr. Schamnad wishes to know whether there will be any difference in language. When we are trying to unify the elements and get a particular language taught in this part of the world, it will not be possible to have different languages for the same language which we want to teach.

“ Now, Sir, with regard to the mother-tongue, I want to tell the House that already in this Province, a major number of pupils in secondary schools are taking the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate by means of the mother-tongue; and the mother-tongue is the medium of instruction in about 70 per cent of the schools to-day; and only in places where there is difficulty about language, namely, the bi-lingual areas, that it will not be possible to adopt the mother-tongue, but as a rule I can assure hon. Members that the Government will try their best to see that the mother-tongue becomes the medium of instruction right up to the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate standard; and therefore there need be no fear or apprehension with regard to the fact that the introduction of Hindi compulsorily in the first, second and third forms is going to result in the neglect of the mother-tongue. The Government have also a scheme under consideration by which composition in the mother-tongue will be compulsory right up to the sixth form; and even though mother-tongue may not be taken as a second language, the pupils of the schools concerned would have to take a composition paper in the mother-tongue. So hon. Members need not therefore be frightened that the introduction of Hindi compulsorily in the first, second and third forms is going to

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lead to the neglect of the mother-tongue. On the other hand, the present Government are confident that the mother-tongue will become more and more important in the curriculum of education in this Province.

"Sir, there is a cut motion with regard to the recent appointment of Divisional Inspectors. Might I point out to hon. Members that if more and more money is going to be spent towards education in this Province, there must be some amount of direction, because without direction it will be impossible to consolidate the work that is being done; and after all these inspectors were only appointed about 8 months ago and they are on trial? I do not say that I have made up my mind on this subject, but for the present moment, I am sure hon. Members will admit that a trial is necessary because the work in the Director's office has grown out of all proportion in view of the grants that are being paid. If over Rs. 1,36,00,000 is being spent from Government funds to-day on primary education, I am sure hon. Members will realize that there ought to be a certain amount of direction.

2-45 p.m. "The Government, therefore, have not yet made up their mind on the question of Divisional Inspectors; still they feel that this system ought to have an extended trial before any decision can be come to on this subject. Another important question which has been put down is the question of the pro rata cut that has been made in the teaching grants made through District Educational Councils. This cut became necessary simply because District Educational Councils began to recognize inefficient and incompetent schools and grants were promised to such schools. The recent change in the Educational Rules has made it possible for some of these inefficient schools to be weeded out. But the present budget contains an extra provision of 2 lakhs towards the grant to these elementary schools and I hope that with the weeding out of inefficient schools it will be possible to pay grants in full and the pro rata cut may not be necessary. But if these inefficient schools do exist, then naturally the pro rata cut will have to be made because money can only be found as far as is put down in the present budget and it cannot be manufactured out of Pandora's box. The Government have also made a provision of 11 lakhs towards stipends to training schools. There has been a cry that there ought to be trained teachers in almost all the schools and I hope these extra stipends that may be paid during the course of this year will result in getting the number of teachers that the schools want. With regard to the other cut motions on policy, I would like, Mr. Speaker, to hear hon. Members before I make any pronouncement."

* MR. R. M. PALAT:—"Mr. Speaker, I beg to move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,98,47,000 for education be reduced by Rs. 100 (to discuss the educational policy of the Government).'

"There are two points to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. The first is compulsory military education in high schools and colleges—in this I would include boy scout movement in the elementary schools and an optional course of military science in

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colleges. The second is the compulsory teaching of Hindi in the first, second and third forms in our schools. I am as much in favour of the first proposal as I am against the second. I will now deal with each in turn. I will first of all endeavour to show that at present this country is incapable of defending itself and it therefore becomes necessary to create among our people the proper spirit—the martial spirit—which would enable them to rise to the occasion whenever any crisis occurs, which is connected with the security of the country. I shall proceed to show that we should have a national army which again cannot exist unless the country's sympathies are behind it. My remark the other day that Congressmen are incapable of making the supreme sacrifice for the country does not seem to have been received very well by Members on the other side. They have taken it to mean that it refers to the whole of India. I have the authority of the highest of the Congressmen—I refer to the All-India Congress Working Committee, of which Mr. Nehru is the President and which has had the advantage of the advice of Mr. Gandhi. When the question of office acceptance became a live issue about the early part of last July . . ."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, how the acceptance of office by the Congress becomes an issue under the Education Demand."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"I wanted to show that the reason behind the acceptance of office was the recognition of the leaders of the movement that it would not be possible for them to stage a civil disobedience movement on a large scale. Why did they think so? Because there was not the proper spirit and training and discipline. I also wanted to show in this connexion that the Congress does not represent the country."

THE HON. DR. SUBBARAYAN:—"May I submit for your consideration Mr. Speaker, that if the hon. gentleman wanted to raise this issue, he ought to have done it on the salaries of Ministers."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Whether the Congress represents the country or not is not an issue on which the hon. the mover of the cut motion can speak. He must proceed with the subject matter of his motion."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"With due deference to you, Mr. Speaker, may I submit. . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The ruling has been given and the hon. Member should proceed straight to the subject."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"Sir, it has been argued by the other side that because certain classes among Indians, the Sikhs and Gurkhas are warlike, all of us are warlike. It is just like saying that because two boys in a class are up to the pass standard, all boys in the class are of the same standard. It has been argued that because ancient Indians were great fighters, the present generation of Indians are also great fighters. I can only say that that contention can only be advanced by people who are ignorant of history. We know that ancient Indians were warlike. We know that ancient Rome and the City States of Greece were intensely warlike; still after foreign occupation their

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position became very pitiable. Even after a hundred years of independence, they had not recovered. If we look at Indian history we know the ease with which Bengal and a great part of the Madras Presidency were conquered."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I submit that we are not considering the Army Budget of the Government of India?"

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"I will make out a case for the rousing of martial spirit in India and for that purpose military education is necessary."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member want to show that martial education should be imparted in the country?"

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"Yes, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may go on."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"Any one would be surprised at the ease with which Bengal and the greater part of the Madras Presidency were conquered and held by the Muslims. You know the ease with which the Mahrattas conquered great parts of India and foreigner after foreigner entered India. There has been very little national resistance anywhere. So, I say that the proper spirit should be infused into the people by infusing it into them even while they are young and nothing could do this so well as military training. India at present is not capable of defending herself. May I, Mr. Speaker, go into the question of the defence of India?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may go on with his speech without putting any question to the Chair."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"With regard to the defence of India, we know. . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member's speech must be confined to education for the defence of India."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"On a point of information may I ask whether the ten minutes rule applies under the present circumstances too?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The ten minutes rule will be strictly applied; but a little indulgence has been given to the mover of the cut motion because he has been interrupted."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"On their own showing the leaders of the Congress have admitted that the country is not fit for any large scale civil disobedience. Much less are they fit, I say, Sir, for defending their country. I therefore, submit that provision should be made this year for military training of the children of this country. It is only then that we can command the respect of the world and of the Dominions within the Commonwealth. The reason why Germany has regained the respect of the world is that she has in spite of the restrictions imposed on her by the treaty of Versailles managed to rebuild her army. This again is the reason why Soviet Russia has not been overrun. With all

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the philanthropy and treaties in the world, Abyssinia without a national army, could not be saved. So I trust that none of the Members on the other side will disagree with me when I say that provision must be made this year itself for a beginning. After all, Sir, we do not want to depend on a foreign army for the defence of our homes.

"Now to turn to the compulsory teaching of Hindi, it is claimed that every nation must have a common language."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That subject may be left to other Members. Every Member may not cover every subject."

MR. R. M. PALAT:—"I only want to speak a few words. I was saying that it was claimed that every nation must have a common language. But I submit that this is not at all necessary. We know that Switzerland has three languages. We know that in Spain, Catalan and Basque are quite distinct from Spanish. In the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Hungarian always insisted on speaking in Hungarian and not in German although German had a literature in no way inferior to Hungarian. We, the Dravidians of the south are like the Hungarians in that both are non-Aryans tacked on to larger units which are Aryan, while we have this further advantage, that while German language had a literature, our language of the south and particularly Tamil have folk songs and literature far superior to those of Hindi. A language is supposed to express the soul of the people. Hindi is the language of a subject people and so necessarily permeated with the ideas and mentality of a subject race. We do not want to be influenced by these. If India should have a common language, I would much rather prefer the English language. It is economically more valuable and it is to the study of English that most of our Indian races owe their ideas of freedom and equality and the rule of law. That it is the language of a foreign people need not in any way deter us.

"It is our duty to accept whatever is best for the race. We do not insist on travelling in bullock carts. Even our Ministry have gone in for motor cars at the cost of the tax-payers. We do not refuse to travel in trains and aeroplanes because they are foreign. Sir, to make a child learn three languages is too much. Let him study Hindi if he wants to, but do not compel him.

"Again, Sir, a word as to the script. The world is becoming fast international. We do not want to add to the babel of confusion by having two scripts for Hindi or by having Hindi at all. Congress itself prefers linguistic provinces and not a compact Indian Empire. Our needs and interests differ widely in different parts. The tendency to-day is towards decentralization and towards a loose federation. No common language like Hindi is either necessary or proper. I do not know, Sir, if the other two ends of the Indian triangle, Bengal or the Frontier Province, have taken kindly to Hindi. A definite assertion either way would be objectionable. We know that Tagore still writes in Bengali and it satisfies his patriotism and he is willing that his works should be

[Mr. N. Annamalai Pillai] [22nd September 1937]

எனச் செய்யவேண்டுமானால் இவர்களை ஒரு இடத்தில் கொண்டு வந்து சேர்த்து இவர்களில் பத்து அல்லது இருபது பிள்ளைகளைக் கொண்டு வந்து படிப்புச் சொல்லிக்கொடுத்து போஜனத்தைக் கொடுத்து இவர்களைக் கல்வியாளர்களாகச் செய்து இவர்கள் சமுதாய முன்னேற்றஞ் செய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய கல்வியைக் கொடுப்பதற்கு படிப்பைக் கொடுப்பதற்கு பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். இவர்களுக்கு வசத்தெழவில் ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அத்துடன் கோவார்டுவு சொசைட்டி ஏற்படுத்தி பணம் கொடுத்து விவாயாவுச் செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்து இவர்கள் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு படிப்பு கற்றுக்கொடுத்ததால் அபிவிருத்தி ஏற்படும். இல்லாமல் போனால் இந்த ஏழைகள் திக்கற்ற நிலைமையிலிருப்பார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் பிரதிநிதிகளாக நாம் வந்தும் நம்மால் இந்த தேசத்திற்கு ஒரு பிரயோஜனமுயிருக்காது. நாம் வந்திருக்கும் காலத்தில் இதற்கு முன்னிருந்த காலமென்கூட கவனிக்காத காரியத்தை செய்து முடித்துவிடேமாம் என்றிருக்கவேண்டும்.

“மற்றொன்று உபாத்தியாயர்கள் முறை. சாம்பியன் ஸ்கீம் என்று ஒரு ஸ்கீம் ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். அதன்படி ஒன்றாவது வகுப்பில் 201 பிள்ளைக லிருந்தால் 5-வது வகுப்பில் 4 பிள்ளைகளாக்கவேண்டும். அப்படி இல்லாம லிருந்தால் 5-வது வகுப்பில் அடிகப்படி ஒரு பிள்ளைகூட சேர்ப்பதில்லையாம். இந்தப்படி முதன் உத்தரவு பிறப்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். டிசைனிங் ஸ்கூலுக்கு போய் படிக்கவேண்டுமென்றால் ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் உபாத்தியாயராக இரண்டு வருஷம் செர்வீஸ் (Service) வேண்டுமாம். எங்கேயாவது ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் உபாத்தியாயராக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று உத்தரவு போட்டுவிட்டு (untrained) அன்றிரைண்ட் உபாத்தியாயர்களை வைக்கக்கூடாதென்று இன்னொருபக்கம் உத்தி ரவு போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். எந்த புத்திசாலித்தனத்தைக்கொண்டு இந்தமாதிரி உத்தரவு போட்டார்கள் என்பது தெரியவில்லை. Untrained teachers இருக்கக் கூடாதென்று உத்தரவு போட்டுவிட்டு trainingக்குப் போகவேண்டுமானால் இரண்டு வருஷம் ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் உபாத்தியாயராக இருந்திருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் உபாத்தியாயராக training ஆகாதவர்கள் யாரிடத்திலுமோ எங்கே வேலைசெய்கிறது. இந்த உத்தரவுகள் முன்னுக்குப்பின் முரணாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற கல்விமுறை எவ்வளவோ நாசம் செய்யக்கூடியதாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற முறைப்படி கல்வி மேல் நோக்கிப் போகும் என்ற நம்பிக்கை இல்லை. இந்த முறையை அடியோடு ஒழித்துவிட்டு புதிய முறையைக் கைக்கொண்டால் இந்த நாட்டில் கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி அடையும் என்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்த ஏழைகளின் கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி விஷ யத்தில் நான் சொல்லியதை சர்க்கார் கவனித்து வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு செய்யும்படி யாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

3-15 p.m. * RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—“Sir, I am very thankful to my Friend Mr. Annamalai Pillai for asking the question, whether the Government has considered the progress of the Lambadis and other tribes. I may answer the question and say that the Labour department have been considering their case. Also, I would ask my Friend Mr. Annamalai Pillai to visit the Aziznagar Settlement in the South Arcot district, where you find a colony of Lambadis and other nomadic tribes. But the difficulty is this; these Lambadis and Koravars do not want to stick up to a particular place. They are nomads. When I visited the Aziznagar Settlement some three months ago, they came in a body before me and requested me to release them and allow them to go about. In the Aziznagar Settlement, these Lambadis are housed given a sort of training in weaving, spinning, carpentry and leather works, and are encouraged to follow a trade or profession in order to make them better citizens. For their children, they have got schools,

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and they are given free lodging, boarding, etc. Therefore, I want my Friend to know that the Government is also taking steps for their amelioration.

“The next point of interest is about the condition of the trained teachers. That is a question which I hope my Hon. Friend the Minister for Education will look into. Sir, I am thankful to my Hon. Friend the Minister for Education for giving us an idea that he will protect the mother-tongue in our country. I know he will do it. But I was very anxious to listen to him as to the necessity for introducing Hindi at this stage in our province. He has not enlightened us on that point. What he said was that he would see that the vernaculars of the province receive special attention, and that composition in that vernacular would be made compulsory from the I Form to the VI Form. I am glad that he has given that assurance. But at the same time he must understand that to overload the boy's studies in the lower stages with three compulsory subjects is nothing but a handicap for the boy and that for the boy who is already studying his own vernacular, Tamil or Telugu, along with English, if you are going to add Hindi also as another compulsory subject, it will be really a hardship and a handicap. I should like to know from the Minister for Education whether he intends to introduce Hindi as a compulsory subject or as an optional subject.”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“If the hon. Member has listened to the first part . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Hon. Minister may reply at the end. Putting of questions to Ministers will not be permitted in the course of speeches by members. Speeches may be made straightaway by hon. Members.”

RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—“The reason why I put the question was . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member may proceed with his speech.”

RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—“Very good, Sir. I am not against introducing Hindi in the lower forms, but I am certainly against the introduction of Hindi as a subject of compulsory study. It may be introduced as an optional subject. The introduction of Hindi to my mind is not intended for economic or for social or for religious reasons. It carries with it more of a political odour. The main question is whether to make our provincial vernaculars the important subject of study for our boys or to bring in a foreign language like Hindi and make it a compulsory subject? English, Sir, is foreign; so also Hindi is foreign to us. Stress should be laid on our vernaculars. What I would like is to give a chance to Hindi by introducing it as an optional subject and then try if it will go down the throats of our people or not, or if it is acceptable to our school-going population. Language, Sir, is the vehicle of thought. What kind of thought are we going to develop in our children? Is it the Hindi thought or our vernacular thought?”

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DEMAND XV—EDUCATION

[Mr. M. C. Rajah] [22nd September 1937]

English has opened our eyes to the whole world and has created a sense of national unity. Tamil literature has got an ethical and practical ideology. Urdu with its special script gives people an idea of the religious and moral thought of Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan and other places. Bengali has got its own provincial patriotism combined with cosmopolitan and ethical outlook. Hindi has got its peculiar emphasis upon the land of the Ramayana and Mahabharata in places like Allahabad, Benares, Lucknow, etc. To talk of these languages without speaking of the literature behind them is to introduce the thin end of the wedge for other purposes than the intellectual growth of the people. Tamil, Sir, is the language of the Tamil people and the Tamil homes. Hindi cannot at any time become the language of the Tamil people and Tamil homes. The introduction of English has already become . . . (Interruption)."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members should not put questions to a Member across the benches, and the hon. Member speaking should not answer such questions. He must proceed with his speech."

MR. K. BASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"Sometimes, the discussion may require elucidation."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Questions across the benches to a Member will not be permitted. The Member should be allowed to proceed with his speech."

RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—"I thank you for your interference, Sir. But, Sir, I have been in the Legislature for the last twenty years . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will go on with his speech."

RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—"I am going on with my speech, Sir. At the same time, I will explain why I began to answer the question."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question need not be answered by the hon. Member. He may proceed with his speech; otherwise the ten minutes limit can never be observed by any Member."

RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—"The question now is, are you going to stop the Tamil way of thinking? Again, you must take the literature, language, culture and the outlook of the people created by the mother-tongue. Compulsory addition of a language will be a burden on the young pupils. As I have said already, English stands in a unique position. English has been a unifying force. We cannot dispense with English. One of the reasons why they want to introduce Hindi is said to be that they want to have a common language for India. Sir, there is no common language even in northern India. Taking the Bengalis, the Punjabis or the Central Provinces men, they have not got a common language. Where is the commonality between the South Indians and the North Indians in the matter of language, dress, food, customs and manners? Therefore there is no necessity for

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a common language. We want a language which has a universal outlook and the seeds of true nationalism, and not a sectarian nationalism, nationalism which will unite all provinces, while encouraging and not supplanting the growth of our vernacular culture.

"The other day, Sir, one of the Ministers said that the reason why they want to introduce Hindi is to give a living for those people that go out from this province to other provinces. If that is so, I think it is not necessary to learn other languages. In this connexion, I should like to say that Tamil is a very ancient language, much older than Sanskrit itself. Here is a book written by Mr. P. T. Srinivasa Ayyangar, namely, 'the History of Tamils from the earliest times up to 600 A.D.' In this book there are references to the fact that the ancient Tamil people before the Aryans came to South, carried on trade with other parts of the world, and they went as far as Babylonia and Egypt and other parts of the world. As the time before me is very short, I am not going to read any quotation from that book. Without knowing the language of those places, they carried on their trade carrying with them their own mother-tongue. Of course, when they went there, they picked up the language of those places. Sir, it is unnecessary for people who want to get some appointment in or to have trade connexion with other parts of the country to know the language of those places also. Moreover, Sir, how are you going to get appointments in other provinces for our unemployed people? Everywhere there is unemployment. Nor is there scope here for any Bengali or Bombay man to come and get employment. Or, where is the scope for our young men to go there and find appointments for themselves? There is unemployment everywhere, in all provinces right round. Sir, I have been going to northern India for the last eleven years, and I have not learnt Hindi. At present there are 500 or 600 Tamil families in Delhi, Simla and other places. And I know most of them do not know Hindi. But they are all getting on very well in those places. My Hon. Friend the Premier is smiling at me. He knows very well that our Madras young men who are in the Government of India service and scattered throughout all corners of India are getting on very well without a smattering knowledge of Hindi. Then, where is the necessity for us to learn Hindi even if we want to get appointments elsewhere?

"The next point I want to touch upon is about what has been said of a lingua franca or a common language. Lingua franca or any language for that matter cannot be created by a fiat of a King or a Legislature in which one party commands a large majority. The lingua franca must grow out of the necessities of circumstances. If there is more of communication and commingling between the people of one part of India and the other, then they will feel the necessity of such a language as Urdu or Hindi or Hindustani. Sir, if politicians desire to learn Hindi they may do so. But you cannot overburden the studies of the poor little boys in the schools. If on the other hand you press the compulsory introduction of Hindi in the lower forms, it will be

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considered, I am afraid, as an inroad into or an attack upon the Dravidian language, upon the Dravidian culture and upon Dravidian civilization."

3-30 P.M. * Miss G. AMMANNA RAJA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of women for better facilities to be given them in the matter of education. The Government are aware that there is only one Government College for Women here—in the whole of the Madras Presidency—the Queen Mary's College, and even that is not complete because it does not teach all the optional subjects for the B.A. course. The subjects in very great demand are Mathematics, Economics, Natural Science and Telugu. There is no Telugu optional for the B.A. If we want the improvement of our vernaculars, sufficient facilities should be afforded for their teaching in the College. So I request at least from next year, Mathematics, Economics, Natural Science and Telugu might be introduced in the Queen Mary's College. It would not cost much to Government, because for Mathematics only one extra professor is needed. For some subjects the present staff is quite qualified to handle them. There is a great demand for the Natural Science at present. This will be clear from the fact that many of the applicants to the Junior Intermediate class have applied for Natural Science—I do not know what group it is called. There were 150 applications for admission into the Junior Intermediate class last year, and out of them 90 to 100 wanted to take up Natural Science as their optional subject. But only 48 were admitted for want of accommodation. That shows what a great demand there is for Natural Science. They wish to continue that subject up to the B.A. Though such subjects are taught in the Presidency College, all the girls are not prepared to go there. Even if the girls desire, their parents may not be prepared to send them. People may say that we are very conservative. But we are what we are and I think we are best as we are. (Hear, hear.) So I request the Government to consider the desirability of introducing these subjects in the Queen Mary's College.

"There is a lot of apparatus in this college, and only small additions may be made to the existing apparatus and the Government can make a grant for the building of a laboratory, for we have the site all right and we can straightaway start the teaching of these subjects.

"Another disadvantage is that girls cannot take up the subjects they like after finishing the intermediate course and they have to go to the Presidency College. But we do not want to lose the best of our girls to other colleges, thus giving the credit to them which perhaps they do not deserve. (A voice: Question.) They go there and take up mathematics and science subjects which are intellectual subjects and thus we lose the best of our girls and usually those who are good at one thing are good all round which means that they are good at sports too. In inter-collegiate sports there is the danger of losing the cup to Presidency College and not retaining it for Queen Mary's College.

"In 1928, Physics and Chemistry were introduced. Before that we had only History. Nothing has been done since. Even if one subject had been added every year perhaps the college would have been much more complete by now.

[2nd September 1937] [Miss G. Ammanna Raja]

"Now, with regard to secondary education, there are very few secondary schools for girls in this Presidency. There may be quite a number in the City but in the mufassal there are very few. There is the Government High School in Rajahmundry, there is another at Asulipatam. But for West Godavari there is only one Middle School, and girls wishing to study further have no opportunity. You know that girls in the mufassal are more conservative than those in Madras, and parents would not send their girls to boys' schools. Besides, boys do not know how to treat the girls, and the girls feel like fish out of water. Further they cannot take part in games and after the school closes they have to go home. I request the Hon. Minister to see that the existing Middle School in West Godavari is converted into a high school. If this is done, I am sure, many more would go in for higher education and be spared the trouble and inconvenience of going to other places.

"As regards primary education, we note it is not satisfactory in our Province. It is deteriorating day by day. This is clear from the fact that the percentage of female education in the decade 1911-1921 was 0.8 but for the decade 1921-1931 it was only 0.5. This matter needs the attention of the Government.

"Again, I request the Government to make elementary education compulsory for girls. Some people think that compulsion is not at all necessary for girls, but I think it is more necessary for girls than for boys, because boys will anyhow go to school—they may or may not, am not concerned with that. I feel girls are more negligent in this matter; parents do not take interest in their education; they take interest only in getting them married. Even after their marriage how can they be sure they will be all right in their life? If they become widows what will be their fate? They will be helpless. Even their parents won't care for them once they are helpless. So it is necessary that elementary education should be made compulsory for girls. The present condition of elementary schools is very miserable. Efficient people would not go there as teachers. Elementary schools are looked down upon and the teachers do not think it dignified to serve there. In fact it is for elementary schools that we want efficient teachers, because the foundation is laid there and it is very hard to deal with the pupils there. The reason why we do not have good teachers in the elementary schools is the low pay they get there, sometimes it is as low as Rs. 6 or Rs. 9. Their work also is very slack as they are not contented. So we cannot expect the best kind of work from them. Moreover, many of the elementary schools are private schools and the management makes the teachers sign for a higher pay than what they actually get in hand. This the management does for purposes of getting grant. They make up false accounts to show to the Government. So, I hope the department will look into the matter and remedy the grievances. Members here who have been grumbling about their allowance of Rs. 2½ a day can well realize how miserable the lot of the teachers on Rs. 6 and Rs. 9 will be. I hope at least Rs. 20 may be fixed as the minimum pay.

[Mr. R. M. Palat] [22nd September 1937]

inaccessible in the original, if Hindi replaces Bengali, to non-Bengali speaking peoples. Gandhi publishes his *Harijan* in English. Nehru's letters to his daughter are in English and even his presidential address. They think it is better to reach a greater public, than express themselves in Hindi and have it translated. Why should we of the south take to this Aryan and foreign tongue which offers us no advantage except that of communication with the backward north, and that when the north itself is divided? Let the Aryans declare themselves first and then it would be time enough to consider the question. Turkey which has fought for and won its freedom against great odds has deliberately chosen the Latin script, the script of the very nations against whom she fought. You cannot call Turkey unpatriotic, nor can you say that Kemal Pasha is less patriotic than any Indian. I would like to speak more but for want of time."

* MR. N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இன்றையதினம் இந்த (Education) கல்வி அபிவிருத்திக்காக போடப்பட்டிருக்கும் தொகையை அனுமதிக்கவேண்டுமென்ற தீர்மானத்தை ஆதரித்து சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகின்றேன். காங்கிரஸ் கக்ஷியின் பதவியில் வந்து இப்பொழுது சில மாதங்களாகின்றன. அதற்குள்ளாக பொதுஜனங்களும் சபையோரும் காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களை அதிகப்படியான அபிவிருத்தியைத் தேடிக்கொடுக்க எதிர்பார்த்து முடியாத காரியமாகும். ஆனால், இதுவரையில் அதிகாரத்திலிருந்து வந்தவர்களைவிட இப்பொழுது காங்கிரஸ் அதிகாரத்தில் இருக்கும்போது நல்ல காரியங்களைச் செய்து முடித்துவிடலாமென்ற நம்பிக்கை எங்களுக்குண்டு. ஏனென்றால் ஒரு உதாரணை சொல்லுகின்றேன்: இதுவரையில் பிரிட்டிஷ் அரசாங்கத்தார் இந்த தேசத்தை ஆளுவதற்கு வந்து சுமார் நூற்றைம்பது வருஷங்களாகின்றன. இதுகாலபரியந்தம் என்று தொகுதியில் சவ்வாதுமலைத்தொடர் என்று ஒரு பிராந்தியமிருக்கிறது. அந்தத் தொடரில் மலைவாசிகள் வசித்து வருகிறார்கள். அது மலேரியாபிரதேசம். அந்த மலேரியாவை ஒழிப்பதற்கு கவர்ன்மெண்டார் இதுவரையில் ஒரு முயற்சியும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவில்லை. அந்தப் பிராந்தியத்தில் கல்வி அபிவிருத்திக்காக பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை இதுவரையில் ஏற்படுத்தவில்லை. அந்த மலேரியாவிகள் அந்த காட்டிலே, வனத்திலே வசித்து வருகிறார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்கள் கவர்ன்மெண்டாருக்கு வரி கொடுக்கிறார்கள். இந்த வரி கட்டுவதற்கு பதில் பிரதி பிரயோசனம் ஒன்றும் அவர்கள் அனுபவிக்கவில்லை. அந்தப் பிரதேசத்தில் ஸ்டீக்-கணக்கான ஜனங்கள் இருந்தும் அவர்களுக்காக கொம்பட்டியேறு என்ற ஒரு கிராமம் இருக்கிறது. அங்கே ஒரே ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடம் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே ஒரு உபாத்தியாயர் அனுப்பவேண்டுமானால் அங்கே மலேரியாவில் அகப்பட்டு வயிற்றில் கட்டி உண்டாக்கி அந்த உபாத்தியாயர் மரித்துப் போகிறான் அல்லது சில நாளைக்குள் ஒடி வந்து விடுகிறான். அந்தப் பிராந்தியத்தில் கல்வி அபிவிருத்திக்கு முயற்சி எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். ஆனால் அப்படிச் செய்யவில்லை. மலைப் பிரதேசத்திலுள்ள சில பேர்களைக் கொண்டுவந்து இலவசமாகப் படிப்பும் சாப்பாடும் கொடுத்து படிக்கவைத்து மலைவாசிகளை உபாத்தியாயர்களாக நியமித்திருந்தால் எவ்வளவோ அபிவிருத்தி ஏற்பட்டிருந்திருக்கும். அந்தக் காரியத்தை இதற்கு முன் இருந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டார் செய்யவில்லை. ஆகையினால் நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்வதென்னவென்றால், இனியாகிலும் அங்கேயுள்ளவர்களை உபாத்தியாயர் தொழிலில் பழக்கி அங்கே பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் வைத்து கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி அவர்களுக்கு ஏற்படும்படி செய்வதுடன் அவர்கள் நோயிலிருந்து தப்பித்துக்கொண்டு சுகமாக வாழவேண்டிய உணர்ச்சி தோன்றும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். கல்வி அவசியம் வேண்டும். கல்வியைப் போதிக்கவேண்டுமானால் இந்த முறையைத் தவிர வேறு எந்த முறையையும் கையாளமுடியாது. ஏனென்றால் மலைப்பிரதேசத்திலுள்ளவர்களுக்கு இந்தக் கல்வியைப் போதிப்பது அவசியமாகும்.

[22nd September 1937] [Mr. N. Annamalai Pillai]

"மற்றொன்று சர்க்காருக்கு ஞாபகப்படுத்துகிறேன். ஜவ்வாது மலைப்பிரதேசத்தில் மம்பாடி என்ற ஒரு ஜாதியார் இருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த ஜாதி இருக்கிறது என்று சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமோ தெரியாதோ. சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமென்று எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. இவர்கள் வட இந்தியாவிலிருந்து இங்கே இருந்து வருஷங்களுக்குமுன் வந்தவர்கள். இவர்கள் வட ஆற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் திருவண்ணாமலைப் பக்கம் செங்கம் தாலுகாவில் குடியேறி இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்கள் மனிதர்களாக உலாவிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இவர்கள் இன்னும் மனித நாகரீகமடையவில்லை. இதற்குக் காரணம் இந்த சமூகத்தைக் கவனித்து கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி ஏற்படும்படி செய்யாததுதான் காரணமாகும். மைனாரிட்டிகளைப்பற்றிப் பிரமாதமாக இங்கே பேசுகிறார்கள். அதை நான் இங்கே கேட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களைப்பற்றி பேசுகிறார்கள் இஸ்லாமியர்களைப்பற்றி பேசுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் யார் பேசினபோதிலும் தன இனத்தாருக்கு உத்தியோகம் வேண்டும், படிப்பு வேண்டும், செல்வம் வேண்டும் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள் யோபாபிய மைனாரிட்டியிலும் மைனாரிட்டியாக இருக்கின்ற தாழ்ந்த ஜாதிக் குயாராகிலும் இந்தக் கூட்டத்திலிருக்கிறவர்கள் பேசினார்கள் என்று கேட்கிறேன். எனது நண்பர் எம். சி. ராஜா மத்தியியாக இருந்தார். ஆதிதிராவிட மத்தியியாக இருந்தார். இந்தியா சட்டசபையில் மெம்பராக இருந்தார். இந்தியா கவர்ன்மெண்டில் விவகாரங்கள் பேசிவிட்டு வந்தார்கள். பிரமாதமான நிலைமையிலிருக்கிறார்கள். இஸ்லாமியச் சமூகத்தார்கள் பெரிய உத்தியோகங்களில் இருக்கிறார்கள். ஜாதிக்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். பெரிய பதவிகளில் இருக்கிறார்கள். கல்வியில் அபிவிருத்தி அடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் மம்பாடி ஜாதியைப்பற்றி யாராவது கவனித்தார்களா? இதற்கு முன்னிருந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டார் மைனாரிட்டி பிரதிநிதிகள் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்களே அவர்கள் ஏதாவது செய்தார்களா? ஒருவரும் இடைப்பற்றி பேசவில்லை.

"இன்னொரு ஜாதியைப்பற்றி ஞாபகம் வருகிறது. இந்தப் பிரதேசத்தில் இருளர் என்ற ஜாதியார் இருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த இருளர்கள் திக்கற்றவர்களாகக் காட்டில் காடியோடு புலியோடு நரியோடு காய் கிழங்குகளைத் தின்று வசிக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களை மனிதர்களாகச் செய்ய மைனாரிட்டிப் பிரதிநிதிகளாக இருந்தவர்களும் கவர்ன்மெண்டாரும் என்ன முயற்சி எடுத்துக்கொண்டார்கள்? ஒன்றும் செய்யவில்லை. அரசாங்கத்திற்கு கவனத்திற்கு கொண்டுவர எத்தனித்து இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் இந்த அரசாங்கத்தாருக்கு ஞாபகப்படுத்துகின்றேன். மைனாரிட்டிப் பிரதிநிதியாய் பேசுகிறவர்களும் மனிதர்கள் தங்களைவிட தாழ்ந்த நிலைமையில் கேவலமான நிலைமையில் மிகச் சிறிய கூட்டத்தாராய் பூச்சிகளாக அணுகுகளாக திக்கற்றவர்களாக இருக்கிறவர்களை மனதில் வைத்து அவர்கள் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காகப் பேசவேண்டுமென்று உணர்வுடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

"இது தவிர குருவிக்காரர்கள் என்பது ஒரு ஜாதி இருக்கிறது. குருவிக்காரர்கள் என்ற ஒரு ஜாதி அதாவது நரிக் குறவர்கள். இவர்களைப்பற்றி மைனாரிட்டிப் பிரதிநிதிகளுக்கு கவர்ன்மெண்டாருக்கு இதற்கு முன் ஞாபகப்படுத்தமா? இவர்களுக்கு ஒரு தொழில் அபிவிருத்தி ஒரு படிப்பு அபிவிருத்தி பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்தி ஏதாவது செய்தார்களா? இவர்கள் மனிதர்களாகவல்லவென்றும் மனிதர்களாகவாழவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்தார்களா? என்று கேட்கிறேன். நினைத்தால் வயிற்றெரிச்சலாக இருக்கிறது. இந்த ஆட்சியின்கீழ் எப்படி வாழ்ந்தார்கள். இந்த ஆட்சியில் பாமர மக்களைக் கவனித்தார்களா? பணக்காரர்களுக்காக வாயாடிகளுக்காக பெரும் பேச்சு பேசக்கூடிய அரசாங்கமாக இருந்ததெயோபாபிய ஏழைகளுக்கு ஒன்றுமில்லை. இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற அரசாங்கம் சற்று இதை சிந்தித்துப்பார்க்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். அக்கிராசனரிடத்தில் மன்னிப்புக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு குருவிக்காரர்கள் விஷயமாய் மீண்டும் ஒருவார்த்தை சொல்லுகிறேன். அவர்கள் நடுவீதியில் எச்சில் இலைகளைப் பொறுக்குகிறார்கள் அவர்கள் ரோட்டில் கிடக்கும் எச்சிலைச் சோற்றைத் தின்கிறார்கள். பெரு வியாதி பிடித்தவன் போடும் எச்சிலைச் சோற்றைத் தின்கிறார்கள். என்ன சுகாதார டிபார்ட்மெண்டு? என்ன ராஜ்யம்? என்ன முறை? இதைக் கவனிப்பார்களில்லை; திக்கற்றவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களை மனிதர்களாக

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [22nd September 1937]

பிள்ளைகளுக்கு படிப்பு ஏற்படவேண்டி இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது இந்தக் கிராமப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை எப்படிக் குறைக்கலாம் என்று பார்க்கிறார்கள். இதற்குமுன் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் பிள்ளைகளின் தொகையைப்பார்த்து கிராண்டு கொடுத்துவந்தார்கள். பிறகு உபாத்தியாயர்களின் தொகையைப்பார்த்துகிராண்டு கொடுத்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது இத்தனை பிள்ளைகள் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று திட்டம் வகுத்துவிட்டார்கள். ஒரு மைலுக்குள் ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடமிருந்தால் இன்னொரு பள்ளிக்கூடம் இருக்கக்கூடாதென்று இருக்கிறது. இப்படிப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை கிராமங்களில் ஒழித்துக்கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் பள்ளிக்கூட படிப்புமுறை சரியான முறையாக இல்லை. ஆகையினால் இப்பொழுதுள்ள கல்வி முறை நேர்மையான முறையில் இல்லை என்ற காரணத்தைக்கொண்டே இந்த விஷயத்தில் பத்து மோஷன் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன்.

4 p.m.

“உயர்தரப் பாடசாலைகளிலும் கல்லூரிகளிலும் இங்கிலிஷ் உப பாடமாக வைத்துக்கொண்டு மற்றெல்லாப் பாடங்களையும் தாய்மொழியில் கற்பிக்கவேண்டும். சமீபத்தில் மைசூரில் இந்த விஷயத்தைப் பரிசோதனை செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். S.S.L.C. க்குப் போனால் எவ்வளவு கெட்டிக்காரர்களாயிருந்தாலும் தவறிப் போய்விடுகிறார்கள். எல்லாப் பாடங்களையும் தாய் மொழியில் போதிக்காமல் ஆங்கில மொழியில் போதிக்கிறதினால்தான் இந்தமாதிரி தவறிப்போய்விடுகிறார்கள் என்று தெரிந்தவுடன் இதைப் பரிசோதிக்க S.S.L.C. கிளாஸை இரண்டாகப் பிரித்து ஒரு டிவிஷனில் எல்லாப் பாடங்களையும் ஆங்கில மொழியிலும் இன்னொரு டிவிஷனில் தாய் மொழியிலும் கற்றுக்கொடுத்துப் பரீட்சை செய்து பார்த்தார்கள். அந்தப் பரீட்சையில் தாய் மொழியில் பரீட்சிக்கப்பட்டவர்களில் ரொம்பபேர் தேறிவிட்டார்கள். ஆனால் ஆங்கில மொழியில் பரீட்சிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் அநேகம்பேர்கள் தவறிப்போய்விட்டார்கள். தமிழில் கற்றுக்கொடுத்ததினால் எல்லோரும் கெட்டிக்காரர்களானார்கள். ஆங்கில மொழியில் கற்றுக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் கெட்டிக்காரர்களாகவில்லை என்று இருபது நாளைக்குமுன் பத்திரிகைகளில் வாசித்தேன். ஆகையினால் தாய் மொழியில் எல்லாப் பாடங்களையும் கற்றுக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இங்கிலிஷ் உப பாடமாக கற்றுக்கொடுக்கலாம் என்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். இப்பொழுது ஹிந்தி கற்றுக்கொடுக்க ஏற்பாடாகி வருகிறது. இங்கிலிஷ் ஒழித்துவிட்டு ஹிந்தியை வைக்கலாம். தாய் மொழியில் மற்றப் பாடங்களை கற்றுக்கொடுக்கலாம். ஹிந்தியை உப பாடமாக வைத்துக் கொள்ளலாம்.

“படிப்பில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் மேலுக்குவர போதுமான வசதியில்லை. எலிமெண்டரிப் பாடசாலைகளிலும் உயர்தரப் பாடசாலைகளிலும் படிக்க தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்குப் போதுமான வசதியில்லை. (Hostel) ஹாஸ்டல் எங்கே இருக்கிறதோ அங்கே வசதி இருக்கிறது. High school-க்குப் போகிறவர்களா இருக்கிறவர்கள் குறைவு, காலேஜுக்குப் போகிறவர்கள் அதைவிடக் குறைவு. ஆகையினால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவருக்கு, கனம் அண்ணாமலைப் பிள்ளை அவர்கள் சொன்னதுபோல் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் என்றால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் மாத்திரமல்ல இருளர், நரிக்குறவர்கள்தான் என்றால் எல்லா தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கும் இலவசமாக படிப்புக் கொடுப்பது மிகவும் நலம். மேலும் சிதம்பரத்தில் ஒரு பெரிய யூனிவெர்ஸிட்டி பல்கலைக் கழகம் இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது கல்வி மந்திரியாக இருக்கிறவர்கள்தான் அதற்குப் பீடிகை போட்டவர்கள். தமிழ் நாட்டில் தமிழ் பல்கலைக் கழகத்திற்குப் பீடிகை போட்டவர். அந்த ஊரில் பெண்களுக்கு ஒரு ஹைஸ்கூல் ஏற்படுத்தவில்லை. முன் காலத்தில் யாசோ பெண்கள் படிக்கக் கூடாது, தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் படிக்கக்கூடாதென்று சட்டம் ஏற்படுத்திவிட்டார்கள். அதில் கொஞ்சமும் அர்த்தமில்லை. ஆகையினால் ராஜா அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அவர்களும் குமாரராஜா கனம் எம். எ. முத்தையாச் செட்டியார் அவர்களும் பெண்களுக்கு ஹைஸ்கூல் ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுக்கும் விஷயத்தில் கவனத்தைச் செலுத்துவார்களென்று நம்புகிறேன். கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களும் கவனம் செலுத்துவார்களென்று நம்புகிறேன்.

22nd September 1937] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

“தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவருக்குப் பிள்ளைகளைப் போதுமான பிள்ளைகளில் அனுமதிக்கிறதில்லை. இதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன? ஹரிஜன பிள்ளைகளிடத்தில் அனுதாபம் (Educational officers) எடியுக்கேஷனல் ஆபீஸர்களுக்கு இல்லாததே காரணம். கனம் டி. பி. கிருஷ்ணசாமி முதலியார் அவர்கள் தென் ஆற்காட்டில் எடியுக்கேஷனல் ஆபீஸராயிருந்தகாலத்தில் ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு என்று சில இடங்களை ஒதுக்கி வைப்பார்கள். இந்த வருஷம் ஒரு ஹரிஜன பையனை, டிரைனிங் ஸ்கூலில் சேர்க்க எவ்வளவோ பாடுபட்டேன். ஆனால் முடியவில்லை. ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு இந்த விஷயத்தில் வசதி ஏற்படுத்திக்கொடுக்க வேண்டும். கனம் அண்ணாமலைப் பிள்ளை அவர்கள் உபாத்தியாயர் டிரைனிங் விஷயத்தைப்பற்றிப் பேசும்போது டிரைனிங் ஸ்கூலுக்குப் போகவேண்டுமானால் ஒரு ஸ்கூலில் அதற்குமுன் இரண்டு வருஷம் உபாத்தியாயராக வேலைசெய்திருக்க வேண்டுமென்றதைப்பற்றிச் சொன்னார்கள். ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகள் டிரைனிங்குக்குப் போகுமுன் எங்கே உபாத்தியாயர் வேலை பார்க்கிறது. எட்டாவது வகுப்புப் படித்திருக்கிறான் என்று பார்த்து டிரைனிங்குக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டும். மற்ற ஜாதியாருக்கும் இதேவிதமாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். படிப்பில் முன்னேற்றமடையாத ஜாதியார் படித்துவிட்டு வந்தால் போதும் என்று கருதி அவர்களை அனுப்பவேண்டும்.

“கட்டாயப்படிப்பு நாட்டில் ஏற்படவில்லை. கட்டாயக் கல்வி ஒவ்வொரு ஆனுக்கும் பெண்ணுக்கும் கொடுத்துத் தீர வேண்டும். தாழ்ந்த ஜாதிப் பெண்ணும் உயர்ந்த ஜாதி பெண்ணும் படித்துத் தீரவேண்டும். எழுதப்படிக்கத் தெரிந்தவர்களுக்குத்தான் ‘வோட்டு’ உரிமை ஏற்படப்போகிறது என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். எழுதப்படிக்கத் தெரியாதவர்களிருந்தால் வோட்டு உரிமை அவர்களுக்கு எப்படிவரும்? ஆகையினால் எல்லாப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கும் கட்டாயப்படிப்பு கொடுக்க வேண்டும். ஏழைப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு பகலில் கொஞ்சம் கஞ்சித் தண்ணீர் ஊற்றியாவது ஏழைப் பிள்ளைகள் இலவச ஆரம்பக் கல்வி படிக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். இதை காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டுதான் செய்து காட்ட வேண்டும்.

“இப்பொழுது முஸ்லீம்களுடைய பாடசாலைகளில் கோரான் கட்டாயப் பாடமாக வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்துப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் திருக்குறளை கட்டாயப் பாடமாக வைக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். திருக்குறளைப் போல் தமிழ் நூற்களில் தர்மத்தையும், ஒழுக்கத்தையும், இன்பத்தையும், வீட்டையும் பற்றி சொல்லக்கூடியதில்லை. அரசன், அமைச்சன், குடிகள், வைத்தியர்கள், பயிரிடவேண்டியவன் இந்த ஒவ்வொரு விஷயத்திலும் இந்த மாதிரி இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று அதில் (திருக்குறளில்) சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகையினால் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் திருக்குறளை கட்டாயப் பாடமாக வைக்க வேண்டும். ஆயிரம் வாக்கியங்களைப் படித்தால் போதும். ஆறாவது, ஏழாவது, எட்டாவது வகுப்பில் கட்டாயப் பாடமாக வைக்கவேண்டும். பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்தியைக் கருதி பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் கைத்தறியையும், விவசாயத்தையும் கற்றுக் கொடுக்க வேண்டும். இதில் விவசாயத்தைக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்க இரண்டு ஏக்கர் நிலமும் ஏர் மாடுகளும் இருக்க வேண்டும். அப்படி விவசாயத்தைப்பற்றி கற்றுக்கொடுத்தால் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை விட்டுப்போனால் இப்பொழுது ஏர் பிடிக்க அஞ்சுகிற மாதிரி அஞ்சமாட்டார்கள். கைத்தறியில் கற்றுக்கொடுத்தால் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை விட்டு வெளியே போனால் கைத்தறியில் நெய்து பிழைக்க வழி ஏற்படும். ஆகையினாலே உழவுத் தொழிலும் கைத்தறித் தொழிலும் பள்ளிக் கூடங்களில் கற்றுக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.

“ஜில்லாக் கல்வி கவுன்சிலில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்குப் போதுமான பிரதிநிதித்துவம் இல்லை. அவர்களுக்கு தகுந்த பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் இதைக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். கனம் மந்திரியார் முந்திய அரசாங்கத்தில் இதற்கு முன்னால் தேவஸ்தான கமிட்டியில் என்னையும் கனம் முனிசாமி பிள்ளையையும் மெம்பர்களாகப் போட்டார்கள். தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக வேலை செய்யும் இந்தக் காலத்தில் கல்விச் சங்கங்களில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்குப் போதுமான பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

[Mr. A. Vedaratnam Pillai] [22nd September 1937]

கல்வியை ஆரம்பிப்பார்களென்று எதிர் பார்க்கிறேன். கல்வி விஷயத்தில் இப்பொழுது செலவு அதிகப்படுகிற பணம் சம்பள விஷயங்களிலும் கட்டிட விஷயங்களிலும் வியர்த்தமாகிறது. இந்த விஷயங்களில் சிக்கனஞ் செய்தால் ஆரம்பக் கல்வியை அதிகமாக பரப்ப பணம் அகப்படும். சாந்திநிகேதனால் கல்விப் பொதுக் கப்படுகிறது. அங்கே உயர்தரப் படிப்பு பொதுக்கப்படுகிறது. மடமாளிகை கட்டவில்லை. ஆலமரத்தின் கீழ் மாணவர்களுக்குப் பொதுக்கப்படுகிறது. அதில் படித்துவிட்டு வந்தவர்களில் சிலர் பெரிய பதவிகளில் வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். கனம் மந்திரிகளில் ஒருவர் சாந்தனிகேதனால் படித்தவர்களாக இங்கு இருக்கிறார்கள். இப்படிச் சொல்லுவதினால் அதே மாதிரி ஆலமர நிழலில் படிக்கவல்லவருமென்று கூறவில்லை. பெரிய ஆடம்பரமான கட்டிடங்கள் கல்விக்குத் தவையவில்லை. கல்வி பெறுகும் விஷயத்தில் இதில் பிச்சமாகும் பணத்தை செலவுத்தால் நனாயிருக்கின்றது நினைக்கிறேன்.

4-15 p.m. **MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will not be possible to say all that I have got to say in the limited time which has been allotted to me; therefore I will merely mention the points.

"Sir, I will first of all ask the Hon. Minister for Education to think out a policy by which the Government will be made responsible for primary and adult education. It will be admitted that the policy of handing over the entire education to local bodies has been a colossal failure and education has not spread. It is no use leaving adult education to private effort. Night schools alone are run for adult education. Unless the adult population is educated, even primary education which is acted and reacted upon will not be a success. I would commend to the Government the policy of the Japanese Government by which within a period of thirty years everyone in Japan has been enabled to read and write. The Government should adopt the policy of bringing primary education within their own control.

"Sir, the Muslim community which is still backward—I am ashamed to confess that—cannot progress unless and until the State takes upon itself the responsibility of education, at any rate in the case of backward communities. There is no use of leaving it to the tender mercies of private effort or to the local and municipal bodies.

"Sir, with reference to secondary and university education, I suggest that Government should not concentrate hereafter on higher and university education. They should turn their attention to technological education. There has been too much of secondary and collegiate education and there is a great need for technological education. It was urged that the Annamalai University should become a technological University, but I think it has become a duplicate of the Madras and Andhra Universities. The Government should give a new orientation to their policy of education. They have no doubt issued circulars with reference to discouraging admissions to university courses of study, but it has touched only the fringe of the problem. People are not seeking education for its own sake; the craze continues still and the idea persists that education is intended for the sake of employment. Mr. Monk, an education expert, has written a small book on this subject and I would recommend it for study by the Hon. Minister. Unless the Government

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take effective measures as has been suggested in that book, they would not be getting any return for the money they spend on education.

"With reference to the education of Muslim girls, it is a matter of regret that no municipality has so far made the education of Muslim girls compulsory. Even in the City of Madras in spite of the resolutions passed by the Council, elementary education for Muslim girls has not been made compulsory. The hon. the lady Member from West Godavari said that compulsion is necessary in the case of girls' education. But with regard to the elementary education of Muslim girls, neither in the City of Madras nor in the mufassal district boards it is made compulsory. Unless this is done, there is no hope for the progress of the country in a uniform manner and in the right fashion.

"With reference to separate schools, I do not want to discuss them at length. Separate schools should be made available to all sections of the community; they need not be strictly denominational; they should be institutions where knowledge is imparted through a certain medium. If anybody wants to understand Islamic culture or oriental culture, let him go to an institution like the Muhammadan College. These separate institutions should not be restricted to particular communities. These institutions should exist from the point of view of inculcating certain types of culture. I do not think the question of denominational or non-denominational schools ever arises.

"With reference to the cost of education, even from the primary stage up to the collegiate stage, it is so high and out of all proportion to the capacity of the parents to pay. Even in the primary stage, the number of note-books and drawing books, etc., is so large that parents are not able to cope with the demand. There is something fundamentally wrong with reference to the system of education and the curricula of studies, and they must be thoroughly overhauled. There is a lot of needless expenditure imposed on the poor parents, particularly those belonging to the backward communities such as Muslims and Harijans. They are not able to meet the cost of education. The Government should constitute a committee to go into the question as early as possible.

"With regard to legal education, I suggest, Sir, that Government should have nothing to do with it. The Madras Bar Council is quite competent to shoulder the responsibility for it. The Government should consider very seriously whether they cannot get rid of the responsibility of maintaining the Law College at great cost. The Hon. Minister should enter into negotiations with the Madras Bar Council and see whether the High Court and the Bar Council could not take up the responsibility of legal education in this province.

"Sir, the Government are maintaining certain colleges in an ill-equipped and inefficient manner. The Muhammadan College is wanting in many respects. The Government should open courses of studies which are not there at present and make it a full-blown first-grade

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college. Similarly, Sir, in the Queen Mary's College provision has not been made for some branches of learning. Unless the Government provide the necessary funds, the Director of Public Instruction cannot apply to the University for sanction to open new courses of study. I do hope, Sir, that the Government will call for proposals from the Director of Public Instruction with reference to the opening of certain courses of study which are not now available in the Muhammadan College so that it may be made a full-blown first-grade college available for all communities. I also hope that the Queen Mary's College will be equipped with proper staff and with such courses of learning as are not at present provided there."

* DR. N. LAKSHMI DEVI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure all the hon. Members will agree with me when I say that the educational system of our country is defective. A great deal of agitation has been going on about this. I know, Sir, that this defective education system in our province is the root cause of unemployment. If the previous Government had realized this and imparted education to students on lines which would be useful to them, then there would not have been so much unemployment. I am sure that this defective system of education will soon be ended by our able Minister for Education.

"Sir, some time back when the missionaries came to India they started these aided schools for the benefit of Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians. Even then education did not spread especially among women, because the caste Hindus did not like to send their children to such schools. Moreover, Sir, Muhammadans, who observe purdah, did not like to send their girls to these schools. Because of these difficulties education of women has been very backward in our province. It is only 2 or 2½ per cent among girls as against 6 per cent among boys. Even the previous Government which had been allotting funds for the education of girls did not realize that education is as important for girls as for boys. I do not know whether I should say that the previous Government was partial. Sir, primary education of girls is very essential and it is important that it should be given to boys and girls on similar lines and same amounts should be allotted to both. I say this, because education has not spread among the rural population. I do not know whether the previous Government should be held responsible for this, because some time back education had been handed over to local bodies who have been responsible for this. We do not know how to tackle that question. I am not here to find fault with the previous Government, but I hope that the present Government will consider this matter seriously and root out illiteracy from our country.

4-30 p.m. "I want to bring to the notice of the Government that proper management of the schools should be insisted on and proper funds should be allotted for girls' education. I am here to speak for girls' education, because I know there are a large number of girls in the mufassal who are not receiving education on proper lines. If we go to the villages, we find schools in a very miserable condition and not

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properly managed, and the teachers do not generally know how to handle the students. It is with great difficulty that the parents send their children to school, and even then they are not attended to properly in the schools by these teachers. I want to suggest to the Government that better trained teachers should be sent to the mufassal schools, because it is they who are responsible for girls' education there. At the same time, the Government should see that these teachers are properly paid and are given sufficient facilities for lodging. Sir, it is a great drawback for women teachers, when they go from the towns to the mufassal schools. They find great difficulty in the matter of their lodgings and boarding. My earnest request to the Government therefore is that quarters for women teachers should be provided in the same place where the schools are located.

"Again, I say that Government should pay particular attention to the languages that are taught. My earnest desire is that all the subjects should be taught in the vernacular and that English should be made only a secondary language. I insist on this, because these students who go to schools in the mufassal, when they come back home, are not able to express themselves in their mother tongue, what is taught to them. I also insist that Indian literature should be introduced in schools in such a way that the great epics of the Hindu religion are taught in the schools in small series, in order to sharpen their intelligence and to make them learn all about the heroes of the land to which they belong, and what should be their aspirations if they want to be true followers of an old heritage and of great men and become good citizens of India.

"One point, Sir, that I should like to bring to the notice of the House is that the secondary education that is imparted for boys and girls should be separate. I say this because most of the girls who receive secondary education are not able to go to the colleges on account of financial reasons. Most of the girls, after their secondary education is over, settle down; and for such students, the subjects should be taught in such a way that they would be helpful to them in their lives. I propose, Sir, that special subjects should be introduced into the curriculum, such as, hygiene, house-keeping, cooking, laundrying, elements of physiology, anatomy, etc. They should be taught all these things in such a way that not only should they be benefited by the education in their own lives, but that their children also should get the benefit. These are really useful subjects which should be taught to girls in India, since at least 90 per cent of them after their secondary or primary education, begin to live as housewives in families. If these women do not know the elements of life—how to keep and look after their homes and their children, how to manage their houses, etc.—India cannot make much progress, because it is necessary that men should get co-operation from women if the country is to make substantial progress; otherwise, Sir, I am afraid we cannot have the progress that we all desire. I hope that the present Government will look

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into the matter and see that a thorough overhaul in our educational system is made and big funds are set apart for women's education. At the same time, Government should insist on starting separate schools for girls for teaching all the subjects that I have mentioned. When I say that separate schools should be provided for women's education, it should not be thought that I do not extend my hearty support for the education of my sisters, the Muslim women, just because they observe purdah. I do not say on that account they should leave off purdah, but I say that a particular school may be set apart for them, so that they may also benefit and they may also go to the schools and become educated and cultured. When I say this again, it should not be understood that I say they are not cultured now; but what I mean is that better scope should be given to them also. With these few words, Sir, I hope that the Government will pay particular attention for the education of women in our province."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to take up much of the time of the House, for, the hon. Members who have spoken before me have already expressed all that had to be said in this matter. I only wish to tell my hon. Friend the Minister for Education that he need not fight shy of carrying out a revolution in the system of education that obtains at present. I am afraid in one of the speeches that he made, he told the audience that he would not carry out any wholesale changes in education, but that he would be satisfied with merely reforming it. Sir, the system has been so bad and defective all these years. All the hon. Members who have spoken before me have stated that clearly and frankly and the time has come when it is necessary to introduce many drastic reforms, even revolutionizing the whole system of education, in order that it may become really useful to the people. Otherwise, Sir, all the money—nearly 2½ crores of rupees—which is being allotted for education, particularly the money allotted for primary education—will be a colossal waste. I am afraid, Sir, that all the money so long spent—perhaps several hon. Members may not agree with me, but that is my conviction—on primary education in our province has been a waste. Unless we revolutionize the whole system, unless we bring in the element of compulsion and make the children literate, the money that is allotted now will also be a waste.

"In this connexion, I should like to say that it will not be enough if we are satisfied with lower elementary education. For, our experience has shown that a student or a pupil who goes up to the fifth standard does not receive sufficient education to be of service to him or her in his or her life. Unless the child is given education up to the eighth standard, there will be no possibility of the child calling itself educated or literate to any extent. Sir, I believe in quality first and quantity next. It may be stated, Sir, that there must be a specific period fixed within which a large number of people may be educated.

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But I think that if we fix a few years, we may not succeed to any great extent. Unless we educate some people at least sufficiently, we will not be doing our duty.

"Sir, the one handicap in the way of spreading primary education and literacy in our province has been very well dealt with by our very able and energetic Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Statham, in the communiqué that was issued very recently by the Government of Madras. I do not wish to take up the time of the House with regard to that question. I am sure that the Hon. Minister will frame his policy on the basis of the recommendations that the Director of Public Instruction has made in that press communiqué. Sir, the primary handicap is the unqualified or inefficient teacher. It is very necessary that we should abolish the lower elementary training class of teachers altogether. The minimum qualification of a teacher should be the secondary training course. It will be very much better if graduates are trained not only for teaching in higher schools but also for teaching in primary schools. They may be given such a thorough course of training that they could be usefully employed as teachers in elementary schools in the place of the present inefficient and incompetent teachers who themselves require to be taught before they could be called teachers. Sir, there was a time when it was freely suggested that it would be very much better if lady teachers could be employed in preference to men teachers; if they are so employed at least in the first two or three classes, I think it will go a long way to make education really more homely and effective. All these years in our country, education has been so ordered as to make the various stages of primary education, secondary education and university education separate entities, to come one after the other. Hereafter at least, Sir, I hope the Hon. Minister will see that these three stages of education are made complete in themselves. Primary education should not be merely a stage or stepping stone to secondary education; secondary education again should not be a stepping stone or a sort of pre-collegiate education. Elementary education should, as I have stated, be made complete in itself and so also secondary education. A boy or girl who has completed secondary education should be highly educated. It should not be necessary for a boy or girl who has completed secondary education to go up to collegiate education, unless he or she wants to choose a profession. I am sure that both in the elementary and the secondary school, a vocational bias will be given to education.

"The recommendations that have been made in the press communiqué state that it is very necessary that vocational bias should be given to elementary education, particularly in villages where poor parents are not in a position to send their children full time to school. The hours of school should also be so fixed as to enable the children not only to attend school but also to attend to their work in their homes or to assist their parents in the work in which they are engaged."

DEMAND XV—EDUCATION

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“Sir, in our anxiety to spread elementary education, I hope we will not diminish our attention to secondary education. Secondary education requires as much attention as primary education. There must be no attempt made to minimize the attention so far given to secondary education. In this connexion, I should like to know from the Hon. Minister why the provision made in the budget for secondary education and university education in respect of buildings and equipment has been considerably reduced. There has been, I find in each case, a considerable reduction in the grants for these purposes; I do not know exactly what is the policy of the Government in this regard. There are many schools which are maintained by non-official agencies, and unless they get sufficient grants for their buildings and equipment, they cannot run their schools in an efficient manner. I should like to know from the Hon. Minister what exactly is the policy behind the reduction of these grants.

4.45
p.m.

“Then, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, has already stated that we must increase the number of technological colleges in the province. Although the technical college in our City satisfies the requirements to a certain extent, I am sure Government will not feel satisfied with the amount of technological education that is imparted at present to our young men in this particular college.

“I also wish to say in this connexion that in so revolutionizing the system of education, we must give some attention to the examination of the question as to how far the present examination system is useful. We have seen year after year a large number of students fail in the S.S.L.C. examination. What happens to these boys? Are they considered to be educated, or are they considered to be illiterate, or are they qualified for any service? And, for what are they worth? In order to avoid this kind of label being attached to these poor young men, will it not be advisable to abolish the examination system altogether; and, if any such person wants to enter Government service or enter a college, he might be examined afresh?

“Sir, I would finish by merely asking the Hon. Minister one or two things. With regard to the Muslim Education Enquiry Committee's report, the previous Government considered that report and gave effect to one or two of its recommendations and I would ask the Hon. Minister for Education to see that he gives effect to the other recommendations of the Committee.

“So far as the question of Hindustani is concerned, might I now ask the Hon. Minister and the Government in power to hereafter mention the name of the language as ‘Hindustani’ and not Hindi, for I know it has been already agreed that it should be called Hindustani and not Hindi, because the word has been responsible for a good deal of controversy that has been going on? We are glad that there has been an agreement reached between Babu Rajendra Prasad and Abdu Huq and if the agreement materializes, the controversy that has been going on with regard to Hindi, Hindustani and Urdu will, I am sure disappear and in giving effect to the policy of Government in the matter

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of introducing or making Hindustani compulsory, I hope the agreement that has been arrived at between these two hon. Gentlemen will be given effect to.

“Sir, I have been reminded that I might ask the Hon. Minister for Education what is the policy that will be followed with regard to maintaining the special schools for Muslims, whether they will be continued or whether in the revision of the system of education they will disappear.”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Sir, I propose to deal only with one small matter though it is important. It is small I say, and it is the question of Urdu, Hindi and Hindustani and so on. I want a rose; I do not mind what the rose is called. I want a rose and it will smell as sweet, whatever name my hon. Friends may give it. Whether you call it Hindi, Hindustani or Urdu, or rose, *rojappu* or *roja* and so on, the thing is the same in either case and if hon. Members will agree with me and support the movement to have this rose, a garland will go round the neck of our education, with whatever name it may be called, it does not matter. (‘Hear, hear.’) About the question of language, script and vocabulary and the like, I only wish to say this much. Our intention is to produce text-books or primers, if I may choose to call them so, for Forms I, II and III, in such a way that it would be the same language; whether it be printed in Devanagari or whether it be printed in Urdu, it is the language of the streets of Delhi and it is a prominent language we propose to have. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: ‘Lucknow.’) Yes, Delhi, Lucknow and all the other places of which the Muslims might rightly be proud.

“As regards the hon. Member who spoke about military education, I am very glad to say that Members are so ready to launch forward the most advanced programmes in all directions. I do hope they will continue in this enthusiastic spirit and when we do take steps in those directions, we will have the undiluted support which we expect from hon. Members especially those who took part in the debates on this cut motion and introduced those subjects. As regards military education, let me say that the teaching of Hindustani to South Indians is the first step for that military education for which my hon. Friend from Malabar pleaded.

“As regards my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan's dissatisfaction with my Colleague, the Minister for Education, in the speeches he made about revolution and slowness of the pace, I wish to assure my hon. Friend here that he who wants revolution does not always tom-tom about it, but tells people to be cautious and slow in everything that he does. I want therefore to assure hon. Members that everything will be done to bring about the right kind of revolution but without the name revolution.”

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, the gentleman who represents the Malabar Landholders, waxed eloquent on military education. Might I point out to him that

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the portfolio is entirely in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief in India and unfortunately I have not yet risen to the position of Commander-in-Chief in India. But I do hope that attempts will be made to follow the programme advanced by my hon. Friend, the Member for Malabar Landholders, because I do sympathize with him in the statement that we must try and produce young men of physical culture and bravery who will be able to take their part in the defence of the country. Though I am a believer in the cult of non-violence, I do believe that even to carry out that object we must have a martial race which will be able to tell the world at large that if we are going to be touched we can defend ourselves. ('Hear, hear.')

"With regard to Hindi or rather Hindustani as I would now prefer to call it after the speech of my Leader he has himself pointed out that what my hon. Friend, the Member for West Coast Landholders, wants would be achieved to a certain extent by the teaching of this language. The martial spirit is supposed to be brought about by the language itself and I hope the learning of that language will inculcate that spirit into our students.

"My hon. Friend, the Member for Tiruvannamalai (Rural), I am glad, made his maiden speech in this House and pleaded on behalf of the hill tribes. I hope something will be done for what he has stated with regard to schools for them. I am sure the Hon. Minister for Public Health, who was not here when Mr. Annamalai Pillai spoke, would think of the rooting out of malaria about which my hon. Friend talked.

"My hon. Friend, the Scheduled Caste Member for Chingleput and Madurantakam, questioned why Hindi should be introduced into our schools and I may say that has been largely answered by my Leader. But might I point out to the hon. Member for Madurantakam-Chingleput Scheduled Castes Constituency that the introduction of Hindi is absolutely necessary if there is to be oneness in India, and if we are going to be one with our brothers of the north, it is better we learn their language and are able to associate with them on equal terms. If nationhood in India is to be a real fact, I am sure all hon. Members will realize that Hindi is very necessary as part of the curriculum of any school. I am sorry I am accustomed to call it Hindi and in spite of my Leader having called it Hindustani, my tongue goes back to it unfortunately.

"Then my hon. Friend, the member for the Madurantakam-Chingleput Scheduled Castes Constituency, also referred to the political aspect of the question. Undoubtedly it is political. After all what are we here for and why are we in this Council if we are not political? We might as well have remained where we were and gone back to the system of government that existed under the Minto-Morley Reforms or even earlier if we were not political.

"I must congratulate the two lady Members who spoke on education. They spoke very effectively and in fact in a way that many hon. Members will feel jealous of them. The hon. Member for the Ellore Women's Reserved Constituency talked of introducing other subjects

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into the Queen Mary's College. As I said in reply to some question, with all the will in the world that anybody may possess, it is not possible to accomplish it, because we must cut our coat according to the cloth we possess, and in the present state of our finances, it is not possible to introduce the subjects about which the hon. Member for the Ellore Women's Constituency talked. I may say that these subjects are taught in the Presidency College and I believe men and women associating together is a better thing than to be segregated as they are to-day, because we have spent a good deal of money on the Natural Science Laboratory at the Presidency College and there are enough places even for lady students if they want to attend the Natural Science classes and I am sure nothing would be lost by these young women going across to the Presidency College. They have also got hostel accommodation in the Queen Mary's College and so they can go to the Presidency College to learn Natural Science.

"Then, Sir, the lady Member was very jealous that the ladies won prizes for the Presidency College and not for the Queen Mary's College. I am sure loyalty to her college will be very much admired by hon. Members of this House, but at the same time I am sure the lady Member will also realize, after all it is her own sex that is gaining ground by having places in the Presidency College and getting education in well-equipped laboratories. In the present state of our finances, we will not be able to equip laboratories in the Queen Mary's College. Might I also remind the hon. Member that the Women's Christian College in this very City has classes in natural science and if these ladies are so shy as not to go across to the Presidency College, they could very well go to the Women's Christian College? The hon. the lady Member for Ellore also talked of a girls' high school at Ellore. I am afraid it will not be possible even in the next budget to increase the number of girls' high schools because the commitments of this Government are very great.

"The hon. the Muslim Member for the City of Madras asked why the sum given with regard to equipment both for secondary and university education has decreased. It is simply due to the reason that we must cut our coat according to the cloth that we possess and with all the needs that are arising from day to day it has not been possible to find money for these grants and I am sure the hon. the Muslim Member for the City of Madras will agree that it is much better to cut off the building and equipment grants rather than cut off other essential sources for these two systems of education. The reply I gave to the hon. the lady Member applies equally to the hon. the Muslim Member for the Kurnool district with regard to the starting of a high school for girls in Kurnool. The hon. Member also pleaded that the pandits and munshis in Government schools are to be placed on the same scale as the local board employees are getting to-day. With all the pleading that I did with my Hon. Colleague the Minister for Local Administration, I have not succeeded in

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making him get his scale down to mine. But as at present situated I am not in a position to give any promise with regard to the point raised by the hon. the Muslim Member for the district of Kurnool.

“The question of compulsory primary education was raised by almost every member who spoke. The immensity of the problem makes it difficult for any one in the position of a Member of Government to give any assurance on this point, but we will try and utilize the money that is being spent on primary education in a better manner and we will also try and prevent wastage about which the hon. the Muslim Member for the City of Madras talked of. The trouble is that with all the money that has been spent, it has not been possible to see that the pupils who begin in the first class of a primary school, not every one of them, always go up to the fifth standard of the same elementary school or any other school.

5 p.m.

“Though I do not go to the extent the Muslim Member of the City of Madras went I am prepared to go as far as this, that unless we are able to retain these people up to the fifth standard we will not gain the object of making a person literate. It is that object which we must try and achieve with regard to elementary education. I must also congratulate my friend the Member for the Mannargudi-Tirutturai-pundi Rural Constituency for his speech in defence of Hindustani. I am indeed obliged to him for the very kind support he gave with regard to the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject in the first, second and third forms. I shall certainly bear in mind the points he made with regard to the period of time. Sir, it is already past five o'clock. I think I have dealt with most of the points raised except that of the hon. Member for Chingleput-South Arcot Muslim constituency, who not only made a speech but not being satisfied with that, has sent a note. I quite understand his anxiety that what he has raised should be answered and I shall try to do so in the few minutes that are left now. He wants that primary and elementary education should be taken over by Government. I am sorry my hon. Friend refers to election pledges. I do not want to be instructed on election pledges by other Members of the House. But I am considering the matter of taking over all primary schools under Government. But the difficulties are more because there are three kinds of agencies imparting primary education to-day. As hon. Members will be aware, first there is the local body school; secondly aided management other than the mission and thirdly mission managed school. We cannot get away from the fact that some of these aided schools are very efficiently managed and good and therefore the help they are rendering to primary education in this province is great. We cannot get rid of them. The whole thing is under consideration. What he means by adult education, I cannot understand. If he does mean by that giving the illiterate people some idea of education, there is no question of adult education being conducted by anybody at the present moment. The second point is very special with the hon. Member for South Arcot and Chingleput, viz., compulsion for Muslim girls. May I assure the hon. Member that if compulsion is going to be introduced, it will be

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compulsion for all boys and girls and not for any particular community? They have been exempted because some members of the hon. Member's community wished that they should be exempted and that was the reason. It is not from imagination because I know what happened at that time and I know that it did happen. I am sure of the facts. The hon. Member may be annoyed now but it did happen then. The hon. Member also talked of technological education. It is a point I would certainly bear in mind. I do certainly feel that our three universities might divide themselves up into separate schools and pay attention to separate kinds of subjects. But it has not been possible as universities claim autonomy and autonomy implies that Government cannot interfere with the discretion of the universities. I do not quite understand what the hon. Member for South Arcot-Chingleput Rural Muslim Constituency means by reduction of cost of education. If he means that primary education ought to be easily available I agree with him. If he wants us to reduce the fees in arts colleges, situated as we are, we cannot give any promise of that kind. I have already replied to the question with regard to the equipment of Queen Mary's College in various subjects. The Government Muhammadan College comes under the same category and I am not in a position to say that more subjects than are being taught to-day will be introduced. But Government will try and see that better facilities in the Muhammadan College will be given and I would also bear in mind the suggestion that the Muhammadan College is not a Muhammadan College but meant for all communities. But if other members do not seek admission into it, it is not the fault of the Government. I am again thankful for the great enthusiasm which has been shown in this House with regard to education as a whole and I hope as my hon. Friend the Leader of the Muslim League said only a moment ago that they will not think me a mere reformist. But I do feel that caution is always better. I believe in silence and I believe that we should not say things, unless we are able to accomplish them. There is no use talking big and doing little. It is much better to talk little and do a little more.”

MR. R. M. PALAT:—“In reply, Sir, . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Does the hon. Member Mr. Palat really claim a reply?”

MR. R. M. PALAT:—“Yes.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“He has no right.”

MR. R. M. PALAT:—“As a mover of the cut motion?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Mr. Palat has no right of reply. Does he press his motion?”

MR. R. M. PALAT:—“No. Sir, as I am not allowed to reply.”

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“This House will sit to-morrow also in the evening after half past two, after an interval of an hour. The House is adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.”

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 201 asked by Mr. N. M. R. Subbarama Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 22nd September 1937, page 499 supra.]

G.O. No. 2218, Development, dated 7th December 1936.

[Economic Councils—District Economic Councils—Work—Quarter ending 30th September 1936—Review.]

In pursuance of the policy of the Government announced in July 1936, District Economic Councils have been formed in all the districts. In only fifteen districts, however, had these been formed by the end of the quarter ending 30th September 1936. These councils have begun to tackle earnestly the manifold problems that confront them.

2. They have decided in some districts—Salem and Bellary—to set up Divisional Councils, one for each revenue division. In other districts, for example, Nellore, Cuddapah and Anantapur, village associations have been formed. Sub-committees of the District Economic Councils have also been established to consider specific subjects such as agriculture, cattle-breeding, marketing of fruits, etc.

3. The Government have already indicated the agency to be employed for village improvement work. There are village organizations such as panchayat boards and co-operative societies, through which the beneficial activities of the District Economic Councils may be extended or inaugurated. Some councils also feel the need to train a few individuals to undertake rural reconstruction work. Thus, in Salem it has been decided to select rural guides from among the residents of the village and to appoint them on an honorary or a stipendiary basis. In North Arcot it has been decided to open a training centre for rural reconstruction work at Vellore. Government commend these measures to the attention of other councils and hope they will also take steps to train individuals to carry on rural reconstruction work.

4. The work which these councils have undertaken or intend undertaking is along two lines—intensive work in select villages in all directions affecting the welfare of the villagers and extensive work in each district for the improvement of drinking water-supply, rural communications, rural industry and marketing. To carry out intensive rural reconstruction work, many councils have selected model villages. In Chittoor as many as 41 villages have been selected; in Salem 11 and in South Kanara 3 groups of villages. In some districts such as Nellore, it has been decided to have two or three model villages in each revenue division. In Tanjore and Cuddapah, one village for each division has been selected. In North Arcot, Bellary and Tinnevely, the councils intend selecting one village a taluk. Just at present the councils are engaged in surveying the needs and potentialities of these select villages.

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5. In Salem district a survey of the essential general needs of the district is being carried out. Lists of wells and rural roads needed in the district are under preparation. The Collector of Salem has made an interesting suggestion to pass legislation for the levy of a well-cess in notified villages so that Government may borrow money and dig wells in the villages, the cost being recovered through the cess over a period of thirty years. Government feel that a general survey on the lines now being carried on in Salem will prove of great value. In South Kanara a questionnaire has been issued to Tahsildars to gather similar information.

6. *Nature of rural reconstruction work and its progress in the districts—Education.*—The Nellore Council has taken steps to increase the number of schools in rural areas. Managers of schools have been circularized to start Social Service Leagues in their schools. One such league has already been formed. In North Arcot it is proposed to start free reading rooms in select villages. In Chittoor the Council has proposed the starting of schools for adults, free reading rooms and libraries.

Sanitation.—Construction of bore-hole latrines is in the programme of many a Council. In the village of Kolur in the Bellary taluk, two trench latrines have been constructed and a public bath at a cost of Rs. 344 close to a well which has a perennial supply of water is also under construction. A playground for school children has been opened in the same village. All the manure heaps and encroachments in the village-site have been removed with the active co-operation of the villagers by voluntary labour. In Nellore the Revenue Divisional Officer, Kovur, is endeavouring to induce the Kovur Village Panchayat Board to introduce compulsory scavenging within its limits.

Medical relief.—The Chittoor Council has resolved to train some men in first aid. The Council at Salem has in view the provision of a mid-wife at select village centres. In Bellary the Municipal Council has agreed to depute its Lady Doctor to help to carry on propaganda work in Maternity and Child Welfare work.

Water-supply.—In many districts steps are being taken to convert step wells into draw wells and to improve the water-supply by deepening the wells. In North Arcot measures are being considered to introduce protected water-supply in certain villages. In Bellary district steps have been taken to connect Kakkabevinahalli village with a pipe line from Bellary and also to effect a reduction in the water tax from 10 annas to 4 annas per thousand gallons.

Roads.—Improvement of rural communications plays an important part in the programme of District Economic Councils. In Cuddapah they have taken up the improvement of streets of Chennur. In Bellary a road all round the village of Kolur has been constructed. In Nellore feeder roads are under contemplation.

Agriculture.—Many Councils such as Nellore, have considered the steps to be taken to popularize scientific methods of cultivation. In North Arcot it has been decided to popularize the introduction of soya

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bean. The District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai have been requested to maintain well-equipped motor vans for carrying out rural uplift work, for distribution of seeds and implements, etc., to the ryots. In Salem a Committee has been appointed to report on the marketing of fruits such as grapes, oranges and mangoes.

Livestock and Veterinary work.—At the instance of the Councils stud bulls have been bought or their purchase decided upon in many a village. In Salem a sub-committee of the District Economic Council has been formed to consider the question of cattle-breeding.

Industries.—Cottage industries are receiving the attention due to them at the hands of many Councils such as Tinnevely, North Arcot and Salem. Rope-making, basket-making, bee-keeping, poultry-rearing and making of mats from palmyra leaves are all items of work in the programme of one or the other of the Councils.

7. Special attention is continuing to be paid to the needs of the depressed classes. Wells are being constructed for their use at the instance of District Economic Councils in the districts of Nellore and Tinnevely. The District Economic Council of Bellary is engaged in providing, through the panchayat of the village, quarters for Adi-Dravidas in Kakkabevinahalli village. The District Economic Councils are aware also of the need for the construction of village halls. Such a hall has been provided in Kakkabevinahalli village chiefly due to the generosity of Mr. Doddana Gowd.

8. Government fully realize that there has been little time for Councils to set to work and to achieve results. They note with satisfaction the good work that is being done in the districts in general and in North Arcot, Bellary, Salem, Cuddapah, Tinnevely, Nellore, Chittoor and South Kanara in particular. Very good results have already been achieved in Bellary district. Improvements effected in Kolur village have already been referred to. In Kakkabevinahalli village all manure heaps inside the village have been completely removed to sites specially allotted for the purpose. Two trench latrines have been constructed and they are being regularly used by the villagers. A public health survey has been made and all the houses have been numbered for statistical purposes. Twenty houses have so far been provided with 32 windows gifted by the present President of the District Board. Public health posters have been put up in the panchayat school and magic lantern lectures are being systematically given to the villagers on health subjects. Twelve houses have been provided with soak pits according to the instructions given by the Public Health Department. All the hay-ricks put up in the middle of the village-site have been completely removed to new sites outside the village gifted by Mr. Doddana Gowd and the hay-ricks have been arranged neatly in a regular line. The medicine chest supplied to the villagers is proving useful. In twenty houses the dry earth system of conserving manure is being tried and this has improved the sanitation in those houses considerably. Forty-five bags of cotton seeds and four bags of jonna seeds of the total value of Rs. 190

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have been distributed through the Co-operative Society newly formed for the purpose. An indent has been placed for six pairs of leghorns for supply to the villagers. Bunding trials for conserving soil moisture are being tried in an area of 8 acres of land belonging to one Gangadharappa, a prominent member of the panchayat. Posters regarding insect pests and remedial measures have been supplied to the villagers. The president of the panchayat board, Mr. Doddana Gowd, has offered to deposit Rs. 1,000 in the local co-operative society to finance loan applications received from members to the extent of Rs. 600. The cost of seeds supplied by the Agricultural Depot will be paid from this deposit. Arrangements are being made by the Agricultural Department for the supply of fodder. All the bullocks in the village have been inoculated against rinderpest by the goat-virus method. Magic lantern lectures against cattle diseases have been given by the Veterinary Department. Steps taken to provide a good water-supply to the village have already been referred to. The construction of a new road to the east of the village is under progress. The compound of the panchayat school has been extended and a small play-ground provided for the school. In order to relieve congestion in the Adi-Andhra quarters, twenty house-sites have been allotted in the land gifted by Mr. Doddana Gowd. A lay-out has been prepared and houses will be constructed according to the design approved by the Collector. Provision has been made in each site for separate accommodation for cattle.

9. The Government have no doubt that similar results will stand to the credit of the other Councils also by the time they review their work again in January next.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Public Works)

C. J. PAUL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Commissioner of Labour and Rural Uplift.
,, the Chief Conservator of Forests.
,, all Collectors.
,, the Director of Agriculture.
,, the Director of Veterinary Services.
,, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
,, the Director of Fisheries.
,, the Education and Public Health Department.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Revenue Department.
,, the Local Self-Government Department.
,, the Finance Department.
,, the Accountant-General (through Finance Department).
,, the Director of Industries.
Press.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 201 asked by Mr. N. M. R. Subbarama Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 22nd September 1937, page 499 supra.]

G.O. No. 581, Development, dated 10th March 1937.

[Economic Councils—District Economic Councils—Work done during the quarter ending 31st December 1936—Review.]

READ—the following papers:—

G.O. No. 1113, Development, dated 9th July 1936.

G.O. No. 2218, Development, dated 7th December 1936.

Order—No. 581, Development, dated 10th March 1937.

During the quarter ending the 31st December 1936, District Economic Councils were mainly engaged in selection of villages for more intensive work of rural reconstruction, organization of local committees or associations and agencies for dealing with programmes of work to be carried out and formulation of schemes for spending the grants referred to in paragraph 4 below. Villages have been selected in all but four districts and a survey of the needs of the villagers completed in some, while it is in progress in others. Certain councils, such as Anantapur, North Arcot, West Godavari, East Godavari and Nellore have set up Divisional Committees, while certain others, such as of Trichinopoly and Ramnad have formed Taluk Committees. Village Councils or Committees or Associations have been set up in selected villages in the districts of North Arcot, Chittoor, Tinnevely and Cuddapah. The Councils of Nellore and Ramnad have arranged for the formation of panchayat boards to carry on rural reconstruction work in the selected villages while it is under contemplation in West Godavari and Chingleput to utilize the existing boards for the work. In certain other districts, e.g., Chittoor, Tanjore, Tinnevely and Cuddapah, it is proposed to seek the aid of existing or proposed co-operative organizations. Scout troops are being formed in selected villages and arrangements are being made to train Rover Scouts to co-operate with local committees in rural reconstruction work in North Arcot district, while one scout troop has already been formed in Chennur village in Cuddapah district. There was already a Social Service League in Cuddapah and one has now been formed of boys in the Board High School, Kandukur, in Nellore district and these bodies, it is expected, will help local organizations to carry out the programme of District Economic Councils. The North Arcot Council has been responsible for training eleven candidates in veterinary matters, co-operation, public health, scouting and agriculture. The expenses of the training amounted to Rs. 89-14-0 out of which a sum of Rs. 47-5-4 was contributed either by the candidates themselves or by the village panchayats which deputed them for training and the remainder was met from a donation by a philanthropist.

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In Tanjore, teachers trained in rural reconstruction work have been posted to three model villages in different taluks of the district. In Guntur, Presidents of District Boards have agreed to see that one of the teachers employed in each selected village is trained in Agriculture in Lam Farm. In Cuddapah it has been decided to train two young men at the Government Fruit Farm at Kodur. Public meetings were held in all selected villages in Tanjore district. The Collector himself presided over most of them. People were found to be generally enthusiastic about rural reconstruction. Lectures accompanied in some cases by magic lantern shows were delivered at the meetings by departmental officers to bring home to the minds of the villagers the necessity for observing hygienic principles. Leaflets regarding epidemics, etc., were distributed. Posters on epidemics, child welfare, maternity, tuberculosis and malaria were put up in some villages. Popular dramatic entertainments were provided with the object of arousing the interest of the villagers in matters affecting their well being and prosperity and of impressing in their minds the benefits of improved methods of cultivation and of co-operative institutions, etc. From the enthusiasm displayed by the villagers at the meeting and the demand for taking up more villages for uplift work it would appear that rural reconstruction work is appreciated, and the council of the district is sanguine that the villagers would co-operate with the authorities in carrying out this most important work successfully. The members of the South Kanara Council visited the selected villages according to a pre-arranged programme and obtained a detailed knowledge of the conditions of each group of villages and they helped to create interest in villagers also. The Collector of the district has specially commended the work done by the official members of the council.

2. Some of the councils have also to their credit some definite achievements effected during the quarter under review.

(i) *Education*.—A reading room has been opened in Bhimagundem in Cuddapah district. A night school has been opened in Mela Ulur in Tanjore taluk and in Chennur in Cuddapah district. A system of adult education was introduced in Salem district and it is reported to be working satisfactorily.

(ii) *Sanitation*.—The Nellore Council has persuaded the Kovvur Panchayat Board to introduce compulsory scavenging in its limits and to construct latrines for the villagers. In Tiruchengode taluk of Salem district a public latrine is being built with public donation. Street lighting has been started in some of the selected villages in the district. In Cuddapah bore-hole latrines have been constructed both in public places and for private houses. A public bath has been completed in Kolar village in Bellary district. In Mela Ulur in Tanjore taluk, a general cleaning of the village was carried out recently. Encroachments in the streets were removed with the consent of the encroachers. Open pits where water stagnated were filled in and manure heaps closed up by covering them with earth. Streets

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were levelled up and fresh earth thrown wherever necessary. In Sikkil in Negapatam taluk, scavenging and street cleaning are being attended to.

- (iii) *Medical relief*.—In several districts, District Economic Councils have been able to persuade local boards to greater efforts in the cause of medical relief. In Nellore, the District Board has been approached to appoint a midwife *cum* health visitor for the selected villages and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon at Gudur is setting an excellent example by undertaking visits, during his leisure hours, to two adjoining villages in order to provide medical relief to the villager. At the instance of the District Economic Council, the East Tanjore District Board has decided to appoint a midwife in one village while the West Tanjore Board intends doing the same. The Tinnevely Council has decided to take steps to train barber women in midwifery. In Cuddapah, the London Mission Authorities, Jammalamadugu, have promised to depute their medical staff to render medical aid to villagers. Several councils have decided on a campaign to combat malaria in malaria-stricken villages.
- (iv) *Water-supply*.—A public well has been constructed by a private individual in Kallubhavi village and another in Hardageri village in Bellary district. In Salem, arrangements are being made for the various agencies concerned, viz., the Inspector of Municipal Councils, the presidents of district boards and the District Economic Council, to sit together in a committee to consider the pooling of the funds available for the district for the provision of drinking water wells and to select the most important works. It is proposed to deal with roads in a similar manner. In Sikkil in Negapatam taluk one tank has been reserved exclusively for drinking water purposes.
- (v) *Agricultural development and livestock*.—The Tanjore Council is arranging to purchase green manure seeds for Rs. 180 to raise a green manure crop on 30 acres of land in each of the six villages selected for reconstruction. The money is to be found by ryots, the co-operative society and the panchayat board of the village. A committee of landholders was formed at Tirukkadayur in the same district, to take up agricultural improvements and some of the members have actually placed land at the disposal of the Committee. At Chennur in Cuddapah district, plots for vegetable gardens have been selected and planted with foreign and country vegetables under the guidance of the Agricultural Demonstrator. At Bhimagundem, one of the villages selected in the district, the Collector initiated work by planting some trees and distributed 100 saplings of various kinds to ryots who were asked to plant them in convenient spots and see that they were well cared for. In Anantapur, it has been decided to make an experiment in growing grass by the Agricultural department in an area of 100 acres in Bestarapalle Panchayat

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forest in Kalyandrug taluk. The members of the North Arcot Council visited the Katpadi Agricultural and Poultry Farm run by the American Arcot Mission in connexion with the scheme, Mr. J. J. De Valois, the Manager, had put up for the improvement of poultry in the district and recommended to Government a grant of Rs. 3,000 to the Mission spread over a period of three years for the scheme and the Government sanctioned the same. A goat breeding scheme formulated by the same gentleman was also considered by the Council and recommended to Government. Under this scheme, if sanctioned, Mr. De Valois would station one of his pedigree goats in each of the eleven selected villages and send round one of his subordinates for propaganda and instruction.

- (vi) *Co-operative societies*.—In Tanjore, a village society for mat-weaving has been formed and the question of forming another society for agricultural improvements is under consideration. Arrangements have been made in Salem to form a co-operative society of cattle breeders in Hosur taluk and of fruit growers in Krishnagiri taluk. The construction of godowns with or without village halls *cum* reading-rooms in selected villages is in the programme of many a council. In Chingleput, a scheme has been drawn up to subsidize milk societies and unions. In Tinnevely, the formation of a co-operative society at Nallur for the sale of vegetables, palmyra jaggery and other products is under consideration.
- (vii) *Cottage industries*.—In several districts attempts are being made to improve the local breeds of poultry by the introduction of exotic birds. Bee-keeping is also to be introduced in some villages in different districts. Basket-making has already been introduced in some villages in Salem. A cottage industries exhibition was held in the district of Tinnevely.
- (viii) *Depressed classes*.—The well at Hardageri referred to in (iv) above is intended for depressed classes. At Chennur arrangements have been made to repair a well used by the Adi-Dravidas. A night school is proposed to be opened in Sivalarkulam cheri in a model village in Tinnevely district. In Tanjore district, Adi-Dravida quarters in certain villages were specially cleaned and a day school building in another village repaired.

3. The progress so far made is encouraging. The councils in most districts have completed or nearly completed the preliminaries necessary for starting work and a few councils have started some work. The Hon. the Minister for Public Works had occasion to inspect some of the works in Bellary district referred to in the last review and was satisfied that the work was on right lines. The Hon. the Finance Member, during his tours in December 1936, visited model villages in Chittoor (Tondavada), Nellore (Chennur), Kurnool (Ayalur), Bellary (Kakkabevinahalli) and Cuddapah (Chennur) districts. It seemed to him that the villagers were beginning to take some interest in the improvement of their village, that some progress had been made in village sanitation and that bore-hole latrines seemed to fill a real need. In North Arcot, the Agricultural

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Institute of the American Arcot Mission seemed to be doing excellent work in the matter of agricultural improvement, especially poultry-keeping. In Kakkabevinahalli village in Bellary district, he found that various improvements had been laid out though full advantage had not been taken of them by the villagers themselves. The Hon. Member was satisfied that on the whole rural reconstruction work was not unpromising and that Collectors and Divisional officers were clearly taking considerable interest in the matter. Rural uplift has necessarily to be a slow and very gradual process but a start has been made. The help the several Mission authorities are rendering to the cause has been most valuable and Government note with satisfaction that in spite of the rush of work on account of the then impending elections to Legislatures, Collectors were able to devote considerable attention to the work of District Economic Councils and trust that now that elections are over they will be able to tackle the several problems confronting them in right earnest.

4. In ordering the formation of these councils in July 1936, the Government observed that the most important and immediate task before the councils was to create an interest and desire for improvement among the villagers themselves. It was also pointed out that no lasting improvement or sustained effort would be possible if the organizations set up for the purpose were led to think that the money required would be forthcoming from Government and that funds, if any required, should be raised locally as self-help is the best form of help that can be thought of for the purpose. Further progress would therefore now depend on the urge in the villagers for improvements in village life and the funds they could themselves raise for these improvements. The Government recognize, however, that the question of funds will always be a difficult one. They are aware that the very desirable state of affairs under which the villagers who are to be benefited by a work would themselves be fully paying for it cannot be brought about in a few weeks. Fortunately, the Government of India in recently sanctioning a grant of Rs. 15 lakhs for rural reconstruction laid it down as a condition that the spending of the money should be entrusted to district officers and the Government of Madras while restricting, with a view to avoid dissipation of funds on all kinds of work, the objects on which it could be spent to four categories, viz., improvement of rural water-supply, rural sanitation and village communications and development of co-operative loan and sale societies, have directed that Collectors should spend the amount in consultation with District Economic Councils on a contributory basis. The greater part of the amount has already been provisionally distributed to Collectors on this understanding and it is hoped that Government will be able to confirm this provisional distribution in the course of the next few days. This grant will enable District Economic Councils to launch at once programmes of work in the four main directions of village uplift referred to above and incidentally to accustom people to the idea of a contribution to the works undertaken for their own benefit. Several councils have been busy during the quarter under review formulating proposals for spending their district allotment and the Government have already passed orders approving most of them. The question whether such proposals should come up to Government at all in future for formal approval is

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now engaging the attention of Government. The Government expected that councils would find the amounts allotted too small for their requirements even in respect of the four categories mentioned. They also thought that councils would probably have many other schemes of improvement in view which would not fall under any of these categories. The Collectors were therefore asked to formulate such schemes, again on a contributory basis, in the hope that the new Government would be able to spare funds for them from the Provincial revenues. Again there might be extremely poor people in whose case it would be useless to expect any contribution. To meet such cases, Collectors were asked to apply for a lump-sum grant to be expended at their discretion on works intended to benefit such people. During the quarter under review, District Economic Councils have been busy formulating these schemes also. If these amounts should be sanctioned and thereafter repeated for some years the councils would be doing rural reconstruction work in a comprehensive manner and the people would also ultimately become accustomed to view such works as real necessities which it would be worth fully paying for.

5. Apart from the rural reconstruction grant of Rs. 15 lakhs referred to above, the Government of India have placed a fairly large quantity of quinine at the disposal of this Government for free distribution and the Government have informed District Economic Councils that they are prepared to supply as much quinine as may be possible with the stock on hand for combating malaria in areas not yet touched by the activities of the Public Health Department. The Government trust that councils having malaria-stricken villages in their jurisdiction will take immediate advantage of this offer. Another offer the Government have made is to provide a rural reconstruction overseer to work under each council. The Government expect that rural uplift work would be creating in the villager a desire for a better dwelling house and in order to help him to put up such a house of moderate dimensions the Government have now amended the Takkavi Loan Rules providing for grant of small loans for the purpose.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Public Works)

C. J. PAUL,
Secretary to Government

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To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Commissioner of Labour and Rural Uplift.
„ the Chief Conservator of Forests.
„ all Collectors.
„ the Director of Agriculture.
„ the Director of Veterinary Services.
„ the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
„ the Director of Fisheries.
„ the Education and Public Health Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Local Self-Government Department.
„ the Finance Department.
„ the Accountant-General (through Finance Department).
„ the Director of Industries.
Press.

[22nd September 1937]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 201 asked by Mr. N. M. R. Subbarama Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 22nd September 1937, page 499 supra.]

G.O. No. 1389, Development, dated 21st June 1937.

[Economic Councils—District Economic Councils—Work done during the quarter ending 31st March 1937—Review.]

READ—the following papers:—

G.O. No. 2218, Development, dated 7th December 1936.

G.O. No. 581, Development, dated 10th March 1937.

Reports from the Collectors.

Order—No. 1389, Development, dated 21st June 1937.

The quarter ending 31st March 1937 marks the close of one chapter in the history of District Economic Councils in this Presidency. The Councils completed the preliminaries connected with the bringing into existence of the necessary organizations to carry out their programmes of work. In G.O. No. 621, Development, dated 15th March 1937, the Government confirmed the provisional allotment of funds made to the districts on a rural population basis out of the Government of India grant for rural reconstruction. Now that District Economic Councils have been provided with the necessary funds, the Government hope that little time will be lost in putting into execution the programmes of work they have drawn up for themselves.

2. *Propaganda and education.*—Progress has been recorded in several districts in the socio-economic sphere. Several Councils, such as those of Cuddapah, Kistna and Ramnad were engaged in arousing the interest of the ryots in rural reconstruction work. The District Economic Council, Kistna, held a demonstration on 19th March 1937 at Nandanur in Bandar taluk when lectures were delivered by departmental officers on several items of rural reconstruction work. There was a fairly large gathering of villagers. In Ramnad, propaganda has been carried on by means of pamphlets for the printing of which a prominent non-official member of the District Economic Council made himself responsible. Night schools have been opened in Anakavoor in North Arcot district and in Tirukadayur in Tanjore. A reading room has been opened at Yerraguntla in Cuddapah. Local subscriptions for the purchase of newspapers have been raised at Peddapasupulla in the same district. Playgrounds and sports equipment have been provided for the elementary schools of the four model villages of Tanjore. The importance of light and ventilation has been brought home to the villagers of Gadidamadugu in Kurnool district. Windows and sky-lights have been opened in several houses of this village. Scavengers and sweepers have been engaged by village committees of Tirukadayur, Odayalur and Sikkil in Tanjore district and in Yerraguntla in Cuddapah district.

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3. *Medical relief.*—Almost all District Economic Councils have taken advantage of the Government's offer of free supply of quinine for distribution in malarial areas. The District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai have each agreed to sanction a sum of Rs. 250 for a similar purpose. The Tinnevely District Economic Council has arranged for the training of sixteen dhais at the rate of 2 per taluk, each dhai under training being paid a stipend of Rs. 7-8-0 from the funds of the two local boards of the district.

4. *Water-supply and sanitation.*—Attention continues to be paid to water-supply schemes. To mention a few cases, at Poli in Cuddapah district public wells have been cleaned: in Sikkil, Tanjore district, the drinking water pond was improved at a cost of Rs. 260: at Gadidamadugu, Kurnool district, the Mission well used by the public was provided with a floating platform to prevent pollution of water by contamination and exposure.

Under village communications, mention must be made of the good work of the villagers of Gadidamadugu. The President of the District Economic Council, Kurnool, reports that gravel worth Rs. 1,500 was collected by the village folk for the improvement of their village roads.

5. *Agricultural development and livestock.*—In the Tanjore district green manure seeds were sown in all the selected villages except one and instructions to preserve a pure supply of seed were given to villagers. Instructions in methods of conserving manure were also given. Soap-nut cultivation has been introduced in Sikkil. Three stud bulls bought by the West Tanjore District Board are stationed at the three model villages. A prominent non-official of the district has given a breeding bull to the Tiruturaipundi village besides maintaining one at Nedumbalam. Two other public spirited non-officials are maintaining a pair of stud bulls in Tirukadayur village. A member of the village committee at Yerraguntla has undertaken to purchase and maintain a stud buffalo. A camp veterinary dispensary was opened for a month at Sikkil in Tanjore. Instructions in veterinary matters were given in the districts of South Kanara and Kurnool.

The North Arcot District Economic Council is the first Council to organize an agricultural exhibition. It was held on the 12th and 13th March 1937 at the American Arcot Mission Agricultural Institute, Katpadi. The Agricultural and Co-operative departments and the Vellore Red Cross Association put up stalls and interesting exhibits. There was a radio demonstration by the General Electric Company, Madras, and also cinema shows. A ploughing competition was held among the ryots who attended the exhibition in very large numbers and three ploughs were presented to the first three most efficient competitors. A rural exhibition was also held on 20th March at Jammalamadugu in Cuddapah district.

The Salem District Economic Council continues to devote considerable attention to livestock improvement and to co-operative marketing. A society for marketing of fruit is about to be registered. The Hosur divisional committee has framed detailed proposals for the improvement

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [22nd September 1937]

“ போர்டிங் கிராண்டு இரண்டு லட்சத்து சொச்சம் ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டு இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் இது ஜாஸ்தியாக மிஷனரிப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்குப் போகிறது. மிஷனரிப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் கிறிஸ்தவர்கள்தான் படிக்கிறார்கள் அவர்களுக்குத்தான் பிரயோசனப்படுகிறது. சர்க்கார் Grant-in-aid Code-ம் கிறிஸ்தவப் பிள்ளைகளுக்குச் சாதகமாக இருக்கிறது. முந்திய சட்ட சபையில்தான் ஒரு கேள்வி இது சம்பந்தமாகக் கேட்டேன். அதற்கு சர்க்கார் பதிலளிக்கும்போது இந்த மாகாணத்தில் 173 ஹாஸ்டல்களிருப்பதாகவும் அதில் மிஷனரிகள் 157 நடத்துவதாகவும், 11 இந்தியர்கள் நடத்துவதாகவும், 5 முஸ்லீம்கள் நடத்துவதாகவும் தெரிவித்தார்கள். ஆகையினாலே மிஷனரிப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கு அதிகப்பணம் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். என்னைப்போன்ற இந்த மிஷனரிகள் Boarding Grant கேட்டால் சர்க்கார் கொடுக்கிறதற்கு மனம் வருகிறதில்லை. இப்பொழுது காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு இருக்கிறது. இந்துப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கு தாராளமாக Boarding Grant கொடுக்கலாம் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். காங்கிரஸ் தொண்டர்கள் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்காகப் பாடுபடுகிறார்கள். தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட பிள்ளைகளுக்கு நாலு ரூபாய் கொடுக்கலாம் என்று திட்டம் வைத்துக்கொண்டு பல இடங்களில் Boarding house ஏற்படுத்தினால் பல ஏழைகளுக்கு உபயோகப்படும். உடனே இந்த விஷயத்தில் ஒரு ரூல் (rule) போடுவார்கள் என்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன்.

“ பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் ஒழுங்கான முறையில் நடக்கவில்லை. இதற்குமுன் டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் போர்டு ஸ்கூல், லேபர் ஸ்கூல் இவைகளுக்கு சூப்பர்வைஸர்கள் இருந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது சூப்பர்வைஸர்கள் இல்லை. ஆகையினால் டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் போர்டு ஸ்கூல்கள், லேபர் ஸ்கூல்களில் படிப்புச் சரியாகச் சொல்லிக்கொடுக்கிறதில்லை. ஆகையினால் ஜில்லாபோர்டு ஸ்கூல்களையும், லேபர் ஸ்கூல்களையும் சரியாக கண்காணித்தால் பாடசாலைகளில் சரியாக படிப்பு நடக்கும் என்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* MR. A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—

“ கனம் அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்களே! நம்முடைய காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி அவர்கள் மிகவும் தைரியமாக இப்பொழுது ஹிந்திப் பாடத்தை கட்டாயமாக ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறதை நான் மிகவும் சந்தோஷமாக வரவேற்கிறேன். இன்றைக்கில்லாது போனாலும் ஏதோ ஒரு நாளைக்கு நம்முடைய தேசம் பூரண சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தே தீர்ப்போகிறது. நாம் முயற்சி செய்தால் அதிசீக்கிரம் அடையலாம். இல்லையானால் கொஞ்சம் தாமதமாகியாவது வந்தே தீரும். அப்பொழுது ஹிந்தி எல்லாப் பாஷைகளையும் விட பிரதான பாஷையாக விளங்கப் போகிறது. ஆங்கிலேயர்கள் இந்த நாட்டிற்கு வந்த காலத்தில் அப்பொழுது ஆங்கிலத்தை அலக்கியமாய்ப் படிக்காதவர்கள் எல்லோரும் உத்தியோகத்திற்காக ஆங்கில பாஷையை கற்றுக்கொள்ளத்தான் வேண்டுமென்று இருந்ததினால் பிறகு அந்த பாஷையை கற்றுக்கொள்ள நேர்ந்தது. பிந்தி அந்தப் பாஷையை கற்றுக் கொண்டுவிட்டு இப்பொழுது உத்தியோகத்தில் வகுப்புவாரிப் பிரதிநிதித்துவம் வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி சண்டைபோட்டு வருகிறதைப் பார்த்து வருகிறோம். இம்மாதிரி ஆங்கில பாஷையை கற்க வேண்டியது எதிர்காலத்தில் இல்லாமல் இருக்க வேண்டும். நம்முடைய சுதந்திர நாட்டில் ஹிந்தி பாஷையை உத்தியோகத்திற்காக கற்க ஏற்படுமென்ற விசேஷத்தை மனதில் வைத்து இப்பொழுது ஹிந்தி பாஷையை கற்க ஏற்பாடு செய்ய முன்வந்ததற்காக நம்முடைய மந்திரிகளைப் பாராட்டக் கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறோம். ஹிந்தியை கட்டாயப் பாடமாக வைக்கிற காரணத்தினால் நம்முடைய தாய் பாஷை அழிந்து போகப் போகிறது என்று எங்கே பார்த்தாலும் ஒரே கூச்சலாக இருக்கிறது. இது வீண் பிரமை. நம்முடைய தாய் பாஷை அழிந்து போவதற்குப் பிரமேயமேயில்லை என்பது என்னுடைய முடிவான அபிப்பிராயம். இந்த நாட்டில் நூற்றுக்கு தொண்ணூற்றுநாலு பேர்களாயிருப்பவர்கள் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் போய் படிக்காதவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால், ஹிந்தியை கட்டாயப் பாடமாக பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் வைக்கிறதினால் தாய் மொழி அழிந்துபோக இயலாது. பள்ளிக்குச் செல்லுகிறவர்கள் எவர்களோ

22nd September 1937] [Mr. A. Vedaratnam Pillai]

அவர்கள் ஹிந்தியைக் கட்டாயப் பாடமாகக் கற்பதினால் தமிழ் அதாவது தாய் பாஷை அழிந்து போய்விடுமென்று கூறுவதற்கு எவ்வித காரணமில்லை என்று நிச்சயமாக நம்புகிறேன். ஹிந்தி பாஷையை கட்டாயப் பாடமாகக் கற்பதினால் தாய் பாஷையை விட்டுவிடவேண்டுமென்று கூறவில்லை. தாய் பாஷையையும் கட்டாயமாகக் கற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த விஷயத்தில் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு வார்த்தை சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். தாய் பாஷையைக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி இருக்கிறது. எல்லா ஸ்கூல்களில் தாய் பாஷையோடு சமஸ்கிருதத்தையும் படிக்க வேண்டுமென்று திட்டம் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஹிந்தியைக் கட்டாயப் பாடமாக ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறதினால் தாய் பாஷையோடு சமஸ்கிருதத்தையும் ஒரே குறிப்பிட்ட நேரத்தில் கற்கவேண்டுமென்று வைத்திருக்கிறதினால் சிலர் தாய் பாஷைையும் சிலர் சமஸ்கிருதத்தையும் படிக்கிறார்கள். ஹிந்தி கட்டாயப் பாடமாக விட்டதினால் சமஸ்கிருதத்தை அதிகமாகப் படிக்க விரும்புவார்களே யொழிய தாய் பாஷையாகிய தமிழையோ தெலுங்கையோ கற்க விரும்பமாட்டார்கள். சமஸ்கிருதத்திலிருக்கிற தேவநாசரி எழுத்துக்கள் ஹிந்தியைக் கட்டாயப் பாடமாகப் படிக்க உதவியாக இருக்கிறதினால் தாய் பாஷையைப் படிப்பதை விட்டு சமஸ்கிருதத்தைப் படிக்கப்போக விரும்புகொள்ளக்கூடிய நிலைமை ஏற்படுகிறது. தாய் பாஷையைக் கற்கும் அந்தப் பீரியட்டில் (period) சமஸ்கிருதத்தைக் கல் நதுவைக்காமல் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறேன். இதனால் சமஸ்கிருதத்தைக் கற்கவேண்டாமென்று நான் சொல்ல வரவில்லை. அதற்கு ஒரு தனிப் பீரியடு (period) ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“ இன்னும் ஹிந்தியைப்பற்றிப் பலமான விவாதம் நிகழ்ந்தது. வட இந்தியாவில் உள்ள தமிழர் ஹிந்தியைக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளாமலிருக்கிறார்களென்று சொன்னார்கள். சென்னையிலிருந்து டில்லிக்குப் போய் திரும்பி வந்தவர்கள் ஹிந்தி பாஷையை தமிழர்ப் பேசுவதை காண சந்தர்ப்பமில்லை. வட இந்தியாவிலிருக்கிற நகரங்கள் தவிர மற்ற இடங்களுக்குச் சென்றால் ஆங்கிலம் படித்திருக்கிற உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுட்ப் பேசினால், குறிப்பாக சில ஸ்டேஷன்மாஸ்டர்களிடத்தில் ஏதாவது ஆங்கிலத்தில் நாம் பேசினால் அவர்கள் ஹிந்தியில் பதில் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நம்முடைய நாட்டிலிருந்து போயிருக்கிறவர்கள் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் வட இந்தியாவில் ஹிந்தியில் மிகவும் திறமையாகப் பேசுகிறார்கள். அதனால்தான் அங்கு உத்தியோகத்திலிருக்க முடிகிறதென்று கருதுகிறேன். ஹிந்தியை கட்டாயப் பாடமாக இப்பொழுது ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறது மிகவும் அவசியம். இதை தைரியமாக ஏற்படுத்தியதை நான் முழு மனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.

“ ஆரம்பக் கல்வியைப்பற்றி எவ்வளவோ கூறப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதைப்பற்றி நான் அதிகமாக கூற விரும்பவில்லை. அது சரியாக நடைபெறவில்லை என்பதை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆரம்பக்கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி விஷயத்தில் போதிய கவனஞ் செலுத்தப்படுமென்று நம்புகிறேன். சுவாமி சகஜானந்தம் அவர்கள் சொல்லிய மாதிரி சூப்பர்வைஸர்கள் (Supervisors) ஏற்படுத்தி ஆரம்பப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களைக் கவனிக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும்.

“ உபாத்தியாயர்களை அனுவசியமாக மாற்றுகிறதாகப் புகார் கூறப்படுகிறது. இதற்குக் காரணம் உபாத்தியாயர்கள்தான். உபாத்தியாயர்கள் ஜில்லா போர்டு பிரசிடெண்டுகளிடம் வந்து அங்கே மாற்றவேண்டும் இங்கே மாற்றவேண்டுமென்று தொந்தரவு செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதற்கு பிரசிடெண்டுகள் மாதிரி காரணமென்று கூறுவதில் பிரயோசனமில்லை.

“ காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபையார் எப்படி சேலத்திலே மது விலக்கை ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறார்களோ அதே மாதிரி கட்டாய ஆரம்பக் கல்வியை நம்முடைய மாகாணத்தில் எங்கேயாவது ஒரு ஜில்லாவில் பரீட்சார்த்தமாக ஆரம்பித்து நடத்த முன் வருவார்களென்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன். காங்கிரஸின் ஜீவாதார உரிமைத் திட்டங்களில் கட்டாய ஆரம்பக்கல்வி ஒன்று என்று குறிப்பிடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த ஆறுமாத காலத்திற்குள் இதைச் செய்ய இயலாது போனாலும் அடுத்த பட்ஜெட்டிலாவது ஒரு ஜில்லாவைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து அந்த ஜில்லாவில் கட்டாய ஆரம்பக்

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of cattle breeding in Anchetti village where cattle breeding is the main industry. The Council has realized the great importance of eliminating useless cattle which are such a drain on our slender fodder resources. It is of the emphatic opinion that in one generation of cows, the cattle population of an area may be placed on a eugenic as well as economic basis, if castration of un-approved scrub bulls is given legal sanction.

6. *Cottage industries.*—The importance of these industries is fully realized by many councils. The Councils of North Arcot and Trichinopoly have proposed to depute a candidate each for training in the Leather Trades Institute, Madras. A Bee-keeping demonstration was given at Palacole in West Godavari and two hivings were made in a private garden. This industry is to be introduced in five suitable villages of the district. Arrangements have been made to introduce it in certain villages of Trichinopoly and Tanjore. A member of the village committee at Yerraguntla has undertaken to maintain cocks of superior breed to improve the local poultry. A scheme to improve poultry farming at Kalaparru in the West Godavari district has been evolved. Similar schemes are under consideration of the Trichinopoly Council. The District Economic Council, Kistna, is examining how best to help the cumbli industry at Kanumole and the toys industry at Kondapalli.

7. *Depressed classes.*—Special attention continues to be paid to the needs of the depressed classes. A school is to be opened for them at Tirukadayur in Tanjore district. A road has been constructed connecting the cheri with the main village. The North Arcot Council has decided to dig wells in certain selected cheris.

8. Some of the Councils have held meetings once a month as directed by Government. A good number of them held only two meetings during the quarter. Three Councils met only once and it is regrettable to note that the Council of East Godavari did not meet at all. The Government once again direct that Councils should meet regularly once a month as far as possible.

9. The Government note with real pleasure the spirit of collaboration and co-operation shown by the District Boards, specially of Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Tanjore and Tinnevely. They regret that the President of one District Board has not been able to attend any meeting of the Council during the last two quarters. The Government feel that co-operation of these two bodies is essential for a rapid progress of rural welfare work and trust that this will be forthcoming in an abundant measure.

10. The Commissioner of Labour and Rural Uplift inspected Kakka-bevinahalli village in Bellary district and Mela Ulur and Tirukadayur in Tanjore district. Though he recognizes the good work so far done in these villages, he feels that more local effort should be forthcoming if the work is to be sustained and permanent. The Commissioner has recently reported to Government that the Councils in many districts are not playing the part that is expected of them. The Government,

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when constituting these Councils, observed that their main function will be to co-ordinate the work of the several departments of the Government in the district and to see that the money allotted for expenditure in each district is spent to the greatest advantage. The District Economic Council should serve as a clearing-house of information for the several departments of Government in the district. In the District Economic Council there is an organization where the district head of one department can acquaint himself with the nature and progress of schemes in other departments and where by means of informal discussion and consultation it will be possible to devise methods to obviate unnecessary delay and remove unsympathetic opposition.

The Government agree with the Commissioner of Labour and Rural Uplift that no harm could come but a good deal of good might result if, before district heads of departments send up proposals for Part II schemes, such schemes are discussed informally with other district heads in the District Economic Council.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

C. J. PAUL,
Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors except Madras.
 „ all Heads of Departments.
 „ all other Departments of Secretariat except Legal.
 „ the Accountant-General.
 Press.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 23rd September 1937.

The House met in the Assembly building, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker called for prayer, and all hon. Members stood up.

I.—POINT OF ORDER *RE* VANDE MATARAM SONG (PRAYER).

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“ Mr. Speaker, may I raise a point of order? I want your ruling as to whether ‘ Vande Mataram ’ song could be sung in this House for prayer. No less a person than Pandit Jawharlal Nehru, President of the Congress, has made a statement that it is not a national song, but that it is a war cry against British Imperialism. It assumed such a position about thirty years back in Bengal. In fact, Sir, it is a war cry against Islam and I am going to prove by records that it is so. I want your ruling, Mr. Speaker, whether the song could be sung as a national prayer.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ We are standing for prayer. The hon. Member having raised a point of order, the ruling will be given as soon as the prayer is over.”

The prayer was then begun.

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“ I protest against this and I walk out of the House.”

II.—SWEARING IN OF A MEMBER.

After the prayer was over, the Raja of Vizianagram made the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Crown and took his seat.

I.—POINT OF ORDER *RE* VANDE MATARAM SONG (PRAYER)—*cont.*

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Is the hon. Member who raised the point of order before prayer was begun, here? I am prepared to give a ruling on the point of order raised by him.”

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ Mr. Speaker, my young friend, Mr. Laljan, has raised a point of order and asked for your ruling. I think in this case, it would have been better if he had consulted his Muslim friends in the matter of singing ‘ Vande Mataram ’ song as prayer. If the singing of this song was considered objectionable by any section of the people of this House, he would have been better advised if he had consulted others and then represented it to the Speaker in his room and not raised it on the floor of this House

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in this manner. I am sure the Speaker would have given the representation every consideration. It is unfortunate that the matter has been raised in the manner in which it has been done. Even now, Sir, I appeal to my hon. Friend to take up this matter with the Speaker in the manner I have suggested and not to ask for a ruling on the floor of this House. I would request him to consult his other friends and see the Speaker so that some understanding on the point may be reached and not to require a ruling on the point. I think that it does not require any ruling at all on the floor of the House. I would request him not to press the point, but to withdraw it for the time being and then see Mr. Speaker about it."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, though this matter has been agitating the minds of a considerable section of the community, it was not the intention of many of us that this should be brought before the House with a request that you may give a ruling on it. I would appeal to my hon. Friend, Mr. Laljan, not to force you to give a ruling. I think it will certainly not be necessary. Some of us who have any opinion in this matter would certainly meet you and the Hon. the Leader of the House and we may then come to some understanding in regard to this matter. This, I consider, is not a matter on which we should request a ruling to be given. I would join with the Hon. Muslim Minister in the appeal he has made to him not to press this matter."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member (Mr. Laljan) having walked out of the House with words of protest, while the House had risen for prayer, he has to apologize to this House first before he withdraws his point of order. If, however, he presses his point of order, I am prepared to give a ruling on the floor of the House now."

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—"Mr. Speaker, I never intended anything against the Chair. Just a month back I put an interpellation to suggest that this singing of the 'Vande Mataram' song should be discontinued."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will not be permitted to speak anything now. If he wants a ruling on the point it will be given; if he wants to withdraw the point of order, he has first to apologize to the House for the protest and walk-out during prayer."

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—"When the song was being sung, I protested against it and walked out of the House as I could not remain here."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That is what I say, I cannot permit. The hon. Member should not have walked out of the House by way of protest during prayer. He has to apologize to the House for his conduct."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, I thought that he had acted in a way much worse than what he has actually done. Did he merely walk out or did he say anything?"

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"He protested and walked out of the House during prayer. He has to apologize to the House for his behaviour."

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—"Mr. Speaker, I bowed to your ruling and I walked out when the song was being sung. As a Mussalman, I could not remain in the House when the song was sung."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the hon. Member apologize to the House for his conduct in having walked out of the House during prayer?"

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Mr. Speaker, in the last Council, it was very often the custom for certain parties in the House to walk out during the proceedings of the Council. Is it your ruling that in future when any person or a party who takes exception to a particular proceeding and goes out of the House in a perfectly orderly way, such individuals or parties are to apologize to the House?"

MR. K. R. KARANT:—"The point of order is really this. The point of order was raised and the ruling of the Chair was promised. Immediately the Member withdrew from the House, saying that he protested against it. It is not the walk-out that matters; it might have been perfectly constitutional. But what is considered an insult to the House is that the Member, after raising the point of order and after the ruling had been promised, walked out of the House saying that he protested against it."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence and the patience of the House for making an explanation with regard to my own impression of what has happened. It appeared to me that he raised an objection to the song which was to be sung as a part of the prayer that you had ordered. He raised it, as I understood it, on the ground of his own religious sentiments. But the manner in which he raised the objection while the House was standing and about to participate in the prayer, gave rise to the impression that he was somewhat disorderly. He could have kept out because of his religious sentiments and might have come in afterwards and raised the point when the House was sitting in a normal manner instead of raising the point while the Members of the House were on their feet to begin the prayer. This probably explains the somewhat different impressions that different members appear to have of the proceedings. You, Sir, asked him to withdraw his point of order and Members advised him so to withdraw and he was being persuaded to withdraw in the sense that he might raise the objection afterwards in the manner that Mr. Hameed Khan recommended. You asked him to apologize for his conduct in walking out of the House under those circumstances. Under totally different set of circumstances Members have been going out in order to lodge their protest against particular proceedings in the House. As my hon. Friend, Sir William Wright, has pointed out and as many other Members know,

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different parties and groups have acted in such manner. But the question now is whether there was any insult intended in the walk-out. If a protest was intended it is one thing, but if an insult was intended it is different; and in this case it is quite clear to my mind that the hon. Member went out not by way of insult but in order to extricate himself from what he considered to be interference with his own religious feeling in the matter. He may be right or he may be wrong. I would ask you, Sir, to consider the whole position calmly and after hearing him later. If the Member now cares to withdraw the point of order, I think no one should insist that he should make an apology. I submit most respectfully this thing and yet I leave it to you to decide the matter. I have only submitted my impression on the situation."

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—"Mr. Speaker, I honourably withdraw the point of order."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"All the same, I should like to say a few words upon this very very important question that is before the House."

"This is prayer; it is not more 'Vande Mataram' song that is being sung. It is prayer similar to what is conducted in the House of Commons before the Speaker takes the Chair. It is similar to the prayer that is conducted in the House of Commons of Canada, and in various other parliaments of the world, before the Speaker takes the Chair. It is embodied in the procedural law of some parliaments and it is respected by the practice of the House of Commons. Prayer becomes a necessary part of the beginning of the proceedings of parliaments in some places, and that practice has been observed from the beginning of this Assembly before the Speaker has taken the Chair."

"What form the prayer should take was a matter of anxious consideration from the beginning, and the Chair was considering, in view of the numerous religions and faiths of the members attending this House, what form it should take. There are here Hindus, Mussalmans and Christians. Whether it is better that the Hindu prayer be given one day, Mussalman prayer another day, and the Christian prayer the third day has been engaging the attention of the Speaker. It occurred to him that a prayer common to all will be the prayer of the motherland. This 'Vande Mataram' song is the prayer that has been sung all over India by millions of people, Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians. It is the prayer that is every day sung all over India; and that was regarded by the Speaker as the first prayer necessary for this House, and if accepted by all sections of the House, it would be the proper prayer in the beginning. This prayer can be supplemented by other forms of prayer as well."

"In the House of Commons, a Chaplain is appointed to conduct the daily prayer; and in addition to the daily prayer the Speaker of the House of Commons occasionally adds his prayer also; and when the Chaplain is absent, the Speaker conducts the prayer himself. In the House of Commons in Canada, under Standing Order 15, 'Mr. Speaker

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shall read prayers every day, at the meeting of the House, before any business is entered upon' and this prayer is conducted by the Speaker one day in English and another day in French. Like this you find that many parliaments have got their own conventions, and this parliament, the Madras Assembly, has got the right to create its own conventions. With regard to prayer, this convention will develop."

"The Speaker is seriously thinking of having a prayer, a national prayer supplemented every day, one day from the Vedas, another day from the Koran and a third day from the Bible, in order to give it the real dignity of a parliament, as the House of Commons in England, the House of Commons in Canada, that in New Zealand and elsewhere. In order to develop that convention, the Chair has been seriously considering to lay down the first item of the prayer, and the matter will be placed before the House for discussion after it has been fully considered."

"The 'Vande Mataram' song is the national prayer and Mr. Laljan having honourably withdrawn the point of order, his protest also is withdrawn. This ruling, or rather this statement, from the Chair on the prayer has been necessitated by the conduct of the member on the floor of the House. I do expect that such scenes would not hereafter recur; because the time of prayer is regarded as the most solemn occasion in any parliament at the commencement of its business. And I too trust that all Members of the House will respect that time as sacred and solemn."

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I suggest that a translation of the prayer which is given in this House every morning be supplied to the Members of the House who unfortunately do not understand it?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes; it will be supplied."

III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Panchayat forests in Salem district.

* 209 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state (talukwar and panchayatwar)—

(a) what the number of forest panchayats in the Salem district is;

(b) how many acres are covered by such panchayats;

(c) how many acres of forests are on the plain land and how many acres of forests are on the hills;

(d) what the revenue derived from such panchayats is;

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(e) whether there are restrictions on the issue of permits by panchayats; and

(f) if so, what the principle underlying such restrictions is?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) to (d) A statement^a giving the particulars is placed on the table of the House.

“(e) Yes.

“(f) The principles governing the restrictions are explained in paragraphs 6 (i), 6 (ii), 6 (iii), 6 (iv), 10 (d) and 10 (f) of Board's Standing Order No. 195-A, a copy of which is available in the Library of the Madras Legislature.”

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether as much grazing area will be attached to the panchayat bodies as will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the village?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“That will be considered, Sir.”

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“When?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“As soon as possible.”

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—“May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that these forests are closed for grazing during July and August every year?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Yes, Sir.”

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—“In view of the fact that there are no other pasture lands in the village, will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of allowing issue of permits during those two months also?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“I think in the interests of the forests as well as in the interests of the cattle, during these two months they are closed.”

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—“May I know whether only a portion of the compounding fee is given to the forest panchayats now?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“I do not think that question arises out of this.”

^a Printed as Appendix I on pages 736-737 infra.

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Particulars regarding the extent of land in forests under sandalwood plantation.

* 210 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) what the extent of land under forests is;

(b) what portion of it is planted with sandalwood trees;

(c) how much more land is fit for this purpose;

(d) what the purposes are for which sandalwood is used; and

(e) whether the whole quantity raised in this province is consumed by the public or whether it is sold to foreign countries?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) The total extent under Forest and Revenue Department was 19,767 square miles on 31st March 1936.

“(b) & (c) There are no sandalwood plantations as such. This species is a parasite, invariably deriving its nourishment from some or other host tree. It grows scattered over extensive areas of reserves and unreserves, mainly in the North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore districts. It regenerates itself readily from seed and is being introduced to other forests where climate and soil are favourable, by means of small propagation centres, from which the species will spread in due course.

“(d) For cosmetic and religious purposes, for the manufacture of perfumery and soap, and as a medicine.

“(e) A portion of both wood and oil is sold to foreign countries.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Hon. Members are already informed that questions involving such statistics should be unstarred and the mere fact that they are starred questions will not entitle Members to put supplementary questions.”

* Q. 211.*

Testing of motor lorries presented for registration.

* 212 Q.—MR. J. M. SMITH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state in connexion with G.O. No. 2705 (62-S) of the 14th July 1937 issued by the Home Department of the Government of Madras—

(a) what facilities exist in the various districts in the Madras Presidency for testing the gross weight of motor lorries, and how many weighing machines are actually in use by the police authorities in the presidency;

(b) what principle will be followed for determining the maximum laden weight or the carrying capacity to be specified in the certificate of registration;

^a Vide pages 624-625 infra.

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(c) whether there is any appeal against the order of the District Superintendent of Police or the Commissioner of Police under rule 14 (b); and

(d) whether the District Superintendent of Police or the Commissioner is empowered to delegate any of his functions under rule 14 (b) to any subordinate police official?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a) Exact information is not available with the Government. The Police usually weigh motor lorries at railway weigh-bridges. The Government have under consideration a proposal to provide the Police with portable weighing machines.

“(b) Unladen weight is defined in the Motor Vehicles Rules.

“Rule 1-A of the said rules prescribes the supply of information pertaining to the makers’ guaranteed safety load and the seating capacity of every type of motor vehicles. The Commissioner of Police prepares a consolidated list and sends a copy to each registering authority for the purpose of enabling the registering authority to enter correct particulars in the registration certificate.

“(c) There is no specific provision in the rules for an appeal, but it is always open to a person aggrieved by an order of the District Superintendent of Police or the Commissioner to take the matter to higher authority.

“(d) The District Superintendent of Police is not so empowered; but the Commissioner of Police can delegate his functions to any police officer in the City of Madras not below the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police, under rule 44 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know who the authorities are to whom the appeal is to be preferred?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Evidently the Government.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I know whether Government will take early steps to provide weighing machines at junctions of trunk roads to prevent overloading of lorries?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“I have already answered that the Government are considering the proposal to provide the police with weighing machines.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether it is not desirable to make regulations providing that appeals against the orders of the police may be made to the District Collector?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The Government think that it is a better authority than the Collector.”

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Reduction of the number of gun licences in the Presidency.

* 213 Q.—MR. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether the number of gun licences in the Presidency has been reduced; and

(b) if so, why?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a) The number of licences for the possession of arms in force at the end of each of the last five years was—

1932	...	...	...	...	...	74,919
1933	...	...	...	...	...	72,343
1934	...	...	...	...	...	68,461
1935	...	...	...	...	...	68,121
1936	...	...	...	...	...	64,272

“(b) The difference in the figures for 1935 and 1936 is due partly to the transfer of certain areas from Madras to the Province of Orissa. The Government presume that the reduction is due, apart from that, to the fact that the licensing authorities have been restricting the grant and renewal of licences to persons who have a need for arms.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“Will the Government be more liberal than the previous Government in the matter of the issue of gun licences?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“It is not a question of one Government being more liberal than another. It is a question of giving these licences to persons who are in need of arms.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“Is it the rule that the firearms should be surrendered to the officer concerned every year before renewals are applied for?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“That is the rule.”

MR. K. SUBBA RAO:—“Are these licences refused to people who have Congress leanings?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The Government have no information.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“Will the Government be pleased to grant exemption from gun licence in the case of hon. Members of the Legislature?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Under the rules, the Members of the Legislature as such have no right for arms. The only question the Government consider in this matter is the need for arms for the particular individual applying for licence.”

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MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of granting free licence to Members of the Legislature?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Not at present."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"May I request the Hon. Minister to revise the rules regarding granting of licences in order that more persons may be able to get these licences?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I have already answered that question. The only consideration in this matter is the need for firearms for the individual applying for licence. There is no necessity to liberalize the rules."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know how the Government ascertain the need of an individual for a revolver or a gun?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"They judge the need from his status, his profession and other duties."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Does the Hon. Minister mean that the necessity for gun licence has been reduced of late?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Perhaps."

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—"Is it a fact that the vakils in the mufassal have to travel by nights and that the need for a weapon with which to protect themselves during such journeys has not been considered sufficient reason for granting licence to them by the district magistrates?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government are not prepared to give special protection for vakils only."

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—"May I ask whether a member of the Bar, who is now a responsible Minister of Government, was attacked on returning from a mufassal court and he escaped unscathed only by the use of the revolver which he then possessed?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Unless more particulars are given, I will not be able to give an answer."

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—"I am referring to the Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar."

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I am not aware of the incident." (Laughter.)

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government will consider the case of those gentlemen who had these licences in previous years, but who in recent years have been deprived of them on account of their political persuasions?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I do not accept the last portion of the question. Gun licences have been cancelled because they have not been used properly by the persons concerned."

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MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is prepared to issue instructions to the district magistrates to see that if a ryot applied for a gun licence for the protection of his crops, that is treated as a sufficient ground for granting licences?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"That has always been the consideration guiding the district magistrates, so far as the Government are aware."

MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"In the case of the revolver may I know the purpose of keeping it?"

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"Shooting!"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The answer has been given by the hon. Member himself." (Laughter.)

MR. B. ANANTHACHARIAR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister to be pleased to construe the word 'need' liberally?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The word 'need' has always one meaning only." (Laughter.)

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister inform the district magistrates that guns required for the protection of crops should be issued without any fee to the agriculturists?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"No such instructions can be issued to district magistrates. The district magistrates will consider the claims of particular individuals for protecting crops."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Has the Hon. Minister got any information that applications from ryots have not been considered properly?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"No, Sir."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I request that an investigation be made to see that the agriculturists are provided with gun licences without any hesitation?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"No such investigation is possible in this vast country. If specific instances are brought to the notice of Government, action will be taken."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Salem District Magistrate could be consulted in the matter?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The better course would be to ask the persons who have been aggrieved on account of the refusal of licence, to make representations to the Government."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Does the present Government also consider that the granting of more licences is dangerous to peace and tranquillity in the country?" (Laughter.)

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THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It is not a question of the number of licences issued, but it is a question of the persons who are in possession of licences."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that people who own guns and revolvers have to present themselves before the authorities for renewal?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"They have to."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Is there any necessity for continuing that procedure?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"As it is, there is necessity."

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of issuing instructions to the authorities concerned to be more liberal in the granting of licences and to restore licences to parties from whom they have been withheld on account of their Congress propensities?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government are not in a position to say that licences have been refused on account of the Congress propensities of the applicants."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Will the Government be pleased to pursue a more liberal policy concerning the grant of licences for revolvers and guns hereafter?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I have answered that question more than once."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"May I know whether the Government propose to hold a test in rifle-shooting?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Among whom, please?"

Proposal for the appointment of a Malayalam Lecturer in the Government Muhammadan College, Madras.

* 214 Q.—MR. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state whether any representation has been made to the Government to sanction the appointment of a Malayalam Lecturer in the Government Muhammadan College, Madras?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"In 1933 a representation on the subject was received and examined in consultation with the Director of Public Instruction. The Director was not in favour of the proposal. To a Legislative Council question put on the same subject, the Government replied in October 1934 that there was no case for the provision of Malayalam in the Government Muhammadan College. Since then no further representation has been received."

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Supply of buttermilk to prisoners.

* 215 Q.—MR. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state whether the Government have sanctioned the supply of buttermilk to prisoners?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The answer is in the affirmative."

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the buttermilk is purchased from outsiders or is made in the jails?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"As far as possible buttermilk is prepared in jails."

MR. V. KURMAYYA:—"Will the privilege of the supply of buttermilk be extended to ordinary prisoners also, Sir?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Buttermilk supply is for all prisoners."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Will the Government consider the economic aspect of getting buttermilk prepared by prisoners themselves?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government cannot allow any kind of rations to be prepared by the prisoners themselves. Buttermilk will be prepared in the jails."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"May I know whether buttermilk is supplied both in the morning and in the evening?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The arrangement at present in some jails is to give it only once a day."

Proposal to give effect to the recommendations of the Sapru Committee Report regarding unemployment.

* 216 Q.—MR. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government contemplate a proposal to request the members of the Legislature to collect statistics of the unemployed in their respective constituencies; and

(b) whether the Sapru Committee Report is under the consideration of the Government?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (a) The answer is in the negative. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to unstarred question No. 28.

" (b) Yes."

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MR. V. V. NARASIMHAM:—" May I know whether the Government will try to get statistics of unemployed people? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" We will collect statistics and later eradicate unemployment."

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—" With reference to the answer to clause (a) of the question which invites attention to the answer to question No. 28 may I ask, whether, in view of the fact that in that answer no reference is made to the co-operation of the Congress Committees and Members of the Legislature, the Hon. Minister will invite the co-operation of these bodies? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" A communiqué has been issued by the Government on the subject. Of course the co-operation of Legislative Assembly Members and members of other public bodies has been invited."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" May I know in how many districts the collection of statistics has been ordered? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" In six districts."

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" May I know if the Hon. Minister is going to give employment to all the unemployed? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I have already given an answer to that. (Laughter)."

* 217 Q.*

Stay of proceedings in O.P. No. 58 of 1936 in re-election to Neikuppai Electoral Circle, Ramnad District Board.

* 218 Q.—MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government ordered stay of proceedings before the Election Commissioner in O.P. No. 58 of 1936 relating to the Neikuppai Electoral Circle, Ramnad District Board, on the file of the Principal Subordinate Judge, Madura;

(b) if so, for what reasons;

(c) under what provisions of law the Government interfered in a pending judicial proceeding; and

(d) whether the Government will quote any precedent for such procedure?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) To consider the question of transfer.

" (c) & (d) Government were advised that their power to intervene was doubtful. The stay order was therefore cancelled."

* Vide pages 620-621 infra.

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MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister what prompted the Government to interfere in doubtful cases? " 10-45 a.m.

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" In the first instance they thought that they had power to interfere. But in the second instance they were advised that they were cases of a doubtful nature for Government to interfere. Hence the stay order was cancelled."

Proposal for the construction of a new building for the Headquarters Hospital, Calicut, on a new site.

* 219 Q.—HAJI P. I. KUNHAMED KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to change the present site and buildings of the Headquarters Hospital, Calicut;

(b) whether the Government have decided to construct a new building for the Headquarters Hospital, Calicut; if so, whether any particular site has been selected for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government have sanctioned any amount for the purpose of constructing a building for the Headquarters Hospital, Calicut; if so, what the amount is;

(d) if the answer to clause (c) is in the affirmative, whether any amount has been allotted for the purpose in the current year's budget;

(e) if the answers to clauses (a) and (c) are in the affirmative, why there is delay in executing the work;

(f) when they propose to begin the construction of the new building for the Headquarters Hospital, Calicut; and

(g) if the site for the hospital has not already been selected finally, whether the Government will consider the advisability of consulting the M.L.As. and M.L.Cs., residing in Calicut town in choosing the proper site?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) & (b) The Government have decided that the question of construction of a new headquarters hospital at Calicut on the site opposite to the Government Hospital for Women and Children should be taken up without delay. The Surgeon-General has been asked to submit necessary proposals.

" (c) to (f) Funds can be provided and the work taken up for execution only after the receipt of the proposals from the Surgeon-General and after the scheme is sanctioned by the Government.

" (g) As the site has already been selected the question of further consultation does not arise."

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Insufficient accommodation in the Mental Hospital, Madras.

* 220 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the complaint in the Annual Report of the Mental Hospitals for 1936 that accommodation in the Madras Mental hospital is insufficient and the matter has been pointed out repeatedly in the previous years; and

(b) whether the additional accommodation needed has been sanctioned, and if so, whether the construction has been completed?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) A scheme of extensions to the hospital providing accommodation for 160 additional patients was sanctioned in December 1936. The work has not yet been started, but it is hoped to make a start this month.”

Provincialization of the posts of headmasters in Government Muhammadan Secondary schools.

* 221 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state why the posts of the headmasters of the Government Muhammadan Secondary schools are not provincialized?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“It is presumed that the hon. Member desires to know why the posts referred to are not included in the Provincial Service. Other similar posts in the Government educational institutions are in the Subordinate Educational Service. The Government do not consider that there is any justification for including these posts of headmasters of Government Muhammadan Secondary schools in the Provincial Service.”

Proposal for the abolition of the posts of Divisional Inspectors in the Education Department.

* 222 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the question whether there is real need for the creation and continuance of the posts of Divisional Inspectors and if so, with what result; and

(b) if the Government consider that these posts are superfluous, when the Government propose to consider the abolition of these posts?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) & (b) The question will be considered.”

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MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—“Sir, when I raised this question at the time of the budget debate the Hon. Minister said that these Divisional Inspectors are necessary for the purpose of administration. May I know when these posts were created?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Evidently the hon. Gentleman was not here when I was replying to the budget debate. These posts were created eight months ago.”

Proposal for the abolition of the posts of Special Officers and Commissioners to Municipalities.

* 223 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating to abolish the posts of Special Officers and Commissioners to the municipalities?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The answer is in the negative.”

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“May I know whether the Congress Government really think that these institutions still require the supervision of these Commissioners and Special Officers?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Yes, Sir.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether the general administration of these institutions has been improved by the appointment of these Commissioners as executive officers?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I think so.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether in view of this fact, the Government will consider the desirability of appointing executive officers to district boards also at an early date?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The matter is under consideration.”

Cars purchased by the Government for the use of the Hon. Ministers.

* 224 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that six pleasure cars were bought out of Government revenues and supplied to Hon. Ministers; and

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, from which firm these cars were bought, the name of the firm and the caste of the seller, the model and their total cost?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“(a) Six motor cars were purchased by the Government for the use of the Hon. Ministers.

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“(b) The six cars were bought from the Union Company, Madras, at a total cost of Rs. 18,000. One of the cars is a ‘Flying Standard—Ordinary Saloon’ and the remaining five ‘Willy—Standard Sedan.’ The Government are not aware of the caste of the proprietor of the firm or who he is.”

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“May I ask in regard to clause (a) whether there is any precedent of this kind before.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I do not think so, Sir.”

Proposal to amend sections 6, 45 and 83 of the District Municipalities Act, 1920.

* 225 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Udipi Municipality in South Kanara in its meeting held on the 5th August 1937 has passed a resolution recommending to Government to amend—

(i) section 6 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, with a view to reserve seats for some communities, only if they formed a certain proportion of the total population of a municipality at the last census;

(ii) section 45 of the same Act for introducing adult franchise in municipalities or to extend the franchise as in the case of the Provincial Legislative Assembly; and

(iii) section 83 of the same Act in order to remove exemption of rented school buildings from property-tax and instead to tax them on rental value; and

(b) what action, if any, the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.”

Agreement entered into by the District Boards of North and South Tinnevely with the South Indian Railway Company in re the Tinnevely-Tiruchendur Railway.

* 226 Q.—MR. J. M. SMITH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Boards of North and South Tinnevely have recently entered into an agreement through the

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Secretary of State with the South Indian Railway whereby the latter agreed to reduce the charge of hire for railway rolling stock from 8 to 5 per cent of the gross earnings on the Tinnevely-Tiruchendur Railway, on condition that the district boards would withdraw the licences at present given to bus services between Tinnevely and Tiruchendur and that they would grant no further licences;

(b) whether the Madras Government were consulted in the matter, and, if so, whether they assented to the terms of the agreement; and

(c) what action the Government propose to take in connexion with this agreement, and in order to prevent a repetition of an agreement which openly suppresses one form of transport in order to maintain another?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) The answer is in the negative, so far as the Government are aware.

“(b) The Government are considering the various questions arising from the conditions attached to the offer of the Railway Company to reduce the hire of rolling stock from 8 to 5 per cent.

“(c) The Government have not yet come to a final decision.”

Measures, if any, for the better working of the village courts.

* 227 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government propose to take to secure a better working of the village courts and if so, when?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The annual reports on the working of the village courts show that the working of these courts is on the whole satisfactory. Defects found in their working in the course of inspections are brought to the notice of village munsifs or presidents of panchayat courts for rectification. Collectors have also been asked to take a close interest in the development of these courts by periodical inspection and otherwise. However, the Government are examining the whole question with a view to make the village courts more efficient. It cannot now be said as to when the Government will be in a position to take necessary action in the matter.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“May I ask whether village munsifs' courts will be replaced by the panchayat courts all over the Presidency?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Wherever possible panchayat courts are constituted; they replace the village courts.”

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MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know whether it is the general instruction to District Collectors to disestablish village courts where there are factions and corruptions rampant? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" The District Collectors are always to attend to this kind of work."

MR. M. A. SALAM:—" May I ask whether for the better working of the village courts Government are contemplating to appoint lawyers as honorary presidents of courts? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" Whether honorary or paid, the Government have in contemplation a scheme in the matter of village courts."

Withdrawal of the half-fee concession for Muslim students in schools and colleges.

* 228 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether half-fee concession had at any time been granted to all Muslim students reading in schools and colleges; and

(b) if so, when this concession was stopped and why?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) & (b) No rule has ever existed that half-fee concessions should be granted to all Muslim students irrespective of their capacity to pay fees."

MR. V. KURMAYYA:—" May I ask whether Adi-Dravida students who are reading in schools and colleges will be given half-fee concession? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" That question does not arise out of this question."

Objection or suggestion, if any, received from any association in Madras relative to the matter in G.O. No. 2705 (62-S), Home, dated 14th July 1937.

* 229 Q.—MR. J. M. SMITH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state in connexion with G.O. No. 2705 (62-S) of the 14th July 1937 issued by the Home Department of the Government of Madras—

(a) whether any objection or suggestion was received by Government from any association in Madras with regard to the preliminary

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draft published by Government of the notification subsequently embodied in the Government Order of the 14th July;

(b) if so, from what association; and

(c) what action was taken by Government with regard to such objection or suggestion?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) & (b) Suggestions were received from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association, Madras Branch, and the Madras Motor Vehicles and Allied Merchants Association.

" (c) The suggestions were considered before the rule was finally issued."

Transfer of the Asylum Press and its staff to Government.

* 230 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) the conditions governing pensions for employees in the Government Press;

(b) whether the service in the Lawrence Asylum Press prior to its transfer to Government is counted as service under Government for purposes of pension;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, whether and if so, in how many cases pensions have been granted since the Lawrence Asylum Press was taken over by Government; and

(d) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, what the conditions of transfer of the Lawrence Asylum Press to Government are?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) The pension rules in the Civil Service Regulations apply to permanent salaried and piece-work establishments in the press.

" (b) The answer is in the negative.

" (c) Does not arise.

" (d) There were no conditions regarding the transfer of employees from the Lawrence Asylum Press. Actually, they had all been given notice of discharge before the press was handed over to Government."

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Conditions of service of the piece-workers in the Government Press.

* 231 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether conditions of service such as leave, pension, punishment are the same for both the permanent employees and the piece-workers in the Government Press; and

(b) whether the Hon. Minister will place on the table of the House the relevant Government Orders?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) *Leave*.—The non-technical staff of the press is governed by the leave rules applicable to all other Government servants; these rules also apply to technical or industrial employees who held permanent and salaried posts in the press on the 1st March 1930. Technical or industrial employees entertained after the 1st March 1930 are subject to different rules.

“(b) *Pension*.—This is regulated by the Civil Service Regulations.

“(c) *Punishment*.—The conditions are the same except that certain categories of employees entertained after 26th May 1930 have been excluded from the operation of the Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, on the ground that such rules cannot be made applicable to them with due regard to administrative requirements.

“(d) The Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by laying on the table copies of the various rules and regulations.”

Revision of the scale of pay of officers in charge of ports.

* 232 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of ports under the control of the Provincial Government;

(b) what is the method of recruitment of port officers in charge of these ports and the scale of pay sanctioned;

(c) whether representations have been received in the past for the revision of the salaries of these port officers and whether they have been dealt with favourably; and

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, when the orders were issued?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) Fifty-five.

“(b) There are ten port officers in the Madras Port Service, six of whom are in charge of the outports, Cocanada, Masulipatam,

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Cuddalore, Negapatam, Calicut and Mangalore, and also supervise the work of Port Conservators in charge of smaller ports adjoining them, one is performing the duties of Personal Assistant to the Presidency Port Officer and Agent for Government Consignments, two have been lent to Cochin and the Tuticorin Port Trust and one is leave reserve.

“(a) The recruitment to the service is made by Government from among men who are less than 40 years of age and who hold certificates of competency as commander in the Royal Indian Navy but are not on its active list or who hold Board of Trade Foreign going Master's certificates and have served as Chief officers. The scale of pay is Rs. 600—30—900—50—1,200 plus overseas pay calculated

(a) during the first five years of service at the rate £15 a month, if drawn in sterling or Rs. 100 a month if drawn in rupees;

(b) thereafter, at the rate of £25 a month if drawn in sterling or Rs. 200 a month if drawn in rupees.

“(c) Yes.

“(d) The scale given in answer to clause (b) is the revised scale sanctioned on 25th March 1937.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know how many posts of Port Officers are held by Indians and how many by non-Indians?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“Notice, Sir.”

Government grants to Indian Orphanages and Boarding Houses.

* 233 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) the principles governing grants to Indian Orphanages and Boarding Houses;

(b) the amount allotted for this purpose in 1936-37;

(c) the average grant per head paid;

(d) the number of orphanages and boarding houses which received the grant;

(e) the items of expenditure taken into account in arriving at the rates of grants; and

(f) whether in recent times there has been a change in the method of calculation disallowing certain items of expenditure once permitted?

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Chapter XI of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

“(b) Rs. 2,85,500.

“(c) Rs. 24 per pupil per annum.

“(d) 197.

“(f) The grant which up to 1933-34 was determined with reference to two-thirds of the net cost of the institution has subsequently been assessed with reference to two-thirds of the net boarding charges of the institution; subject in both cases to a maximum grant of Rs. 3 a month for each pupil.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I ask whether there is any difference between the rates of grant given to Indian and European Orphanages?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Yes, Sir. The difference is indeed noteworthy.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know whether this differential treatment will be continued hereafter also?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“As I have repeated again and again, financial considerations almost always stand in the way of even good and necessary reforms.”

Measures for stamping out leprosy from St. Thomas' Mount and its neighbourhood.

11 a.m. * 234 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether a deputation waited on the Hon. Minister, as contemplated in the proceedings of the Mount Leper Relief Committee meeting held on 10th August 1937, that appeared in the *Madras Mail*, dated 12th August 1937, soliciting the assistance and co-operation of Government in stamping out the disease in St. Thomas' Mount and its neighbourhood; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) The question does not arise.”

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DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether in case representations are made, he would consider the advisability of tackling the question of leper relief?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The Government are tackling the question of leper relief in very great detail.”

Proposal for the appointment of Probation Officers, under the provisions of the Madras Probation of Offenders Act, in the districts of Trichinopoly, Tinnevely and Malabar.

* 235 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) to what districts in the Presidency the provisions of sections 2 to 15 of the Madras Probation of Offenders Act have been extended so far;

(b) in which of these districts probation officers have been appointed; their qualifications and scale of pay;

(c) whether in all these cases probation officers have been appointed by the Madras Presidency Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society as provided in the rules framed under the Act; if not, in what instances a deviation has been made and why;

(d) whether the newly appointed probation officers have entered upon their duties; if so, from what dates;

(e) the amount of subsidy provided by Government to each of these districts;

(f) what are the reasons for not providing probation officers to Trichinopoly, Tinnevely and Malabar districts; and

(g) whether Government would consider the desirability of providing the requisite funds in the Budget for 1937-38 for the appointment of probation officers in the districts named?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a) The provisions of the Act have been extended so far to the City of Madras and to the districts of Bellary, Coimbatore, Madura and North Arcot.

“(b) Probation Officers have been appointed in the City of Madras and in the districts of Bellary, Coimbatore and Madura. Steps are being taken to appoint one for the North Arcot district also. A statement^a showing particulars of their qualifications, scale of pay and the dates on which they entered on their duties, is placed on the table.

“(c) The answer is in the affirmative. No deviation has been made by Government.

^a Printed as Appendix II on page 738 infra.

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“(d) The particulars are furnished in the statement placed on the table.

“(e) A lump sum provision of Rs. 6,300 has been made towards the subsidy payable to the Madras Presidency Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society on this account. No provision has been made on account of the extension of the provisions of the Act to North Arcot as the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, Vellore, has agreed to undertake the work of probation without extra cost to Government.

“(f) & (g) The intention of Government is to try the scheme of probation of first offenders in the City of Madras and in a few selected mufassal areas. If it proves successful, the question of extending it to other districts will be considered. It is too soon to consider the question of extending the provisions of the Act to other districts.”

MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“May I know whether the Government is aware that the Probation Officer of Bellary was drawing only Rs. 40 before but is now drawing Rs. 125?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The Government are aware that he is now drawing Rs. 125, but they are not aware of what he was drawing before?”

MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“In view of the fact that the Probation Officers of other districts are graduates, will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a graduate for the Bellary district also?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The appointment is not made by the Government but by the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society.”

MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“Will the Government consider the desirability of suggesting to the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society the necessity or desirability of appointing a graduate for this office?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The Government at present are not contemplating the laying down of any particular qualifications for the Probation Officers appointed by the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I know the reason for the discrimination in the pay drawn by the officer at Madura and the pay drawn by the officer at Bellary?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“As I have already said, these appointments have been made and their pay fixed by the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society.”

* Printed as Appendix II on page 738 infra.

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MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask whether the reasons for this variation are known to the Government, or will they be made known to them?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“They are not known so far.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Will the Government please make an enquiry and tell us?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“In so far as the authority has been given to the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, the Government do not think it necessary to make any enquiry in the matter.”

* 236 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“I do not put this question.” (Withdrawn.)

Cancellation of the communal Government Order and reduction of salary.

* 237 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government contemplate the cancellation of the communal Government Order;

(b) what steps have been taken by the new Ministry to reduce the salary of the officers drawing more than Rs. 500; and

(c) whether he would be pleased to correctly define the policy of the new Ministry in this matter?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Premier's speech presenting the budget for 1937-38 to the Assembly.”

Rate of remission of land revenue during the budget year.

* 238 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been taken by the Government to relieve small pattadars of the burden of taxation; and

(b) what amount of land revenue remission is proposed to be given during the budget year to the ryot over and above what has been suggested by the Interim Ministry?

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

“(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Budget speech of the Hon. the Premier.”

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Proposal to open rural dispensaries in the districts.

* 239 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many rural dispensaries are proposed to be started during the budget year and how many such dispensaries will be started in each district;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries maintained by the Guntur Municipality in Guntur town is proposed to be abolished; and

(c) if so, what the reasons are for taking such a course of action?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) It is proposed to sanction in the current year the opening of 19 more rural dispensaries to be subsidized by the Government. The local boards which propose to open the dispensaries and the number of dispensaries proposed to be opened by each are—

Anantapur District Board	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bellary	...	...	...	...	...	3
Kurnool	...	...	...	...	...	2
Malabar	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nellore North	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nellore South	...	...	...	...	...	1
Trichinopoly South	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dharmapuri District Board	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pedapadu Panchayat Board	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mappadi Panchayat Board	...	...	...	...	...	1
Morella Panchayat Board	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	19

“(b) & (c) The Special Officer, Guntur Municipality, has proposed that the Municipal Town Ayurvedic Dispensary and the Municipal Unani Dispensary at Sangidigunta may be abolished mainly as a measure of retrenchment and that two dispensaries on the model of rural dispensaries may be opened instead. The proposal is under the consideration of Government.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“May I know why Chittoor has been omitted?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“I am not personally aware of the claims of Chittoor.”

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MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“May I ask whether the Government will suggest to the local bodies the places where these dispensaries should be opened in any district?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“It is primarily the district boards concerned who should make the recommendations.”

MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“Will the Government suggest to the local bodies that they should open new dispensaries in localities where there are no other dispensaries?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The location of dispensaries is a matter in which the Government are entirely guided by the recommendations of the district boards concerned.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Will the Government consider the desirability of running these new dispensaries that are going to be opened, on the Ayurvedic or Unani system?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The question raises an important question of policy.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask whether the Government will examine the suggestion that as far as possible the Ayurvedic and Unani systems should be encouraged?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The matter shall certainly receive the consideration of the Government.”

Apprenticeship in a recognized firm as a condition precedent to the admission of students into the Government School of Technology, Madras.

* 240 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a rule that students seeking admission into the Government School of Technology should previously secure apprenticeship in a recognized business firm owning a factory;

(b) whether the attendance at such factory is intended to afford practical training in order to supplement the instruction in theory imparted at the school;

(c) whether the Hon. the Minister is aware that students seeking admission into the school experience much difficulty in obtaining apprenticeship in business firms;

(d) whether any fee is charged by firms concerned for taking apprentices; and

(e) whether Government would be pleased to consider the advisability of saving students from this liability by making the Government School of Technology self-contained so that both theoretical and practical training may be imparted in the same institution?

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THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) Yes.

“(c) The workshops in the Madras City can take in only a certain number of apprentices. The number of students who desire to join the school exceeds this number. Some students must therefore be experiencing difficulty in obtaining apprenticeships. But there is a limit to the number of these students that can be absorbed in the trade.

“(d) So far as information is available no firms or workshops charge fees with the exception of the Madras Corporation which it is reported charges a premium of Rs. 60 per year from each apprentice undergoing an apprenticeship of two years. Some firms demand a caution deposit from their apprentices.

“(e) The Government consider that the present arrangement is the best from points of view of economy and expediency.”

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“May I know, Sir, whether having regard to the difficulties experienced by students seeking admission into the School of Technology, the Government would consider the proposal indicated in clause (e) of the question and make the school a self-contained institution?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The question has already been answered.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“May I ask whether the Government are aware that there is not one business firm in Madras which gives proper training to these students?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Notice, Sir.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“Will the Government be pleased to make enquiries and find out whether there is any firm in Madras which has got a factory or workshop for the purpose of giving proper training to the mechanical engineering students?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The suggestion will be considered.”

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“With reference to the answer to clause (d), will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to make enquiries and find out whether actually fees are not demanded from students seeking apprenticeship?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“If any particular instance is brought to my notice, it will be considered.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to enquire from the School of Technology as to how many students are exactly able to find workshops or firms where they can undergo practical training?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“All the admitted students.”

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* 241 Q.*

Removal of the Tuberculosis Hospital from Royapetta to a place outside the city.

* 242 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether there have been repeated representations in the past protesting against the existence of the Tuberculosis Hospital—Inpatients' Branch at Royapetta—in the heart of the city;

(b) whether public institutions like the Royapetta Hospital, the St. George's Cathedral School, the Y.M.C.A. and the Paddison Hostel are located in the vicinity of the Tuberculosis Hospital involving thereby danger of infection and spread of the disease; and

(c) whether Government will consider the desirability of shifting the hospital in question to any other place in the outskirts of the city?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) A representation was received from the Corporation of Madras in 1921.

“(b) There are some institutions near the tuberculosis hospital, but the idea that the existence of the hospital involves danger of infection and spread of the disease in the area is not correct.

“(c) The question of shifting a portion of the hospital to Tambaram will be considered when funds are available.”

Formation of a Selection Committee for admission of students into the Government School of Technology.

* 243 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether under existing orders the minimum qualification for admission into the Government School of Technology is eligibility for the University Course in S.S.L.C. Examination;

(b) whether Government would consider the desirability of altering this rule and substituting therefor *Completion* of the S.S.L.C. Course as the minimum qualification for admission into the Government School of Technology;

(c) how the selection of candidates for admission into the Government School of Technology is regulated at present and whether there is a Selection Board as in the case of Agricultural, Medical, Engineering and Teachers' Colleges; and

(d) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of forming such a Board to regulate admissions to the school?

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THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) The qualification for admission to the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering courses is as stated.

“(b) In the opinion of the Government it is not desirable to alter the rule. Past experience indicated that there was considerable wastage among young men admitted who had completed their S.S.I.C. course but had not been declared eligible for the University course.

“(c) There is at present no selection board. The Principal is the authority competent to admit students.

“(d) The present arrangement has worked well and there does not appear to be any need to alter it.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether these rules will be relaxed in the case of the backward communities?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The matter will be considered.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of instituting a shorter course for students who have not got the full eligibility?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The matter will be investigated.”

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“With reference to the Hon. Minister's reply to clause (b), that it is not at present contemplated to relax the rules regarding the education qualification prescribed for admission to the School of Technology, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether he will be prepared to issue rules for the relaxation of these conditions in exceptional cases where the candidates concerned may have fallen short of the minimum number of marks by two or three marks in some of the optional subjects?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“If such exceptional cases are brought to the notice of the Principal they will certainly be considered.”

Rural Communications in the districts of Chingleput and South Arcot.

* 244 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the names of villages which have not been so far served with either metalled or laterite road in the districts of Chingleput and South Arcot;

(b) whether the Government or the local board have any programme or scheme for providing these villages with road communication; if so, what is the cost of the same; and

(c) what the Government propose to do with regard to the early provision of roads to these villages?

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THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The Government have no information.

“(b) & (c) The Government have asked the district boards to submit a five years' programme for the improvement of village communications. On receipt of the programme, the further action to be taken will be considered.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I ask whether the Hon. Minister will please call for the information and supply it to the Members of this House?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The suggestion will be considered.”

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister if he is aware that the roads already existing in the Chingleput district are so bad that it is not advisable to spend any more money on new roads?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Yes, Sir.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister what progress has been made with reference to the proposals in the Vipan Report for the improvement of rural communications?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I think, Sir, that that question does not arise out of this answer.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask whether the Government will take upon themselves the responsibility of bringing into existence rural communications instead of leaving it to the district boards?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The district boards have jurisdiction in the first instance over village communications.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Will there be a change in that policy?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Not in the near future, Sir.”

* Q. 245.*

Conversion of the temporary cadre of the demonstrators in the science sections of the Government Colleges into a permanent cadre.

* 246 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether the temporary cadre of the demonstrators in the science sections of the Government Colleges, has been converted into a permanent one; and

(b) if so, from what date?

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) From 1st October 1937.”

11-15 a.m. MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether these demonstrators will be absorbed in the regular Madras Subordinate Educational Service as and when vacancies occur?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“No, Sir; that is not the policy at present, but they will be made permanent in Government service.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to make the cadre permanent?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“No such proposal is at present under the consideration of Government.”

Grant of remission throughout the Presidency for the several standing crops.

* 217 Q.—MR. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of remissions granted throughout the Province during the last year for the several standing crops; and if so, what crops;

(b) whether remissions were also granted for tea, coffee and similar crops;

(c) if the answer to question (b) is in the affirmative, the amount of remissions granted to such crops in the last year; and

(d) whether any and if so, what definite policy was adopted while granting remissions?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“(a) to (c) The hon. Member has presumably in mind the general remissions granted by the Government in fasli 1346 in view of the fall in prices and the economic condition of the ryots. The value of these concessions is reported to be Rs. 52.02 lakhs. The remissions did not depend on the nature of the crops raised. No remissions were granted in regard to tea, coffee and similar plantation crops as such. These crops are grown on dry lands in a few districts and no remission of the assessment on dry lands was given except in the Bellary and Anantapur districts and in six villages in the Kurnool district.

“In addition to these concessions, the Government sanctioned the remission of land revenue amounting to about Rs. 6 lakhs in certain districts in view of the reduced outturn due to adverse seasonal conditions, damages caused by cyclone, etc. None of these cases related to tea, coffee and similar plantation crops.

“(d) The principles on which the general remissions were sanctioned during fasli 1346 are explained in the Press Communiqué annexed

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to G.O. No. 2272*, Revenue, dated 21st October 1936. Remissions due to seasonal conditions, damages caused by cyclone, etc., are sanctioned with reference to the circumstances of each case in accordance with the general principles laid down in Board's Standing Orders Nos. 13 and 14.”

MR. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI:—“May I know, Sir, whether remissions that have been granted for tea and coffee, will come under the definition of staple food crop?”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“I have just answered that no remission was granted to coffee and tea as such, last year.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider the desirability of granting remissions simultaneously to ryots in zamin areas and making necessary arrangements with zamindars in regard to peshkash?”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“The hon. Member is no doubt aware that the relations between tenants and zamindars are governed by a piece of legislation called the Madras Estates Land Act.”

Proposal to reduce the rate of ground-rent in the City of Madras.

* 241 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the rate of ground-rent imposed on house-owners in the City of Madras in respect of land assigned for building purposes is excessive and out of all proportion to the market value of the land;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the assignees have surrendered a portion of the lands assigned to them due to excessive taxation;

(c) whether the rate of ground-rent imposed is subject to revision every ten years;

(d) whether owing to economic depression, the fall in prices, and the opening out of extensions in the suburbs of the city, the value of houses has correspondingly fallen; and

(e) whether having regard to this fact, Government would consider the desirability of revising the principles underlying the imposition of ground-rent in the city?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) The Government have no information.

“(c) Yes.

“(d) The Government have no information.

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“(e) Under the rules as they stand, the rate of ground-rent may be lowered in special localities, e.g., in parts of the city inhabited by the poorer classes or where the cost of building houses is unusually high. In the circumstances, the Government do not consider it necessary to revise the existing rules.”

Definition of “ food-crops ” and “ standing crops ” for purposes of granting remissions.

* 245 Q.—MR. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the various remissions granted throughout the Province for the past 2 years;

(b) the amount so granted for the same period;

(c) the standing crops that are entitled to such remissions;

(d) how the Government define ‘ Food-crops ’ and ‘ Standing crops ’;

(e) whether any such remission has been granted to tea, coffee and similar crops for the past 4 years; and

(f) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether they come under the category of standing crops?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam: (a) to (c). Remissions of land revenue other than fixed remissions fall under two categories—

(1) General remissions sanctioned by the Government on account of the fall in prices and the general economic condition of the ryots in the Presidency.

(2) Local remissions granted on account of the failure of crops in any particular locality as a result of seasonal conditions or the occurrence of widespread or local calamities such as famine, floods, hailstorms, etc., in accordance with B.S.Os. Nos. 13 and 14.

“ General remissions falling under class (1) above are independent of the actual crop, if any, raised on the land and those falling under class (2) are not restricted to any particular crop or crops.

“ The general remissions granted in faslis 1345 and 1346 are specified in G.Os. Nos. 306,^a Revenue, dated 12th February 1936, and 2272,^b Revenue, dated 21st October 1936, which have been placed at the disposal of the Press. The amounts remitted were Rs. 59.45 lakhs in fasli 1345 and Rs. 52.02 lakhs in fasli 1346.

^a Printed as Appendix IV on pages 743-745 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix III on pages 738-742 infra.

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“ Particulars regarding the seasonal remissions sanctioned in the several districts in the Presidency during fasli 1345 are given in paragraph 11 (i) of the jamabandi report for fasli 1345 and item (1) of statement No. 6 in that report. These include a remission of about Rs. 27,000 sanctioned by the Government, in the Tanjore district as a result of cyclone, pest and floods.

“ Local remissions of land revenue amounting to Rs. 6 lakhs were sanctioned by the Government in certain districts during fasli 1346. The amounts remitted under the orders of the Board of Revenue and the district officials during the year are not known.

“ (d) & (f). It is not clear what the difficulty of the hon. Member is. Standing crops are crops standing on the land, before the harvest. Food-crops are crops, the yield of which is used for food, e.g., paddy, ragi, cholam, cumbu, etc.

“ (e). No concessions have been given to tea, coffee and similar crops as such during the last four years. There was a general remission of assessment of one anna in the rupee on dry lands in faslis 1343, 1344 and 1345. Dry lands cultivated with tea, coffee and rubber during these years would have been eligible for this concession equally with dry lands cultivated with other crops.”

MR. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI:—“ May I know, Sir, what the policy of the Government is in regard to the grant of remissions for such crops? ”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“ I have already submitted, Sir, that no remissions have been granted to crops, but the remissions were granted in respect of lands classified as wet or dry.”

MR. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI:—“ May I know, whether any definite instructions have been issued to the Board of Revenue for the grant of such remissions for staple food-crops? ”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“ May I repeat what I said before in reply to another question, that the remissions were in respect of lands and it may be, incidentally, that the remissions were considered with reference to the level of prices of foodstuffs.”

MR. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI:—“ May I ask, Sir, whether Government will issue strict instructions in respect of future remissions, for classifying the staple food-crops? ”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“ The staple food-crops have been classified; for a long time, there have been strict instructions and the remissions which have been referred to in this answer are given by special orders of the Government and not by the Board on its own initiative.”

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Principle to be adopted in regard to the re-employment of discharged employees of taluk boards when vacancies in district boards arise.

* 211 Q.—MR. K. V. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether preference is being given to those who had been discharged from district board service due to the abolition of taluk boards, in filling up vacancies caused in district boards;

(b) whether the Government received any representations from those who had previously served under district boards against the appointment of raw hands in the district boards; and

(c) what action the Government propose to take in this connexion?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) Under rule 8 of the Transitional Provisions appended to Madras Act No. II of 1934, discharged taluk board servants have the first claim for appointment to vacancies under district boards. The discharged district board servants have the next claim for appointment under district boards in preference to outsiders.

“(b) & (c) Some representations were received from persons who were affected and orders were passed on them with reference to their merits.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware whether any inexperienced person has been appointed as the Secretary of the North Ramnad District Board?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am not aware, Sir.”

MR. S. C. VENKATAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“May I ask, Sir whether all the hands thrown out of employment on account of the abolition of taluk boards have been absorbed in district board service?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have no information at present.”

MR. K. P. YEGNESWARA SARMA:—“Do these taluk board servants enjoy a pension, Sir?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No, Sir.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“In regard to the answer just now given that he has no information, will the Hon. Minister call for the information?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“About what, Sir?”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“Whether all the taluk board employees have been absorbed or not?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Yes, we will call for the information.”

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MR. V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that in the Erode District Board, ex-taluk board clerks have not been absorbed but only raw hands have been appointed?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am not aware.”

MR. V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to call for information in this respect?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Yes, Sir.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Appointments created or made by the Interim Ministry.

* 126 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of new appointments created or made by the Interim Ministry beginning from 1st April 1937 and the names of persons thus appointed with their scales of pay?

A.—A statement ^a is laid on the table.

Alleged preferential treatment in the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore.

127 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some patients in the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore, in the general and other wards are given a preferential treatment by the District Medical Officer, Capt. K. K. Nambiyar, with the result that they absorb all the attention of the staff to the neglect of other and serious cases in the wards;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was such a patient in the medical ward of the hospital who was receiving such preference from the District Medical Officer and the woman Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Mrs. Thomas, in April and May 1937;

(c) whether in this connexion there was a serious difference between the woman Assistant Surgeon, Mrs. Wright, who is now in Trichinopoly, on one side and the woman Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Mrs. Thomas, supported by the District Medical Officer on the other;

(d) whether the District Collector was requested by the Surgeon-General to enquire into this matter; and

(e) if so, what the result of the Collector's finding was, and whether the Government will place the report on the table?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The District Medical Officer, when reporting to the Surgeon-General about certain matters in connexion with the administration of the Government Headquarters Hospital

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and Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore, referred to some causes of friction between himself and the woman Assistant Surgeon, Mrs. Wright.

- (d) & (e) A telegram against the District Medical Officer and the woman Sub-Assistant Surgeon was received by the Surgeon-General and referred to the Collector for report. After an enquiry the Collector reported that there was lack of understanding between the District Medical Officer and the woman Assistant Surgeon. The Government do not consider that it will be in the public interest to place the report on the table.

Detention of a patient in the maternity ward of the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore.

128 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a patient in the maternity ward of the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore, has been kept on for nearly three months overruling the judgment of the obstetrician in charge of the Maternity department; and

(b) whether it is permissible for the District Medical Officer to interfere in the day-to-day duties of honorary physicians and surgeons in their special departments and to overrule their treatment and judgment?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative. The Honorary Physician has made a complaint in the matter which is under enquiry.

(b) Under the rules relating to the appointment of Honorary Medical Officers the entire management and control of the hospitals and discipline of the staff are vested in the District Medical Officer.

Travelling allowance of the District Medical Officer, Mangalore.

129 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Medical Officer, Mangalore, Capt. K. K. Nambiyar, did not travel by the first class from Mangalore to Madras on 6th January 1937 for the District Medical Officers' Conference at Madras, though he subsequently claimed travelling allowance for first class?

A.—On 6th January 1937, M.R.Ry. K. Kannan Nambiyar Avargal, District Medical Officer, South Kanara, left Mangalore for Vizagapatam, to attend to work connected with the Andhra University examination. He travelled second class and University allows only second-class fare for such journeys.

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Number of appointments created by the Interim Ministry during their term of office.

130 Q.—MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table a list of special appointments newly created during the term of the Interim Ministry, the persons holding those appointments and the pay fixed to each appointment?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 126 in the Legislative Assembly. The Government consider that no useful purpose would be served by calling for information as regards the names of persons appointed by authorities other than the Government to subordinate posts created by the Interim Ministry.

Expenditure on account of the Vizagapatam Medical College and the King George Hospital.

131 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the annual expenditure is (1) recurring and (2) non-recurring on (1) the Vizagapatam Medical College and King George Hospital since 1930 and (2) the Madras Medical College and General Hospital for the same period;

(b) what the total amount expended is on the Vizagapatam Medical College (inclusive of Hostel) and King George Hospital so far since 1923;

(c) whether the Madras Legislative Council in 1936 passed any token grant for the Vizagapatam Medical College or Hospital or both; and

(d) if so, whether the Government implemented the principle and policy underlying the said token grant?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement* showing the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes.

(d) Necessary additional staff and equipment required for the college and hospital has been sanctioned. Only the building programme remains to be implemented. The Government are taking the necessary steps to carry out the building programme.

Comparative statement relating to graduates from the Vizagapatam Medical College and the Madras Medical College.

132 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Andhra students at present studying in the Madras Medical College;

(b) the number of non-Andhra students studying in the Vizagapatam Medical College;

(c) their percentage in relation to the total strength of each of the two colleges; and

* Laid on the table separately.

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(d) the number of students who graduated from the Vizagapatam Medical College and the Madras Medical College, respectively, since 1928 and the number of them who have been entertained in Government service?

A.—(a) 73.

(b) 47.

(c) The percentage of Andhra students in the Medical College, Madras, to the total strength is 9.7 per cent and the percentage of non-Andhra students in the Medical College, Vizagapatam, to the total strength in that institution is 17 per cent.

(d) 187 students from the Medical College, Vizagapatam, and 645 from the Medical College, Madras. None of the graduates from the Medical College, Vizagapatam, has yet been appointed as Civil Assistant Surgeons. Since 1928, 41 appointments have been made to the cadre of Civil Assistant Surgeons (Men's Branch), by direct recruitment.

Irregular attendance of the Board of Directors for the management of the Monegar and the Raja of Venkatagiri choultries.

133 Q.—MR. R. VENKATASUBBA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(i) whether the Government are aware—

(a) that out of the eight ex officio and eight nominated non-officials constituting the Board of Directors for the management of Monegar and Raja of Venkatagiri choultries, four ex-officio members and four nominated members never attended any meeting of the Committee or of the Board held in 1936–37;

(b) that three out of four meetings of the Board had to be adjourned for want of quorum and that only three members attended three meetings of the Committee and four attended one meeting; and

(ii) why persons who do not care to attend any meeting are re-appointed or kept on the Board?

A.—(i) (a) & (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(ii) The constitution of the Board of Directors of the institutions is regulated by a scheme of management according to which eight members hold office ex-officio and the remaining eight are co-opted by the ex-officio members, subject to confirmation of their appointments by Government. Subject to death or resignation the co-opted members hold office for a term of five years.

Measures taken by the Surgeon-General to improve the status and efficiency of the Vizagapatam Medical College.

134 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government in starting the Vizagapatam Medical College published a gazette notification in 1923 that the students of the

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new Vizagapatam Medical College would receive the recognized Madras University Degree;

(b) whether the Surgeon-General stated in October 1927 that action was being taken to see that the Vizagapatam Medical College came well out of the next inspection that was to take place within the next six months;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by him and the Government from October 1927 up to date to secure recognition for the medical degrees of the Andhra University; and

(d) whether the Government are aware that a large number of students are attracted every year to the Vizagapatam Medical College owing to their notifying in the gazette, at the commencement of each year, that applications for both the Madras Medical College and the Vizagapatam Medical College are invited, as if there is no difference either in the status or in the prospects of service between the graduates of either college?

A.—(a) In 1923 a notification was published to the effect that a Government Medical College will be opened at Vizagapatam from 1st July 1923 for the training of candidates for the M.B., B.S., and L.M.S. degrees of the Madras University. The Andhra University was not then established.

(b) Yes.

(c) Since 1927 sufficient additions to the teaching staff and considerable improvements in the equipment of the various departments of the college have been sanctioned by the Government on the recommendation made by the Surgeon-General. Recognition is at present being denied only on the ground that buildings for the college and hospital are inadequate.

(d) A common notification is published because a joint committee selects the candidates for admission into the Medical Colleges at Madras and Vizagapatam. Both the colleges are treated as one unit in the matter of selection of candidates as the candidates have to be selected on a communal and linguistic basis. The majority of the students apply for admission at the Madras college but unless there are special reasons to the contrary all the Andhra students are allotted to the Medical College, Vizagapatam; and Tamil applicants are allotted to Vizagapatam only when sufficient number of Andhras are not available. The Government do not consider that candidates apply for admission to the Vizagapatam Medical College for the reasons stated in the question.

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Consultation with the Provincial Government before effecting block retrenchment of staff on railways in the Presidency.

135 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that under the instructions issued by the Railway Board of the Government of India, the Provincial Governments have to be consulted before effecting block retrenchment of staff on railways; and

(b) if so, the number of times they were so consulted in this Presidency and the attitude taken by the Government in each case?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) No record showing that the Provincial Government were consulted is traceable.

Number of petty yard officers and peons communalwar appointed by the Assistant Director, West Coast Division.

136 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR P. M. ATTAKOYA THANGAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fisheries department was mainly intended for the benefit of the various fisher communities;

(b) the period in which Mr. U. Karunakara Menon, Assistant Director, was in charge of the West Coast division;

(c) the number of appointments of petty yard officers and peons made by him during his tenure; and

(d) how many of them are members of the Arayan and other fisher communities and how many are Nayars, Tiyyas and Muslims?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) From 10th May 1924 up to date.

(c) The number of petty yard officers appointed was 69 and peons 145.

(d) Of the 69 petty yard officers appointed, 16 were of the Araya and other fisher communities, 24 were Nayars, 15 Tiyyas, 5 Muslims and 9 other castes.

Of the 145 peons, 132 were appointed by the Assistant Director before the Inferior Service Rules came into force on 1st July 1936. Thirty were of the Araya and the other fisher communities, 34 were Nayars, 22 Tiyyas, 11 Muslims and 35 belonged to other communities. Thirteen appointments were made after the Inferior Service Rules came into force. All were ex-army men nominated by the Collectors. Of these 13, none belonged to Araya or other fisher communities; 5 were Nayars, 2 were Tiyyas, 1 Muslim and 5 other communities.

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Grant of relief to the injured and to the families of the dead arising from the collapse of a partly constructed building in the Erode Municipal Weekly market.

137 Q.—MR. K. S. PERIASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for the collapse of a partly constructed building in the Erode Municipal Weekly Market on 22nd April 1937;

(b) the number of persons who died on the spot and of those who died afterwards in the hospital, and the number of those seriously injured;

(c) whether the Government have instituted any enquiry into the tragedy so far; if not, why not;

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table the orders, if any, of the Interim Ministry, then in office, in connexion with the above tragedy;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the Non-official Enquiry Committee, its report and its findings;

(f) what kind of relief the Government propose to give the injured, and the dependants of the dead; and

(g) from what sources the relief, if any, is proposed to be given—the Government, the Municipality, or the contractor?

A.—(a) Conflicting reports have been received on the subject. The Revenue Divisional Officer reports that the collapse was due to heavy winds, whereas the District Magistrate states that bad construction work and failure to rope off the shed till the Engineer declared it fit for use was perhaps responsible for the tragedy.

(b) The number of the injured and the dead is not accurately known. According to the Revenue Divisional Officer's report three were killed on the spot, three died at the hospital and 37 were more or less seriously injured. The latest report of the Commissioner says that five died in the hospital.

(c) The Sanitary Engineer has been asked to submit all the connected papers, especially, the plan of the market as approved by the Deputy Sanitary Engineer.

(d) No orders were passed by the Interim Ministry in the matter.

(e) Yes.

(f) & (g) The Erode Municipal Council has proposed to distribute a sum of Rs. 5,000 from its funds to the sufferers and the Government have sanctioned the distribution by the Council of a sum of Rs. 4,644.

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Work done by the present Labour Officer in South Kanara.

138 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the present Labour Officer closed some of the schools in the South Kanara district;
- (b) the total number of schools closed from 1933 to 1937;
- (c) whether he has built new schools;
- (d) the total number of new buildings; and
- (e) the total number of rented buildings in the district?

A.—(a) The District Labour Officer has no authority to close down schools. The officer responsible for the Labour department work in the district is the Collector.

- (b) Nine.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Seven.
- (e) Thirty-seven.

Re-appointment of the thrown-out officiating and probationary servants of District Boards.

139 Q.—MR. V. KURMAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the thrown-out Taluk Board employees were ordered by Government to be employed in District Board services in permanent and officiating vacancies in preference to the officiating and probationary servants then working in District Boards;

(b) if so, whether the latter were ordered to be employed after all the Taluk Board employees were absorbed;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government either by way of appeals or representations that the Presidents of District Boards are not employing these acting and probationary servants even after the Taluk Board servants have been absorbed;

(d) if so, whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to place on the table of this House such appeals or representations, if any, received by the Government; and

(e) what action the Government are going to take on such representations?

A.—(a) Yes; only those persons who were acting under district boards on 31st March 1934 and who had not by that date completed a minimum service of six months within a period of one year immediately prior to that date were directed to be replaced by discharged taluk board servants.

(b) Yes.

(c), (d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers to clauses (b) and (c) of starred question No. 211.

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Observance by the Presidents of District Boards of the instructions issued by the Government in their Order No. 2341, L. & M., dated 20th June 1935, regarding appointments and promotions.

140 Q.—MR. V. KURMAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether any appeals or representations from local board employees have been received by the Government regarding the observance of G.O. No. 2341, L. & M., dated 20th June 1935, by the Presidents of District Boards in the matter of appointments and promotions; and

(b) what action the Government are going to take on such representations?

A.—(a) Some appeals have been received.

(b) Orders were passed on them on their merits.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

IV.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—cont.

(16) DEMAND XVI—MEDICAL.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 91,24,900 under Demand XVI—Medical.”

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following cut motion that stands in my name, namely:—

‘ To reduce the allotment of Rs. 91,24,900 for Medical department by Rs. 100.’

“ In this connexion, Sir, I wish to know the policy of the Government in allowing medical officers in Government service to have also private practice. It is a well-known fact that full-time servants of Government in other departments are not allowed to do any private work. Now, these public servants in the Medical department alone are allowed private practice. May I know from the Hon. the Minister in charge whether such things are allowed in the Judicial department and whether a Munsif will be allowed to draft plaints and petitions to be filed by parties in other Courts than in his own Court. Probably this kind of private practice was allowed during the time when allopathic doctors were not in sufficient numbers to meet the demands of the public, but now that we have a large number of allopathic doctors—enough and even more—to meet the demand, there is no necessity for allowing them to continue to have private practice. On the other hand, Sir, there are a large number of private medical practitioners and they do not find any scope for work, because these men in service have been monopolising all the work as they are in a better position to do so in view of the fact that they have the advantage of all the appliances and other equipment of the hospitals in their charge at their disposal. Can the Government expect that a doctor who has both private and also hospital work will be in a position to do full justice to the work for

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which he is paid than to the work which brings him for the moment a larger income. I wish to know from the Hon. the Minister whether he will be able to tell me the average time that the doctor will spend in the hospital upon each patient. In an hospital where the daily attendance is 400—and the doctor generally sits in the hospital only for six hours—I can say the time that the doctor can devote to each patient may not be even one minute; whereas if a patient calls upon him in his residence and pays him amply, he attends to him for any number of hours.

11-30 a.m. “Large sums of money are being spent on buildings in this Department. I do not know if it is necessary that such luxurious buildings are required for the hospitals. I know that some time back 20 lakhs of rupees were spent on district hospitals. We do not want luxurious buildings, with marble floorings and walls bedecked with ornamental coloured glasses and tiles. All that we want is plenty of light, air and space. Is it not a waste of money if we allow the Public Works Department to persist in their habit of spending large sums of money for these buildings. It is all out of proportion to the poverty of the masses of the people. I would suggest that, instead of these costly luxuries, we may have an extended system of rural medical relief and such other relief work for want of which so many in the country side are dying.

“Then there is the question of the employment of Indian nurses. We know that the employment of Indian nurses costs less than the employment of European nurses. I do not know whether they are capable of attending to patients better than Indian nurses or whether they can turn out better work. Why are the Government yet continuing this system? Of course certain number of European nurses may be necessary. Why not cut the number to the barest minimum and employ Indian nurses instead? I hope that they will give sufficient training to the required number of Indian nurses for this work.

“Coming to the question of honorary surgeons, I beg to state that the system is not at all satisfactory. We have been urging for their appointment in larger and larger numbers. If Government had taken that course, they could have reduced expenditure and also given considerable relief to the paid doctors. I would, in this connexion, bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister the case of a patient who, due to neglect or otherwise, collapsed for want of proper medical aid in time. The patient was a victim of a murderous attack in DeMellow's Road. After the attack, he just staggered home and fell in the veranda of his house. His father took him to the Police station wherefrom he was sent to the General Hospital. But nobody was available to give medical aid to him. His intestines were protruding out. There were, it seems, so many chits sent up and down in the hospital; but all the same no aid was forthcoming. The nurse first informed the father of the boy that his condition was becoming dangerous and some fifteen minutes afterwards he was informed that the boy

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had died. This is what we learn from the evidence that was given in the Chief Magistrate's Court. It is all published in the papers. May I, with your permission, read a few extracts?”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“If it is from a newspaper, the hon. member will not read it out.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“The facts are broadly as stated above. The patient was taken to the hospital with his intestines dangling out. No doctor was available to give him immediate aid. Slips were of course sent up and down. The boy's condition was stated to be serious and after fifteen minutes, the boy's father was informed that he died. Does not such a state of affairs require the attention of the Government? Will not Government hold an enquiry in this connexion and satisfy themselves that there has been no neglect of duty on anybody's part?

“I know that so many patients have to be sent back for want of beds in the hospitals. In the mufassal hospitals the number of beds is not at all sufficient. So, many patients have to be sent away for want of beds. The condition in taluk headquarters hospitals is far from satisfactory. There ought to be lady doctors for these hospitals wherever there is a demand for them. People in Kasaragod have been clamouring for so many years for the appointment of a lady doctor for that hospital. The Surgeon-General examined the question last year and also recommended to the Government. The matter seems to have been included in the Part II schemes. The proposals had been strongly recommended by the District Medical Officer. With all that, before the House, which had to sanction the scheme, met in July last, the doctor in charge of that hospital had a communication to the effect that the scheme could not be sanctioned this time. Therefore, the question for the present seems to have been given up. It is not a big scheme and the Government cannot excuse themselves on grounds of finance. At the same time, in the district itself there are lady doctors attached to hospitals where both in point of population, daily attendance of a large number of gosha women for treatment and other things, a lady doctor may not be necessary. There is a greater need for a lady doctor for the hospital at Kasaragod. It was proposed to transfer a lady doctor from some other hospital to this hospital. The Surgeon-General thought there will be strong agitation in the places deprived of the services of the lady doctor and he proposed a separate lady doctor for the place. I request the Hon. Minister to make provision for a lady doctor for the Kasaragod hospital as it was originally intended.

“Sufficient encouragement is not being given to the Indian system of medicine. There are several drugs and herbs used in the Indian system of medicine. All the same they are being prescribed by Indian physicians and cures are effected, but the chemical qualities of those medicines have not been examined. If such an examination is carried out and chemical properties of the same are analysed, then it will be

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possible to introduce them into all hospitals. As it is, the system is being practised and kept up more as a sort of *curio*. My suggestion, if adopted, will make the system a live force.

"In the Lady Goschen Hospital at Mangalore, there are two lady doctors. One is an M.B., and the other is a Sub-Assistant Surgeon. There is no necessity for a third doctor there. The Wenlock Hospital is nearby and it is fully equipped. There is no necessity for starting a separate hospital for women and children had it not been for the fact that it was meant for the use of gosha ladies and other women who would not consent to be treated by male doctors. When such is the case, and when there is no need for a third doctor, a male doctor is appointed as honorary surgeon and to make matters worse, he has been put in charge of maternity ward and it was laid down that it was only with his permission that the lady doctors could attend in maternity cases. I ask, Sir, whether these doctors do not possess the necessary qualifications. Have they not been handling major operations successfully? When such is the case, what is the necessity for putting a male doctor in charge? This question was raised before but we were told that the Government had advertised for the services of a lady doctor. But I ask, Sir, what necessity is there for a third doctor? When the hospital is intended solely for women, on what ground was a male doctor appointed there? I consider that the Hon. Minister will consider all these points and see what can be done. With these words, I move my cut motion."

MR. P. ACHUTHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, I only want to bring to the notice of the Minister in charge the necessity of taking up the question of the headquarter hospital in Calicut. His Excellency, when he came to Calicut a few months ago, made a definite promise that the matter will be taken up. The interim Minister, Mr. Palat, definitely promised that the foundation stone will be laid within a few months. I do not know who is responsible for not making any provision in the Budget for this hospital. His Excellency saw the place and condemned the present hospital and, as I said, promised that the scheme would be taken up. I do not know who is responsible for the mischief. I do not want to take up the time of the House apportioning the blame; but I want to bring pointedly to the attention of the Government that it would be better if a small sum is provided for land alienation purposes, so that the scheme may be taken up next year."

* KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming as I do after the previous speaker I want to take the Hon. Minister nearer home and draw his attention to the—I think I would be permitted to use the words—'scandalous' condition of the Trichinopoly General Hospital. I may perhaps give the information for the benefit of the Members of the House because I am personally aware that the Hon. Minister in charge is conversant with the actual conditions prevailing there. About two months ago, after a small rain the compound wall of the hospital fell down and brought about the death of two people. I will not be surprised if the building itself

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collapses during the next rains and brings about the death of the in-patients who resort to the place for the treatment of their ills. Not only that, Sir, I want to go a step further and say that the accommodation that is now found in the present General Hospital is barely sufficient for even half the number which it is catering to. The patients are not only packed like sardines inside the accommodation available but the patients are located in the verandas and other places not intended to accommodate patients. In these circumstances, Sir, we expected that the hospital would be constructed at a very early date. The agitation for the construction of this hospital has been going on not for a year or two but for decades. It is not only one Excellency but several Excellencies have visited the hospital and noted down in the visitors' book that the hospital requires immediate construction of a suitable building. The Hon. Members and Ministers in charge have visited and made similar notes in the visitors' book of the hospital. Knowing as I do the present Minister in charge I thought that he at least would take immediate interest in the matter and start the building. I was all the more glad that he addressed a public meeting at Srirangam and I read in the papers that he was for the Puttur maidan site and was starting the construction there. But to my serious disappointment I came across an order of Government saying that the question of site has come up for consideration before the Government. The Government, Sir, has considered the matter several times and it came to a definite conclusion that the present site is not fit for the building of any hospital. It is in the most crowded locality in the City and is surrounded by very insanitary conditions. In these aspects of the case the experts considered it desirable to remove the hospital to a much more sanitary locality and a much more airy place. After a good deal of inspection by several experts they came to an agreement that the hospital must be shifted to a new site and it must be constructed in the Puttur maidan. I do not know what made the hon. Minister in charge to change this definite decision that the Puttur maidan was the best locality. I, as representing the Trichinopoly citizens, am bound to tell the House and through you, Sir, the Hon. Minister in charge of Public Health that there is no better site available in Trichinopoly than the Puttur maidan which has already been finally settled. I request the Hon. Minister in charge not to unsettle this settled question and start again the question of going after the selection of a site which will take years and the only net result of any such investigation will be to postpone the construction of this very urgently needed hospital in Trichinopoly. I expected, Sir, when this Government went in for a loan of a crore of rupees, it would include the question of the rebuilding of this hospital as one of the most urgent and important items required in this Presidency. But I regret to find that there is no such provision made in the budget of this year. Anyhow it is my humble request to the Hon. Minister in charge that he, knowing as he does the urgent and imperative necessity

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of constructing an up-to-date hospital in such an important place as Trichinopoly, will give this matter his best and earliest consideration. Under the system of medical education obtaining in this Presidency at present, I may say with regard to the Unani and the Indian system of medicines that these systems are receiving a very step-motherly attention at the hands of the Government. I was glad, Sir, to read the speech of the Hon. Minister in charge that he felt that the Unani and the other Indian systems of medicine deserved better consideration at the hands of the Government. But I failed to see any better provision made in the budget that has been placed before us. Therefore, Sir, I would urge this matter to the earnest attention of the Hon. Minister in charge.

“One more word, Sir. In appointing sub-assistant surgeons to the village hospitals I would request the Hon. Minister to bear in mind one particular fact, Sir, viz., in villages which are predominantly Muslim, I may submit that when an assistant surgeon or a sub-assistant surgeon is appointed to the place he will be of no use to the public residing in the locality. In such of those localities where there is a predominant population of Muslims he would do well in addition to have a lady doctor also. On account of the social conditions prevailing among the Muslims they cannot avail themselves of the benefits of Government expenditure on those hospitals unless and until the Government sees fit to appoint a lady assistant to that hospital.”

*Mr. V. J. GUPTA:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last some months there has been a very great agitation in the whole of this Province regarding the Vizagapatam Medical College resulting in all the students going on strike on account of the non-recognition of their Degrees by the Indian Medical Council. The Hon. Minister in charge of Public Health has issued the necessary orders for the necessary improvements and it must secure the necessary recognition from the Indian Medical Council. Otherwise there will be a crisis in the working of the college. The students have given up the strike and the college is running as it is. With regard to the history of this ill-fated college, as early as 1917, the Government of Madras was in favour of starting a college in Vizagapatam as they found that the Madras Medical College was not sufficient to accommodate all the aspirants and in 1923 the college was actually started in Vizagapatam. Though the college was situated in Vizagapatam it is not a Vizagapatam college but is a college for the whole Province as it has been attracting students from all the corners of the province even from Malabar—a far off place. In 1926, when the Andhra University came into being, this medical college was affiliated to the Andhra University. But in the Andhra University Act, section 44 says that the Madras Medical degrees would be given to all the students that complete their course in the Vizagapatam college provided they joined the college prior to the Andhra University Act. But I must say that the Madras University refused to give to the students of the Andhra

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University Medical College their degrees. In 1927 some special departments were opened, radiology, tuberculosis, ear, nose and throat departments which were hitherto included in surgery and medicine and in the same year magnificent buildings were constructed and when Lord Goschen opened the high buildings, he paid a tribute to the students that frequented the college. But in the same year the General Medical Council of Great Britain paid a visit just before the provision of the special departments and denied recognition to the Vizagapatam Medical College for the simple reason provision was not made at the time of the inspection of the College. Ever since 1927 until 1934 the Government which was responsible for starting the college and the King George Hospital, instead of sympathizing with the conditions and meeting the situation, began to show apathy and even wanted to close down the college. In 1934 the Indian Medical Council which has taken the place of the General Medical Council, Great Britain, visited and again refused recognition in spite of all the equipments and in spite of all the tributes paid by Lord Goschen because special departments were not created and some improvements were not made. The complaints fall under two heads; one, staff; and two, some improvements in the departments of out-patients, X-ray, maternity and operation. The first objection was easily got over by increasing the staff. But for the second objection a good amount of money was needed. The then Government, instead of providing the necessary funds, again contemplated closing down the school. But thanks to the efforts of Sir Radhakrishnan, he made the Government now at least to promise to allot 16 lakhs of rupees for all the improvements for the medical college so as to enable the Indian Medical Council to recognize the degrees.

“This sum was never spent by the Government. Thus, on one side the Government was neglecting to provide the necessary improvements, and on the other side the Indian Medical Council with a large majority of I.M.S. officers was refusing the recognition of medical degrees. Out of 41 appointments, ever since 1928, not one graduate, who has passed out of the Medical College at Vizagapatam, has succeeded in getting into Government service. It is ridiculous to see these graduates going about and opening small dispensaries here and there.

“In 1937, the Inspectors of the Indian Medical Council visited the College and again refused the recognition as the necessary improvements were not made. Sir, in last June the Surgeon-General of Madras visited this College. He had consultations with the Principal of the College, the Executive Engineer and the Superintendent of the Hospital and it was agreed that a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs would be quite sufficient for all the requirements, for all the improvements pointed out by the Indian Medical Council. I do not find any provision made this year in the budget towards taking up the work immediately, and consequently, students are everyday feeling whether they would have any recognition at any time in their life. Even the Hon. Minister for Public Health had assured the Indian Medical Council which met last August that

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Government would allot the necessary amount for carrying out the improvements in the College. It is most surprising to see that the Indian Medical Council has not consented to give recognition to the degrees of this College and have thus pooh-poohed the assurance of the Hon. Minister and I think, the Government of Madras. So I do not understand the necessity for providing Rs. 1,800 in our budget towards the Indian Medical Council.

"Sir, the refusal of the Indian Medical Council, in spite of the Hon. Minister's assurance to make all the improvements has even resulted in the resignation of Dr. Tirumurthi from the Council. I therefore plead on behalf of the students of the Medical College, Vizagapatam, and on behalf of the people of this province that necessary funds may be granted and at least as a beginning of our intention to carry out the improvements, not less than a sum of one lakh may be provided in the budget for this year.

"I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity you have given me to speak on this demand."

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"In order to give the discussion the appearance of reality of debate, hon. Members are called on to speak alternately from the right and left. Hon. Members are requested to be as brief as possible and under no circumstances exceed the time-limit of 10 minutes, so that as many members as possible may be able to speak within these two days."

(Mr. Speaker called on Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar to speak.)

An hon. Member of the Congress party sitting on the left side of the House:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, do we come under the definition of left or right?"

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"The hon. Member belongs to the Congress party and as such belongs to the right. He knows it, I believe."

* **MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR**:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject on which I propose to speak is the extension of the system of honorary medical officers in the Medical department. But before proceeding to the subject, the remarks made by my Hon. Friend Mr. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib in regard to the Trichinopoly Headquarters Hospital do, I feel, require some attention. He said that Government should use the Puthur maidan in Trichinopoly for construction of the new hospital, thereby displacing the vast open space used by children, as a playground. Sir, the suggestion takes my breath away. I have been seeing in the papers about how in Britain they have decided that the best way of commemorating the memory of a popular Monarch is to start a Nation-wide scheme of playgrounds and here is an opinion voiced that a maidan used as a playground should be used for the construction of the hospital. I wonder whether the hon. Member desires to manufacture patients for the hospital. Sir, it was stated the site of the present hospital was unsatisfactory, being low and insanitary. I understand that the hospital is in the centre of the city

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and conveniently accessible to all. If such be the case, the argument that the site is unsuitable cannot hold good. The General Hospital in Madras is surrounded by the pleasant smelling Cooum on three sides, and is subjected to the smoke, dust and noise emanating from Central station on the other side. The only advantage is it is situated in a central place. It is necessary that a hospital should be centrally situated. Engineering skill is not wanting for surmounting defects in natural conditions and surely the surroundings can be improved: Besides it may not be wise to spend money on new buildings for hospitals as a building that is considered suitable now may not be suitable 10 years hence. Government should not spend much money for erecting a new building if the old one can be renovated. Though the hon. Member Mr. Khalif-ul-lah has got a better right to speak on behalf of the people of Trichinopoly, I think the suggestion to sacrifice a public maidan in favour of a hospital building is unwise."

* **KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR**:—"On a matter of personal explanation. The hon. Member who was just speaking was saying that it is not proper to shift the hospital from the present locality and take it somewhere else, particularly to the maidan. My explanation is this. He was making a comparison of the Trichinopoly hospital with the General Hospital in Madras. The conditions obtaining in the two are entirely different. So far as the Madras Hospital is concerned, when two years back the idea of extension was taken up, the question was very seriously considered by the Government to my knowledge and it was said then that much public money should not be wasted by giving up the present hospital, because the hospital has already been well provided, and the question for consideration then was the extension of the hospital. But the question of the Trichinopoly hospital is entirely different. The present hospital building is absolutely unsuited for the purpose, and the Government has under their consideration the putting up of a new building—not an extension. So I urged that if the whole money is to be spent, it is better that it is spent on a different site, better suited for the purpose in view."

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"Is this personal explanation? I think the matter has been sufficiently explained and Mr. Krishnamachari may go on with his speech."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I need not answer his point. The question is whether the playground should be sacrificed for the hospital and nothing more. I have to-day to speak with a certain amount of trepidation in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject is an eminent medical man, has been a private practitioner himself and should know all about what is happening in the department and the difficulties the practitioners are labouring under. So to make any suggestions will be like carrying coals to Newcastle. But I shall do my duty as a member of the House and say what I feel on the subject. I shall be very brief. I have to make mention of the

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போகவேண்டுமென்றால் சரியான ரோட்டுப்பாதையிலே. ஐந்தாறு மைலுக்கப் பால் போய் மருத்துவ ஸ்திரியைக் கொண்டுவருவதற்குள் சில சமயங்களில் கஷ்டம் நேர்ந்து சாவு நேர்ந்து விடுகிறது. சில சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் ஸ்திரிகளுக்கு பிரசவத்திற்கு முன்னும் பின்னும் இரத்தப் பெருக்கெடுத்து சாகும்படியாக நேரிடுகிறது. இந்த மாதிரியான சாவைத் தடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றால் ஏராளமான மருத்துவ ஸ்திரிகளைப் பயிற்சி செய்து ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திற்கும் அனுப்பி பிரசவ காலத்தில் உதவி செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்தாலொழிய பிரசவ காலத்தில் ஏற்படும் ஸ்திரிகள் சாவை நாம் தடுக்கமுடியாது. இதை சுகாதார மந்திரி அவர்கள் நன்றாக மனதில் வைத்துக்கொண்டு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களென்று நம்புகிறேன். பட்டணங்களிலும் பட்டணத்தைச் சுற்றியிருக்கிறவர்களுக்கும் ஆஸ்பத்திரிகள் இருக்கிறதினால் கவனம் ஜாஸ்தியாக இருக்கிறது. கிராமங்களைப்பற்றி கவனஞ் செலுத்தப்படவில்லை என்று ரொம்ப நாளாக குறை கூறப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இவ்விதக் குறையை காங்கிரஸில் ஈடுபட்டிருக்கிறவர்கள் கண்கூடாகக் கண்டிருக்கிறோம். கிராமங்களுக்கு இருக்கிற இந்தக் குறையை காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு வந்திருக்கிற இந்தக் காலத்தில் நாம்தான் தீர்த்து வைக்கமுடியும். வேறு யாராலும் தீர்த்து வைக்கமுடியாது. மனிதர்களுடைய வாழ்வில் வியாதி வராமல் தடுப்பதும் வியாதி வந்தால் சிகிச்சை செய்து நிவர்த்தி செய்வதுந்தான் முக்கியமானதாக இருக்கிறது. சுகாதாரம், வைத்திய சேதி, கல்வி ஆகிய இந்த மூன்று விஷயங்களையும் முக்கியமாக எடுத்துக்கொண்டு சிரத்தையுடன் வேண்டிய வேலை செய்யவேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம். குடியை ஒழிப்பதை முக்கியமான கொள்கையாக கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். அதே மாதிரி கிராமங்களிலிருக்கிற ஸ்திரிகளுக்கு பிரசவ காலத்தில் உதவி அளிக்க மருத்துவப் பயிற்சி ஸ்திரிகளுக்கு ஏராளமாக கொடுக்கவேண்டும். சாதாரணமாக கிருஸ்தவ ஸ்திரிகள்தான் இந்தப் பயிற்சியில் ஜாஸ்தியாக தேறியிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்து ஸ்திரிகள் மருத்துவப் பயிற்சியில் ஈடுபடுவதில்லை. அவர்கள் ஏன் ஈடுபடுவதில்லை என்றால் அவர்கள் பயிற்சி பெறுவதற்கு பண உதவி இல்லாததினால் அம்மாதிரி பயிற்சி பெறுவதற்கு முன்வருவதில்லை. ஆகையினால் கவர்ன்மெண்டார் இலவசமாக ஏராளமான ஸ்திரிகளுக்குப் பயிற்சி கொடுத்து, ஒன்றிரண்டு வருஷங்களில் பட்டணங்களிலுள்ள ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளில் பயிற்சி கொடுத்து கிராமங்களுக்கு அனுப்பினால் எவ்வளவோ ஸ்திரிகள் சாவதைத் தடுக்கலாம்.

“குழந்தைகள் வைத்தியத்தைக் கவனிக்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. குழந்தைகள் வைத்தியத்தைக் கவனிப்பதற்கு, ஸ்திரிகளுக்குச் சொல்லிக்கொடுப்பதற்கு (Health Visitors) ஹெல்த் விஸிடர்களை நியமிக்கவேண்டியது அவசியமாகும். மற்ற நாடுகளில் நியமித்திருக்கின்றார்கள். மற்ற மாகாணங்களிலும் நியமித்திருக்கின்றார்கள். Health Visitor பயிற்சி பெறுவது டில்லியில்தான் இருக்கிறது. Health Visitor பயிற்சி பெறுவதற்கு நம்முடைய மாகாணத்தில் ஒரு பயிற்சிப் பள்ளிக்கூடம் ஏற்படுத்தி ஏராளமான Health Visitor ஸ்திரிகளை ஏற்படுத்தும்படியாக நான் சுகாதார மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். இதுதான் நான் ஸ்திரிகளின் சார்பாக சொல்லிக்கொள்ளவேண்டிய விஷயம். இதை நன்றாக நம்முடைய மந்திரி அவர்கள் கவனிப்பார்களென்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம்.”

12-30
p.m.

MR. T. N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI:—“I want to speak only on a point of order.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Please state the point of order in a minute.”

Mr. T. N. Annamalai Pillai began to speak in Tamil and referred to some subjects which had already been discussed.

MR. SPEAKER:—“That is not a point of order. Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig will speak.”

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* MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister in charge of the Medical Department to three or four points. The first of these is the non-recognition of the medical degrees obtained by students of the Vizagapatam College, on which much has been spoken by my Andhra friends. The Members of this House who belong to Andhra Province are surprised to note that the promised amount of 16 lakhs has not been provided for in the budget. I need not refer to the agitation that is going on among Andhra people, regarding the non-recognition of the medical degrees given to students who come out of the Vizagapatam College. It is no answer to say that the Madras Government have recognized it. Now, Sir, it was not my intention when I tabled a resolution for the formation of an Andhra Province to make it a ‘trap’ . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member may not allude to a previous incident which had happened.”

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“I am just mentioning that to show . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“That may not be mentioned.”

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“I bow to your ruling, Sir. Now this matter with reference to the Vizagapatam College, has been agitating the minds of the Andhra Desa people and there was a general strike of all the students and certain Andhra gentlemen persuaded them to give up their strike on the promise that Government would be induced to give recognition. The real difficulty was that unless the Government spent about 16 lakhs of rupees for building, the Medical Council refused to grant recognition and promises were made by the Hon. Minister in charge and these were also reported in the Press, as far as I can remember. And what do we find now? Not only did the Medical Council refuse to give recognition to the degrees possessed by the students of the Vizagapatam Medical College, but the Hon. Minister in charge has also not been pleased to make any provision in the budget. Naturally all these things were agitating the minds of the Andhra people. However I am prevented from referring to any of these matters such as the claims for a separate Andhra Province and, therefore, I shall not mention such matters.

“The second point which I would like to mention is with regard to Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine. Various speakers have spoken about this matter and have urged the necessity to encourage these two systems. Every facility should be given for the encouragement of these systems, and if possible, every municipality and district board should be insisted upon to open Unani and Ayurvedic dispensaries. I know there are some Unani dispensaries in this Presidency in some places, but in most of the municipalities there is not a single Unani dispensary. Ayurvedic dispensaries there are in almost all the district board areas and in some municipalities, but they are not sufficient in number. So my opinion is that more Ayurvedic and

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Unani dispensaries are very necessary. The third point that I wish to touch upon is that so far as the Andhra districts are concerned, there is no provision made for X-Ray treatment and Radium treatment in the hospitals there. As far as I know it is only in the Vizagapatam College there is such an apparatus and not in any other central place like Bezwada or Anantapur. In such important places the X-ray apparatus must be provided for. It is not always possible for middle-class people to go out to Vizagapatam or to Madras where they can get X-ray treatment.

"The fourth point I would like to mention is this. However much the Members on the other side of the House may ridicule the idea of communal representation in services—I am sure that such attempts will not benefit them—we for our part consider that communal representation is a just thing and it is not anti-national. Those of us who think so . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will proceed to the next point."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I am making my submission with regard to . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will proceed to the next point on this Demand."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I was going to speak of Muslims in the services. That is my point. From the statistics I find that in the higher services in Medical Department there is not even 2½ per cent of Muslim representation. I think that in spite of the fact that some of us in this Council have made representations that our community should be given a larger share in public services, our claims have not been met. May I take this opportunity of pointing out that in Provinces where the Hindus are in a minority, such as the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Provinces, the Hindus have not only been given a share in the public services according to their population basis, but something more. The same thing should be done to us here. We must be given a share not merely on the basis of population but on account of important political considerations. Similar points were taken into consideration in Provinces where the Hindus are in a minority and the Muslims are in a majority. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to bear this in mind and see that Muhammadans are appointed in this department with due deference to their political importance and population.

"Another thing that I may tell is that for the last 6 years appointment of Assistant Surgeons were not made. It so happens that some Muslims who are qualified have become over-aged above 30. I submit that for the last 6 years there has been no appointment. So some Muslims who are otherwise qualified for this post have become disqualified not due to their own fault. So, on behalf of the Muslim

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community and also on behalf of other minority communities this rule of 30 years may be relaxed and persons who may be above 30 years also may be appointed.

"In this connexion I may submit to the Government that although the Vizagapatam College was established long ago and many Andhra medical graduates have come out of that college, they have not been appointed in the medical service. That is a matter for the consideration of the Government. I think that my Andhra friends would take up the matter with the Government of which they are members and do justice to their own countrymen."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, I tender my heartfelt thanks to all the Members that have taken part in the discussion of this subject this morning. I am also very thankful for the very kind reference which hon. Members of this House made personally to me and through me to the department concerned and to the Government. I am particularly grateful for the very sympathetic way in which this Demand has been almost accepted by the House. It is not surprising that there have been some criticisms which require attention and reply on the part of the Government. My own surprise is that there has not been much severer criticism and opposition with regard to the various cut motions than have been given notice of, under this Demand. Roughly speaking, I may classify the criticisms under three or four heads. The first and foremost important thing that has been brought up in the discussion to-day relates to the question of the policy in regard to medical services in this Province. The Government are very glad that their ideas on the subject, more or less, tally with the criticisms that have been made in this House with regard to that subject. The honorary system of medical service to which more than once reference has been made has already been engaging the attention of this Government. That there are a large number of very eminently qualified medical men who are in their prime of life and whose qualifications certainly entitle them to very great regard in the eyes of the public, is pretty evident. Government have certainly recognized that state of affairs. Mention has also been made of the practice in countries of Europe as well as in the Presidency of Bombay where the system has been working very successfully for the past few years. I might also mention as a piece of information that last year the Government instituted an enquiry into the system of honorary medical service in this Province. The conclusion of that committee is that it has been a success. Therefore, it has made the path of this Government very easy in pushing this scheme further into shape, which I expect would not only be acceptable to the House but to the large volume of opinion outside the House. The question of saving to the Government by employing honorary men who are available has indeed been noticed by the Government. In view of the proposals being put into practice in the very near future, the Government have adopted the plan of not entertaining new men for the service. They

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are now examining the scheme and a proposal is under the consideration of the departments concerned. Therefore, on behalf of the Government I can assure the House that their suggestions have already been adopted by the Government. I have only to request them to hold on a little more patiently till the scheme is properly matured and announced. I have every reason to believe that the Government will deserve the congratulations of the public of this Province.

"The next question that has been mentioned is the nursing system in this Province. It has been stated that there has been a disproportionately large number of European and Anglo-Indian nurses in service. Hon. Members must understand that that disproportion is not the result of any deliberate action on the part of the Government. Our people have, till very recently, been very reluctant to take to the nursing profession and because other communities did come forward it is not fair for us to say that these communities have been over-represented. Government are now aware of the enormous amount of material that is at the disposal of the country for making a suitable choice for the nursing profession. In one of his public utterances the Hon. the Premier has mentioned that a large number of nurses could be recruited from young, healthy widows, who are available in such numbers in this Province. That is only an indication, a suggestion, but I may say that if hon. Members study the budget critically they will find that all schemes for the development of the nursing profession have been temporarily held in abeyance in this budget. The reason is this. The Government propose to investigate the matter thoroughly, and take stock of the material that is available for training and employment as nurses. They will certainly take into consideration the large volume of material that is available amongst Indians in this Province.

"Sir, I have been reliably informed by the nursing staff of this Province that Indian women are not only coming, but they are coming in such large numbers that they really find it difficult to choose from among them. Therefore, the country may be glad that the nursing profession will certainly be properly recruited and proper training given to them to make them efficient.

"Then there is the question of encouragement of Indian systems of medicine—Ayurvedic and Unani. Hon. Members of this House will be aware of the meritorious service which the late Raja of Panagal has rendered to this country for the cause of indigenous medicine. The present Government have taken stock of the position and will follow the lines laid down by the late Raja Sahib, with regard to the development of indigenous systems of medicine. We have set apart a large proportion of our demand, more than Rs. 2½ lakhs for the encouragement of indigenous systems of medicine. To-day as many as 350 students are being trained in the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicines in the Indian School of Medicine. It will also be within the knowledge of hon. Members that such of those students as are turned out of this institution as qualified medical practitioners are being

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employed by our municipalities and district boards. If further efforts in this direction could be made, Government will only be too glad to take the matter on hand. But I would remind hon. Members that medical education is not a thing that could be pushed forward in a day or in a night. It is a system and one has got to devote years of training before he is qualified to serve the public. It requires much outlay of capital. There should be the educational institution, hospital facilities, laboratory equipment, and many other facilities besides. The Indian School of Medicine is full to its capacity and any further development of the system means large capital outlay not only on the institution but also on the appurtenances to which I have referred. It is a question of finance pure and simple.

"Then there is the question of the Trichinopoly hospital and the Calicut hospital. Hailing from Trichinopoly, I may tell hon. Members that I know the situation pretty well. Perhaps one of the first duties which I performed after I assumed the responsibilities of this portfolio was to pay a visit, the first official visit to that hospital at Trichinopoly. But no amount of words or strong criticism will ever make an old hospital a new one. There has been unfortunately a deal of controversy with regard to the location of the site of the new hospital. A new hospital was sanctioned and Government with the consent of the Surgeon-General, chose the site at the Puthur maidan. When I was at Trichinopoly last, a deputation waited on me and pressed on me the necessity of retaining the hospital in the present site. Besides, the Municipal Council of Trichinopoly have taken strong objection to depriving the public of the only playground that is available on the Puthur maidan. Thirdly, the opinion of the District Medical Officer is to the effect that the hospital as it is now should be reconstructed on the present premises for the reason that it is most centrally situated and is within the reach of the poor people of the town. On these grounds the Government have stopped further progress of work on the Puthur maidan and are now actively considering the question of raising a new hospital in the place where the old hospital stands. The old hospital is certainly very bad and no building can be retained out of the present structure. If it is a question of a new hospital, the old hospital must be rased to the ground and a new structure has got to be built. Before we rase the building to the ground, the question of running the hospital has got to be considered. The Government have written to the Government of India to hand over to them the military hospital in the Cantonment which is lying vacant, so that the present hospital may be moved temporarily into the Cantonment hospital till such time when the new hospital is reconstructed. There the matter stands at present. I think that the Government are supported by the Municipal Council of Trichinopoly, the general public and also the District Medical Officer.

"Then there is the question of the Calicut hospital. I may assure the House that the money is there, the ground has been acquired but the actual commencement of the work has not taken place. In

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answer to a question put this morning, I assured the House that the hospital will be taken up at once.

“ The question of the services of lady doctors and men doctors, was raised by my Hon. Friend Mr. Schamnad. I can assure him that patients are at liberty to consult any doctor of any sex they like. Government will certainly respect the sentiments of such of those people who have strong objections with regard to the treatment of women patients by men doctors. The hon. Member has himself conceded that at the Mangalore hospital there are two lady medical officers and it is, therefore, open to the women patients to choose any lady medical officer they like. Nobody can say that a lady doctor shall not attend on a woman; but if a woman patient does consult a male doctor, it is nobody's fault; it is the desire of the patient. But provision has been made for such of those who want medical aid at the hands of lady doctors.

“ With regard to the Kasaragod hospital, the hon. Member has already raised the question by means of an interpellation. I should like to assure him that though the subject has been omitted in this year's budget, it will be taken up next year. The delay was due to the fact that the attendance at the hospital has not been steady. That is the report of the Surgeon-General on the matter. To maintain a hospital with a lady doctor, a minimum daily attendance of 50 patients is required. For the last four years, in the Kasaragod hospital there has been fluctuations in attendance varying from 44 to 96 patients and the latest is only 60. Therefore, the contention has been put forward that if a lady doctor is appointed it might perhaps attract more patients. We are certainly aware of that fact. The Government have taken up that question and provision will be made in the next budget for a lady medical officer.

1 p.m. “ With regard to the question of private practice of paid service men, I do really think that that it is a vexed question. There is something more than fees and something more than actual practice in the question. There is the knowledge which should be made available to all people. It will be conceded that people who have been running a hospital for some years have at their disposal an enormous amount of practical knowledge and experience which is perhaps unique. Under the circumstances, it is open to anybody to ask: ‘ Why should that knowledge and that experience be not made available to those who need it? ’ That is exactly the point on which the whole question has got to turn. No Government can ever turn round and say that expert medical aid shall be denied by law. What the Government can do and propose to do is to limit such private practice in the case of some of their servants who have got responsible duties to perform, the performance of which will be interfered with, if private practice is allowed. There, at least, is the correct way of looking at the question. If the discharge of the duties of the Government servant is not possible, or if it is interfered with by private practice, certainly the

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Government will propose to prevent private practice in such cases. But the practice of being a consultant, by a man who by his knowledge and by his experience has gained a status in the medical profession, where his knowledge is worth having by the general public, such practice, if prevented, will always be a national loss; and, therefore, Government have got in mind the idea of allowing private practice only to those people as are consultants, in whose case the country and the people will have the benefit of their knowledge, even though they are servants of Government. With this proviso, I am sure the Government will be on very safe ground in tackling this question.

“ Sir, the question of brick and mortar for buildings and overcrowding in hospitals have been mentioned. I am very glad, Sir, that there has been a definite response on the part of hon. Members of this House to the fact that lakhs of rupees of money ought not to be wasted on brick and mortar in the name of hospitals. While conceding that proposition, I do believe that a certain amount of brick and mortar is necessary, because nobody can run a hospital without a building. If the building is not to be costly, at least it should be hygienic. In very many schemes of hospital construction, the primary consideration should be that of hygiene and sanitation. Provided these two points are carefully looked after, I do not think there need be any further waste of money on buildings.

“ With regard to the question of the Vizagapatam hospital, it has been a much vexed question, and I am sure hon. Members will appreciate the stand which this Government have taken in this matter. There have been two specific remarks made with regard to the non-provision of money in this Budget. I beg to assure those Members who referred to this matter that no provision is necessary. The scheme has been sanctioned already and no further provision is necessary. The amount is there, and the Government are waiting for a complete plan of the new scheme which is now with the Public Works department. It will soon be in the hands of the Government, and as soon as the final approved plan is received, the work will be taken up immediately. Therefore, the absence of a provision in this Budget need not frighten the people or the students of the Medical College.

“ With regard to the agitation that for the last so many years the Indian Medical Council have not condescended to give recognition to the Medical College degrees. Sir, it is a matter which is beyond the purview of this Provincial Government. With regard to the matter that there has been a grant made for the Indian Medical Council, I wish to assure the Member concerned that the grant is not made out of the Provincial Funds. It is really a loan given to the Imperial Government, and this money will be recoverable. Therefore, the Government of Madras do not contribute even one copper coin towards the maintenance of the Indian Medical Council. On these two points, the House may take the assurance of this Government.

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“With regard to the question of further construction, there are many practical difficulties. The whole scheme fell through because an ambitious Principal of the College nearly doubled the estimate and it was found to be beyond the means of the Provincial Government to meet it; and therefore it had to be abandoned. And as now a more modest scheme has been put up, I am sure the Government will take this question very soon. On behalf of the Government, I may also assure the students of the Vizagapatam College that I shall be there in their midst next month and personally go into the whole question and see that the building construction is taken up on hand.

“With regard to the question of the non-employment of the graduates of the Vizagapatam College, it is no doubt true; there has not been yet one medical graduate from Vizagapatam who has been entertained in the service. But at the same time, I must inform the House that for the last six years, there has been no recruitment at all for the services. Wherever there was a vacancy, there were men already in service who were promoted, and it is only recently that an examination was held. But in view of the reorganization of the medical system, direct recruitment has been held in abeyance for the present. Once the system is reorganized, I think it will be time for the members concerned to put forward the claims of the Andhra graduates. As far as I am aware, I do not see any reason why the Government could not entertain as many Andhra graduates as are available.

“As regards Muslim graduates, I want to say one word. All Muslim graduates that were available and could be absorbed have been absorbed. If a few of them could not be absorbed, it is because of the age restriction under which they suffer. Government having postponed the recruitment, naturally a number of these aspirants have passed the age-limit. There has been a deputation before the Government on this question and Government are considering whether extension may not be sanctioned in their particular case.

“Sir, I once again thank the various speakers for the indulgent way in which they have treated this Demand of mine, and I do hope that this Demand will be passed unanimously by the House.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Does Mr. Schamnad press his cut motion?”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In view of the assurance given by the Hon. Minister, I withdraw my motion.”

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

(17) DEMAND XVII—PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“Sir, I beg leave of the House to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,71,000 under Demand XVII—Public Health.”

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* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—

“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

‘that the allotment of Rs. 32,71,000 under Public Health be reduced by Rs. 100.’

“Sir, I beg to submit this is one of the departments which can be very usefully amalgamated with the Medical department. I do not mean to say that the whole department should be scrapped or abolished; but what I want to impress is that the department can be worked with the Surgeon-General as the head of both the departments. He may be assisted by two or three Assistant Directors of Public Health for carrying on the public health administration. I am not sure whether it is necessary to have a district health officer for each district. Two or three districts may be grouped together under one district health officer. The number of health inspectors should however be increased. Sir, there are many villagers who do not know that there is a department known as the Public Health department. When Major Webb was once in South Kanara, he wanted to know something about the working of this department in South Kanara. He got down at one of the railway stations, called some people and asked them whether they knew anything about the activities of the Public Health department. Many of them said that they did not know that there was such a department. His next question was whether they knew anything about an officer known as health inspector. They said no; they had neither seen him nor heard of him. Then they were asked who have vaccinated their children, and they said that somebody went to their villages, gave notice to the villagers to take their children to the chavadi and thus vaccinated them in the village chavadi; but nobody knew who was the health inspector, or anything about his activities. What is wanted really is that if the health of the villagers is to be preserved, these health inspectors should visit the villages frequently and do propaganda work, giving lectures to the people and telling them how sanitation could be improved. Sir, it is a well-known fact that in the West Coast every temple and every mosque has got a tank attached to it. As a lot of people make use of them daily and make them dirty, naturally they become in course of time the breeding places for so many germs which bring on diseases. Every Friday people gather in large numbers in mosques; when there is a large congregation there, these officers can very well go there and tell the people how they can keep themselves healthy. As I said, Major Webb asked a health inspector once how many tanks and public wells there were in a particular locality, and he could not say. That is the condition of the working of this Public Health department. Unless better work is turned out by the people in charge of this department, the money spent on this department is a mere waste. Again, Sir, the number of women vaccinators is not enough. It is well known that the vaccinators find it difficult to vaccinate women especially in rural parts as they have conscientious objections, to allow themselves to be vaccinated by these

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men officers. In South Kanara district there are only one or two women vaccinators. I think, Sir, for every taluk there should be at least one woman vaccinator.

"There is also the question of good water-supply. Very few municipalities and towns have a good supply of water. There should be enormous improvement made in this respect. (At this stage, the hon. Speaker rang the bell.) With these few words, Sir, I move my cut motion."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members who want to speak on this motion are requested to be brief, so that the Government may state their policy, if possible, before the luncheon interval."

* MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the warning you have given me with regard to the time to be taken up; and I may assure you that I shall not be very long. There are only one or two points to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. The first is the question of Health Officers working in the different municipalities. I find, Sir, that in municipalities, especially in municipalities in district headquarters where there are district medical officers, district health officers and municipal health officers also have been appointed. I submit there is no need for these officers to continue. Health officers were appointed at a time when there were no commissioners and when sanitary inspectors did not undergo the elaborate course of training which they are having now. In addition to that, Sir, now we find that the Director of Public Health, as well as the Government issue orders regarding the procedure and the measures to be adopted in the case of epidemics and most of these are covered in the ordinary routine work of the health officers.

"Then, there is also the question that all the subjects and all the papers of the health officers do pass through the commissioners. There are very few municipalities in the province that can afford these officers who are very costly to them. I think Government will do well to consider the question of abolishing many of these posts and I consider that one second-class health officer will be enough to manage the work of all the sister municipalities in a district. Government may also consider the question that when one district health officer can look after the public health affairs of the several towns and villages in the district. Why should not one health officer be able to attend to three municipal towns? If they think so, I do not see why a second-class health officer should not be able to manage all the municipalities in one district. There are very few districts with more than three or four municipalities and when such is the case I think one second-class health officer will be sufficient for the work. Therefore, I commend this for the consideration of the Government.

"Then I come to the question of the Public Health department. Sir, the only justification for the existence of this department is the prevention of epidemics. The most troublesome and widespread epidemic in the mufassal districts is malaria and I find that the policy

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pursued by the Public Health department in this respect is to subsidize the Cinchona department to supply quinine in malarial tracts. I think it would be much better if the policy of prevention is adopted rather than the policy of cure and the activities of the department should be directed more towards the eradication of the evil and the extermination of the mosquito pest; and if only a comprehensive scheme of work is taken up in this regard much tangible results will be obtained.

"Then comes the question of water-supply. Lack of proper and protected water-supply is responsible for numerous epidemics like cholera and such other diseases. Merely the policy of digging wells in isolated areas alone will not do much good, but a comprehensive scheme of protected water-supply to the villages must be undertaken and very early too. This cannot be better achieved than by utilizing the existing protected water-supply schemes of the local bodies, say, within a radius of 20 miles of the local bodies that have protected water-supplies. Of course the initial outlay will have to be met by Government and if necessary the local bodies that have protected water-supply may be subsidized and non-recurring grants may also be granted whenever necessary to cope with the increasing demands that may be felt. If such a scheme is initiated immediately, the spread of epidemics round about the thickly populated towns will decrease and it will also eliminate the chances of their spreading to towns and becoming uncontrollable. I therefore appeal to the Government to take up this question as early as possible and see that the poor villager, who starves on account of famine, gets at least a sufficient supply of drinking water which is his primary need as the Hon. the Premier himself has pointed out the other day. I think it is the duty of the State to see that this primary need of the village is met.

"Sir, there is another cut motion standing in my name, by means of which I want to urge on the Government the desirability of considering the needs of the Bellary district. From the letters I have received from my constituency and also from the information that is appearing in the papers, it is found that the rains in Bellary even this year have failed. As I have once before expressed on the floor of the House, the drinking water available in the Bellary district is so bad that unless Government take up a comprehensive scheme of supplying protected water-supply to the villages in the district, there is every possibility of most of the villagers evacuating them for want of drinking water. I therefore appeal to the Government that, out of the funds allotted for water-supply, the villages in the Bellary district may be given a fair amount, of course taking into consideration the needs of the other districts also."

* MR. B. RAJA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw particular attention to the importance of the services of midwives in rural areas. Besides this, I want also to bring to the notice of the Government how the dispensaries in rural areas are working. Here, I wish

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to stress the necessity of employing more trained nurses and midwives for attending to labour cases in rural areas. Sir, many facilities are afforded to the general public who are living in large cities and towns. Even in spite of the fact that the best medical aid is available there, people in cities and towns clamour for superfine treatment. If that be so, how much more should the people in the villages complain in view of the fact that they do not have even rural dispensaries?

"Speaking about rural dispensaries, let me add that they suffer not only on account of the insufficient supply of medicines but also on account of insufficient staff. Generally, a sub-assistant surgeon in charge of a rural dispensary is allowed only Rs. 60, which has to cover his pay, the pay of the hospital assistant and the hospital rent and naturally the sub-assistant surgeon in charge of a rural dispensary lacks enthusiasm; and very often the accessories in hospitals, for example, basins, towels, soaps, lints, etc., are very often dirty or wanting. This deficiency must be removed by granting increased allowances if the rural dispensaries are really to be maintained in proper condition.

"Then again, Sir, the number of dispensaries maintained in each district is most inadequate. There should be a rural dispensary for every village or at least a group of villages within a radius of two miles and I think any amount of money spent on these dispensaries will be well spent because they will be in a position to afford medical relief to the poor people who are mostly in need of such relief.

"There is yet another drawback in rural dispensaries, because they are not provided with trained midwives and nurses. What happens now is, when labour cases are taken to these hospitals the doctors have to send them away to other hospitals in towns for want of proper assistance from midwives and nurses who are quite indispensable in such cases. So, people who cannot afford to take the expectant mothers to hospitals in towns have necessarily to entrust them to the quack village nurses who try their own crude methods on the helpless mothers and do more harm than good; and in most cases they prove fatal on account of septic poison. If only trained nurses and midwives are employed in these local dispensaries, such deaths will be avoided to a great extent.

"I therefore request that Government will be pleased to consider these questions favourably and do the needful to these poor villagers."

* Mr. E. M. D'MELLO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of my motion is to discuss the desirability of instituting a public enquiry into the administration of the Sanitary Engineering department. I wish to speak on the administration or rather the maladministration of the Sanitary Engineering department, with some intimate knowledge. I claim to know its working practically from the time the department was created over 40 years back. I speak in a spirit of co-operation and not with a view to embarrass the Government. I also make it clear that I speak purely in public interest. A public enquiry

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into the affairs of this department would help the Government to understand how far the public criticism is justified. It would also help the concerned officers to clear themselves in the eye of the public.

"In view of your ruling, Sir, limiting the time for discussion, I am compelled to cut down a lot of information which I thought the House would be interested to know. However, if an enquiry is instituted I shall place before the committee of enquiry all the information I have.

"The affairs of the Trichinopoly water works, I thought were buried. But the department has exhumed them. The hon. Members of this House would have read in the press what the Sanitary Engineer recently stated to a deputation which waited on him at Trichinopoly. I request the Hon. Minister for Public Health to take notice of the statements which this officer made publicly and see for himself whether it is desirable that a public servant should make bold to state what he did. It is a challenge. If the Minister is agreeable to it, I have no doubt that the challenge would be accepted and it would be taken to its logical conclusion.

"It is a matter of public knowledge that the department was primarily responsible for creating a political situation over certain improvements carried out to the water works in Trichinopoly in 1932-33.

"As the councillor who was deputed to supervise the execution of the work on behalf of the municipality, I claim to know the correct facts. But I do not wish to tire the House by going into every aspect of the case now. For my purpose, it is sufficient if I refer to the so-called technical sanctions of the departmental officers. It was because this formal technical sanction was not given to the very plans and estimates prepared under the department's own instructions and in the very office of the department that the people of Trichinopoly were deprived of their civil rights for some time."

MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—"On a point of order, Sir, may I ask whether manuscript eloquence is permitted?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is refreshing his memory by means of his notes."

* MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"How far the works were efficiently carried out was the subject of an enquiry by Mr. Barber, Superintending Engineer, Public Works department. I wish to know from the Government what action was taken on Mr. Barber's report? Will the Government be pleased to place the report on the table of the House? I want the Government to consider whether the Sanitary Engineer was justified in making a challenge in the light of Mr. Barber's findings."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I know if the hon. Member is reading his speech? If the hon. Member is reading altogether from a manuscript, he will not be permitted to do so. But he may refer to his notes

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"Has the hon. Member a long speech to read?"

MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"No, I have got only eight or nine . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the hon. Member speak through the phone and say if he has got a long speech to read?"

MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"I shall take ten minutes to read."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will not allow it. If he has to read for a few minutes some extracts he may read. Otherwise he shall not read a whole speech in this House. He can supplement his oral speech from written notes."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I suggest . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have given directions to the hon. Member."

MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"The hon. Member for Vizagapatam, Mr. Viswanatham, knows all the details of the Mahadrigedda water-supply investigation. Thanks to the courageous fight he put up against the odds then in power, a wastage of several lakhs of public funds has been avoided."

"The hon. Member for Guntur, Mr. Venkatappaiah, was not so lucky in his attempt to avert a similar catastrophe in Guntur. Rs. 30,000 was spent on the investigation even without testing the quality of the water in the bore-hole taken at the site of the proposed experimental well. A well was sunk and the water proved both saltish and inadequate. It had to be abandoned after spending about Rs. 15,000. The well sunk on a private land stands there as a monument. In all these investigations public funds have been wasted. If the schemes based on them are executed they would prove expensive failures. I cannot help feeling that those investigations are but methods of creating wasteful work in order to justify the existence of the department."

"Over a decade ago, the then Sanitary Engineer and the Chief Engineer recommended the use of what are known as 'Hume Pipes' in the construction of the intercepting sewers in Salem. My information is, that the Government sanctioned the use of this material on the definite condition that the pipe line should be examined after ten years' use and a report submitted to Government. Are the Government in possession of any such report? I have made some enquiries. I am told that the department have on one ground or another thwarted the attempts of the local Public Works Department officers to make an inspection. In a few stretches where the pipe line was examined, they proved to be a failure. Nevertheless this class of pipes has been recently recommended for adoption in the neighbouring Municipality of Coimbatore on a large scale. I wish to know if the Government had taken the professional advice of the Chief Engineer on this matter."

"The department is now pressing on the local bodies the use of a newer material known as 'Hume Steel Pipes.' This class of pipe has

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been recently used in the sewage pumping main at Bezwada. From competent quarters, I understand that signs of weakness are already evident at the joints."

"At Adoni, both the public and the municipality are against the use of this class of pipe without the concurrence of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department. Strangely enough, the Hume Pipe Company should have been so sure of the contract, that they stocked their materials at Adoni even before the date fixed for the receipt of the tenders."

"Steel pipes have proved a failure. Salem, Negapatam, Chidambaram and Berhampore have all shown that steel pipes are useless. The expert who introduced the steel pipes in this province, has not been held responsible for his professional advice. He is enjoying his pension somewhere, unmindful of the failure of the steel pipes here. The Government must be guided by this and experience."

"On the other hand, cast iron pipes have stood the test of time and experience. These iron pipes are manufactured by the Mysore State. The Bengal Iron Company also manufacture these pipes in the country. There is therefore no question of importing foreign materials in preference to Indian materials. Let me assure this House, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I am as anxious as any one else here that our Indian goods should be given preference over foreign materials wherever possible. But between two indigenous articles it is the duty of Government to choose the more efficient and, therefore, in the long run the more economical articles. Surely we cannot use earthen pipes for water-supply and drainage works, because our local potters make them."

"Recently a new policy of entrusting the execution of major sanitary works to the municipalities under the supervision of this department, has been introduced. The reasons why the execution was taken away from this department and placed in the hands of the Public Works Department have not been given due consideration. A crisis arose in the execution of the drainage scheme of Ootacamund."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member, Mr. D'mello, is evidently reading the whole of his speech. He may stop."

MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"I am not reading. I have got just the notes from which I am speaking."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have seen the hon. Member, Mr. D'mello, reading his speech. He may stop. The Hon. Minister may reply."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subjects of sanitation and public health have engaged the attention of this Government even to the exclusion of many other important subjects. Those of the hon. Members who have followed the budget speech of the Prime Minister would have noticed the consideration that has been given to this subject in the allotment of funds. All schemes for water-supply and for drainage and an additional grant of over a lakh in

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for facts and figures pertaining to the speech which he is making. I shall just read out a passage from May's Parliamentary Practice, containing the rule with regard to the reading of manuscript speeches:—

'A member is not entitled to read his speech; but may refresh his memory by reference to notes. Reading of written speeches which has been allowed in other deliberative assemblies has never been recognized in the Houses of Parliament. A member may read extracts from a document but his own language must be used and he must put it in the form of an unwritten composition. Any other rule would at once be inconvenient and repugnant to the theory of debate.'

I have, therefore, ruled that in this House also manuscript eloquence would be discouraged. Therefore, Mr. D'Mello may deliver his speech *extempore* only referring to his notes to refresh his memory."

* MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"In view of the clouds which still hang to say orally for the reason that my statement contains certain allegations the strength of which I do not want to put higher or lower than what it is in the statement. Further, I do not want to be misunderstood by the Government or by the department concerned by anything I may say. This is a very important statement. And I am not making a speech to put anybody in any embarrassing position. I am making a statement of allegations. That is the reason why I have to read out several portions from my statement to be precise."

The House adjourned for lunch.

(After Lunch 2-30 p.m.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. D'mello will continue his speech."

* MR. E. M. D'MELLO:—"In view of the clouds which still hang over the affairs and in view of the challenge made recently by the department, I wish that the whole matter should be examined in an open enquiry so that the responsibilities might be allocated to the appropriate persons. When so much had been said, when so much has been made for want of the so-called formal technical sanction of the department I wish to give a few instances to show what little responsibility is shouldered by the department itself for the technical sanction given by it and what little purpose the technical sanction really serves.

"I wish to draw the attention of this House to the tragic collapse of the market under construction at Erode on the 22nd April 1937. Thirteen people died and 102 people were injured. A tragic waste of human life which deserves to be taken note of even in this country where lives are considered cheap! The plans and estimates were sanctioned by the department. Were these plans and estimates strictly followed? Yes. If they were, who blundered? The department? Non-official enquiry was conducted and the findings are before the Government. If the Government is not satisfied with those findings it is their clear duty to make the necessary enquiries. They should fix the responsibility and take necessary action thereon. There should be no further delay. More lives may be lost by the incapacity and

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inefficiency of the department. I am not unaware of this legacy has been handed down to the present Ministry.

Penukonda water-supply.

"After the usual investigation, plans and estimates of a water-supply scheme were prepared by this department. They were sanctioned by the Government for execution. The District Board Engineer proceeded to the spot. No water was to be found at the source indicated by the department. The execution of the scheme naturally was held up. The expenditure incurred by the department for investigation proved to be a waste. What is the value of the so-called yield tests conducted by the department? Should they not give in the hands of a real expert the dependable yield of the source?

"The case of Penukonda is not an isolated one. A second bore-hole was completed at a cost of about Rs. 80,000 at Kumbakonam. Yield tests were conducted on several occasions by the experts jointly and severally. According to them the minimum dependable yield was 100 gallons per minute. The pumping plant and other works were designed accordingly. The latest information is that the yield from the bore-hole is only ten gallons to the minute—a case verily of a mountain in labour bringing forth a mouse. Someone had again blundered—some 'expert' who did not understand the principles of bore-hole work. At this stage, I know, a full report on the situation was made by the officer in immediate charge. What happened to it? A lakh of public money has gone down the drain, I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker, down a bore-hole. In order to divert the attention of the public from this enormous waste, the department has now decided on the so-called further investigation for a better source of water-supply.

"An important function of the department is to conduct investigation to gather data for designing water-supply and drainage schemes. There are instances where several investigations have been conducted over and over again, wasting public funds.

A recent instance in Trichinopoly.

"The distribution system of the water works needed modification to meet the requirements. In or about 1924 an investigation was carried out and levels were taken, ignoring the levels already taken by the department for the drainage schemes. About Rs. 3,000 was spent in this investigation, but to no useful purpose. Recently the department has advised another investigation at a further cost of a few thousand rupees.

"The department has also suggested laying a new rider main strangely forgetful of a pipe line which was buried in the ground over a decade back. Yet the department is supposed to be fully conversant with the water works in its charge."

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addition to what has already been provided by the previous ministry have been put into this budget for which I am asking sanction. Just before I proceed with the rest of the issues raised in this debate I should like to answer one or two points raised by the hon. Lady Member who spoke in the morning. She spoke very feelingly of the condition of mothers who are to undergo the ordeal of labour. She also said that this Government should go out of its way to extend a helping hand to such suffering mothers.

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“I would like to assure her and through her the women of this province that this Government is well aware of the troubles and tribulations of motherhood and having that in view we have this year provided for the appointment of 187 midwives during the course of this year. We have also provided for 19 new additional rural dispensaries and these also will be provided with midwives. Therefore at the end of the year we expect there shall be 200 and odd additional midwives employed in the service of Government. That will bring the total to over 500 more midwives in the service giving relief to people who are particularly mothers. There are 483 rural dispensaries in our province and all of them will have qualified midwives who can be called upon for service as occasion arises.

“The question of abolishing district health officers has been mentioned by more than one speaker. I was rather amazed at the suggestion. You would understand that the sanitary conscience of our people unfortunately is not very high. Superstition on a national scale and sometimes of a most dangerous kind is most rampant in our province. The sanitary conscience of our people does not respond to the most elementary principles of health and national well-being. One would expect a greater demand under health subject not only for health work but for education on health lines. One district health officer is supposed to be many. One for a district I contend is too few. In fact I would insist on half a dozen health officers if really health work is to be done properly and well. Hon. Members may be aware of the epidemic at Guntur. They would also know the efforts made by this Government to eradicate this epidemic. The number of hands that were required to stamp out the disease is not one or two but more than half of the district staff. This is in addition to the hearty co-operation of the volunteers and of the medical practitioners who were imported from Bezwada for stamping out the epidemic. Therefore to say that one is too many is really impossible to concede and is absolutely inadequate in the existing circumstances. The health officers are highly trained and qualified men and are much better than sanitary inspectors. They have to manage a big number of sanitary servants not only municipal but others. There are epidemics all over the country and added to the epidemics we have got the fairs and festivals all through the year when we have crowds of people. Hon. Members would then understand that the demand made is not too much. Therefore the Government cannot concede the proposition that the health officers are so many. On the contrary they want health

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officers not only one or two but a large army of them. Of course the cost is there. We shall deal with the question when it arises. We are not concerned with it to-day. But I may tell this that the present Government do not consider any cost too much to meet the sanitary requirements and therefore when we plead for more hands and more officers we have in view more efficient service for our people.

“An interesting observation was made by one of the Members saying that distribution of quinine is absolutely useless or superfluous. Malaria, this gentleman observes, is an epidemic. As a medical man I may say this that there is difference in the words epidemic and endemic. Epidemic diseases appear at a time of the year and carry away a large number of people and probably disappear then. But there are diseases called endemic which will be present from year's end to year's end. Malaria is one such. But in certain seasons it develops beyond all proportion. But malaria to be stamped out is an enormously big problem. I do not mean to say that it is a negligible problem; but I do insist that it is a problem that must be tackled by any Government. But tackling malaria really means tackling a large problem which involves all the conditions under which malaria is caused. The problem of mosquito destruction all over India is an old problem. But if you want us to wait till that date when we are able to tackle all the mosquitoes I do not think there will be very many people living. Of all the known remedies, quinine is about the best that is available in this country and we are advised and experts have advised that quinine is about the best remedy that could be had. They are all doing such stupendous work that a free distribution of quinine would appear as perhaps the next best that any Government can do. The Madras Government are in a lucky position of manufacturing a great deal of quinine that may be required for our requirements. In fact the requirement is not enough even for our province. Our policy should be to encourage a system of plantations and also developing a greater quantity of quinine so that the people, the poor people of the province could have all the attention of this province by using quinine throughout the epidemic.

“Then there is the question of water-supply. I need not dilate upon all the schemes that we put forward this year. If there are municipalities and rural areas that do not find a place in the budget it is because the schemes have not been fully worked out. But I may assure the House on behalf of the Government that we shall spare no pains and that we shall consider no cost too big to tackle the question of protected water-supply to rural areas. In case it is necessary we are even prepared to go and borrow and raise a loan to meet this elementary need of our rural population.

“There is only one other issue raised and that is by my friend, Mr. D'mello. He has raised really issues which were raised years and years before. The Trichinopoly water-supply muddle has been before the Government for nearly four years and more. More than one enquiry

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has been held and different findings have been made by different persons. It is not necessary for our purpose to go and apportion the blame on individuals concerned. But I may read for the information of the House a report by Mr. Barber, the Superintending Engineer who has inquired into the matter. I may read the relevant portion of it:

'As a result of the inspection and tests now carried out, I must regretfully conclude that the so-called improvements in the water works have been carried out hurriedly and without sufficient previous investigation or a due appreciation of the conditions required, the lack of sufficient technical knowledge by those responsible for the actual execution of the work has resulted in poor work being done at considerable expense with very disappointing results, so far as the yield from the new system is concerned. Had proper technical advice been obtained before embarking upon such an undertaking there is little doubt that far better results might have been achieved.'

"The whole question of the responsibility of the Sanitary Engineer with regard to the question of not giving proper advice has been enquired into and a voluminous report has been submitted to the Government on the question. But the Government are not altogether satisfied with the work of Mr. Rao or of his department and in that connexion they have expressed their disapproval with a warning:

'The matter should have ended there and it is most unfortunate that Mr. Rao should now have made such a speech as is reported in the *Hindu* of the 17th August. The Government had not seen the speech before and they will consider the question of taking necessary action in the matter. The Government do not consider any useful purpose will be served by another enquiry. They have to admit that Mr. Barber's report was not complimentary to Mr. Rao and to the Sanitary Engineering department, but in view of the orders issued in the matter no further investigation of the matter is necessary.'

"With regard to various schemes of water-supply in which failure has been shown these matters are again old history. There has always been a difficulty in the execution of the work between the Sanitary Engineer and the municipal councils concerned. There have been municipal councils acting even against the advice and suggestions of the Sanitary Engineer. If failure resulted by such actions the blame should necessarily go to the municipal councils concerned. But in view of these failures Government have decided that in future all contracts should be given to qualified and experienced firms so that the execution of such work shall be free from technical defects. If they committed any mistakes the engineering firms might be taken to task.

"With regard to the other question of the failure of water-supply with regard to Guntur, Kumbakonam, Vizagapatam, etc., I may tell the House that all the investigations have been made and I may assure the House that proper arrangements have been made for all future execution of work under proper control. With regard to the Mahadrigedda scheme not having been proceeded with, I may inform the House that the scheme will be gone into thoroughly next month and the water-supply scheme shall be taken up on hand as soon as they inspect the site and the quantity of water available is ascertained.

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"With regard to the question of hume pipes *versus* cast iron pipes, 3 p.m. it is a matter for expert opinion. There are experts who swear by hume pipes, and there are others who swear by cast iron pipes. But where the experts differ, the layman literally goes to the wall. But in spite of that, the Government has taken up the whole question on hand, and they have taken the advice of the Chief Engineer with regard to these questions. The Sanitary Engineer has been advised that expert opinion of other departments should be taken before the choice of pipes is made. Under these restrictions and under the various Government orders issued by the Government from time to time, I am sure the Sanitary Engineer cannot have his own way. With regard to the use of hume pipes, this controversy really raised an issue of a very grave nature, and the Government are aware of its consequences. They have not left any stone unturned to make investigations. But constituted as we are, we have necessarily to deal with highly technical questions where expert opinion is necessary, and in the light of expert advice, the Government are prepared to act and do the right thing. There is nothing more, Sir, for me to say with regard to the criticisms that have been made, and I am sure the hon. Members in the light of the explanation that I have given will pass the demand without any difficulty."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member press his cut motion?"

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Although the Hon. Minister's reply is not very satisfactory, he has assured us that he would make an earnest attempt to do something. I withdraw the cut motion."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

(18) DEMAND XVIII—AGRICULTURE.

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,40,100 under Demand XVIII—Agriculture."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! விவசாய இலாகாவுக்காக ரூ. 22,40,100 கேட்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதில் நூறு ரூபாய் குறைக்கவேண்டுமென்று பொதுக் கொள்கையைப்பற்றிப் பேச ஒரு வெட்டு பிரேரணை (cut motion) கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறேன். முக்கியமாக இந்நாட்டில் மூலாதாரமாயிருப்பது விவசாயமே. மற்றவையெல்லாம் இதற்குப் பின்னால்தான். நூற்றுக்கு தொண்ணூற்றேழு பேர்கள் விவசாயிகள். விவசாயம் அபிவிருத்தி அடைந்தாலொழிய நம்முடைய நாடு கேடிமனடயாது. விவசாயிகள் உதவிக்காக சர்க்கார் விவசாய இலாகா

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காவை ஏற்றுத்தி வைத்து இதன் மூலமாக விவசாயிகள் இன்ன மாதிரி உழ வேண்டும் என்று போடவேண்டும் விதை போடவேண்டும் பயிரிடவேண்டு மென்று கற்றுக்கொள்ள இந்த இலாக்காவை வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இந்த இலாக்கா கிராமத்திலுள்ள விவசாயிகளுக்கு சரியானபடி பயன்பட வில்லை. எங்கேயோ சில டவுன்களில் டிமாண்டி ரேட்டர்கள் சில காசுகளைக் காட்டிவிட்டுப் போகிறார்களே யொழிய உள்ளபடி கிராமங்களுக்குச் சென்று உழவுத் தொழிலாளர்களுடன் பழகி இந்த விஷயங்களைக் கற்றுக்கொடுப்ப தில்லை. மேலும் விவசாய டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் படித்துவிட்டு வருகிறவர்கள் கோட்டு, டிரௌஸர், புர்ட்ஸ் போட்டுக்கொண்டு கிராமங்களில் பிரசாரஞ் செய்கி றார்களேயொழிய வாஸ்களில் போய் கற்றுக்கொடுக்காத நிலைமையிலிருக்கி றார்கள். ஹரி ஜனங்கள் பயிரிடக்கூடியவர்களுக்கு விவசாயக் கல்வி கற்றுக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். விவசாயக் கல்வி மாதிரிப் போதாது. நல்ல பழவர்க்க மரங்கள் பயிரிடக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். விவசாயிகள், கடனில் மூழ்கி யிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்தக் கடன் பளுவை நீக்க சர்க்கார் பணம் ஒதுக்கி வைத் திருக்கிறார்கள். அதைத் தீர்த்துக்கொடுக்கவேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம். விவசாயிகள் நிலங்கள் விலையேற்றமாயிருந்த காலத்தில் நிலங்களை அடமானம் வைத்து கடன் வாங்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது சொத்து மதிப்பு இறங்கிப் போய்விட்டதினால் கடன் பளுவைத் தீர்க்கமுடியாமல் விவசாயிகள் அடியோடு கெட்டுப்போகும் நிலைமையிலிருக்கிறார்கள். விவசாயிகளைக் கடன் பளுவிலிரு ந்து காப்பாற்றிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டிய கடமை கவர்ன்மெண்டைச் சேர்ந்தது. விவசாய டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் டிப்டி டைரெக்டர் (Deputy Director) வைத் திருக்கிறார்கள். Assistant Director வைக்கலாம். Demonstrators களை இன் னும் அதிகப்படுத்தலாம். அதிகப்படுத்தி Demonstrators களை கிராமங்களுக்குச் சென்று விவசாயப் பிரசாரத்தைச் செய்யும்படியாகச் செய்யலாம்.

“மேலும் விவசாயக் கல்லூரியில் ஆறுமாதம் ஒரு வருஷப்படிப்பு வைத்திருக்கி றார்கள். இந்தப்படிப்பு நிலமுடையவர்களுக்காக வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். நிலமில் லாதவர்களுக்கு கற்றுக்கொடுக்கிறதில்லை. ஏழைமக்கள் போய் கற்றுக்கொள்ள முடியாது. நிலம் வைத்திருக்கிறவர்கள் முதலாளிகள். அவர்கள் போய் கற்று கொள்வதில்லை. அப்படிப்போய் படித்தாலும் நிலத்தில்போய் பயிரிடமாட்டா ர்கள். உழவுத்தொழில் செய்யும் தாழ்ந்த ஜாதியாருக்குக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறேன். அவர்கள் போய் கற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டு மென்று பிரியப்படுகிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் யார் போய் படித்துவிட்டு வந்து பயிரிடும் தொழிலில் அதை அனுஷ்டிக்க வேண்டுமென்று பிரியப்படுகிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்குக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று ஒருதிட்டம் ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும். நிலமுடையவர்கள் போய் படிக்கவேண்டுமென்று இருப்பதை எடுத்துவிட்டு ஹரி ஜனங்கள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று விதி ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும்.

“மேலும் தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் பாலூரில் விவசாய பண்ணை இருக்கிறது. அங்கே ஐம்பது ஏக்கர் நிலங்களில் சர்க்கார் கரும்பு, நெல் பயிரிடுகிற தொழிலைக் கற்றுக்கொடுத்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். அந்த இடத்தை நானும் விவசாய மந்திரியும் போய் பார்த்தோம். அங்கே ஒரு விவசாயப் பள்ளிக்கூடம் இருக்கி றது. அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் ஐம்பது பிள்ளைகளுக்கு (ஆதித்திராவிடப் பிள்ளை களுக்கு) சாப்பாட்டு வசதி ஏற்படுத்தி விவசாயம் செய்யக்கூடியவர்களாயிருக்கிற ஆதித்திராவிடப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு ஆறுமாதம் ஒரு வருஷம் விவசாயப் படிப்புக் கற்றுக்கொடுத்தால் பயன்படும். விவசாய டிபார்ட்மெண்டு விவசாயிகளுக்கு உண் மையில் பயன்படும்படி சர்க்கார் வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களென்று நம்பு கிறேன்.”

* MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know that our motherland is full of villages, and that the people that live in these villages live mainly by agriculture and agriculture alone. As such, it deserves the highest consideration of every citizen of our land. Even in other countries in which manufacturing industries form the

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primary profession and agriculture is only a secondary profession, highest attention has been paid for agriculture alone. There are many facilities given there to the agriculturists by way of granting loans, giving manurial facilities, making scientific investigations and making the scientific knowledge available to the people and also doing pro-paganda work, so that agriculture may be popularized and so that the highest produce may be derived and the people may be benefited by this profession. As such, I need not emphasize to this House, through you, Sir, that it is a profession that deserves our highest con-sideration. But, unfortunately, like all other subjects, this has also been neglected for the last so many years. We know there is a depart-ment called the Agricultural Department, which is not even known in most of the villages, and much less the officers concerned are known. I do not know what they are doing or in which way they have bene-fited the people for so many years. It is no exaggeration to say that the scientific investigations that have been made in our country have not been circulated through pamphlets. I may say that not even one pamphlet has been circulated in the villages in which our people live and carry on agriculture. But, Sir, I come from a district in which there is the headquarters of the Deputy Director of Agriculture and where there are a number of demonstrators. I know there is also an experimental farm called ‘Lam Farm’ where some work is being done. But in spite of that I may assure this House that most of the villages in our district do not know whether there exists that department and whether the officials are doing anything worth while. I dare say that not even one per cent of the profits is derived by the ryots at whose expense all these departments are run. So I request the Hon. Minister to pay his highest attention to this subject and see that hereafter at least this department moves and moves efficiently and vigorously and does its duty in the villages by means of propaganda work and other means, so that the people may be benefited by the results of the scientific investigations that have been made at great expense and also the economic condition of the nation may be bettered. There is at least one panchayat in every village, and we can circulate the results of the investigations and the scientific knowledge that have been obtained through these panchayats. If the hand-bills and pamph-lets that have been published by this department are sent regularly to the panchayat presidents or the panchayat boards, they will take a live interest in the subject and distribute the pamphlets and other things to the villagers, and they must be made free.

“We know there are what are called village panchangams, and these are sold at a cost. I can say that most of the people do not know that there is such a thing as village panchangam, and even if they come to know, they are not in a position to buy all those things. I also request the Hon. Minister to see that we retain much of the raw materials in our country, especially those pertaining to agriculture; particularly, we have oil-seeds which are mercilessly exported to foreign countries without regard to the needs of our country. If these oil-seeds are crushed in our province and the oil-cake retained here, it will not

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only pay industrially, but much of the organic manure that is got from oil-seeds will be utilized and our produce might be increased.

"There are very many agricultural industries and small cottage industries which have been stifled on account of industrial competition and on account of westernization. I humbly submit to the Hon. Minister to see that in every village these cottage industries are revived and encouraged by all means possible and to see that our country once again flourishes and sets up an example to the whole world in this respect.

3-15
p.m.

"Secondly, Sir, I would bring to your notice a few facts about the animal husbandry which has been talked of and which has been propagated in this country. Due to the negligence of Government and also of the people, our cattle have deteriorated in quality and we are now depending even for the milk for children upon foreign countries. In a country 98 per cent of the population of which are living on agriculture, is it not a shame that we should depend for our children's milk upon foreign countries, and particularly upon countries, which have not got agriculture as their profession? There are good breeds in our country; the Ongole breed has attracted the attention of the whole world and time and again, there were held cattle shows wherefrom these bulls have been exported to foreign countries for beef and beef only. This system ought to be put down by all means possible and our breeds encouraged, not only for agricultural purposes but also for supplying pure milk. In yesterday's paper there is a remark made which I want to read now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not quote from the newspaper."

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"A country which lives upon vegetarian diet should require a large proportion of proteins and mineral salts in its diet and these could be found largely only in milk. As such, I need not emphasize the importance of milk in our dietary. I would humbly appeal to the Muslim members on the other side as regards the importance of the protection of the cow, and other cattle. Even in foreign countries and particularly in England other animals are slaughtered for food, but not a horse. It is not on religious grounds but on economic ground I make this appeal. The main profession in this country being agriculture, it is our bounden duty to support and encourage cattle-breeding by all means.

"I want to bring one more point to the notice of this House. After the advent of the irrigation system in our country most of the pasture lands have been converted into wet lands so much so in most of the deltaic tracts, even by the side of the walls of the houses, crops are raised. In all countries the value of the pasture for cattle has been realized; and in every village most of the lands have been specially reserved for pasture. In our younger days, we used to see vast extents of pasture and now that enchanted sight has become a thing of the past. There is no fodder for cattle and we have to depend on dried grass which has

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got but little nutrient value. So, I humbly request the Hon. Minister to do all he can in this direction. And as I said, not 2 lakhs but even 20 lakhs will not be enough to pay the debt which we owe to our villagers from whom we are deriving so much of tax. So I request the Hon. Minister to see that as much is done as possible to the people who live in villages. With these words, I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity you have given me to speak on this demand."

* MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Agricultural department has long been labouring under a grave misunderstanding of the real economic position of the agriculturists of our land. Foreign ideas and even foreign implements have been thought to be necessary and introduced indiscriminately with a born faith that they are going to benefit the country. I find the Agricultural department has been banking for its sustenance on so many pounds of improved seeds distributed year after year and so many improved implements sold to the villagers. It has not taken into consideration the social and the economic side of the agriculturists. It is on account of that we find that the department has not been able to do material good to the agriculturist.

"We find, Sir, that for inaugurating all-round improvement in a village there is need for certain organization in it. We find the agriculturist is the victim of agencies which exploit him taking advantage of the lack of business instincts in him. The poor agriculturist is not aware of the elements of marketing. He does not understand the cost of production at the producing point nor does he care to know the selling price of his wares and products at the consumer's end. If you give him an organization which will make him an active participator in acquiring this knowledge, he is made a man. Therefore, knowing the full economic and business significance of his life and living and endeavour in the company of his land, his animals and his crops he will look after himself and form the unit of a progressive nation. Till then, it is no good talking to him economics, which he does not feel. And such an organization is the Co-operative Economic Farming Combine. Its aims will be (1) increasing the technical efficiency, namely, increasing the produce for the capital and labour employed, both as to the quantity and quality and also to the variety of products with the maintenance of soil fertility and natural resources, and an increasingly equitable income for these products through a better economic organization, (2) increasing human welfare, a better standard of life, health, education, social institutions, character, and ideals involving more leisure time and the ability to use it profitably, increasing personal satisfaction.

"The working of this scheme is as follows: Co-operative Economic Farming Societies are to be started in individual villages with a view to plan economic farming and attend to the marketing of the produce such as grains, pulses, fibres, vegetables, fruits, poultry, oils, and dairy products and village manufactures. For pooling such produce these primary Co-operative Economic Farming Societies are to be linked with the secondary societies in main villages in keeping with their transport

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facilities. These in turn will transport goods to a Central Co-operative Society in towns and cities which will attend to profitable marketing in different localities and even other provincial towns and cities. By these means, the agriculturist will be assured that he would be getting the real value for the wares that he produces. I find from an examination that in very many cases the agriculturist, the producer, gets only Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 for his produce which is bought from him and sold in the market for Rs. 20. The poor man does not know exactly what his produce would fetch him. The merchant is able to make profits at the producer's cost. That is what I meant, Sir, when I referred to the lack of business instinct in the agriculturist. If these Economic Combines are formed they will be able to materially help the agriculturists. These individual village combines as also the secondary and central combines will in turn purchase the daily needs of the villager, the foodstuffs and other necessities of life, on wholesale prices and distribute them to the villagers. Thus, the villager will be saved a great deal of money which now the intermediary gets. The whole working of the combine may be vested in elected members in progressive stages. Credit and Banking facilities also may be given to the agriculturists either by members themselves or from borrowing from Banks. I commend this to the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture, that these combines may run a monthly or a fortnightly vernacular journal conveying to them all the news on agriculture and agrarian problems of current importance.

3-30
p.m.

“Turning now to the research side of the department, I have one or two observations to make. I will charge the research section of this department with this that it is having too much of foreign ideas and copying foreign methods in their routine. There is no point in duplicating or triplicating the experiments of Laws Gilbert and Rothamsted and going on with studies of academic importance. I want that the research officers should pay more attention to the economic aspects of the problems facing them.

“The various research stations scattered over the Presidency would do well to have small advisory boards for necessary guidance composed of men of experience and larger interests of the locality, i.e., the farm manager at Nandyal or Hagari may hail from Madura district and yet he is asked to draw a cropping scheme for that station for which an intimate knowledge of that locality is quite essential. In case there was an advisory board to help him in this, the purpose for which that station is meant would best be served. Such boards will not only help the departmental officers, but the members themselves will be benefited by this mutual contact inasmuch as they will be potential sources for the spread of knowledge from the results obtained at such stations.

“There should be a complete change in the outlook of the departmental office so far as public utility is concerned and I want that this Assembly should be assured that every pie that is being spent on this department should bring forth fruits hundredfold to the agriculturist for whose benefit the department exists.

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“There is one other observation I have to make. I have given notice of a cut motion with the object of drawing the attention of the Government to the paucity of Muslims in this service. I find that out of a total of 52 provincial officers, there is not one single Muslim. Then, in the whole of the Ministerial side of this department, there is only one Muslim. I think, Sir, this thing must be attended to and justice done.”

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have made suggestions for the improvement of the Department of Agriculture. The position of the agriculturist now is not a rosy one. He is surrounded by difficulties on all sides. On one side he is worried by the money-lender claiming back his loan and, on the other, the constant dread of the failure of the monsoon has nearly crippled him in his productiveness. Now it remains to be seen whether the Agricultural department has helped the agriculturist in his endeavour to make his productiveness increase.

“Sir, my hon. Friend Swami Sahajanandam referred to one or two points. He said that there are not enough demonstrators. I may tell him, Sir, that practically all the taluks have now a demonstrator each. But, due to the paucity of funds, the Agricultural department could not increase their number further. In the 1936-37 budget, we have provided for 44 additional demonstrators making a total of 220 demonstrators in all.

“My hon. Friend referred also to the demonstration station at Palur and asked whether the pupils that attended the schools there could be given the mid-day meal. Sir, this was one of the points that I discussed with the Deputy Director of Agriculture when I paid a visit to the experimental station in July. That matter is being considered, and, if possible, the department will do something in that line.

“Sir, it was suggested that the Deputy Directors must go and that their places must be taken by the Assistant Directors. I may say, Sir, that it will not be in the interests of the department to do away with these Deputy Directors. After all, they have to control the Assistant Directors and also the various demonstrators in various districts.

“The hon. Member Mr. Sahajanandam raised one other point and that was with reference to fruit culture. He said that fruit cultivation also must grow side by side with the cultivation of cereal grains. I approve of his suggestion and, wherever possible, I think, the Agricultural department will try to introduce fruit culture as well.

“The question of the admission of students into the Agricultural College was also raised. It was said that it is not advisable to train only such children whose parents own lands. It is after very consideration that a short course was started in the Agricultural College for this purpose. During the four months of this short course the idea is to give opportunities to the young educated men to get training in agriculture so that they may thereafter cultivate their own lands and help the solution of the unemployment problem. I have noted the suggestion of the hon. Member and will see what I can do in the matter.

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THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The hon. Member raising this objection forgets that these various motions are part of the Budget Demand that was presented and at that time the whole annual statement was authenticated and it is only on that basis that the whole of the financial proceedings of the House are going on. I submit also for the information of the hon. Member or perhaps I may remind him that the word 'Governor' in the section that he refers to is Governor acting with his Council of Ministers. We shall be playing a farce if we had been going on speaking here without going through the whole procedure and without His Excellency the Governor agreeing to our transactions. I submit that the objection only comes to this: that he really wants us to repeat every time we move a Demand, 'On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.' I do not know what satisfaction the hon. Member is expecting to derive from that."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I do not know how far the Hon. the Premier is justified in saying that the word 'Governor' implies Governor acting with Ministers. I find from the Act that the word used there merely refers to the recommendation of the Governor."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Under the Instrument of Instructions and under the Act wherever there is no phrase 'in his discretion' or 'individual judgment' the word 'Governor' always means Governor acting with his Council of Ministers." (A voice: 'This is an elementary thing.')

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"That may be an elementary thing. But I think we are entitled to find out what exactly the position is with regard to the authorization of the requests for Grants. Therefore it is necessary that the Hon. Ministers should say whether they have obtained the recommendation. Of course it might have been stated so on the agenda paper."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member say that he is really in doubt whether the Governor has given his consent or recommendation, or not?"

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"No, Sir."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I did not say 'elementary' to which the hon. Member is giving an answer."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that under Demand XIX—Veterinary the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,63,600."

"The cut motion given notice of by Mr. Mahmud Schamnad may be moved."

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* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I beg to move the cut motion that stands in my name, that is:—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,63,600 for Veterinary by Rs. 100 (to discuss policy).'

Sir, I feel that the activities of the department will have to be considerably increased in order to make it sufficiently useful. But before proceeding further I may say that I do not know what the Hon. the Premier thinks about the suggestions I am going to put forward now. He may have settled views on these matters. But I think there is no harm in my throwing out certain suggestions.

"Sir, this is one of the departments which can be usefully amalgamated with the other department, i.e., Agriculture, because Veterinary and Agriculture always go together and thereby the Government may make some savings. The staff now employed, especially the Veterinary Inspectors, have to be increased in order to make the department useful. These Veterinary Inspectors, I am sorry to say, are not in evidence when there is any cattle disease such as rinderpest or foot-and-mouth disease. These inspectors get the information only after the disease spreads in a dozen villages and hundreds of cattle die. They recognize the appearance of the epidemic only when they get the report of the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar makes his report when he goes round the village once in a month or so or when the report is sent to them by the village officers. These village officers' reports reach them only very late, because two or three villages together have to send through one of their talayaris all their tapals together once a week or so. So these reports reach the Tahsildar only very late and by the time the department begins to take action, everything is over and many cattle die. Of course these officers might be reporting that they have turned out good work, but all the same the work they do is very little. It is a wonder how these people spend all their time. Perhaps they spend almost all the time in playing cards and writing their reports. We need not have veterinary officer for each district, but we want more Veterinary Inspectors who can go from village to village and see the condition of cattle and advice people wherever there is epidemic disease. For this purpose we require more veterinary hospitals at least in the headquarters of every taluk. In the district from which I come there is only one veterinary hospital although there are six taluks. The veterinary officer will have to move from place to place and from taluk to taluk and see whether the subordinate staff are doing their duty properly. So, as it is, there is no check over them and whatever they do, it is taken for granted that they are doing the right thing. There is no good of these officers if they are to sit in their headquarters and simply write their reports. They will have to move from place to place and see whether their subordinates are doing their work properly. There is no good in increasing the number of officers."

"With these few words I move my cut motion."

[Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai] [23rd September 1937]

“ My hon. Friend Mr. Chandramouli made various suggestions and referred to oil-seeds being exported to foreign countries. Sir, from the Agricultural Calendar he will see that great attention is given by the department for utilizing the seed produce of this province to better advantage. He also said something about animal husbandry. The Agricultural department recognizes that cattle are very important to the agriculturists, and they are trying to improve the breeds and distributing select bulls for stud purposes. My hon. Friend referred to the great value of the Ongole breed. The department has not lost sight of the importance of the Ongole breed. The department is paying premium to bulls maintained for stud purposes by private bodies and individuals. Grants are also made to local bodies for the purchase and maintenance of breeding bulls. The department further endeavours to educate the ryots in the use of green manure, the conversion of the farm-yard manure, the cultivation of cotton crops and the best way of combating the various pests. In this way, Sir, the department is trying to encourage animal husbandry as far as it could with the limited amount allotted to the department. The other suggestions which were made will be duly considered. But it must be remembered that the failure of the monsoon constitutes a great drawback in any scheme for the betterment of the condition of the agriculturists.

“ My hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Rawoof made the very valuable suggestion of having a socio-economic combine. The House may be assured, Sir, that plans will be made by this Government whereby the ryots could be given an opportunity to meet at particular places and to devise ways and means of improving their social and economic position. I think, Sir, the District Economic Councils have already entered into the work and it will not be very long before we see the results of their labours in this direction. The hon. Member said that cashewnuts bought from the producers at Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 per maund were being sold in Madras at Rs. 20. I may inform my hon. Friend that the reason for this high price of this article in Madras is I understand that the Corporation of Madras charges Rs. 8 per maund by way of tax.

“ The hon. Gentleman mentioned in the course his speech that the research institute is having a western outlook. I could not say how far his statement is correct, but I know this much that they are trying to adopt eastern methods also in the various activities carried on there.

“ As regards marketing, I may tell the hon. Member that the Imperial Research Institute has already sent a specialist marketing officer to this province and that this Government have also deputed three marketing officers to work with him and try to bring better arrangements for marketing purposes. Several reports have been submitted to the Government of India in regard to the investigations made in the following articles: rice, tobacco, apples, peaches, pine-apples, linseed, groundnuts, ghee, butter, etc. I think the Government of India will shortly be issuing hand-bills and also their recommendations as to how far better marketing facilities could be arranged.

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“ The hon. Member referred to the paucity of Muslims in the department. Sir, a deputation some time ago waited on the Governor on this matter and the Government have already issued orders for showing certain special concessions to Muslims in respect of agricultural education. It was ordered that in respect of admission to the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, 6 out of 48 seats in the college should be reserved for Muslims provided candidates possessing the minimum qualifications prescribed are available. A scholarship of Rs. 20 is also reserved for a candidate from the Muslim community admitted to this college. It was also ordered recently that, with a view to afford better opportunities for members of this community to get into the gazetted service, every third permanent vacancy in the first grade of the upper cadre should be filled up by direct recruitment of a member of this community or of the scheduled classes according to the rule of communal proportion. The members of these communities working in the lower grades are also allowed to compete on equal terms with outsiders when recruitment is made. The object is that men so recruited from these communities direct to the topmost scale may, within five years, become eligible for appointment to the gazetted service and thus secure better representation in this service. I think I have dealt with all the points dealt with by my hon. Friends. I hope the Demand will be granted and the cut motion withdrawn.”

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

3-45
p.m.

(19) DEMAND XIX—VETERINARY.

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,63,600 under Demand XIX—Veterinary.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ On a point of order, Sir. I find that the Act says that every motion made asking for a Grant must be on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor. I did not hear the Hon. Minister saying, when he moved the Demand, that he has already secured the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the words ‘on the recommendations of His Excellency the Governor’ in the paper containing the Demands for Grants. So, it is already there.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ With due deference to the Chair, that is only on the notice or the agenda paper. Whether they (the Government) actually got the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor is the question. If they have got the recommendation, every time they move a particular demand they must say so.”

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MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, while discussing the policy of the Veterinary Department under this Demand, I would confine myself to making only a few observations. The previous Government did not devote its attention to a few subjects. They are after all minor ones and though minor ones, they play an important part in the administration of the department. I start with the Assistant Surgeons who are in charge of certain taluks. In the first place I wish to say there must be an Assistant Surgeon in charge of each taluk. As it is, an Assistant Surgeon who is in charge of two or three taluks is not able to attend to the number of cattle in each taluk. Even if there were one Assistant Surgeon for each taluk—there are nearly 100,000 villages in each taluk—he finds hardly any time to visit all the villages in that taluk.

"Then with regard to the functions of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, I say they are very limited and restricted, when we consider what exactly is happening in these taluks. When a Veterinary Officer is asked to visit one village, he goes to the village and examines the animals. But he is not allowed to diagnose the disease, but he is asked to take the bacillus and send it on to Madras for report and only after the report from Madras reaches him he starts his treatment, sometimes after, one week, and sometimes after three or four weeks. There is a proverb in Persian which says:--

'Until the time the antidote is got from Iraq the patient is asked to wait and by the time the antidote is got the patient dies.'

In that way our animals are treated. In my own village I have got something like 150 cattle and many of them get disease and by the time the Veterinary Officer takes blood and sends it on to Madras for examination and by the time he is able to get their report and begins treatment of the cattle they die. Sir, is that the help which the Veterinary Department should give and is it for that purpose the department exists? These diseases which are caused on account of bacillus hæmorrhage and other causes, are frequent diseases which obtain in villages not infrequently and the villagers suffer. If the Veterinary Surgeons are given the necessary training they will be able to diagnose the disease and start treatment then and there. So I would like the Hon. Minister to examine this point. In this connexion I may say that it is really astonishing that only a few officers are allowed to possess microscope for examining the blood and finding out whether there are bacilli. Only in the headquarter hospital some of the officers are allowed to possess the microscope. Even there the possession of microscope is made to depend upon the qualification of the officer in charge of the headquarter hospital. Then, Sir, there is enormous delay in the despatch of the serum from the headquarters. It is quite inconceivable why the serum should be kept in the headquarter hospital and why some serum should not be left in charge of the Assistant Surgeon. The reason for not sending the serum in time and the reason for having it only in the headquarter hospitals seem to be that there is cold storage provided for only in the headquarter hospital,

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where electricity is available. I do not see any reason why a provision should not be made that wherever there is electricity available for cold storage, serum should be kept there.

"Then, Sir, you will be astonished to see that these Assistant Surgeons who are called upon to attend to the cattle of these poor peasants are not supplied with stove and spirit lamp and the needle that is required for taking the blood from diseased cattle. For these needles they will have to go and indent upon the poor agriculturists and ask them for the ordinary needle and with that they take the blood from the cattle—one of the crudest methods that is employed in these civilized days. It is most astonishing that the head of the department should not attend to the elementary needs of the Assistant Surgeon.

"The instruments are not up to date. If the department is really working seriously in the interests of the cultivators, it should be provided with the latest types of instruments. Even suitable enema cans are not provided. The enema can is so big that all animals cannot be treated with it. Veterinary Surgeons are expected to treat all animals from poultry upwards and elephant downwards. How can they treat them with such enema cans? 4 p.m.

"There is no veterinary hospital in my district. The Villupuram Municipal Council has not got a veterinary hospital. There is one touring billet in the Villupuram taluk.

"Sir, there is one important thing which has escaped the attention of the Government hitherto and that is the compulsory inoculation of animals. Even as they have passed legislation for the compulsory vaccination and re-vaccination of human beings, if the Government are intent upon saving the animals for the cultivators they should bring forward legislation for compulsory inoculation of animals. Without an Act like this, the work done by the Veterinary Assistants Surgeons becomes absolutely useless. There is no use of wasting money on the department.

"There are some other discrepancies which I want to point out. There is a lecturer in pathology who has been recruited from England. I am told, Sir, he is just a college boy with no experience whatsoever. He has been recruited on a three-year contract, on a substantial pay, I assume. But there are three or four Indians in the department with the same qualifications and probably with greater and wider experience. On the other hand this gentleman who has been brought down from England is a raw graduate and does not know Indian conditions. He has to learn them under experienced hands. I do not see why the lecturer should not have been recruited from among the Indians who are already in the service. I would ask the Government whether they would terminate his contract or when the contract is terminated by efflux of time they would appoint an Indian. The rule regarding this department prescribes post-graduate qualifications for the post. By making appointments like this the people in service are slurred over and there are no promotions. The Service Commission is

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sleeping over the list of promotions that is sent to them from time to time. I would suggest to the Government to examine whether it is true that there is a proposal to depute some one to England at Government expense for post-graduate course. When there are already five men with post-graduate qualifications, who had been in England at their own expense and who are available, why should the Government waste the tax-payers' money in sending more men to England? Let them try these people and let them not waste public money on uncertain experiments. One of these five men who have been to England and obtained post-graduate qualifications has been found competent to teach the B.Sc. classes in Agriculture in the Coimbatore College. There are very many assistant surgeons who have gone to England and qualified themselves. The Public Service Commission ought not to be fooled in this matter by the head of the department.

"In the matter of promotion or even in recruitment, the communal Government Order however bad or worse it may be, however much it may be to his disliking, has not been worked in the proper and true perspective.

"There is one other little matter which I might be excused for saying. The head of the department must be told by the Ministry that there is some justification for giving turns to the clerks to serve under him as his camp clerks. It is not in the interests of efficient service that the same man should continue for eight or nine years as camp clerk. They acquire a peculiar and special influence and it would appear that they sometimes begin to abuse it. It is not in the interests of the service and in the interests of the head of the department that the same man should continue as camp clerk. I therefore request the Government to examine all these things and do their best in the light of what I have said."

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member Mr. Schamnad Sahib who started the debate said that there ought to be an increase in the activity of the Veterinary Department. Sir, the Government does recognize his view and the ultimate aim of the department is to have one veterinary institution in each taluk. With this aim, the number of veterinary institutions and touring assistants have been increased each year according to the availability of the amount of money and men. After the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and the Retrenchment Committee, the policy of opening new dispensaries has undergone a change recently. One of the main considerations in the matter of opening new dispensaries is the willingness and the ability of the local bodies concerned to contribute towards their maintenance. The amount of contribution has been roughly estimated at a minimum of Rs. 1,000 per annum, but the greater the contribution, the greater will be the chance of opening an institution. The management of the institution will be in the hands of the Veterinary Department. So it is the duty of my hon. Friend Mr. Schamnad Sahib to interest the local bodies

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concerned in his district to come forward and take advantage of this scheme that has been adumbrated after the advent of the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

"The hon. Member said that during the time of epidemics great care is not taken by the Veterinary Assistants and that they come at a late stage after a certain percentage of the cattle have passed away. I would request my hon. Friend to give concrete instances or write to the Government when such things happen, so that the Government may take greater care of seeing that their officers do their work better.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed made a few suggestions. He wanted a Veterinary Assistant for each taluk. I have already said that it is the view of the Government that each taluk should have a veterinary assistant, but it is a matter of money and time. I think that we may get these things in due course. He referred to serious cases of delay in getting the serum but he forgot to note that the serum and other medicines required for inoculation should not be kept for a long time, because they will lose their vitality. He also said that the officers use very old and antiquated instruments and that the method of sterilizing them were not up to date. I would like to know concrete cases where these happen. He also mentioned that the Veterinary Officer at Tirukkoyilur has been transferred to Villupuram. I have already stated that under the scheme adumbrated after the advent of the Royal Agricultural Commission, it would be possible for a local body to have a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon under them, provided they give a certain amount of money to Government. The hon. Member also observed that legislation for compulsory inoculation should be taken up. Of course this is a matter to which the Government will give consideration. He referred to the appointment of the Professor of Pathology in the Veterinary College. This matter has already been considered by the Government. Unfortunately the services of this gentleman could not be dispensed with as he has another three years' contract to run. It started only last year. My hon. Friend also referred to the Government proposing to depute a Veterinary Assistant for higher studies in England. I do not know, Sir, from where he got this information. There is no truth in it. As regards his observation about camp clerks of the head of the department, it is a matter left to the head of the department, as he knows more about the quality of the men whom they wish to have as camp clerks. After all, Sir, I may say that the Government is trying to do much in the matter of the Veterinary Department, as it is considered that the preservation of the cattle conduces to the welfare of the ryot. I think, Sir, I have answered all the points which have been raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Schamnad and I hope that he will withdraw his cut motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

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* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD:—
“Sir, I am rather very much surprised at the suggestion made by a half-Member of Government. (Laughter.) It is only with reference to the convenient arrangement suggested by you that the Khan Bahadur has had the unique opportunity in this House of moving several cut motions. Otherwise, if you had allowed other cut motions to be moved, probably the Khan Bahadur himself would have given the chance to other Members to move their cut motions and he would have himself refrained from moving his motions. As a matter of fact, we on our side are very thankful to the Khan Bahadur for being here all the time and moving his cut motions in time regularly. Sir, I think it is hardly appropriate on the part of a—I shall now say—Member of Government to suggest this course. I should request you, Sir, to adopt the old procedure and ask our Khan Bahadur, as usual, to move his cut motion. I am sure, Sir, even the Hon. the Leader of the House enjoys very much the discussion that is started always by the Khan Bahadur, and if the Khan Bahadur withdraws his motion at the end of the debate, it only shows how reasonable he is, and that we do not want to be cantankerous at all. After all, we do not want to move cut motions purely for the sake of moving them; we know that there are 160 people sitting opposite to us. Our object here is not to test our strength on each cut motion and press it to vote. As a matter of fact, Sir, you were kind enough to help us by suggesting three more half-days for the discussion of these demands. The main object in doing that was that all the demands should be reached, if possible, and that Government should be enabled to state their policy in regard to each one of them. I think, Sir, the Opposition will have served their purpose and the country well if only we make the Government give proper replies to the points raised by us on the various demands and declare in regard to the policy, their policy with regard to each department. That is the main function of the Opposition in this House, Sir, to-day.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Khan Bahadur has always been very brief and very humorous. He is now called on to move his cut motion.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“May I know, Sir, whether I can speak on the general policy of the Government without moving any cut motions at all?” (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER.—“Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad is called on to move his cut motion.”

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most important point that I wanted to raise has been already answered by the Minister in charge; but in due deference to your ruling, Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 13,61,500 under Co-operative Credit be reduced by Rs. 100.

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[Mr. Mahmud Schamnad]

“Sir, I tabled this cut motion with a view to bring to the notice of the Government that they have all along been neglecting the West Coast in the matter of starting land mortgage banks. As was stated by the Hon. Minister, there are 90 and odd land mortgage banks in the Presidency, but still there is none in the two West Coast districts. Even if we divide the 90 by the number of districts, i.e., 25, we get nearly 4 for each district. I am glad that the Government have recently appointed a committee to go into the question and the committee has decided to start four or five land mortgage banks on the West Coast, and two of them I understand will be in South Kanara. But these proposals and considerations will not help us unless these banks are actually started. I do not know how long it will take for the banks to come into existence; I hope Government will see that the matter is expedited and these banks come into existence as early as possible.

“Another minor thing I wish to refer to is this: I was myself connected with the co-operative movement, as president of a society; but I thought it was a wrong policy to have allowed the societies to be managed altogether by non-official agencies. I may be wrong, but my conviction is that there should be control over these societies by the departmental people. I may suggest that the secretary of the societies may be one of the Inspectors or one of the Supervisors of the department. If that is not possible, at least one and the same Inspector may be the secretary of a certain number of societies. It is a wrong policy to leave the management entirely in the hands of non-officials. I hope the Government will consider this question also and do what is needed.”

“With these words, Sir, I move my cut motion.”

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே. நான் இதில் ரொம்பவும் பேசவேண்டுமென்று வரவில்லை. ஐக்கிய நாணய சங்கங்கள் மக்களுக்கு பொருளாதார கஷ்டத்தை நீக்குவதற்காக ஏற்பட்டது. அதற்காக எத்தனையோ சொஸைட்டிகள் எத்தனையோ விஷயங்களுக்காக ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. சுமார் 217 சொஸைட்டிகள் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட விவசாயிகளுக்காக ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என்று சொன்னார்கள். தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்காக ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிற ஐக்கிய நாணய சங்கங்களினால் யாதொரு நன்மையுமுண்டாகவில்லை என்று தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். மனைக்கட்டுகள் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு அதாவது தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு வாங்கிக் கொடுப்பதற்காக இந்த சொஸைட்டிகளை ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். ரூ. 50 முதல் ரூ. 150 வரை இந்த சொஸைட்டியிலிருந்து கொடுத்து மனைக்கட்டு வாங்கிக்கொடுத்தார்கள். இந்த மனைக்கட்டுப் பணத்தை திருப்பிக்கொடுக்க முடியாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள். அதிகமான விலைகொடுத்து வாங்கிக்கொடுத்ததினால் இன்னும் அந்தக் கடனை திருப்பிக்கொடுக்க முடியாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். இது விஷயமாய் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட சொஸைட்டிகள் நல்லவேலை செய்ய வில்லை. பல இடங்களில் சொஸைட்டி பணத்தை திருப்பிக்கொடுக்க முடியாமல் வீடுகளைச் சொத்துக்களையும் ஏலம் போடுகிறார்கள். மனைக் கடன்களை சர்க்கார் தள்ளிவிட்டு சொஸைட்டிகள் வேலை செய்தால் நன்றியிருக்கமென்று சொல்லிக்கொள்கிறேன். தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் இது விஷயமாய் ரூ. 60,357 கடனிருக்கிறது. வட்டியைச் சேர்த்துப்பார்த்தால் ரூ. 93,316 கடன் இருக்கிறது. இதை திருப்பிக்கொடுக்க முடியாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [23rd September 1937]

வாவில் மனைக்கட்டு வாங்கிக்கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். லட்ச ரூபாய் கடன் இருக்கிறது. அதைத் திருப்பிக்கொடுக்க முடியாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் எத்தனையோ வகையில் ஏழைகளுக்கு உதவிபுரிய முன்வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். மற்றவர்களுக்கு எத்தனை உபகாரஞ் செய்தாலும் செய்யட்டும். அதை வேண்டாமென்று சொல்லவரவில்லை. ஏழைகள் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் குடியிருக்க இடமில்லாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டார் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு மனைக்கட்டு ஏற்படும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். நாலேந்து லட்சம் ரூபாய் சர்க்கார் இது விஷயத்தில் தங்களுடையதல்லவென்று பாவித்து மனைக்கட்டு ஏழைகளுக்கு வாங்கிக் கொடுத்துவிட்டால் ஏழை ஜனங்கள் தங்களுடைய மனைக்கட்டை சொந்தமாக வைத்துக்கொண்டு வாழ்வார்கள். இப்பொழுது மனைக்கட்டு சொந்தமாக இல்லாததினால் யாருடைய மனைக்கட்டில் குடியிருக்கிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்கு வேலை செய்யத் தவறிவிட்டால் மனைக்கட்டை விட்டு போகும்படி சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் இதற்குப் பயந்துகொண்டு கொடுத்தகூலியை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு பட்டினியும் பசியுமாய் வாழ்கிறார்கள். இந்த துன்பத்தை ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமானால் சர்க்கார் இப்பொழுது மதுவிலக்கினால் ஏற்படும் நஷ்டத்தை கவனிக்காமல் வேலைசெய்ய ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிற மாதிரி இது விஷயத்தில் ஏழைகளுக்கு மனைக்கட்டு வாங்கிக் கொடுப்பதினால் ஏற்படும் நாலேந்து லட்ச ரூபாய் நஷ்டத்தை கவனிக்காமல் வேலை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இத்துடன் கோழி வளர்க்கிறது, ஆடு மாடுகள் வளர்க்கிறது முதலியவைகளுக்காகக் சொஸட்டிகள் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்காக ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுத்தால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் எவ்வளவோ முன்னேற்றமடைவார்கள். சேரிகளில் இவர்களுக்காக ஐக்கிய நாணய ஸ்டோர் (co-operative store) ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுத்தால் ரொம்பவும் நன்றாக இருக்கும். என்னென்றால் அறுவடை காலத்தில் நெல்லை வீட்டிற்குக் கொண்டுவந்து வறுத்துக் குத்தி சமைக்கும்போது நெல்லை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு உப்பு, புளி, மிளகாய் வாங்கப் போகிறார்கள். கடையில் நெல்லைப் பிடைக்கிறதினால் எவ்வளவோ வீணாகப் போய்விடுகிறது, சரியாக அளப்பதில்லை. அவர்கள் கொடுக்கும் நெல்லுக்குத் தகுந்த சாமான் கொடுப்பதில்லை. இதனால் அவர்கள் எவ்வளவோ நஷ்டமடைகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் கொண்டுபோகிற நெல்லுக்கு ஐந்திலொரு பங்குகூட தேறுகிறதில்லை. ஐக்கிய நாணய ஸ்டோர் ஏற்படுத்தி சேரியிலுள்ளவர்கள் நெல் வெளியே போகாமல் தடுத்தால் அவர்கள் நன்மை அடைவார்கள். சர்க்காரும் நன்மை அடைவார்கள். இந்த விஷயத்தை லேபர் மினிஸ்டர் (Labour Minister) கவனித்து வேண்டியதைச் செய்வார்களென்று நம்புகிறேன்.

“ஐக்கிய நாணய டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் வேலைகள் ஹரிஜன வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

“கனம் லேபர் மினிஸ்டர் அவர்களை மனைக்கட்டுக் கடன்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு தள்ளிக் கொடுக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். ஏழைகள் சேரிகளில் கண்ணீர் விடுகிறார்கள். இங்கே மேடைகளில் பலர் அனுதாபத்துடன் பேசுகிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் சேரிகளைப் போய் பார்த்தால் சேரிகளிலிருக்கும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களின் பரிதாப நிலைமை தெரியும். காங்கிரஸிலிருந்து ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக பணம் வேண்டுமென்று ஹரிஜன சேவக சங்க நிதிக்கு கனம் மந்திரிகள் ராஜாஜி அவர்களும் டாக்டர் ராஜன் அவர்களும் மகாத்மா காந்தியும் கையேந்தி யிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது கடவுள்தான் ஹரிஜனங்களைக் காப்பாற்ற அதிகாரத்தை அவர்கள் கையில் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். அவர்கள் கையில் சர்க்கார் பணத்தைக் கடவுள் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு மனைக்கட்டு விஷயத்தில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் கஷ்டத்தை உணர்ந்து நாலேந்து லட்சம் தள்ளாமல் போனால் ஹரிஜனங்களாகிய நாங்கள் ஒரு காலத்திலும் முன்னுக்கு வரமுடியாதென்று தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.”

4-30
p.m.

* THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to take much of the time of the House, because only a few points have been raised by the two hon. Members who addressed the House on this motion,

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“Mr. Schamnad Sahib Bahadur stated that it is wrong policy to leave the movement entirely to non-officials. I submit, Sir, it is a right policy to leave the matter in the hands of non-officials so long as they conduct their business all right; but it would be wrong policy to entrust it to them if they do not conduct themselves properly. That is the position of the Government in this matter.

“Then, Sir, the hon. Member, Swami Sahajananda, referred to certain points with respect to the starting of co-operative stores. It is felt, Sir, that generally co-operative stores have not been a great success due to want of interest taken by the organizers of these stores and it may be more difficult to establish such societies in the cheris, but, however, if my hon. Friend, Swami Sahajananda, makes proposals to the departmental officers so that it may be possible to work them, I shall ask the society that is existing in Madras to go and set up stores and supply materials for these Harijan classes.

“The next point that was referred to by Swami Sahajananda related to the appointment of inspectors from among the Harijans. I do not know whether there are any Harijans as inspectors and I assure the hon. Member that the matter will be looked into.

“The same hon. Member then raised the point about the provision of house-sites for the depressed classes, but I do not think it is possible to give further building-sites for the Harijans at the present moment, because there is a rule set up so far as they are concerned, wherein some concessions are made to them. It is like this. When a site for building a house is acquired, the Government grant 50 per cent of the cost of acquisition and out of the balance, 50 per cent is paid as initial deposit and the rest in about ten instalments. The matter is still being examined as to whether the initial deposit may be reduced.

“The hon. Member also referred to some other matters and I assure him that they will all receive the attention of Government.

“Sir, I think I have answered some of the points that have been raised in the debate and I have also stated generally the policy of the Government in this behalf. I now request the hon. Member who moved the cut motion to withdraw the motion.”

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

(21) DEMAND XXI—INDUSTRIES.

* THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,31,900 under Demand XXI—Industries.”

* MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—
‘that the allotment of Rs. 19,31,900 for Industries be reduced by Rs. 100, to discuss policy.’

[Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig] [23rd September 1937]

“Sir, my object in giving notice of this cut motion is to elicit information as to what this Government's policy will be in regard to the industrial development of the country, and further to ask whether the policy which has been pursued in the past years will be continued or greater efforts will be made by this Ministry to industrialize the country. Sir, the efforts that may be made by this Government should be to make this province self-sufficient, so that this Presidency would be able to manufacture from a pin to a motor-car, the raw products of this country would be converted into finished products and no money of this province would go outside this province. This will not only enrich the country, and increase the purchasing power of the people, but will also be a source of revenue to this Government. If the source of revenue of this Government is increased by these means, it will give a great relief to the poor agriculturists on whom the burden of taxation is laid very heavily.

“May I point out, Sir, that the one important thing which the past Government did was in respect of the industry of electricity. From the figures supplied, the House will see that the net receipts from electrical schemes came to Rs. 18,63,400. I wish to ask the present Government, especially the Hon. Minister for Industries, who has spent almost all his life in these industrial matters, whether he will give a new life to our industries, or whether the same stale things will go on in his department. What is the Industries department doing now? Of course the money that was asked to be spent on certain items is really usefully spent, because, here and there industrial schools have been established and they must be, of course, maintained; but yet some grants must be made to private companies or institutes which are trying to improve the technical knowledge necessary for industries. These things are, no doubt, useful. When the department is there, the Director of Industries and his deputies must be there and they must necessarily have to be paid. But the only industrial undertaking that I see here is the Kerala Soap Institute at Calicut. This institute is of course making some money and losses have also occurred in the past. It also gives instruction and advice. On the whole, it seems the money given to this institute is mostly spent on giving advice to this company or that company. Though it may or may not be beneficial, some money is no doubt spent on giving technical education. Now, I ask, Sir, whether the present Government, especially the Minister in charge, is really satisfied with what is being done, whether the same policy will be continued in future also and whether any sort of revolution in industry is going to take place in this country?

“My purpose in giving the cut motion is more for eliciting information from the Minister in charge than for criticizing the administration. Will he tell us what he is going to do? I am not disheartened by what other people say, namely, that we should not have a ten-year or five-year plan for the reason that the Government may only be in office for three, four or five years or for three or five months. Whatever it may be, Sir, whether this Government is going

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to continue in office for two days or for 10, 20 or 30 years, it must have a plan for the future. Let them only start a plan. If they continue in office, they will see it through. If otherwise, their successors will take it up, follow their steps and achieve the results which they hoped to do.

“Sir, there is an impression gaining ground in the country that the watch-word of the present Ministry is ‘Go back to nature.’ I do not know how far that impression is correct. On behalf of the Government, I submit, Sir, that the mere fact that the Government advocate hand-spinning does not mean that they are against machine products. We have become accustomed to several things, which we are not at present manufacturing and for which we are spending a lot of money. We want medicines, glass articles, thermos flasks and such other articles; and for these we are spending lots of money. People should not be misled into thinking that in the pursuit of their policy of ‘back to nature,’ the Government would not encourage the industries. The sooner this disillusionment is gone, the better will it be. Let the people know that the ground on which hand-spinning industry is being encouraged is that it brings an additional income to the agriculturists who are now suffering very much. I do not think that it is the intention of the Government to discourage machine-made goods. Nor do I think that it is the intention of the Government to discard machine-made goods. How can we exist at all if we put up this system in competition with the mechanized West? How can we make guns to defend ourselves if we are not going to take to the machine? I gave it only as an instance of the futility of the creed of going back to nature. Let all our necessities be manufactured in our own country by our own people and let us give the lie to those that are advertising in the country that the Government is out to put the hands of progress back by several centuries. Then, Sir, it may be asked: ‘How are you going to get money?’ According to sound economic canons it is not a bad thing to raise loans provided you are sure that you are going to get an income therefrom. The credit of this country stands very high. Let them raise loans and invest them on productive enterprises which will make the country self-sufficient. You will have much money in circulation and the purchasing power of the individual will rise high. We should industrialize the country. Let us not be scared away by mere words. Let us nationalize the industries. Then we shall have plenty of money. By this means the individual gains, the country gains and the Government gains.”

* MR. J. NUTTALL:—“Mr. Speaker, in speaking under this cut motion, I do not want it to be understood that I or my party are opposed to the relief of agriculturists. Far from it, we wish to do and support everything that can be done for the agriculturists because we know that their interests are the interests of us all. I cannot altogether agree that the Rs. 2,00,000 spent in bolstering up hand-spinning will do very much to relieve the distress which, every one must admit, does exist in the industry. This amount will barely

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touch the fringe of what it is, I hope, the intention of the Government to set right. It is only fair to examine the causes of the present position of the ryots. We have had very much said in this House recently on what has been done and what is going to be done for the ryot. Past Governments have concentrated very markedly on the assistance to the ryots and I am pleased to see that it is the intention of this Government also. Let me get back to the question of the 2 lakhs of rupees that is proposed to be allotted for the encouragement of the hand-spinning industry. I submit that this relief is hardly necessary when we consider all that has been done and can be done in the form of relief under land taxes, irrigation, electric supply, education, agriculture and veterinary services, co-operative societies and cottage industries. All these services, if they are extended—and I do not think that any one is opposed to their extension—will relieve the ryot to a considerable extent and that relief, I contend, Sir, will be permanent. I can only look upon this Rs. 2,00,000 as a form of unemployment relief. I consider it uneconomic. It cannot be economic because the idea is that we should subscribe to the protection of hand-spun yarn. We know what the cost of the yarn is that can be spun in a factory; we know what has been paid to the hand-spinner for his yarn. I submit, Sir, that there is a difference between the two of something like 500 per cent. In other words, for the hand-spun yarn we are paying five times more than we need to pay for the yarn produced by machinery. That goes a long way to dispel the notion that the production of hand-spun yarn is an economic proposition. I look upon the aid that is to be given, entirely as a measure of relief. Now, this relief must not continue year after year, nor must it grow. There is danger in that. If you admit that it is to grow and is to be given year after year, it means that you are committing yourselves to a form of unemployment relief. Surely, the other means provided for assistance to the ryots, that we have seen largely sought by other members in this House, would give them a better kind of assistance and one which would be a genuine relief in the end. It has been said that by bolstering up the hand-spinning industry, the mills in this country will suffer. I should not like to feel that any one in this country will have to suffer on this account. The mill interests are so closely associated with the interests of the workers in this country that I cannot myself feel that it is the Government's intention to interfere with this industry. I do not personally oppose this Rs. 2,00,000; but I must oppose its continuance as a subsidy. Reference has been made by the Hon. Premier to the ways and means of recovering by licence fees revenue to support this subsidy. Since that remark was made in the House, I understand it is Government's intention to introduce a Bill for the purpose of levying and recovering licence fees from dealers in cloth. I hope Members of this House will have an opportunity of referring to the means of raising the money for this particular object. I will confine myself to the particular request that has been made for the grant of Rs. 2,00,000 for hand-spinning. I should like, Sir, to appeal to

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this House and more particularly to the Government to view this matter as a form of temporary subsidy, but instead of continuing to treat it in that way, they should do all they possibly can for the assistance of the ryot by means of an extension and an enlargement of those services to which I referred early in my remarks."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We will extend the time. We will finish 5 p.m. this Demand to-day."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Members have some engagements . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Appadurai Pillai will speak."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Industries department . . ."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, I would like to make one remark with reference to the inconvenience caused to members. We would very gladly like to stay till 5-30 or 6-30. But at the same time I crave your indulgence to hear representations made by leaders of parties with regard to the inconvenience of Members and try to adjust, if possible."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I suppose there is no inconvenience to sit now. It is just 5 o'clock."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, Members have come here to sit till 5 o'clock and not after 5."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"If the Hon. the Speaker will say that the Demand will not be put to vote to-day . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There is no question of putting to vote at all. The cut motion will not be put to vote."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"After the cut motion is discussed if the Demand is not put to vote to-day and if it be taken over for to-morrow, then, I think, some of us can go away and come to-morrow."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Those who want to go will first speak."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"If some of us can speak to-morrow we will go."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Hameed Khan will speak now if he is in a hurry."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I want to speak to-morrow."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan says that he will speak to-morrow and insists upon the subject being postponed till

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to-morrow, it will not be postponed. If Mr. Hameed Khan wants to speak to-day, he will be given time now. It is only 5 o'clock. He can speak now."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am sorry the Hon. Speaker has misunderstood me. I am not speaking on my behalf alone. I am not insisting on speaking either to-day or to-morrow. There is no insistence on my part. I must state that we, Members, have come here with a view to stay here till 5 o'clock expecting that the House will rise at 5 o'clock. But the Hon. Speaker wants us to stay here longer. I request the Hon. the Speaker to consider that there are hon. Members here who have other engagements since they are ordinarily expected to stay till 5 o'clock only. If the Hon. the Speaker wants to continue, we have absolutely no objection and bow to the ruling."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, said that he would speak to-morrow, because he wants to go now. He may speak immediately and he may fulfil his engagements elsewhere. Mr. Hameed Khan may speak now."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"In view of the fact that the Hon. the Speaker has called upon Mr. Appadurai Pillai to speak already, I must forego the chance of speaking on this Industries Demand altogether."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Appadurai Pillai will speak now."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Industries department labours, under a handicap, such as that observed in the case of one or two other departments whose demands have come up before the House already. Sir, there is no clear demarcation of work that the department has to do, and as an example, I would refer to the collection of statistical data that is being done by the Industries department. Sir, we find that the Director of Industries is busily engaged in collecting statistics regarding market conditions, trend of prices of several commodities including paddy, rice and such others as are not industrial products. This work was hitherto attended to by the Board of Revenue and has been transferred to the Director of Industries in order that he might tabulate the several rates, etc., for general information. Sir, I would respectfully submit for the consideration of the Hon. Minister in charge of Industries and Labour that this work is not one that falls legitimately within the purview of the Department of Industries. The development of the industries of the country is the primary object with which the department exists. Another instance of this handicap under which the department works, is the furnishing of information on matters relating to commerce and trade which are, Sir, not kept within limits. For an example, we find from the report of the Industries department, last year, that information in regard

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to the photostat system in use in the presidency was supplied to the Director of Commercial Intelligence, Colombo. Photostat system is under the purview of another department, it has nothing to do with industries. So also, Sir, an inquiry for information regarding the provision of instruction in Radio. I do not think that it falls correctly within the purview of the Industries department. I suggest, Sir, that the Hon. Minister will kindly see his way to draw the attention of the department to the need for eschewing matters which are outside the real scope of the department, and to try to focus attention on matters really relating to industries. If the Director of Industries could be relieved of the trouble of looking into statistical tables he would have ample time at his disposal to go about the country and find out the ways and means of developing local industries.

"Sir, my next subject is the development of or the encouragement of cottage industries or rural industries. Rural industry has been on the lips of every one of us, Sir, of late. In 1931 or so an officer was appointed to enquire into the condition of cottage industries with a view to develop and encourage such industries as are languishing for want of support. Sir, he submitted a report which was considered by a Cottage Industry Committee, a representative committee, in which there were commercial gentlemen, non-officials and officials of experience and the Committee formulated definite proposals for the sanction of Government with a view to take up cottage industries in hand at once. The report was submitted in 1931 but owing to financial difficulties the proposals made by the Cottage Industries Committee were shelved in anticipation of better times. I think, Sir, the province is now in a prosperous condition considered from the aspect of revenue and expenditure. I should appeal, Sir, to the Hon. Minister for Industries to rake up the several schemes in connexion with the cottage industries to see if it would be possible for him to sanction some of these schemes recommended by the Cottage Industries Committee.

"Sir, a great deal of emphasis has been laid in the past on the want of State aid to some of these struggling industries. State Aid to Industries Act is on the Statute Book but unfortunately, Sir, it has remained practically a dead letter all these years. We know, Sir, that the Act was brought into force in the year 1923 (Act V of 1923). It has functioned for the past fourteen years. Unfortunately it has proved a failure for the simple reason that the several steps taken under the Act are dilatory and they are not prompt. A large number of formalities are laid down, Sir, in the Act, to be observed and by the time these formalities are observed it is often found impossible for the Government to reach the poor industrialists who have been applying for the State aid. Cottage industries particularly, Sir, are in the hands of small scale industrialists. All that these industrialists want is ready help in the shape of small loans not exceeding 200, 300, 500 or a thousand rupees at the most. To get this Rs. 1,000 if a small scale industrialist, is to wait for a period of six

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months after putting in his application, it needs no reflection on my part to say that if it is not possible for the Act to be beneficial to the industrialists for whom it is intended. Promptitude is what is wanted. I do not blame the Act so much as I blame the disposal of applications under the Act. The Government have been amending the Act from time to time in order to suit the conveniences and needs of small scale industrialists. Somehow or other so far, we have not been able to succeed. The moment the Act is amended, some other rule is introduced to nullify the effect of the amendment. I may quote an instance. Under the Act, Sir, a loan can be granted up to 50 per cent of the assets. It has been enacted by an amendment to the Act that in respect of business with a capital outlay of Rs. 1,000 and cottage industries, the 50 per cent rule should not apply. To meet this case, a rule has been framed that the amount of the loan granted in such cases should at least be equal in value of the assets. This renders the concession nugatory. If a loan could be granted equivalent to the value of the assets, very often we find that the cottage industrialists are not in a position to show assets equivalent in value to the loan applied for. I would quote the case of a toy manufacturer in Kondapalli. The largest loan that a toy manufacturer wants is a couple of hundreds of rupees or say one hundred rupees, to be discharged in the course of a few years.

5-15 p.m. “Sir, if he is to produce assets to the value of a hundred or two hundred rupees he would never succeed in getting a loan. Often these people live hand to mouth, and it is not possible to find assets equivalent to the amount of loan applied for by them. I would say that the Government should take courage in both their hands and try to meet the demands of such small scale industrialists freely and not go about the application with such meticulous care or with so much hesitancy. If it is ruled, Sir, that the *bona fides* of the applicants are the main criterion for the grant of relief to small scale industrialists a great deal of help would be forthcoming to these people.

“Sir, under the small scale industries I would like to say a word about Sericulture. Silk manufacture has come to stay in this Province. Hitherto it was considered, Sir, that only particular localities like Mysore plateau are suitable for the rearing of the silk worms but experiments have clearly demonstrated that rearing of silk worms in some other places which are on the same level with the Mysore plateau is quite possible. I would quote Kollegal. In Kollegal taluk alone, one-fifth of the total area under mulberry cultivation in the Presidency, viz., 6,000 out of 30,000 acres, is found. That means that there are very great possibilities for development of the silk industry in this Province. Experiments made in Palmaner, Kuppam and Madanapalle and several other places with the same elevation as Kollegal, have responded very admirably to the cultivation of mulberry and the rearing of silk worms. In view of such possibilities for silk manufacture, which is essentially a cottage industry requiring the attention of women and children who can without difficulty earn a decent livelihood, it

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behoves Government to protect that industry and encourage it. A great deal of agitation was set afoot, Sir, some years ago for the grant of protection and the Mysore Government jointly with our Government made a representation to the Government of India for raising a tariff wall against China and Japan silks in order to encourage the local industry. Nothing has been done, so far, Sir, in spite of the very urgent representations made in this matter. It behoves the Government to take up this question and see that adequate protection is given for silk manufacture. Fortunately for us the cost of foreign silk has risen a bit and we are in a position therefore to compete on favourable terms with foreign silk. Some time ago it was cheaper than the rate at which we can put on the market with the result that the silk industry received a serious set back. I would appeal on behalf of the silk manufacturers in this Presidency and the large number of people taking up to that profession, that Government would look into the matter and see that protection which is very much needed is given.

“Sir, I would now turn my attention to technical education. On the subject of technical education I have a very serious complaint to make against the attitude of this Government in the past. Sir, with your indulgence I would like to take you into some details of the expenditure that is incurred in the matter of technical education.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member may state his case briefly.”

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“I have not been speaking for the last two or three days. I crave your indulgence for a few minutes.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Even then the hon. Member may state his case very briefly.”

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“Thank you, Sir, I was saying that we were starving technical education and preferring literary education. A mere reference to the figures would show what bad treatment technical education has received at the hands of Government. For literary education the demand for which we have passed amounts to 2 crores 58 lakhs and 84 thousands including collegiate, secondary and elementary education. Sir, the cost of technical education afforded by the Government School of Technology and a few Government schools and aided institutions in the Presidency gives a total of four lakhs. That means, Sir, the percentage of expenditure on technical education with reference to literary education is 1.5 per cent. I need hardly labour the point that technical education has thus received a very step-motherly attention from Government. I would appeal to Government to do away with this step-motherly attention and to give proper attention so that expenditure on technical education may rise from 1.5 to a decent percentage. Technical education is the pivot on which industrial development depends. One method by which increased attention

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could be given is by raising the School of Technology to a self-contained institution. It is in that view, Sir, that I put in an interpellation this morning suggesting to the Hon. Minister whether it would not be possible for the Government to convert the Government School of Technology into a self-contained institution. Students who seek for admission into the School of Technology have got to secure apprenticeships in business firms or factories. They go from post to pillar and from business to business to secure apprenticeship. If as in Bombay and Mysore the School of Technology could be made self-contained, it would be possible for the apprentices to secure admission more freely and we could train a number of youths weaning them away from literary education which is profitless, and putting them under technical courses of education which will benefit them and also benefit the country. Sir, one or two more points I would urge with your kind permission. Industrial concerns which are taken up by the Industries department ought to be given away immediately after they cease to be experiments. I may quote the instance of the Kerala Soap Institute. That institute is not really a soap institute, but properly speaking an oil institute. There is an oil technologist there whose duty is to find out ways and means of placing on the market or rendering marketable some of the oils. In the matter of oil nuts, we know, the Province is very abundantly supplied. Essential oils, edible oils, perfumes and things of that kind may be produced on a very large scale and it was to meet that need that the oil technologist was given a large institute well equipped with costly machinery. But for some reason or other the technologist is fighting shy of conducting oil experiments. The manufacture of soaps is not a very serious matter and it is not bringing in very good revenue. We are not maintaining it for the sake of making revenue. The Industrial department started it for demonstrating the manufacture of high class soaps and that possibility having been achieved, there is no need any longer to continue the manufacture of soap. Students are trained every year and all over the country manufacture of soaps is going on. If I remember right the instruction of the Secretary of State for India is that once an industry is rendered marketable, it should be passed over to individual private enterprise. This policy unfortunately the Government have not been following. If it gives up soap manufacture to private enterprise and confines its attention to the examination of oil possibilities the money would be considered better spent.

“Sir, there is one other point which I would like to urge in the matter of technical education. The hon. the Lady Member from East Godavari, remarked yesterday speaking on education budget that she is not mindful of the education of boys and that the boys can be left to take care of themselves. She was perfectly right in making that statement for the reason that in many of the schools shown in the statement appended to the Industries Report, we find the technical education is confined to boys. I for one would very much like that more attention is given to the training of girl students in some of these industries.

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There are three Government institutions and a number of aided institutions out of which only in 27 institutions run by mission agencies like convents and boarding schools are girls trained in sewing and lace-making. Lace-making is not the only industry to which the girls can turn their hands. Printing, rattan work, mat weaving and weaving for the matter of that, fruit preservation and very many other industries there are, Sir, to which girls with their deft fingers can turn their attention. To confine our attention to boys only and to give the boys alone education in industrial schools is unjustifiable. I would respectfully draw the attention of the Hon. Minister in charge of Industries to the necessity of providing for the training of girls also in some of the institutes, for instance the textile institute, soap institute and the like. I am glad to find, Sir, that the Hon. Minister has already tabled a Bill for the amendment of the State Aid to Industries Act by enlarging the scope for the grant of loans to cottage industries. I would respectfully draw his attention to the point, that under the State Aid to Industries Act, an important condition for the grant of loans is that ‘the industry shall be such as shall have an important bearing on the economic development of the country,’ and shall be a new or a nascent industry, etc. This is a condition precedent for the grant of a loan. It is I submit an impossible condition, that ought to be done away with, for the simple reason that several of the industries in respect of which applications are made for loans, cannot be said to have an important bearing on the economic development of the country. I shall be grateful if the Hon. Minister in trying to enlarge the scope of the cottage industries will take this point also into consideration and examine the necessity for deleting this clause in the State Aid to Industries Act.

“One word more, Sir, about handspinning. Subsidy for handspinning comes in this Industries budget. I have expressed myself on the question of handspinning during the general discussion on the budget. The hon. Member Mr. Nuttall has already anticipated me by saying that handspinning is uneconomic. Sir, a handspinner gets 2 annas a day; if he turns his attention to hand-weaving, he will get 10 annas a day. Sir, to support an uneconomic profession or whatever it may be called, by a subsidy seems questionable. It is no doubt a subsidiary industry. I admit that. I readily admitted it the other day also. But I do say that it is uneconomic, and the taking of two lakhs out of the industries budget and giving it over for handspinning which we know is not going to give a return or a living wage, seems open to objection. The Hon. the Premier knows all these matters, and I do not wish to labour the point further. I thank you very much, Sir, for the indulgence shown to me.”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I do not rise, Sir, to speak on the motion but I rise to ask you to concede the request made that the matter may be adjourned on this ground. I did not imagine that this debate would cover the one or two new things that we have introduced in this budget for the first time in the history of the budgets in this Province. There has been a vigorous opposition raised

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by the hon. Member for the Madras Chamber of Commerce to the grant made in respect of handspinning. I think, Sir, that it would not be fair either to the hon. Member for the Madras Chamber of Commerce or to handspinning itself that we should simply vote it down, vote without giving an opportunity for Members to discuss the matter fully. It is vital to the Government that we should have the freest expression of opinion on this matter without any feeling left behind in the minds of Members that they have been forced by mere numbers to get through this demand without opportunity even to give expression to their views. I have to speak on this, and I do not think the khadi that I wear would sit lightly on me if I went away with this demand granted without the fullest expression of opinion of all the Members on the opposite side in the matter. So, I crave your indulgence that we adjourn now till 8-30 to-night and continue to sit till 12 or 2 a.m., so that every Member that wishes to speak on this matter may speak. We must have freedom of expression of opinion. Either we must sacrifice our comfort or we must sacrifice the right of speech. But the alternative must be given to the Members, and I suggest therefore that we must meet again at 8-30 to-night. But if we postpone till to-morrow, it would mean that we gag Members either on this subject or on the remaining subjects. It is a question of choice. But your suggestion was that the demand should be finished to-day, so that Members can have freedom of expression of opinion on some other subjects to-morrow. But as this is a very important thing, the one grant that we are asking which did not figure in any previous budgets and on which such important issues were raised by the hon. Member for the Madras Chamber of Commerce and confirmed by the hon. Member who once served in the Department of Industries, all these objections must be met if satisfactorily we should feel we have secured a right grant. I hope that in the special circumstances of the case you will revise the decision you have arrived at."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Chair has absolutely no objection to adjourn the House till 8-30 p.m. and continue the sitting till 1 o'clock in the night. I wish to know if it would be convenient to hon. Members on the Opposition side to continue the sitting from 8-30 p.m. The Leader of the Opposition may speak."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I very much welcome the suggestion of the Hon. the Leader of the House made to-day. The debate on this demand has raised a very important issue, and I think it will be fair to all Members to be given the liberty to express themselves on this question. We are also anxious to hear further the views of the Government on a matter like this. For the sake of this, we are prepared to make any sacrifice that lies in our power, and we are easily agreeable to the suggestion that we should sit again at 8-30 p.m. I should like to give another reason for welcoming this. We have been considering the question of the timings for the sittings of the House. It is well to see how we

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like the various timings. You have also agreed to have a conference at the end of this session to consider the question of the timings among other matters. By that time, we will have experience of the various timings for the sittings of the House. Probably then we will be in a better position to come to a conclusion. For that reason also, we welcome the suggestion for the night sitting, provided you are gracious enough to accept it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I adjourn the House till 8-30 in the night."

The House accordingly adjourned.

(Night Sitting—8-30 p.m.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members may be aware that on this demand we have already spent one hour and ten minutes, and under Rule 127 not more than four hours shall be taken up by the Assembly for the discussion of any one demand. Therefore we shall have only two hours and fifty minutes for this demand. That means we shall have to close this demand at 11-20 p.m., if not earlier."

"Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan will speak on the demand."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I have nothing to say."

* MR. N. S. VARADACHARIAR:—"Considering, Sir, that this is a night session I shall be very brief. I shall confine my remarks to the statement of the hon. Member for the European General constituency and to the statement of the hon. Member for the Madras Christian Constituency, regarding handspinning and the grant made for it in the budget. If I understood them aright, they complained about three matters in the main. The first, Sir, was that if the Government intended to help the agriculturists in various ways through the agricultural, veterinary and other departments, this grant of 2 lakhs is redundant relief. The second point, Sir, that was raised by the hon. Member for Madras Christians was that we on this side almost made a fetish of khaddar, and that handspinning was an uneconomic proposition. The third point, Sir, was that if Government persisted in its folly it could be allowed to do so only for one year but should be spared this folly for future years."

"I shall deal with these points seriatim. The first, Sir, proceeds on the assumption that whatever we do in the agricultural, co-operative, veterinary and other departments of Government goes to help the agriculturists during all periods of the year. If we have known Indian conditions and if we remember that agriculture in India is mostly seasonal and that the agriculturist is forced to remain idle for several months in the year, the hon. Member would not have made this point."

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Whatever we may do in other departments for the agriculturist would never help to fill his idle hours and this is possibly the reason why even the Royal Commission on Agriculture recommended suitable supplementary occupations for agriculturists. The case for khadi is no more and no less than this; it is the most effective and the most useful supplementary occupation that can be found for millions of homes in this country; that is easily practised, that requires no special technical skill, that needs no training classes but that the training imparted from mother to daughter, from mother-in-law to daughter-in-law, takes their place and that the product which is the result of this activity is one that fills one of the prime necessities of life. That is the case for khadi. It is not as if Members on this side made a fetish of khaddar and wanted it at any cost whether other Members liked it or not. It is proposed as a supplementary occupation to fill the idle hours of the agriculturist and find additional food for his home. If the hon. Member can find other supplementary occupations more remunerative or more easily practised and learnt, then I may assure him he would have saved us from our folly, and not all the flaming asceticism of Mahatma Gandhi or the sweet reasonableness of the Hon. the Premier would lure them back to the spinning wheel, no matter however much these may praise it. I say this deliberately and I invite the hon. Member for Madras European (General) to go to the villages and see the operations for himself, how hundred of semi-clad, semi-starved peasantry simply cluster round, like locusts swarming into a field, these offices opened for them for issue of cotton and distribution of yarn. Ten years of work has shown us that this adds substantially to the income of the peasant. We have taken quantitative results and we find that this adds fifteen to thirty-five per cent in some cases to the agricultural incomes of peasant homes. There is nothing like khadi for a district that is poorly irrigated, for a district where the agriculturist has only to look to the monsoons for his crop. That in short is the *raison d'être* for khadi.

"Then, Sir, it was said that we are going to dole out these 2 lakhs almost as an unemployment dole. I take it that this is not the intention of the Government. The Hon. the Premier has said that this money is intended in part to be spent on finding fresh implements and more effective instruments for hundreds of cottage homes, and in part as a bounty for khadi production as a result of which the 2 lakhs will result possibly in doubling and trebling the production of khadi that is going on now. Regarding the manner the Government proposes to spend this money I leave it, Sir, to wiser heads to explain. But I wish to say this, that if it is merely to satisfy our amour propre that we wanted this 2 lakhs I say unhesitatingly that this will prove to be the halter round our necks. But if we believe that in carrying a message of goodwill to the poor homes and equipping them with supplementary occupations, we add substantially to their incomes and give not 2 lakhs but possibly 5 or 6 lakhs of rupees as additional wages as a consequence of Government extending help to this industry, then I say this Government has fulfilled its purpose; otherwise, not. When

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the reckoning is made, when Members of the Opposition call upon us to render quantitative accounts, I hope and trust that Government would be able to come forward with figures and prove to them that every anna spent has been spent most usefully, not as an unemployment dole or charity to these poor people but as resulting in a substantial increase in the production of khadi.

"Lastly, I wish only to say this to the hon. Member of the Madras Chamber of Commerce. He makes a mistake in assuming that this is almost like an unemployment dole. True, it is in one sense a dole. In England, in a highly mechanized civilization as I will call it, millions are employed in factories and a few are left unemployed and to these is given the dole. The wealth of the country makes it possible for the dole to reach all therein. If you shell out 2 lakhs in our province to the unemployed it would not touch even the fringe of the problem. We are not however endeavouring to bolster up a dead or dying industry as the Hon. Member seemed to suggest but intend to revive and rehabilitate the cottage home, to infuse fresh blood into the dry bones of the languishing peasantry and put into it an independence and a dignity all its own."

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say a few words as to how I understood khadi and its message to the country. Khadi, according to me and as I understood it and according to the greatest exponents of this industry, means supplying a very real want to the poor villager. It is intended mainly as a cottage industry whereby the peasant may spin his own yarn and weave his own cloth. It is intended as a means whereby the poor peasant will not be forced to spend any money upon cloth either Indian-made or foreign-made. Khadi, if it is usefully spun and woven in villages means that every peasant can spin his own yarn and weave his own cloth; and this supplies one of the main necessities of life without having to spend much upon it. That will mean a very great economic relief to the poor peasant. Secondly, this industry will result in making India independent of other countries in the matter of clothing. Evidence is not wanting to show that by reason of this khadi industry which has been going on in this country for a number of years, the cloth industry in other countries has fallen down to a very great extent. That shows that this industry in India has got a double function to do, one to supply the very primary wants of the poor without monetary expense on their part and the other to see that this foreign competition is removed from India.

"If these two things are effected, I do think that India will gain very much in the matter of its economic condition. For one moment let us consider if it is not possible for every ryot to spin and weave for himself; if he does it, is there any power on earth which can prevent him doing it and benefiting thereby? This industry is intended

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sympathetic to the Indian industries. It is only very recently that the Government of India gave protection to the sugar industry and afterwards the sugar industry came into existence. It is very unfortunate that the Government of India, instead of helping it as they promised, at first started with the excise duty on sugar when the factories began and afterwards, last year, they increased the excise duty by another rupee per bag, according to the Madras standard of 168 lbs. All this, instead of encouraging, is discouraging this industry. In this Presidency, the sugar industry was started rather very late and as such the sugar industrialists are not getting as much benefit out of the protection duty as the people of northern India who started this industry in the very beginning. After starting the industry, our industrialists had to fight against our newness to the industry and to fight against the excise duty that was begun to be levied just after the industry was started here. The net result of it is that excepting a few sugar factories working for a long time all the new factories are in a depressed condition and are losing every year. I know, Sir, that the excise duty on sugar is not imposed by our Provincial Government, but I am explaining this only to request the Hon. Minister in charge to put this point before the Central Government and see that some benefit is given to us. The Governments of United Provinces and Bihar have done so and they are pressing this problem very much against the Central Government. Now the Sugar Tariff Board is touring in this Presidency and I request the Hon. Minister in charge of Excise as well as the Hon. Minister in charge of Industries to take this up with the Tariff Board as well as with the Central Government and see that some relief is given to this industry.

“There are many ways of helping this industry. One is reducing the excise duty. The second and the most important method of helping the industry is to enable the sugar factories to utilize the waste-product, molasses, in manufacturing industrial alcohol. Up to now, alcohol is only made for drinking purposes; and it is the policy of the present Government to see that it is completely stopped. We are all for it. We have to put before the Hon. Minister in charge of Excise that alcohol can be utilized for some useful purposes as well. The production of alcohol was for some time being subsidized in Germany, France and other countries for industrial purposes. Several industries are dependent upon alcohol and if alcohol is produced in India out of this waste-product, we can make ourselves not only industrially independent, but at the same time independent as far as power alcohol is concerned. In Germany and other countries alcohol is mixed up with petrol and utilized for the running of motor cars, etc. I am told that petrol when mixed with 25 or 30 per cent of alcohol is more efficient than petrol as it is used in motor cars. In these circumstances I suggest that the Hon. Minister in charge of Industries and Hon. Minister in charge of Excise will put this matter before the Central Government and see that legislation is introduced very shortly so that petrol suppliers in this country are compelled to mix 25 per cent of alcohol with the petrol sold

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to the public. In so asking for this mixing of alcohol, the Government must also insist that Indian alcohol is mixed and not alcohol imported from abroad. Up to now our Government, instead of helping us, has always been helping foreign exporters by helping the import of these things to this country. That is why I am stating that these people should be compelled to use Indian alcohol instead of alcohol imported from abroad.

“There are several other industries that can be helped. There are thousands and thousands of other industries that can be taken up in our country. Any gentleman going about in any of the big towns will see a number of articles we are getting from foreign countries. I can tell you that any man who goes about the street will have to hang his head for shame because almost all materials that we require in our every-day life we are importing from foreign countries. It is not impossible for us to manufacture in this country all the materials that we require provided the Government gives us help and shows sympathy. After all, the industrialists are here, the money is here and everything is here, only the sympathy of the Government is necessary. Up to now the Government have not shown their sympathy for the advancement of the industries of this Province. At least after the advent of the Congress party into power, I hope the Hon. Minister in charge will see that the industrial spirit that is required is infused in the minds of the people and some help is given to those who are industrially minded and who come forward to start new industries. In foreign countries like Japan, Germany, France and other countries, if companies or industrialists are ready to start an industry, Government always helps them financially and in some cases with subsidies also. I do not see any reason why our Government should not help such genuine industrialists here as are ready to start industries in this country. I request the Hon. Minister in charge to see that a list of all industries that can be started is made out and that encouragement is given to all those people who are anxious to start new industries and who are in a position to invest money. 9 p.m.

“One other thing and that is about the grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for hand-spinning industry. I am sure there cannot be any Indian who can complain about this grant. As regards the spinning industry it is an industry that will help . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Every hon. Member need not speak upon that subject.”

MR. D. L. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“I am only speaking of the two lakhs of rupees which will be distributed among villagers.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member may speak for a minute or two and close.”

* MR. D. L. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“As I have already mentioned, in foreign countries, millions of rupees are being given as subsidies to new industries that are being started. So, this amount, two

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to inculcate the idea of self-help into the minds of the agricultural population of India. If this is done, I submit, it will not be possible for any foreign country to say 'You shall not spin your own yarn. You shall not weave your own cloth.'

"Then the other point that I wish to make is this: it may be asked if it is intended only to rehabilitate industry in India and to support Indian industry, why not we support the mill industry? No doubt there are many mills in India which are managed by Indian capital and by Indian skill. Why not we support the mill industry? Why should we go in for khaddar? If that is the proposition, I only submit, Sir, it can very easily be answered. We know very well that India has got mills. But every mill depends for its upkeep and for its working upon very highly complicated and costly machinery. So that the mill industry cannot get on either in this country or in other countries without the necessary machines. So much so, if a foreign country wants to kill the mill industry in India, it can do so in a trice. Stop all the machinery coming into India and then the very next day, you will see the mill industry in India wiped out of existence. Let us for instance imagine for one moment that the Burma Shell petrol coming to India is stopped for a day. What becomes of our motor cars? On occasions when we have been unable to get petrol, we have felt the difficulty. The same thing will happen to our mills if we are denied the necessary machinery by foreign countries. You cannot do the same thing with the thakli or with the charka. It is therefore with this double intention that this cottage industry has been promulgated in India; it will give a supplementary income to our agriculturists without much outlay or expense and at the same time it will, as a bye-product, reduce foreign competition. Now, Sir, if khadi is capable of so much good, what is wrong if Government tries to help the khadi industry in India? Is it not the duty of this Government especially, which is broad-based on popular will, to see that this industry which is capable of doing so much for the economic uplift of the country, to do all it can to see that this industry is rehabilitated and give all the life it needs? It is therefore necessary that this Government should invest not only two lakhs but much more to see that this industry is given every encouragement in the country. I take it, Sir, that the Government will do nothing wrong if they continue these two lakhs subsidy not only this year but for some years to come. I do say that it may not be the intention of the Government to continue to make this two lakhs grant year in and year out. If this year two lakhs are provided, I take it that it is the intention of the Government to see that this industry is widely practised in the villages and that it takes deep roots there. I also say it may not be the intention of the people who advocate khadi that we should always go on weaving this khadi for all time. As I submitted already, if a day comes when foreign industry and foreign competition is done away with, then it will be time for the Indian mill industry to grow and produce beautiful cloth which we all love to wear. I do think that Indians are not

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behind any other community or race in their fondness for beautiful things. If such a day comes I do hope that Indian mills will prepare and supply beautiful pieces of cloth which will not only gladden us, but will also reflect the soul of India.

"Sir, it is strange that this objection to the khadi industry, which is again and again said to be a cottage industry, should come from the Western people. Is it not a fact, Sir, speaking subject to correction, that even in the western countries which are highly mechanized, home-spinning is now a real industry? What are your home-spuns and home-brewed ale? I take it home-spun means cloth woven in homes. Similarly khadi also is a cottage industry. I read just the other day that in Japan, crockery, very fine crockery is being manufactured as cottage industry. If all these things do go on in other countries and are being encouraged in western countries, why should it be different where India is concerned? I submit that khadi and mill industry can never compete with each other. These two have got their own independent use and existence. I, therefore, submit that khadi can live by itself and supplement the mill industry and can never kill it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members need not imagine that the discussion to-night should be concentrated on khadi alone. The whole subject of industries is open for debate."

* MR. D. L. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Sir, I rise, as you suggested, to go into the general industrial problem. Up to now, owing to the conditions prevailing in this country, Indian industry was never encouraged. Now that we have got Provincial Autonomy, and the Provincial Governments are real representative Governments, I request the Minister in charge of the Industries to see that, hereafter at least, the department is made useful for the development of the Indian industry. Up to now, Sir, the Department of Industries has more or less been a statistical department only, gathering information about foreign imports and supplying it to the Indian industrialists if there are any. Up to now the Industries department has never cared to go to the help of the Indian industrialists, because the Government itself was not sympathetic to the Indian industries. Hereafter, I request the Hon. Minister in charge to see that our industrialists are encouraged by the sympathy which will be shown to them by the Government and that industrial investment is encouraged in the hope that the Government would be at the back of the investors and that all the investments made would be useful to them and remunerative.

"As regards the industries now existing in our Province there are not very many. But the very few that are existing are more or less starving. The most important of them is sugar industry. Our country is an agricultural country and as such we ought to be the most forward country in manufacturing sugar, and supplying not only our own requirements but sending it to foreign countries as well. Instead of that, till recently, our country was the dumping ground for sugar from all over the world. It was because the Government of India was not

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lakhs of rupees that is going to be given to the millions of villagers that are starving, is nothing. I am only sorry that more money could not be given for this particular purpose. These villagers were at one time spinning their own yarn and also utilizing their spare hours for spinning yarn and thus were earning some additional income. Somehow or other that has gone out of use and if the amount of 2 lakhs or rupees should be utilized for improving the charka and for making demonstration and giving education in hand-spinning, it would not be sufficient at all. I hope the Government will, at least next year if not this year, set apart not 2 lakhs, but 10 lakhs for these starving millions. Any help that is given to these starving millions in villages is more useful than the help that could be given to any other department under Government. In my opinion the amount of two lakhs of rupees that is spent for this particular purpose is better spent than any other amount spent for any other purpose."

* MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"As has been observed by hon. Members who spoke before me it is highly regrettable that the State has not given sufficient attention to the development of industries. We find, Sir, as has been observed by the hon. Member who preceded me, that a small country like Japan is able to dump all its goods in India. When a small country like that is not only able to meet her own demands but dump all her goods in India, from the smallest requirement to the greatest, from camphor to motor car—all this is being done with the aid of the State there—I do not see any reason why we should not do the same thing here. We find, Sir, that in India we have got enough of raw material and enough of people who are prepared to start such industries, provided the State comes forward to help them. There are a number of things such as toilet and other things that come to this country from outside and those countries which export such goods to India take away our money leaving us poorer and poorer from day to day. Would it not be in the interests of the nation if the State comes forward to help these minor industries, if not major industries, so that money from India is not drained out and she is made poorer and poorer from day to day? As I was observing this afternoon, our agriculturists spend half of their time by sitting under margosa trees and chatting and planning some mischief. If the agriculturists have got something in their hands to do during their spare hours, I think it will go a great way to prevent crimes committed now in villages. It is also necessary that in a country where 90 per cent of the population are agriculturists, they should be given some work to do during their off-time because they have work only for half of the year. This the State can do by giving them subsidies for starting small industries. I submit it is a matter of pride that the present Government has been able to make a provision of two lakhs of rupees for hand-spinning and hand-weaving. It has never been the intention of this Government or Mahatma Gandhi that khaddar should in any way oust or replace the mill industry in India. Khaddar has got its own place and the mill goods have got their own place. Both can live side by side. People need not be nervous simply

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because this Government have made a provision this year for hand-spinning and hand-weaving. So far as the expenditure of this amount is concerned, some doubts were expressed whether it would be usefully spent. I do not think any man need have any doubt on this score especially after the assurance given by the Hon. the Leader of the House. If I remember correctly, he said every pie of these two lakhs of rupees would be accounted for. In this connexion I wish to refer to one other thing: I am informed that Muslim ladies spin yarn very well and the quality of yarn they make is very fine. That is what I am informed and I am now assured that the statement that I am making is correct. If this is so, I request that gosha ladies, who have no chance of going outside for any work and who are always kept inside on account of gosha system, may be given a due proportion of this amount for hand-spinning. I am not saying this on the principle of communal representation (laughter).

"There is one other matter. I find that the State Aid to Industries Act needs amendment so that it may be made useful to help these small industries. We were told that Government themselves are contemplating amending the Act and we hope that they will do it at a very early date."

MR. G. SELVAPATHI CHETTIYAR:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! இன்றையதினம் Industry விஷயத்திற்காக கேட்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற டிமாண்டை ஆதரித்துப் பேசுவதற்கு சந்தர்ப்பத்தை கொடுத்த தற்காக பெரிதும் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன். முதலாவது நமது நாட்டை சென்ற பஸ் வருஷக்காலமாக ஆண்டு வந்த சர்க்காரானது சரியானபடி நம்மைக்கவனிக்கவில்லை. நம்முடைய நாட்டின் நிலைமை வரவர கெட்டுப்போயிருக்கிறது. சீர்திருத்தம் வேண்டும் சுயராஜ்யம் வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் பிரபுக்களா யிருப்பவர்கள் மேலும்மேலும் பிரபுக்களாக அல்ல. இந்த நாட்டில் நாள் தோறும் ஒரு வேளைச் சாப்பாட்டிற்குக்கூட வழியில்லாமலும் இருக்க இடமில்லாமலும், உடுக்க உடையில்லாமலும் இருக்கிற இந்த ஸ்திதியைப்போக்கவேண்டுமென்று சென்ற பஸ் வருஷங்களாக பேசப்பட்டது. அத்தகைய சந்தர்ப்பத்தை சரிப்படுத்திக்கொள்ள அதற்கு ஒரு சமயம் ஏற்படுத்திக்கொள்ள இங்கே காங்கிரஸ் மகா சபையைச்சேர்ந்தவர்கள் பெருவாரியாக வீற்றிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஏதோ இரண்டு லட்சம் ரூபாய் வரையில் கடந் முதலிய அபிவிருத்திக்காக கொடுத்துவிட்டால் மாதிரம் கோடிக்கணக்கான ஜனங்களுடைய வருமானம் தீர்ந்துவிடுமென்று நான் நம் முடியவில்லை. ஆனாலும் இந்த நல்ல ஆரம்பத்திற்காக பாராட்டாமலிருக்க முடியாது.

"சமீபத்தில் நான் ஐரோப்பா தேசத்தையும் ஜப்பானையும் பார்த்துவந்த போது ஒரு அபிப்பிராயம் நிச்சயமாக ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது. இந்த சொற்ப பணத்தைக்கொண்டு இந்த நாட்டிலிருக்கிற தரித்திரத்தைப் போக்கமுடியாது. மேற்குத் தேசங்களில் இந்த தேசத்தில் ஜாதி மதச்சண்டைகளிருக்கிறமாதிரி ஜாதி மதச்சண்டைகளில்லை. 'எனக்கு இந்த மாதிரி கடவுள் பிரார்த்தனைவேண்டும் உனக்கு இந்தமாதிரி கடவுள் பிரார்த்தனை வேண்டும்' என்கிற தத்துவத்தில் பெரிதும் பொழுது போக்கிவிட்டோம். அதே மாதிரியாக மதச்சண்டைகளிலும் ஜாதிச் சண்டைகளிலும் நம்முடைய காலம் வீணாகப்போகிறது. ஜனங்களுக்குச் சாப்பாட்டில்லை, சாப்பாட்டைக் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய தொழில் இல்லை. அதனால் சாதிரிச்சண்டையிலும் மதச்சண்டையிலும் ஈடுபட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். கடந் அபிவிருத்தி என்ற முறையில் மற்றும் பலவிதமான குடிசைத்தொழில் அபிவிருத்திக்குச் சந்தர்ப்பமளித்து ஜனங்கள் கஷ்டத்தை நிவர்த்திக்கும் தொழில்களை ஏற்படுத்திவிட்டால் இந்த சாதி மதச்சண்டைகளும் பிரச்சனைகளும் போய்

[Mr. G. Selvapathi Chettiyar] [23rd September 1937]

விடும். உதாரணமாக ஜப்பான் தேசத்திலிருக்கிற ஒன்பது கோடி மக்களில் சற்றேறக்குறைய நூற்றுக்குத் தொண்ணூற்றொன்பது பேர்கள் ஆண்களும் பெண்களும் அங்கே வேலை செய்கிறார்கள். ஆண்களும் பெண்களும் ஒன்றாக பாட்டிகளில் வேலை செய்கிறார்கள். உத்தியோகங்களிலும் வியாபாரஸ்தலங்களிலும் அதேமாதிரியாகத்தான் வேலை செய்கிறார்கள். அங்கே எவர்களாவது சாப்பாடில்லாது பட்டினியாக இருக்கிறார்களா? இல்லை. வீதியில் உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு சாப்பாடு போடு என்று சொல்லுகிறவர்கள் இல்லை. அந்த நாட்டிலுள்ள ஜனங்கள் தொழிலைப் பெருக்கிக்கொண்டார்கள். பிரபுக்களாயிருப்பவர்கள் ஜனங்கள் பிழைப்புக்கு வேண்டிய தொழில்களுக்கு பணங்கொடுக்கிறார்கள். இந்த நாட்டில் பிரபுக்கள் பணமிருந்தால் வேலாதேவித்தொழில் செய்கிறார்கள். அல்லது வியாபாரஞ் செய்து தங்களுடைய பணத்தை பெருக்கிக்கொள்கிறார்கள். அதிகமாக பணமிருந்தால் எலக்ட்ரிக்ஸ் இங்கே இருக்கிறமாதிரி அங்கே கிடையாது. இந்த நாட்டில் கதர் உற்பத்தி ஆரம்பிக்கிறதோடு மற்ற நாடுகளைப்போல் பல கைத்தொழில்களை உண்டாக்கவேண்டும். ஜப்பானில் ஒரு இடத்தில் போய் பார்த்தேன். ஒருவர் நாலேந்து ஆட்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டு தொழிலை ஆரம்பித்தவர் நூறு பேர்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டு தொழில்களை நடத்தி ஜீவிக்கக்கூடிய ஸ்திதியில் இருக்கிறார். ஒரு வீட்டிற்குப் போனால் பொம்மைகள் செய்கிறார்கள். தட்டுகள் செய்கிறார்கள். ஒலையைக் கொண்டு தட்டு செய்கிறார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு வீட்டிலும் கிராமங்களிலும் பட்டணங்களிலும் வேலையில்லாதவர்கள் கிடையாது. நம்முடைய நாட்டில் படித்தவர்களுக்கும் படியாதவர்களுக்கும் வேலையில்லை. இந்தக் கேவலமான நிலைமை அநேக வருஷங்களாக இருக்கிறது. இந்த துக்கரமான நிலைமையை மாற்றவேண்டுமானால் எவ்வளவு தேசபக்தி இருந்தாலும் மாற்றிவிடமுடியாது. பணம் வேண்டும். பணம் மாதிரம் போதாது. நம்முடைய நாட்டுப் பிரபுக்கள் இதில் அபிமானமுள்ளவர்களாகவும் அனுதாபமுள்ளவர்களாகவுமிருக்கவேண்டும். அப்படிப்பட்ட சந்தர்ப்பத்தைக்கொடுக்க கதர் அபிவிருத்தித் தொழிலை ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே இந்த தீர்மானத்தை நான் முடிவெடுத்துள் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன்.

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MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—“Mr. Speaker, we should not send our young men to foreign countries to study industrial subjects any more, because they waste their time there and come back with little or no knowledge. We must get the European experts down to India; for instance, we may ask Germany to send an expert who is making synthetic food from wood. If we can have one such expert in the Forest department, I will be the first to justify the existence of the Forest department. He will be useful in times of famine and in times of war.

“As regards industries, I do not think many of the members are familiar with the products of the hills. The Government should guarantee 5 per cent return to those who grow cinchona. There is a lot of room for complaint about the cinchona industry being run by the Government at present. It is said there is a good deal of waste. With regard to electricity, there is plenty of it from Pykara and Mettur. There is a pamphlet printed by the Government themselves with regard to the manufacture of nitrates. The present Government may go into it and see whether there is any useful information in it with regard to the making of nitrates from air by using electricity. India consumes a lot of chemical fertilizers and sends so much of money to foreign countries. If we can make the chemical fertilizers ourselves we can save a lot of money.

[23rd September 1937] [Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder]

“With regard to the tea industry, it is one of the biggest industries in India if not in the whole world. Further few people realize that there is so much money in it. Some say that it is the gold mine of India. Sir, we are proud of our agricultural population and of their skill in the agricultural industry. But out of about 166,000 acres of tea in South India, Indians have got only six to seven thousand acres. In the north also the proportion is about the same although the total acreage is much more than in South India. Practically the whole industry is in the hands of foreigners and the money that they are making is something stupendous. We have no idea of it. I would request the Government to give some loans to the small growers either without any interest or at a cheap rate of interest for the purpose of erecting factories for making tea for export. The small growers are naturally in the hands of the big growers who are making tea and making profit. If the small growers are given some encouragement they can compete with the bigger growers in foreign markets, especially in the London market. The Government must have certain schemes for helping these agriculturists. Sir, if the Government cannot help the agricultural industries, prohibition itself can wait for some time. These are among the subjects in which I am interested in connexion with the hill products and I thank you, Sir, for having given me an opportunity to speak.”

* MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA PANTULU:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, in developing Industries, we have to aim foremost at developing village industries, particularly, home industries. Factories and mills though they facilitate speedy production, throw thousands of people out of employment. Hence cottage industries deserve special consideration.

“Mahatma Gandhi has started an organization for the revival of village industries in addition to the organization for khadi industry. Associations have been formed all over the country and efforts are being made for the revival of home industries. But the most important of these industries is the khadi industry and it is a very ancient one. We read in the report of the Industrial Commission that the Egyptian mummies as old as 3000 B.C. were found covered with Indian muslins. Again there is no industry other than khadi which fits in so well with the economy of an Indian village. But it is never claimed to serve as a main industry which provides adequate wages to the spinners. But as a subsidiary industry, it has no parallel and so far nobody has been able to suggest any other industry which can be so easily adapted. The mechanism of the charka is so simple that even any village carpenter can make it. The All India Spinners' Association started by Mahatma Gandhi has been working for the last 15 years and the results so far achieved by it are very encouraging. With your permission, Sir, I wish to quote a few figures from a recent report of the association to show the progress thus far made by the association and how it is trying to solve the unemployment problem in the country and to relieve the distress of the hunger-stricken poor. Six thousand villages in the whole of India are covered by the productive activities of the association and out of them as many as 2,600 villages belong to this Province.

[Mr. K. Venkatappayya Pantulu] [23rd September 1937]

The total production of cloth was 24 and odd lakhs of rupees worth and out of it about 10 lakhs of rupees worth of cloth was produced in this Province. Of the total of wages, viz., Rs. 12,56,000 about 6 lakhs of rupees were distributed to spinners and weavers in this Province. There were in all 1,400 persons engaged in the work of the associations as managers, clerks, etc. Of these 400 belong to this Province. The spinning families in Tamilnadu alone number about 26,700. If with the limited resources which the All India Spinners' Association can command, so much work has been turned out, it can be easily imagined, if adequate subsidy is given in aid of khadi, how much more can be achieved. The subsidy of 2 lakhs of rupees goes to help the industry only a little and there is every necessity for large sums being granted year after year for the development of this industry. No doubt there are several other industries to be aided by the Government but this industry is the most important of all, because it supplies cloth, an essential of life necessary for covering the body and next only to food which nourishes it.

“With these remarks, Sir, I support the Demand.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I want Members on both sides of the House to speak alternately. Members on the left side may now speak.”

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
“I think, Sir, it is time for the Hon. Prime Minister to speak.”

MR. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, our problem of dealing with poverty in this land is practically the same as that in Japan. The pages of history bear out the fact that India always took in more money than she shelled out. That was the complaint even as late as the 18th century when a Frenchman complained and drew attention to the fact that India was a land where money was retained and not sent out. Let us take the question of the sugar industry for example. India is bound to have a monopoly of this industry sooner or later, and it is one of those industries in respect of which our Government must put up a severe fight with the Central Government. The Finance Member there stated on the last occasion that he was going to kill all the small nascent sugar industries and that he did not want them to flourish. We know therefore the policy of the Central Government; and so here is a field for combating the Central Government. All the Provincial Governments will have to take counsel together as to how they can induce the Central Government to abolish the excise duty. It was promised that no excise duty will be levied; but contrary to all the promises, the excise duty has been imposed. That is point number one.

“Point number two is this: northern India is dumping, with the aid of railways, a lot of sugar into south India, with the result that our industry here is suffering. All Provincial Governments will therefore have to come to an understanding in fixing the places where sugar may be sold.

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“His Excellency the Viceroy stated that he would make a contribution towards research in the sugar industry by which that industry can become a really effective proposition in India. England imports two-thirds of its sugar from outside; why not she join hands with the Indian Government and make sugar production here easy, so that our sugar may be exported to England? Unfortunately, not only is that not done, but even the molasses which are the result of the industry are being wasted. There is no monopoly at present to start distilleries where the molasses can be made use of for purposes of making alcohol. There are several factories where they do not know what to do with the molasses and where they are wasted. I believe the best help that the Provincial Government can give is to induce our sugar factories to have alcohol distilleries attached to their factories. It should not be left at the same time in the hands of a single company; there should be no monopoly for any one company for the whole of south India.

“As regards village industries, there is an entirely different aspect to be taken. We are now fighting a battle to win the confidence of the people. It was very well known during the elections that we went and told the villagers that we had a message for them; and now, here is a Government which is the first of its kind, which went with a message to the village; it can as well say to the villager, ‘I am going to do something for you’ and if we do it, he will readily listen. Now, the introduction of khadi as a subsidiary occupation has already created a sort of confidence in the mind of the ryot that really there are some people in this world who are prepared to look after his welfare. And that is the greatest asset for this Government, and we should see that there is not a single village which has not received our notice. Unless it is brought to the notice of the ryot that we are really meaning business, we will lose the confidence that the ryot has placed in us. Therefore, I say, the doubts that have crept into the minds of some of us should be set at rest. It is the beginning of a new era; it is the beginning of an era of trust between those who are higher up and the peasantry of the land. Therefore I say it is a very important step that we are taking. We are giving a grant now, because once we create trust, then the village problem is solved. Our greatest business in connexion with this village problem is to revive the beautiful native art and handiwork which have been thriving in our land for a long time. As a matter of fact, there are many families even to-day in which you find a special beautiful way of spinning particular patterns. You must encourage such families to bring back their old habits. Knowledge is after all remembrance, and we have to make the people remember what they were doing in the ancient past. The step that we now propose to take is a step by which culture is really spread in the minds of the poor people. That is what we should remember. Did we not have our Dacca muslins and other nice patterns in the old days? Could we not develop such patterns in these days, so that we can help the people to manufacture such patterns now? If we do this, it will be the foundation which will enable us to solve more difficult questions

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such as how to make the co-operative movement a success, how to make the land question an easy business, etc. For, one day or other, we must make our lands inalienable. That must be our goal. The person who cultivates the land should be a citizen. That is why I say that the best thing we should do to create confidence in the minds of the people is to revive the old industries. It used to be stated that one of the best methods of education is to teach people how to train their hands and their eyes. That is the kind of education that we are trying to give by encouraging khadi which will enable people to take delight in their work and at the same time give them the food that they require. Sir, I say, this industry has a great future. Thus we can form centres of unity in the villages, which will be felt in the Government of the country, and which will be permanent for all time. For, Sir, what India did in the past she can also do in the future."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not imagine that I would have to intervene even on this motion, but when I heard the hon. member for European Commerce, I thought that the situation was getting serious."

MR. J. NUTTALL:—"On a feeble point of order, Sir. I am not a member for Commerce, but a member representing the European constituency."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am very sorry, Sir; I apologize for the misdescription. I felt, Sir, that we were somewhere near a real Opposition. Hitherto, consideration almost to the point of not doing their work was, I thought, the keynote of the Opposition. Nobody came forward even so much as to utter a harsh word, apart from opposing motions; and in the case of every motion that was made, the cut was withdrawn with almost tiresome courtesy."

"Some one of our members even began to fidget and said that some one might make a motion so that he might not withdraw it. But this afternoon, as I stated, at last the long-range guns were upon us. Those near were no doubt the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Muslim League and others, but out in that corner is the real opposition which is opposing not only this programme of khadi but also other programmes as well. And I thought at last we were coming to grips and that gave me some sense of satisfaction; because we won't be able to do the right thing unless we fight a little. The other side really is, as I stated, over there; but unfortunately the hour is so inopportune that just now the guns are sleeping and only one of them is turned on us. But it is quite enough. We are dealing with reason; we are dealing with interests that clash. We are dealing with conflicting powers and outlooks and therefore quantity does not matter. Numbers do not matter. So, the Opposition that I saw, really impressed me a great deal, Sir, and that is why I went out of my way to suggest that we should sit on to-night, because to-morrow we will be on the last day for this Budget. The hon. member for the European Association—is that the constituency?"

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MR. J. NUTTALL:—"European General Constituency."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"A communal constituency, there too!"

"Sir, the hon. Member representing the European community stated, 'you are bolstering up a thing, a thing that cannot stand on its own legs; how long can you go on stilts; you can take a patient for recovery to a hospital, but you cannot take a corpse on stilts for all time to come.' That is the substance, Sir, in my opinion of what was stated by the hon. Member. He said, 'this cannot be protected; it is merely an unemployment dole that you are giving; it is not much; you are giving two lakhs only; it would not affect seriously; and if you go on like this for all time, it is my duty to tell you that you are wasting your own money.' That was the sum and substance of what was stated. If it is true, Sir, it is a very correct opposition, but I submit, Sir, that it is not correct; it is not true. As one of the speakers before me stated, if only the Member for the European community or any other person who does not believe in this business came to the centres with us, he could see the human reaction to this demand, he could see the reality of the work and he could see that it is worthwhile doing this. On paper, especially when one is amidst the din and roar of a factory, when one is seeing the yarn come out almost without end from among the spindles that turn on day and night, when one is himself managing a cotton mill, one cannot see the meaning of the grant that I have stood up to speak for. Some years ago it was in a village that I, along with a few other village workers, started this business. In that locality there were only a couple of old women who said, 'we know how to spin.' A few months afterwards, I was personally distributing tickets for the women who took the cotton from us for bringing back the yarn after a week. Sir, I do not exaggerate in the least when I say that I was actually mobbed and injured and parts of my body got a few bruises, because they rushed in such large numbers for these tickets to enable them to take the cotton from us, so that they might bring back the yarn after a week and get some few pies from us. Sir, an hon. Member who is now my colleague on the Government was with us then; latterly he got tired of this business and he said, 'for the miserable wage that we pay them, these old people are working like this, I cannot bear the sight of this horrible little payment for work of this kind, it cannot be really the right thing to do'; and he left us. He is again with us now; but it is not the wandering of his opinion that I am after, but I want to show to hon. Members who may not believe in this programme, that we have seen all sides of it and we have seen enough of it to see that even with the miserable little payment that we were making in those days, we were able to attract such large numbers to this work. What is the cause of this? Shall we simply close our eyes to all this poverty, or shall we find some means for them and do what little we can for them. It is easy to say, civilization is so cruel, the wheel of time has rolled on and these old women must die and that these people cannot be helped. It is easy to say all that, but

9-45
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we cannot say that. We are of the same flesh and blood. It may be possible to say, why, let them take to modern industries; they are slow to move and therefore they cannot help themselves. It may be said, 'if you move like us, you will be able to help yourselves.' Sir, that may be tried too and it is being tried. I think the hon. Member for the European community is well aware that tremendous progress has been made in the Indian factories during the last few years; the production is trebled, doubled at least and in regard to yarn and cloth the Indian mills have produced overmuch. The hon. Member himself is personally managing a great, big and a very good mill in Madras. Shall I send all these people to him; will he take them? He will be the first to say, 'I cannot take them; there is no room for them; please do not send them.' But, it is not also possible to send them apart from his not taking them and apart from any of the mills in Bombay, Coimbatore or Ahmedabad not being able to take them. Those people that we are thinking of, are like the trees and the plants of the forests rooted in their soil. Can we bring the South Kanara forests over to the North Arcot and the Ceded districts; can we take the forests of Travancore to Anantapur and Cuddapah districts? Any price will be paid by hon. Members from the Ceded districts if you could do that. Even so, this peasantry of the dry districts of our Province are rooted in the soil. We have looked after them so ill that they are yet really vegetable trees and plants with roots in the soil. The day we could move them, we shall be ready to move them on to the factories in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, but it is not possible now. On both sides is this difficulty. Hon. Members here will not take them, though they have mills and factories, and sometimes even the men they have, they have to discharge; and hon. Members there will bring in petitions to say that they must be taken back if we could possibly induce them to do so. And that is the situation with regard to labour in factories; nor is labour itself movable like that. So, what shall we do? Hence it is we depend upon this old, old, miserable little machine to which we have given the name 'Charka,' that is to say, the wheel, it is called. It is an elemental machine; it is not a wheel added to a wheel; it is not a wheel upon a wheel; it is the wheel itself and nothing more; and that is 'Charka.' We are dealing with an elemental people, with elemental poverty and therefore an elemental machine is placed in their hands and we propose to tie them to it, so that they might at least live. How can we admit that this is the only solution? How can I convince friends here who doubt that this is the only solution? The only way is to ask them to go with us to those places and see its working for themselves. Sir, it is not a fad that we started yesterday. Apart from the ancient history of it, we revived this thing 15 years ago (Interruption: 17 years ago). Yes, but let me give up the baby stage and let us take it only at 15 years; is it not a long enough time for an unwanted thing to die and for a falsehood to disappear? These women continue spinning, not because of propaganda. You cannot keep women working for nothing for mere bolstered up propaganda and ideas. A lie has not so much vitality. If these women stuck to this

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for 15 long years, there must be some truth in the poverty we say we see; there must be some relief in this spinning and there must be some sense in this task. I therefore ask hon. Members to accept this proof of facts and experience. It is after all nothing, this one anna or this six pies that we were paying. Even then they were wanting this employment. To-day, we have organized better and pay more, something decent which any man with a heart could tolerate. It is because we are now paying three annas a day that my hon. Friend and Colleague, Mr. Ramanathan, is with us to-day. If we were still paying the old rate of six pies or an anna, I think he would not be with us. But now we are paying something more, and it is to help us in that and to make it progress and make it spread, that we want this subsidy. Yes, I use the straight term 'subsidy' and we want that subsidy. Not only that. When we want this subsidy, we do not give it any other name; and though it might be given a bigger name, we prefer to give it the straight name 'subsidy.' We also ask that the Act on the Statute Book be so enlarged that we can give anything to this and other cottage industries, without many restraints imposed upon it; and a Bill will be introduced shortly for that purpose. Of course it is a subsidy, it is bolstering up, it is unemployment relief; but it is not wrong, it is not bad, it is not useless, and that is my plea for it. This relief is not an unknown thing to the State. After all who are these people? I ask hon. Members to think a little in primary terms. Let us see where we are and who these people are. These are pure, thorough-bred agriculturists; they are not weavers; they are not Congress volunteers, men wearing Gandhi caps, but they are thorough-bred agriculturists, tillers of the soil and they are the people who raise the food that we eat every day. Should we not look after them? Do we raise our own food? They raise all the food and if I had my own way, I would say that they pay no taxes because they pay enough taxes by labouring for us and by raising the food that we eat and so they ought to be free from all taxes; we are so unfortunately placed that we have to tax even those people. They raise food for us and we live on that food. So, should we not feed them, should we not clothe them and should we not give them homes to live in, or should we be content with merely taking a portion of the food that they raise and running away from the village leaving them to manage somehow? We must give them food, we must give them the cloth that is necessary and we must also give them houses to live in. That is all that they ask. I ask hon. Members here who are the most correct arithmeticians to calculate and tell us, what is the minimum on which the man who raises food for us, can be allowed by us to live on. Can they make calculations and tell me on the spot? Surely, it is not less than at least three rupees per month or five rupees per month—five rupees per month, not over and above the cost of food that he raises but including the food that you leave in his hands after taking away what we want out of what he has raised. Now, to make up this five rupees, something more is wanted than what we leave with him out of the very crop that he raises. How shall we give it? Hon. Members belonging to the European community

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own lands. The State would have to give and is giving to-day doles for the unemployed people. Now, these are the people who are employed, so employed that we live upon their employment and yet they are miserable. It is wrong to call them unemployed, but it is right to say that we have taken away the occupation from them over a great part of the year. Because we give them so little of the land, they have so little with each one of them that they cannot be occupied the whole of the year and therefore they are unemployed for some time. We give them relief for some time, but they are willing to work a little more, and work again for us. Not satisfied with feeding us, they say, 'We shall clothe you also, we will make the yarn for you provided only you let us do it and help us do it.' And, that is the meaning of this grant. People who grow food for us are starving and we have to give some little help to them so that they may live. We give them this spinning work also and we pay them some miserable wages just a little less than what the Government gives when there is great famine and people are called upon to break stones simply because we must keep them alive by getting some work out of them."

MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"The Government does not pay so much."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I thank the hon. Member for the information. I was speaking of two different periods of time. When we started it, we paid a little less than what the Government was paying and to-day a little more is being paid. Taking it on an average like good mathematicians I say, 'Let it be the same as what the Government is paying.' There is nothing more we are doing. Sometimes, when there is an acute famine, we pay at some rate and when there is a chronic famine we must also have to pay at the same rate. What the Government propose now is that we must not merely give a dole. We do not simply ask them to break stones. These unfortunate men and women belong to the agricultural classes. We want to find out a work for them which they can do in their own homes without giving up their husbands or children or leaving them in the homes with a little opium in their stomachs so that they may be engaged in the factory for eight hours. They do not part from their homes and their families and they do something useful for the people by making yarns that go to make your clothes which you can wear if you are not so fastidious. So, I say, 'Give them not only the value of their labour but also a little help so that those who are interested in this work may carry on and tell you how the help is being utilized.' Sir, it is impossible that this can be wrong."

"The hon. Member representing the European community said that it will not do much harm to the mill industry and that the mills are not going to be worried over it. I know that the mills can afford to say so. They can very well afford to say, 'What is the snail's pace

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of the hand-spun yarn going to do to harm us?' It is not going to affect them in any way. I know it and that is why we have the courage to say even in the present condition of affairs: 'Give us this money; and we will do something.' I know the mills will not in any way be hurt by it. It is worthwhile examining why those who oppose this do oppose this. Knowing that this would not do much harm and that only a little money is being asked for, why should they oppose this thing at all? There is opposition between the kind of help that we propose to give and the civilization which is represented by others who oppose the kind of help. There is the opposition of the two civilizations. Sir, I say there are mills and there may be mills in small islands, be it Bombay, Japan or England. In this large country of ours, in this province of ours—I shall not refer to the rest of the country—there are ten million mills and that is the name which we give to the women. Each one of them is a first-class mill. Shall we leave them unemployed? Shall we close down those mills? It is a simple wheel—a beautiful living mill. She is able to spin yarn for us. Shall we, simply because the cloth is not thin enough, leave them unemployed? We cannot do that. Hon. Members representing large industries would not say so even with regard to a dying paper industry, a dying pencil factory or a dying soap factory. Somehow, the sight of large smoking chimneys looks to them more alive and worthy of being helped than the other living chimney smoking through its lungs and breathing through its mouth. There are some forty millions of such mills in our province. We do not want all of them. Some ten millions of them will spin for us if only we can provide them with cotton and the facilities to do it and then we can make use of it. I do not think that the country is doing any wrong by giving more value than the competitive price of these yarns might warrant. The hon. Member for the European community said that we are getting one-fifth of the value when we purchase hand-spun yarn and asked how it can be said to be economical. Do not we pay taxes to the Government? How is it justified? I say that these people are our Government. They are the principals that should govern us. We pay taxes to them. I say that in paying taxes to them it is not necessary that the tax should go through the treasury. It is not necessary that every tax should go through the treasury and then be distributed for roads, houses, bridges and so on. It is a direct government that I am proposing by this proposal of mine. I say that we should pay something by way of taxes to these people who feed us and who govern us but whom we cheat of their just rights by some indirect process of law and constitution. The large number of people that grow our food and spin for us ought to be entitled to govern us and are entitled to demand the taxes. Why do we pay taxes to the District Magistrate or the Chief Secretary? Do they make anything for us? We pay them because we want their services. Is only the signing of documents and writing drafts service? Is it not service that they grow our food? Is it not national public service? I say it is a first-class cadre of public servants. The agriculturists of the land belong to cadre No. 1 of the

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public service of the land. Pay them salaries. You object if I call it wages. I would ask Members of this House to pay them salaries, proper salaries that would satisfy their expectations and even discharge contractual obligations, for the contract arises from the fact that they live for us and work for us. You take your food from them and I say, Sir, no civilized country can permit the population that raises its food to die and to live in a semi-starved condition like this. Therefore, Sir, we are bound to pay taxes to them. Even if these women refuse to spin any yarn for us, I am entitled to demand a subsidy from the coffers of the State and ask that it should be appropriated for distribution among these families. I am going to lead the House away from what is going to come if you do not take the right steps. What is going to come is an entire re-organization of the economic system. As long as the present economic system is not altered, we can put off the fateful day if we adopt measures such as we propose. To the people who raise our food, we make some payment in cash and think in terms of rupees, annas, pies; and say that any further protection or help is all uneconomical. If the algebraical expression of wealth is discharged, and we come to realities, we shall see a wholly different economic meaning. You have to distribute the wealth of the country among those people. Thus, Sir, the demand that we are making for khadi is really a compromise and is really something that will put off the fateful day of the re-organization of the whole economic structure. Sir, socialists will not accept that khadi is a complete substitute nor do we say so. I appeal to my other friends who build their thoughts on a different economic basis just to remember that there is a volcano below gurgling and fuming, to prevent the outbreak of which a small safety valve has been provided in the shape of the dole. What we are proposing is that the starving men that raise our food should not be neglected. We cannot shut our eyes to their present condition. If hon. Members say 'Well, here are the factories; put all these men and women in convenient compartments; never mind the routes; put them in compartments and move them on; we will give them food,' we are ready to drop this demand and bring them on to the gates of your factories. That is impossible. In fact, we are helping the factories to carry on by keeping these people out though in a semi-starved condition. That is the meaning of this demand and nothing else.

"I have no objection to cottage industries; there are numerous industries, bee-keeping, poultry-raising, mat-making and so on. Who is to buy the poultry, the honey and the mats? We want motor cars, we want china, we want chairs and sofas. Who has got to buy those things? The cottage industries are very nice things, and we are struggling to help them also but we cannot go a long way with them. But on that account, we do not object to cottage industries. The hon. Member representing the European community may say 'Oh, yes.' But if he himself runs a factory for making pottery, perhaps he may see a reason for objecting to that too. But just now, those industries do not come in his way. With reference to those industries that come

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in his way, he says 'It has a sort of disagreeable odour; it smells ill.' That is the meaning and quality of the objection that has been raised. I do not say that the hon. Member has thought it all out. But so far as we are concerned, there is no distinction between one industry and another. But serving as it does a large number of agricultural people, I say, Sir, that this industry—if I may use an ugly expression—is the cottagest of all cottage industries. For spinning, the women need not go out of their houses; they remain within the threshold and they make the yarn. I say, Sir, if any help is to be rendered to any industry, you must begin with this. As I said, we must not look upon this as a gift. This is really a tax. You may tax yourselves in so many ways; you may directly pay away a little more than the competitive value of the labour or you may put up with certain inconveniences. Some friends said that there would be much unemployment among the tree-tappers consequent upon the introduction of prohibition in Salem. I say, Sir, that we can tax ourselves by giving up the craving for the taste of sugar and take to jaggery so that these people may be enabled to make a living. So also in the case of khadi we can have not so superfine a cloth nearest to our skin and encourage khadi. That is the tax I would like the consumer to pay so that these people may be kept in a really economic occupation. What I want the consumer to pay is the difference between the taste of sugar and that of jaggery and this is for the purpose of keeping the tree-tapper alive. So also, let us put up with some measure of inconvenience to encourage the growth of hand-spinning. 'It is all right' they say, 'but it costs more.' But it costs them insufferably more to live at all; so let us pay a little tax to keep those people alive. Then again, it is said 'Agriculture is not economical.' 'We know agriculture is uneconomical; all the cottage industries that you want to take up are uneconomical. All right, we are all uneconomical. So, let us depart this life.' If they say so and walk out of the province, what will happen to us? We shall have to write to Burma for rice, to Australia and Canada for wheat and to other countries for our food. But if you are to be able to pay, some sort of thing must be grown, either for export or for human consumption elsewhere. Then alone we can have the money to pay for it. So that, these people become necessary for the State and so they will have to be maintained and you must make some terms with them. Therefore, Sir, I say that this demand is perfectly justified. It is quite economical if you think of the elementary duties of the Government, in elementary and proper terms and not merely of things on the surface. The hon. Member representing the European community seems to say 'You seem to be proud of your achievement. Let me remind you of what the previous Government has done and you are following them. I congratulate you all the same on following their steps.' But I ask him, Sir, what really has been done and how has the condition of the ryots been improved? They remain where they were some thirty years ago. I do not belittle the achievement of the past Governments. They have done a great deal. But judged from the results,

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in this country. In my view, Sir, cottage industries there are; they have suffered, and they will continue to suffer for want of marketing. I would suggest to the public in each district to take on themselves the responsibility of organizing not mere temporary tamashas such as exhibitions but permanent exhibitions and studying the problems connected with marketing. The Government cannot be expected to give any financial aid but what the Government can possibly do is to direct the village officers to render every possible assistance, to give every possible encouragement to those who run them and to see that the articles produced are sent to the places where they will reach museums or exhibitions. I am certain, Sir, that people are enthusiastic in the districts. From the little that I travelled about I saw there were people who were prepared to take up this responsibility. The other day I had to open a Weaving Show in Adyar wherein they promised that they would be very happy to put up a permanent exhibition. I think that is one of the ways how we can bring in the producer and the consumer to a common place without the middleman. And that exhibition will be really useful in developing also marketing. If Japan, Sir, could manufacture through its cottage industries and not only manufacture for its own needs but send the result of their manufacture or dump their manufactures in our countries, why not this country, the abode of cottage industries? Japan believes not only in cottage industries but in big industries also and I do not see any reason why in our country, we are, in the first instance, not having a number of cottage industries which will provide food and raiment for the people. Therefore agriculture and cottage industries should be the mainstay of the people of this country.

“ Mr. D. L. Narasimha Raju referred to the sugar industry and also referred to the manufacture of *gur*. I may inform him, Sir, that I have been instructed by my Hon. Colleague, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, to tell the House that this matter is being investigated and that it is receiving the active consideration of the Government.

“ Mr. Ari Gowder stated about tea and cinchona and asked that the small growers should be helped. This matter also is receiving the attention of my Hon. Colleague, the Minister for Agriculture.

“ I do not wish to refer to the grant of two lakhs of rupees after the very elaborate speech from the Hon. the Prime Minister. I think, Sir, I shall not be just to myself if I do not refer to another subject and that is that in industry there are two partners who ought not to be forgotten. The partners are the industrialists or the capitalists and the workers. No industry, Sir, can thrive unless there is harmony between the workers and the capitalists. Capitalists have a right to expect that the workers should do the day's work for a day's wage and the workers, Sir, have a right to expect a living wage and better conditions of service. So far as the policy of this Government is concerned in regard to the relationship between the workers and the capitalists they would always welcome in any dispute an internal settlement.

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“ External settlement, Sir, is not so useful as internal settlement. That has been the policy of the Government during the last two months. Government has faced many disputes whether in Madras, Tuticorin, Madura or elsewhere. The first advice of the Government to the parties has always been that they should settle their disputes in an internal manner. Government cannot stand back if the parties are not going to come to an understanding; then the Government has a duty to step in and intercede. That is what the Government has done in the case of two or three disputes that have occurred after they came to office. I suggest, Sir, to the employers that they shall always follow this line of approach, that they should do their duty in their own interest and in the interests of the industry and meet the workers across the table rather than request the help of the Government. I hope, Sir, during the regime of this Government industries will be happier; that workers will be able to understand the employers' point of view and the employers will be able to understand the workers' point of view. I do not think I have got anything more to say at this late hour of the night. I now appeal in the usual way to the mover to withdraw the cut motions.”

10-30
p.m.

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I may inform hon. Members that this midnight session is being held in order that this Parliament may have some experience of a midnight session so that the hours of sitting may be fixed after some experience. So we proceed to the next Demand.”

(22) DEMAND XXII—FISHERIES.

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,10,000 under Demand XXII—Fisheries.”

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(23) DEMAND XXIII—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ I beg, Sir, to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,78,900 under Demand XXIII—Miscellaneous Departments.

“ This consists of a number of miscellaneous grants covering many departments and it is my residuary privilege to make this motion.”

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it has not been productive of much good. Without blaming anybody, we are endeavouring to find a new method of dealing with the problem; we are doing something which will go nearer to their homes. We are making this experiment not because we are better or cleverer people than the past Governments. But since our villagers are where they were, we are trying to do something which must be given a trial. Therefore, hon. Members must give us a willing and cheerful consent to the proposals that we make and I hope that after the Members have heard the main reply with reference to the Industries Demand, there would be no dissent but a unanimous grant for the demand that has been made."

10-15 p.m. * MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister for Industries will now reply."

* THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate myself in the first instance because I, an industrious Minister representing the Industries of this Presidency, have brought industry to every Member of this House by making him industrious enough to attend this midnight sitting. I also congratulate you, Sir, on creating an occasion for our being here to-night. Critics, friendly critics and hostile critics have doubted whether the Congress Governments have any plans and programmes for the development of industries. Without beating about the bush, Sir, I desire to refer them to the famous Karachi Resolution on fundamental rights which will contain all the programmes and plans that they may desire to look into. Thanks to the originality of Mahatma Gandhi, thanks to his foresight and wisdom, he, before anybody else could think about it, started the Village Industries Association, the All-India Spinners' Association, and if I may mention, the Harijan Sevak Sangh, to create the impression and create the impression rightly that unless the village uplift work is taken up there is no salvation for this great country of ours. If proofs were wanted the Government of India irresponsible as it was, granted a crore of rupees for this village uplift. He has set the example for the Governments to follow. Let me state it as a clear proposition that we are not against large scale industries, that we are not against nationalization. Let me make it perfectly clear that we are absolutely for cottage industries because it is the cottage industries that would help the nation as a whole and every village in this country. Therefore the policy of this Government in the first instance is to aid the cottage industries by subsidizing them if they can be financially assisted. There is, of course, that big 'if' always before us when we all speak of developing cottage industries, subsidizing them or rendering help to these industries. The first big industry that we have taken up, if we can consider it as an industry, is the industry of prohibition. I do not wish to say anything about it after the many important utterances made by my leader, the Leader of the House, the Hon. the Prime Minister. But I can state the proposition that if we make the industry of prohibition successful, I feel that we can enhance or increase the wages of the people, improve their

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standard of living and consequently their purchasing power. And therefore the programme of this Government to begin their life by starting this industry is a great achievement in the history of this Presidency and, I am certain that if this industry is successful it will help millions of people of this Presidency. I stated, Sir, that we are for nationalization of industries to some extent. My hon. Friend, the ex-Director of Industries, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, has stated that even the Kerala Soap Factory is not bringing revenue and that the State should give it up. I am proud to say that the Kerala Soap Factory is working not at a loss but at a profit. It is generally said that the State cannot run an industry in an economic manner. But here is the proof; the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it and here is proof that the Kerala Soap Factory is successfully working. That does not mean that to-day we have decided to immediately set up nationalization of all industries. We are prepared to help mostly morally, at this very moment, every private agency that will take up the regeneration of the industries in this country.

"I stated that there is a fear among some hon. Members of this House that if khadi is encouraged, the handloom is encouraged, the mill industry would suffer. I cannot agree with that proposition. If I may put it bluntly, did train service suffer because bullock carts have been in existence. If at all, the bullock carts suffered. Khadi was in existence before ever the mill industry was thought of. The handloom industry was in existence before there were mills. Both the khadi industry and the handloom industry will live and persist to live. And therefore there need be no fear at all that the mill-workers would suffer because of the khadi industry and the handloom weavers.

"I am glad that my hon. Friend, the ex-Director of Industries, has referred to the State Aid to Industries Act and I am authorized to state that the scope of that Act will be widened by a Bill that we shall be introducing in this session of the Assembly.

"I am also to state that the Government are trying to consider how far they will be able to help the sericulture industry, the silk industry. My hon. friend referred to the School of Technology being made self-contained so that both practical and theoretical training may be given. Again, Sir, it is a question of financial commitments and with the commitments that we have already taken upon our shoulders it may be difficult but, however, I assure him that we will investigate the matter and see how far we have to commit ourselves financially if we are to make the School of Technology a self-contained one.

"He also referred to the survey of cottage industries by one Mr. Narayana Rao, an expert specially deputed for the purpose. He issued a report making various recommendations. And I may assure my hon. Friend who has referred to it, that we desire to help the various cottage industries and all the recommendations made in the report will be gone into with a view to render assistance to these cottage industries

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* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that—

‘ the allotment of Rs. 20,78,900 for Miscellaneous Departments be reduced by Rs. 100.’

“ The intention with which I gave the cut motion was to speak a few words with reference to the Labour department. There are several slums in Madras where the houseless indigent poor are allowed to squat. They are allowed to remain there for some time and thereafter they are compulsorily evicted. Sir, it is my request to the Government departments concerned that sufficient vigilance may be exercised in the matter of prohibiting these poor from squatting on these unauthorized places. I may quote an illustration of the hardship to which the poor people are put if I am permitted to draw your attention to the slum that was unoccupied very near the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway premises. There is a piece of abandoned land lying vacant and a number of huts sprang up there and some of these occupants even raised plantain and other trees and put up solid huts and made a very good habitation with a slum school and other facilities for village life. One morning the Commissioner or the Collector of Madras came round with his subordinates and asked the people to vacate the place and go to another place, a land reclaimed from a dumping ground. With sufficient vigilance the people could have been prevented from occupying these vacant sites. We allow them to live there for some time and turn them out bag and baggage. It seems hard. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister in charge of Labour to give definite instructions to the Labour department or some other department that has power in this matter, to exercise vigilance in due time, and not allow people to squat on these vacant sites.

“ Another matter which I would bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister in charge of Labour is to do away with the squatting of houseless poor under trees and on pavements both in Madras and elsewhere. Sir, it is the duty of the State—whether it is the Corporation or the local bodies it does not matter to me—it is the duty of the State to house the houseless poor. Some time ago when the City Municipal Act was amended I brought in an amendment that the Corporation should take upon itself the responsibility of running the slums and hutting grounds. Somehow or other I was overpowered and the present section of the Act which authorizes private owners of these hutting grounds to take suitable measures to make these places convenient was allowed to remain. I now take the opportunity of impressing upon the Minister the necessity of the State taking over control and putting the houseless poor in proper houses instead of driving them from corner to corner and asking them to occupy dumping grounds. This is being done, Sir, at the present moment. There is a dumping ground in a place called Otteri not very far from the place where I live. It was a dumping ground a couple of years ago. Now I find the people driven out from the railway land are being housed there. It is cruel to ask them to go

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to dumping grounds. There is any amount of vacant site which could have been allowed to be occupied by the houseless poor. I would heartily recommend this matter for the consideration of the Hon. Minister.

“ This miscellaneous demand consists of a number of items as stated by the Hon. the Premier and I would like in this connexion to refer to another point. That is the question of the examination held by the Madras Services Commission. I have already referred to that point, Sir, in another demand. I would not therefore dwell upon it longer than to mention one word. The difference between the eligibility certificate and the Madras Services Commission qualification based on marks may be done away with. Candidates who are anxious to get through the Madras Services Commission in order that they may get employment under Government or other services like local boards may be admitted to this examination regardless of the fact whether they have secured eligibility certificates or the maximum number of marks fixed by the Commission. After all the two sets of candidates face the same examination. It is not that they seek appointment as a matter of course. But they undertake to sit for the examination held by the Madras Services Commission. There is no need therefore to draw a distinction between candidates who hold eligibility certificates and those who secure a certain number of marks in the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate examination. The eligibility certificate may be considered a sufficient qualification for admitting all candidates for the service examination. This is felt in some quarters as hardship by the candidates because they are shut out from competing for the examination and are forced to pursue the University course. University course, Sir, means further glutting of the market, if I may be permitted to say so, with qualified candidates. If such glutting is to be prevented, I think, Sir, one of the means of relieving the congestion in college classes is to allow the candidates to seek service by making them eligible for the Services Commission examinations.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I myself have given notice of a cut motion to discuss the utility of the scheme for setting up radio sets in the villages and to elicit information as to the details of the working of the broadcasting scheme.

“ Sir, in the budget presented, I think a certain sum, though a small sum, has been provided for receiving sets being purchased. It is not stated anywhere as to how many sets are going to be purchased, where they are going to be installed, which are the villages that have been selected and in which districts. Besides, Sir, it may be worth while for hon. Members to know as to whether the scheme is a scheme devised by the Government after they came into existence or whether it is a legacy handed over by the former Government to the present Government and one which the present Government has acquiesced in. There are rumours afloat—I do not think there is foundation for them; all the same it may be worth while to intimate to the Hon. Minister in charge of this portfolio—that the receiving sets had already

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been ordered for and that the orders have been placed with some manufacturers in England or some other country, they are going to be dumped in and that a scheme for setting up receiving sets has been lugged in. I would like the Hon. the Premier to contradict it and tell us what exactly is the situation. Now, Sir, there was a talk even at the time when the budget speech was made on the floor of this House that the orders were placed and that the contracts are going to be fulfilled very soon, and that with a view to get the contracts not cancelled but to get them fulfilled this scheme of setting up receiving sets has been brought into existence. Now, Sir, let us examine that scheme. Is that a scheme well-devised and well-thought out by the present Ministry? Is it going to be worth while setting up a few sets thus encouraging some western industries and thus allowing those sets to be introduced here without any profit from the public point of view. For the first day or two, after these receiving sets are set up in certain villages, the villagers will flock to hear them. Afterwards, I promise that these sets will become useless instruments, and nobody would turn up to hear what is said through them; the information that is received through them will not interest the villager any longer. On the other hand, will the Government think of employing as many competent teachers for each village and educate the adults in that village, instead of setting up these receiving sets? Then it will give employment to the trained and competent unemployed teachers to go about teaching the children or the adult population in the village disseminating whatever information the Government have through these instruments to the villagers. That will certainly encourage the unemployed people, and these unemployed people, rural workers as I may call them, will have to go into the village, gather people around them and then to educate them in politics, in hygiene, in sanitation and other matters which are quite necessary for the rural population. I would therefore ask whether the Government would consider it worth while to change the scheme of receiving sets into one of employing trained rural workers and paying them. That will relieve unemployment on the one hand, and on the other you will be utilizing the services of these people for 365 days in the year, who will not be urban fellows, but who will be rural fellows living in the midst of villagers and bringing an educational force within the village.

“Then, Sir, there is a very important problem to which I invite the attention of the Government, which I think requires immediate solution, and that is the beggar problem. The beggar problem is assuming serious proportions in this country, and particularly in our province, and I may go a step further and say that in the Muslim community, I am ashamed to confess, day in and day out the number of beggars is increasing. There are indigent beggars, well-to-do beggars, able-bodied beggars, and there are other beggars who are disabled and who are unable to eke out their livelihood. The indiscriminate charity that is doled out by Mussalmans and by other sister communities is so enormous that every day the increase is out of proportion. The number

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of beggars this year is certainly far greater than what it was last year. Is the Government going now to look on with equanimity at the growing numbers of these beggars? Why should Government allow able-bodied beggars to roam about the streets and commit nuisance and be a source of annoyance to peaceful citizens? Will they not legislate for these beggars? Will they not bring into existence poor-houses? Will they not compel a Corporation like that of Madras to start more poor-houses? Will they not enable the Corporation and arm them with powers to catch hold of the beggars who are able-bodied, who will not work, who will not get themselves employed when employment is offered to them? Will they give power to the Corporation under the City Municipal Act or will they legislate afresh to enable the Corporation to delegate authority to its responsible servants to arrest these beggars who can work and who can be put to some work or to send them to the prison where they can be provided with work under compulsion? I want a system of poor law guardians. I want a poor law enacted in this Presidency. Unless it is done, it is impossible to prevent this beggar nuisance, and this beggar problem will ever remain an insoluble one. I know some of the old Members of the Government who have said that beggary is a sacred institution, which has the sanctity of religion and that one should be allowed to roll on the streets and beg, to injure himself, to mortify himself and beg. There are also Muslim Members who hold the opinion that any interference with beggary will be a persecution against religion and that it will offend the rules of strict neutrality in the matter of religion that was once proclaimed by Queen Victoria, that benign Queen. All these are absurd, out of date and irrational. Beggary ought to be put down and no able-bodied man should be allowed to beg. I once attempted the introduction of legislation in the old Council, and the Government would not give me permission to do so. Mr. F. E. James, an ex-Member of the old Council, also tabled an amendment to the City Police Act to tackle the beggar problem. At one stage the Government itself was so much upset with the enormous number of beggars roaming about in the City of Madras that they ordered the magistrates to strictly enforce the City Police Act, and when the magistrates began to use their powers, the jail budget began to increase, and the Government got alarmed and instructed them that there should be no more prosecutions and no more interference with beggars. Is that the way in which the Members of Government could solve the beggar problem, by which beggary would be increasing day after day? Is it not the State's concern to prevent this profession which is growing? Is it not a pest to society that there should be beggars and annoyance and nuisance to peace-loving people. I would therefore like that this matter should be examined.

“There is another point, Sir, which the Government is to be blamed for, and that is, they own certain cheris in the City of Madras and elsewhere. Those cheris in the City of Madras are the most neglected and the most uncared for places. They are a disgrace not only to the Government itself who is the owner thereof but also to the Corporation

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within whose limits they are situated. There are no doubt certain Corporation cheris and they are bound to improve them with such facilities and amenities as possible. But the Government doles out a small sum of Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 8,000 per annum for their 19 or 20 cheris in the City of Madras. Either the cheris must be abolished or the cheris may be made suitable for habitation for the poor people, the Harijans and the depressed classes. The Government is concerned with the welfare of the Harijans. Will they not make ample provision to afford more facilities and more amenities to the inhabitants of these cheris?

“Then, there is the river Cooum, that ancient river Cooum that flows through the city.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Will the hon. Member take a long time?”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Only two minutes, Sir. The Cooum is owned by the Government. They make an income of Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 50,000 therefrom, but they spend not a single pie for its improvement, nor do they prevent letting in all the sullage water from the Government House, from the General Hospital and such other public buildings. It is a standing disgrace to the Government to speak of sanitation, to speak of hygiene and so many other things in the face of the Cooum? Will the Government put a stop to this nuisance that is being perpetrated by them? Will they clean the Cooum by providing a small sum of money or will they hand it over to the Corporation with a subsidy to keep it in good condition? I do not want that it should be a burden upon the Corporation; the Corporation has not funds enough to keep the Cooum clean. It is the duty of the Government because it is the Government buildings that pollute the Cooum, and the Corporation cannot take any action against them. If it is a private owner who does such a thing, he will be prosecuted. But the Government is exempt from such prosecutions. If it is exempt, I should think it should discharge its obligation and duty to the public. This is a matter of vital concern to the health of the citizens of Madras. The Cooum is the greatest breeder of mosquitoes, and any disease in Madras may be traced to the condition of the Cooum in at least those localities through which the Cooum river passes. I would therefore urge that the Government do attend to the cleaning of the Cooum and also stop the pollution of it by their own sullage water. This is what I had to say, Sir.”

* MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, under this Demand comes the salary of the Commissioner of Labour and the factory inspection staff. I am going to refer to the work of the Commissioner of Labour. During the last few years, his work has been most unsatisfactory from the point of view of labour. He has been burdened with the work of the Commissioner of Labour, the Registrar of Trade Unions, the Commissioner of Rural Uplift, and he is also the

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Chief Inspector of Factories. He has too many irons in the fire, and hence he has not done his work satisfactorily in any of these branches. To my knowledge, there is not a single instance where the Commissioner of Labour has helped the trade unions in this province. On the other hand in his Administration Report he has referred to honorary trade-union workers, including the present Minister of Industries and Labour, in highly disparaging terms. When labour disputes occurred he did not help in any manner to bring about a satisfactory settlement between the workers and employers. Employers in this province imagine that they can settle labour disputes by reference to solicitors and by issuing intimidatory notices. This shows the Labour Department has not been useful to the progress and growth of trade unionism in this province. I therefore want to invite the special attention of the Hon. Prime Minister to this matter, so that he may see that the Labour Commissioner takes some real interest in his main work.

“Sir, under this allotment there has not been made any provision for the issue of a gazette and for the collection of statistical information. In Bombay, the Commissioner of Labour issues a monthly bulletin known as the *Labour Gazette* which contains valuable information as regards the cost of living and such things. I would suggest that a similar *Labour Gazette* for this province be issued by the Commissioner of Labour and necessary funds allotted for the purpose.

“Under the same, miscellaneous head, there is an allotment to the extent of Rs. 28,000 for the district economic councils. We shall be glad if the Government would let us know what they are going to do with this sum. There has been no allotment made for making enquiries into the working conditions of various workers in various industries in the province. To-day in this province, the printing industry, the plantation industry and the textile industry and the motor transport industry have all to be enquired into and scientifically reorganized to secure better conditions of service to the workers in those industries. There is also the unemployment enquiry and statistics are being collected. All these require funds and I am at a loss to know why no funds have been allotted for these purposes.

“I would like to make a few observations about the state of factory inspection in the province. The Government Administration Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act shows that accidents in factories and railway workshops have rapidly increased. This obviously means that the inspection of factories have been very poor. At present there are barely five Inspectors of Factories for the whole province and the work of these Inspectors is not supervised or controlled except on paper by the Commissioner of Labour who is also the Statutory Chief Inspector of Factories. A separate Chief Inspector of Factories post has to be created, the incumbent of which will exercise personal supervision over the work of Factory Inspectors and who will also pay systematic visits to big factories in the province. This I am

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informed will involve no additional expenditure and I therefore commend this proposal for consideration by the Government. Finally I would suggest to the Hon. the Prime Minister to look into all the matters I have mentioned and see how best the defects can be remedied."

* **MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER**:—"Sir, I shall not keep the Members long. I congratulate you for holding the meeting now and for having made a wholesale departure from the old practice by allowing no Minister to go scot free under the protection of the 'guillotine'. Sir, there is one thing which is new to the administration, that is broadcasting. That can be made very good use of by the present Ministry for an educational campaign. It is a very important thing to which has been given very little attention by any previous Government. By mass education I do not mean the teaching of the three R's to everybody. These broadcasting stations will be a very useful medium for imparting mass education. In foreign countries mass education has been carried on by this means. In Russia it has been carried on so perfectly that there is no man who does not know something about everything. In about an hour, when in Moscow Planatorium I learnt more about astronomy than I would have known in many years here. I would request the Hon. Minister for Education to go into this matter of mass education and in consultation with experts draw up a scheme for mass education. For instance, Ministers can make speeches here which will be carried on to the outside world and a lot of propaganda can be carried on in this way, without going out. At least high schools may be provided with radios.

"There is another question, the labour question. Sir, capitalism as such has been much abused here. I think it is not so bad in other countries as it is here. Even in England it is better. Fascism or Naziism should not be confused with capitalism. There is more of socialism in Italy and Germany than perhaps there is in Russia. The ordinary labourer there according to our money valuation gets Rs. 3 a day. In India he earns on an average two annas and it is here capitalism is in its worst form and it is here a reform is absolutely necessary. I suggest that the Hon. Minister or some one introduces what I may call a 'minimum wages bill' in order to raise the wages of our workers to a fair standard."

* **MR. K. R. KARANT**:—"Mr. Speaker: With your permission, I shall speak only on the question of broadcasting. My hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed wanted certain information. As hon. Members may be aware, it was in 1933 that my Friend Mr. A. B. Shetty moved a resolution in the old Legislative Council to the effect that Government should take early steps to investigate the possibility of establishing a broadcast service in this Presidency. This resolution was passed and thereafter the Government of Madras have been taking steps from time to time towards the establishment of a broadcasting station in this

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Presidency. In 1934, they got the services of one Mr. Bulow, Superintending Engineer of the British Broadcasting Corporation. He made a report. Subsequently the Government of India has set apart a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs for the development of broadcasting in India. Subsequently, the Government of India employed Mr. Kirke, Research Officer of the British Broadcasting Corporation, to evolve a scheme for broadcasting all over the country. Accordingly so far as our province is concerned, it is proposed to have two transmitter stations, one at Madras near Saidapet for a 10 kilowatt short-wave station for distant service and another one of 2 kilowatt medium wave for listeners in the City of Madras. There will also be a transmitter station of 5 kilowatts in Trichinopoly. The Saidapet station is being fitted up and is expected to be ready by the end of March next, for which there is going to be a studio in Egmore. In Trichinopoly, about 6 miles from the town, there is a place which is being acquired and it will be soon fitted up.

"Now, so far as the village uplift or propaganda is concerned, the Central Government have left it entirely to the local Governments to take up this work. There was correspondence from time to time between this Government and the Central Government and it is now proposed that a sum of Rs. 10,000 is to be spent on two purposes. A portion of the amount is for the purchase of a few receiver sets and loud speakers to be installed in the province. These are expected to cost Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 each. It is incorrect on the part of my friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, to state on the basis of some rumour that any orders have been already placed for radio sets. It is not correct. On the other hand I can assure him that on the 10th of this month in the Central Legislative Assembly the Government of India have stated that they will do their best to help manufacturers in India by publishing specifications of the receiving sets required in India, and the Research department of the Government of India radio were prepared to give special advice which may be requested by any special manufacturer. Therefore, it is open to the manufacturers in India to find out these specifications and make offers.

"The other portion of the Demand of Rs. 10,000 is for the employment of an Assistant Engineer to go round the province to find out suitable places where these sets can be placed, to ask the municipalities to purchase them and to put them in working order before the end of March next. I may also state that one cannot fully agree with the suggestion of Mr. Basheer Ahmed that broadcasting would be entirely a useless affair. As pointed out by the previous speaker, Mr. Ari Gowder, it can well be utilized for any scheme of adult education and rural uplift and many other things. I can say, Sir, that the experiment is going to be tried and the experience gained will be utilized by Government for their future programme. I may add that the entire cost of erecting and maintaining the transmitter stations will be borne by the Central Government."

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வரையில் எனக்கு எடுத்துச் சொல்ல எல்லா உரிமையுமுண்டு. **Labour Board** ஏற்படுத்தி தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய வேலை செய்தால் லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டு வேலை ஒழுங்காக நடைபெறும். தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்க வேண்டுமானால் படிப்பு இருக்கவேண்டும். படிப்புப் படித்தால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு ஆசாரம் வந்துவிடும். ஒழுக்கம் வந்துவிடும். தீண்டாமையே போய் விடும். இந்த முறையில் கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் சேலம் ஜில்லா புதுப்பாளையத்தில் ஒரு ஆஸ்ரமத்தைத் தொடங்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். அதைப் போல் சிதம் பரத்தில் நந்தனார் கல்விக்கழகம் ஒன்று தொடங்கி நடந்து வருகிறது. இன்றைய தினம் அதிலே 215 ஆண்களும், 100 பெண்களும் போர்டர்களாகப் படிக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே குருகுலப் படிப்பு மாதிரி படிப்புச் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. அந்த குருகுலப் பாடசாலை உயர்தரப் பாடசாலையாக ஏற்பட வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இந்தக் கனம் பொருத்திய சபையில் ஒருவர் கேள்வி கேட்டார் அது 62 நம்பர் கேள்வி அதற்கு சர்க்கார் பதிலளித்தபோது தொழிற் கமிஷனர் இலாக்காவால் ஐந்து ஹாஸ்டல்கள் நடைபெறுகின்றன. அதில் 211 பிள்ளைகளுக்கிருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்கு முப்பதினாயிரம் செலவுபடுகிறதென்று தெரிவித்தார்கள். 211 பேர்கள் இருக்கிற ஹாஸ்டல்களுக்கு முப்பதினாயிரம் ரூபாய் செலவாகிறது. ஆனால் 315 பேர்கள் இருக்கிற நந்தனார் கழகத்திற்கு பதினாயிரம் ரூபாய்தான் கிராண்டு வருகிறது. சர்க்கார் கணக்குப்படி நார்ப்பத்தையாயிரம் ரூபாய்கள் செலவு செய்ய வேண்டும். எங்களுக்கு அதில் பாதி கொடுத்தால் நாங்கள் நன்றாக வேலை செய்வோம். தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் சொந்த முயற்சியினால் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட நந்தனார் பேரால் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிற இந்த ஸ்தாபனத்திற்கு நல்ல பண உதவி செய்து அதை அபிவிருத்தி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். ஆனால் அந்த ஸ்தாபனத்திற்கு நான் செக்ரட்டரியாக இருக்கிறதினால் கேட்கவில்லை. காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் இதை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். எனக்குப்பேர் இருக்கவேண்டும் புதுபுருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லவில்லை. நந்தனார் கல்விக்கழகம் சர்க்கார் குடிசைகளாக இருக்கின்றன. குடிசையைக் கட்டிக்கொடுக்க ராஜாஜி அவர்களை தொந்தரவு செய்தேன். போன வருஷம் கனம் ஜி. டி. பிரீலா (Bir'la) வந்தபோது சிபார்சுசெய்து தொகை வாங்கிக்கொடுக்கச் சொன்னேன். இப்பொழுது ராஜாஜி கவர்ன்மென்டா யிருப்பதால் போதுமான கட்டிடத்தைக் கட்டிக்கொடுத்து சர்க்காரே வைத்து நடத்துமபடியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

“**Aziznagar** செட்டில்மெண்டு கடந்த இருபத்தைந்து வருஷங்களுக்கு முன் ஏற்பட்டது. 1913-ம் வருஷத்தில் ஏற்பட்டது. குற்றத்திலிருந்து நீக்கவே, குற்றவாளியைக் கொண்டுவந்து குடியேற்றுவதற்காக 1913-ம் வருஷக் கிரி மினல் டிரைபஸ் ஆக்ட் வந்தவுடன் கனம் **Azizuddin** துரை கலெக்ட்டராக இருந்தபோது வேப்பூர் பறையர்களைக் கொண்டுவந்து மேற்படி அஜிஸ் நகர் செட்டில்மெண்டில் குடியேற்றினார்கள். அந்தப்பக்கத்திலிருக்கிற மிராசு தார்கள் அந்தப் பறையர்களைத் திருடும்படி செய்து பணக்காரர்களானார்கள். அப்படிப்பட்ட பறையர்களைப் பிடித்து அந்த செட்டில்மெண்டில் குடியேற்றினார்கள். இப்பொழுது அவர்கள் பிள்ளைகள் நல்ல யோக்கியதையும் ஒழுக்கமுடைய வர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்தக்காலத்தில் சிருடினவர்கள் செத்துப்போய் விட்டார்கள். இருபத்தைந்து வருஷங்களுக்கு மேலாகிவிட்டது. எந்தக் குற்றம் செய்தாலும் இருபது வருஷத்திற்குமேல் தண்டனை கிடையாது. ஆனால் செட்டில்மெண்டு ஏற்பட்டு இருபத்தைந்து வருஷங்களுக்கு மேலாகியும் அதில் இருக்கப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு விமோசனம் இன்னும் ஏற்படவில்லை. இப்பொழுது பதினாறு மணி இரவு. ஆகையினால் அதைப்பற்றி விரிவாகப் பேசமுடியாமல் திறைகிறேன். அப்படி இருக்கும்போது செட்டில்மெண்டிலிருப்பவர்களை இரவில் பதினாறு மணி பன்னிரண்டு மணிக்குப்போய் மறுபடி இரவு இரண்டு மணி மூன்று மணிக்கும் போய் போலீஸார்கள் செக் செய்வதினால் தூக்கம் கெடுகிறது. அத்துடன் அவர்கள் வெளியூருக்குப்போனால் போலீஸாருக்கும் கிராம முனிசிப்களுக்கும் அறிவிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. பல விதக் கஷ்டங்களுக்குள்ளாகவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அங்கே இருக்கிற மாணேஜர் செட்டில்மெண்டு தனக்காக இருக்கிறதென்று நினைக்கிறார். தனக்கு உத்தியோகத்திற்காக செட்டில்மெண்டிருக்கிறதென்று நினைக்கிறதினால்தான் உள்ளபடி பார்த்தால் மாணேஜர்

23rd September 1937] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

சரியாக வேலை செய்திருந்தால் செட்டில்மெண்டிலிருக்கிறவர்கள் சீர்திருத்தப் பட்டு செட்டில்மெண்டை எப்பொழுதோ கலைத்திருக்கவேண்டும். வீணாக அவர்களை அந்த செட்டில்மெண்டில் கட்டிப்போட்டு வைத்துக்கொண்டு அங்கே இருக்கிற (மாணேஜர்) இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் அவர்களுக்குத் தொந்தரவு கொடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார். சென்ற ஆண்டில் படையாச்சி என்ற ஜாதியாரை **Criminal tribes Act**-ன் கீழ்க்கொண்டுவர வேண்டுமென்று கவர்ன்மென்டார் பார்த்தார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்களைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் அப்பொழுதிருந்த மந்திரிகளைப் பார்த்து ரத்துச் செய்துகொண்டார்கள். இப்பொழுது நாங்கள் முப்பது பேர்கள் இந்த அலெம்பிளிக்கு மெம்பராக வந்திருக்கிறோம். என்ன பிரயோஜனம்? **Criminal tribes** ஆகட்டை ரத்துப்பண்ணவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறோம்.”

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—“May I suggest that the Hon. the Premier may be allowed to make his reply to-morrow?”

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—“The Premier's reply will be very brief. After his speech, we can put the Demand to the vote and then adjourn.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I beg, Sir, that the Hon. Mr. Giri may be allowed to speak for me.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The Hon. Mr. Giri.”

* **THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI**:—“Mr. Speaker, I would first take up the matters that were raised by my hon. Friend Swami Sahajanandam. He complained that there is only one Labour Commissioner looking after the uplift of the Harijans. I want to assure him, Sir, that not only there is one Labour Commissioner, but there are ten Ministers and ten Parliamentary Secretaries who are all looking after the interests of the Harijans; nay, I may assure him on behalf of this side of the House that every Member of the Congress stands by the Harijans and will even die for the Harijans.

“The hon. Member then referred to the question of the Economic Council Grant. The Economic Council Grant was made not by our Government, but by the Government of India.

“The conditions pertaining to that grant are that two-thirds will be provided by the Government and one-third is to be subscribed by the people of the villages. So also with respect to Harijans. I would suggest to my hon. Friend Swami Sahajanandam that instead of money being given by the Harijans they may pay their one-third share in the shape of labour. In the conditions pertaining to that grant nothing can be changed by the Provincial Government.

“Then he referred to the question of constituting a Labour Board to deal with labour matters regarding the administration of Labour department. I do not wish to commit myself at the present moment to anything, but I can assure my hon. friend that this matter is being looked into and carefully considered and some proposals will be submitted to Government as a result of the investigations that may be made in this behalf.

“Then he also referred to the question of acquisition of sites for Harijans. This afternoon I referred to this question at some length.

“Then he referred to the question of criminal tribes settlement. I submit it is a very large question which has to be looked into in a very careful manner. At the present moment it is very difficult to say what attitude they will take in the matter. It requires great consideration.

[Mr. V. V. Giri] [23rd September 1937]

"Then he referred to school buildings and complained that they were located in sheds. After all, I submit that we need not be anxious for stone walls or tiled buildings. Education is more important. If we are to manage unfortunately with the financial commitments that we have in other directions, I think it is better to have sheds and it would be quite all right for us to get on with the business.

"Then he mentioned about the budget grant. He stated that it has been reduced this year. I think that information is not correct. Moreover 3 lakhs of rupees have been budgeted for constructing wells and I am certain that the Harijan class will have the advantage of that grant as well.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Krishnamurti referred to the question of the Labour department and especially to the duties that devolved on the Labour Commissioner. He said that the Labour Commissioner had to look after labour questions, look after the working of the Factory Act and also several other duties. In fact, I have stated in all my replies to the questions put to me by him or by somebody else that there is a proposal under consideration before us as to whether we cannot have some non-official gentlemen as honorary factory inspectors. Government have not arrived at any conclusion. But that matter will be investigated. If we, on the other hand, have Provincial Labour Advisory Boards attached to the Labour Commissioner and District Advisory Councils attached to the Deputy Collector or any other officer who may be doing the duties of the Labour Commissioner, I think part of the work of the Labour Commissioner will be saved and he will also be in touch with the local opinion as well as the opinion of the whole province. As I said, the matter is being investigated. In that way even in matters relating to labour disputes, though the Labour Commissioner is no doubt responsible, I desire to assure the House that the department as a whole will look into that matter, not only matters to which the Hon. the Prime Minister has devoted some attention but also to labour disputes. Therefore the work of the Labour Commissioner will be considerably reduced.

"Mr. Krishnamurti also referred to the publication of books or journals published by the Labour office at Bombay and suggested that we might publish a Labour Gazette. There is no doubt a Labour office in Bombay and it has been started on very scientific lines. If we have to start such an office we will have to spend a very large sum of money. When funds are available, I think we shall be able to start a Labour office on the lines of the Bombay Labour office.

"He also referred to the District Economic Council. There are proposals before the Ministry for Agriculture for the reconstitution of the District Economic Council and there is a likelihood of the Members of the Legislature being associated with them for more efficient working. And that is why I think money has been budgeted for.

"I think I have answered almost all the points that have been raised by hon. Members in regard to Industries and Labour department."

23rd September 1937]

IV-A.—ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* RESOLUTION ON TRAVANCORE
TEMPLE ENTRY PROCLAMATION.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"On the 21st instant I announced to the House that to-morrow at 5 p.m. all the outstanding Demands would be put to the vote of the House and that afterwards the resolution of the hon. Member Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddiar on the subject of Travancore Temple-entry Proclamation, copies of which have already been distributed to hon. Members, would be taken up for discussion. I now find that there will be no necessity for guillotine being applied to the voting of Demands. As the voting of Demands for Grants may be finished earlier than 5 p.m. to-morrow, the discussion on the Travancore Temple-entry Resolution will be taken up as soon as the voting on Demands for Grants is finished."

V.—EXPUNCTION OF CERTAIN SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS.

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to detain the House for just a couple of minutes to make an explanation on behalf of certain Members sitting behind me. Yesterday some supplementary questions were put which I think have hurt certain Members on the other side. On behalf of us all who are my colleagues as Members and who put these questions, I wish to assure the House through you, Sir, that no insult or ridicule was intended, but an attempt was made at good humour which was not wise. I do not think that anything more was intended. Supplementary question requires skill and is very trying. It may succeed very well; it may succeed very ill. I think that is all that I need say on the subject, but I assure hon. Members who felt that some questions were not put in good taste, that it was not intended to hurt anybody. If it did hurt, I express regret on behalf of those who hurt hon. Members opposite. I thought it was necessary to make this statement, because we have been getting on smoothly so far that I think that that atmosphere should be maintained and should not be disturbed in the least in this manner."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am personally grateful to the Hon. the Leader of the House for the statement that he has made to-day. I was not present when that unfortunate supplementary question was put, but subsequently some Members on this side informed me of that. I am very glad to see that hon. Members not only on this side but on all the benches are anxious to see that the decorum and dignity of this House is always kept up. Every one is now gratified to find that there was no bad motive behind that question.

"There is one other suggestion which I wish to make. If the Hon. the Leader of the House will agree with me, the few supplementary questions relating to this matter may be expunged from the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"They will be expunged and hereafter supplementary questions will be strictly limited to elucidation of answers given to primary questions."

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 209 asked by Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 23rd September 1937, page 592 supra.]

Statement regarding forest panchayats in Salem district.

Serial number and name of taluk.	Name of panchayat.	Area covered by the panchayat.	Area of forest		Revenue derived from the panchayats.
			On plain land.	On the hills.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
		ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	RS. A.
1 Hosur ..	Ullukurikki ..	2,816-00	2,516-00	300 00	50 0
2 Krishnagiri ..	Varatanapalli ..	2,330 00	270-00	2,060-00	170 0
3 Do. ..	Togarapalli ..	900-00	500-00	400-00	50 0
4 Do. ..	Tattakkal ..	856 00	10-00	846-00	50 0
5 Dharmapuri ..	Elagiri ..	1,071-22	1,071-22	..	15 0
6 Do. ..	Gunnissetihalli ..	1,047-00	..	1,047-00	40 0
7 Harur ..	Ganapatipatti ..	3,036-00	3,036-00	..	375 0
8 Do. ..	Kattarasampatti ..	4,200-00	4,200-00	..	250 0
9 Do. ..	Sellampatti ..	3,329-00	3,329-00	..	300 0
10 Do. ..	Sankarahalli ..	960-00	60-00	900-00	60 0
11 Do. ..	Ammapet ..	3,142-00	3,142-00	..	134 0
12 Do. ..	Ramenahalli ..	3,429-00	1,429 00	2,000 00	249 8
13 Do. ..	Tammisetipatti ..	2,263-00	2,263-00	..	175 0
14 Do. ..	Mobiripatti ..	1,679-00	1,679-00	..	210 0
15 Do. ..	Kilmorappur ..	2,273-00	2,273-00	..	175 0
16 Do. ..	Vedapatti ..	1,563-00	1,563-00	..	244 0

[23rd September 1937]

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17 Do. ..	Pudur and Katteri (clubbed).	3,168-00	3,118-00	50-00	310 0
18 Do. ..	Sundamalai ..	650-00	100-00	550-00	38 0
19 Do. ..	Kallavi ..	4,042-00	3,952-00	90-00	260 0
20 Do. ..	Vellalapatti ..	867-00	832-00	35-00	55 0
21 Do. ..	Pudur Pungani ..	1,120-00	1,120-00	..	70 0
22 Do. ..	Athipadi ..	3,949-00	3,949-00	..	308 0
23 Omalur ..	Gonur ..	2,998-00	1,100-00	1,898-00	262 0
24 Do. ..	Mookanur ..	1,260-00	750-00	510-00	110 0
25 Do. ..	Thottilpatti ..	1,516 00	700-00	816-00	76 0
26 Do. ..	Kolnaickenpatti ..	4,000-00	150-00	3,850-00	205 0
27 Tiruchengode.	Suriamalai ..	4,166-00	50-00	4,116-00	200 0
28 Do. ..	Pakkanad ..	4,086-00	30-00	4,056-00	120 0
29 Salem ..	Virapandi ..	* 4,472 00	125-00	4,347-00	200 0
30 Do. ..	Murungapatti ..		..	..	200 0
31 Do. ..	Gazzalnaickenpatti ..	3,937-00	1,937-00	2,000-00	145 0
32 Do. ..	Guralnatham ..	1,066-00	265-92	800-08	60 0
33 Do. ..	Ponnarampatti ..	2,507-67	500-00	2,007-67	100 0
34 Do. ..	Kattuveppalaipatti ..	2,597-33	300-00	2,297-33	305 0
35 Atur ..	Gudumalai ..	1,472-00	15-00	1,457-00	200 0
36 Do. ..	Keeripatti ..	3,189 00	..	3,189-00	200 0
37 Do. ..	Kondayampalli ..	3,696-00	5-00	3,691-00	200 0
38 Do. ..	Seeliampatti ..	2,328 00	..	2,328-00	200 0
39 Do. ..	Thandrayapuram ..	2,460 00	..	2,460-00	350 0
Total ..		94,441-22	..	..	6,721 8

* Separate area of each panchayat is not known as they have not been separately surveyed.

[23rd September 1937]

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 235 asked by Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 23rd September 1937, pages 611 and 612 supra.]

District.	Name of probation officer.	Qualification.	Salary.	Date of joining duty.
Madras City ..	V. Krishna Menon.	M.A., B.L...	Rs. 150 (including allowance).	1st August 1937.
Coimbatore ..	T. B. Gopalachari.	B.A., B.L. ..	Rs. 125 (including allowance).	19th August 1937.
Madura ..	Herbert Thiruvadas.	B.A., L.T. ..	Rs. 75—5—100 (plus an allowance of Rs. 25).	23rd August 1937.
Bellary ..	Isaac Paul ..	Matriculate.	(Rs. 125 including allowance).	6th September 1937.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answers to starred questions Nos. 217 and 245 asked by Mr. V. Nadimuthu Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 23rd September 1937, pages 621 and 622 supra.]

G.O. No. 2272, Revenue, dated 21st October 1936.

The "Press Communiqué" annexed to this order will be published.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

H. R. UZIELLI,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
 „ Accountant-General.
 „ Finance Department.
 „ Government of India, Department of Education,
 Health and Lands
 „ Government of Bengal
 „ Government of Bombay
 „ Government of Central Provinces
 „ Government of United Provinces
 „ Government of Bihar
 „ Government of the Punjab
 „ Government of Orissa
 „ Government of Burma
 „ Government of Assam
 „ Superintendent, Government Press, for publication of the Press Com-
 muniqué.

with C.L.

23rd September 1937]

ANNEXURE.

Press Communiqué.

The Government have recently been examining the question as to the basis on which Land Revenue concessions should be granted for the current fasli.

During the last four faslis the concessions have taken the form of a percentage remission of the land revenue assessment (wet, dry and garden) and water-cess, and the only differentiation between districts in the extent of the concessions granted has been between those in which resettlements were introduced prior to 1918-19 and those in which it was introduced in or after that year.

The reason why the year 1918-19 was taken as the dividing line was that it was after that year that prices rose so abnormally as a result of the war, and it was therefore in districts resettled after that year that the commutation rates were so much higher than those in districts resettled before the war boom occurred.

This method of treatment however allows of no distinction being made between individual districts and cannot for that reason escape criticism.

2. The Government have now made a detailed examination of the whole question and have reached certain definite conclusions.

(i) The rates of assessment at the resettlement of a district are based upon a consideration of the average prices of the 20 non-famine years preceding the resettlement. If therefore commutation rates based upon current prices are higher than the commutation rates on which the rates of assessment in any district were fixed at its resettlement, it must be conceded that there is from an economic point of view no case for a reduction of assessment in that district.

A comparison of the commutation rates on which the resettlements in the several districts are based with the commutation rates calculated on the prices during the ryots' selling months of fasli 1345 shows clearly that in all the districts resettled prior to 1918-19 the commutation rates based upon current prices are considerably higher than the rates on which the assessments now in force in those districts were based.

The Government therefore consider that logically there is no case, from a strictly economic point of view, for any percentage remission in those districts.

As however these districts have been enjoying some remission of assessment during the past four years, the Government realize that an immediate withdrawal of all forms of concessions might be felt as a hardship.

They have therefore decided to grant some concession in these districts during the current fasli but it will not be on the same basis as in districts resettled in or after 1918-19, in which current commutation

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rates are below the commutation rates on which the resettlements were based.

(ii) Another conclusion which the Government have reached, as a result of the examination of this question, is that there is no necessity to grant any general remission of dry assessment as has been done in previous years.

The average dry rates per acre throughout the Presidency are very moderate, ranging from 7 annas to Rs. 1-12-0, and these rates are more-over based solely upon the prices of dry grains, and in fixing the dry rates in a district the prices realized from the cultivation of the more valuable commercial crops, tobacco, groundnut and cotton have never been taken into consideration.

Further although the amount of remission granted in the last two years was only one anna in the rupee, the aggregate cost of this concession was large, and the Government consider that this amount could more suitably be utilized for increasing the concessions under wet assessment.

The Government have therefore decided to grant no general remission of dry assessment during the current fasli except in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur. These districts were during fasli 1345 subjected to a severe famine, and operations under the Famine Code were undertaken on an extensive scale. In view of this fact and of the fact that the ryots of these two districts have had insufficient time to recover from the hardships of the previous fasli, the Government propose to grant them the same concession under dry assessment as they received in fasli 1345.

(iii) An examination of prices during the current and previous faslis has disclosed the fact that the price of paddy has not shown any improvement during the past 12 months. In view of this fact and in view also of the fact that it is the cultivator of wet land who has the real need of any relief that can be given, the Government consider that the remission under wet assessment should be larger than in the previous fasli. They have therefore decided that in districts resettled prior to 1918-19 there shall be a remission of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the rupee of the wet assessment ($\frac{1}{4}$ anna more than in fasli 1345).

As prices prior to 1918-19 did not show very marked variations from year to year, and as from a strict comparison of current and resettlement commutation rates these districts have no claim to a reduction of assessment the Government consider that a flat rate of remission in all these districts will meet the case.

In districts in which resettlement was introduced in or after 1918-19 the Government have decided that the concession for this fasli shall take the form of a remission equivalent to the percentage enhancement on wet lands imposed at their respective resettlements subject to a maximum of 3 annas in the rupee.

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As in all these tracts, with two exceptions, the percentage enhancement of the rates at the resettlements never exceeded 3 annas in the rupee, and in some cases was less, this concession is equivalent to holding in abeyance for the current fasli the percentage enhancements imposed on wet rates at the resettlement of the several districts.

3. With regard to garden lands in the Malabar and South Kanara districts though there has been gradual rise in the price of coconuts since November 1933, current prices are in both districts still below the average of the 20 years preceding the resettlements. The Government have therefore decided to grant a remission of 2 annas in the rupee on garden assessment as in the previous fasli.

4. In previous years remission of water-cess has been granted on the same percentage as for wet lands.

The Government have examined the question in detail and have reached the conclusion that no general concession in the matter of water-cess is called for. Water-cess is levied for the supply of water to lands which have no claim as of right to such water for irrigation, e.g., dry lands, and the principle generally followed in fixing the rates is to fix them mainly with reference to the cost of supplying the water. Water-cess is therefore largely a payment for services rendered.

There has moreover been no general revision of the rates of water-cess in any district on the basis of the rise in prices except in the districts of East and West Godavari and Kistna and in the deltaic tracts of Guntur. The Government do not consider that any general concession is therefore required in the matter of water-cess, except in the areas specified above and in respect of these they have decided to reduce the charge for a first crop in the deltaic areas from Rs. 6-4-0 to Rs. 5-12-0 an acre, with corresponding reductions under the charges for other crops. The Government have also decided that these reduced rates (Rs. 5-12-0 for a first crop, etc.), shall apply to the lands irrigated by the Polavaram Island Project (East Godavari district) for which special rates had been fixed.

With regard to the Cauvery-Mettur Project, the Government have already separately issued orders reducing the water-cess for the next three faslis from Rs. 15 per acre to Rs. 5 in the New delta of Tanjore and from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5 in the Old delta of that district and in respect of lands irrigated under the Cauvery channels in the districts of Trichinopoly and Salem and consider that no further concession is called for.

5. The concessions to be granted for the current fasli will therefore be—

(i) a remission of one anna in the rupee on the dry assessment in the Bellary and Anantapur districts;

(ii) a remission of 2 annas in the rupee on garden lands in Malabar, and South Kanara;

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(iii) a remission of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the rupee on wet lands in

Guntur,
 Kurnool,
 Nellore,
 Cuddapah,
 Chingleput,
 Tinnevely (except the Tangasseri village),
 Coimbatore,
 Chittoor,
 North Arcot (except the Chengam and Tiruvannamalai taluks),
 Ramnad,
 the northern taluks of Salem,
 the Chicacole and Ichchapur taluks of the Vizagapatam district,
 and
 the Nilgiris (excluding the Gudalur taluk);

(iv) a remission on wet lands equivalent to the percentage enhancement imposed at resettlement, subject to a maximum of 3 annas in the rupee in

Vizagapatam (excluding the Chicacole and Ichchapur taluks),
 Madura,
 South Arcot,
 East and West Godavari,
 Kistna,
 Tanjore,
 Trichinopoly,
 Salem (southern taluks and hill villages),
 Bellary,
 Anantapur,
 Malabar,
 South Kanara,
 the Tiruvannamalai and Chengam taluks of North Arcot,
 the Gudalur taluk of the Nilgiris district, and
 the Tangasseri village of the Tinnevely district; and

(v) a reduction of the water-cess in the East and West Godavari and Kistna districts (including the Polavaram Island Project), and the deltaic tracts of Guntur.

6. The Government have given the question of concessions for the current fasli their very careful consideration and feel confident that the basis now adopted for granting remissions will bring substantial relief to the class of cultivator most affected by the fall in world prices of recent years.

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 245 asked by Mr. V. Nadimuthu Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 23rd September 1937, page 622 supra.]

G.O. No. 306, Revenue, dated 12th February 1936.

[Assessment—Land Revenue—Remission—Fasli 1345—Orders passed.]

READ—the following papers:—

G.O. No. 68, Revenue, dated 10th January 1935.

Memorandum to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement),
 No. 3391-E/35-2, dated 17th October 1935.

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement),
 No. M. 7052/35-3-Confdl., dated 3rd December 1935.

Order—No. 306, Revenue, dated 12th February 1936.

In G.O. No. 68, Revenue, dated 10th January 1935, the Government directed the suspension until fasli 1345 of

- (1) a portion of the land revenue due for fasli 1344 on lands held on ryotwari tenure, the assessment on which had been resettled in accordance with the ordinary rules of settlement;
- (2) a portion of the quit-rent due for fasli 1344 on enfranchised village service inams in proprietary estates; and
- (3) a portion of the charge for the use of water, both in ryotwari and in proprietary areas, provided the water was not irregularly taken.

For the purpose of the grant of these concessions the Presidency was divided, as in the previous fasli, into

- (i) areas in which the current resettlement rates were introduced in or after the year 1918-19; the concession for these areas applied to the whole of the following districts and areas:—

Vizagapatam.
 East Godavari.
 West Godavari.
 Kistna.
 Bellary.
 Anantapur.
 Trichinopoly.
 Tanjore.
 South Arcot.
 Madura.
 Malabar.
 South Kanara.

The Tiruvannamalai and Chengam taluks of the North Arcot district and the Gudalur taluk of the Nilgiris.
 The southern taluks of the Salem district and 26 villages in the Musiri taluk of the Trichinopoly district.
 British Cochin in the Malabar district and the Tangasseri village in the Tinnevely district.

- (ii) Other areas.

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The amount suspended was as shown below :—

	In areas re-settled in or after 1918-19.	In other areas.
1 Wet assessment—Ryotwari ..		
2 All charges for water taken for irrigation— Ryotwari areas.	One and three quarter anna in the rupee.	One and a quarter anna in the rupee.
3 All charges for water taken for irrigation— Proprietary areas.		
4 Quit-rent on enfranchised Proprietary Estates Village Service inams—Wet.		
5 Land registered as garden—'Ryotwari'— In Malabar and South Kanara districts.	Two annas in the rupee.	..
6 Dry assessment—Ryotwari ..	One anna in the rupee.	One anna in the rupee.
7 Quit-rent on enfranchised Proprietary Estates Village Service inams—Dry.		

In G.O. No. 1866, P.venue, dated 9th August 1935, the Government remitted the suspended amount.

2. The Government have since examined the question, whether any and; if so, what concessions should be granted in respect of the revenue due in the current fasli, viz., 1345, and they direct that the same amount of concessions, as those allowed last year, should also be granted in this fasli, subject to the remarks in paragraphs 3 to 5 below and to the modification that the concessions will take the form of remissions in the first instance instead of suspensions.

3. Orders are likely to issue in the current fasli (1345) on the resettlement scheme reports of the districts noted in the margin, but in view of the fact that, in accordance with the announcement made by the Government in the Press Communiqué, dated 12th December 1935, the percentage enhancement in the rates will not be introduced in such areas, they will not, for the purpose of these concessions, be treated as areas resettled after 1918-19.

4. In respect of the areas specified in the margin, the Government have already sanctioned the grant of increment remission on account of the percentage enhancement in the rates. In addition the Government have sanctioned for the districts of Malabar and South Kanara a special scheme of increment remission in respect of dry lands reclassified as wet or garden at the resettlements. In these tracts the amount of land revenue to be remitted will be one and three-quarter annas in the rupee in respect of wet lands, two annas in respect

Malabar (Chirakkal, Kottayam, Ernad and Ponnani taluks).

Salem (Southern taluks and 26 villages of the Musiri taluk of the Trichinopoly district).

South Kanara.

British-Cochin in the Malabar district and Tangasseri village in the Tinnevely district.

quarter annas in the rupee in respect of wet lands, two annas in respect

23rd September 1937]

of garden lands, and one anna in respect of dry lands of the land revenue as sanctioned at the resettlement, less the amount covered by the increment remissions granted on account of percentage enhancements. Where the amount of such increment remission exceeds the amount that would otherwise be remitted under the orders contained in paragraph 2 above, the increment remissions already sanctioned will be granted and no further amount will be remitted.

5. Although the crops this year have generally been or promise to be fair, some parts of the Presidency have suffered from adverse seasonal conditions. The concessions specified above will not in any way affect the relief to be given in afflicted areas, that is, lands in such areas will be given (independently of the concessions mentioned above) such remissions as may be admissible under the Board's Standing Orders or under any special orders that the Government may pass.

6. The amount remitted will be deducted from the April kist in the districts of Tinnevely, Madura, Ramnad, Coimbatore and South Kanara. In all other districts it will be deducted from the March kist. Where the month specified is not a kist month for any area in a particular district, the remission in that area will be made by deduction from the last kist.

7. The Board of Revenue is requested to take immediate steps to give effect to these orders.

8. Orders will issue separately on the question whether any increase should be made in the rate of increment remission allowed to resettled districts in the matter of the percentage enhancement of rates.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

H. R. UZIELLI,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ all Collectors.
„ the Finance Department.
„ the Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands (with C.L.).
„ the Government of Bengal
„ the Government of Bombay
„ the Government of Central Provinces
„ the Government of United Provinces
„ the Government of Bihar and Orissa
„ the Government of Punjab
„ the Government of Burma
„ the Government of Assam

(with C.L.).

Copy for the New Orissa Government.

Press.

[23rd September 1937]

APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 126 asked by Mr. P. Syamasundara Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 23rd September 1937 page 625 supra.]

Statement showing the number of new appointments created or made by the Interim Ministry with the names of persons appointed and their scales of pay.

Number and designation of posts newly created.	Permanent or temporary.	Scale of pay.	Name of person appointed.	Remarks.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>I. Appointments newly created by the Interim Ministry.</i>				
One Additional Sessions Judge, Ramnad.	Temporary.	Pay in the senior time-scale of the Indian Civil Service subject to a minimum of Rs. 1,275.	M.R.V. K. M. Krishna Kurup Avargal.	
One Special Officer for the revision of Criminal Procedure Code, 1898.	Do.	Rs. 2,500 in the Indian Civil Service scale.	Mr. T. G. Rutherford, O.I.E., I.C.S.	
Criminal Tribes Settlement, Chintaladevi (Nellore district)—				
One Manager		Rs. 150		
One clerk		" 30		
One peon		" 10		
One teacher		" 23		
One midwife	Temporary.	" 30		
One compounder		" 28		
Two watchers		" 10		
One agricultural maitri		" 15		
One servant		" 10		
One head constable		Rs. 29 (average)		
Two constables		" 18½		
Kallar Reclamation (Madura)—				
One clerk		Rs. 30—55		
Junior Certified School (Banipet)—				
One second-grade petty officer.	Temporary.	Rs. 16—21½		
Central Jails, Bellary and Cannanore—				
Two clerks	Temporary.	Rs. 30		
Police Department—				
Two Deputy Superintendents of Police.				
Three Inspectors				
Three Sub-Inspectors				
Twelve head constables				
Two constables				
Two clerks				
One Sub-Inspector				
One head constable				
Three constables				
One clerk				

Appointments were made by subordinate authorities.

Appointments were made by subordinate authorities.

Appointments were made by subordinate authorities.

Orders have since been cancelled.

Appointments were made by the subordinate authority.

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Number and designation of posts newly created.	Permanent or temporary.	Scale of pay.	Name of person appointed.	Remarks.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>I. Appointments newly created by the Interim Ministry—cont.</i>				
Public Works Department— Three Assistant Engineer (Civil) in the Madras Electrical Service.	Temporary ..	Rs. 200—500	Mr. S. Ramaswami .. " S. Padmanabhan .. " V. K. Setharaman ..	....
One Assistant Engineer in the Madras Engineering Service.	Do. ..	Do.	....	Appointment was made by the subordinate authority.
One Foreman Mechanic in Cocanada Port Workshops.	Do. ..	Rs. 120—150	Mr. S. Kanta Rao ..	....
Thirty-nine posts of Supervisors, etc., in the Madras Engineering Subordinate Service.	Do. ..	....	....	Appointments were made by subordinate authorities.
Ten posts of peons, attenders, etc., in the Madras Inferior Service.	Do. ..	....	....	Do.
Chief Secretariat— Six Personal clerks to Hon'ble Ministers.	Temporary ..	Basic pay plus a duty allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem and special pay for their qualification in shorthand.	....	Appointments were made by subordinate authority.
One attender	Do. ..	Rs. 19—30 plus personal allowance of Rs. 2-8-0 per mensem.	....	Do.
Five peons	Do. ..	Rs. 12—17 plus a personal allowance of Rs. 2-8-0 per mensem.	....	Do.
Local Administration Department— Four District Panchayat Officers.	Temporary ..	Rs. 150—180	Mr. L. R. Amrith .. " P. Duraiswami Mudaliyar .. " G. Ranga Reddi .. " R. Lakshmi-pathy ..	....
One Assistant to the Special Engineer, Road Development.	Do. ..	Rs. 250—350	....	The post was not filled by the Interim Ministry.
Revenue Department— Six Deputy Surveyors ..	Temporary ..	Rs. 30—55	....	
Forty-one peons	Do. ..	Rs. 12—17	....	
Four Surveyors	Do. ..	Rs. 30—70	....	
Four Deputy Tahsildars.	Do. ..	Rs. 125—175	....	
Forty-eight lower division clerks.	Do. ..	Rs. 30—55	....	
One minor irrigation overseer.	Do. ..	Rs. 50 .. ..	....	
One section writer	Do. ..	Rs. 20 .. ..	....	
One karnam	Permanent.	Rs. 14 .. ..	....	
Two Sub-Inspectors of Excise.	Temporary.	Rs. 55 .. ..	....	
Five peons	Do. ..	Rs. 12—17	....	
Thirty-six Deputy Collectors.	Do. ..	Rs. 250—50—800.	....	
Two clerks for working under the Deputy Registrar for Land Mortgage Banks.	Temporary.	Rs. 30—55	....	
One Deputy Registrar for Land Mortgage Banks.	Do. ..	Rs. 200—700	Mr. G. Varadaraja Mudaliyar.	Appointment was made by subordinate authority.

[The permanent cadre of the Madras Civil Service (Ex. Branch) includes a deputation reserve (of 30). Over and above the sanctioned strength including the deputation reserve, temporary posts of Deputy Collectors are created every month. In some cases, specific orders creating the posts are issued while in many other cases no such specific orders are issued. But an order is issued every month regularising the posts created in the previous month. This relates to such temporary posts of Deputy Collectors for the months of January and February 1937 which were sanctioned by the Government during the time of the Interim Ministry.]

[23rd September 1937]

Number and designation of posts newly created.	Permanent or temporary.	Scale of pay.	Name of person appointed.	Remarks.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>II. New appointments made by the Interim Ministry to posts already in existence—cont.</i>				
One Clinical Professor ..	Officiating ..	Rs. 500—800	.. Mr. A. P. Kuriyap-	
One Police Surgeon ..	Do. ..	Rs. 450—600	.. P. N. B. Morris.	
One Superintendent, Women and Children Hospital and Professor of Midwifery.	Do. ..	Rs. 500—900 selection grade, Rs. 1,000.	.. Rao Bahadur A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar.	
One Medical Superintendent, The Barnard Institute of Radiology.	Do. ..	Rs. 500—800	.. Mr. C. Todadri.	
Lecturer in the Madras Educational Service.	Do. ..	Rs. 200—500	.. Miss E. T. Rajeswari.	Appointment since cancelled.
One Superintendent, Government Secondary and Training School for Women.	Do. ..	Rs. 200—500	.. Miss S. Zacharias.	
One Inspectress of Girls' Schools.	Do. ..	Rs. 200—500	.. Miss A. Dweltz.	
One Personal Assistant to Sanitary Engineer.	Do. ..	Rs. 200—500	.. Mr. S. L. N. Murti.	
One Deputy Sanitary Engineer.	Do. ..	Rs. 260—600	.. Mr. B. U. Narayana Rao.	
Development Department—Two Assistant Inspectors of Factories.	Do. ..	Rs. 200—400	.. Mr. P. V. Viswanathan. Mr. S. G. William (Since ousted). Duraiaraj.	
Three Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies.	Do. ..	Rs. 200—700	.. Mr. T. R. Ranganatha Ayyangar. Mr. K. Achuthan Nair. Mr. S. Nithyanandam.	
Seven Sub-Deputy Registrars.	Do. ..	Rs. 100—125	.. Mr. G. Achuthan Nair. Mr. B. Adishesha Nayudu. Mr. A. S. Natesan. Mr. C. I. Verghese. Mr. K. Subrahmanya Iyah. Mr. C. Sankaralingam. Mr. K. L. Narasimhan.	

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 24th September 1937.

The House met in the Assembly building, Chepauk, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

Proceedings commenced with the singing of the Vande Mataram song.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

I.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937—38—cont.

(24) DEMAND XXIV—CIVIL WORKS—WORKS.

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,12,400 under Demand XXIV—Civil Works—Works.

“ Sir, the Demand which is met from revenue is made up of the following:—

	RS.
Original Works—(Buildings) ...	27,83,500
Original Works—(Communications) ...	8,79,100
Original Works—(Miscellaneous) ...	9,700
Repairs ...	20,45,000
Total ...	57,17,300
Reduction for probable savings and suspense transactions ...	4,04,900
Total ...	53,12,400

“ As regards buildings, the Demand is mostly for expenditure on works in progress. Most of the schemes for new building works proposed by heads of departments have been excluded as it is considered that they may wait for better times. In consequence of this policy only seven new buildings estimated to cost Rs. 1,61,000 have been included in the budget with a provision of Rs. 23,300 in the current year.

“ In the case of communications as in the case of buildings the general policy followed has been to restrict expenditure on new works and to provide for works already in progress. In pursuance of this policy

[Mr. Yakub Hasan] [24th September 1937]

the proposal to widen the General Hospital bridge at a cost of Rs. 2 lakhs (Government share: Rs. 1 lakh and Corporation share Rs. 1 lakh) has been deferred. Only one new work, viz., the easing of the curve at mile 4/7 of the Ootacamund-Mettupalayam road, has been included in the budget. In this connexion I may point out that the expenditure on certain works provided for under communications is financed from the Central Road Fund. These are—

- (1) Experimental road surfacing on the Great Northern Trunk Road;
- (2) concreting the road over the Kistna Anicut at Bezwada;
- (3) widening and tarring the Ootacamund-Mettupalayam road;
- (4) reconstructing the Alipur bridge on the Anamalai ghat road; and
- (5) construction of a new bridge across the Eranjoly river in the Malabar district.

“The miscellaneous sub-head is a petty item and provides for repairs to embankment works not chargeable to the irrigation heads and works to prevent coast erosion. These are the items usually brought under this head. The provision for 1937-38 is intended for repairs to the Royakottah embankment in Mangalore and protecting the right margin of the Vamsadhara river in Kalingapatam, Vizagapatam district. The provision under Repairs represents the usual budget provision. The increase in the Budget Estimate for 1937-38 is mainly due to larger expenditure on the maintenance of buildings including rates and taxes owing to the increase in the number of buildings and also the enhancement of taxes by local bodies.”

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

‘that the allotment of Rs. 53,12,400 under Demand XXIV—Civil Works—Works be reduced by Rs. 100.’

“I make this motion, Sir, only to bring to the notice of the Government the huge sums spent on buildings every year. I ask, Sir, whether it is necessary for the Government to follow the same system which was followed by the former Government and construct palatial and luxurious buildings. The Ministers have already set an example in economy by reducing their own salaries. It is high time, Sir, that we stopped this wasting of money on costly buildings, with marble floors and coloured tiles. Look at this very building in which we are sitting, the paintings, the coloured glasses, the towers and the domes and the minarets—all these must cost a lot of money. Will it not be profitable to us if we avoid all this waste of money?

“We see from the budget that Rs. 28 lakhs are provided for buildings alone. We were told that this year most of the money has been allotted for buildings already in progress. It is true, but even then, so many buildings have been just begun and others have only been half finished. In these cases we can cut down expenditure a great deal by

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striking out unnecessary additions. We are told that only Rs. 1 lakh or so have been allotted for new buildings. Could these also not be postponed? If not, I would request the Government to see that simple architectural style is adopted instead of the old costly style of buildings. The other day when I made a similar suggestion to the Hon. Minister for Public Health he said it was necessary to spend money on brick and mortar especially for hospitals for the sake of sanitation and hygiene. These conditions of sanitation and hygiene should be observed not only in the case of hospital buildings but in the case of all buildings. But what I object to is not the spending of money on brick and mortar for such purpose; it is necessary, but it is quite unnecessary to spend money on useless ornamentations. I hope, Sir, that the Government will consider all these things and do the needful.”

* MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the time is very limited, I shall confine myself to only one aspect of this motion, and that is, rural communications. Sir, in the last Budget, enough money was provided for rural water-supply, and no money was provided for rural communications. Sir, rural communications are as important to the villagers as rural water-supply. Just as food and water are necessary and very essential for the human being, so also wells and rural communications are very essential for the rural population. Sir, important villages have not yet been connected with the important marketing roads, and it is quite essential that they should be so linked, if the agricultural produce in the villages has to find a market. So, Sir, village communications are very essential. 11-15 a.m.

“Sir, it might be said that on account of the prohibition policy pursued by the Government, there is not enough money to spend on village communications and as much as could be gathered has been given for rural water-supply. I beg to submit, Sir, that every year the Government of India have been apportioning a part of the petrol tax for the provinces for the purpose of being spent on roads. Of course the petrol tax which is raised on the consumption of petrol ought, in the usual course of things, to be spent on trunk roads because motor traffic runs only on trunk roads mostly. But if you look into the genesis of this petrol tax, you will find, Sir, that the Jayakar Committee which had recommended the levy of this petrol tax, no doubt recommended that the money raised by tax on petrol should be spent on trunk roads, and at the same time, pointed out that the amount that was till then being spent by the Provincial Governments on these trunk roads should be released for the development of village communications. That was the recommendation of the Jayakar Committee. But what has happened in actual practice? The money that was allotted to the provinces has been till now spent by the previous Government only on trunk roads, on the construction of bridges on trunk roads, etc., and no part of that amount was spent on village communications. There has therefore been a lopsided development of trunk roads at the sacrifice of rural communications. No doubt the previous Government for some years earmarked

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a certain amount for the village development fund, which has been spent on village communications; but after four or five years of working the village development fund was stopped and year after year only a small portion of money was given by the Government for development of rural communications by way of grants. Sir, on account of this lopsided development of the trunk roads, there has been any amount of bus traffic on the trunk roads and so the revenues of the railways began to diminish. Hence the Central Government appointed a Committee to enquire into this matter and make a report. Messrs. Mitchell and Kirkness went round the whole of India and made a report to the Government of India. In that report, it was pointed out that sixty per cent of the trunk roads run parallel to the railway lines and hence when those trunk roads have been put in a very good condition, greater bus traffic was running on the roads to the detriment of the railway earnings. So, Messrs. Mitchell and Kirkness recommended that some portion of the money derived from petrol tax ought to be spent on rural communications. Sir, the question came before the Assembly in 1934, as to whether the petrol tax should continue to be levied for a further period of five years, and if so, in what way the money so derived should be spent? Then, Sir, myself and some others pressed on the Government of India the necessity for earmarking this amount derived from the petrol tax to be spent only on rural communications. Till then, for nearly five years, the whole of this money was spent only on trunk roads. Then the Government of India said that they were distributing the petrol tax to the Provincial Governments on the basis of consumption by each province and that they were not in a position to dictate to the Provincial Governments as to the way in which this money should be spent. Then, Sir, as a sort of compromise the Government of India agreed that they would recommend to the Provincial Governments to spend a portion of this amount on the development of rural communications and also on the payment of instalments, if any loan was taken by the Provincial Governments for the development of rural communications. It has now been resolved that a portion of the petrol tax could be spent on rural communications. This year, we find from the budget that the Provincial Government in Madras has not taken credit for the petrol subvention given by the Government of India for rural development. Hitherto, there were vested interests which had the ear of the Provincial Government and they were able to see that most of the money was spent on the trunk roads and on the construction of big bridges and on tarring roads. But that is not what is required in the rural parts. We want good all-weather roads there, connecting the villages with marketing roads. That is why I wish to appeal to the present Government that they should take up the task of developing rural communications. We are aware, Sir, that the Government have recently circularized all District Boards to prepare a five-year plan of rural communications. That shows that the present Government are very earnest in developing rural communications, and I hope that when the proposals for a five-year plan are sent up to the Government, they will

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see that sufficient money is allotted for this purpose. With this suggestion, Sir, I am in favour of passing the whole Demand moved by the Hon. the Minister."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I point out that the subject-matter referred to in this speech of my hon. Friend does not relate to this Demand but relates to Local Administration?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the Hon. Minister kindly repeat his observations?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The speech of my hon. Friend the Member for Madanapalle—Rural made just now was really one to be made under 'Rural Communications' which comes under the grant of my hon. Colleague the Minister for Local Administration. It does not relate to public works at all." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister may now reply."

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for calling upon me to reply to this debate after only two speeches have been made. I thank Mr. Schammad Sahib for his advice about spending money on buildings. The Government do realize that the building policy of the Government in the past was rather not in keeping with the circumstances of the country. The present Government, as shown here, are making in this respect a change which I am sure will be welcomed by the Members of this House. We do not propose to spend money lavishly on buildings hereafter. This year, as I have pointed out in my introductory speech, new buildings have been undertaken only to the extent of Rs. 1,61,000 and not Rs. 9 lakhs. There too, only about Rs. 23,300 will be spent in the current year. We have postponed the consideration of other building schemes that were laid before us; and in their cases too, we shall see that the estimates are revised and economy is effected and that only such buildings as are absolutely necessary are taken up. Mr. Schammad Sahib pointed to the roof of this building, the carvings and the paintings and made certain pertinent remarks. It is true that on this building much money has been spent, and yet this building is not suitable for the purpose it was built. It was intended as a Senate House and it does not serve the purpose of a lecture hall. We know how we are inconvenienced in this respect by housing the Legislative Assembly in this hall. I need not say much about buildings, after I have given an idea of the policy that we are going to pursue in this respect.

"As for Mr. Ramakrishna Reddi's speech, the Government do consider that rural communications should be given more attention than was the case hitherto. But, as was pointed out by the Hon. Dr. Subbarayan, this question is rather concerned with the Local Administration Department than mine. The maintenance of roads is mainly entrusted to local bodies. Excluding the roads in the agency tracts, Government maintain only a very few important roads which are for the

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11-15
p.m.

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM :—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இது மிகவும் முக்கியமானதாக இருக்கிறது. தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட சமூக நன்மையைக் கருதினதாக இருக்கிறது. காங்கிரஸ் திட்டத்தில் இது முக்கியமான திட்டம். இந்த திட்டத்தை நானே வைத்துக்கொண்டால் பலபேர்கள் வருவார்கள். பேசுவார்கள். எங்கள் ஜாதியின் நிலைமையைப் பற்றிய விஷயத்தை பாதி இராதிரியில் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். நானேத் தள்ளி வைத்துக் கொண்டால் நன்றியிருக்கும்.

* MR. SPEAKER :—“The hon. Member may go on with his speech.”

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM :—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, பன்னெடு நாளாக இந்தியா எந்தக் காலத்தில் தோன்றியதோ எந்தக் காலத்தில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டோமோ எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது. ரொம்ப காலமாகத் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டு வந்திருக்கிறோம். பிரிட்டிஷ் ஆட்சி இந்தியாவில் சென்ற நூற்றைம்பது வருஷக் காலமாக இருந்துவருகிறது. பதினெந்து ஆண்டுகளுக்குமுன் கண் திறந்து பார்த்து ஐரோப்பிய மெம்பர்களுடையிருந்தவர்கள் மனதில் வைத்து தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு எவ்வளவு இலாக்கா வேண்டுமென்று ஒரு இலாக்காவை ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். அதுதான் தொழிற் கமிஷனர் இலாகா. அதன் மூலம் மனைக்கட்டு வாங்கிக் கொடுத்தார்கள். மனைக்கட்டு தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் இல்லாததினால் மிராசு தார்கள் மனைக்கட்டில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் இருந்தார்கள். ஆகையினால் அவர்கள் மிராசுதார்கள் கொடுத்த கூலியை வாங்கவேண்டும், இல்லாவிட்டால் மனைக் கட்டை விட்டுப் போகச் சொல்லுவார்கள். அதற்காக எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டத்திற்கு கட்டை விட்டுப் போகச் சொல்லுவார்கள். கஷ்டத்தை அவர்கள் சகிக்கமுடியாமலுள்ளாகி இருந்தார்கள். மிராசுதார்கள் கஷ்டத்தை அவர்கள் சகிக்கமுடியாமலிருக்கிறதினால் மனைக்கட்டு வாங்கிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டியது அவசியம் என்றும், கிணறு வெட்டிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றும், ஐக்கிய நாணய சங்கங்கள் மூலமாக பல நன்மைகளைச் செய்யவேண்டும் என்றும், யோசித்து இந்த லேபர் இலாக்காவை ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். அப்படி ஏற்படுத்தினபோது லேபர் கமிஷனர், டிப்டி கமிஷனர், டிப்டி கலெக்டர், தாசில்தார் இவர்கள் இந்த இலாக்காவின் வேலைகளைச் செய்து வந்தார்கள். கொஞ்ச நாளானதும் புறியந்தோப்புக் கலெக்டர் ஏற்பட்டதும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களை அடக்கிவிடவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்து தணிகாசலம் செட்டியார் இந்த இலாக்காவில் அதிக உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் இருப்பதினால் பணம் அதிகம் செலவாகிறது. இந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களை குறைத்து விட்டால் அதனால் மிச்சமாகும் பணத்தை தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்காகச் செலவு செய்யலாமென்று நயமாகச் சொல்லி லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் வேலை செய்து வந்த டிப்டி கமிஷனர், டிப்டி கலெக்டர், தாசில்தார் இவர்களை எடுத்துவிட்டார்கள். கடைசியில் இப்பொழுது டிப்டி தாசில்தார்களை லேபர் ஆபீசராகப் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். கலெக்டர் ஆபீசில் உபயோகப்படாமல் இருக்கிறவர்களை லேபர் ஆபீசராக அனுப்புகிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட ஜாதியின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு ஒரு சிறிதும் வழியில்லாமலிருக்கிறது. ஒருவர் பேசினபோது லேபர் கமிஷனரால் பல வேலைகள் செய்யமுடியவில்லை. கிராம அபிவிருத்தி வேலை செய்யமுடியவில்லை. தொழிற் சாலைகளைப் பார்க்கமுடியவில்லை. இன்னும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கான வேலைகளைச் செய்யமுடியவில்லை என்று சொன்னார். அது வாஸ்தவந்தான். அந்தக் காலத்தில் பல பேர்கள் பல காரியத்தைப் பார்த்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது எல்லாவற்றையும் ஒருவர் பார்க்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆகையினால் செய்யமுடியவில்லை. முன்மாதிரி டிப்டி கமிஷனர், டிப்டி கலெக்டர், தாசில்தார்களை ஏற்படுத்தி அதிகாரத்தைக் கொடுத்து வேலை செய்யவேண்டுமானால் ஏராளமாகப் பணம் வேண்டும். இதற்கு முன் இருபது லட்சம் கொடுத்துக் கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். அதை பத்து லட்சமாகக் கிவிட்டார்கள். இனியாகிலும் பத்தோடு பத்து லட்சம் ஏற்றிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் அபிவிருத்திக்காகப் பாடுபட்டுவரும் காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு இப்படிச் செய்தால் கூடிய சீக்கிரத்தில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட

23rd September 1937] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

வர்கள் முன்னுக்கு வருவார்கள். ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன டிபார்ட்மெண்டிலிருந்து தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு கிணறு வெட்டிக் கொடுக்கவில்லை; சுகாதாரம் ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுக்கவில்லை. இந்தக் குறைகளைப்பற்றிச் சொல்ல Public Health Demand வந்தபோது இரண்டு நிமிஷமாவது பேச இடங்கிடைக்குமா என்று பார்த்தேன். ஆனால் கிடைக்கவில்லை. கனம் தலைவர் அவர்கள் எந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டிலும் ஒரு ஹரிஜன மெம்பரைப் பேசவிடவேண்டும். இந்தச் சமயத்தில் லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டால் போதுமானபடி கிணறு வெட்டிக் கொடுக்கமுடியவில்லை. முனிசிபாலிட்டிகள், டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் போர்டுகள் மெண்டைக்கு கொஞ்சப்பணம் கொடுக்கிறதினால் போதுமான வேலை செய்ய முடியவில்லை. போன வருஷம் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டார் சுகாதாரத்திற்கு லட்சத்து எண்பதினாயிரம் கொடுத்ததை இந்த வருஷம் நூற்பதாயிரம் ஆக்கிவிட்டார்கள். ஐம்பதினாயிரம் ரூபாய் Establishmentக்காக ஏற்றிக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். கிணறு, பாடசாலை, பாதை, மயானம் முதலிய இனங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டிய பணத்தைக் குறைத்துவிட்டார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி (Budget) பட்ஜெட் ஜெனரல் டிஸ்கஷனில் எடுத்துச் சொன்னேன். ஆனால் பதிலில் ஏற்றிக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். நோயாளிக்கு வேண்டிய மருந்து கொடுக்காமல் டாக்டர் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லுகிறமாதிரி இருக்கிறது. Economic Council ஏற்படுத்தி கிராமங்களின் அபிவிருத்திக்குப் பணங் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அந்தப் பணத்திலிருந்து கிராமங்களில் கிணறுகள் கலெக்டர், டிப்டி கலெக்டர், தாசில்தார், டிப்டி தாசில்தார்கள் இவர்கள் அவசியமெனத் தெரிந்த இடங்களில் வெட்டிக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஒரு கிணறு கொட்டிக் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டால் செலவாகும் பணத்தில் மூன்றிலொரு பங்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டும். தென் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் கள்ளக் குரிச்சி போன்ற இடங்களில் ஒரு கிணறு வெட்டவேண்டுமானால் ஆயிரம் ரூபாய்கள் செலவு செய்யவேண்டும். அதில் மூன்றிலொரு பங்கு எங்கேயிருந்து தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் கொடுப்பார்கள். ஆகையினால் கிணறு வெட்டிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று Economic Council இடத்தில் அப்ளிக்கேஷன் போட்டுக் கேட்கிறார்கள். மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டவுடன் கிணறு வேண்டாமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களைப் பொருத்தவரையில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு கொடுக்கச் சொல்லுகிறதை விட்டுக் கொடுக்கும்படியாக மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டால் ஒவ்வொரு வேலையும் பூரணமாக நடக்கவில்லை. எட்டு வருஷத்திற்கு முன் அந்த சமயத்தில் ஹோம் மெம்பராயிருந்தவர்களும் Labour Department Portfoliolில் இருந்தவர்களும், நாங்கள் Labour Advisory Board வைக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னதின்பேரில் Labour Advisory Board வைத்தார்கள். அதில் பழைய M.L.C.களும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களும் மெம்பராக இருந்தோம். அதில் நாங்கள் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்குச் செய்யவேண்டிய வேலைகளைப்பற்றி எடுத்துச் சொன்னோம். பிறகு அது பிரயோசனப்பாது என்று (Labour Advisory Board) லேபர் அட்வைஸரி போர்ட்டை எடுத்துவிட்டார்கள். கனம் உஸ்மான் சாகிப் அவர்கள் ஹோம் மெம்பராயிருந்தபோது ஒன்றும் வேலை செய்யவில்லை என்று எடுத்துவிட்டார். இப்பொழுதாவது ஒரு போர்டு ஏற்படுத்தி தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர் M.L.A.களில் புத்திசாலிகளைப் பொருக்கி மெம்பராகப்போட்டு அவர்கள் அபிப்பிராயத்தைக் கேட்டால் நன்றியிருக்கும். தற்பொழுது கனம் லேபர் மந்திரியார் ஹரிஜனசேவகா சங்கத்தைக் கேட்டார்கள். ஹரிஜன சேவகா சங்கத் தலைவராயிருந்தவர் ஹைக் கோர்ட்டு ஜட்ஜியாயிருந்தவர் அவர்களைக் கேட்டால் என்ன தெரியும். சேரியில் வசிக்கும் எங்களைப் போன்றவர்களைக் கேட்டால் உண்மையான குறைகளை எடுத்துச் சொல்லுவோம். அப்பொழுது எங்களைக் கேட்கவில்லை. நான் எதிர்பார்ப்புடைய இருக்கவில்லை. ராஜாஜி ஆணையைத் தாண்டிப் போகமாட்டேன். இந்த இடத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறதினால் பேச சந்தர்ப்பங் கிடைக்கிறது. நாளைக்கும் இன்றைக்கும் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறபடி கேட்கத் தயாராயிருக்கிறேன். அந்தக் காலத்தில் ஜஸ்டிஸ் ககரி பவராய் (Power) இருந்த போது என்னைக் காங்கிரஸ்காரன் என்று சொன்னார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் பவருக்கு (Power) வந்தவுடன் வேறு ககரிலிருக்கிறதாகத் தெரிவிக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அப்படி நினைக்கக்கூடாதென்று சொல்லுகிறேன். எங்களுடைய ஜனங்களைப் பொறுத்த

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most part ghat roads in the Salem, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Malabar and the Madura districts and a few roads in the Moplah area of the Malabar district which are considered to be strategic roads. Even in the case of these Moplah roads, there will be no question of strategic importance in future, for the repeal of the Moplah Outrages Act has been creating a good atmosphere there, and there may be no provision necessary for any strategic roads in future; nor may there be any necessity in future for the maintenance of the Malabar special police for housing whom more than Rs. 8 lakhs were sanctioned and nearly Rs. 7 lakhs spent last year.

"There is also another cut motion on the agenda to discuss the road construction policy of the Government which was not moved for want of time. I can give the concerned Member also the assurance that all attention will be paid to the important question of road communications and that the Government will be as generous in spending money as can be expected, considering the importance of the subject. I would therefore request the hon. Member to withdraw his cut motion."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I beg to withdraw my cut motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(25) DEMAND XXV—CIVIL WORKS—ESTABLISHMENT AND TOOLS AND PLANT.

11-30 a.m. * THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, I move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,38,200 under Demand XXV—Civil Works—Establishment and Tools and Plant.

"Sir, the establishment of the Public Works Department is a joint establishment for the execution of irrigation and building and road works. The gross establishment and tools and plant charges relating both to irrigation and civil works are included in this demand. The actual expenditure on these charges is distributed after the close of the financial year between irrigation and civil works in proportion to the works outlay under each head. So, the actual establishment and tools and plant charges finally debited to civil works will be only a part of the amount included under this demand. The demand includes the expected expenditure on establishments of the Chief Engineers, the Government Architects, Electrical Engineer, Superintending Engineers, the Executive Engineers and the District Board Engineers, as well as provision on account of tools and plant. Although the Electrical Engineer is under the control of the Chief Engineer for Electricity, charges on his account are shown under the Civil Works Budget, because he is in charge of the electrical installations in Government buildings, the expenditure on which is charged to Civil Works. The demand includes not only the pay of the officers and their establishments, but also their travelling allowances and contingencies. The

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provision under Tools and Plant represents the expected expenditure on repairs and purchase of tools and plant and machinery including road rollers and on transporting them to and from the places where they are to be used. A sum of Rs. 1,09,300 anticipated to be recovered on account of recoveries at percentage rates for work done for the Central Government and the local bodies, has been deducted from the gross charges for purposes of the demand. The pay of the I.S.E. Officers amounting to Rs. 7,79,500, the leave allowances and over-seas pay of such officers payable in England amounting to Rs. 1,86,000 are not included in the demand as they are expenditure "charged on revenues." The demand, however, includes a sum of Rs. 2.47 lakhs for expenditure on the pay and allowances of District Board Engineers which is not debitable either to Irrigation or to Civil Works."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 35,38,200 under Civil Works—Establishment and Tools and Plant be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"I have not got much to say in this connexion, for I think Government may not have had much time to consider the possibility of reducing the expenditure under this head. The establishment alone costs 42.09 lakhs and it is a very big sum considering the allotment under the head. However, I think the Government will leisurely consider the matter and see whether there is any possibility of reducing this expenditure, because we find there is a Government Architect, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers and so on all trained in the same sort of work. I suggest to Government that in view of this, they may consider whether any retrenchment in this direction is not possible and whether any saving cannot be effected.

"As I already pointed out, Sir, there is waste or unnecessary expenditure on buildings based on the estimates prepared by these Engineers. They are experts, and it is rather difficult for the Government to see which item should be omitted and which modified. I therefore hope that Government will do well to instruct the engineers generally to omit all unnecessary expenditure especially in the matter of ornamentation of buildings and other unnecessary additions so that great savings can be made. It is therefore necessary that Government should instruct the engineers and those responsible for the preparation of estimates to bear this in mind when submitting their estimates."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank my hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad Sahib for all the suggestions that he has made and I assure him that they will all be carefully gone into. I request him to withdraw the motion."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—

"I withdraw the motion, Sir."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

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(26) DEMAND XXVI—CIVIL WORKS—GRANTS-IN-AID.

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 57,16,700 under Demand No. XXVI—Civil Works—Grants-in-aid."

* MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I owe an apology to the House for having delivered a speech which ought to have been more appropriate to this demand rather than to Demand No. XXIV. That mistake was due to the fact that I had not got the list of motions before me. I am thankful to the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments for having drawn my attention to the mistake, but if he had done so earlier I would have been more glad. Now, Sir, I do not want to repeat the speech on this motion. I therefore request the Hon. Minister in charge to consider the remarks which I have made then as having been made under this head."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, is not a member who has not given notice of a cut motion entitled to speak on the main Demand itself?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The point is, nobody who has not given notice of a cut motion, can move it on behalf of another member who is absent."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"Can he not speak opposing the Demand?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is perfectly entitled to oppose it. The motion is for discussion and if hon. Members want to oppose this grant, they are perfectly entitled to oppose it."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Can they not support it?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I suppose the Hon. Minister for Local Administration does not require support."

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(27) DEMAND XXVII—FAMINE.

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 under Demand XXVII—Famine."

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for Famine, be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss policy.'

"Sir, Government are providing every year a certain fixed sum for famine areas. There are certain communities, such as the hill tribes who are in a chronic state of famine. I therefore urge on the Government to take into consideration the condition of those people which is very much like that of famine. In this connexion, I may point out to the Government that these hill tribes have not been looked after

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properly till now. There is a provision in the Government of India Act, making that subject a reserved subject, because it probably appeared to the framers of the Act that they could not trust the Ministries of this country to do anything for these hill tribes. The old Government which was directly under the control of the British Government were looking after these people for two hundred years nearly and now it is found that they still require protection. I do not know how long the Government will take to see that these people are brought to a stage at which special protection for them will not be required any more. I believe it is the policy of the Congress also to do something for the hill tribes. May I therefore suggest to the Hon. Minister to appoint a committee or an officer with necessary staff attached to him to make an enquiry into the condition of these hill tribes generally in the province? I would even have it as an all-India question. At the time of the last session of the Congress at Faizpur, I had occasion to meet a large number of representatives of the hill tribes and they were all anxious to have an all-India organization to do something for the hill tribes in general. It is time that the Government of Madras took these people under their special care and did something for them. They are in a chronic state of famine."

11-45
a.m.

* MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"Mr. Speaker, coming from a district frequently visited by famine, I feel I should say something in connexion with this demand. As I had occasion to say previously, rains have failed in Bellary this year also with the result that the villagers have no other go but to sell away their belongings and leave the district. The Government have been opening famine works in the district. I hope this year also famine works will be started. The wages that are paid to coolies working in the famine works are deplorably low. They range from one and a half annas to two and a half annas. It surprises me to see that the Members of the old Legislative Council were saying that one anna six pies was more than enough for a man to live. We know that on public platforms capitalists have been attacked for giving very low wages to their employees. I wonder how they could be attacked when we think that one and a half annas is quite a sufficient sum for one person. I appeal to the Government to take up this matter and fix the wages at a level which will be sufficient for living above want. I know many of these people are drinking mere conjee water twice a day. They could not afford to have a single square meal. I therefore think that the Government will raise the amounts. I am informed that the establishment employed on famine works is rather costly. This point may also be considered and I am sure the Government will see to it that the cost of establishment does not take away a big slice of the amounts set apart for famine works."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the demand and in doing so I wish to say a few words about my district. Our district is a dry district and we are expecting famine every year. There was a famine two years ago and again it is threatening us this

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to me, Sir, I will make a few suggestions in order to find out whether it is not possible for this Government to see that the unhappy position of the Ceded districts subjected to severe and recurring famines, could not be averted.

"Let me first say a few words as to the sort of relief that famine-stricken areas get. I know the Government to-day will be in a better position to accede to the wishes of the people in the matter of the relief to be given to famine-stricken people. Hitherto, Sir, the local Government had to follow a fairly rigorous code under which famine relief was made. The rules that were framed were so hard, the tests that were applied to find out whether famine exists, were such that the only obligation that was undertaken by the Government was to see that the people subject to the famine relief were not starved to death. We no doubt are thankful to the little mercies of the Government. There was a controversy before 1876 whether the State should undertake any famine relief at all. Those days are past. Even before those hard times of 1876 the Government did come to the conclusion that it was the State's duty to prevent people from dying of starvation and it is that central principle that the people should not be allowed to die of starvation and nothing more that reigned supreme in the rules framed under the Famine Relief Code. If I only point out that the rations that were allowed under the Famine Code were much less than the rations that are thought would be necessary for satisfying the hunger of a person in the prisons, you will understand, Sir, what the idea that prevailed in the framing of this Famine Code was. I do not want to go into details. I submitted a memorandum three years ago pointing out to the Government how defective was the Government's treatment of the people receiving famine relief in the famine-affected districts. Now situated as we are, expecting a very serious situation immediately if rains fail, I hope the relief that will be meted out would be adequate, should be such that the Government ought not only to attempt to save life in the affected population but also to give them a little more comfort, a little bit more of the necessities of life so that they may not deteriorate in health. I would rather prefer that people are allowed to die than made to die slowly. It is much better. You know, Sir, that every civilized country is making a serious attempt to see that the people do not deteriorate in health, that people are kept in sufficient comfort so that by the healthy living the people will attain maximum efficiency for the purposes of the nation. But the rations that are now being allowed to the people affected by famine are such that nothing short of slow death is the result.

"There are a number of other suggestions which I thought necessary to be made but I rather like, as the time at my disposal is limited, to make those suggestions as the result of the experience that I have gained in the administration of famine relief during the last famine in Ceded districts on another occasion. I only plead on this occasion that the Government should immediately appoint a committee consisting of officials and non-officials to suggest the changes in the Famine Code

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which are necessary. For example, I would just quote one instance. In the famine relief works, people who actually work are not given any food but are given wages sufficient to buy rations just enough for mere existence. With regard to their dependants, children and old people who cannot work in the famine relief camps, feeding arrangements are made on the spot itself, the spot where the people work. What happens in this. The children are given some food at about 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock and the people who actually work in the famine relief camps are expected to come and begin work much earlier than the time at which these little children are fed. And these famine-stricken people who work in the camps, I suppose, want some food. They cook food at home and they eat it as early as 5 o'clock or 6 o'clock in the morning because sometimes people have to walk long distances, ordinarily five or six miles and sometimes ten miles. Is it possible for the parents, when they eat, to resist the temptation of giving to the children some food? What happened was these poor parents to whom wages were given which was not even sufficient to buy rations to satisfy their hunger would give a portion of the food to their children. The result was that these poor parents were starved. Last time I brought this matter to the notice of the Famine Commissioner and placed a number of suggestions for remedying this state of things. Though I have no wish to weary the House with a number of suggestions, as a man who had some experience of famine relief during the last famine in our district, I wish to bring these suggestions to the notice of the Government for their consideration and I hope Sir, that Government will not delay to appoint a committee in order to find out what the necessary amendments that have to be made in this Famine Code are. As a matter of fact the Famine Code is so defective as it was meant only to save the lives of the people from death and not to give them comfort and healthy living. I think a radical change in it is absolutely necessary in order to provide for a humane living.

"The second point—and that is the point I want to strongly urge on this occasion—is this. We cannot any longer postpone the measures necessary to set right this state of affairs. Famines in Ceded districts occur every four or five years and severe famines once in twenty or thirty years. It is not enough the Government budget some more money for this purpose than what was given during the last famine two years ago in Anantapur, Bellary, etc. Some probably would say 'that relief and no more.' But then consider the amount of loss involved in the sufferings of the people and the amount of deterioration in the health of the people and the amount of actual work that was lost on account of this deterioration. Is there no way to relieve this state of affairs?

"Sir, as long ago as 1887, a committee was appointed to consider ways and means to prevent this state of things, viz., recurring famines. It was a committee consisting of two Europeans and one Indian and the recommendation that they made was that because the Ceded districts and districts like them are entirely dependent upon agriculture

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year also. I request the Hon. Minister to start famine works in the districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool and Anantapur."

* **MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:**—"Mr. Speaker, I only rise to suggest that the Famine Code be amended so as to enable the coolies to be paid at a higher rate than hitherto. My hon. Friend representing the Muhammadan Constituency (Mr. Rawoof) was making a sort of accusation against the previous Governments in the matter of low level of wages for the coolies. May I just tell him through you, Sir, that the whole difficulty has been the rigidity of the Famine Code and unless the Code is liberalized the possibility of any Government giving higher wages is very remote indeed? So, I suggest that the present Government do take early steps to revise the Code. The Congress has always been fighting for a living wage for the wage-earners and I am sure that the present Government will take the necessary steps to make the necessary amendment of the Code."

"The rains have as usual failed in Bellary. The Government, I presume, have recently received several representations from our constituencies urging on them to take up some scheme in our district for the purpose of finding work to the people. May I, in this connexion, suggest to the Government that the present allotment for rural water-supply may be liberally used in the Bellary district to relieve the distress of the famine-stricken people. It would serve a double purpose. It will provide water-supply to the rural areas and will have provided some employment to the people of the famine-stricken areas. This brings me to the question of work for middle-class people who have objections to working in the open roads. In this connexion, I would suggest to the Government to allot a decent amount for hand-spinning in the famine-affected areas so that the middle-class people also may take to it and earn a living. By taking such a step not only would the experiment of hand-spinning be begun but also a considerable number of middle-class people who feel that they cannot break the metal on the roads, can be induced to take to hand-spinning. I appeal to the Government to enquire into the distress in the district of Bellary and take steps in the directions I have suggested."

* **MR. K. SUBBA RAO:**—

"సభాపతి, నిరంతరం ట్రామమునకు నిలయముగా భండేరువంటి జిల్లాలకు నేను ఒక పరినిధిని. 1935 వ సం॥పు ట్రామములో మదరాసు కోస్తాలోని స్థానిక సంస్థలు ప్రజలు ఆ ట్రామ నివారణకుగాను చేసినటువంటి సహాయమునకు యీ సభాభవమునుండి వారికి వందనములు అర్పించుచున్నాను. కాని యిప్పుడు మరల ఆ జిల్లాలలో ట్రామము మితిమించి మీద పడుచున్నదని చెప్పుటకు చాల చింతిల్లిచున్నాను. నిన్నటిదిసం శ్రుతికలలో మీరందరు పదియిండువచ్చును. కర్నూలు జిల్లాకు ఆనుకొనివున్న గద్వాల సంస్థానము వారికోట ముట్టడించి, ప్రజలు వారిని సహించడానికి శక్తిలేక, పెద్దలూటిచేసి, ధాన్యపు కొట్లు దోపిడిచేసి, తినుకొని పోయినారనే సంగతి శ్రుతికలలో వచ్చియున్నది. యిటువంటి పరిస్థితులు జిల్లాలలో అంతటను కూడా జరుగునట్లు కనపడుచున్నది. యీనాటి వార్తలబట్టిచూస్తే, వారరాలేదు. జనులు చాలాకష్టములో వున్నారు. అప్పుడే యీ సందర్భములో అదృష్టవశాత్తు

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అధిపత్యం వహించినటువంటి కాంగ్రెసు మంత్రి వర్గమువారు తగిన సహాయంచేయదురని గట్టిగా చెప్పగలను. అంతేగాక యీ విషయంలో అధికారములోవుండే శ్రీయత ప్రకాశం పంతులు గారు, ట్రామము నిరంతరము తొండవము అడుచున్నప్పుడు, తొము వారిలో ఒకరై, ఆక్కడ సంచారముచేసి, ప్రజల దుస్థితిచూచి, కంటసేరు పెట్టినవారు యీ దిసము అధిపత్యం వహించినార. ముఖ్యంగా నేను కొన్ని సూచనలు చెప్పుచున్నాను. యిప్పుడే ట్రామమును నివారణ చేయుటకు, ముఖ్యముగా యేదైనా అవకాశమున్నచో, అటువంటి ముఖ్యమైనటువంటి పనులు యేర్పాటు చేయవలసిన సందర్భమున్నది. యిప్పుడు గవర్నరుగా వున్నటువంటి వారు ట్రామము సందర్భములో ఆక్కడకు వచ్చినప్పుడు, ఆ ప్రజల పరిస్థితులు, దుఃఖస్థితినిచూచి, దయదలచి, యేదో ఒక కారణమున బట్టి కి పైసాలు వాళ్లకు యిచ్చువ చేసినారు. ఆ Code చక్కగా మార్చి, నిన్నటిదిసం ముఖ్యమంత్రిగారు Spinnereలకు కి అణాలు యిచ్చుటకు యేర్పాటు చేసినట్లు ఆదేశమిదిగా కి అణాలకు తక్కువ లేకుండా కూర్చుచ్చి, ట్రామ నివారణ కార్యములుచేసి, ప్రజలను సంతోషించవలెను. అదనులు అనేక మున్నవి. రాళ్లు కొట్టుట ముఖ్యమైనదికాదు. యే గ్రామములకు ఆ గ్రామ ప్రజలు కష్టపడుచుంటే, వారిని కోస్తాలోచేర్చి, పనులు చేయించి, గవర్నమెంటుద్వారా వారికి డబ్బు యిప్పించి ట్రామ నివారణచేసే పనులు యిప్పించవలెను. ట్రామమును గురించి మంత్రులు వార్తలు తెప్పించుకొని వెంటనే పనివారంభించవలెనని ప్రార్థన చేయుచున్నాను."

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—"The hon. Member for Cuddapah rural . 12 noon."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, . . ."

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—"The hon. Member is requested to speak through the phone."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I can make myself sufficiently audible without the phone."

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—"The hon. Member may come to the nearest phone."

* **MR. K. KOTI REDDI:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that an opportunity is given to us, Members of the territory of this Presidency which is often subject to recurring famines, to say a few words. I do not know, Sir, how to express the feelings of some of us just at this moment. We have been waiting for the last three or four days for getting some information about rain and I do not believe, Sir, that at present we have sufficient information which will give us sufficient encouragement and confidence to go before the Government and say that this year at any rate, we do not need any relief on account of famine, Sir. I do not think this is just the time for me to say what we want the Government to do in case we are subject to serious famine this time. I am almost certain that unless it rains very heavily and that very soon, the type of famine that we may be subjected to this year will prove to be as serious as the great famine of 1876-1877 when five millions of the population of this Presidency were starved to death. I hope that God will be kind enough to avert such a serious famine as that. But, however, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of this Government a few suggestions for the improvement of the sort of famine relief that we have been hitherto getting and after that if time is available

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as their prime industry and there is no other industry on which they could depend to support them when the rains failed, other occupations must be found for them. That is why these people are often subjected to famines. A way ought to be found and one suggestion that was made by the committee was the starting of industries in that particular area. A second suggestion and a suggestion which was brought forward prominently before the Government many a time since, was the construction of Irrigation Works. Take the case of the great Thungabadhra Project about which some hon. Friend opposite has given notice of a cut motion; there was a lot of investigation about it and a sum of 11 lakhs was spent on that for investigation and in the year 1908 when there was absolutely no controversy either from the Mysore Government or the Hyderabad Government for the share of waters the matter was stopped on the ground that the project was not remunerative, that it did not bring in a return of 5 per cent or 6 per cent so on. I do not want to weary the House with the details of that scheme. I hope another occasion will arise for doing so. What I wish to point out now is that whatever standards the Government may apply with regard to this question of a project being remunerative or not, so far as the national economy and public weal is concerned it is rather unhappy that Government should take into account only the revenue that they get out of the irrigation projects. If they had only taken into consideration the full benefit that would accrue to the people and not merely the revenue that they would get, most of these projects would have been by this time constructed and there would have been very little complaint with regard to famine in the Ceded districts. That is so far as big projects are concerned. But there are a number of smaller projects which, if carried out, would serve the needs of the people in the famine-stricken areas not served by this Thungabadhra Project. But it was said that if this Thungabadhra Project could be taken up, small schemes could not also be taken up because there was not enough water available. The Government can now easily reduce the amount of percentage return that they demand from these projects from 5 per cent to 3 per cent in consideration of the provision that is made in the Famine Code and the recommendations that are made by the Famine Commission, the Irrigation Commission, that in the case of the Ceded districts and such other areas which are subject often to recurring famines, protective irrigation works should be constructed and for protective irrigation works the percentage of revenue that the Government demands ought to be less. To-day there is a sum of 20 lakhs of rupees available in the Famine Relief Fund and this 20 lakhs could be spent on protective irrigation works in the Ceded districts. There are a number of small projects, involving not very big sums, sometimes about two lakhs, sometimes three lakhs, sometimes ten thousand, which could be constructed. A number of river channels could also be dug. Again, supply channels could be dug from rivers at no great cost which would supply water for a number of tanks. That is one suggestion. There is another suggestion, a suggestion that I made some time back but for which there

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was not sufficient response. I know this House or Government may treat it as chimerical, the chimera of an idealist. But I believe in it and that is one of the practical ways by which the serious famine situation in the Ceded districts could be averted. If to-day there is a wrangle between Hyderabad, Mysore and Madras with regard to the Tungabhadra and other projects it is because, the waters in that river is not sufficient for supplying the needs of the people. The wet cultivation of black cotton soil is not so remunerative as the dry cultivation. But because even the little amount of rain that is needed for dry crops, we are not having, we were practically driven to look to this irrigation project.

“ But there is a method by which the waters that are now used for the wet soils could be made to serve a greater area than at present. The black cotton soils do not require much water for dry cultivation. What happens at present is that the canal ryots who pay a certain fixed amount per acre for the use of water use this water for dry irrigation. The soil consumes a lot more of water than is really needed for the purpose. There is thus no use of resorting to flow irrigation for dry irrigation in black cotton soils. The large amount of water that is used does not, besides, go to the creation of good crops at all. On the other hand if you devise some mechanical means of using water as is now being adopted in countries like America for the spraying of garden trees in California, if a mechanical method of spraying is adopted there will be enough water available for dry cultivation and there will be no famine in the Ceded districts. The amount of water for a process like this will not be more than one-sixth of the water required by the ordinary flow method. Even if Hyderabad and Mysore do not give us enough water, the water that is given will be probably enough for dry irrigation throughout almost the whole of the Ceded districts. That is a means by which it would be possible to utilize water to cultivate much of the dry area.

“ In the matter of industries, Sir, I would appeal to the Hon. the Chief Minister not to forget the situation in the Ceded districts with regard to the development of the cottage industry of spinning. If there is one tract of country in the Presidency more suited than any other for the development of the spinning industry, it is the large tract of black cotton soil in the Ceded districts where cultivation does not occupy people for more than five or six months. All the rest of the period they have nothing to do. Spinning could be established on a fairly large scale and it would be a relief to many. Even to-day, apart from the impetus given by Mahatma Gandhi and Congressmen, without any knowledge of this the khaddar industry is still going on in a number of villages. But it was given up in a fairly large number of villages. One suggestion that I want to make to the Government is this. As I find, in spite of the efforts made by Congressmen, practically no man has yet taken up to spinning. In the black cotton soil it is the men that have more leisure and not the women. Most of the women

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get up at 5 o'clock and they have not only to attend to their children and domestic work but to agriculture also. This work occupies them from 5 a.m. to 9 o'clock in the night. They not only cook but attend to agricultural work also whereas men have ample leisure and it is practically impossible to get the men to take to spinning. I would suggest one method, Sir, to induce men to take to spinning. We have got an improved charka, call it by some other name, by whatever name you like, something like a singer machine. Probably it may be possible to produce more yarn in it. I have seen one. Some other machine of a similar type could be produced. If you purchase a lot of them and supply them to them, these people, I am fairly certain, could be induced to use them."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"If he was very brief, Sir, I would not have risen. If it has to be elaborated it is a pity that it was not done at the right time and has been raised on the famine code."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I only wanted to mention these various things in order to show the ways and means by which the unhappy economic situation in the Ceded districts could be overcome. I thought that in the matter of cottage industries, spinning could be easily developed in the Ceded districts and that most of the money now provided should be set apart for the Ceded districts. There are other industries which, if developed, can give us some occupation. Take the industry of what are called Cuddapah slabs. Most of us use them. Unfortunately they are now being replaced by cement slabs which are uncouth and unpolished. But for want of encouragement and particularly on account of the heavy freight imposed by railways the industry has almost languished. If the freight is reduced, and if a mechanical process is adopted for polishing, cutting, etc., we can supply the slabs to the whole of India if not to other countries. We have got any amount of slabs available in the whole of the Ceded districts. I would recommend to the Hon. the Minister for Industries to take steps to develop it and to give it all the necessary assistance possible."

"In this connexion I might mention that I was hoping that the Government would some day supply us with electricity, as they have done in the southern districts and as they are attempting to do in the northern districts. I hope they would not forget the Ceded districts, and I even expected that a provision would be made in this year's budget for a generating station somewhere in the Ceded districts. By developing electricity, it not only helps to start small industries but helps to start a number of cottage industries. Unhappily the department does not seem to take into account the possibilities of developing small cottage industries. If to-day Japan and Germany have become industrial it is not by their large scale industries. Fifty per cent of their industrial production is by cottage industries and most of them are developed by the use of electricity. Electricity is being

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developed in such a large scale that practically every home even in villages could use it. I hope the Hon. Minister for Electricity would not forget this and take immediate steps to see if at least one generating station, if not more, is started in Ceded districts without any delay.

"I have been seriously considering as to how to meet the situation. I think there is one way out. People are crying that the reserved forests should be thrown open for them for grazing of cattle and cutting of wood, and taking leaves for manuring. Naturally on the part of the Government, they are anxious to conserve the forests not only for their income but for the so-called dependence of rain on the existence of forests. This dependence, may or may not be true. I can tell you, Sir, that in the Ceded districts there are vast tracts which are practically deserts and where horsegram is sometimes grown but the yield is practically very little. If a market could be found for the utilization of wood, great plantations could be planted in some of these tracts where the average yield of grain is very little. That will give some income to the ryots. For that purpose of developing plantations, concessions from the railway and the Hon. the Revenue Minister would be necessary. The ryots should be encouraged to plant trees like margosa and aloes and also fodder trees so that they may be useful also to serve the purpose of a fodder crop. An attempt ought to be made in that direction by Government. I do not want to take any more of the precious time of the House. If the Government can give us an assurance that an honest attempt will be made to devise means in order to see that our people are prevented from semi-starvation and to save these people from constantly recurring famines, I shall be satisfied. I shall take proper opportunity to make some more suggestions. I hope the Government will not delay any longer the appointment of a committee to revise the Famine Code and also investigate the possibilities of seeing that the Ceded districts are prevented from the vicissitudes of recurring famines."

* MR. K. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Koti Reddi has almost exhausted the points that we wanted to deal with. He has made a very strong appeal to the Minister in charge for the various relief measures that can be taken so far as the Ceded districts are concerned and I have not got much to say after his eloquent speech. But I shall add a few words in order to say a few things about my district. The problem that has arisen is an important problem. It was only last night that we heard the eloquent statement from the Hon. the Premier of this House. He has pointed out to us in very suitable words that it is the agriculturist who feeds us, it is he who suffers for us and is in a state of starvation and it is but necessary to see that his interests are properly served at our hands and it is our duty to see that some sort of relief is given to him as he is in need of it. Apart from his problem being a very important one it is, Sir, a very pitiable one also. To us who do not know very much about him it looks as if the agriculturist sows seeds in the land that he cultivates. But

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if we see from his point of view we learn that he actually sows money. He sows the money that he earned with hard labour, money saved from the hands of the money-lender, money saved at the cost of starvation, not only his own but of his children too. It is this money that he wanted to get back from the soil. Unfortunately Providence does not always come to his help. Very often we find that rains fail with the result that he finds himself in great difficulties. It is the duty of the Government to do its best and come to his rescue. This can be done by starting measures which can be of permanent value. I would not have much faith in temporary relief works. I should invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that it is detrimental to our interests as also the ryot to postpone these problems to any further date. I strongly appeal to the Government to take up at once the execution of the Tungabhadra project. I should suggest, to the Government, in the meanwhile to improve, clean and repair tanks in my district like the Cumbum tank and this will do immense good to the agriculturists.

12-30 p.m. "The Hon. Minister in charge of the portfolio may be aware, Sir, that rains have failed in our district this year. Representations have already been made by people from Nandyal taluk and other parts of my district that they are in a miserable plight. I wish the Hon. the Revenue Minister, who was kind enough to pay a visit to us a few months ago, would be good enough to take early opportunities of coming to us again and seeing with his own eyes the sad plight in which we are placed at present and take the necessary steps for relief. I have not much to add, Sir, and therefore I take my seat."

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, when the rains started in the early hours of this morning here, I was hoping and wishing that this general rain would be extending over the districts about which the hon. Members of this House have been addressing now. The hon. Member Mr. Koti Reddi was cautious when he said that he was not in a position to say yet whether the rains had failed altogether. He was expecting definite information during the last three or four days but it has not come until now. No doubt, famine has been threatening by the rains holding back. This year, rains started a bit early, and when the proper time came they have been holding back. In the West Godavari district, which I always believed was free from famine, one part of the dry area was threatened with famine. This question was brought to the notice of the Government in the Upper House by one of the hon. Members there a few days back. Of course, famine in the western districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool and Anantapur has become a common thing. If there is rain in time, there would be plenty of crop, and the dry crops when they yield well, and the people will have the opportunity to lay by something for one or two years to come which might again become famine years. But in the recent years, famine has become very frequent in those districts. There is nothing which I have not known about the famines of those western districts. Those are areas where when there was the worst famine some of us had the opportunity to go and see exactly the conditions. So, all that has been said by the

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hon. Members here is true to my own knowledge. What is the way by which we can relieve people if there should be a famine? Which is the way to prevent the recurrence of this famine? These are the questions which have been engaging the attention of the Government. It is not merely the responsibility of the Minister who is in charge of this particular portfolio. It is a joint responsibility of all of us. Every one has been giving his best consideration to this big problem. Perhaps only yesterday or the day prior to that, I was discussing with my Hon. Colleague in charge of Public Works about the extension of electricity to these districts. Those districts are very peculiarly situated geographically; they are very close to and some of them are on the border land of areas where there will be plenty of rain; still they do not get rain. We were considering it. The Government as a whole will give the best attention to that proposal. Apart from that, I feel that in the past money had been spent by way of giving relief whenever famine had come, sufficiently or insufficiently. But nothing enduring had been done except perhaps one railway between Bellary and Hospet. There are so many rivers which many of you may not have had the opportunity to see which carry the flood when there are rains. There is rain some time or other in the year and the whole of it would be washed out into the sea. For a few days, the flood will be there and the water discharges itself into the sea; not that there is no water coming into the rivers. When you go through that area, you will find big tanks dug in ancient days, tanks which would take any quantity of water and supply the same for irrigation purposes and for drinking purposes, but they have not all been in use all these days. Whenever I happened to go through those areas, that was the one feeling which I carried with me. Of course, the hon. Member Mr. Koti Reddi has been referring to it. Which is the best way of doing something to dam these rivers and impound the water in the existing tanks and in the reservoirs, so that future famines may be prevented? We have just begun our Government; and this is the last day of the budget discussion. We have been discussing all these days as to how we can make both ends meet in this year and also in the coming years while giving effect to the programme and the policy that we have to carry out.

"The hon. Member Mr. Ari Gowder referred to the hill tribes. Hill tribes there are who have not been attended to hitherto. Not only hill tribes, there are other people also scattered all over who have not been receiving the attention which they deserve, and it will be the duty of the Government not to neglect either the hill tribes or others.

"Mr. Abdul Rawoof spoke about the cost of the establishment when famine relief is given. I may say that, that point also will be considered by the Government.

"Mr. Sitarama Reddi, Mr. Koti Reddi and some other Friends stressed on the revision of the Famine Code. That point will be considered by the Government. Reference was made to higher wages that

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should be given. That is a point that would be considered in the light of all the circumstances wherever sufficient relief should be given, and it will be undertaken by the Government. Nothing will be done so as to prevent relief reaching the persons concerned.

“Handspinning was referred to. I agree, Sir, that all those four districts constitute an area where cotton is grown, and handspinning, if only adopted, could be carried on very effectively. But we have got used to so many of the modern luxuries. So much was said about handspinning in the course of the discussion in this House yesterday, and a reply was given by the Premier, that I do not think anything more can be said on that question. But, how will it be possible to make all the people of those four districts really take to spinning, to make use of the cotton which they produce in their fields and make themselves self-sufficient? If the hon. Member Mr. Koti Reddi and other Friends expect the Government, which is a Government of the people to-day, to be always ready with money to dole out for the purpose of promoting handspinning, it will be too big a task for the Government. The point was raised here by the hon. Member representing the European community on the question of two lakhs of rupees given for spinning. Two lakhs were given for spinning, not with a view to give relief to the whole population of this Presidency, or to the people who were in need of money. It was an industry that should be revived. If an impetus is given, if an encouragement is given to that industry, and if people understand the real message and usefulness of handspinning and if it spreads, there will be no trouble for the Government in future. There would be no trouble for the people concerned. So, I am submitting this to Mr. Koti Reddi and other friends who are representing other districts to make it a point that the people undertake it and make money out of it.

“Reference was made to the Tungabhadra project and other projects. They are all projects which ought to have been accomplished long ago. Tungabhadra project is as old as nearly 45 years. There were other projects which were started but were suspended for some reason or other. This is not the first time that we are thinking of projects to give relief to the famine-stricken areas, to prevent future famines. All these were thought of for a long time. Schemes and projects were proposed, but it so happened that they (were not) could not be given effect to. Now, so far as this Government is concerned they would do everything that is possible to see that real effective measures are taken to give relief to the famine-stricken people and also to adopt measures which will in future prevent these famines as far as possible.

“With these words, Sir, I request the hon. Member who moved the cut motion to withdraw it.”

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

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(28) DEMAND XXVIII—PENSIONS.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Sir, I move—‘That the House do grant a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,68,400 to meet the charges under Demand XXVIII—Pensions.’”

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—“I beg to move, Sir—

‘that the allotment of Rs. 69,68,400 for Pensions be reduced by Rs. 100.’

“Sir, in moving this motion I should like to stress the desirability of substituting the provident fund system for pensions. I wish to suggest that the pensions also may be curtailed. I am sure I am making a very unpopular suggestion from the point of view of officials. But consistent with the policy of the Government, this may be done which will save them a good lot of money. My reason is that men in service have been enjoying their salaries for 25 or 30 years. So they may be content with very much less after they retire as the unemployed have to be given some relief.

“With these few words, I move the cut motion.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid my friend, Mr. Ari Gowder, seems to have adopted a policy of out-heroding Herod. Already the Government has decided to cut the salaries of officers and then they are going to bring about also lower scales of pay for new entrants. When once the salaries are cut, the pensions also will automatically be reduced for these officers of the Government who receive reduced salaries. I cannot understand the suggestion for the reduction of pensions. This would inflict great hardship on Government servants. I hope the Hon. the Premier will not take serious notice of the suggestion of the hon. Member, Mr. Ari Gowder.”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Sir, the question of considering any new system with regard to the pensions has been agitated by some members of the House even before the present Government took up office and it has been found that at present it would not be practicable. I may assure those who are thinking that any new system may solve the position which we may have to deal with, that the matter will receive more consideration. But as the hon. Member, Mr. Hameed Khan, said, I do not think there is any intention of cutting pensions. At all events, pensions stand on a different footing. Of course as he observed, if a gentleman in service gets lesser salary at the end by reason of the change in salary scales he will get less pension. It is well known that our pension burden is high and our successors will have to solve this very very difficult problem, and I think they will have to be much harder than hon. Members are. But we make no proposals now to deal directly with pensions in the manner that some persons are apprehending. There is some reason for my saying this, because I find loose language employed in some communications that appeared in the papers as if Government was proceeding to cut down pensions also. If it is simply a kind of agitation to blacken us one can quite understand,

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but there is also a genuine fear in the minds of some people probably arising out of the pricking of one's own conscience, out of a consciousness that they are drawing too much from the tax-payer. But apart from that, I think there is no proposal just now in that respect. I hope the House will grant us this Demand without any difficulty and the cut motion that was formally moved may be withdrawn."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(29) DEMAND XXIX—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I move—'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,31,000 under Demand XXIX—Stationery and Printing'."

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Sir, I move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 17,31,000 under Stationery and Printing be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"Sir, I just wish to bring to the notice of Government the desirability of purchasing Indian-made materials for use in Government Press. I understand that the papers used are not Indian-made.

"Apart from that, I hear a great deal of grouse on the part of the employees of the Government Press. I believe there was a meeting of the employees at which I understand some hon. Members of this House were present and listened to the grievances. The new Lino Instructor seems to find it difficult to get on with a large number of his men. It is said he is very unpopular with one section. I don't know the other side of the story, but from what I hear there are quite a number of things that require to be looked into. I suggest that Government will be pleased to institute an enquiry either by appointing a committee or through their own officers. It appears that a large number of compositors or piece-workers are very often thrown out of work, and the Government Press work is given to outside people. I hear there are two rival unions and the one recognized does not represent the majority of the workers. There also appears to be an extraneous influence at work to split the workers. As all these will undermine the discipline of the Government employees, I trust Government will lose no time to set matters right."

At this stage the House adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

(After Lunch—3 p.m.)

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Sir, there is only one more remark I have to make and that is about the desirability of the Government holding up the proceedings launched against the workers pending the completion of the enquiry I have suggested.

"As regards the other matters, there are other hon. Members who would speak on them."

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* MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—"Mr. Speaker, if I rise to speak on this Demand, I do so only to point out some aspects of the working of the Government Press and also the Stationery department which demand the serious attention of the Government.

"Sir, speaking last night, the Hon. the Minister for Labour and Industries, with his great experience, stressed the need for the workers being guaranteed fair wages and decent conditions of service, not to speak of sympathetic and civilized treatment at the hands of the employers, while also emphasizing that the workers should do a fair day's work for a fair day's wages. While this declaration is most welcome and the workers are most thankful to the Hon. Minister, it is, however, a matter for regret that the Government have not at all set an example to private industrial undertakings in regard to the treatment that should be given to the workers by the manner in which they treat the workers in their own industrial undertakings. The Government Press, falling under this Demand, can be taken as an illustration of this point. The Government Press employs about 1,000 workers and is probably one of the few large enterprises of the Government that have survived the early enthusiasm of the Government for industrial undertakings. It is a very well-equipped and staffed organization and is capable of meeting all demands made on it; yet it is found that the Government works are still being executed by private printing presses. For example, a large portion of the work of printing the electoral rolls for the recent elections was made over to private presses. The reasons put forward by the Government for so doing are not at all convincing to those who know how well-equipped the Government Press is and what staff the press has to meet this sort of work. While Government work is being thus diverted to private presses, it is most painful to find compositors in the Government Press starving without work, often for long periods. I appeal to the Hon. Minister to remedy this anomaly and see to it that no part of the work of the Government is diverted from the Government Press to private presses. The condition of the workers in the press has never received the serious attention of the Government at any time in the past. I hope that, at least, the present Government will make up its mind to take up the matter seriously.

"Sir, the composing section in the Government Press is made to work on a piece-work system. Three hundred to four hundred workers are paid under this particular system. They have no guaranteed wages. They have no definite scales of pay. They are paid only on the amount of work turned out by them according to certain scales laid down by the Government. Sir, we find that, very often, the compositors have to go to the press and stay there from morning till the evening without getting any work at all. At the same time they are not allowed to stay away even when they want leave. On occasions when they want leave, they have got to go to the press and wait there till the leave is granted and not leave the place till then. Still they are not guaranteed the wages for the day. Under this

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system, for long periods, the compositors do not have any earnings at all, and during some months we find that they do not get even enough to live on, though they are supposed to be efficient and skilled workers. They have put before the Government a request that the piece-work system should be discontinued and substituted by a regular system with graded scales of pay which would assure them stable monthly salaries.

"Next, Sir, though the press is a Government undertaking and the employees are governed by the Fundamental Rules, the Civil Service Regulations and the other statutory provisions, we find that insecurity of service is very great in the press. For example, people are dismissed arbitrarily though the statutory rules lay down certain formalities and procedure which have to be gone into and observed before a man could be finally sent away. Especially, during the last few years, we have been having a number of instances where the statutory rules have been violated in dealing with the staff.

"Then, Sir, with regard to punishment, it is often out of proportion to the complaints alleged against the workers. Workers are suspended, discharged and heavily fined without proper enquiries and justification; and then, if they make appeals, the appeals, more often than not, find their way into the waste-paper basket of the Superintendent. The workers have, in these circumstances no remedy at all. For example, only yesterday, a lino-operator with long service was suspended for two weeks, and God knows for what real reasons. He has been suspended for two weeks continuously. I am citing this only as an instance to show how the punishments inflicted on poor wage-earners are disproportionate to the complaints put forward against them. In most cases the complaints are not at all well-founded. In spite of the Wages Payment Act, recently enacted by the Central Legislative Assembly, we find that fines are still being inflicted on the workers in the press and deducted from their wages.

"With regard to leave for the workers, Sir, though the press is a Government undertaking, the provision for it is not at all adequate. We find that the workers are experiencing very great difficulty in obtaining even the leave for which they are entitled. If a day's leave is required, the worker has to go to the press personally at 9 o'clock and stay there till the Superintendent turns up and sanctions the same. This sometimes takes place at 4 o'clock and till then the man has to remain there and cannot leave the place. In a recent case, a man lost his child, and leaving the corpse at home, he went to the Government Press and waited there to get his leave sanctioned for the day. By the time the leave was sanctioned it was past 4 p.m.

"Then, Sir, with regard to promotions we find that the rule of seniority which is strictly followed in Government departments is not observed in the Government Press. While seniors are being overlooked for promotions, we find that accelerated promotions are given

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in a few cases to those who are the favourites of the Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendents. In one case a binding foreman, named Mr. D'Cruz, was given two promotions in one year. This case has been already put before the Government and yet the workers have not secured any redress.

"Sir, in every industrial undertaking, in every workshop, some time is allowed to the workers to turn up to work in the morning. For example, in the railway workshops, 10 minutes are allowed and in other places 15 minutes are allowed; but in the Government Press, where they had this privilege previously, it is now denied to the workers. The workers there have to get into the press the moment the bell is sounded and, oftentimes, the warning regarding the time is not at all loud enough to be heard by one and all. We have been requesting the Government to restore this elementary concession, but we have not been able to secure it.

"In printing presses the compositors have to stand rooted to their places while composing. They have to stand like that for seven or eight hours a day and do the composing. Standing in a fixed posture like that for hours on end is detrimental to the health and efficiency of the workers. They are, therefore, provided with stools to sit upon whenever they feel tired of standing. It is impossible for anybody to work standing or even sitting all the time. They must be enabled to sit for a while and then stand for a while. Stools had been provided for this purpose to the compositors; but after the present Superintendent assumed charge, the first reform that he brought about in the press was to deprive the poor compositors of the stools on which they used to sit and work for a while when they were tired of standing and working. This matter was reported to the Government when the Interim Ministry was in office and also to the other officers of the department, and yet the workers have not succeeded in getting redress till now.

"Sir, a large number of workers have been classified as temporary workers and are kept on for years together as temporary hands. We have several times requested the Government that they should be confirmed so that they may be admitted to the privileges available to the permanent employees. I am anxious, Sir, that on this occasion when this demand for Printing is made the matter should be properly emphasized.

"Then, Sir, I regret to say that the general attitude of the officers towards the workers is anything but sympathetic. While the Superintendent remains absolutely indifferent to what is going on in the press, never hears complaints and never answers petitions and sits there in his place like a big Nawab, the Assistant Superintendents act according to their whims and fancies and the workers fall victims to their prejudices and perversions. The result of it all is that to-day in the press the atmosphere is one of deep discontent and serious unrest. Unless the Hon. Minister gives his serious attention to this state of

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affairs in the press, I wish to state, as one intimately connected with the workers there, that the situation may not continue as it is to-day and probably the Government might soon be faced with a crisis about which none of us will be able to feel proud of.

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p.m.

“There are five Assistant Superintendents in the press to-day which employs only about 1,000 workers. These five Assistant Superintendents are inexperienced men. Some of them are not sufficiently qualified and are lacking in experience. To these officers have been delegated the power of punishing the workers and the result is that, with their lack of experience, their likes and dislikes they often misuse the dangerous power vested in them. Some workers are favoured while others are persecuted. This cannot but undermine the efficient working of the press. It is immediately necessary to withdraw the power to punish the workers delegated to these irresponsible and inexperienced Assistants with a view to protect the workers and promote peace and harmony in the press. This is the least which the Government should do without delay.

“About the Linotype section and the vagaries of the Assistant in charge of it, the least said the better. I have put a series of interpellations on the floor of this House about the matter and for want of time I am unable to deal with it at any length. The Assistant who, I understand, is a product of the Interim Ministry, and was appointed over the heads of the Service Commission, is responsible for much of the discontent in the press and has become a problem for the department. The operators are to be confirmed in October next and the Assistant Superintendent has already commenced to damn those who are not in his good books so that they may be denied the benefit.

“One minute more, Sir, and I shall finish. I have to refer to a most important matter. Speaking last night on the floor of this House, the Hon. Minister for Labour assured that in regard to their policy towards the workers the Government would stand by the Karachi resolutions of the Congress. If the Hon. Minister knows the fate of the workers' union in the press, he would find that the Government cannot congratulate themselves on what have happened. Of course I know, Sir, that the present Government are not responsible for it and it is a legacy of the past. But they have to show that they stand by a different programme and policy. A union of the workers has been existing in the press for the last many years. It has been fulfilling the objects of a constitutional trade union and commanding the unstinted support of almost the entire staff of the press. It was registered as soon as the Trade Union Act was enacted. But we had to surrender the registration under Government's compulsion and continue as an unregistered trade union for many years. Thanks to the recommendations of Royal Commission on Labour and the Rules made by the Government of India in pursuance of them, for registration and recognition of unions of Government industrial workers, the union was registered again afresh last year and it applied to the department

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for official recognition. It was on the eve of the last elections to this Assembly. An expelled official of the union who is an ex-nominated member of this House got up a rival body with a few workers only in the twinkling of an eye and got it registered.

“The Government hastily accorded recognition to this rival body without enquiring about its bona fides, or ascertaining whether it had any following among the workers, and overlooking the application of the real union of the workers pending before them already. The rival union was supported and encouraged by the officers of the press, some of whom had an unmistakable hand in its formation. Some of them actually went about canvassing members for that union, though they are prohibited from such activities. Some of them even worked against me in the elections on account of my connexion with the workers' union, though according to the rules they cannot participate in such activities. That union has neither a real membership nor any support and yet continues to enjoy the recognition of the Government even after they have been enabled to understand the situation. Sir, we have placed before the Government all the relevant facts and it would be a very sad commentary on the solicitude of the present Government to encourage honest and constitutional trade union movement if the recognition of the mushroom union is continued even a minute longer.

“There are many more matters regarding the press but I do not wish to take up the time of the House for narrating them now. I only wish to emphasize that the present state of affairs in the press, from every standpoint, is absolutely rotten not only on account of the workers' miseries but also in other respects. I urge upon the Hon. Minister in charge of the department to appoint a committee of this House immediately, to enquire into every aspect of the press, so that not only workers' plight might be remedied but the efficient, economic and peaceful management of it may also be secured and ensured. I thank you, Sir, for the great indulgence shown to me.”

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been two speeches on this cut motion. One was made by the Member for Nilgiris, who pleaded that the Government should think of purchasing Indian articles with regard to stationery. I am sure the hon. Member realizes that the present Government are interested as much as the hon. Member himself in such matters and they will try to do what they can in the matter.

“The second speech was made by the hon. Member who represents the Madras Non-union Labour. He is naturally very interested in the Government Press Workers' Union. May I point out to him, Mr. Speaker, that the Government Press is not an industrial enterprise at all? He is mistaken in thinking that the Government Press is an industrial enterprise. The Government Press does not take outside work, nor is the press there to make any profit like other industrial and commercial concerns. The Government Press is there because

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the Government have to get their printing work executed and there is also a certain amount of work of a confidential nature which has got to be printed in the Government Press and which cannot be printed in outside presses; because it would be impossible for the Government to print documents of a confidential nature in presses outside. In the first place, I feel rather constrained to say that it is difficult to allow a trade union in the Government Press itself. My own position is this: Can we think of a Government Civil Service Union trying to create a strike in the Government offices? I would like to point out to the hon. Member that the employees in the Government Press stand in the same position as any other employee of the Government and as a Government, I for one cannot agree to the proposition that we could have a trade union in the Government Press as referred to by my hon. Friend, because in a day the administration may be brought to a standstill by a strike. Any civilized Government, even though it be a democratic country, cannot afford to have a strike in a Government department."

* MR. G. SELVAPATHI CHETTI:—

"இதுவரையில் எந்த சர்க்கார் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு அனுசூலமாக இல்லை என்று சொல்லப்பட்டதோ அந்தத் தரப்பிலிருக்கிற காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி அவர்கள் இந்த முறையில் பதில் சொல்லுகிறது பொறுப்பற்றதென்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம்."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am sorry that the point of order raised by the hon. Member representing the Union Labour for the City of Madras does not amount to any point of order at all."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister's attitude is consistent with the Government of India's rules for the recognition of Government industrial unions which were issued some time ago and according to which our union was allowed to be registered?" (A voice: 'That is no point of order.')

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Sir, may I know as to who should decide whether there is a point of order or not, yourself, Sir, or the Minister?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That was no point of order at all. It was simply called a point of order. The mere fact that a thing is called as 'point of order' will not make it a point of order."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, hon. Members cannot have it both ways. I have myself said that the Government Press is not a commercial concern. In commercial concerns of Government we find that they are treated as commercial concerns and profit and loss accounts are maintained. I can understand trade unions being formed in such concerns and in such cases it is only right that Government should recognize such trade unions. But in the case of Government Press, I have made a declaration that it is not a commercial concern. It is a concern entirely run for getting work of a confidential nature done and, therefore, you can either treat it as an

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industrial enterprise and claim all the rights of an industrial enterprise, or you can treat it as a mere department of Government—which I hold the Government Press is—wherein you cannot claim any right of trade unionism. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'Question.') The hon. Member for Muslims for the City of Madras questions that statement. But that is my view . . ."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"That is not the view of the Government."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I say that that is the view of the Government. I am speaking on behalf of the Government. I am sure the Muslim Member for the City of Madras must realize that I am not speaking in my individual capacity, but as a Member of a responsible Government."

(Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan interrupted sitting in his seat.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member, Mr. Hameed Khan, wants to speak, he may rise up in his seat and speak."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, if I may be allowed to submit, I think, these interruptions are quite Parliamentary."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That is why I ask him to rise in his place and speak through the microphone so that the whole House may hear him."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I have not got a microphone."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There is a microphone close to the hon. Member."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, as there are two sides to this question, I am prepared to say that the view that I am putting forward is not final and I am prepared to consider the suggestion of hon. Members (hear, hear). But at the same time hon. Members must realize that this is not an industrial enterprise. It is an enterprise conducted on behalf of the Government for the purpose entirely of getting their own work done with no profit and loss account at all. I am sorry that the hon. Member for Non-union Labour for the City of Madras laid so much stress on the acts of individual officials of the press, that, unless I am satisfied that the charges levelled against them are correct, as long as I remain in this office, I am bound to defend the officers of the Government who are under Government employ, for the simple reason they are not in this House and they cannot defend themselves against allegations made by hon. Members. They can only expect to be defended by the Member of the Government in charge of a particular portfolio. If there are any foundations in the charges made by the hon. Member and if he would give me evidence on that point, I am prepared to deal with them. But at the same time as far as I know the officials of the Government Press, I must say that the complaints of the hon. Member as made on the floor of this House have not reached me. I am not certain whether these complaints are based on actual facts. There has been a complaint with regard to the Assistant

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Superintendent in charge of the Linotype machine. I hope to take that on hand and I am sure that the Superintendent of the Government Press, when the allegations made by the hon. Member are brought to his notice, will also take into consideration the charges levelled against the officials in general. I am sure the employees of the Government Press will realize that in spite of my statement that they have no right to call themselves a trade union, they will have every right that is permitted by the rules of the Government. What I meant was: You cannot call yourself a trade union and strike work and at the same time have Government service rules applied to you. That is all I have to say in regard to this matter."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

(30) DEMAND XXX—MISCELLANEOUS.

3-30
p.m.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,51,100 under Demand XXX—Miscellaneous.

"For the benefit of new Members I may just draw the attention of the House to page 128 of the Financial Secretary's Memorandum. Demand XXX consists of various items of all sorts. They are—

Allowances to State prisoners,

Donations for charitable purposes,

Charges on account of European vagrants,

Rewards for the destruction of wild animals,

Rewards for the destruction of wild animals,

Irrecoverable temporary loans and advances,

and things like that. I do not think there is anything particular to be said about these various items except that these are items on which expenditure has been incurred year after year."

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Sir, I formally move that the allotment under this Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. I want to ask the Government to see whether it is not possible for them to make a recommendation to the Government of India to show clemency to State prisoners, still under custody. I do not know if there is still more than one State prisoner; I believe there is only one and he is in the Punjab. If that be the case, I request the Government to recommend to the Government of India to show clemency to that prisoner."

* MR. T. S. CHOKKALINGAM PILLAI:—

"அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்களை! ஒரு முக்கியமான விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். ஒவ்வொரு மந்திரிக்கு ஒவ்வொரு இலாக்காவாகப் பிரித்துக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்தந்த இலாகாவைப்பற்றிய சர்க்கார் கொள்கையை

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அந்தந்த மந்திரிகள் சொல்லுவது மிகவும் உசிதமாக இருக்குமென்று நினைக்கிறேன். தற்சமயம் தொழில் இலாகாவைப்பற்றிய விஷயத்தில் கனம் மந்திரி (கல்வி மந்திரி) டாக்டர் சுப்பராயன் அவர்கள் அபிப்பிராயத்தைச் சொன்னார். அந்த அபிப்பிராயத்தில் தொழில் சங்கம் சர்க்கார் ஸ்தாபனங்களில் இருக்கலாமா இருக்கக்கூடாதா என்பதைப்பற்றிய பெரிய பிரச்சனையை கிளப்பிவிட்டிருக்கிறார். அது தொழில் இலாகா மந்திரியைச்சேர்ந்த விஷயமாக இருக்கிறதினால் அவரே (தொழில் இலாகா மந்திரி) முடிவான அபிப்பிராயத்தை சொல்லுவது நலமாக இருக்கும். ஆகவே அதைப்போல் எல்லா விஷயங்களிலும் அந்தந்த இலாகா மந்திரி அந்தந்த இலாகாவைப்பற்றிய சர்க்காருடைய கொள்கை என்னவென்பதைத் தெரிவிக்கும்படி நான் எல்லா மந்திரிகளையும் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, two points were raised in the course of this debate. I could not catch one very well because these microphones do not suit certain voices though they seem to suit certain other voices. The distance between the microphone and the speaker has to be adjusted with reference to the quality of the speaker's voice. Though the hon. Member from Nilgiris has very constantly used the phone and has spoken more than once, I have not succeeded in hearing him distinctly. I was unable to see whether it was one particular State prisoner or State prisoners in general that he was referring to. If it was about one particular State prisoner, I submit that the fact that we have a debit in one account and a credit also in another account with regard to the expenses for State prisoners, will not give us a right to make recommendations in respect of particular State prisoners sent to us from another province. These expenses incurred in respect of State prisoners are really only book matters; we really do not spend any money ourselves except perhaps the money necessary in the Stationery department for the transfer of accounts and the like.

"As regards the other point, about the responsibility of the various Ministers for the various pronouncements, I might inform the hon. Member who raised that point in a timely manner though not in a very relevant manner that such remarks are official remarks and not private ones. That was what the Member referred to. But it does not mean that the policy can be settled so easily merely in the course of the discussion over a particular cut motion dealing with a particular department. It is true that the Demand now under discussion refers to Miscellaneous and contains a number of items. But the policy cannot certainly be decided by the Minister in charge of Miscellaneous. The substantial policy involved in any particular matter will have to be examined in a substantial manner and though a statement may be official it may not be final. If you will allow me to explain what was in the mind of the Hon. Minister—I can speak about it on this Demand, Sir, only with your indulgence—I must say that what was being referred to was the difficulty in adjusting two statuses with reference to a particular position. It is difficult to adjust the status of a certain class of servants who are neither pure labour nor pure Government servants and in that matter a certain amount of understanding and

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A further extension of supply from Madura to Virudunagar and Rajapalaiyam in the Ramnad district has been sanctioned, and this work also is in progress. The mills at Koilpatti have now agreed to take Government power and it is proposed to extend the supply to Koilpatti at an initial cost of Rs. 5.11 lakhs. The transmission system from Pykara to Coimbatore which was originally of 66 K.V. operation has been gradually converted to 110 K.V. operation to meet the increased load. As a final step in the conversion, it is proposed to make modifications in the Coimbatore station and in two other sub-stations at a net cost of Rs. 2.84 lakhs. The total provision required for the Pykara system during 1937-38 is Rs. 71,53,100.

"The Mettur Hydro-Electric Scheme was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 147.6 lakhs (revised estimate). Construction commenced in April 1936. Power-house construction is practically completed and a partial supply of power through one unit was commenced in July 1937. All the units are expected to be in operation in December 1937 and the whole construction work completed by the end of 1938. In view of the prospective loads coming earlier than anticipated, extension of Mettur power to Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Conjeeveram involving a total outlay of Rs. 19 lakhs was sanctioned in 1936. It is also proposed to extend the supply of Mettur power from Kaveripakkam to Arkonam at a cost of Rs. 2.07 lakhs. The total provision required during 1937-38 for the Mettur main scheme and extensions is Rs. 26,10,300.

"The thermal schemes serving Dindigul, Virudunagar and Palni will be closed and the area will be incorporated in the Pykara system. The thermal scheme serving Theni, Periyakulam and Bodinayakanur will continue to function as a thermal scheme for a year or two more and will be shut down as soon as a link line from Sembatti in the Madura district under investigation is constructed.

"In areas where there is no prospect of any big hydro-electric scheme operating, the Government decided to generate and supply energy in bulk from thermal stations. A scheme for the establishment of a fresh thermal station at Vizagapatam was sanctioned in July 1936 at an initial cost of Rs. 18.7 lakhs. It is intended to serve Anakapalle, Chittivalasa, Vizianagram, Garbam and Bobbili. Construction is now in full swing and a sum of Rs. 16,89,200 is required for the purpose during the current year. It is expected to be in operation early in 1938.

"A similar thermal scheme for the establishment of a central power station at Bezvada for supply of power to Gudivada, Masulipatam and Ellore was sanctioned in September 1936 at an initial cost of Rs. 17.35 lakhs. This work also is now in full swing and it is hoped that power will be supplied from the middle of 1938. The provision required during 1937-38 for this scheme is Rs. 13,85,300.

"In order to minimize lapse in the provision for works outlay, the Government decided that a lump deduction should be made in the estimate under capital works at 5 per cent on the demand for works

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in progress and 10 per cent on the demand for new works. On this basis, a lump deduction for probable savings is estimated at Rs. 6,41,200."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"As there is no motion for the reduction of this Demand, I shall put the Demand to the vote of the House."

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(34) DEMAND XXXIV—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS.

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,84,100 under Demand XXXIV—Capital outlay on Civil Works.

"Sir, works or groups of works the cost of which cannot reasonably be financed from current revenue and is more than Rs. 5 lakhs each are provided for under this head. The amount is made up as follows:—

	RS.
General administration	4,61,000
Police works	3,72,800
Medical buildings	7,04,000
	15,37,800
Less 10 per cent for probable savings	1,53,700
	13,84,100

"The main items provided for are—

"(1) Construction of official residences in Adyar, five of which are now completed or are nearing completion while three residences are in progress.

"I may mention, Sir, that in regard to some of the items which are included in the budget, it need not be taken as granted that they will all be spent; sanction is asked for them, but we will consider the various schemes carefully and as and when necessary, we will take up the construction to the extent absolutely necessary.

"(2) Works necessitated by the reforms, such as the adaptation of the Senate House for accommodating the Legislative Assembly and provision for a building to house the new legislature. The question of a suitable site for the construction of the Parliament House is still under examination.

"(3) Comprehensive housing scheme for the police. The policy has been to carry out this scheme in instalments. In the current year's budget, however, no provision for new schemes is included in view of the need for economy.

"(4) Remodelling the General Hospital and the construction of an administrative block for the General Hospital and Medical College, Madras.

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adjustment is necessary. The hon. Member need not get into a state of excitement over a statement of a difficulty of that kind. Hon. Members will understand that claims are made for casual leave, privilege leave, pensions and other contributions. How can all that be done till we come to the time when we organize labour as if they are all public servants which they are in one sense? Therefore it is that the executive Government in the course of the administration may be in difficulty to find out what classes of servants should be treated in what manner, and particularly in a mixed department it will be very difficult to define all those who are engaged in printing Cabinet notices as labour. If they are to have all the liberty of wage-earners I think it will be very difficult to carry on. Therefore no one need get excited over the matter. This much for the matter that was raised by the second speaker on this debate wherein I think we have agreed to sacrifice relevancy for the sake of importance. As regards the main motion, inasmuch as there is no objection raised, I submit, that the House will agree to have the formal cut withdrawn and the grant made."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"On a matter of personal explanation, I did not refer to prisoners belonging to other provinces detained in Madras but to a prisoner belonging to our own province confined in another province, I think, in the Punjab. I am told his name is Amir Hyder Khan."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Yes, I know the name more than the hon. Member. But it is wholly irrelevant to the subject that we are discussing. No miscellaneous expenditure under Demand XXX is incurred upon that prisoner. That prisoner is not our prisoner at all; he is a prisoner of the Government of India. He is in a different province. Except historically, this Government has nothing to do with that prisoner."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(31) DEMAND XXXI—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON IRRIGATION.

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,70,700 under Demand XXXI—Capital Outlay on Irrigation.

"Sir, in connexion with this Demand I have only to say one thing and that is that the expenditure on the specially accelerated programme for improving minor irrigation works has been debited to capital with the sanction of the Secretary of State. I may also mention that provision has been made for a new work, namely, the extension of the Uyyakondan channel in Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts."

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

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(32) DEMAND XXXII—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Sir, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Demand XXXII—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development.

"Sir, I may draw the attention of the House to page 132 of the Budget Memorandum where the necessity for this grant is explained. The capital debit of the Anamalai plantations is Rs. 1.50 lakhs while the expenditure is Rs. .17 lakh. This amount is required for the cinchona plantations in the course of development on the Anamalais. The value of the bark harvested in the Anamalai plantations is adjusted in reduction of the capital outlay on the plantations previously debited to the capital head. The capital debit to the Anamalai plantations is at present much smaller than the credit allowed for the bark harvested from them. The net result of the transaction under the capital head is usually the minimum debit. As the expenditure on capital outlay is subject to the vote of the Legislative Assembly I have moved this Demand before the Honourable House."

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(33) DEMAND XXXIII—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON ELECTRIC SCHEMES.

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,18,54,900 under Demand XXXIII—Capital Outlay on Electric Schemes. Expenditure of a capital nature on hydro-electric and thermal electric schemes is debited to '79. Capital Outlay on Electric Schemes.' 3-45 p.m

"Sir, generation of electricity, its transmission and supply in bulk are conducted as State enterprise wherever it is economically feasible, by a series of central stations, hydro-electric or thermal. In pursuance of this policy, the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme was sanctioned and is now in the fifth year of operation. The Mettur Hydro-Electric scheme is nearing completion and the Vizagapatam and Bezwada thermal schemes are under construction. These schemes will serve a major portion of the Presidency. Retail distribution of power to the villages in the Coimbatore district is wholly in the hands of Government. Extensions to rural parts are sanctioned if a gross return of 12½ per cent on the capital cost of the extensions is forthcoming. The Government have decided to extend this policy to other areas and consider individual schemes of rural distribution under all Government systems on their merits and execute them as and when circumstances permit.

"The Pykara system is serving the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Madura and part of Malabar districts. The rate of growth of demand on the power-house at Pykara has necessitated the installation of additional generating machinery. A scheme costing Rs. 45 lakhs for additional machinery at Pykara was sanctioned in 1936 and work is now proceeding. An extension of Pykara power to Madura was also sanctioned in 1936 and supply to Madura is expected to be given in December 1937.

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" (5) Construction of a new headquarters hospital at Madura.

" (6) Construction of new buildings for the headquarters hospital at Cocanada. These provide for the construction of up-to-date hospital buildings. They are well in progress."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There being no motions for the reduction of this Demand, I shall put the Demand to the vote of the House."

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(35) DEMAND XXXV—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I move, Sir, that the House do grant a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,32,000 to meet the expenditure under the head 'XXXV—Commuted Value of Pensions.

"Sir, all that I have to say in this connexion is that we know now on the average how much is demanded under this head year after year. There is no doubt an increasing demand in this matter, because cash is more popular than an annuity. It is known already to the Members of the House that we are meeting a certain amount under loan account in this respect. This is a Demand which therefore is already understood, and I hope that the House will have no difficulty in granting this, because there is no question of retrenchment in this matter."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There being no motions for the reduction of this Demand, I shall put the Demand to the vote of the House."

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(36) DEMAND XXXVI—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, I beg to move that the House be pleased to grant a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,40,900 under the head 'XXXVI—Interest-free Advances.'

"Here also, there is not much of a new feature, and I hope the House will grant this sum."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There being no motion for the reduction of this Demand, I put the Demand to the vote of the House."

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(37) DEMAND XXXVII—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

4 p.m. THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, I have the privilege of moving the last demand and without the guillotine coming into operation. The House will have the privilege also of acceding to this demand by vote, of Rs. 75,52,100, below which the Government propose to keep the expenditure under this head, 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

* THE ZAMINDAR OF CHALLAPALLI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have almost reached the tail-end of the budget discussion on the grants and I do not therefore propose to remain long at the mike and

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tire the patience of hon. Members. At the outset, Sir, I would be failing in my duty if I do not heartily acknowledge the gesture of goodwill made by the Hon. the Premier in his memorable budget speech. He has rightly stressed that the real question with regard to the ryots is the adequate relief of the indebtedness which will release the cultivator from the stranglehold of unredeemable insolvency . . ."

MR. R. RAGHAV MENON:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Member has not formally moved the cut motion and so I wish to know whether he can speak on the motion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may now move his cut motion."

THE ZAMINDAR OF CHALLAPALLE:—"I am very sorry Sir, I am not accustomed to legislative procedure. I move, Sir—

'that the allotment of Rs. 75,52,100 under Demand XXXVII be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"In moving this cut motion, Sir, I wish to say that it is not my desire to get the already meagre provision made in the budget under Agricultural Loans reduced by a further sum of Rs. 100, but it is with the intention of bringing to the notice of the Government the urgent necessity of introducing suitable legislation for the scaling down of agricultural debts with a view to their final eradication. I am of course aware of the magnitude of the task and the several complicated questions involved therein, and my appeal for declaring a moratorium also arises out of the fear that some time will be taken to devise suitable measures to tackle the problem. The story of the agricultural indebtedness of this province is an old one and has been often narrated in the press, on the platforms and in the previous legislatures, but very little has been done so far to eradicate this indebtedness. Between 1880 and 1895, the agricultural indebtedness of the province was estimated at 45 crores of rupees; in the year 1930 the Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee estimated it at 150 crores, and Mr. Sathianathan, I.C.S., the Special Officer, in 1934 put the figure at 204 crores. The above figures clearly reveal the progression in the amount of indebtedness. Again, Sir, the fall in the prices of agricultural products has not yet been overcome and there is no prospect of a rise in prices in the near future. I may point out, Sir, that in the Kistna district, which is mainly deltaic, the abnormal fall in the price of paddy has reduced the land values, so that the credit of the ryot has almost become nil and because his credit has become nil, he is placed at the disposal of the Marwadi and the local money-lender. The previous Governments sought to tackle the problem by means of various legislative measures, such as the Debt Conciliation Act, the Agricultural Loans Act and the Usurious Loans Act, but they have not been able to relieve the ryot very much. These measures can prevent the ryot from future indebtedness, but will not help in the matter of eradicating his past and present indebtedness. Now, Sir, from the

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Press Communiqué which was issued on the 7th of this month, it is clearly seen that by the working of the Agricultural Loans Act in the two faslis 1345 and 1346, only a debt of Rs. 26,45,593 out of a total debt of 204 crores is wiped out. I am afraid, Sir, if this slow progress is maintained, it will be absolutely impossible to eradicate this huge indebtedness. It may also be mentioned here that the ryots also are not unreasonable in the matter of repayment of the moneys borrowed by them and they do not want to completely evade payment. What they want is only relief measures to make them pay off their debts without much loss to the creditors. In this connexion, I venture to suggest a few of the requirements of the ryots. The relief should not be restricted to debts below Rs. 500 as is the case under the Debtors' Protection Act. The rates of interest also are excessive and hence should be reduced to a reasonable figure in respect of both secured and unsecured debts. The voluntary basis of conciliation of debts between the debtor and the creditor under the Debtors' Conciliation Act should also be removed and an element of compulsion should be introduced. The debtor should not be made to pay any sum more than twice the amount borrowed actually. Steps should also be taken to set up conciliation boards all over the Presidency. And until such changes are effected moratorium should be declared to prevent the creditors from rushing to courts and compelling the debtors to pay their pounds of flesh. I can say with confidence that there is a persistent demand from the ryots in all parts of the Presidency for measures such as these.

"In the circumstances, I think the present amount for agricultural loans provided in the budget is not adequate to meet the needs of the present situation. I therefore request the Government to bring forward suitable legislation to eradicate this indebtedness at a very early date."

* MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to associate myself with the suggestions made by the hon. the Raja Saheb of Challapalli in moving his cut motion. In doing so, I may assure you, Sir, that it is not the intention of either the Raja Saheb or myself to encourage the debtors to be dishonest and evade payment of debts. It is really dishonest for a person not to pay his debts and it would also affect the economic life of the country if any such measures are introduced. But, Sir, the justification for requesting the Government to undertake these measures is the conviction that in the present circumstances obtaining in the country, such drastic and bold steps of scaling down the debts, reducing the rate of interest, and declaring a moratorium pending legislation are, I consider, not only not immoral but are necessary for establishing economic equilibrium in the country. We know, Sir, that money as such has no value. Its value depends upon its purchasing power; in other words, how many articles, a rupee can fetch. We are all aware, Sir, that for reasons beyond our control, beyond India's control, this economic depression affected India along with other countries. Here I need not discuss the reasons for such an economic depression. Whether it is due to the

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hoarding of gold in America and France, or whether it is due to over-production, or, in the case of India besides the above two causes, whether it is due to the artificial exchange ratio, it is not necessary for us to go into now. But the fact remains that although there has been chronic rural indebtedness from the past, it has assumed huge proportions during recent times.

"The reason for such increase of indebtedness in recent times is that prior to 1929 the prices were very high, that is to say, the purchasing power of the rupee was very low. Subsequently, on account of the economic depression, prices of commodities fell very low; in other words, the purchasing power of the rupee rose. Whereas the ryot who took a loan of, say, a hundred rupees prior to 1929, if he sold away a certain quantity of his produce, could have liquidated his debts, now even if he sold away four or five times that quantity, he could not liquidate that debt. As I have shown, while the purchasing power of the rupee has risen, the price of the articles has fallen. Although I have stated that it is immoral and against the conceptions of a gentleman to evade the repayment of debt or to ask for its being scaled down, there is sufficient justification in the circumstances I have explained for taking measures for scaling down debts and to reduce the interest on account of the disturbance in the economic world, so that re-establishment of economic equilibrium may be effected. I go further and say that this is not only not immoral but that it is a dire necessity. It is from that point of view that the Raja Saheb of Challapalli has moved his cut motion. It may be said that the Government also intend to give relief to the extent of Rupees 75,00,000 towards the reduction of land-tax, etc., and that Rs. 30,00,000 has been allotted for giving loans to the ryots. But, Sir, the reduction in land-tax can to some extent relieve distress in future. As regards this Rs. 30,00,000, I may state at once that it would not even touch the fringe of the question of rural indebtedness. Further, it is said that the debt conciliation boards could do much to reduce indebtedness. I have always held the view that these boards cannot secure anything in so far as they cannot reduce the rate of interest and the question of debtors and creditors coming together for an agreement is beset with so many conditions which are not easy of fulfilment. There is, therefore, no hope for this institution being depended upon for sweeping away rural indebtedness. Unless the ryot is relieved of all his debts, there is no hope of his being able to lead a new and full life. You may give him some relief by way of land-tax; but as long as the loans remain like a load on his neck mounting up day and night, he could not lead a contented and full life. Although the Government should not in ordinary circumstances interfere with the right of private persons to receive back the money given on the basis of a contracts, still extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary remedies and drastic measures have to be adopted. The legislative measures passed in the past have not been of any avail. The only method according to me is to take courage in both hands and wipe out

4-15
p.m.

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this 212 crores of rupees which represents the indebtedness of the ryots. Only then will our duty to the ryots have been done. I understand that the Government are going to introduce a Moratorium Bill in the Assembly. I congratulate them on their having taken a step in the right direction and I hope it will restore the economic equilibrium of the country."

* MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, it augurs well for the ryot population of this province that this cut motion should have been moved by an aristocrat who represents an interest which has stood in the way of the improvement of the economic condition of the ryots of a large tract in the Presidency. The one thing that stood in the way of the relief of indebtedness of the ryots was the unwillingness of that class to accept the element of compulsion in the matter of scaling down of debts. Year before last, when the Debt Conciliation Bill was brought before the Legislative Council at the instance of a private member, the party which represented the landed and capitalist interests was against the introduction of the element of compulsion. It was pointed out then that, in spite of some of the useful provisions of the Bill, it was bound to prove an utter failure if compulsion was not introduced in the scaling down of debts. If to-day that community, the landed aristocracy, is prepared for the introduction of that principle, the House will, I am sure, be very glad that the ryots of this Presidency would soon be relieved of their debts. I am also glad for one more reason. When once the vested interests, interests of the monied classes and the landed classes, are prepared in the interests of the general happiness of the people to accept the principle of compulsion in the matter of scaling down of debts, the time will not be far off when they cannot complain of the sanctity of contracts and arrangements but will have to allow their interests to be touched for the benefit and happiness of the ryot population. Till now they have been saying that there is the solemn contract entered into between certain individuals, their ancestors and the East India Company and it has to be respected. They contended that the arrangements entered into with them ought to stand for ever. I hope the time will not be far off when they will consent to the re-opening of the question of a new relationship with their tenants. It is a fact too well known that the indebtedness of the ryot is chronic. The special officer who was appointed to investigate into their conditions has reported that their debts amount to 200 crores. It was only five or six years ago that the Banking Enquiry Committee estimated the debt of the rural population at 150 crores. Fifty crores increase within six years is rather too much. I hope that the Government will take early steps to wipe out the debts of the ryots altogether. I would suggest to the Premier to take courage in both hands and float a big loan. The credit of this province is very high and money is easily available. We can even get loans at two per cent. It is right to remember that the ryot is now paying at least 12 per cent by way of interest. The first question is the relief of the ryots from the present indebtedness and the second question is the question of extricating the ryots from the future from the

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clutches of the money-lenders. It ought to be the interest of the State to keep the ryots out of their clutches by encouraging the starting of co-operative societies and land mortgage banks. By this means sufficient and cheap credit may be made available to them. Even if they are now relieved of their debts, they will degenerate into indebtedness if suitable measures are not taken to provide them with cheap money. The hon. Member (Mr. Baig) has referred to the Bill to be introduced by the Government for the relief of rural indebtedness. I learn that the Government is moving in the matter. It is well to remember that the western countries have already attempted the relief of indebtedness in so many ways. In this country, some provinces, United Provinces, Bengal and lastly Madras have attempted to do something. But except in Bengal no other province has introduced the principle of compulsion.

"And even in Bengal the amount of compulsion that was introduced was not enough. The result was that there has been very little relief in the matter of rural indebtedness and if to-day, Sir, this Government is prepared to relieve the ryot altogether from his indebtedness they must introduce compulsion. They must adopt a method by which the ryot could pay off the debt to the creditor entirely and the one direction in which this could be done safely, could be done with fairness, and without affecting either the ryot or the banker would be the direction which was pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig. Suggestions were made that interest should be struck off. Suggestions were made that the principal need not be paid, suggestions were made that a definite proportion of interest and principal could be given. But all these proposals are of no avail. It would not be the proper remedy. Indebtedness of the ryot in the past years was not very serious. If to-day the problem has become very serious, it was on account of the catastrophic fall in the price of commodities. As my hon. friend put it, if you take into account the economic value of the rupee, the purchasing power of the rupee in discharging the debts due to the creditor, there is absolutely no unfairness in this matter. The value that the banker gets in the shape of purchasing power will be just the same. And I dare say, Sir, that the Government will proceed in that direction. We take into account the economic value of the rupee at the time the amount was borrowed, at the time when part-payments are made, if any, at the time when the full amount has to be paid to the creditor. And the agency through which this could be done is now to be considered. I believe, Sir, it would be really much better, if instead of entrusting this affair to the land mortgage banks, the Government itself took up this responsibility. As I have already stated, Sir, the Government could raise enough money in the form of cash loans and if that is not possible, it is easy for the Government to float redemption bonds which could be negotiated, and the creditors made to accept them either wholly or partly."

Mr. Speaker rang the bell as a signal for the Member to stop.

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MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I won't take more than a minute. The creditors should be paid after settling the amount due to them under the arrangement that is made by the Government for scaling down the debts—a portion of the amount due in cash and the rest in redemption bonds. That is quite enough. As the matter stands to-day, on account of various circumstances, on account of the depression and on account of loss of credit of the ryot, no banker is prepared to lend money to him. And if to-day the ryots got cash from the Government or negotiable bonds were floated by the Government, their debts could be easily settled. And as other countries have done, these loans to the ryot could be recouped from the ryot by a large number of instalments, not less than thirty, and the rate of interest must be so low as to make the ryot able to pay this amount easily. They could also be recovered as land revenue as it was done in other countries."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier will now reply."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"This is our last item and I congratulate the House on fulfilling your desire, Sir, that we should this time go through all the demands without the application of any artificial rule of ending the debate. On this last item it was indeed a rare surprise to find hon. Members like the Zamindar of Challapalle and Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig lending the great weight of their support to measures, compulsory measures to be taken in order to relieve agriculturists of debt. I do not think, Sir, that I am stating it wrongly or over-pitching it when I say that, if this House succeeds in getting a measure passed for compulsorily cancelling any fraction of the debt of the agriculturists, it would be the first achievement in that direction in legislative processes. We know that Conciliation Boards have been appointed, Arbitration Boards have been appointed, Acts have been passed against alienation and all that. But to have legislative compulsion for the purpose of cancelling a contract, which is prejudicial to the interests of the State in that it saps the strength of the agricultural population and makes them unfit for work, unfit for productive capacity, would, I think, be a precedent of which this House could well be proud; and when we were wondering as to the effect such a proposal would have, when we were being agitated in our own minds as to whether such a proposal may not be deemed revolutionary and perhaps destructive of the credit that is at the basis of all administrative operations, it is, indeed, a great satisfaction and a great encouragement that a gentleman of the position of our hon. Friend, the Zamindar of Challapalle, who is well-known to be one of the premier Zamindars of our province and far above the difficulties under which certain other zamindars might be suffering, comes forward and not only says 'Yes' but even tries to forestall us and says 'you must declare a moratorium pending legislation.' When it is supported by Mr. Mahaboob Ali Baig who is not either a debtor or a creditor but who is in between as a lawyer, who is not a gentleman belonging to the majority community but to what is commonly called the minority community, we feel that there is no difference of opinion on this point. The voice of the tenant,

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the voice of the zamindar who is absolutely entrenched behind the walls of wealth and position and power and the voice of a lawyer of a minority community who knows the law and the dangers of which may lead anything to anything, if these gentlemen have, beforehand, anticipated us in fact and have declared in so many terms that a moratorium is not only permissible but absolutely necessary for carrying on the affairs of this province, what more have we to do, Sir, than to congratulate ourselves on such abundant encouragement, strength and support? Hon. Members who have had time to see the daily newspapers or the gazette may know that we have already caused a notification of the Moratorium Bill to be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and within six days of that publication, if the House will permit and expedite the other business that is before the House, we intend bringing that Bill and placing it before the Members of the House. Especially when I see that such a proposal has been already anticipated by gentlemen sitting opposite, I think we need not spend more than at the most one hour over the ceremonial of the rules with reference to legislation when that Bill is before the House. It was suggested, it was said that the agriculturists were steeped in debt. There is no need for stating it, Sir, or trying to prove it. There is no need for spending any time over it. Everybody knows it and all sections of the House know it to their cost. They know also that it is not a real debt. The men about whom we say they are in debt are not really in debt. What I mean is they have paid over and over what they have borrowed. They have paid, first of all, by their labour. They have paid by their services. They have paid actually the principal, and I think I am not over-pitching the statement of the facts when I say that they have paid the principal and what is due is only exorbitant interest. If every debt is taken up and every debt is calculated properly, people would see, anybody can see, that really this load of debt is merely a load of law and not of debt. They have given back what they have taken and given back more than what they have taken. What remains is the load that the law has placed upon the man. He cannot get out of it except through legislation. That is the position. I promise, therefore, the House that this moratorium that is asked for in the cut motions and all the demands that are made from all sections of the House, we will seek to give. But the provisions exactly as to how we shall relieve indebtedness, cannot be so easily and so quickly disposed of and that is why a mere moratorium is what we propose to ask for at once. The thing will have to be studied, will have to be examined, not only by Members of the House but also by people outside the House interested in the welfare and the credit of the province. Therefore that we are not rash, that we have not slipped over, is all that we can claim now. What is proposed is only legislation to provide that these debtors cannot be dragged to court and their properties cannot be disposed of while we are studying the position. That is the moratorium law that we have notified in the gazette and which we propose to bring in, in accordance with this cut motion, Sir. So I submit

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that as the Zamindar's cut motion has been that the grant should be reduced by Rs. 100 so that the grant may be enormously increased, it can as well be given up in view of what I have stated and the demand may be passed. I also wish to state that even the statement contained in this cut motion that the provision that we have made in the budget is not satisfactory, is not quite fair to us. Taking the provision that was made for loans under this head last year, we find loans to municipalities, loans to district and other local fund committees, to municipalities and so on. Leaving all that aside, take 'Loans to cultivators.' The preliminary accounts of 1936-37 show us 26.26 lakhs whereas now the provision under that sub-head is 37.23 lakhs, 11 lakhs above the actuals of last year and much above the actuals of any previous year. So that after all, the provision that we have made here is not insignificant. But it is true that this provision is not adequate and that is why we are proceeding with other measures. Indeed it may be admitted that if our proposals are executed and carried out other measures will either lapse into insignificance or get merged and this is the position. I have explained so much, Sir, in order to show that the House and the Government are well aware of their responsibilities in this matter and that we are grateful for the cut motions that have been made, especially in view of the personal factors, important factors, that I drew the attention of the House to at the outset. I hope, Sir, that the Demand will be granted."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

4-45 p.m. * MR. SPEAKER:—"The second stage of the budget, namely, the voting of Demands for Grants is concluded. All the Members of the House should be congratulated upon the complete co-operation amongst themselves in bringing the discussion to a regular conclusion without any necessity for any Demand being guillotined and the hon. Members of the House deserve sincere congratulations upon the night session of yesterday. It was a regular business session and the House had a very excellent experience of a night session."

"The budget having been concluded, we proceed to the next item of business, viz., Travancore Temple Entry Proclamation Resolution."

II—NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION *re* TRAVANCORE TEMPLE ENTRY PROCLAMATION.

* MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I commend my resolution for the acceptance of the hon. Members of this House. While doing so, I hope and expect that all indulgence usually shown to a junior Member of the House will be shown to me by the Chair and the hon. Members of the House."

"The resolution before the House is this and I beg to move it—

'This Assembly recommends to the Government to convey the appreciation of the House to His Highness the Maharaja of

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Travancore, Her Highness the Maharanee Srimathi Sethu Parvathi Bai and His Highness's advisers for the gracious and statesmanlike proclamation issued by His Highness in respect of the State temples, and its congratulations to the people of Travancore, on this great and peaceful achievement of social and religious reform of far-reaching value.'

"Sir, the Royal Proclamation of His Highness Sri Chitra Thirunal of Travancore was issued on the 12th day of November 1936, the festival of Deepavali and the anniversary of the redemption of the world from a fierce demon. By one of those happy coincidences which are full of significance to the superstitious Hindu, it was also the 24th Birthday of His Highness. Rarely Sir, could it have fallen to the lot of any Prince to give himself and his people so glorious and so memorable a birthday gift. On that day of Deepavali the dark demon of untouchability, who is still stalking over the rest of India, was driven out of Travancore. Narakasura has been wounded and his prestige badly damaged by the blow that His Highness gave him. The day of his final extinction is not far off. No wonder, Sir, this reform has been acclaimed by all lovers of Truth as the greatest event in the recent history of Hinduism. Mr. Mahadeva Desai, a man who, as we all know, weighs his words as if they were grains of gold, truly calls this great action of the Royal hero as 'the epic of Travancore.'

"Sir, a hero of epic magnitude, this young prince certainly is. I hope I am not taking away from the religious merit and the deep spiritual nature of His Highness when I say that the most conspicuous quality he has displayed is courage, straight, simple, forthright, manly courage, at once the keen sword and radiant armour of an epic hero. Perhaps, Sir, no Papal assembly in mediaeval Europe wielded such powers as the ecclesiastical councils of Travancore do to-day, for these can ex-communicate anyone, the Sovereign not excluded. What makes the Maharaja Sri Chitra Thirunal really great, and a symbol of the youth of modern India, is that he dared and scorned the direst consequences in doing his duty as a Hindu ruler."

"Sir, that this great act was conceived and carried through as the legitimate duty of a Hindu ruler, that the Proclamation had an authentic background and a lineage truly Hindu, has been made convincingly clear by His Highness's learned adviser, Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar, in the lectures which he recently delivered under the Sastri Foundation of the University of Madras. The claim that he advanced, Sir, 'the greatest contribution to posterity made by the Hindu Tradition was broad-mindedness and sympathy and tolerance of different views, which existed almost alone in India among the civilized countries of the earlier days,' this claim would be a mere theoretical apologia without its embodiment in the great Proclamation. It extended to all Hindus, Sir, those by faith as well as by birth, the freedom of worship in all the temples in the State."

"Sir, a barren controversy, now happily and finally over, raged around Mahatma Gandhi's part in bringing about this event of vast

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all-India importance. But there never has been and there never can be any doubt as to who in all-India and in all the world felt the deepest ecstasy and poured forth the sincerest gratitude for the Proclamation. In the chorus of praise, Sir, which greeted His Highness, the humblest and the most moving were Gandhiji's speeches which he delivered during his special thanks giving pilgrimage, early this year, as he retraced step by step and from temple to temple, the earlier tours of anxious agitation and desperate knocking at closed doors. Sir, 'The sins of past ages,' said Gandhiji, 'have been obliterated by literally a stroke of the pen. Though it was the name of the Maharaja that traced the signature over the Proclamation the spirit behind was that of the Lord Padmanabhaswami.' Sir, if Mahatmaji was thus overjoyed, His Excellency Lord Erskine, restrained by office from uttering all that he felt, welcomed the Proclamation as a 'remarkable' event. Our excessively sober and meticulously cautious Finance Minister, Sir, became lyrical in his joy and behaved like an emancipated slave or a school boy on the first day of his long vacation. Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan and our friend Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah tendered their congratulations to the Maharaja, and expressed their gratitude to God for the way He led the Harijans from the house of Bondage to Freedom.

"Sir, even Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar, always extremely moderate in his views, became, on this occasion, moderately extreme and couched his approval in terms which made a dangerous approach to warmth. The Advocate-General, Sir, gave it as his free and considered opinion that the reform 'was the greatest in Hinduism since Ramanuja's days.'

"Next to the young Maharaja himself, Sir, the highest praise must go to the gracious lady Her Highness Srimathi Sethu Parvathi Bai, whose enthusiasm for all good causes, and especially for emancipation of the down-trodden, has been an inspiring example to the womanhood of India. Without the Queen Mother's guidance and encouragement, so bold a step could not have been taken by so young a ruler. To shake off the burden of ages, to rise superior to the weight of custom and the stifling counsels of a mere worldly wisdom, the courage born of affection such as only an enlightened and affectionate mother could give was necessary and in this instance was forthcoming.

"Sir, the terms of the Proclamation deserve our careful study.

"The proclamation runs as follows:—

'Profoundly convinced of the truth and validity of our religion believing that it is based on divine guidance and on all-comprehending toleration, knowing that in its practice it has throughout the centuries adapted itself to the needs of the changing times, solicitous that none of our Hindu subjects should by reason of birth, caste or community be denied the consolation and solace of the Hindu faith, we have decided and hereby declare, ordain and command that, subject to such rules and conditions as may be laid down and imposed by us for preserving their proper atmosphere and maintaining their rituals and observances there should henceforth be no restriction placed on any Hindu by birth or religion entering and worshipping at temples controlled by us and our Government.'

"Sir, Mr. Austin, I.C.S., and Sir Mohammad Habibullah, as Diwans of Travancore, have earned the eternal gratitude of all of us for doing the

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spade work in this behalf. But Sir, for the proper shaping of the Proclamation no small credit belongs to Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. As the years pass relentlessly over the rest of us, leaving us worn out and weary and cynical, they seem to have a contrary effect on Sir C.P. He is growing every day younger, more energetic, more buoyant in his enthusiasm, more hopeful of the future. Scaling height after height of achievement he seems ever more eager for fresh summits to capture. We in Madras, Sir, are proud of him and of his fruitful services to our own province. Law and Order, Police and Irrigation in Madras, owe their present strength, and the great and beneficent works at Mettur and Pykara owe almost their very existence, to his rare combination of imaginative vision and executive ability. Sir C.P. has shown his 'Roman Hand' in the clarity and iron strength of the wording of the Proclamation. As the chief adviser of His Highness, Sir, in the most delicate situation, perhaps that a modern ruler can be called upon to face, he had the greatness to counsel, not timid prudence and petty safety, but the high courage which, knowing the possible, searches beyond it into impossible things, unlikely ends, and so adds new chapters of freedom to the history of the human soul.

"There may be some sceptics, Sir, who believe that worship in temples is mere superstition and that the new freedom conferred on the Harijans is nothing precious. But Mahatma Gandhi has rightly impressed on us the value and significance of the temples in the life of the Hindu. People who pooch-pooch temple entry, and pour scorn on Prohibition, do not realize, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi's belief in the efficacy of inserting first and foremost the thick end of the wedge. In social matters, he believes, not at all in the inevitableness of gradualness, but in the beauty of complete unquestioning surrender to absolute right. Allowing Harijans entry into courts, then into offices, then into streets and so on, that is not his method. Since the larger includes the lesser, Sir, give them equality in the temples and you have assured them equality everywhere else. Moreover, to the vast majority of the Hindus, as to Mahatma Gandhi himself, the temples are the visible symbols of God's power and authority; Houses of God, in which we should from time to time remember our obligations to humanity and renew our vows of loyalty to God and man, and rededicate ourselves to their service from day to day. From this right and duty, Sir, it is unjust and unreasonable to exclude, on the mere ground of birth a large body of Hindus. May I, Sir, in this connexion quote an English rendering of an aphorism of Vemana, the great Telugu poet and saint: 'Why should we deride a pariah whose flesh and blood were born like to ours? What caste is He who doth dwell in all we see!'

"Again, Sir, consider for a moment the formula given in Saccharitra raksha, page 77 on the question of temple entry—

चक्राङ्कितः प्रवेष्टव्यः, न अचक्राङ्कितः ।

"All those who have been initiated formally into the respective forms of worship are entitled to be let in, while others, who are not so may not be allowed.

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"All those who have been initiated formally into the respective forms of worship are entitled to be let in. while others, who are not so may not be allowed.

[Srimathi Lakshmi Bharati] [24th September 1937]

எண்ணி மகிழ்வடைகிறேன். பெண்கள் பெரிய காரியங்களுக்கு லாயக்கில்லை என்று இன்னும் நினைக்கிறவர்கள் சிலர் இருக்கிற சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் இவ்வளவு பெரிய சீர்திருத்தத்தில் மகாராணி சேது பார்வதி பாயின் பங்கை நினைத்து அவர்களைச்சிறிது யோசித்து சிந்திப்பார்களென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். காலம் சந்தர்ப்பம் வந்தால் “ஆணுக்குப் பெண் இளைப்பில்லைகாண்” என்ற பாரதியாரின் வாக்கை மெய்ப்பிக்க நாங்கள் (பெண்கள்), தயாராக இருக்கிறோமென்பதை வணக்கத்துடன் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். திவான் சர். சி. பி. ராமசாமி ஐயர் அவர்களுக்கும் நம்முடைய நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்வோமாக. நாம் செய்யுங் காரியங்களில் ஹிருதயபூர்வமாக நம்பிக்கை வைத்து அஹிம்சையான முறையில் நடந்துவந்தால் எக்காரியமும் நிச்சயம் வெற்றியடையும் என்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. திருவாங்கூர் காட்டிய வழியை நமது மாகாணமும் விரைவில் அடையும் என்று நம்புகிறேன். இது விஷயத்தில் கனம் பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்கள் அதிக சிரத்தை எடுத்துவருகிறார்களென்பது எல்லோருமறிந்த விஷயம். அந்த சுபதினம் விரைவில் இங்கு ஏற்படுமாறு எல்லாம் வல்ல இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்தித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the community I have the honour to belong and to represent in this House, I have very great pleasure to support the resolution which has been so ably moved by my hon. Friend Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddiyar. We are indeed grateful, Sir, to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore and Her Highness the Maharani for their historic tolerance and all-comprehending protection of all castes, creeds and races in their State. Sir, let me remind this House that this Proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore commanding all temples of the State to be thrown open to all Hindus, not only by birth but also by faith, carries out to the full, the aim and spirit of the Poona Pact. The pact, as you all know, is to enfold within the Hindu society large groups of people who are on the fringe, doubting whether they belong to the Hindu community or not, and are ready to go out of it wherever they could find fresh pastures and flowing water.

“ Untouchability, Sir, is a canker eating into the every vitals of the Hindu society. This canker has travelled far beyond its limits and is sapping the very foundation of Hindu society. The subject of untouchability is a huge subject and a serious subject too, so serious that Mahatma Gandhi was prepared to stake his life for its removal. On an occasion like this, it is but right that we should re-call to our minds the historic efforts of that great man, Mahatma Gandhi, in starting the Harijan movement, and we are also grateful to those other great workers like Mr. G. D. Birla, Mr. A. V. Thakkur and also to our Premier, the Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, for the enormous amount of work they have carried out in order to achieve this result.

“ Sir, this Proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore has knocked the bottom out of any exodus movement which is intended to bring about a communal migration without personal religious conviction. My heart is too full, Sir, for an adequate expression of gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore. I trust that the Proclamation is a marching order given to Hindus of

[24th September 1937] [Mr. M. C. Rajah]

every denomination all over the country to promote equality in every department of Hindu social life and a challenge to the legislators of this province to call upon them to do likewise and to extend the borders of this movement. It is really a charter of emancipation, social, economic and religious. It is to be implemented and executed by Hindus all over of the country, particularly the Hindus of Southern India.

“ It is easy for people to say that the Ruler of an Indian State 5-11
can do things which the Prime Minister of a Province with a large P.m
majority in the Assembly, and representing a large majority in the country cannot do. I don't believe this. What one august personage in an Indian State can do by a single Proclamation can be done by a legislature in such a representative Assembly as this consisting of 215 elected members, and the legislation need not be in the first instance a mandatory one. It may be a permissive legislation empowering the temple authorities to throw open the gates of temples to all Hindus by birth and caste. When compulsion is being applied to other measures, social, economic and cultural, I fail to see why a similar legislation should not be introduced for purifying the religious institutions and for throwing the gates of temples wide open for all Hindus to worship. We are profoundly grateful to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore for this Proclamation.”

* MR. L. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with a sense of peculiar personal pride to support this resolution that has been so admirably moved by my hon. Friend from Cheyyar and supported by Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah. Belonging to a family who are loyal subjects of His Highness the Maharaja, having spent the first twenty years of my life in Travancore and having been connected with the social activities there, I think nobody is more qualified than myself to speak on this subject. To whatever section of the House hon. Members may belong, I am sure they will all join in the tribute we are paying to His Highness the Maharaja for his bold action, and for his sincerity and nobility.

“ Hon. Members on either side of the House may not have first-hand knowledge of Travancore except those who have the fortune to be lawyers and had the misfortune to fail in the First examination in Law. It is thought that Travancore is not such a big State. I may say that Travancore has four times as many people as there are in New Zealand and twice as many as there are in Norway. Its population is only a little less than that of the Continent of Australia, and the number of people in Ceylon is not greater than the number in Travancore.

“ His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore ascended the *masnad* in 1925 and, since then, successive Diwans have been in Travancore. Diwans had come and Diwans had gone, but nobody took courage

[Mr. L. Sattanatha Karayalar] [24th September 1937]

in both hands except Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, the political magician, the father of social reform movement in Travancore, to put this reform on the Statute Book. The Maharaja is the wisest of politicians and one of the youngest. He is prepared to effect any social reform in his State if only proper advice based on sound experience is given by his Diwan. It will be interesting to know that many great statesmen were Diwans including Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nair of buttermilk fame or, better still, no buttermilk fame. When early in November last year, Sir Ramaswami Ayyar assumed the reins of office, he thought that communal harmony there, was not as it should be, and, having thought over the matters deeply, he came to the conclusion that nothing in the nature of a temporary reform would meet the situation. Sir C. P. I may say reached the zenith of his fame when this Proclamation was made.

"It was said by people in certain quarters who were condemning this, that it was bound to fail as the Proclamation is considered to be irreligious. But it will be found that the number of such people is so small and so rare that they are fit to be sent to weekly markets in up-country villages or provincial headquarter museums to be exhibited there.

"It has been often said that reforms must come from within. This Proclamation gives the lie direct to that statement and it will not be long before the other Native States and also this Province follow the noble example of Travancore. On this occasion let us convey our grateful thanks to His Highness the Maharaja and also to Maharani Sethu Parvathi Bai whose is always a name to conjure with and whose work in the cause of womanhood and social welfare is only too well-known to hon. Members of this House, and let us pray for their long life and prosperity. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad I have been given this opportunity to speak. I have done."

Mr. E. KANNAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting this resolution I have to congratulate my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalinga Reddiyar for having brought this motion before the House. Hon. Members are already aware of the agitation that has been going on in this country and particularly on the West Coast for the removal of untouchability and for entry into the temples by the so-called Avarnas. I am not one of those who believe in the psychology of temple movement, and I do not think that entry into temples will advance the moral and spiritual prosperity of the people. But from the point of view of the removal of untouchability, this question has assumed importance on account of the fact that temples are the citadels of caste Hindu orthodoxy fostering untouchability and when once this citadel falls to the besiege of the Reformers, the task of removing untouchability becomes easier. Looking at the question in this light and with due regard to the obstacles that confronted the Maharaja, it must be admitted that his Proclamation is an act of true courage, great heroism and wise statesmanship. But apart from the question of the removal

[September 1937] [Mr. E. Kannan]

of untouchability, the Temple Entry Proclamation of Travancore has an added importance because, had it not been for this Proclamation, the Hindu society would have degenerated further and the cry of the depressed classes to embrace other faiths would have received greater support and unexpected stimulus.

"Hon. Members have pointed out the significance of this Proclamation both from the point of view of the untouchables and of the Hindu community. Of those who are connected with the movement, besides the Hon. the Prime Minister whose zeal in the cause everybody is aware of, I am happy to say from my own personal knowledge of things that Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan deserves much of our congratulations for the part he has played in this matter; and I hope that all those valiant gentlemen who were connected with the movement have rightly to be remembered on this occasion with gratitude and admiration. I will not say anything further. I will only to appeal to the Hon. Members of the Treasury Bench to receive inspiration from the illustrious Maharaja and see that this cancer of untouchability which is now eating into the vitals of the Hindu community is removed once for all. The humiliations, indignities and oppressions which the depressed classes are receiving day to day under this monstrous system of untouchability have now become too bad to be tolerated any longer. Some of us, when by our education and contact with enlightened people get our eyes opened to the light of modern times are finding ourselves in a very intolerable position because we feel that it is unworthy of subjects of a civilized nation to be subject to such oppressions as this barbarous system of untouchability affords. I believe that the present Government would realize the situation and will take time by the forelock to redeem the depressed classes in the Madras Presidency from the oppressive nature of this cruel custom. If this custom is not abolished it will not be proper for any Government to call itself a civilized Government."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, திருவாங்கூர் மகாராஜாவுக்குச் செலுத்தக்கூடிய இந்த நன்றியில் நானும் பங்கெடுத்துக்கொள்ளச் சந்தர்ப்பங் கிடைத்ததற்காக ரொம்பவும் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன். திருவாங்கூர் மகாராஜா அவர்களை சாதாரண மான மனிதனாக நான் கருதவில்லை. அவர்களை சாக்ஷாத் தெய்வமாகக் கருதுகிறோம். எவ்வளவோ பெரியபெரிய மகான்களாலும் மகாத்மாக்களாலும் செய்துவைக்க முடியாத ஒரு பெரிய காரியத்தை அவர்கள் செய்து வைத்தார்கள். ஆகையினால் அவர்களைத் தெய்வமாகக் கருதுகிறோம் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். அவர்கள் ரொம்பவும் இளவயதுள்ளவராக இருந்தாலும் அவர்கள் குலசேகர ஆழ்வார் குலத்தில் பிறந்தவர் சேரமான் நாயனார் குலத்தில் பிறந்தவர் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். அவர்களுடைய குல வேலையைச் செய்து முடித்து விட்டார். ஹிந்து மதமே அழிந்துபோகக்கூடிய நிலைமையிலிருந்ததை உயிர்ப் பித்துவிட்டார். ஹிந்து மதத்திலிருக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் கிறிஸ்தவ மதத்திற்குப் போவதினால் ஹிந்து மதமே அழிந்துபோகக்கூடிய நிலைமையிலிருந்ததை அவர் செய்த இந்தப் பெரிய காரியத்தினால் மாற்றி விட்டார். இந்து மதத்திற்கே பெரிய கைங்கிரியத்தைச் செய்தார். அதன் மூலம் ஆலயங்களைப் பரிசுத்தப் படுத்தினார் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன்.

[Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddiyar] [24th September 1937]

"Any member of the same faith may easily be initiated if one is so minded. In this connexion, Sir, I may bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House the view-point of Vedānta Desikar. In Desika Prabhandam, Adhikāra Saṅgraham, the 17th stanza runs as follows:—

5 p.m.

அந்தண ரந்திய ரெல்லையி னின்ற
வனேத்தலுக்கும்
நொந்தவ ரேழுத லாக நூ ள்வி
யனன்னியராய்
வந்தடை யுமவகை வண்டக வேந்தி
வருந்தியநம்
அந்தமி லாதியை யன்ப ரறிந்தறி
வித்தனரே.

[தேசிகப்பிரபந்தம். அதிகாரஸங்க்ரஹம், 17.]

"It means, Sir, this: 'our seers out of love for us, have realized and expounded to us the nature of our Eternal Lord, who waits in great concern with his boon of mercy for the whole of mortals inclusive of *Andanas* and *Anthyas* (high and low) alike, who weighed down by affliction seek refuge in Him alone.' Why then, Sir, despise our unfortunate brethren when they want to offer their prayers inside the precincts of a temple observing all standards of personal purity?

"I have no doubt, Sir, that among the great and illustrious reformers who have helped in the renaissance of our ancient Indian civilization and culture, His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore will hold a place equal in eminence, though different in kind, to Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi. What they felt and preached, he was able to enforce in action. He translated their dreams and their passionate desires into a hard historical fact.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as this Legislative Assembly under the scheme of Provincial Autonomy has met for the first time, it is good that we should take this opportunity to convey to His Highness, the ruler of the neighbouring State of Travancore, His Highness's Gracious Mother and His advisors, our appreciation of their wisdom in bringing about this most momentous and benevolent reform. In sending this message of congratulation, I wish to add only this, viz., the benediction which the poet *Kalidasa* pronounced at the end of his immortal poem, *Sakuntala*:—

‘प्रवर्ततां प्रकृतिहिताय पार्थिवः ।’

‘May the King act for the good of his subjects.’

"I hope, Sir, the Hon. the Premier will send this also along with the resolution."

* Mr. B. S. MURTI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the resolution so eloquently moved by the hon. Member Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddiyar. I do not think that I should make any long speech on this occasion, but in seconding this resolution, I think I may place a few points before the House. We all know that Southern India stands condemned as a place of untouchability. I mean by this that though

24th September 1937] [Mr. B. S. Murti]

in other parts of India untouchability is in existence, it is not so rigorous as in this Presidency. Here, as we all know and as reference was also made before, we not only have untouchability but unseeability, unapproachability and, if I may say so, unthinkability and unmentionability.

"Now, the Proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore has given the greatest blow to this demon of untouchability. Certainly we should be proud of this, because the Maharaja who is a South Indian has given the first blow. He has laid the axe at the root of this sin, which was made much of by the Sanatanists. If by Sanatanism is meant progressive Hinduism, I can understand it, and every one of us here would be a Sanatanist. If on the other hand Sanatanism means deterioration, I think most of the hon. Members would call themselves non-Sanatanists, and they would be ashamed to call themselves Sanatanists. We know that the conditions obtaining in the Native States are very different from those in British India. But if we are aware of the difficulties under which the untouchables are labouring, I think every one of us should try to do something in the immediate future to eradicate the sin of untouchability. In this connexion, I wish to recite a Telugu poem, which is as follows:—

சா|| சார்சுல ? ராஜ்யமலங்கலகி? ரசுந்நன் செந்தர் ?
சாரீ ? சிவமல ரஜ்யமல சார்சுல ? ஸாமிந்
சேந்நகல ? சிவமல ரஜ்யமல சிவந்நகல ?
சார்சுல ? சார்சுல மலகல யசுலகல ஸார்சுல ?

This, if translated into English, would mean that there are several rulers, rulers will come and rulers will go; all are not rulers, but only persons who do real service to humanity are real rulers. If that analogy is to be applied to this House and to the Government, it will come to this: Governments will exist and Governments will expire, but that is the real Government which will take note of the conditions and the circumstances and the difficulties of the people, and try and endeavour with all its energies to see that all the people enjoy liberty and equality. With these few remarks, I commend this resolution to this honourable House."

SRIMATHI LAKSHMI BHARATI:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! இத்தீர்மானத்தை நான் அளவிலாத மகிழ்ச்சியுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். கடவுளின் திக்கற்ற குழந்தைகளாகிய ஹரி ஜனங்களை திருவாங்கூர் மகாராஜா அவர்கள் ஆலயங்களில் தரிசிக்க விட்டிருப்பது எவ்வளவோ போற்றத்தக்க விஷயமாயிருக்கிறது. அதற்காக என்னுடைய மனமார்ந்த சந்தோஷத்தைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். திருவாங்கூர் மகாராஜா அவர்கள் இளம் வயதாக இருந்தாலும் தைரியமாக இப்பெருங்காரியத்தைச் செய்து என்றும் அழிவில்லாததோர் புகழைப்பெற்றுள்ளார். மகாராஜா அவர்களின் தாயார் மகாராணி சேது பார்வதிபாய் அவர்கள் இப்பெரிய காரியம் வெற்றியடைவதற்கு அதிகப் பங்கெடுத்துக்கொண்டார்களென்று நினைக்கும்போது பெண்கள் குலத்திற்கே பெருமையளித்த திலகமாக நான்

[Mr. A. S. Sahajanandam] [24th September 1937]

“இப்பொழுது ஆலயங்களில் மிகவும் பாவங்கள் நிறைந்திருக்கின்றன என்று சொல்லலாம். ஒரு மனிதன் விபசாரஞ் செய்தால் திருடினால் அல்லது வேறு ஏதாவது கொலைக்குற்றஞ் செய்தால் அப்படிப்பட்டவனைத் தண்டிப்பார்கள், கொன்று போடுவார்கள். ஒரு மனிதன் ஆலயத்திற்குப் போனால் கொன்றுபோட வேண்டுமென்று இருந்தால் அங்கே பாவங்கள் நிறைந்திருக்கின்றன என்று சொல்லலாம். ஆலயத்திற்குப் போனால் பாவம் போகிறதென்று சொன்னால் அங்கே தெய்வமிருக்கிறதென்று சொல்லலாம் அந்த ஆலயத்திற்குப் போனால் கொலைக்குற்றஞ் செய்தவனை தூக்குகிறமாதிரி தூக்குகிறதென்று இருந்தால் அந்த ஆலயத்தில் தெய்வமில்லை என்று ஏற்படுகிறது. திருவாங்கூர் மகாராஜா தன்னுடைய ஆட்சியின் கீழிருக்கும் இரண்டாயிரங் கோவில்களை ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு திறந்து விட்டதன் மூலம் அந்தக்கோவில்களில் சுவாமி இருப்பதாக ஏற்படுத்தி விட்டார். மகாராஜா அவர்கள் செய்த ஒப்பற்ற இந்தப் பெரிய சீர்திருத்த வேலையை வாயினால் வாழ்த்த முடியாது. அதை வாழ்த்த வாய் போதாது. இந்த உலகத்தில் ஒருவன் குடித்தோ அல்லது மற்ற தீய ஒழுக்கங்களினாலோ கெட்டுப்போகிறதாயிருந்தால் அவனை சீர்திருத்தமடையச் செய்ய வேண்டியது பெரியோர்களின் பொறுப்பு. அப்படி இருக்கும்போது எங்களைக் கெட்டவர்கள் கெட்ட ஒழுக்கங்களிலிருப்பவர்கள் தீண்டப்படாதவர்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறீர்கள். நாங்கள் நல்ல ஒழுக்கங்களிலிருப்போம்கூட. நல்லவர்களாகிறோம் சன்மார்க்க வழியில் நடக்கிறோம். ஆலயங்களில் செல்ல அனுமதி கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் வேண்டாம் வேண்டாம் குடித்துக் கெட்டுப் போ தீண்டப்படாதவனாக என்றென்றும் இரு என்று சொன்னால் அது பொருந்தாத நியாயமாகும்.

“மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகளும், ராஜாஜி அவர்களும், டாக்டர் ராஜன் அவர்களும் பிரயாசைப்பட்டு திருவாங்கூர் ராஜஜ்யத்தில் கோவிலை ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்குத் திறக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்தார்கள். அப்படிப்பட்ட இம்முயற்சியைச் செய்தவர்கள் இந்த கவர்ன்மென்ட்டில் மந்திரிகளாகவந்து அவர்கள் கையில் அதிகாரமிருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது அதனால் திருவாங்கூர் மகாராஜா தன்னுடைய ராஜாங்கத்தில் ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு ராஜாங்கத்தின் கீழுள்ள கோவில்களை திறந்து விட்டதற்காக மகாராஜா அவர்களை வாழ்த்த வந்திருக்கிறோம். நம்மை மற்றுமுள்ள சமஸ்தானங்கள் பின்பற்றும்படி செய்ய வேண்டியது நமது கவர்ன்மென்ட்டின் கடமையாகும். சென்னை அரசாங்கம் என்ன செய்யப் போகிறதென்பதை கொச்சி சமஸ்தானம் எதிர் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது.”

* Mr. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member should not mention anything about Cochin.”

SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

“இந்த சமயத்தில் திருவாங்கூர் மகாராஜாவுக்கு செலுத்தக்கூடிய வாழ்த்தை நாங்கள் எங்கள் மனப்பூர்வமாக ஆதரிக்கிறோம்.”

5-30 p.m. * THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Mr. Speaker, I will be failing in my duty if I do not rise on this occasion to pay my humble homage and gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore for the greatest royal lead that he has given in India in throwing open the doors of the Hindu temples to all those who profess the Hindu religion. Sir, on this auspicious day when the whole of India is celebrating the Harijan Week and the non-violence day that has commenced to-day by the great sacrifice of Mahatma Gandhi, I think, Sir, this House should pay this tribute to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, who proved by his noble action that Hinduism is a religion of toleration. It has been stated in the Vedas that the religion which gave birth to the greatest rishis in India is a

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tolerant religion and it has been practically proved by the greatest wisdom of the young Ruler of Travancore in a practical way. Swami Vivekananda said that an ounce of practice is worth 20 tons of tall talk. Here we see in the young Prince the greatest wisdom and the greatest courage in the noble action that he has taken. When the great epoch-making declaration reached India, Sir, I know millions of hearts of Harijans and others of India were filled with unbounded joy. For, as one who has sat at the feet of a master and learnt religion, I always thought that it was a great shame on the part of caste Hindus not to allow the Harijans to enter the citadels of the Hindu temples.

“Sir, on this occasion, I think congratulations are also due to the many thousands of people of Travancore who created real public opinion which was really responsible for the Maharaja of Travancore to take this noble action. (The Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar: ‘Hear, hear.’) Sir, congratulations are also due to one of the great statesmen that hailed from the Madras Presidency, the Diwan, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar for this proclamation. He is a noble son of India. The other day when Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar delivered his lecture in the Gokhale Hall, he narrated the circumstances that led to this great Proclamation. Sir, on behalf of the millions of Harijans that inhabit India, and especially the Madras Presidency, I think I should thank His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, his noble mother and the great statesmen of Travancore who all took their share in this noble action.”

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps it may appear strange that a Muslim should take part and speak on a resolution of this nature; but, Sir, I am actuated by a great ideal, and, actuated as I am by a great ideal, I think it my duty that I should join the House in congratulating His Highness the Maharaja, Her Highness the Maharani and the Diwan Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar for the great and bold step that the Travancore Government have taken in this respect. Sir, when Gandhiji started the campaign for the removal of untouchability and made that one of the planks in the platform of the Congress, the late Pandit Shradhdhananda and many other leaders of the Hindu Maha Sabha said that this is a purely religious question and Congress ought not to meddle with religious questions. They said that the Congress in which Muslims and others are members should not meddle with religious questions. I stood up and fought for this principle, viz., that the Congress is the proper organization to handle a question like this.

“Sir, there is a certain peculiarity in the Indian civilization which has created the caste system and which has developed the exclusiveness of the caste system. Every caste keeps itself aloof from the other; its homes also are not open to the other castes and the question of pollution has been given a significance in India which does not exist anywhere else in the world. As long as this exclusiveness remains in India we cannot hope to make any real progress in social matters, and,

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if we cannot make any progress in social matters, we cannot bring about the social evolution that will make us ideal human beings and our society a perfect and ideal society. We cannot expect to make political progress too. Many obstacles are standing in our way and it is a question of first-class political importance that this exclusiveness should go and should be removed as early as possible. It was, Sir, on account of this exclusiveness that though the Muslims came and settled here 800 years ago, they too have become divided into castes and the caste system has affected Muslims also. There are many castes among Muslims and one caste does not inter-marry with another caste. This may appear strange, but it is a fact, and the caste system is doing much harm and it ought to be abolished. Muslims went to China and in China there are millions of Muslims who have become part and parcel of the Chinese people. So much so, the Chinese Muslims and Confucian Muslims cannot be distinguished one from the other. It is only in the temples and mosques that any distinction can be made. The mosque and the temple too do not differ in their style of architecture. It can be truly said that they are one and the same people in every respect. That kind of fusion could have and should have taken place in India. If that fusion had taken place we would not have the communal differences which have become a grave problem in Indian politics.

"Sir, in a note handed over to me just now, it is said that Swami Shradhdhananda did not raise any objection to Congress taking up the untouchability question and that he was for Congress vigorously tackling the question. It means that what I said about him was not correct. Sir, I may in reply say that when Pandit Shradhdhananda came to Madras, a great reception was given to him on the beach and about 30,000 people had assembled. I had the honour and privilege to preside over the meeting and at that meeting Pandit Shradhdhananda referred to this question and said Congress ought not to have taken it up. So I am stating with authority on this subject. On that occasion I spoke of the part Congress should play in regard to untouchability. But this reference is by the way, only as a reply to the note handed over to me.

"Looking from that point of view, Sir, I am glad that untouchability is being removed, to a very very large extent. Untouchability is not confined to Harijans; it has even extended to Muslims. It was not possible some time ago for a Muslim of India to sit side by side and eat with a Hindu. But now it has become a common thing. So untouchability is going from the Hindu homes. Now the temples alone remained shut to Harijans. People were fighting shy on the temple entry question. This was purely a religious matter. Outsiders should not say a word or that the Congress should not do anything. There was the line of demarcation so far and no further. In this state of affairs, our grateful thanks go to the Maharaja of Travancore for removing that demarcation and that dead wall by opening out the temples to Harijans. He has done a reform of a very high order and

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it is welcomed by all nationalists throughout India. In that way I look upon this event and it is my duty and my privilege to join you all in congratulating the Maharaja, the Maharani and the Diwan."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that I should be the first person to strike a discordant note in the discussion that is going on on the floor of the House this evening. I move for the rejection of the proposal before the House, the resolution moved by Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddi. Sir, in moving for the rejection of the motion I wish to make my own position very clear. I am not asking for the rejection of this resolution because I do not approve of the sentiment expressed on the floor of this House by my Harijan friends. But my feeling is that this House is not concerned in any manner whatever with the proclamation that was pronounced in a neighbouring State eleven months back. I wish it should be clearly understood here on the floor of this House that I am second to none in my profound admiration of the courage and the political foresight of that youthful and illustrious Ruler of Travancore, the result of which is the subject of the resolution that we have before us congratulating him on the glorious act by which he has made it possible for all Hindu subjects of his to enter all the temples in Travancore. But my feeling is, is it the concern of the House to felicitate a foreign ruler on an act which is entirely domestic to that State. I feel, Sir, it is not a concern of the House to discuss this subject or pass a resolution on the lines asked for by the hon. Mover. Sir, praising a person also implies the right to criticize and condemn. Section 52 of the Government of India Act debars us from the right to condemn any ruler of an Indian State. If the converse cannot be possible, why should we praise a ruler? If the House cannot condemn a ruler, I submit that we cannot also praise him.

"Besides, Sir, is it our duty to be censors of what is being done in Native States? Is it our legitimate duty to praise them if they do a right thing when we have so much other work, and other more serious work to do?" 5-45 p.m.

"Sir, possibly there may be some Members in this House who might be in sympathy with those unfortunate peoples of Spain and China. Are we passing resolutions expressing our sympathy with them? In this connexion I may mention what took place in the Indian Legislative Assembly some time back in a matter of great topical relevancy when somebody there sought to move a resolution sympathizing with the people of China. It was ruled out."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is open to any Member to oppose a resolution. But is it open to any one to raise a point of order in this manner?"

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, as I understood the speech of the hon. Member for Indian Commerce, I was not able to see that he raised any point of order

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the well-being of the common weal. Everywhere we find an earnest endeavour on the part of parties and individuals to contribute their best for the amelioration of the depressed classes of this country and to-day I will be right when I say there is no single party which is not bound by declaration and by action to remove the social, political and economic disabilities of the depressed classes. Mr. Speaker, I may take some pardonable pride on this occasion in saying that the Justice Party to which I have the honour to belong has for the last two decades done a great deal for the emancipation and uplift of the depressed classes. I will not take up the time of the House in detailing to you the various measures that the Justice Party took during the last 20 years, except to say there has not been a single prominent Member of the depressed classes who has not acknowledged in handsome terms the good that has been done by the Justice Party to the depressed classes in this Presidency. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a legitimate question would be asked: how is it the same amount of activity and enthusiasm has not been in evidence in the matter of the removal of religious disabilities of the depressed classes? It is a very legitimate question and if we are not able to answer that question to the satisfaction of the depressed classes, we have only to say that we have been suffering under various limitations and there is no lack of will on the part of the other Hindu communities. This is because age-long honest convictions of many people and communities have to be respected. I shall only say that we should sincerely appreciate those persons who hold different opinions. Mr. Speaker, we should not condemn them as a perverse lot. They have strong faiths and strong opinions, but we should think of the remedies. How are we to bring them in line with us? That should be the problem for those persons who feel very strongly in favour of the removal of disabilities of the depressed classes. I am one who would not despair at the thought that there is a section in this country who are opposed to the removal of religious disabilities; for I am sure the times are propitious and it should be possible to educate public opinion to create an atmosphere for the unanimous acceptance of the proposition that there should be common worship. The success of a measure relating to religious matters does not depend upon the nice sentences in which a proclamation or a statute is couched, but upon the measure of support that it can command from the public. The lead given by the Travancore Government is very welcome and I once again join in offering our congratulations to His Highness the Maharaja and his Government."

6 p.m.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, it is my privilege to join most wholeheartedly in this resolution. I do not think, Sir, that when I was in Travancore immediately after the proclamation was issued, I said anything that needed qualification when I said then that one was reminded of no less historic figures than Akbar and Asoka when thinking and speaking about this proclamation. And I repeat it to-day lest anybody should imagine that what I said then was said in a vein of emotion and that it was pitched too high. Even as what is near to us is not seen clearly and what is distant is

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seen better, sometimes we see the greatness of past historic figures and fail to see the greatness of men moving around us. The heroic courage that was shown by the Maharaja of Travancore has no parallel in historic times and I say that again.

"Sir, a point was raised that however good a thing may be, however great a thing may be, however illustrious and remarkable the men may be who were concerned in this great act, relevancy and constitution prevent us from expressing our opinion. Sir, it is not merely a right, but it is a wise thing that we pass this resolution. It is right because I claim, Sir, that this House has the right of expressing its opinion on any matter except those that are specifically excluded by law. And when the hon. Member raised the objection on the score of a technical bar with reference to the limitation against discussing the affairs of Indian States, I say that the point that was raised was altogether wrong. And I say that if the law prevents us from doing a certain thing, that and that alone is the limitation on our powers. We have the privilege and the right to express our opinion on any matter on which we hold an opinion. To say, therefore, that because we cannot pass resolutions blaming any activities of certain Indian Rulers we cannot also appreciate them is to wholly confound what was excluded with what is apposite. 'We cannot blame, therefore we cannot praise': this is a wrong proposition. If we feel that we should praise, and if it is not prevented, we have a right to praise. We have a right to appreciate. If we feel that we can blame, we have a right to blame but for the fact that we are prevented from blaming. Therefore the logic of it is wrong, however seemingly right it might appear to be. Therefore there is no infringement, open or covert, in our recording appreciation of the acts and the glories of people around us, as no section in the Government of India Act prevents us from doing so. It is wise and not merely right and for this I refer hon. Members to the beautiful speech that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition made and what was expressed by the members of the Harijan community in support of this proposition when they rose successively to speak and spoke to appreciate. Sir, do we not know the meaning of it all? Do we not know it was an expression of disappointment, of discontent and almost of despair? Are we not to deal with this discontent and despair and how are we going to deal with it if we do not even appreciate a thing like this which has happened around us? I say, Sir, it is not merely appreciation. In appreciating the act we lay the foundation for that public opinion which the Leader of the Opposition said was necessary in order that we may proceed with activities on our own part. Sir, when I join in this congratulation to His Highness the Maharaja in terms which, I do not believe, however high-pitched, are an exaggeration, when I do so, I do it with a feeling in the back of my mind: How I wish I had the powers, how I wish I had the rights and the prerogatives which the Sovereign of Travancore has. If I had the right to issue a proclamation, or if this House had the right to issue a proclamation of that kind, would I not urge you, Sir, to get a resolution of proclamation

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therein. He was opposing the motion before the House and he was giving reasons for opposing it."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I submit I am not raising any point of order."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the Hon. Premier press his point of order?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It was for the Member who was speaking to say whether he pressed his point of order or not. But as he has said that he was not raising any point of order, I have no point of order."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Sir, as a matter of fact the issue is very much bigger than a point of order, because I move for the rejection of the resolution by this Assembly."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Am I to understand that the hon. Member is opposing the resolution and does he want a vote to be taken on it?"

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I am opposing the resolution and I am giving reasons for it. I cannot at this stage say whether I want a vote to be taken or not. It may be that some of the Members of the Opposition might support me."

"Sir, is there any precedent in any part of the world for passing a resolution like this? Did the House of Commons whose example we are supposed to follow pass a resolution commending the action of the United States in abolishing slavery? Did the House of Commons pass a resolution congratulating the French Government when they overthrew the Bourbons? It may be, by passing a resolution of this kind, that we may be congratulating the action of some neighbouring State. But there are other States who are opposed to this policy and who view this question in a different manner. Will it not lead to the irresistible conclusion that this resolution impliedly condemns them?"

"My next point is really that the resolution cannot be supported on its merits. I say we are not in a position to consider this resolution. By reason of the view that has been put forward by the Government on the floor of the House last Saturday we are estopped from a consideration of this resolution. My authority for this is the statement of the Hon. the Leader of the House. While speaking on one of the several Budget Demands on the floor of this House, he made a statement some time ago that temple entry and such other reforms could not be effected by Government Acts. If the issue raised by the hon. Member Swami Sahajanandam during the course of a discussion on this particular Demand was rejected by the Hon. the Premier on this ground, I ask where are we now? Can we not legitimately and reasonably apply the same dictum here? Is not the action of the neighbouring State of Travancore in direct violation of the principle laid down on the floor of this House? I say further. Is it right to pass a resolution congratulating the Ruler of Travancore for an act which we consider to be unsound according to all canons of legislation and sound policy?"

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Besides, in amplification of what the Hon. the Premier said, I heard him emphasizing that when the Poona Pact was concluded it was made clear that no Government, either Swaraj or any other Government, can, by Governmental Acts, remove untouchability and allow entry into temples. I am not quoting the exact words, but I am merely mentioning the substance of what he said. But the principle underlying the proclamation of the Travancore Government is in reality a direct violation of this statement of legislative properties made on the floor of this House by the Prime Minister himself.

"My next point is that we will not be sincere in passing this resolution. The party in power will acknowledge that it has got voting strength—a solid and disciplined majority—and if they want they can pass a legislation on the lines identical with those in the Proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore. We are saying in this resolution, 'What is good for you in Travancore is not good enough for us in Madras.' What you have done is very good and we congratulate you, but we feel that we shall be violating the first principles of legislation if we undertake the passing of a legislation of this kind. It offends all Parliamentary proprieties. We cannot bring about any reforms by Governmental Acts. I mean to say that if we cannot pass a legislation in this House when the Government has such a big majority, we cannot go and praise His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore for any action of his on ground of proprieties."

"I will close with drawing the attention of hon. Members of this House to this fact: We must not, in order effectively to build up sound Parliamentary traditions in this infant democratic endeavour of ours, descend from the high standards of Parliamentary proprieties, of sound policies and accepted legislative canons, and accept a resolution which, in effect, shows that we are not willing to abide by our own convictions. I ask this House to reject the resolution before the House, because it is a bad precedent and it is bad on merits and thoroughly in bad taste."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to join with those who have offered congratulations to the Travancore Government on the courageous step they have taken in throwing open the State temples to the depressed classes. His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, a young and enlightened Ruler, has, in this great endeavour of his, been assisted by his talented mother and the able statesman. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. Sir, this step which is in conformity with the enlightened spirit of the times goes a great way to remove the religious disabilities of the depressed classes. It is very gratifying to find that the action of the Travancore Government has received an abundant measure of support in the Travancore State, and has also been welcomed throughout India. Sir, the removal of religious disabilities and such other things which go along with the word 'disabilities' particularly with reference to the depressed classes community is a thing which is all for

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 25th September 1937.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Building, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, the Deputy Speaker (Mrs. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI) in the Chair.

Proceedings began with the singing of Vande Mataram.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

* Q. 247.^a

Introduction of total prohibition in Salem.

* 248 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether orders have been issued introducing total prohibition in Salem district with effect from 1st October 1937;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the orders will be placed on the table;

(c) whether representations have been received for closing the liquor shops for a distance of at least 5 miles from the boundary in the surrounding districts;

(d) if so, from whom and how they have been disposed of; and

(e) whether representations have been received from the tappers for solving their problem of unemployment, and how they have been disposed of?

• THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) A Press Communiqué embodying the orders has been issued and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 14th September 1937.

“(c) & (d) Representations were received on the point from certain persons of the Kallakurichi taluk, from the Kuppam Taluk Congress Committee and from Mr. K. V. Subbaratnam Ayyar, vakil, Erode. The Government have directed that, within a distance of ten miles from the Salem district border, the number of trees marked for the tapping of toddy and the supply of arrack should be restricted to the average of the last five years. Sales of bottled liquor will be prohibited in these belt shops.

“(e) The answer is in the negative. But with a view to absorb most of the tappers who might be thrown out of employment the Government have directed that the tapping of trees for sweet toddy should be continued and encouraged. The question of taking up public works which could employ the tappers and of establishing factories for the manufacture of jaggery from sweet toddy is also being examined.”

^a Vide page 831 infra.

[Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar] [24th September 1937]

issued to-day and now? But it was pointed out and rightly that we have the right to do it provided we go the right way to do it. We have to secure not merely a statesman like the Dewan to the Maharaja of Travancore, not merely a mother like the Maharani of Travancore to sit amongst us as one of our Members, but we have to secure public opinion which would welcome such a proclamation even as the proclamation of the Maharaja of Travancore was welcomed in the realm of the Maharaja of Travancore. We have prepared much; we have done much work. All parties, all men have done much work. This is not the occasion for appreciating and evaluating the relative proportions of the work done by various parties and people. It is a matter of joy and it does not matter who does the work if the work is done, or how much of it is done by each if the work is done at the end of it all. Much as we have done—all of us—it is not enough. It is quite enough for the opening of all schools, quite enough for the opening of roads and wells, for the giving of all civil rights. It is enough to laugh out all old prejudices. It is enough to sit together and eat and drink if we like, but it is not enough for this House to clear its way to throw open its temples. We had a humble measure before the Central Legislature through the energetic efforts of some of us who are here in this House to-day, but it could not be done. But even that effort was very humble; it was not to throw open the temples, but to remove the legal disabilities against throwing open the temples if people desire to worship in a certain temple. That kind of measure we can introduce, but it would be a flash in the pan, a damp squib, if public opinion is not ready to utilize that optional legislation. Therefore the priceless measure over which we are congratulating His Highness the Maharaja is great and valuable not only for the people of Travancore, for the Maharaja of Travancore and all of them but valuable even for us. There are some families here who can go to the same temples with the same Gods in Travancore and worship there but are prevented from doing that inside a few miles of our border. What is good in Travancore is good for us and is bound to come and spread in our land if only we proceed on right lines. This resolution is not an idle resolution merely to flatter some people. It is not an irrelevant resolution. Another point was raised: 'Is it right, is it decent, is it in good taste if you praise up a thing when you are unable to do it?' Yes, Sir, I say we do it not in the spirit of sycophancy or flattery or courtiership. We do it in order to strengthen ourselves and enable ourselves to do better than we have done. It is right. It is not merely a congratulation proceeding from a cringing temperament of sycophancy, but it is a humble confession of those who feel hungry for food and cannot get it. It is in that spirit we say that we praise where praise is due.

"Sir, it will not be long before such a potent and priceless thing will find its fruits even in our own land. Therefore it is a wise and practical thing, that I claim, that we are doing to-day. It was said: 'Why don't you do it then? Why can't you do it? It is a sad

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confession you are making; therefore put the resolution aside.' I have already stated why we are unable to do it. I have also said how we can be enabled to do it. That is why we send our greetings to the Maharaja. I join with Members who have already proposed and ably supported this resolution and I do hope that the House will pass this resolution, if not unanimously, at least without any opposition on the score of technical grounds."

The resolution was put and carried.

The House adjourned to meet again at 10 a.m. the next day.

[25th September 1937]

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I ask the Hon. the Minister whether there are proposals to do away with the marking of trees to a distance of at least five miles from the borders of the Salem district? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Yes.”

Linotype department, Government Press, Madras.

* 249 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) how many Linotype machines and what other accessories for them are provided in the Government Press;

(b) the value of the investment on the Linotype machines and the accessories;

(c) who the expert was who was in charge of the department and who remodelled the Lino section, trained most of the present operators and was responsible for the efficient working of the department;

(d) who the expert is who is in charge of the department now and what his qualifications, credentials, practical training, and experience are;

(e) what has happened to the expert who remodelled the section, organized its working and was looking after it;

(f) what the terms of his engagement were and what the opinion of the department is with regard to his work while in service; and

(g) whether, as a result of his experience, he submitted any proposals to the Superintendent regarding the further improvement and more efficient working of the department; and if so, what action the Government propose to take on the suggestions made?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ (a) *Machines*—26.

Accessories:—

Magazines	...	...	...	...	...	81
Moulds body	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Universal	...	...	...	...	...	82
„ capsplain	...	...	...	...	...	37
„ recessed	...	...	...	...	...	38
Liners	...	...	...	...	...	886
Ejectors	...	...	...	...	...	262
Space-bands	...	...	...	...	...	1,139
Matrices (additions)	...	...	...	...	...	69,861

“ (b) The book value on the 1st April 1937 was Rs. 2,17,001-12-0.

“ (c) Mr. K. R. Beveridge and later Mr. E. R. W. Wynne were in charge of the section. The present operators are those trained under one or the other of these officers.

“ (d) Mr. G. F. Amalanathan; he had special training in Linotype works in England and this was later supplemented by training in the Government Press itself while Mr. Wynne was in charge of its Linotype section.

25th September 1937]

“ (e) It is presumed that the reference is to Mr. Wynne; his services were terminated on the 9th May 1937.

“ (f) He was engaged on contract for a period of five years in the first instance and the contract was renewed for a further period of five years which expired on the 9th of May 1937. The Government do not consider that it will be in the public interests to divulge official opinion about an officer's work; such opinions are treated as strictly confidential; and

“ (g) No such proposals are under consideration.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“ Are the Government satisfied that there was no personal factor or nepotism involved in the appointment of the gentleman who is now in charge of the Linotype section? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ I am not prepared to answer that question in the public interest.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I know when the present gentleman in charge of linotype machines was appointed and what is the total length of his service as an employee of the Government Press? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ I am afraid I cannot give accurate information; I would suggest to the hon. Gentleman to put down another question on this matter.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I know what his general qualifications are? ”

• THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ As I said, if the hon. Member wants further information, he must put down a fresh question.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I know what are the periods for which he underwent training in the Linotype Company in England? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ I repeat my last answer.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I know whether the Linotype Company in which he underwent training pronounced it as their opinion that he was not competent to be in charge of linotype machines in the Government Printing Press? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ I have got no such information.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to enquire whether the Secretary in charge of the department was ever placed in possession of such information, either officially or otherwise? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ This is a matter for the Government to consider.”

[25th September 1937]

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25th September 1937]

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"This is a matter for the Government to consider."

[25th September 1937]

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I know, whether it is not a matter for the Government to consider in the interests of the tax-payers' money? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" If the hon. Gentleman has taken the trouble to listen to what I said, he should have known what I said, that it is a matter for the Government to consider."

*Appointment of a mechanic to the Linotype department,
Government Press, Madras.*

* 250 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the appointment of a Linotype mechanic has been created in the Government Press;

(b) what the circumstances were under which the appointment was created;

(c) who the present incumbent of the post is;

(d) what the technical qualifications, credentials and experience possessed by him are;

(e) what his salary was before he was appointed to this post and what his present remuneration is;

(f) whether any suggestion was made by the expert who was in charge of the department to appoint to this post one of the senior operators with practical knowledge of the machinery; and

(g) whether the Government have considered the advisability of appointing for the post of the mechanic one of the senior operators?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Till recently the linotype section was in charge of an officer who had been engaged on contract. On the expiry of his term of engagement (9th May 1937) the charge of the section was made part of the duties of a qualified Gazetted Assistant of the Press staff and it became necessary to give him the assistance of a suitable mechanic.

" (c) The post is held by a senior mechanic who was already in the Press.

" (d) He has had sufficient experience in the handling of various types of printing and binding machines; he also received special training for three months under the officer referred to in clause (b) before the latter left the Press.

" (e) He was drawing a pay of Rs. 58 in the scale of Rs. 30—2—60; he is now getting Rs. 100 in the scale of Rs. 100—5/2—105—10/2—125.

" (f) No such suggestion is on record.

" (g) The answer is in the negative."

[25th September 1937]

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I know why the claims of one of the linotype operators specially trained by the specialist were not considered for filling up the post? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I am sure they were considered, and it was because the Superintendent considered such person was not suitable that this other man was appointed."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I know whether the opinion of the Superintendent is binding in this matter? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I should think so, in matters where special considerations are taken into account."

*Transfer of Linotype operators in the Government Press so as to
prejudice their earning capacity.*

* 251 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether there were any transfers of Lino-operators from one machine to another in the Lino section of the Government Press recently;

(b) on what basis and for what reasons the transfers were effected;

(c) whether there were any such transfers during the time of Mr. Wynne, the previous Lino Instructor, and when;

(d) what the necessity for further transfer after Mr. Wynne's departure was;

(e) whether such transfers affect the earnings of the operators adversely; and

(f) whether a statement showing the earnings of each operator for the last one year will be placed on the table of the House for information?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) & (c) Transfers have been made periodically.

" (b) & (d) Transfers are a matter of internal administration. Generally speaking no operator has a claim on any particular machine; some machines show a better outturn than others according to the nature of the work for which they are equipped and periodical transfers have the effect of balancing to some extent the earnings of operators.

" (e) Transfers no doubt affect earnings, but not necessarily in an adverse manner in all cases.

" (f) The Government consider that it will not be in the public interest to publish the statement asked for by the hon. Gentleman."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" May I ask whether in view of the large number of questions that have been tabled in this House about the conditions of work in the Government Printing Press, and in view of the feeling in this House that all is not well with the

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MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"Is it not a fact, Madam, that because the general public prefer Allopathic dispensaries that these Ayurvedic dispensaries are not popular?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Again, Madam, it is a matter of opinion."

MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—"Is it a fact that the Government recently turned down the request of the Rajahmundry District Board to open an Ayurvedic dispensary in preference to an Allopathic dispensary in a village called Gopalapuram?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The hon. Member must have listened to the answer given, and the answer is quite clear about what happened at Gopalapuram."

MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—"I am referring to the case of another village of the same name in another district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Notice."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the advisability of same salary being given to these Ayurvedic doctors as the Sub-Assistant Surgeons?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The hon. Member will understand that in all rural dispensaries started with trained Ayurvedic doctors, they are paid the same salary as Sub-Assistant Surgeons."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"In view of the appalling poverty of the people in rural areas, will Government consider the desirability of encouraging only indigenous systems of medicine?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"That does not arise out of this question."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is it a fact that the practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine who are registered by the Board constituted by the Indian School of Medicine, are treated on the same footing as L.I.M.s?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Yes."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Are they treated equally?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"There are two classifications of L.I.M.s. There are what are called the 'A' class and 'B' class. Those coming under the 'A' section or A.L.I.M. receive the same pay in rural dispensaries as any L.M.P. With regard to the 'B' class of practitioners, their remuneration is certainly less than that of A.L.I.M.s."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is any ban imposed on them in spite of the fact that they are registered practitioners?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No ban is imposed on anybody with regard to their work."

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MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Has any representation been received by Government to the effect that they are not allowed by local boards in respect of appointment?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No, Sir."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"May I know, Madam, whether in the opinion of the Government the Ayurvedic system is superior to that of the Allopathic system and whether they are going to popularize this system?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Again, Madam, it is a matter of opinion."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Madam, whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that there are several snake-bite curers in Malabar who are given contributions by the district board and that the contributions are scanty; and whether Government will consider the advisability of granting additional contributions to enable them to carry on their work?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am not aware of any such contribution."

MR. V. K. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"May I know, Madam, whether it is necessary to have two classes of Ayurvedic doctors?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The idea of having two classes is this. There are now a large number of practitioners, some of whom have gone through a regular course of training, but a large majority of them more or less belong to the categories of persons who have no qualification or regular training in any school or college, except for the fact that they have been practising the systems of medicine which they have learnt from their fathers or great grandfathers and so they have not got the same qualification as those that have gone through a course of training for four or five years according to the syllabus prescribed by Government. The registration of these two classifications as A and B depends upon the merit and training that they possess. The A class people are those who have received four or five years training in the School of Indian Medicine and the rest are merely practitioners and they are necessarily to be classified into a group called the B class."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Madam, whether Government will be pleased to call for a report from the President of the District Board of Malabar about the useful work turned out by the snake-bite curers referred to in my previous supplementary question and about the contribution given to them?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government do not consider it necessary to go into such investigations."

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Government Printing Press, the Government as a whole will consider the desirability of appointing a non-official committee of this House with wide terms of reference to enquire into the conditions of service in the Government Printing Press and submit a report? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am afraid, the hon. Gentleman is presuming too much in considering that it is the opinion of the House. If it is the opinion of the particular gentleman who has put down these questions, I am prepared to agree; but the question whether a committee should be appointed or not is a matter for the consideration of the Government."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—"May I know whether these transfers are confined exclusively to certain operators while others are left scot-free? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"As I have said, administrative convenience necessitates these transfers, and it is a matter entirely in the discretion of the Superintendent of the Government Press."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"Although it may be the opinion of a small section of this House, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to appoint a committee of enquiry? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"As I said, in answer to a supplementary question put by the hon. Member for Railway Labour Unions, I will consider this suggestion."

Steps for popularizing the Ayurvedic system of medicine in this Presidency.

* 252 Q.—MR. K. VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps are being taken to popularize Ayurvedic medicine in this Presidency;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Ayurvedic dispensaries at Chagallu and Gopalapuram in the Narasapur Local Fund District Board area were converted into allopathic dispensaries recently;

(c) if so, whether the Principal, Government School of Indian Medicine, was consulted according to the rules, and whether he agreed; and

(d) if not, why permission was given for the conversion?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) The Government have provided in their Indian Medical School at Madras for the proper training of students in Ayurveda so as to enable them to become competent practitioners of the Ayurvedic system of medicine with a good working knowledge of the western system also. They have permitted local bodies to open and maintain institutions of Indian medicine from the savings resulting from the provincialization of

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their medical institutions as well as from their own funds. They have decided to make grants in aid to institutions of Indian medicine (including Ayurvedic dispensaries) maintained by local bodies and private agencies provided they are situated in places where there are no Government or aided institutions. They have sanctioned maintenance grants to a few institutions of Indian medicine maintained by local bodies and have also subsidized a number of rural Ayurvedic dispensaries. It is proposed to sanction subsidies for some more rural dispensaries in the current year.

"(b) The rural Ayurvedic dispensary at Gopalapuram was converted into one of western medicine with effect from 23rd June 1937. The Narsapur District Board has resolved to convert the rural Ayurvedic dispensary at Chagallu also into one of western medicine. The President, District Board, has been asked to place before the District Board the question of replacing the present Ayurvedic practitioner by another duly qualified and efficient practitioner of Indian medicine so that it may reconsider its decision to convert the dispensary into one of western medicine.

"(c) & (d) Under the existing orders, the conversion of rural dispensaries from the allopathic system to Indian systems of medicine and *vice versa* should be reported to the Principal, Indian Medical School, and the District Medical Officer concerned. It is open to local boards to obtain the opinion of the Principal, Indian Medical School, or the District Medical Officer, as the case may be, but they are not required to do so under any rule."

* MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"May I ask whether it is not a fact that the Indian School of Medicine has not kept pace with the scientific advancement made in the development of other systems of medicine in the treatment of human diseases and whether any endeavours will be made by this Government to enable the Indian system of medicine to keep pace with such scientific advancement? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Madam, the question does not arise out of the main question now before the House. It is a matter of opinion."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government are prepared to give aid to Ayurvedic dispensaries and other Ayurvedic institutions run by people who have not got the diplomas of the Indian School of Medicine? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government are giving help to all Ayurvedic dispensaries, such of them as possess medical men who have got the qualification recognized by the Government."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government are aware that the present status or difference in status between the L.I.M. and the Allopathic practitioners is responsible for the slow progress of Ayurvedic medicine? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No, Madam."

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MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" May I know, Madam, whether any difference in pay exists between L.M.Ps. and Ayurvedic practitioners so far as local boards are concerned? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Qualified L.I.Ms. and L.M.Ps. are given the same grade of pay. "

Cost of administration of the areas vested in forest panchayats.

* 253 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the total area under forests in this Presidency;
- (b) the area administered by panchayats; and
- (c) the cost of administration per acre in each case?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) & (b)—

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Area of reserved forests under the control of Forest department on 31st March 1936	...	...	15,637
Area of reserved forests under panchayat management on 31st March 1936	...	...	3,380
Area of reserved lands under the control of Forest department	...	...	750
Total	...	...	19,767

" (c) The Government do not incur any expenditure on account of the forests under panchayat management. In the case of reserved forests and reserved lands under the control of the Forest department, the expenditure per acre works out to 6 annas 2 pies. "

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—" In view of the fact that no cost is incurred with regard to these forest panchayats, will the Hon. Minister consider the possibility of increasing their number? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" The matter will be considered. "

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I know, Madam, whether the fees have been enhanced in the Nellore district in respect of these panchayats? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" No, Madam. "

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—" May I know whether the forests under the panchayats are let to contractors? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" No, Madam. "

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MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether any representations have been made to Government by the ryots of the Nellore district that the fees have been enhanced? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" The question of fees does not arise out of this question. "

* Q. 254.*

Duties of and the conditions of service governing certain classes of employees in the Agricultural department.

* 255 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have framed service rules governing the appointment, leave, pension, etc., of the demonstration maistris under the Agricultural department;

(b) whether the messengers employed under the Agricultural Demonstrators are on a salary basis;

(c) whether the duties performed by messengers are not the same as those performed by peons in other departments;

(d) whether the store-keepers employed under the Agricultural Demonstrators are on the same basis and conditions of service as those employed in other departments; and

(e) whether the store-keepers are required to perform the duties of ordinary clerks also?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) Maistris have been included in the Madras General Subordinate Service. Special rules governing this service are under consideration.

" (b) Messengers employed in the Agricultural department are classed under skilled labourers and are paid from contingencies.

" (c) No. But Agricultural Demonstrators sometimes employ the messengers on the work of peons during their tours as they have no peons sanctioned for them.

" (d) Store-keepers employed in the Agricultural department are on two grades, viz., Rs. 30—3/2—45—2/2—55 and Rs. 19—2/2—33, and are on the same conditions of service as store-keepers in other departments drawing pay in the same scale.

" (e) Store-keepers are required to do the duties of clerks also. "

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Report of the Revenue Revision Committee.

* 256 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to give effect to the recommendations of the Revenue Revision Committee appointed by the Government;

(b) whether a copy of the Report of the Revenue Revision Committee will be placed on the table of the House; and

(c) what the intentions of Government are with regard to remission of assessment on land?

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Government.

“(b) Yes, after the Government arrive at some decision on the recommendations contained in the report.

“(c) This question is closely connected with the recommendations of the Committee.”

Facilities to Muslim prisoners to offer prayers in jails.

* 257 Q.—MR. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state whether any facilities are given to the Muslim prisoners to offer their prayers in jails?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The answer is in the affirmative. The hon. Member is referred to rule 283 of the Madras Jail Manual, Part II.”

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“May I know, Madam, what is the time allowed for offering prayers? Is it five times a day?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“No, it is only once.”

MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—“May I ask, Madam, whether prayer books are supplied to such of the prisoners as require them?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“I am not aware of any such supply of prayer books.”

MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—“May I request the Hon. Minister to consider this question favourably?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Certainly.”

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to make the necessary arrangements to allow these prisoners more time to offer their prayers?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The Government will consider the matter.”

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MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“May I know, Madam, the reason why five times a day are not allowed to these prisoners?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“The Government will consider the matter and the answer will be given after consideration.”

Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.

* 258 Q.—MR. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is the intention of the Government to separate the Judiciary from the Executive?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“The hon. Member is referred to the answer to starred question No. 52.”

Proposal for the appointment of local committees in each district to arrange for grazing facilities.

* 259 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are contemplating enquiry into the grazing grievances in each district, and if so, what the nature is of the enquiry that is thought of; and

(b) whether local committees in each district will be appointed, and if so, when?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) The answer is in the negative. The question of reduction of grazing fees is however under the consideration of Government.”

“(b) The answer is in the negative.”

MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“In view of the famine conditions and scarcity of fodder in the Ceded districts, will Government be pleased to cancel the orders relating to the levy of grazing fees?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The matter will be considered.”

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—“Is it not a fact, Madam, that the ryots in the border villages of two districts have to pay grazing fees both in their own village as well as in the neighbouring villages of the other district?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Yes, Madam.”

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—“Will the Government look into the matter and see that the ryot pays only one grazing fee instead of two in the bordering villages?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“If cattle are to be grazed in two districts, I think two permits have to be taken.”

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MR. B. ANANTACHAR:—“ May I know, Madam, whether there is any proposal before the Government for free grazing in the areas affected by famine? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Yes, the matter is under consideration.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“ Is there any proposal before the Government that the grazing fees in the Ceded districts should either be abolished or stopped? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ No, Madam.”

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“ May I know from the Hon. Minister whether all poramboke and vacant lands should be utilized for purposes of grazing? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ I do not think that this question arises out of the original question.”

* 260 Q.—Withdrawn.

Provision of funds for the additional equipment necessary for the Vizagapatam Hospital and College.

* 261 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the amount necessary to equip the Vizagapatam Hospital and Medical College so as to qualify the College for recognition;

(b) whether that amount will be provided in the budget of this year; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ (a) The cost of the building improvements to the Medical College and King George Hospital, Vizagapatam, is now estimated at Rs. 17,84,400.

“ (b) & (c) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“ May I ask, Madam, whether Rs. 16,00,000 is necessary for carrying out the improvement required by the Indian Medical Council? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ It is a scheme and when considering the cost, it is the whole scheme that has to be taken into consideration.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“ May I know, Madam, what steps have been taken by the Government since the issue of the Government Communiqué on the 14th August 1937? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ Plans are being got ready and the Special Architect has visited Vizagapatam and is submitting his report which will be in the hands of the Government during the course of the month.”

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MR. MIR AKRAM ALI:—“ Is the hostel also likely to be extended? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ The Vizagapatam Medical College and Hospital improvement is quite distinct from the question of the extension of the hostel.”

Protest against the acquisition of land for the formation of a new road parallel to an existing Local Fund road in Chattrapatti village in the Sankarankoil taluk, Tinnevely district.

* 254 Q.—MR. P. CHINNAMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations have been received by Government from the villagers of Chattrapatti village in the Sankarankoil taluk, Tinnevely district, protesting against the action of the Zamindar of Sevalpatti in compelling and intimidating several tenants including an hon. Member of this House to part with portions of their land for forming a road parallel to an existing Local Fund road;

(b) whether the Government are aware fully of the circumstances under which the Zamindar is planning a parallel road;

(c) if not, whether a full report has been called for or will be called for from the district officials;

(d) whether Government are aware that the Zamindar has in furtherance of his project for forming a parallel road removed a country oil mill and desecrated a Harijan's tomb by planting the mill right upon the tomb; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take on the representation from the villagers?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“ (a) to (e) The Government have no information on the subject. No representations have been received by them. A report has been called for.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know, Madam, whether the previous permission of the Government is necessary for the laying of roads and the planting of avenue trees, etc., in the zamindari area? ”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“ There is no such requirement.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know, Madam, whether the laying of roads and the planting of avenue trees do not come under the improvements made by the Zamindar? ”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“ The question of improvements made by the Zamindar is not covered by the question.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know whether tombs could not be built in revenue fields of zamindari area? ”

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—“ Tombs could be built in places assigned for the purpose.”

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Instructions to police regarding bus owners carrying first-aid materials in buses.

* 262 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to issue instructions to the Commissioner of Police in the City of Madras and the District Superintendents of Police in the mufassal to insist upon the bus owners plying for hire to carry first-aid materials in the bus when the 'G' permit is issued to them afresh?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The answer is in the negative."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"May I know, Madam, whether it is the intention of the Government to leave the persons injured in a bus accident to the mercy of nature?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government have no such intention at all."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"May I know if the Government are aware that every railway train carries a full equipment of first-aid appliances to render medical aid in an emergency?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government are not aware of it."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of laying down that motor bus drivers and conductors should hold a certificate of competency in first-aid course at the time of the grant and renewal of their licence as is the case with drivers as well as firemen in the railway?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The suggestion will be considered."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of periodically submitting motor drivers of public and private vehicles as also owner-drivers to strict vision test prior to the grant of licence seeing that many of the road accidents are due to defective vision and colour blindness of motor drivers?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government, while not accepting the suggestion, will, however, consider the question."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Madam, whether any practical difficulty exists in the matter of carrying first-aid outfit on buses plying for hire? Will not the suggestion be favourably considered in view of the large number of motor accidents that are occurring?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It is not the absence of first-aid outfit but the want of knowledge on the part of those that carry it, that has to be considered, in the matter of issuing a circular on the lines suggested."

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MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"Will the Government consider the question of issuing instructions to motor owners and bus managers laying down that persons injured in a motor accident should immediately be taken to a place where medical aid is available?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The rule is already there. Rule 27 (c) of the Motor Vehicles Act."

Establishment of the Panchayat Board, Tiruvallur.

* 247 Q.—MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure of the Tiruvallur Panchayat Board on the staff employed by it has increased in recent years and that the staff were not recruited from the ex-taluk board employees;

(b) whether the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has directed the panchayat board to reduce the staff and, if so, whether the orders have been carried out and, if so, how; and

(c) whether the Government will place on the table the list of establishment of the board from 1933–1938?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) As compared with the figure for 1932–33, the total expenditure incurred by the Tiruvallur Panchayat Board on its establishments under all heads increased only in 1936–37. The appointments to the staff in vacancies which arose after 1st April 1934 were made from outsiders either because no ex-taluk board servant was available for appointment or because the pay of the posts was too low to attract any ex-taluk board servant.

" (b) The orders issued by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards to retrench the staff, as far as possible, were carried out by the president, panchayat board, by the abolition of certain posts.

" (c) A list ^a of the establishment of the panchayat board for the years 1932–33 to 1937–38 which was obtained from the President, District Board, Chingleput, is laid on the table."

(Mr. Speaker took the Chair.)

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is preference being given to employees of taluk boards, whose services had been dispensed with owing to the abolition of taluk boards, in the matter of filling up vacancies in panchayat boards?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The answer is in the affirmative."

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MOTION UNDER RULE 15 (3).

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, under rule 15 (3) of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, I beg to move—

‘ that item (3) of the Agenda, namely, a Bill further to amend the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922 for certain purposes (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1937), be taken into consideration now in preference to items (1) and (2). ’ ”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“ On a point of order. May I submit, Sir, that hon. Members have not been supplied with copies of the Bill? ”

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—“ With reference to the supply of copies of Bills, I understand, Mr. Speaker, that Gazette copies have been forwarded to the mufassal addresses of hon. Members and they have not been able to get them here. I shall be glad if you would instruct your office to supply copies of Bills to Hon. Members.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ The motion that I made, Mr. Speaker, and which has to be disposed of by the House is not item (3), but that the House do give leave to take up item (3) in preference to items (1) and (2) in the list of Government Bills. If and when that Bill is moved, hon. Members will have time and opportunity to raise such questions.”

* MR. SEAKER:—“ Sub-rule (3) of rule 15 (Chapter V), of the Assembly Rules reads thus:—

‘ The order of business as arranged in the list shall not be revised except on a motion accepted by the House.’

“ May I take it that the House accepts the motion made by the Hon. Premier? ”

The motion was put and carried.

III.—BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE MADRAS STATE AID TO INDUSTRIES ACT, 1922. FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES (L.A. BILL NO. 3 OF 1937).

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ Mr. Speaker, I beg to introduce the Bill * further to amend the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922, for certain purposes (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1937) and move that the Bill be taken into consideration by the Assembly at once.

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 14th September 1937.

25th September 1937] [Mr. V. V. Giri]

“ I will read the whole Bill with the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It runs thus:—

L.A. BILL No. 3 OF 1937.

A Bill further to amend the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922, for certain purposes.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Madras Act
V of 1923.

Short title.

1. This Act may be called the Madras State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Act, 1937.

Madras Act
V of 1923.

Insertion of new section 1-A in Madras Act V of 1923.

2. After section 1 of the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Definitions.

“ 1-A. In this Act—

- (i) ‘ cottage industry ’ means any industry carried on by a worker in his own home; and
- (ii) ‘ village industry ’ means any industry which forms the normal occupation, whether whole time or part time, of any class of the rural population of the Province.”

Amendment of section 6, Madras Act V of 1923.

3. For clause (c) of section 6 of the said Act, the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“ (c) by paying a subsidy, in the case of a cottage industry for any purpose, and in the case of any other industry for the conduct of research or the purchase of machinery.”

Amendment of section 16, Madras Act V of 1923.

4. In section 16 of the said Act, after the words “ No subsidy ” in the second paragraph, the words “ to an industry other than a cottage industry ” shall be inserted.

Amendment of section 20, Madras Act V of 1923.

5. In section 20 of the said Act, after clause (d), the following clause shall be added, namely:—

“ (e) from assisting a village industry in any manner which may be determined by the Provincial Government.”

[Mr. V. V. GIRI] [25th September 1937]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922 (Madras Act V of 1923) prohibits Government from giving aid to industrial enterprises except in one or more of the modes specified therein. The Act as it stands does not permit of the giving of a subsidy to cottage industries except for research work or the purchase of machinery. The development of cottage and village industries is a matter of vital necessity. The object of this Bill is to enlarge the scope of the Act so as to permit of the giving (a) of subsidies for any purpose in the case of cottage industries, and (b) of such assistance to village industries as may from time to time be found necessary. The expressions "cottage industry" and "village industry" have also been defined.

10-45 a.m. "Sir, I do not think any introductory speech is necessary after I have read the objects and reasons. I beg to introduce the Bill and move that it be taken into consideration by the Assembly at once."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I speak at this time I should not be understood as employing any dilatory methods or opposing the principle or the provisions of this particular Bill. I rise to speak, Sir, in order to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that we have only yesterday finished the consideration of the budget proposals and budget demands. The House has been sitting all these days considering the budget demands and we have been for the first time, enabled to consider and finish all the 37 demands. The notice of all these Bills was according to the provisions of the rules only six days. As has been pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, most of the mufassal Members have not received copies of these Bills, inasmuch as they were sent to their mufassal addresses. Under such circumstances and in view of the fact that the Bills are not few, we have got at least half a dozen bills that the Government want the Members of the House to consider, continuous session even after disposing of the budget is not desirable. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that although the other Bills are small Bills, the Prohibition Bill is a very large and extensive Bill having at least 54 sections. Although it is true that most of the Members are agreed on some principles of the Bill, the Bill in its effect involves other principles. Some of them go to the extent of taking away the personal liberties of certain individuals. I do not object to the taking away of the personal liberties of certain individuals. But certainly in doing so it is necessary for the House to consider all these provisions in a very calm and careful manner. Therefore it would be better that the Government gives the Members at least seven days' time before the Government official business in the shape of Bills is considered.

"Sir, it will be stated that six days' time was given to the hon. Members inasmuch as the Bills were published in the Gazette six days ago according to the rules. But, it must be remembered that this period cannot be calculated as six days inasmuch as the Members were

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engaged in the House and they were not free. There was no time for them to consider those bills since they were engaged in the business of the House and therefore, as a matter of fact, those six days do not count at all. Therefore I hope that the Government will consider the difficulties of hon. Members. I do not know whether I can claim to speak on behalf of the entire House. Perhaps, I may not. At least on behalf of certain sections of the House I am voicing their opinion. They have been placed in a very difficult situation, particularly, in view of the fact that they have not received copies of the Bills and secondly that they have been considering the budget all these days. I hope that the Government will take into account these circumstances and see that at least some time is allowed to elapse between the termination of the budget discussions and the commencement of the consideration of the Government business in the shape of bills which one after another will be placed before the House. Sir, I conclude by once again making it clear that it is not my object to prevent the Government from taking up this Bill immediately, for I know that the Government will say, so far as the Prohibition Bill is concerned, that it has to come into effect from the 1st of October. But nothing will be lost if it comes into effect after the first week of October. Nothing will be lost if it comes into effect from the 1st of November. After all, the toddy shops will not be there. Of course in some form or other, help will be given to the citizens and the people of Salem to be free not only from toddy shops but also from any possible forces preventing them from using toddy altogether. Sir, we might even try that experiment of giving them complete freedom in that manner. Therefore, Sir, I appeal to the Hon. the Leader of the House to see if it is not possible to give hon. Members at least six or seven days' time."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schammad Sahib Bahadur rose to speak.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it necessary that all Members should speak on this motion? The Leader of the Opposition will speak."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, ordinarily I would not get up to speak on this. I wish first to assure the Hon. the Leader of the House that I do not want to be obstructive in any manner with regard to this particular business. But Members feel some inconvenience due to the fact that they have been sitting long and continuously in this House. They have not had sufficient time and opportunity to consider the various Government measures that are going to be introduced. Sir, we all know that Government have a clean majority and the Hon. the Leader of the House has stated more than once that the Opposition is here more to put forward their view-points. Even that will be lost if proper opportunity is not afforded to Members of this House. Personally so far as I am concerned it will suit me very well to sit continuously from now both morning and evening and even to-morrow, Sunday, and finish all the business the Government have and then have a holiday of three months till we meet again after the Pongal holidays. But as the hon. Members

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here feel that they have been sitting long and have not considerable time to devote to the various Bills, I think it worth giving them some consideration. I can understand the anxiety of the Hon. the Premier personally about the Prohibition Bill. He said a long time ago that he would like to give effect to it from the 1st of October. As the 1st of October happens to be the beginning of the next half-year, I think there is some reason in what he says. I would only suggest a way out, a compromise. The Government may introduce only the Prohibition Bill. They may get through the Prohibition Bill, introduce it, refer it to a Select Committee and all that. As soon as the Prohibition Bill is over adjourn the sittings till the House meets after a week or ten days in October. Then the House may go through the other Government measures and hon. Members may voice their views. I may also tell you the practical effect of the six days' notice. We all know that though the Gazette is supposed to be issued every Tuesday, practically it reaches our hands only on Thursday morning. The mufassal people get it on Thursday evening or Friday and some of the Members have not received copies of the bills at all. That is why I made another suggestion that extra copies of the Bill should be supplied to hon. Members of the House. From my speech I do not want the Hon. the Leader of the House to think that in any way I want to put off the other bills which he wants to introduce, by any length of time. I am only suggesting a weeks' adjournment after the Prohibition Bill is over. The Prohibition Bill may be taken up to-day and referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee could sit this afternoon and on Sunday to-morrow and report on Monday morning and after that it can be passed in this House in a day or two and in the Upper House in a few minutes and then put into effect on the 1st October."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful for the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition and by the Leader of the Muslim League Party that they do not intend, do not desire to adopt any dilatory tactics so called or obstruction so called. I am grateful for this and I now proceed only to appeal to them that they should give effect to this good intention. I do not impute any mischievous intention of dilatory tactics. But that is not necessary. What I appeal to them is that they should help us in achieving the common object, namely, that these necessary pieces of legislation should be got through without the least inconvenience and delay. Now it is wrong to say that the Government is interested only in the Prohibition Bill. There is an inaccuracy as regards the exclusive part of that statement. We are interested in the Prohibition Bill very much. But we are also interested in the other pieces of legislation which, had it not been for the necessity of the case, we would not have tried to rush through in this session.

"I want to mention at the outset now that it is wrong to think that we will be able to do nothing, this Government will be able to do nothing inasmuch as we have changed our attitude in regard to the quantity of work that has to be put in and in regard to the exertion

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that has to be put in, in respect of public matters. I make no reference by way of any depreciative implications but I do submit that we desire to be pardoned and forgiven if we ask Members to forego a little bit of their convenience and sit even late at night. I hope we shall not be thought of as acting dictatorially without due consideration to the House. We cannot have it both ways. The House must have full opportunity to discuss the measures.

"I want to explain why the Government desire that we should expedite the matter. Sir, the motion that is before the House is for introduction of the Bill to further amend the State Aid to Industries Act, 1922. On that point we need not perhaps go, except by way of explanation. I submit, Sir, that it is because all the Members are agreed unanimously that the State aid to Industries Act should be widened in order to remove certain obvious defects, this Bill is before the House. The obvious defect is that as the Bill stands we cannot give any subsidy to village industries or to cottage industries except for the contradictory purpose of purchasing machinery and the like; we cannot therefore make any use of this Act for village industries or cottage industries upon which so much stress was laid by all sections of the House. And the Act prohibits subsidies being given except for the purposes mentioned in the Act. So it becomes absolutely necessary that this Act should be amended because in these two small and necessary directions the very grants that we have obtained, the very demands that have been passed, will have to be given effect to. For that purpose if we mean anything real in this budget it is absolutely necessary that this Act should be amended.

"There is no other reason behind it. That is why I asked the hon. Mover of this Bill to read it out. The whole thing is absolutely clear. As regards the fact that we have been working all these days and one would like to have a holiday, it would lead to this that we should have a number of sessions before the close of the year. This would be much more inconvenient to those who are against its getting through now. I beseech the House to permit the passing of this Bill as well as the Bill that is put down now in the name of the Hon. the Revenue Minister. It is merely to remove a legal difficulty that arises out of interpretation. These are the two Bills that stand on the agenda to-day. As regards the Prohibition Bill I shall explain now. Since it is admitted by the Leader of the Opposition that we should get through it, I shall deal with it as quickly as possible. Government is quite prepared to consider the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition and if all would assist we think we will begin to work the Act from October. It is necessary that the Bill should be gone through. It is not as if the Bill is put up before the public for the first time now. This very Bill has been before the country for years. Because this is merely a repetition of a Bill that was put before the House and circulated before the House years ago, there is nothing new in it and it is merely a duplication of the Abkari Act in some respects. Whereas they intended licence we intend prohibition. The details are nothing

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Clause 1 was put and carried.

The Preamble was then put and carried.

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I move, Sir, that the Bill be passed into law."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour on his having so promptly brought an amending Bill. Sir, if this could ensure continuous employment and improve the condition of the cottage worker none will be more pleased than the Members of this Assembly."

* THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member, Mr. Appadurai Pillai for what he has stated. I want to return the compliment to him as one of those who met me and suggested certain amendments to the State Aid to Industries Act. I can assure Mr. Appadurai Pillai and others that if they have any more suggestions to bring forward they are most welcome at all times and will receive the best consideration. I again thank the Members for having facilitated the work."

The motion was put and carried, and the Bill was passed in law.

IV.—THE MADRAS REVENUE RECOVERY AND CITY LAND REVENUE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1937 (L.A. BILL NO. 4 OF 1937).

11-15
a.m.

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I introduce the Bill * further to amend the Madras Revenue Recovery Act, 1864, and the Madras City Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1867, for certain purposes (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1937), and move that the Bill be taken into consideration by the Assembly at once."

"The Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill gives the reason for this amending Bill. Under the Madras Revenue Recovery Act, when land is brought to sale and is purchased, the purchaser has to pay 15 per cent of the price as deposit and then pay the balance within thirty days after the sale. That was the rule with regard to the ordinary purchasers in these sales. Sometimes, it so happened and it happens that there is no outside purchaser, and the Government itself is obliged to bid and purchase the land. Then, the Government is asked to pay a deposit of 15 per cent of the sale value and then pay the balance within thirty days thereafter. So far as the Government are concerned, there is a considerable administrative inconvenience caused with regard to the depositing and maintenance of accounts, and there is no benefit gained by anybody in this matter. When the Government themselves purchase and when the Government maintain the accounts, the matter can be adjusted without making the payment of 15 per cent as deposit

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary, dated 17th September 1937.

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in the first instance and then paying the balance within thirty days. This amending Bill simply seeks to remove the technical difficulty, and I hope the Bill would be accepted."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The next question is whether this Bill may be put as a whole or clause by clause to the vote. It is within the discretion of the Speaker, when a motion that the Bill be taken into consideration is carried, to put the Bill to the vote either as a whole or in parts or clause by clause. I put all the clauses of the Bill and the preamble to the vote of the House."

The whole Bill was put and carried.

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I move that the Bill be passed into law."

The motion was put and carried, and the Bill was passed into law.

IV-A.—MOTION UNDER RULE 15 (3).

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"May I ask your permission, Mr. Speaker, to move under Rule 15 (3) that the Government motion *re* the constitution of a committee to enquire and report on the conditions prevailing in zamindari and other proprietary areas may be taken up now?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Revenue Member will move his motion."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"On a point of order, Sir. The motion that has been made by the Hon. the Premier is that this subject also be taken into consideration. I think that motion of the Hon. the Leader of the House should be put to the vote of the House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that the Government motion *re* the constitution of a committee to enquire and report on the conditions prevailing in zamindari and other proprietary areas be taken up."

The motion was put and carried.

V.—GOVERNMENT MOTION *RE* CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE TO
ENQUIRE AND REPORT ON THE CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN
ZAMINDARI AND OTHER PROPRIETARY AREAS.

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I move—

'that this Assembly do proceed to elect six of its Members, who, with three more Members elected from the Legislative Council, shall constitute a Committee to enquire and report on the conditions prevailing in zamindari and other proprietary areas and any legislation that may be considered desirable in connexion therewith, with particular reference to the following matters:—

(1) *the juridical interests of the ryots in relation to the land-holders;*

(2) *collection and remission of rent;*

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new at all. I shall however explain again when I come before the House. I appeal that the motion made by the Hon. Member for Industries and Labour need not be opposed."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clause 2.

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I say a few words with your permission at this stage with reference to clause 2? I have not had much time to put in any amendment as the Bill has been taken into consideration immediately. I would in the first place, Sir, with your permission congratulate the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour for having taken such prompt steps to remedy the defects in the Act. I hope this is the first instalment of the several amendments to knock the Act into shape so as to be useful to the industrialists either small or large. There are one or two points which I would like to mention in this connexion. First is the definition of cottage industries in sub-clause (1). It is stated there: Cottage industry means any industry carried on by a worker in his own home. I do not know if it is the desire of Government that we should introduce the word 'own' because it is quite open to a cottage worker to hire a suitable place for carrying on his work. It is not always possible, Sir, for a cottage worker to own a house. He may have a shed or hut and if he hires a neighbouring house probably objection might be taken to this being done. It would be desirable to make the Act applicable to a large number of cottage industries and

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There is no amendment before the House." cottage industry was defined as an industry intended for the benefit exclusively of the worker. I am glad to find, Sir, that the definition has been thoroughly changed to the good of the industrialists and I would welcome it certainly except for the omission of the word 'own' before 'home' that now appears in sub-clause (1). Secondly, Sir, I do not know if it is necessary to define or introduce the term 'village industries.' All cottage industries are village industries and I do not know if it is necessary at all to introduce 'village industry' as such in the Act. As the definition now stands, Sir, it will probably exclude the urban population from getting the benefit of the amended Act. It is stated here that village industry means any industry which forms the normal occupation, whether whole time or part time, of any class of the rural population of the Province. That will exclude a large population residing in cities and suburbs from having the benefit of this amended Act. The term 'village industry' may be dropped; but if for any reason it is considered necessary to retain that definition in the Act, the word 'rural' may probably be dropped. I just make this suggestion for the consideration of the Hon. Minister."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is . . ."

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* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"There may not be an amendment. But the clause as a whole is for the consideration of the House and any Member is entitled to oppose the clause and it is open to the Government to accept the suggestion or to give an answer accepting or rejecting the suggestion. I request in such cases there may be an opportunity for the Government either to amend or make any suggestions. It is usual."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the Hon. Minister chooses to reply he will rise and ask for an opportunity to reply. Does the Hon. Minister want to reply? In the case of such small Bills the discussion may be carried on more quickly. Those who want to speak either on the Treasury Benches or on the Opposition will do so."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"The point raised by Mr. Appadurai Pillai is a very important point and we on the Opposition expect the Government to reply on the matter. He is trying to help the Government and he is doubting whether the purpose of the Government will be served by the wording as it is. An important point is therefore raised. Not only the Opposition but all Members expect the Government to clarify the issue."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The point raised, Sir, is that we are entitled to discuss these matters and there is no doubt about it. I need not go further into the matter. If finally a vote has to be taken there has to be an amendment and you are right. Even so early as 1926 this question of what are cottage industries entitled to State aid was examined and at that time it was defined to be an industry carried on exclusively for the benefit of all workers in their own homes and not an industry carried on for the benefit of middlemen. State funds should not be used for the benefit of middlemen who organize a factory not with machinery concentrated in one place but through employing workers in their own homes so that they are really factories, mere rent and cost of machinery being distributed over a number of people. The position is different between the two cases. This was considered and the previous Government had taken this definition and had decided that cottage industries are those carried on by workers in their own homes as distinct from those carried on in factories. We are simply reiterating it and make no change in the definition. It is not that State aid given to anybody directly benefits the cottage worker. The provision in respect of a factory as distinct from a worker in his own home is quite right. The object is not to say that others are not to be called cottage industries but only to limit the extent to which State finance is to be used. Therefore I submit there is reason and justification and conservatism behind the proposal and the definition in the Bill. We make no change but only make a change with regard to the extent to which it is to be given."

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 were put and carried.

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- (3) *survey, record of rights (including water-rights) and settlement of fair rent;*
- (4) *levies from ryots in addition to rent;*
- (5) *utilization of local natural facilities by tenants for their domestic and agricultural purposes; and*
- (6) *maintenance of irrigation works.*

“ Sir, the object of this resolution is to bring about a better understanding between the landholders and the tenants. The hon. Members of this House know that the rights and the privileges and the duties of the landholders and the tenants are to-day regulated by the Madras Estates Land Act. The Estates Land Act that was passed some years ago had undergone certain changes by way of amendments on account of the difficulties experienced in administering the Act. Notwithstanding those changes, the trouble did not cease. It is well known that the relations between the landholders and the tenants have not been very satisfactory and that a continuous agitation has been going on for a long time now. The trouble was not confined to any single item, but it extended over all the items referred to in sub-clauses (1) to (6) of this resolution. It starts with the juridical relationship between the landholder and the tenant. I may say at once that this, so far as this resolution goes, does not refer to the extension of any existing rights of anybody. But all other disputes that have arisen between the landholders and the tenants are disputes that are depending upon the determination of the juridical relationship between the landholder and the tenant. Prior to the Estates Land Act, the relationship between the landholder and the tenant had been governed by what was known as the Rent Recovery Act of 1865. Prior to 1865, their relationship had been regulated by certain regulations starting from the Permanent Settlement Regulation of 1802. Right through from the beginning of the British administration in India, it has been admitted that the rights of the tenants and the rights of the landholders were regulated by custom and law before the British Government started its administration here.

“ The Regulation of 1802 or even the later regulations, the Rent Recovery Act of 1865, the Estates Land Act, all these clearly prove that they were only attempting to declare the rights as they had existed between the landlord and the tenant. So the question now largely depends on the juridical relationship between the landlord and tenant as they had existed under the constitutional law of India, as they had subsisted before even the British Government occupied this country. It is only for that purpose that clause (1) is introduced here.

“ Secondly, the collection and remission of rent. Various provisions have been made in the Estates Land Act, before the Revenue Recovery Act, to regulate the collection and remission of rents. In spite of that, great differences have arisen. There was at least one case which I

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could recall where the landlord had asked for an increment of rent by 200 per cent and it had been granted also, until at last it went up to the highest tribunal and there it was reduced. It is only one of the cases that I could put forth before this House prominently. Generally speaking there have been many differences between the landlords and the tenants with regard to remission of rent and collection of rent. So far as the Government are concerned, it does not commit itself to any particular view, either in favour of the tenant or in favour of the landlord. The Government take into account and have taken into account the existing differences and they are anxious to find the means for bringing about a clear and proper understanding between the landholders and the tenants.

“ The third one relates to survey, record of rights (including water-rights) and settlement of fair rent. Over this there has been considerable agitation going on. Hon. Members of this House must be aware that it has been repeatedly urged by the tenants that in several areas the rent that is taken by the landholder from the tenants is very much higher than the rent that is paid by a tenant in ryotwari areas to the Government. There are cases which appear to be so, on the face of the statements made. With regard to water-rights also, disputes have been continuing. So it is necessary that the rights urged by the tenants on the one side and the claims made by the zamindars on the other side should be carefully enquired into and a proper legislation made if possible.

“ Clause (4) refers to levies from ryots in addition to rent.

“ Clause (5) refers to utilization of local natural facilities by tenants for their domestic and agricultural purposes.

“ Clause (6) refers to maintenance of irrigation works.

“ The details of the complaints are known to the hon. Members of this House. What most prominently every one has been hearing about are the rights of grazing in forests. The rights are claimed by the ryots to take leaves for manure and wood for fuel purposes. These are claimed by the ryots on the one side and denied by the zamindars on the other. With regard to irrigation works also, similar disputes have been continuing. It is in view of all these troubles Government have been anxious to take steps immediately to appoint a committee to investigate into these matters and make a report which will enable the Government to introduce proper legislation.

“ Hon. Members may be aware that there are some friends in this country who feel that no committee need be appointed to enquire into this matter, that legislation should be introduced straightaway that these are all matters well known and that the appointment of a committee only means delay. With all deference to these gentlemen who have raised these contentions the Government feel that no legislation can be undertaken ordinarily in regard to such a matter unless

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and until a proper committee is appointed and that committee investigates the matter, records evidence on both sides and makes an impartial report. It is only after that is done that the Government would be prepared to undertake a measure of legislation of this kind. With these remarks, Sir, I move this motion."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resolution, I take it, aims at reaching a complete and lasting understanding between the two great interests which are connected with the land of this country. The problem of the relationship between the zamindar and the tenant is not a new one to be discussed fully on the floor of the House to-day. Sir, that we should arrive at a lasting understanding is a thing which will be welcomed by everybody, particularly by the tenant, and the zamindar also. I agree that it is necessary to have a committee to go into this matter. I am very glad to hear the Hon. Gentleman, the Minister in charge of the Revenue portfolio, saying that the committee is also necessary to get evidence to enable Government to come to an impartial judgment.

"Sir, differences there may be on both sides in these matters. There are hon. Members who want to launch straightaway legislation, and I believe you will concede there are many that may feel that there is no necessity for any further legislation, in view of the fact that during the last few years there have been severe attempts towards curtailment of the rights of the zamindar. When I speak, Sir, I should not be understood as trying to make out any special pleading on behalf of the zamindar. For, to-day we can see everywhere, not only on the floor of this House but everywhere, persons speaking on behalf of the tenants, and if one should try to speak on behalf of the zamindar, he does so with very great temerity. I do stand here very firmly not as a representative of the zamindars but as a public man here to demand from the Government justice to all interests. It is that that makes me bold in approaching the Government though it has 160 Members on its side and claiming that justice should be done to all interests.

"Sir, it is very essential that a careful investigation should be made and facts gathered to enable the relationship between the two interests being put on a permanent basis. The committee should carefully go into the effects of the various Acts and amending Acts on the subject, for it is necessary to enlighten the public as to how far the various amending Acts have had effect one way or the other.

"As regards the composition of the committee, I may say without any disparagement to the legal talent available in both the Houses, that it would have been far better to have constituted a committee, not entirely composed of legislators; for we would be taking the general public into greater confidence had we chosen some representatives who have considerable experience in the matter. When I say this I do not mean that they should be taken from one group of particular interests,

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but I would have liked a committee of a few legislators, of a few tenants' representatives, of a few landholders' representatives and a few eminent lawyers, presided over by a Judge with great experience of land revenue and Estates Land Act matters. Sir, the discussion in the Upper House has disclosed that the Hon. Gentleman in charge of Revenue has already made up his mind that the committee should be composed only of legislators and that there is no use at all for a committee of outsiders. Such being the case, I do not want to attempt to make any further suggestion regarding the constitution of the committee. At this stage I do not also want to go into other details which will be to prejudge the issues.

"I may be permitted to say, Sir, that real success will be achieved by this committee only if the question is considered without any bias, without engendering feelings of bitterness and vindictiveness. The trend of events in recent years has shown, whatever might have been their shortcomings, that the zamindars' rights have been seriously curtailed. The zamindars now realize that they have to change with modern conditions and that being the case, they will agree to an equitable adjustment of the rights as between themselves and the tenants. I would like to emphasize the need for this equitable adjustment. This House has still many lawyers and they would agree with me that in law and justice it is necessary to award an equitable judgment with regard to the various rights and privileges of these two great interests. I shall conclude by saying that I fervently hope that it will not be beyond the wisdom of the representatives of these two Houses who are to sit on this committee to evolve a scheme by which the two great communities, though one may be small in number, will live happily together in future.

"Sir, the problem no doubt has been aggravated by the depression in the last two years. That is why the tenant is more affected, and it will be right when I say that there are many zamindars who have sacrificed very much so far and who are equally prepared to face the present situation provided there is no bitterness and provided there is hope that justice will be done to them. It is in this hope that I have remarked that this committee should prove to be of great use.

"There is one suggestion which I would like to make to the Hon. the Revenue Member, and that is that when the report is ready, the Government should be good enough to take this House into their confidence by placing the report before the House and have the matter discussed here and then Government can think of any legislation in the matter."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in supporting this motion made by the Hon. the Revenue Minister. There have been attempts made in the past to clearly define the rights of the zamindars and the tenants. Ever since the year 1908 when the Estates Land Act was passed, several attempts have been made to amend

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the Act in various directions, but no consolidating Bill has ever been brought forward. It is admitted on all hands that all is not well in the zamindaris and that it is high time that the Government took up this matter and brought in a consolidated Bill. I must congratulate the Government for taking a new step and a new procedure altogether. What generally happens is that a Bill is first drafted by the Government and is placed before the House. Then it is either referred to a Select Committee and then passed, or is straightaway taken up for consideration and passed. That is clearly not satisfactory. The correct procedure seems to be to appoint a committee first and authorize it to enquire into the several conditions and supply materials for legislation. Now, Sir, the committee that is going to be appointed will enquire into the relationship between the ryots and the zamindars in reference to the several items mentioned in the resolution and supply the Government with all the information required for drafting a Bill. The Government will then draft a Bill and get the assent of the House thereto. My only request in this connexion is this: let this not be a piecemeal legislation. Let the proposed measure be a consolidating Bill overhauling the whole system.

"It was stated, Sir, as this problem concerns both the tenants and the zamindars, it would be better that outside members also are taken in and a sort of conciliatory measure brought out. Sir, we have experience in the last Council where attempts at conciliation were made. It was all a disappointment and the piecemeal legislation that was brought forward was anything but satisfactory. I need not refer to the attempts made by non-official members to bring in a consolidating Bill in the last Council and how it was stoutly opposed by vested interests. In the circumstances, where is the necessity, I ask, for outside members on the committee? This House and the Council consist of representatives of both the tenants and the zamindars. Therefore there is no substance in the argument that outside members would do better than the Members of the Legislature. It must be taken, unless it is otherwise proved, that the Members of the Legislature have got the confidence of all sorts of interests whom they represent. The two Houses of the Legislature are representative assemblies and democratic institutions. So it is very late in the day to think of outside persons to intervene in the deliberations of the Legislature. That will be opposed to the spirit of democracy and that will be taking away from the representative capacity of the Legislature. I suppose, Sir, the Government are thinking of this committee not only to enquire into matters referred to in the resolution, but such other matters also which are necessary and germane to the subject-matter. With these few words I have great pleasure in supporting this measure brought forward by the Hon. the Revenue Member."

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words on this motion prompted by the speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition referred

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to justice at the hands of the 160 members sitting opposite to him to the two great interests of landlords and tenants. It is my intention now, through you, Sir, to tell him that justice and equity in this matter are all on the side of the tenants. It is not my intention to say that the landlords have no rights at all. But if this Bill is to operate properly, then my humble submission is that this committee should look at this live problem which is agitating the whole of this province more with a view to help the interests of the ryots than those of the zamindars. The leader of the Opposition said that during recent years it has always been the attempt to curtail the rights of the zamindars. My submission to that is that there is no right in the zamindar as such. If there has been any curtailment of rights of zamindars, in the case of the tenants it has been curtailment of the right to live. If you go to the villages and see the situation existing in the country, without any investigation or elaborate enquiry, you will understand the conditions under which the peasants are living. As the Hon. the Leader of the House was saying on another subject, the peasantry raises the food by which we live and out of that food a large portion is taken away some by the zamindars and some by the Government. What is left to him is very little and it is very rarely that we see a ryot or a peasant making both ends meet. My suggestion therefore is that this committee will do well, when going into this question, to examine the interests of the ryots primarily. I do not say that they should curtail the rights of the zamindars. Their primary consideration must be to see that the ryots are having their rights. On this point, let me also examine what is meant by the rights of zamindars. Sir, let us look into the history of the zamindars. The landlords now existing in the country are the relics of the old feudal system. They were the masters of the country and they were ruling the country. In the ancient days the ruler of the country had rights as well as liabilities. If he took rent from the tenants it was his duty also to see that the tenants were properly cared for. He had to maintain a militia and the nation-building services and it was his duty to see that the peasantry under his rule were being properly fed, properly clothed, properly educated and properly trained. Where are these liabilities of his now? The present-day zamindar is a mere bundle of rights and no liabilities. What we find now is that all these nation-building services or the liabilities of the zamindar have been taken over by the Government of the land. If we want a road or a hospital or a school we have to look to the Government. Then what is the zamindar doing? He simply collects the rent. It is very difficult to get the zamindars even to repair the irrigation works. That is the condition in which the peasant is now living ever since 1802 when the permanent settlement was introduced. We find that all these liabilities of the zamindars have been taken over by the Government without any corresponding liability being thrown on them. I therefore feel that this committee should have all these facts in view and should report as to how best the peasantry in this country could be properly helped and made to live in this world."

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* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“ Sir, I am much indebted to the leader of the Opposition for conceding the necessity for this committee. He said that justice should be meted out to all. I state now that it was with that object that this resolution was framed and a committee was thought of by the Government. The only point which the Leader of the Opposition tried to make out was that this committee should not be confined to the Members of the Legislatures but should be extended to outsiders also. There was an occasion for me previously to state my opinion with regard to this matter. I must offer my congratulations to my hon. Friend Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig. He has stated correctly the reason for not adopting the suggestion of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. At a time when we have got these representative legislatures to which Members have been returned by the people in the country, it is rather strange that there should be any gentleman who should be thinking of outsiders coming and taking our position. What is the basis of this constitution and what is the meaning of provincial autonomy to-day? People have sent their representatives to these Legislatures and the Leader of the majority party therein has been given the power under the constitution to nominate his Cabinet. This is all technical language and I may say in common parlance that as millions of people cannot meet in one place and appoint a Government, under the British constitution, which is one of the best constitutions so far as democratic constitutions go, they have chalked out this process of election and under that process this Government has been appointed by the people and these legislatures represent the people. Under those circumstances, why should anybody travel outside the legislatures in search of members for the Committee from non-Members of these legislatures. There is an old idea lingering in the minds of some of my Friends that proper justice cannot be done to the framing of this measure unless we have some outsiders such as a Judge of the High Court or some other Judge who had had experience in these matters, as a member of the Committee. Certainly whenever it is absolutely necessary that we should get such help, it will be invoked. Sir, this is a matter relating to the relationship between landlord and tenant. The Judge is there to decide cases on the strength of certain records and evidence before him and also by applying the law for the time being in force. Is there a demand from people outside that a Judge sitting on the bench and deciding cases on the strength of evidence and the records before him should be a member of the committee? I think not. For that simple reason I say that a Judge should not become a member of this committee at this stage. Those who might have had any doubts on this matter might be quite clear about it now. We must go constitutionally under the Act and we must fulfil our responsibility under the Act. Hon. Members of this House are expected to do justice to their work and so I would ask every one in this House not to carry any prejudice or feeling against others in the matter of legislation or administration of justice.

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The scope of investigation is clearly defined and when the report comes, if the desire of the committee is that it should be a consolidating Bill, it will certainly be a consolidating Bill if circumstances warrant.

“ My hon. Friend Mr. Ramakrishna Raju dwelt at some length on this matter. Whatever has been suggested will be taken into account by the committee without any prepossession. With these remarks I resume my seat.”

The motion was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ With reference to the motion just now passed by the House regarding the election of six Members from among the Members of the Assembly to a committee to enquire and report on the conditions prevailing in zamindari and other proprietary areas, I fix 3 p.m. to-day as the time within which notice of nominations should be handed over to the Secretary. If the number of candidates nominated exceeds six, there will be an election between 12 noon and 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the 29th September 1937. The election will be by the ordinary method and not according to the method of single transferable vote.”

VI.—THE MADRAS PROHIBITION BILL (L.C. BILL No. 1 OF 1937).

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to introduce the Bill^a that has been circulated to hon. Members and entitled ‘ A Bill to introduce and extend the prohibition of the manufacture, sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors and drugs in the Province of Madras (L.C. Bill No. 1 of 1937),’ and move that it be taken into consideration by the Assembly at once.

“ Sir, in making this motion I need not add anything more than what I have stated already on the floor of the House on more than one occasion. It would be mere repetition if I proceed to give the objects for which this Bill is sought to be moved. The very brief statement of objects and reasons that has been appended to the Bill is clear enough in regard to the particular nature of this Bill. Everybody is agreed that we should stop this evil, but people differ as to how we shall attain this object. The House knows the views that the present Government holds in regard to this matter and we should not take up any time for explanation of preliminary matters. The only thing that I wish to point out is that this Bill is going to either make or mar the reputation of our Province and our Government and I appeal to the House to give us the chance of making this great venture. I do not estimate that the work is so difficult as some people think it is. I certainly agree that there is the problem of finding money for civilized standards of administration such as we are used to to-day, viz., as many departments as there is work to do, almost as many officers as there are things to do and as many overseers and supervisors as there are men to work. It is no doubt a problem, finding money for that standard of Government

^a Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Extraordinary, dated 17th September 1937.

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and Government establishment, and I do not belittle that difficulty. I do not take the same view as to the difficulty of getting our people not to drink as some hon. Members have expressed or are going to express themselves. I think that we have a great advantage in our country in this regard which other countries and peoples do not enjoy. The House already knows with what great unanimity all the Muslim members supported the proposal. The House knows with how many qualifications even those who raised a voice of dissent raised it—I mean the non-Muslims that raised a voice of dissent. In expressing themselves in this manner they not merely tried to encourage us and make our work easy, but I believe, with good reasons, they expressed the opinion of the public of this Province. It has been sometimes said that Members are being jockeyed into this measure, so to say, coerced by public opinion that prohibition must be introduced and that people are doing it against their own better judgment. I submit that is altogether a contradiction in terms, if I may say so. If people feel the pressure of public opinion among the electorate and among the people of this Province to be such a driving force and to be such a compelling force as to introduce a measure of this kind, it seems to me obvious that the country wants it and enforcement will be easy. And if there is difficulty in enforcement, it will not be worse than the difficulty of looking up those tribes that have been called criminal tribes, those who have been brought under the security sections and so many other un-social units among our people. If people feel in their own inner conscience that there is a strong demand for such legislation in the Province—it may be called coercion even—I may say that itself is a proof that this measure is good and necessary and that the difficulty of facing the unsocial elements must be overcome. It must be possible for any Government that has the courage to administer the country to administer measures of this kind also. I shall not dwell upon the difficulty of administration but I want to say with reference to this particular Bill that there is almost nothing new in it. It is a very old and stale measure. I want hon. Members to remember that a Bill of this sort was before the Government some years ago, and as I said on previous occasions, they examined it and dropped it. I may say it died an unnatural death for some reasons into which I need not go at present. Therefore there is no sudden surprise for the country, nor is the opinion of the Party which is now holding office as Government a new thing. The country knew for the last so many years that the Congress was pledged to this kind of measure and even more than this. The only surprise that might perhaps be said to have taken place is that we have brought in such a moderate measure and such a slow pace has been set. That must be the surprise. And I can only refer hon. Members to the notice of the Bill which the hon. Member for Harijans in Chingleput Mr. M. C. Rajah has given which is much wider in scope and which wants prohibition all over the province straightaway. He suggests that we might pace it in a different manner but the Government suggest that we might pace it in this manner. This Bill is nothing new, nothing extreme and is no surprise upon the legislative conscience of the people. The

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pledge to which the Congress was mandated by the electorate demands that this measure should be passed. It is not merely outside pressure as some Members are disposed to think. It is outside pressure in the sense that we represent the electorate and that it is the pressure of the electorate. I move therefore that the Bill be considered. There are certain proposals in this measure which apply to the whole of the province and not merely to the area in which this measure is introduced from time to time. That is with regard to advertisements. There is another point to which I want to draw the attention of hon. Members. There is some anxiety felt by Members of the Christian community who observe the system of sipping wine for communion. They think that this Bill might create difficulties for the performance of the ancient custom of communion. But there is ample provision in the Bill for that. It is not the intention of the Government to prevent it or to put any difficulties in the way of the practice or even to ask for a fee for that kind of exemption. There is also a provision for such permits and exemptions as are found necessary from two points of view. The thing consumed itself may be such as may be exempted either for medicinal or for other reasons, or certain persons individually concerned may be exempted from the operation of this Act. There is provision for all these. Every care has been taken and will yet be taken to prevent any harassment or any inconvenience. Against the claimant voice of the people outside who want this measure, the Government is prepared to introduce limitations, moderations, exemptions and such like.

“Sir, the Bill having been published in the Gazette, leave for introduction is unnecessary and I move that the Bill be taken up for consideration at once. I have given notice that the Bill may be taken up and passed at once and if hon. Members agree to it in view of what I have said, it will greatly expedite the work. If amendments are pressed, I shall speak again on the point.”

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the Madras Prohibition Bill, 1937, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Members whose names will be given by the Hon. the Prime Minister.

“Sir, arguments have already been advanced on the floor of this House regarding the impracticability of enforcing prohibition, insufficiency of notice, and interference with individual rights. These arguments have been brushed aside as clap-trap arguments and it is not my intention to dwell on them. I would like to approach the subject from a different point of view.

“In the first place, Sir, what have we found from past experience? We have been quoting America and the prohibition tried there very often, but in India itself our experience has been the same. In 1924 or thereabouts prohibition was tried in the State of Bhopal by the Begum of Bhopal. But after a couple of years it was found impracticable to enforce prohibition and it was withdrawn.

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"With regard to the duration of this Act, no indication has been given as to whether this is to be a permanent measure or whether it will operate for some time until we gain some experience and declare it permanent. A measure the effects of which we are not in a position to judge at the present moment might perhaps be introduced temporarily until the results show that we can take steps to make it permanent.

"My next point, Sir, is the absence of the controlling authority. In my humble opinion this is an inherent defect in the present Bill. The whole control has been vested in the hands of the police officers. The idea is that the present excise staff is to be withdrawn from the Salem district to which the Bill immediately applies. We have to consider seriously whether the police force will have adequate control over illicit practices. Sir, under section 19 of the proposed Bill tapping for sweet juice is permitted and unless the pots are carefully coated with lime the sweet juice will ferment easily. Any deficiency in the coating of lime will make the sweet juice ferment quickly. Sir, there are ten to twelve pots hung on each palmyra tree and I am told there are about one to two lakhs of trees in Salem district. If all the pots have to be examined and if the control is to be effective, it does not need much reflection to say that there should be a sufficient force to examine the pots and patrol the topes. In Tinnevely it is a common experience that sweet toddy is fermented by dropping in it a few pieces of white babul bark. What is tapped ostensibly as sweet juice ferments in the course of the day and is vended in that condition. There is also distillation carried on of the sweet juice fermented toddy. It takes very little labour to convert fermented sweet juice into arrack. It is therefore very necessary that there should be proper controlling authority to take preventive measures and see that they are effective and serve the purpose with which the Prohibition Bill is sought to be enforced. As the Bill affects very large vested interests and is very extensive in its application, it is necessary that it should be very carefully considered by a Select Committee. I move, therefore, that the Bill be kindly referred to a Select Committee for consideration. The Select Committee will, I dare say, not take longer than is necessary to go into the provisions of the Bill."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
"I second the motion."

12-30
p.m.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"On the motion that a Select Committee be appointed, I desire to submit that in view of what has been expressed not only now but previously informally to me, the Government are quite willing to accede to the request, provided that we can really agree to have the Committee's Report in time for presentation, when we assemble again on Monday next. I think, Sir, that even if longer time were given, Members would meet really strenuously at one sitting and finish the business. But without going much deeper into the question, I am prepared to agree on behalf of the Government, that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, if possible, with instructions that the Committee should discuss the details

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of the measure and report before Monday morning, so that the report may be presented to the House when you preside at the sitting on Monday. As I have been given to understand that there will be no difficulty in meeting to-morrow, Sunday—in fact, it was one of the reasons why I thought I could introduce the Bill here to-day, so that we might have the advantage of a Sunday intervening, for fuller consideration of the details of the clauses—I submit—that by agreement between the Leaders of the groups sitting opposite and the Government, I am reading the names of persons who might well be taken to represent all sections of the House interested in this matter.

"That the following Members do constitute the Select Committee to report on the Bill and that it be an instruction to the Committee that their report be received in time for presentation to the House when it assembles on the 27th September 1937.

"If this is agreed to, it may be formally moved by one of my Colleagues. (An hon. Member: 'You may yourself move it.') It was suggested to me by the hon. the Leader of the Muslim League Party that a separate Member should move this: and it appeared to me that I ought to bow to his superior experience of the procedure of the House and accept the suggestion. But, if there is no objection to my moving, I shall move it myself. The names of the Members of the Select Committee are:

Sir William Wright,
Mr. E. H. M. Bower,
Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai,
Mr. Akram Ali,
Mr. D. Abdul Rawoof,
Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar,
Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi,
Mr. C. J. Varkey,
Mr. S. Nagappa,
Mr. N. S. Varadachariar,
Mr. K. Bhashyam Ayyangar,
Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja,
The Hon. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai, and
Myself."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
"I second it."

The motion to take the Bill into consideration was, by leave, withdrawn.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question before the House is that the Madras Prohibition Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Members mentioned by the Hon. the Premier. I shall put it to the vote of the House."

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MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I want to speak on the main motion, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The amendment having been accepted, where is the necessity for a speech now? I think it would be sheer waste of time, although it will be the right of any hon. Member to speak on the Bill."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I should make a small matter clear, Sir. Perhaps it might avoid further discussion. In making this list, I have attempted to get every important element properly represented, including even the unorganized opposition generally called 'Independents' I have provided for them also in this list. I may also add that it was possible to put in more than one name for the Muslim League group which is very large relatively, but in view of the fact that the Mussalmans as a whole and in solid block supported the principle of this measure, I thought we need not trespass so near to the maximum number generally conceived as practicable for expeditious work in Select Committees. Even now, to allow the Government to have a bare majority, we have reached the figure 14, and that is the only explanation why we have not provided for more than one member from the Muslim League group and it is not as if it should be weighed in that proportion for all times and all occasions. With this explanation, Sir, I submit that the motion may be accepted."

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I ask whether the procedure now is that if this motion is accepted, the Bill will be referred to a Select Committee, and the amendments which I have proposed and other Members of the House have proposed will be considered in it? If that is so, the usual procedure may be adopted, that is, Members may speak on the general principles of the Bill now without going into details of the various clauses of the Bill which will be considered by the Select Committee now proposed by the Hon. the Premier."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it suggested by the hon. Member, Sir William Wright, that the House should now proceed to discuss the general principles of the Bill? If that is so, I am afraid it will take a long time; but of course hon. Members are entitled to speak."

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was my suggestion that this is the only opportunity that the House could have of discussing the general principles of the Bill. I am quite in agreement . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The amendment was proposed and was accepted by the Hon. the Premier. That is the question before the House, and it is now for discussion."

* SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this question of prohibition came up before the House during the course of the debates on the budget, the Premier at one time suggested that he believed ideas of lack of sincerity in his own desire to introduce prohibition had been expressed by some Members on our bench. I would like to start by assuring the Hon. the Premier that nothing is

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further from our intention than to suggest any such thing. We do thoroughly appreciate and say that he is sincere in this matter of prohibition, that he is absolutely wholehearted in this matter and that, in our opinion, really constitutes one of the chief dangers of the whole matter. (Laughter.)

"As I have explained, we do not for one moment doubt his sincerity. I would like also to ask him to recognize that if we are in opposition to this idea of prohibition, this opposition is not put before the House in any selfish spirit. It is not put before the House because we represent interests which have very large investments tied up in distilleries and in shops on the Mount Road and so on, which would be very seriously affected by prohibition. It is put forward because we come from a land which has never had prohibition and which would never tolerate prohibition and because we have the conviction that prohibition is not a suitable policy to be adopted in any country in the world, including India.

"I should like also to make it quite plain that we will support what I have described as temperance legislation. If we were discussing a Bill to increase temperance in this country which is a sure way of removing drunkenness, and if that Bill was drastic and ruthless in its provisions—even as this Bill is drastic and ruthless over the question of drink—suggestions would certainly come from our benches to assist that measure. I do not wish however to incur your displeasure, Sir, by discussing any possible Bill on temperance and I would stick to the Bill which is now before us, i.e., for entire prohibition.

"I should, before going on to my criticisms, like to thank the Ministry on the fact that they have recognized that there are communities in this country who are accustomed to drinking a reasonable amount of alcohol, and on the fact that there are provisions contained in this Bill which will not interfere with the habits of people such as myself and my friends here, both Indian and British. Our line of opposition to this Bill is that the Bill is wrong in principle, it is bad in economics, it is probable that it will be impossible to carry it out in practice and that it is ruthless in its penal provisions. When I say that, I say the clauses of the Bill are ruthless; and as those clauses are to be discussed in the Select Committee, I shall not say anything about that now. Why I think this Bill is wrong in principle is that it is, whatever else may be said of it, an infringement of the liberty of the individual, and it is punishing a very large number of people for the faults of some. I think, Sir, the fishermen coming back home after a long day's exposure on the sea—it may be said that it is by no means necessary, but still—when he comes home after a long period of exposure, finds that alcohol is stimulating and does some good to him. And so it does to a large number of coolies. Sir, I have myself seen, when I was a younger man, in one of the ports, up-country, the coolies working discharging coal for long hours, coolies working on contract in gangs and probably admittedly earning anything from Re. 1 or

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Re. 1-2-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per day each, spending part of that money when they came home after a full day's labour, after the discharge of their hard work, indulging in a certain amount of alcohol. Sir, it is argued that alcohol is so thoroughly bad for the health of the individual that you don't get at a nation worth calling a nation unless you deprive it entirely of alcohol. I do not think, Sir, that for one moment applies to India. Who can look, for instance, at the battalions of Sikh soldiers in the north and say 'here, these people are useless, they are no good, because they are drinkers of alcohol.' And who will deny again the magnificent fighting qualities of the Gurkhas and say 'here is a set of people who are no good, because they drink alcohol.' Sir, I must apologise if I mention the United States of America. I rather think that the Hon. the Prime Minister is already sick to death of hearing about prohibition in the United States of America. He has said that what applies to the United States of America by no means necessarily applies to India, that the conditions are different, that the ideas of the people are different and the religions of the people are different. But, I submit that in one or two directions, we can learn a lesson from prohibition in America. Firstly, I think the origin of prohibition in America and the origin of the idea of prohibition in India really came very much from the same people. In America, the whole movement towards prohibition started first in the Middle West parts of the country where people were not accustomed to drinking alcohol except light home-made wines. And when prohibition was started, light home-made wines were explicitly exempted and were permitted. In other words, the people who, through the whole of their lives had been unaccustomed to drinking alcohol, had no use for alcohol—probably disliking even the smell of it—were the people who were able, by their excellent political organization, to inflict their own views regarding alcohol prohibition, upon the country, until the nation rose up in time to assert its right to choose as to what it should and should not drink.

12-45 p.m. "Sir, I have quite a lot to say in the form of objections to the method by which it is proposed to enforce the provisions of this Bill in the Salem district. But as those objections have already been put forward, much better than I could by the hon. Mr. Appadurai Pillai, I do not propose to waste your time and the time of the House by repeating those objections. I say, Sir, that this Bill is bad in economics. Generally speaking, is the coolie going to get more money if he does not spend any money on alcohol; I dare say in some cases he will. I do know, because I have been connected for the best part of 40 years now with Indian labour, that a very large proportion of the labourers will only work, to the extent necessary to get the money they want to meet their needs and requirements including a certain amount of money to spend on toddy.

"Now, the argument has also been put forward by the Hon. the Prime Minister that it is tainted money and that he does not wish to spend money on education, on national improvement and other amenities if that money is going to come from a tax on alcohol. I think if

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you consider money derived from such a tax as tainted money, there are several other sources of income which may be considered tainted. I put to him just one example, the example of the money-lender who goes out in the districts and charges high rates of interest—surely it is most scandalous to levy such rates from these poorer classes—and gets a considerable income and builds up a fortune. Is the Prime Minister not going to tax that portion of the interest which is tainted money? Similarly, if you go back to the sources of many other incomes, you will find that they are also tainted. I would like to bring an argument even nearer home. I believe, it is the Prime Minister's view and the view of many of his friends that Rs. 500 is just the limit of income any man should get. Will the Prime Minister agree with me that any income over Rs. 500 is tainted money and that he would not tax anything in excess of Rs. 500, as he does not want tainted money?

"Then, Sir, it has been put to the Government, how are you going to replace this $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores of revenue? Government say, they have not yet quite decided about that. How are you going to replace this loss of revenue? Generally speaking, they say 'our policy is—I am saying this subject to correction from the Government benches—to recover this loss of revenue by additional taxation from those who are able and can afford to pay further taxes.' I think, when you get to that class, everybody's mind would naturally turn to those people who pay income-tax; because those are the people who have money and are the people who presumably can pay more taxes and will be able to give the money required by the present Government to replace this $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores of revenue which they propose to give up in Excise. Now, Sir, the income-tax collected in the Madras Presidency in the year 1933-34 was Rs. 1,71,00,000; in 1934-35, Rs. 1,64,00,000 and in 1935-36 it was Rs. 1,57,00,000. I submit, Sir, that the people who have to find this Rs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores are the people who pay income-tax. In other words, you are going to call upon a certain class of the community to have their taxes trebled in order to meet this loss of revenue. That may be all right. But at the same time, we know it is the wish of the Government to see industries started in South India. During the discussion on the demand relating to Industries, suggestions were made that South India should be made self-supporting and that everything from a locomotive to a pin should be produced here. I would submit to the Government that if it is their desire to make the industries in South India self-supporting, the first thing that they would do, if they are going to over-tax the moneyed classes, is to drive away capital. Indian capital to-day is proverbially shy. Of course, there are signs of wonderful industrial development in Salem, Coimbatore and other places and to-day the people of Southern India are beginning to invest their money in industrial enterprises and are making great efforts to make the country self-supporting and to give employment to the poorer classes. I say, Sir, that if the moneyed classes are going to get the idea that they are going to be taxed in this manner. I am sure we will have to bid goodbye to industrial development in Southern India.

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"Sir, I must crave your indulgence for taking up so much time. There is one other point and that is the possibility of the attainment of the object for which this Bill is brought before the House. It has failed all over the world and elsewhere. The Hon. the Prime Minister says, he does not mind all that, because conditions here are different and he wants to try it in Salem. There have been previous attempts made in this Presidency and here again my hon. Friend Mr. Appadurai Pillai referred to the reasons why they proved a failure and so I do not want to say more about that, except to point out to you, Sir, that only yesterday I had an opportunity of speaking to a rather very high retired official who had been interested in efforts at enforcing prohibition in various parts of the Madras Presidency. He was telling me what tremendous efforts were made and he was most emphatic that every possible effort had been made—in the most sincere manner by the Government as it then existed and by the Government officers who were then in employment, to make that experiment a success. I am sure, Sir, that those who agree with me will consider that this ideal of prohibition is not likely to be attained and if at all it cannot be anything more than a partial attainment; and for that too they will have to incur enormous expenditure in respect of excise officers and preventive officers.

"Sir, I have a lot more to say on the subject of the various provisions of the Bill and I do not want to inflict them on the House, but I am sure the Hon. the Prime Minister will give plenty of opportunity in Committee for putting forward the various objections we have to some of the clauses of the Bill. I would, however, like to say one thing in regard to what the Hon. the Prime Minister said this morning. If I remember rightly, the Prime Minister said, that this policy of prohibition has always been the policy of the Congress and that it was also his own pet project. We know all that. In so many words he said, never mind if you are asked to pass this Bill at such short notice. With very great respect, I must disagree with the Prime Minister as regards that. This Bill was published in the Gazette on the 17th September and it was received by us on the 18th September and a week later we are asked to pass this Bill with 57 clauses, every one of which requires very careful attention. Now, Sir, we are asked to pass this Bill with a week's notice. I may point out, Sir, that during the week we have been engaged in the discussion of the Budget and we had not even time to do our own work and attend to our other vocations. We have been from 10 to 5 in this House and so we had no time to give the detailed study which is required to a Bill affecting the whole of the population of this Presidency. I do think therefore it has been properly necessary to have more time to consider the implications of the Bill. I appeal to the Hon. the Prime Minister—and that appeal is—that if and when he decides, and if he is able to decide in spite of what I have said, that in six months' time, or in a year's time, or whatever the time may be, that he is going to extend the provisions of this Bill to other districts, he will give time to hon. Members of this House and to people in the districts, to consider the matter again, so that they may

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put forward any arguments against extension they may have and not feel that they are being rushed over a matter of absolutely prime importance to the people of this Presidency."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members had many opportunities to speak and they did speak at length on the subject of prohibition on previous occasions and I therefore restrict the time-limit for speeches upon this motion to five minutes."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, originally I had no intention of intervening at this stage of the debate on the Prohibition Bill, but it struck me that there was one point which the Hon. the Leader of the House mentioned the other day while replying to the general discussion, about the view of those gentlemen who did not fully agree with him on the question of prohibition, which calls for some remarks from me. He said that those sitting opposite to him had given him a qualified support with regard to the policy of prohibition. I shall explain to the House the reason why we have given a qualified support to the prohibition policy. On principle, we do certainly agree that our Indian people should be prevented from drink. It will be a very good thing. But the reason which impelled us to give that qualified support was due to two main reasons. We are convinced from the small experiments made in our country and the big experiments made in other countries that it will not be possible to achieve that amount of success which the Hon. the Leader of the House hopes to achieve. Another thing is the financial implications of the proposal. Because the Hon. the Leader of the House in his Budget speech had stated definitely that the step that the Government have taken in this matter is not to be considered as an experiment and that it is a definite stage in the direction of prohibition from which there is no withdrawal, it is that that made us give this qualified support to his great measure. We are anxious to know and particularly this House is anxious to know at the end of six months the results of the prohibition attempt in the Salem district. The House should have a full opportunity to discuss the merits of the success of the programme of the Ministry with regard to prohibition in Salem and how far it has been a success.

"Sir, this Bill as drafted does not give an opportunity to the House to discuss the question of the application of this Act to other areas; not that we doubt the success of the action of the Government, it will be well, Sir, if the Government would place before the House the results of the prohibition scheme in one district and then ask the House to decide whether it should be extended to any other area. I only mention this, so that at the Select Committee stage hon. Members of the Select Committee may also consider this suggestion of mine that the Bill may be so amended to enable the Government to place before this House the results of their scheme in various areas, because that will very much help the situation. In that case, no member can say that

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people who ordinarily drink would travel from one station to another in order that they may have a drink in the restaurant cars. I am afraid that the Bill does not go far enough. It not only prevents but also punishes poor people who drink; on the other hand, it provides for the rich people getting their drinks. I hope, when this measure is considered by the Select Committee, that chapter dealing with permits will be considerably altered so that only one community which alone must drink should be allowed it and nobody else."

KHAN BAHADUR P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. speaker, I welcome the measure which the Prime Minister is piloting to-day. My hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan wished that the measure were fuller and more complete than what it is. There ought to be no exceptions. Except a certain community every one of us is against the drink habit. There is absolutely no doubt—whatever people may say regarding the customs of Rama or Ravana—that so far as Indian society is concerned, whether they belong to the Christian, Hindu or Muslim community, it can be said without any fear of contradiction that they are all opposed to drink. Therefore, I say, Sir, that the measure does not come up to the full expectations of us, particularly the Muslims. Though I had previously referred to the practical difficulties in the matter of prohibition, all the same I wish this measure every success.

"At the same time, I must draw the attention of the Hon. Premier to the other side of the picture. Fortunately for me, I had the occasion a few days back to have a conversation on this question with some ordinary workers, some wood-cutters. I put them the question as to what they thought about prohibition. I was surprised to hear from them that they had migrated from Namakkal in the Salem district to Trichinopoly, afraid of this prohibition scheme and that they were not the only sinners. They asked me 'Are you people not drinking coffee? Are not the people who are crying for prohibition having bad habits? Are they not addicted to drinking coffee? Do they not, as soon as they finish the day's work and reach home, call for a cup of coffee and that too very urgently? How dare they prohibit us from our drink to which habit we are accustomed as they are accustomed to their coffee?' This argument looked rather funny. They told me also that they could not work and maintain their families without drink. All this is certainly the other side of the argument. All the same, society has not yet come to consider coffee in the same light as toddy or other intoxicating liquors. So far with regard to the other side of the picture.

"But, Sir, we are all agreed and every one must agree that this a great evil, and as such must be put down at any cost. I only want to point out that the means which are sought to be adopted for introducing prohibition in Salem district is not the best that could be thought of. I am sorry that the Government does not propose to take advantage of the experience of the department. As it is at present proposed, it is through the non-official agency that prohibition is sought to be effectively enforced. This scheme is fraught with numerous

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dangers. I here to give expression to my feelings that this scheme will be a means of corruption, if placed in the hands of a non-official agency. Therefore it is, Sir, that I submit that Government will be well advised to entrust this matter to their own subordinates, paid servants, who can be better expected to obey and carry out their orders, and if they do not properly carry out the directions, there will be a means of effectively checking them. But so far as a non-official agency is concerned, Government has absolutely no control, no real control over them the control is only moral and not legal. Therefore, Sir, I submit that in the scheme of prohibition Government will do well to utilize the experience of the Government servants of the Excise Department for this work also. Not that I am not aware of the fact that corruption is obtaining very largely in this department. I am only too well aware of this. All the same their experience counts and I feel that they will be better able to bring about effectively prohibition than the non-official agency. The work of non-official agencies cannot be effective in the matter of detecting crime and bringing the offenders to book. The jurisdiction of non-officials can come in only in the matter of teaching people the evils of drink and benefits of prohibition policy. There they must stop and they cannot be permitted to go any further. All the same, in spite of these difficulties I think the Hon. the Premier will be able to meet all obstacles in the way and see that the prohibition policy which he is initiating in this Presidency is a success. I wish him all success because it will be the adoption of the definite prohibition policy of Islam in this country."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier will now reply."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, the debate has proceeded on the lines on which the discussions over the budget proceeded and I do not think it would be right for me merely to repeat what I said then. The arguments advanced that it is financially improper to proceed with a measure like this are really the arguments that have to be considered by the House before accepting the proposal. I again, Sir, ask the House whether they are sincere, those who suggest to us that we should spread knowledge about the evils of alcohol in this country, that we should preach temperance to the working classes—and so far as the working classes are concerned temperance would be absolute abstinence because of the limitations of their purse—that we should make people not drink, in fact, by every means possible within the limits of persuasion. If they are serious, I ask them, 'What shall we do if we succeed in that attempt? Supposing we go by persuasion, supposing we really induce people not to drink, supposing there is no custom for this article and we are not merely pretending but really doing a serious thing and succeeding in it, what happens then to our revenue? What is the line that we shall take?' If, Sir, it is proper to do without that revenue if we succeed in persuasion, it is proper, I say, that we do without that revenue even by prohibiting. The difference therefore does not arise out of finance.

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he has not been taken into confidence and the House will also have the satisfaction of knowing the work of the Ministry in respect of this policy of prohibition.

1 p.m. "I need not dwell upon the financial implications except to say that, if the Government should extend this scheme to other parts of the province or to the whole province, it will be more than a miracle for the Government to find all the money that they have been getting through Excise; I hope that the Hon. the Premier realizes that the country cannot bear any more taxation. I believe he has once declared that there is already a heavy burden of taxation in this country. I am sure he knows that there is not a single individual who is not suffering from heavy taxation of one kind or another. There is not one person who does not pay taxes, Provincial or Central or municipal or district board. People are already suffering from heavy taxation. We are giving a qualified support to the Bill because we feel that when the Hon. the Finance Minister comes to this House with fresh proposals for taxation, we will have to oppose them. We want to be logical by opposing this bill and that is why I say even at the early stages of a process which may involve fresh taxation, that there must be no further taxation. Except for this objection, I wish the scheme God speed."

MR. N. RANGA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, I am indeed thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I am very much interested in the subject of prohibition. I come from a district, that is to say Cuddapah, where there is so much of factious crime. I have been always of opinion that almost all the serious crimes like murder and rioting are committed under the influence of drink. I have had some experience of temperance work as the chairman of a temperance committee. Hon. Members might be aware that a scheme of temperance was started in 1929 by the then Government; but that scheme had to be given up after a year and a half. If I remember aright, one of the members suggested that instead of total prohibition everywhere temperance work may be resorted to for reducing the amount of drink. Sir, my opinion is that this sort of work could not succeed in a district such as mine. It has been the experience of temperance workers that temperance work will be alright in places where drink is resorted to in very small quantities; but where drink is prohibited by sentiment or religion, people go to extremes. Such being the case, Sir, I submit that temperance propaganda will never have any effect in my district. I say, Sir, that the cost of introducing the scheme ought never to be considered by a responsible Government, by a Government which considers itself responsible for the safety of the life, property and liberty of its citizens. I ask, why should not we legislate for introducing prohibition when that will mean the prevention of crimes? The number of our criminal courts may be reduced and our Police force might be reduced. There may be a considerable saving, but hon. Members may not be able to see it at present. By and by and in course of time, I submit it will mean so much of saving to the country. The argument has been trotted out very often that the scheme has failed in America.

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But I will say that the conditions prevailing in that country are not the same as they are here and that the failure of the scheme in that country does not indicate failure here. I think Mr. Appadurai Pillai wanted information as to whether the Bill is to be a permanent or temporary measure. I may at once tell him that it is going to be a permanent one. There is not much point in having this prohibition for only a short time. If at all we have it, we should have it for all time. The hon. Member representing European Commerce pointed out that the Bill could not have been carefully studied because members have been engaged in the debates of the Assembly for the last fortnight. I may tell him that there is nothing new in the Bill. It contains provisions identical with those of the previous Abkari and Opium Acts and there will not be much difficulty in appreciating the provisions of the Bill. As regards the question of the machinery, doubts have been raised as to the advisability of the preventive functions being left in the hands of the Police and private agencies, without a special staff therefor. If it is found that the force is insufficient to cope with the volume of work, the Police would of course be strengthened. If the argument of hon. Members is that it is going to be corrupt and therefore the object of the Bill would be defeated, I submit to you, Sir, that excise officers the world over, not only here, are corrupt and it would be unwise to propose to give up this scheme instead of booking them for it. So far as I am concerned, this is no criterion for the success or failure of the experiment. With these observations, Mr. Speaker, I commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, I welcome most heartily the introduction of this Bill; but after reading through the body of the Bill, I am afraid that the Bill should have been entitled more as a 'Bill for permission to drink' rather than for prohibiting drink in one part of the province. I wish the Premier had not introduced so many provisions allowing people to drink. I know that there is a section of our fellow citizens in this country who cannot be forced to give up their habit. They come from another country and Mahatma Gandhi himself respected it and the Hon. Premier respected their habit and has made provision in this Bill for giving them permission to continue their habit. But in giving them permission, he is keeping the door open for others also to drink. Provision has been made in the Bill for giving permits—I would call it selling the permits—to clubs and individuals to drink. If there are any people besides the labourers, they ought to be prevented from falling into this evil; it is the fashionable, rich young man who not only ruins himself but also his family and the name of the family. There is a growing number of such men who have taken to club life and who under the provisions of the Bill are permitted to continue the evil habit. I am afraid that the Hon. Premier has not closed the door against these young men and resisted their temptation. Further, permission has been given for railway restaurant cars to carry bottles of liquor, and the *bona fide* traveller is free to drink. I am not sure whether this provision is a right provision. As in the United States of America these cars will be full of liquor bottles and

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"All are agreed that it is a wrong source for finance. The difference only arises out of this, whether we should merely persuade or whether we should compel. That it is wrong to depend upon this thing is to my mind, as some hon. Members pointed out, a special danger so obvious that I cannot see the point that they have put forward at all. Sir William Wright was pleased to say that my very sincerity was going to be the danger in this business. I do not want merely an epigram like that to pass. I want the House to examine that question and tell me whether I am right or wrong. 'Other people will be taxed necessarily,' he said, 'and therefore are you going to do such a thing? Can we bear such a tax?' But this is a question of relative capacity. Does any one concede or maintain that these people, 99 per cent of those who consume drink now, that these people are able to bear that indirect tax? Everybody knows that the women and children are complaining about this tax that we are levying from these people. If, therefore, we have to shut our shop and say 'It is impossible to carry on, it is wrong to tax these poor people and we are unwilling to tax them any more; therefore such and such things should not be done, such and such expenditure should not be incurred,' one can understand it. We cannot simply answer the proposal by saying 'Well, richer people are not willing to be taxed; they find it very inconvenient; therefore let us tax those who are even more oppressed under heavy taxation.' I fail to see this, not because I am a zealot, not because I am a fanatic but because I do not see the way of logic in that argument. If it is difficult for any people to bear taxes it is certainly most difficult for the poorest classes. The classes that feel it most difficult are the classes that work, the classes that labour by their body and earn a few coppers and manage to live. Therefore let us plainly examine this inequity. Is it or is it not an inequity that these very, very poor people should have to pay and we should create a craving which increases with its satisfaction? Should we base our finances on this and go on? It is not impossible to find the revenue. It is not mere fanaticism but it is common sense that makes me say this. Only because we have got into this groove even as the man who drinks has got into the meshes of drink, we have got into the meshes of this false, wrong, wicked finance. Our wickedness is no less a folly than the intoxication which is purchased by the poor man through liquor.

"Or, shall we stop all talk against alcohol? Then comes the answer 'temperate indulgence in it may be encouraged. We can deduce a temperate revenue from it.' If people were temperate as you want them to be, as the text-books would want them to be, as the religions would want them to be, there would not be this revenue, and then the same problem we will have to face whether you plump for prohibition or for temperate drinking. It was said that workmen were very poor and hard-worked and they would want drink when they are tired, and that many people feel like that.

"And then references were made to plausible arguments. These no doubt were not accepted by certain hon. Members themselves but they were very much interested in reminding people of those arguments.

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It was said: 'You are drinking coffee and tea, chewing betel or taking buttermilk. Why should these poor men not drink alcohol?' I give a sporting offer to those friends. Let the vote of the Labour Unions be taken whether this Bill be passed or not and we shall abide by that result. Will the hon. Members of the Select Committee accept that verdict? I promise to get it before Monday morning. The working classes do not want this drink. The working classes know very well that it is bad. The working classes have told times without number 'close these shops and we won't drink. But if you keep them open and ask us not to drink, what is the use? We cannot resist the temptation.' The more they drink the weaker gets their resolution because drink goes on sapping their strength of will and making them suffer. When they come fatigued back to their homes we place in their way a beautiful shop which goes on improving its appearance day after day. There was a time when the shop looked ugly and was a nuisance. But to-day you have got flag-staffs, you have got lights, you have got doors, you have beautiful ornamentations and the thing becomes a greater and greater temptation. And then the advertisements get more and more decent and in fact we come to think that it is not so indecent and wrong to keep bottles of liquor in our houses. Once I know, no community in India ever dared to have in their homes liquor bottles. But to-day some of them have. And if this Bill is delayed, if this Bill is refused, I know that ten years hence even children would come at the call of the parents and bring a bottle which would seem something inconceivable now but which may be quite common a few years hence. This is not a matter in which delay is conducive to greater judgment. In the case of alcohol delay is conducive to a further weakening of the will and every minute that we allow to lapse is a dangerous step that we are taking. Therefore, I submit, Sir, that we must proceed with the Bill in spite of the fears and doubts that have been expressed, and as to certain details that were referred to we shall certainly go through them in Committee.

"Now the half-year begins. When we extend it to other districts 1-30 p.m. we will have some more time for commitments to be discharged. These are matters which will receive our attention. Whether each time we must come to the House, whether when each district wants it and asks for it we must be having objections received or whether we will have to leave it to the committee or the Government in office, certainly there will be time enough and I do not think there will be any difficulty in solving those problems. I submit, therefore, Sir, that my motion that the Select Committee may be agreed to with instruction that it should report in time for presentation before Monday, be passed."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was referred to the Select Committee.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"In virtue of the power given to the Speaker to nominate one of the members of the Committee to be the Chairman, I nominate the Hon. the Prime Minister to be the Chairman of this Committee."

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VII.—THE MADRAS REGULATION OF THE SALE OF CLOTH BILL, 1937
(L.A. BILL NO. 2 OF 1937).

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1937), and move that the Bill be taken into consideration by the Assembly at once."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am opposing the Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You may oppose the Bill even after amendment. Are you making any motion?"

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am opposing the introduction of the Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member want to move his motion for circulation for eliciting public opinion? If so, the arrangement that I propose is this; that motion may be moved first so that hon. Members might speak upon the amendments and upon the whole Bill later. Mr. Schamnad Sahib having given notice of a motion for circulation for eliciting opinion, he might not speak over the proposition for consideration of the Bill. He may directly move his proposition for circulation."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The Bill having been published, leave for introduction stage is not where we are in now. Therefore it is only motions of this kind that can be moved now."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have always been thinking, that I should be able to agree with the Hon. the Premier in all matters at least on important issues. Indeed it has been my earnest endeavour to achieve that object. It is not due to anything else but to my admiration to his transparent sincerity of purpose. But I am sorry I am afraid that I won't be able to agree with him in this policy. I feel very strongly that by this measure the poor traders and pedlars will be very much harassed and will very much suffer. Now look at clause 4. Any businessman whose turn-over of business in that place as determined by rules does not exceed Rs. 5,000 per month has to pay Rs. 2."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Schamnad will resume his seat. The details of the Bill must not be discussed farther than necessary is to explain the principle at this stage."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"That is what I am doing. I am showing the absurdity of the Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"But no reference to the details of the Bill may be made at this stage."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"By this even a poor man who deals with a capital of Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 will be affected. So it is very cruel to say that even those whose capital

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investment is so small should be made to pay Rs. 2 a year. I am saying this not on account of my political creed or any party feeling. But I earnestly feel that it will be a very hard thing to do. What is the object of this Bill? Is it to get any income out of it? I do not think we can get any appreciable income out of this tax. I should say this is bad in principle. The income being very small, that may be left out of consideration for the moment. Then I wish to know if this is going to help in any way the khaddar business. I do not think, Sir, it will in any way help the cottage industry. I am not actuated in saying this by any hostility against khaddar. I wish to help khaddar and the manufacture of khaddar as much as possible. I may even go further, Sir, and assure the Hon. Premier that in memory of the momentous event of the Congress party assuming office I will purchase only khaddar hereafter for my own use. So I say that it is not out of any prejudice against khaddar and handloom that I oppose this measure. Do you want to kill the mill industry? I do not think it can be done. Khaddar can never displace mill cloth. Khaddar manufacture can never compete with mill industry and you yourself know, Sir, that a large number of poor people are depending for their livelihood on the mill industry. If you try to stifle it the result will be the cheap stuff of Japan will be dumped here and our mill industry will be ruined. So I request the Premier and the Government not to proceed with this measure. If they are very keen about it, I move that the Madras Regulation of Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937, be circulated for eliciting public opinion."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"This motion is evidently not seconded."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, before the hon. Member sat down the Hon. Speaker got up and there is not even a moment's time given."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Of course I will give time. Hon. Members must be aware that they must rise to second the proposition as soon as it is moved and Congress Members should not rise until the proposition is moved and seconded. May I know if Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan is seconding this proposition?"

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"If the Hon. Speaker had given some chance to say what I have to say . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I ask whether he intends to second the motion of Mr. Schamnad."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Yes, Sir, when I rose to speak when there was no seconder, I think the Speaker should assume that I rose to second the motion."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan will second the motion."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding this motion so ably moved by Mr. Schamnad. Sir, when the Congress party decided to accept office we were very happy for various reasons. We were very happy for one reason and

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that is that the people of this province who have been overburdened with taxation will get relief all round. There is a class of people, the agriculturists, whose case has been dealt with before. The Hon. the Premier and the Ministry have done their very best and have promised to do their very best to give the relief that they deserved. But when we consider the case of people of one class it would be wrong if we forget the case of other people as well. We have been talking such a lot about industrializing the province, improving the industries and increasing the wealth of the country and at the same time reducing the burden of tax on the people as a whole. Sir, I am sorry that this measure has been moved by this Ministry for introducing fresh taxation in the garb, I do not use that word, in the guise of a licence fee.

"Sir, what is the object of introducing this measure? The ostensible reason for introducing this measure is to encourage and help khaddar industry in this province. Sir, is that the way by which handloom industry in this province is going to be protected and encouraged? Sir, those who know how the handloom industry has been considerably discouraged and to a large extent obstructed in this province will certainly not agree with the Hon. Minister who has moved this Bill that he has done so with a view to help this industry. There are various other means by which this industry could be resuscitated, could be protected and could be encouraged. After all, what is the amount that the Government expects to get by the introduction of this measure, one does not know. I do not know whether the Government is prepared to tell us what exactly is the estimate that they have made, so far as the amount of money that they will be able to collect in the course of this year or the next from this new source which they wished to have by way of licence fee. After all, Sir, we see that the licence fee that has been introduced is so small as Rs. 2 in the case of shops with a turn-over not exceeding Rs. 5,000 per month and Rs. 5 for other shops over and above that turn-over. Without helping the handloom industry, they are by this means punishing the person who deals in cloth, very often mill cloth produced in our own country. I know that the argument will be advanced that by this small licence fee the mill cloth industry in this province will not be affected. I know it will not be affected. But it will affect to this extent, that in the competition that exists to-day between mill cloth and the foreign cloth that is dumped into this country by Japan and other countries at such recklessly cheap rates, it will certainly go to help the foreign cloth merchants who get Japanese cloth so cheap and which is competing very successfully with the Indian mill cloth. The result will be that those who are dealing in Indian mill cloth will be tempted to deal hereafter with Japanese cloth more and more, instead of dealing in Indian mill cloth. Is that the object of this Government? Do they want to introduce more and more Japanese cloth into this country and do they want to introduce more and more cheaper cloth from foreign countries into this country, instead of encouraging our own Indian mill cloth? On the one hand, there are not inducements to help by this measure our own handloom industry. On the other hand, the Bill will prevent Indian mill cloth being sold by

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our small dealers. Sir, in these days of unemployment when people are not able to think about professions which will bring them something, which will enable them to live, it is a little bit difficult to make those people give up dealing in cloth. There are small traders who live by small turn-overs per month, who will also have to pay as much as Rs. 2 as licence fee. Besides the tax itself, we know the hardship that they will undergo on account of this licence fee. Sir, the licence fee is not only a tax but it is also a control. It is a control over the trade itself. They will not be let off by merely paying the licence fee for the year. But there will be agencies which will control the trade as a whole. Therefore, Sir, when a measure of this character, which first of all introduces a new licence fee, a tax on a certain class of people, is sought to be introduced, it is in the fitness of things, particularly for a Government which believes in popular opinion, which believes in the freedom of the people, and which believes that there should be no taxation without consultation, to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion so that the people who are affected by this licence fee will give their opinion, and then if there is a larger volume of opinion from the class of people who will be affected by this licence fee, in its favour, I would have no objection to the passing of this measure, but not till then. I hope that the Hon. the Mover of this Bill will forget for the moment that he has authority with him and that he will remember that he has to give consideration even to minority opinion on a matter of such vital importance to a certain class of people in this country."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It has been moved and seconded that the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937, be circulated for eliciting public opinion. May I know if the hon. Member, Mr. Schamnad, is going to move his second alternative motion for reference to Select Committee, if this motion is to be thrown out?"

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Yes, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Then, I shall put this motion straight to the vote and give the members ample opportunity to discuss the second motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I understand several members of the House are anxious to speak on this motion, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Very well. Mr. Schamnad's motion for circulation of the Bill is now for discussion."

MR. B. BHAKTAVATSALU NAYUDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I very much regret that I have to oppose the very first measure of taxation introduced by the Congress Ministry. I am aware that the needs of this province are growing by leaps and bounds. I am equally aware that the main sources of our revenue are either stationary or dwindling. If adequate relief is to be given by way of remission in land revenue and if the whole basis of land revenue is to be recast, there will be a considerable fall under this head, unless the Ministry come forward

[Mr. B. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu] [25th September 1937]

to take steps to bring the large acreage of waste lands under cultivation. If this scheme of prohibition proposed to be introduced in the Salem district this year is to be extended to other parts of the Presidency and if total prohibition is to be brought into force in this province within three years as Mahatma Gandhi has advised, the excise revenue which forms a large slice in our total revenues will disappear altogether. In the circumstances, new taxation is inevitable, and I for one shall be only too glad to examine taxation proposals to be brought forward by the Ministry on their merits.

"But this indirect form of taxation by way of licence fee on cloth dealers is neither called for nor necessary. The Premier himself is not quite sure as to the actual amount that can be realized under this head and he has therefore not taken credit for any amount in his budget. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill, it is stated that it is necessary to regulate the cloth trade in this province. There are many kinds of trades carried on in this province, and it is inconceivable why the cloth trade alone of all trades should be caught hold of as requiring regulation.

"It is extraordinary that a responsible Ministry should have thought of any measure of taxation without any idea of the actual revenue expected under that head. If it is expected to cover only a portion of the amount intended for the hand-spinning movement, it is not worth trial at all.

"This licence fee is proposed to be levied on all people dealing with other than handloom products. Moral values apart, let us examine whether such a levy is justified or permissible under the Government of India Act. Even the Hon. the Premier cannot deny that this is a discriminating item of taxation according to section 297 of the Act which lays down:

"(1) No Provincial Legislature or Government shall—

(b) by virtue of anything in this Act have power to impose any tax, cess, toll, or due which, as between goods manufactured or produced in the Province and similar goods not so manufactured or produced, discriminates in favour of the former or which in the case of goods manufactured or produced outside the province, discriminates between goods manufactured or produced in one locality and similar goods manufactured or produced in another locality.

(2) Any law passed in contravention of this section shall, to the extent of the contravention, be invalid."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is reading from manuscript."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is the hon. Member reading the whole of his speech from manuscript?"

MR. B. BHAKTAVATSALU NAYUDU:—"I am quoting from the Act, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That is all right. Hon. Members, I expect, will not rise in groups when a point of order is raised. The Chair can take sufficient care of the Member against whom a point of order is raised."

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MR. B. BHAKTAVATSALU NAYUDU:—"The object of this Bill, Sir, is to discriminate between handloom cloth and mill-made cloth. Most of the mill-made cloth sold in this province is manufactured in mills situated outside the province and the licence fee proposed is a discriminating tax which I think is not permissible under the existing Government of India Act. Whether such discrimination made in this Act is justifiable or not is another matter. But so long as that provision stands, this Government and this Legislature are bound by it, and therefore I think it is not competent for this Legislature to pass this legislation.

"According to the Premier, this licence fee is expected to make good only a portion of the two lakhs provided for in the Budget for the encouragement of hand-spinning. Cloth shops are scattered far and wide in this province, and it is not going to be an easy thing to find out the people who have evaded this licence fee. Constant inspection of the cloth shops will be necessary if the purpose of this Bill is to be gained, and I shall not be surprised if its costs far exceed the revenue expected. 2 p.m.

"So, with these few observations I oppose the Bill, and if the Hon. Minister is not pleased to drop this Bill I hope he will at least have it circulated for the opinion of the public."

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fear that the hon. Members who opposed the introduction of this Bill and who want that it be circulated for eliciting public opinion have not made out a case for it. My hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, made contradictory statements. In the first instance he told us that this measure would not interfere with the labouring classes or the classes who are employed in the mills. Again he said that by the introduction of this Bill the labourers will be affected. I do not see how the two statements could be reconciled. My hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, said that enough time was not given to the public to give their opinion on the introduction of this Bill. I may say, Sir, that this Bill was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, on the 14th September, and during the discussions in the Legislative Council, the principles underlying this Bill have been discussed threadbare. My hon. Friend, Mr. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu, said that according to the Government of India Act, this Bill is not permissible. I may say, Sir, that it was only after due consideration and after examining all the points at issue this Bill has been brought before this Assembly. So, I could not accept the views expressed by the hon. Members and I oppose the motion."

The motion that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion was put and lost.

The Assembly adjourned to 10 a.m. on Monday, the 27th instant.

APPENDIX

[Vide answer to starred question No. 247 asked by Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 25th September 1937, page 831 supra.]

Statement showing the annual list of establishments of the Tiruvallur Panchayat Board (Chingleput district) as it stood on 1st April for each of the years from 1932-33 to 1937-38.

	Number and post.	Scale.	1932-33.	
			Incumbent.	Salary.
		RS.		RS.
1 Head clerk ..	..	40-24-50 50	M. Srinivasachari ..	50
2 Second clerk ..	..	20-1-25 25	T. Kesava Nayudu ..	25
3 Attender ..	..	15	<i>Vacant.</i>	
4 Peon (1) ..	..	12	Raghava Chetti ..	12
5 Peon (2) ..	..	10	.....	..
6 Bill collector ..	..	20-1-40 28	Subbaraya Mudaliyar ..	28
7 Do. ..	..	..		..
8 Do. (2) ..	..	20-1-40 26	T. Srinivasulu Nayudu ..	26
9 Do. (3) ..	..	20-1-40 21	Srinivasaraghavachari ..	21
10 Do. (4) ..	..	20-1-40 21	Kuppuswami Nayudu ..	21
11 Tom-tom men (8) ..	..	..		..
12 Sanitary Inspector ..	..	50-5-100 60	C. Narayana Rao ..	60
13 Conservancy supervisor ..	..	..	Md. Hussein ..	20

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14 Sanitary maistri ..	..	15-1-30 21	Raghavan ..	21
15 Do. (2) ..	..	15-1-30 20	Krishnamachari ..	20
16 Do. (3) ..	..	15-1-30 20	Natesa Mudali ..	20
17 Sanitary peon ..	..	12	.....	..
18 Do. (2) ..	..	10	.....	..
19 Do. (3) ..	..	10	.....	..
20 Sweepers (20) ..	..	12	.....	240
21 Cesspool cleaners (9) ..	..	12	.....	108
22 Scavengers (3) ..	..	12	.....	36
23 Drain cleaners (3) ..	..	12	.....	36
24 Lorry driver ..	..	35	Raghava Chetti ..	35
25 Water Brahman (1) ..	..	13	Tiruvengadaachari ..	13
26 Do. (2) ..	..	13	A. Narasinga ..	13
27 Do. (additional) ..	..	..	.....	..
28 Cleaner ..	..	12	Ekambaram ..	12
29 Bill collector ..	..	12	.....	..
30 Midwife ..	..	35	Kamalammal ..	35
31 Ayah ..	..	7	Subbammal ..	7
32 Sweeper ..	..	3	.....	..
33 Slaughter-house cleaner (1) ..	..	8	.....	8
34 Avenue coolie (1) ..	..	12	.....	12
35 Tax and lighting superintendent ..	..	20	A. Daivasigamani Pillai ..	20
36 Warrant officer ..	..	25-1-40 25		..
37 Electrical Engineer ..	..	75		..
38 Overseer ..	..	60		..

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Statement showing the annual list of establishments of the Tiruvallur Panchayat Board (Chingleput district) as it stood on 1st April for each of the years from 1932-33 to 1937-38—cont.

(Post) number.	Incumbent.	1937-38.	Salary.	Remarks.
1	M. Srinivasachari	..	Rs. 50	
2	T. Kesavalu Nayudu	..	30	
3	S. G. Kesavan	..	16	
4	Syed Akbar	..	12	
5	A. Kumaraswami Nayudu	..	10	
6	Subbaraya Mudaliyar	..	..	(On leave from 22nd February 1935.) (Acting.)
7	Magubaig	..	15	
8	T. Srinivasulu Nayudu	..	26	
9	Srinivasaragavachari	..	21	
10	Kuppuswami Nayudu	..	21	
11	Veeran	..	8	
12	K. Perumal	..	45	
13	Md. Hussain	..	21	
14	Kesavalu Nayudu	..	15	
15	Natesa Mudali	..	20	
16	Abdul Satar	..	10	
17	Govindarajulu	..	10	
18	Sweepers, twenty	..	240	
19	Cesspool cleaners, nine	..	108	
20	Drain cleaners, three	..	36	
21	A. M. Vadiyelu Mudaliyar	..	30	
22	Ramanatha Sastri	..	15	
23	Narayana Sastri	..	15	
24	Arjuna Naicker	..	12	
25	..	..	..	
26	..	..	..	
27	..	..	..	
28	..	..	..	
29	..	..	..	
30	..	..	..	
31	..	..	..	
32	..	..	..	
33	..	..	..	
34	Avenue coolie, one	..	2	
35	G. Sundaresan	..	25	
36	..	..	150	
37	K. R. K. Murthy	..	60	
38	T. S. Ramaswami	..	..	

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 27th September 1937.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Building, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, the Deputy Speaker (MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI) in the Chair.

Proceedings commenced with the singing of Vande Mataram by Mrs. Lakshmi Sankara Ayyar.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Non-inclusion in the ayacut of lands under turmeric cultivation in the Guntur district.

* 263 Q.—MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of acreage in the Guntur district which is being cultivated with turmeric and which is not included in the ayacut;

(b) for how many years past this has been going on;

(c) whether it is a fact that water is being supplied for such lands during the years of cultivation till now; and

(d) if the reply to the above questions is in the affirmative, why such lands are not included in the ayacut?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) 1,803 acres.

“(b) For over ten years.

“(c) Water is being used by the ryots when available without the permission of the Public Works Department officers.

“(d) A special staff was appointed in 1931 for the localization of the turmeric area in Guntur district with a view to prevent the wastage in supplying water to lands which lie scattered about and far away from major irrigation channels. Turmeric requires water for more than six months in the year and by including such lands in the ayacut, the Public Works Department will have to continue the water-supply beyond December, even after the water-supply is stopped for permanent wet lands which are harvested early in January. That is the time when the water-level goes down in the Kistna river and water has to be conserved for purposes of navigation, etc. It was, therefore, thought that, if these turmeric areas are developed at the head of major irrigation channels, water-supply can be maintained without the great wastage involved in supplying water to the turmeric lands lying

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at the tail-ends of channels or far away from major distributaries. All such turmeric lands have been excluded from the ayacut. The limits up to which supply of water will be maintained after 15th December for turmeric lands or for second crop are mentioned in the schedule appended to Rule 1-A in Appendix I-B (Part I) to the Board's Standing Order No. 4, paragraph 2. The area of 1,803 acres has thus not been included in the ayacut. However, the ryots can still grow turmeric on this extent if there is water available in any year though this cannot be guaranteed."

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Madam, seeing that these are money crops, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to see that all these lands that are cultivated with turmeric are supplied with water till February?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"No. For the reason given in the answer it cannot be supplied beyond 15th December."

Improvements effected in the methods of fishing as a result of the research work done in the field.

* 264 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) how much money the Government have spent for research work since the beginning of the Fisheries Department;

(b) in what line the research was conducted; and

(c) whether as a result of the researches, any improvement has been effected in the methods of fishing now obtaining among the fishermen of the Presidency?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) The department has spent Rs. 7,78,873, i.e., about 7.8 lakhs from 1921-22 to 1935-36. Separate figures for earlier years are not available.

" (b) Research has been conducted on the following main lines:—
The life histories, habits and food of different kinds of food fishes.

Plankton, hydrographic and meteorological observations.

Pearl oyster culture.

Deep-water fishing experiments and fishing methods.

Chank marking experiments.

Experiments in diving apparatus.

Research in edible oyster.

Fishery statistics.

The exploration of possible new fishing grounds.

The preparation and storage of fish oil and guano.

The preservation of fish for transport.

The preservation of nets, etc.

" (c) No, except in regard to the establishment of marine methods of deep-water fishing in the reservoir at Mopad."

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MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether deep-sea fishing has been taught to fishermen, and if not, whether any steps will be devised to teach them?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The answer itself says that there has been success in that line."

Proposal for the improvement of the conditions of the workers employed in the Engineering College Workshops, Guindy.

* 265 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether a workshop is attached to the Engineering College, Guindy;

(b) what the nature of the work performed there is;

(c) how many workers are employed in the workshop and what their designations and wages are;

(d) what the system of wages now prevailing in the workshop is;

(e) for how many days and for what periods the workshop is closed in a year; whether the workers are allowed wages for any of those holidays;

(f) how many unpaid holidays the workers of this workshop have in a year;

(g) how the other employees of the college are treated in this respect; whether they are paid for holidays;

(h) whether the workers of this workshop have any paid holidays or any leave with pay;

(i) whether there is any system in the workshop now providing for the old age and retirement of the employees, and if so, what it is; and

(j) if not, when the Government propose to introduce such provisions?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The nature of the work is instructional. The workshop is intended for students undergoing training in workshop practice. Repairs and other works for the other departments of the College are also executed.

" (c) A statement ^a is appended.

" (d) Daily payment.

" (e) & (f) The workshop is closed on all College holidays—for about ten days during the Christmas recess and for two months during the summer vacation. No wages are paid during the holidays.

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Statement showing the annual list of establishments of the Tiruvallur Panchayat Board
(Chingleput district) as it stood on 1st April for each of the years from 1932-33 to
1937-38—cont.

(Post) num- ber.	1933-34.		1934-35.	
	Incumbent.	Salary. RS.	Incumbent.	Salary. RS.
1	M. Srinivasachari	50	M. Srinivasachari	50
2	T. Kesaval Nayudu	25	T. Kesaval Nayudu	25
3	(Attender) Vacant.	..	Vacant.	..
4	Egambaram	12	Egambaram	12
5	..	..	..	..
6	Subbaraya Mudaliyar	28	Subbaraya Mudaliyar	28
7	..	..	..	..
8	T. Srinivasalu Nayudu	26	T. Srinivasalu Nayudu	26
9	Srinivasaraghavachari	21	Srinivasaraghavachari	21
10	Kuppuswami Nayudu	21	Kuppuswami Nayudu	21
11	..	..	..	..
12	Vacant.	..	Vacant.	..
13	Md. Hussain	21	Md. Hussain	21
14	Ragavan	21	Ragavan	21
15	Krishnamachari	20	Krishnamachari	20
16	Natesa Mudali	20	Natesa Mudali	20
17	..	..	..	..
18	..	..	..	..
19	..	..	..	..
20	Sweepers, twenty	240	Twenty	240
21	Cesspool cleaners, nine	108	Nine	108
22	Scavengers, three	36	Three	36
23	Drain cleaners, three	36	Three	36
24	Govindarajulu Nayudu	25	Balaram Nayudu	30
25	N. S. Sundaram	15	N. S. Sundaram	15
26	Varadachari	15	Varadachari	15
27	Raghava Chetti	12	Sitharama Ayyar	15
28	..	..	Ragava Chetti	12
29	..	..	..	..
30	Kamalammal	35	..	..
31	Subbammal	7	..	..
32	Pattammal	3	..	..
33	One (slaughter-house cleaner)	8	..	..
34	One (avenue coolie)	12	One	12
35	A. Daivasigamani Pillai	20	A. Daivasigamani Pillai	20
36	..	..	..	..
37	..	..	..	..
38	..	..	..	..

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(Post) num- ber.	1935-36.		1936-37.	
	Incumbent.	Salary. RS.	Incumbent.	Salary. RS.
1	M. Srinivasachari	50	M. Srinivasachari	50
2	T. Kesaval Nayudu	25	T. Kesaval Nayudu	25
3	Nallathambi	15	S. G. Kesavan	15
4	Syed Akbar	12	Syed Akbar	12
5	Raghava Chetti	10	Subramaniam	10
6	Subbaraya Mudaliyar	28	..	..
7	..	..	Magubaig	15
8	T. Srinivasalu Nayudu	26	T. Srinivasalu Nayudu	26
9	Srinivasaraghavachari	21	Srinivasaraghavachari	21
10	Kuppuswami Nayudu	21	Kuppuswami Nayudu	21
11	..	..	Veeran	8
12	Vacant.	..	..	..
13	Md. Hussain	21	K. Perumal	35
14	Raghavan	21	Md. Hussain	21
15	..	..	Kesavalu Nayudu	15
16	Natesa Mudali	20	..	..
17	Kuppuswami Mudali	12	Natesa Mudali	20
18	Abdul Satar	10	Kuppuswami Mudali	12
19	Govindarajulu	10	Abdul Satar	10
20	Sweepers, twenty	240	Govindarajulu	10
21	Cesspool cleaners, nine	108	Twenty	240
22	..	..	Nine	108
23	Drain cleaners, three	36	..	..
24	Balaram Nayudu	30	Three	36
25	N. S. Sundaram	15	Balaram Nayudu	30
26	Narasimhachari	15	Ramanatham Sastri	15
27	..	..	Narasimhachari	15
28	Arjuna Nayakar	12	..	..
29	Radhakrishnan	..	Arjuna Nayakar	12
30	..	..	Radhakrishnan	..
31	..	..	..	..
32	..	..	..	..
33	..	..	..	..
34	..	..	..	..
35	A. Daivasigamani Pillai	20	..	..
36	..	..	G. Sundaresan	15
37	..	..	..	..
38	..	..	Rangaramanujam	75

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“(g) There are a few daily paid men attached to the College power-house and a few monthly paid men working in laboratories. The daily paid men are treated like the workmen in the workshop.

“(h) Yes.

“(i) There is no provision for old age or for the grant of any payment on retirement.

“(j) The Government do not consider that there is a case for such a concession.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister to state for how many hours a day the men in the workshop work, and whether the Government will reduce the hours of work in conformity with the practice in the other workshops? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ If the hon. Member will put down a separate question on this subject, I will try to give him an answer.”

MR. E. KANNAN:—“ May I know, Madam, in view of the fact that the Engineering College workshop is not an industrial workshop, whether the Government will be pleased to treat the workmen as Government servants and give them monthly pay so that they may be entitled to pay also during the holidays? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ No, Madam.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether memorials have been submitted by the workers appealing to Government for payment of wages for the long vacation, especially during the summer holidays, and whether Government will consider the matter favourably? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ The hon. Gentleman must not forget that this workshop is merely run for instructional purposes, and as the Government are running the College and other educational institutions, it is not easy to pay the workers during the vacation.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I know whether the other staff of the Engineering College which numbers 100, is paid during the vacation and if so, why this benefit should not be given to the workers also? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ The hon. Member must be aware that they are instructors in the sense that they are teachers highly qualified.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I know whether the artisans who give instructions to Engineering students are not to be regarded as skilled workers eligible for proper wages? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ The hon. Member is mistaken if he thinks that these artisans are instructors. They help the instructors in the workshop. That is a different matter.”

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MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“ May I ask whether it is possible for the workers to maintain themselves during the long vacation without wages? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ I know it is difficult; but the Government's finances are also limited.”

Government Orders issued prior to 14th July 1937 regarding the teaching of Hindi in schools and colleges under the Local Administration Department.

* 266 Q.—MR. E. KANNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to lay on the table all the orders issued by the Government before 14th July 1937 regarding the teaching of Hindi in schools and colleges under the department of Local Administration?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ Copies of the undermentioned orders are placed on the table:—

- * (1) G.O. No. 840, Education, dated the 15th May 1927.
- * (2) G.O. No. 4921, L. & M., dated the 29th November 1935.
- * (3) G.O. No. 2716, L. & M., dated the 25th June 1936.
- * (4) G.O. No. 2544, Education, dated the 27th November 1936.”

MR. E. KANNAN:—“ Madam, may I ask the Hon. Minister to say whether all the orders issued by the interim Ministry have been placed on the table? ”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ All the orders * which the Government think can be placed on the table of the House, have been so placed.”

Measures for the re-introduction of the salt concession.

* 267 Q.—MR. S. M. LAIJAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by this Government to re-introduce the salt concessions which were granted to the people living on the sea coast as a result of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, and which were subsequently withdrawn?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Steps were taken by communication with the Government of India on 12th August 1937 and the concessions have been ordered to be restored.”

MR. L. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR:—“ May I ask whether the villagers have to take permission from the Government before they manufacture salt? ”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ I am not aware of the exact details as to how the concessions are being worked in order to avoid abuses. But it is very likely that a system of

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MR. S. M. LALJAN:—" May I know in view of the order placed on the table of the House whether the flag used by the Congress is a national flag or the Congress Flag since I am not in a position to understand the difference between the National Flag and the Congress Flag? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I submit that this is not a question which can be answered by the Department of Local Administration. I submit a separate question may be put down for the Premier or the Public Department."

MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU:—" Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state what the attitude of the Government is regarding the flying of national flags over public buildings, in view of the Government's decision, after their careful examination of the position to countenance the flying of national flags over buildings of local bodies? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" It is not in the public interests to discuss that question now. I am sorry."

Amalgamation of the bifurcated District Boards and proposal for the formation of Divisional Boards.

* 272 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to reamalgamate the bifurcated district boards and to introduce legislation to form Divisional Boards?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Government propose to undertake legislation in respect of amalgamation of bifurcated district boards. There is no proposal to introduce legislation to form divisional boards."

Alleged search by the C.I.D. Police of the house of the organizing Secretary, Kerala Provincial Congress Committee.

* 273 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the house of Mr. E. M. Sankaran Nambudripad, Organizing Secretary, Kerala Provincial Congress Committee, has been searched recently by the C.I.D. Police;

(b) if so, under whose orders the search was made and the reason therefor; and

(c) what the result of the search was? .

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (a) Two houses of Mr. E. M. Sankaran Nambudripad are reported to have been searched by the police.

" (b) The search was made under a warrant issued by a Magistrate under section 172 of the Sea Customs Act. The reason therefor was that there was information that Mr. Nambudripad had in his

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possession a copy of a book which was prohibited entry into British India by the Government of India under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act.

" (c) No copy of the book was found."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" Am I to understand that a search has been made under mere suspicion? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The answer that I gave was that the reason for search was information and not mere suspicion."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" Had the Government previous information and was the search made under the orders of the Government? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The search was not made under the orders of the Government. The search was made by the police on a warrant issued by the magistrate."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know which is the agency that was employed by the magistrate for getting his information? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The police made application to the magistrate for a warrant on information received by them. The magistrate gave the warrant to the police."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" Are not the local police belonging to the Madras Province? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I presume so."

* 274 Q.*

Amalgamation of the bifurcated district boards in the Presidency.

* 275 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to amalgamate the bifurcated district boards in the Presidency in the near future?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The answer has been given to question No. 272 to-day."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—" May I know whether there is going to be reamalgamation of all the district boards that have been bifurcated? "

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The question is under consideration."

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permits might be working; it will not be used to the prejudice of the poor people who take advantage of the concessions, but it will be used only to prevent their abuse by those who wish to take advantage of the concessions and make a trade of it and endanger the continuance of the concession itself."

MR. L. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR:—" May I know, Madam, whether the Government are aware that the communiqué issued by the Government prescribes a limit to the manufacture, and if so, whether it would not be desirable to restrict the number of people who manufacture in the villages and whether the Government will take this into consideration? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I am not aware, Madam, of any limitation as to quantity."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI:—" May I request the Hon. the Premier to look into this matter when he has got leisure? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" It is not absence of leisure, Madam; orders have now been issued to frame suitable regulations to prevent abuse and to prevent the stoppage of the concession. As soon as regulations have been framed, they will certainly receive my close examination."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—" Madam, although the Government issued orders with regard to concessions for the manufacture of salt, may I ask whether it is a fact that the authorities of the Salt department are not at all willing to carry out the orders? "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" Not only am I not aware of any such thing, but I think it is not a correct understanding of the mentality of the Salt officials. They are quite loyal to the orders issued by the Government of India in this matter."

* 268. Q. *

Release of Mappilla prisoners convicted for taking part in the Mappilla Rebellion.

* 269 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) how many Mappillas who were convicted for taking part in the Mappilla Rebellion are still in jails;

(b) whether any steps were recently taken to set them at liberty; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) None.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) Does not arise."

* Vide page 888 infra.

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Supply of buttermilk to prisoners in jails.

* 270 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) what annual expenditure will be incurred to supply buttermilk to prisoners;

(b) whether the buttermilk will be prepared within the jails or will be purchased from without; and

(c) if purchased, what precautions will be taken to ensure the supply of pure buttermilk?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) The cost of supplying buttermilk to all prisoners will be about Rs. 80,000 per annum.

" (b) & (c) The supply of buttermilk to all prisoners was ordered only on 2nd August 1937, and the Government at the same time directed the Inspector-General of Prisons to take steps to give effect to the order at the earliest possible date. They have no information regarding the actual arrangements made by the Inspector-General, but have called for a report on the point."

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—" Is it the intention of Government to supply buttermilk also to those that do not want it? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" In answer to a question previously put, I have already stated that the Government are not in a position to add anything to it."

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—" Will the Government be pleased to consider the question? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" When the Government come to know that there is any difficulty caused to certain prisoners on account of the fact that they are not accustomed to buttermilk the Government will consider the question."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—" Is it a fact that buttermilk is supplied to prisoners twice a week? "

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" Not under the Madras Government." (Laughter.)

Removal of the ban on flying of the Congress Flag on the buildings of local bodies.

* 271 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the ban on the flying of the Congress Flag on buildings belonging to local bodies has been cancelled and if so, whether a copy of the order will be placed on the table?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The answer is in the affirmative. A copy of G.O. No. 1520, Public, dated 11th August 1937, on the subject is placed on the table of the House."

* Printed as Appendix III on page 930 infra.

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Protest against the operation of the Dramatic Performances Act of 1876 in the Tinnevely district.

* 276 Q.—SRIMATHI LAKSHMI AMMAL: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Dramatic Performances Act of 1876 is in force in Tinnevely district now;

(b) when and under what circumstances it was brought into force there;

(c) whether Government are aware that under that Act the Collector of Tinnevely has recently refused permission to a dramatic troupe to stage two Tamil plays entitled "Victory of Khadi" and "Desa Bhakthi";

(d) whether Government have received any representation from the said troupe or others in this regard;

(e) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter;

(f) how long Government propose to keep the Act in force in that district;

(g) whether that Act is in force in any other district; and

(h) when Government propose to cancel the operation of the Act in the Tinnevely district?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“(a) The provisions of section 10 of the Dramatic Performances Act, 1876, are in force in the Tinnevely district.

“(b) The provisions of section 10 of the Act were brought into force in the district with effect from 16th February 1932 on the recommendation of the District Magistrate, Tinnevely, to prohibit dramatic performances tending to create disaffection towards Government.

“(c), (d) & (e) The Government have received a representation from the Secretary, District Congress Committee, Tinnevely, about this and the matter is under the consideration of Government.

“(f) & (h) The question what action shall be taken in the matter is under the consideration of Government.

“(g) Section 10 of the Act has been applied to the districts of Kistna, Guntur, West Godavari and Salem.”

MR. B. VENKATA RAO BALIGA:—“May I ask whether the Government propose to amend the Act in the light of the present circumstances as the Act is 60 years old?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Apart from the reason as to mere old age entitling us to amend the Act, I submit, as I have already said in the answer, that this particular

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grievance is under the consideration of the Government and if the grievance cannot be removed except by an amendment of the Act, we shall undertake it.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“May I know whether the Government have received any complaints from the dramatic troupes that the Collectors of districts are giving them trouble in issuing licences to them for the performance of dramas?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I have not seen such complaints, but I say it is very likely there are complaints.”

Proposal for the cancellation of the Government Order prohibiting the employment of ex-political prisoners in local fund or municipal services.

* 277 Q.—MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any Government Order prohibiting the employment by local bodies of ex-political prisoners in local fund or municipal services, even if otherwise qualified; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether Government will consider the desirability of cancelling the Government Order?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) Government have issued a rule under which no person who is convicted of a political offence shall be employed or retained in service under local boards or municipal councils, except with the special sanction of Government.

“(b) Government have recently considered the question and have decided not to change the rule. They are prepared to accord sanction in deserving cases.”

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Premier will be pleased to pass such orders regarding other Government servants also?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“It is difficult for the Premier to give assurance on a question like that. The hon. Member may be asked to give notice of a separate question in the regular manner.”

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—“Seeing most of us here are ex-convicts, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider whether concessions cannot be given in all cases without making any distinction as to merits?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have already said that permission will be given in all deserving cases and each case will be considered on its merits.”

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MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know what the Hon. Minister means by 'deserving cases'?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" On merits, on service and other qualifications."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" The question refers only to one principle, i.e., the employees having served their incarceration on account of their political offences; why should they not be re-employed? Then may I ask why this question of merit comes in?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" That is why I have already said in deserving cases Government will consider them liberally."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to answer straight whether orders will not be passed regarding all political prisoners irrespective of the question of merit?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" On a point of order, Deputy Speaker, Madam. Is it open to the hon. Member to ask whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to give a straight answer?"

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:—" I think the Hon. Minister for Local Administration has given a straight answer."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" My question is whether all persons who have been convicted on account of political persuasion will not be exempted from the order altogether irrespective of the question of merit?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The suggestion will be considered."

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know whether there are any real difficulties with regard to the consideration of this question on a general basis?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The Government is prepared to accord sanction in all deserving cases."

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know whether there is any similar ban with regard to prisoners other than political prisoners?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Certainly, but that question does not arise here."

* 268 Q.—

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—" I do not put the question." (Withdrawn.)

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Proposal for the reconstitution of the old Gajapatinagaram taluk in the Vizagapatam district.

* 274 Q.—MR. P. L. NARASIMHA RAJU:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he received any petitions from the villagers of Kumili, Rellivalasa, Rakodu, etc., protesting against the inclusion of their villages in the newly formed Bimlipatam taluk, Vizagapatam district;

(b) if so, what action has been or is proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether in the interests of the villagers in the old Gajapatinagaram taluk, it is proposed to reopen Gajapatinagaram taluk transferring the Stationary Sub-Magistrate and his staff in Vizianagram taluk to the Gajapatinagaram taluk to be formed; and

(d) if so, when?

MR. T. VISWANATHAN (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) A notification was published in the *Vizagapatam District Gazette* in February 1937 inviting objections to the proposal to restore the old Bimlipatam taluk and to reconstitute it with the addition of 48 villages from the Vizianagram taluk. Kumili, Rellivalasa and Rakodu were amongst the 48 villagers proposed for inclusion in the new Bimlipatam taluk. In March 1937, the Collector reported that petitions had been received from the ryots of 26 villages of the Vizianagram taluk (including Kumili and Rakodu) objecting to the inclusion of their villages in the new Bimlipatam taluk.

" (b) As a result of these representations, 9 out of the 48 villages of the Vizianagram taluk referred to above were retained in the Vizianagram taluk itself. One of these nine villages is Rakodu.

" (c) & (d) There is no such proposal before the Government."

MR. P. L. NARASIMHA RAJU:—" With reference to the answer to clauses (a) and (b), may I ask whether there have not been complaints from villages which are close to Vizianagram taluk?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" If there are complaints from the villagers concerned, the Government will re-examine the question."

Modification of the communiqué regarding the application of the reduced water-rate to the second-crop in the Godavari deltas.

* 278 Q.—MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Revenue Board issued proceedings in March 1937, modifying the communiqué of October 1936 regarding the application of the reduced water-rate to the second-crop of the last fasli in the Godavari deltas; and

(b) if so, why?

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MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative. The Government have issued definite orders to the effect that the rate of water-cess leviable for the irrigation of a second crop on ryotwari dry and on inam and zamindari lands not entitled to free irrigation should also be reduced proportionately.

“The hon. Member has presumably in mind the charge for the irrigation of a second-crop on ryotwari single-crop wet lands. The land revenue concessions were intended to apply only to the basic assessment and to the water-rate and not to any miscellaneous extra charge like the second-crop charge on single-crop wet lands.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Protest against the construction of two irrigation tanks by the Mysore Government in the Kolar district.

141 Q.—MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased—

(i) to lay on the table the correspondence relating to the grant of permission to the Mysore Government for the construction of the tanks at

- (1) Raghimakalahalli; and
- (2) Tippaganahalli

in Kolar district last year; and

(ii) to state whether in granting such permission the Government considered the fact that the Kolar district forms the catchment area for the Palar and that the grant of such a permission would injuriously affect the very little supply now available in the Palar?

A.—(i) Government are not prepared to lay the correspondence on the table.

(ii) Yes; but the Raghimakalahalli and Tippaganahalli tanks are across the tributaries of the Southern Penner and Northern Penner respectively. Steps have been taken to safeguard the interests of the British ryots under the Palar as far as possible.

Implementing of the Washington Unemployment Convention in regard to the Madras Presidency.

142 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state what action the Government propose to take in regard to the implementing in regard to Madras Presidency of the Washington Unemployment Convention ratified by the Government of India?

A.—There will shortly be a census of the educated unemployed. The question of extending it to uneducated unemployed and the necessity for setting up public employment agencies will be considered in due course.

[27th September 1937]

Use of charkhas in the Mental Hospital, Waltair.

143 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that spinning on charkhas is one of the occupations of some of the patients in the Mental Hospital, Waltair;

(b) whether the charkhas are regularly inspected and kept in proper working order;

(c) what the total number of charkhas is: (i) working, and (ii) out of use; and

(d) how much yarn has been spun on the charkhas during 1936 and what use has been made of the said yarn?

A.—(a) Spinning on charkhas is being carried on in the hospital but it is rather in the nature of a diversion than an occupation.

(b) Yes.

(c) The total number is five.

(i) Three working.

(ii) Two not in use.

(d) No yarn was spun in 1936. Patients who are fit, are trained in stages to work on the charkhas. During 1936, they only spindled out yarn and helped the weavers.

Facilities for religious worship by the patients in the Mental Hospital, Waltair.

144 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any, and if so, what provision has been made for the spiritual needs of the patients, Hindu, Christian and Mussalman, etc., in the Mental Hospital, Waltair; and

(b) whether the Government will consider the desirability of sending by motor bus the Hindu and Muslim patients also to their respective temples, mandirs and mosques on festive and other important days as is being done in the case of Christian patients?

A.—(a) Provision has been made for looking after the spiritual needs of patients of all communities. Hindus are frequently sent out to local fairs and festivals and other religious celebrations. Sometimes they are taken out to adjacent places of pilgrimage and to sea-baths as well, on festive occasions. Christian patients are sent out on Sundays and other important days to the churches of their respective denominations, if the preachers intimate their inability to come and minister to their spiritual needs at the hospital. Similarly Mussalman patients are taken out on Fridays and other festive occasions.

(b) The motor bus is being used for patients of all communities.

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House-sites acquired by the Labour Department for the scheduled castes and others in the Circars.

145 Q.—MR. D. R. ISAAC: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state districtwar for the Circars—

(a) in how many villages house-sites have been acquired by the Labour Department for the scheduled caste people and others, and what the cost is to Government for such acquisition;

(b) whether they have been asked to pay the cost of land together with the interest thereon;

(c) whether they have been asked to pay also for the pathways marked out in the acquired lands;

(d) how much those pathways would cost at the rate purchased by the Government;

(e) how much interest up to date they have paid on the money advanced by the Government for the lands;

(f) whether it is a fact that in many places the cost of the site worked out higher than the market value of the adjacent lands;

(g) whether it is a fact that on account of the higher cost of the land many people to whom the lands have been sold on instalment payment system have not been able to pay after some payments;

(h) whether the Government have taken away the lands from such defaulters of payment;

(i) whether the Government have considered the possibility of reducing the value of the lands consistent with the ability of the poor people; and

(j) whether the Government have considered the feasibility of writing off the balance of dues and of restoring the lands to those who made part-payments?

A.—(a) to (j) A statement^a giving the particulars called for is annexed.

Fisheries Research Laboratory at West Hill, Calicut, and the work done by it.

146 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR P. M. ATTAKOYA THANGAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) when the Fisheries Research Laboratory was started at West Hill, Calicut;

(b) what is the annual expenditure incurred by the Government on it; and

^a Printed as Appendix IV on pages 981–983 infra.

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(c) whether the research conducted there has contributed in any manner to the development of the fisheries industry on the West Coast?

A.—(a) In 1921.

(b) The average annual expenditure is Rs. 5,832.

(c) Prior to the appointment of the Assistant Biologist in 1930, the West Hill Station was in charge of two Sub-Assistants who were graduates in Zoology and were to do the preliminary work of gathering the data required for the study of the sardine and the mackerel, the most important shoaling fish of the West Coast. The research activities of the station received proper attention only from 1930 after the Assistant Biologist was appointed and the station properly equipped. The most important results of research on both the oil sardine and mackerel are (1) the discovery of their breeding grounds, and (2) the identification of their eggs. These discoveries open the door for intensive work on the development and life history of these two fishes from egg onwards and the determination of the spawning period and the location of breeding grounds all over the West Coast. In addition to the above work, the continuous collection and examination of plankton and the making and recording of hydrographical and meteorological observations are gradually throwing light on the food of these and other fishes and on the environmental conditions governing their lives; and the collection and compilation of fishery statistics for the whole Presidency, which is also done at West Hill, is throwing valuable light upon the condition of the fishery industry in South India. The work is not yet sufficiently complete for practical application.

Extent of the Nellore district coming under the Tungabhadra Project.

147 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the Tungabhadra project is; and

(b) whether the scheme will benefit the Nellore district, and if so, what portions of the district and to what extent?

A.—(a) Negotiations between this Government and the Governments of Mysore and Hyderabad regarding the sharing of the waters of the river and its tributaries have not yet been concluded. Experiments in regard to the duty of water, soil management, rotation of crops, etc., are being conducted at Siruguppa in the Bellary district.

(b) The answer to the first part of the clause is in the negative and consequently the second part does not arise.

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Hostel grants to private institutions serving the needs of the depressed classes.

148 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are going to give the hostel grants to the private institutions for depressed classes in the Madras Presidency; and

(b) if so;

(i) the total number of institutions;

(ii) the total amount of grants; and

(iii) the total amount proposed to be given to each institution in each district?

A.—(a) & (b) The Labour department has always been making grants to private associations engaged in maintaining schools, hostels, etc., mainly for the benefit of the depressed classes. A list of the hostels subsidized by Government and the grant paid to each will be found in the Administration report of the Labour department for each year.

Protest against the reduction of the scale of discount admissible to stamp vendors.

149 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have reduced the rates of discount allowed for the stamp vendors;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any memorial from the stamp vendors of Mangalore in this matter; and

(c) what the reply given by the Government was?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) The memorialists were informed that their request could not be complied with.

Proposal to shift the Sub-Registry Office, Singampuneri, to Neikkuppai, Ramnad district.

150 Q.—MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to shift the Sub-Registrar's Office from Singampuneri to Neikkuppai, Ramnad district; and

(b) if so, when the Government propose to effect the said change?

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4.—(a) A proposal to this effect was made last year but was not pursued.

(b) Does not arise.

Golden Jubilee of the Government Victoria College, Palghat.

151 Q.—MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Golden Jubilee of the Government Victoria College, Palghat, is to be celebrated this academic year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Principal has nominated Dr. Karamchand, Lecturer in English, to collect funds for the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that this Lecturer, Dr. Karamchand, very often dismisses his classes on the plea of Jubilee work;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the work for two years was finished at a stretch in about two months' time and that the students had not sufficient time to understand and assimilate;

(e) whether collections for the Jubilee Fund are being made from parents of the students, college contractors, staff members, etc.;

(f) whether Dr. Karamchand is the Deputy Warden of the Hostel attached to the College and whether he is paid Rs. 30 per mensem being an M.E.S.;

(g) whether it is not true that S.E.S. men need be paid only Rs. 15 and pro tanto relief will be gained if an S.E.S. is appointed as Deputy Warden;

(h) whether it is a fact that a sum of Re. 1-4-0 per head per month is collected from the students of the Hostel by this Lecturer, the Deputy Warden, towards Jubilee Fund;

(i) whether it is a fact that a Punjabi gentleman is now the contractor to supply goods, milk, etc., to the Hostel and whether he is a relation of Dr. Karamchand;

(j) whether this Punjabi contractor is financed by the Deputy Warden;

(k) whether it is a fact that no tenders were called for this year from people of the locality to supply goods, milk, etc., to the Hostel;

(l) whether it is a fact that the previous Manager of the Hostel was dismissed and if so, for what reason;

(m) whether a Punjabi substitute was appointed, and if so, whether he is even now in service; and

(n) whether the Principal knows of these things; if not, why he does not supervise properly; if he knows, why he keeps quiet?

A.—(f) & (g) The answer is in the affirmative. Information in respect of the other clauses has been called for.

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE CONDITIONS OF ZAMINDARI AND OTHER PROPRIETARY AREAS.

* THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"I have to announce to the House that the following candidates have been nominated for election of six members to the committee to enquire into and report on the conditions prevailing in zamindari and other proprietary areas:—

The Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam.

Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig.

The Zamindar of Mirzapuram.

Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja.

Mr. M. Pallam Raju.

Mr. B. Venkatachalam Pillai.

"As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number to be elected, namely, six, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the said committee."

III.—THE MADRAS REGULATION OF THE SALE OF CLOTH BILL, 1937 (L.A. BILL No. 2 OF 1937)—cont.

* THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The discussion on the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill will be resumed now."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Madam, I beg to move that the Bill be referred to a select committee. My reason for moving this motion is that it is necessary that a Bill of this nature which seeks to tax a certain section of the people must be considered by a select committee. I do not think, Madam, that this Bill is as urgent as the Prohibition Bill and nothing will be lost by its being referred to a select committee."

"Madam, the House could very well understand the urgency for the Prohibition Bill because the Government want to introduce prohibition in Salem on the 1st of October, but in this case, I do not think it is necessary to rush through this legislation. I do not want to go into the merits of the Bill now. I believe, Madam, that persons who are able to pay must pay and persons who are not in a position to pay should not be made to pay. Therefore, I welcome any legislation by which revenue should be collected from persons able to pay and relief is given to the poor. But, Madam, this Bill singles out dealers in a particular article, namely, cloth, for taxation. There is no reason why persons who deal in other articles should be left out. It would have been more logical if persons who deal in all articles are taxed irrespective of the nature of the article. That would have been consistent and reasonable. In that way the loss of revenue caused

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by the introduction of prohibition may be made good. But this distinction is invidious. There is no particular reason assigned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons why these cloth-dealers alone should be singled out for taxation and why dealers in other articles, who either earn a certain amount or whose turnover is Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 2,000 should not be taxed. I am unable to see the reason or the motive behind this step, unless it be, as some people suspect, that this mill-made cloth is sought to be penalized in order that hand-spun cloth may be encouraged. I do not complain, if hand-spinning is encouraged, because I think it must be encouraged and I have also supported the grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for such encouragement. But the object of this Bill seems to be not only to make some revenue but also to make a distinction between one article and other articles, which I submit is objectionable. There is no principle in it. Unless you want to draw an invidious distinction between dealers in this and dealers in the other articles, on principle, this tax cannot be justified. The suspicion of some people is that the trade in mill-cloth is sought to be penalized. There is no justification for it and it is not right for any Government to single out any article and penalize it. My object in moving this motion is to find out whether dealers in all articles cannot be taxed, if the aim of the Government is to make up the loss caused by the introduction of prohibition. Let us tax all persons who are able to pay. I hope, that this matter will be considered by the select committee, namely, the desirability of taxing persons who deal in any kind of article."

(At this stage Mr. Speaker took the Chair.)

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion that the Bill be referred to a select committee. As it is, all dealers whose monthly turnover is Rs. 5,000 or less should pay a fee of Rs. 2 per annum. This will affect the poor people very much. The Hon. the Leader of the House and all of us here want to give relief to the poor. When such is the case, why should we make a distinction between one class of poor people and another class? These people are the poorest. Of course, in a way it will help the khadi industry. The people who work at khaddar are supposed to work at it for a supplementary income, but the people whom we are taxing by this measure have no other occupation at all; this is their sole means of earning a livelihood. We have to consider their difficulties also. I hope the Government will be pleased to refer this Bill to a select committee. At it is, even dealers whose monthly turnover is Rs. 50 will be affected by this Bill. They earn very little and if they are taxed like this, they will not be able to earn their livelihood. It is very hard on them. Sir, I support the motion."

* MR. J. NUTTALL:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been proposed by my hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, that this Bill should go to a select committee. It is not my intention to support that suggestion;

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what I am out to do is to oppose this Bill entirely. In doing so, I should like to explain, as I did when I spoke in this House last week, that the European group are not opposed to the matter of assisting by this subsidy hand-spinning. What they wish to do is to examine and get the Government to say to what extent they intend to subsidize hand-spinning. I am getting a little away from the point, Sir, but I cannot help making a reference to the question of hand-spinning which this Bill is quite definitely out to assist.

"I think, it should have been the aim of the Government to give this House very much more information in the first instance, as to how much they propose to collect by means of these licence fees. Have they taken the trouble to find out how many cloth-dealers there are in this Presidency? When they say that they intend to inflict a licence fee of Rs. 5 on some and Rs. 2 on others, they might have given us an idea as to how much money could be obtained by means of collecting the Rs. 2 licence fee for instance. I, therefore, think that this Bill has been introduced without careful thought and without full consideration. This Bill incidently is the first measure introduced by this Government to provide new taxation. For that reason, it needs very careful consideration; because, behind it, we shall see what Government are aiming at; what they have in their mind in order to provide additional revenue. We know they have to provide additional revenue for many schemes. If this Bill is an indication of what we can look forward to in the future in the matter of obtaining revenue, I think it should be the Government's duty to give more careful consideration to measures of this sort.

"If I may be allowed, Sir, I should like to deal with just a few details of the Bill. In the first instance, the imposition of a fee of Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 will not help very much. It would create any amount of difficulty . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The details of the Bill should not be discussed on this motion. The details must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain the principle of the Bill. Therefore, the hon. Member may restrict himself to the principle involved, at this stage."

MR. J. NUTTALL:—"If I may submit, Sir, I think I was dealing with the principles of the Bill and I shall content myself with being as brief as I can in matters of detail.

"It has been said in this House that if Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 are not found to be enough, the licence fees would be increased. Was this the intention, and is it the intention with which the House agreed to the Rs. 2 lakhs? If that is not found sufficient, we were told that there was going to be an increase to Rs. 10 lakhs. That means that the licence fees would go up from Rs. 2 to Rs. 20 and Rs. 5 to Rs. 50.

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Therefore, we must see the implications of this Bill and we must also know what the Government's idea is in regard to what should be the period of operation of this Bill; because, if the Government have it in their mind that it should continue for a long period, I have the fear, in my mind, that the licence fees would be very considerably extended. That, I believe, is the policy of the Government and what Government have at the back of their mind.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, dealt very lucidly with the unjust way in which this tax was to be recovered. He pointed out—and I quite agree with him—that it is unreasonable to single out just one section of the trading community. The Hon. the Prime Minister told us the other day that it was the duty of all those who have been and are being fed by the agriculturist to assist in relieving the agriculturist of taxation. I quite agree with him. Let us see, at the same time, how many in this Presidency have to bear the burden of this relief of taxation which is now being borne by the agriculturist. There are probably no more than 5 or 10 per cent of the people in this Presidency who will come under this category, i.e., those on whom these licence fees and other fees or taxes which this Government may impose, would be enforced. Therefore, this 5 or 10 per cent of the population of this Presidency must be fairly taxed; and no one single class should be singled out more than another. What I feel is this: if I may be excused for saying so, I think that the cloth-dealers have been singled out because years ago they were boycotted and their trade was badly suffering; and a number of them at that time refused to agree to the conditions imposed. Is that at the back of the mind of the present Government in introducing the Bill? Is it an indication, I ask, of that? Government have not said so.

"Sir, I now come to the difficulties of collection of these fees. Of course, Members of this House who know anything of the collection of fees by a municipality will know the tremendous difficulties that the municipality experiences in collecting fees, to the extent of Rs. 2 and even more. They know the percentage of such fees that they collect. Is it a big percentage, I ask? I say it is not. I think it is going to be very expensive for Government, to collect fees in this respect. Have they considered how much it is going to cost them to collect these fees? If they know, they should tell us. That item, Sir, should be explained by the Government. If the imposition of the licence fees is to be fair, as I hope it will be, the collection of it should be very rigorously enforced. Otherwise, only one section of the community will have to pay. It is those people who have a conscience that will pay the licence fee. I hope it will be the Government's intention to take this subject into account if they intend to raise by means of these licence fees a small amount of revenue in this matter.

"There is also the danger, Sir, of dealers in this Province being unfairly taxed; it would be seen that those merchants who are trading

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along the borders of this Presidency would be at considerable disadvantage in regard to those living outside, just beyond the border. Is that fair? I submit, Sir, it is not.

"These, Sir, are my main grounds for objecting to this Bill."

MR. H. S. HUSSAIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion for referring the Bill to a select committee. In doing so, I shall say only this much; the object of the Bill is no doubt to encourage hand-loom industry and thereby provide means of subsistence to the large rural population. I quite appreciate the motive behind the Bill, but there is some fear in my mind as to whether this Bill will be an interference with freedom of trade. As the Bill differentiates between one kind of cloth and another, it may be construed as an infringement of the liberty of an individual or a firm to deal in a particular kind of cloth which would bring him the largest amount of profit or be of the greatest advantage to him from a business point of view.

"There is another important matter which has to be considered, and it is this: the Bill has to be considered from the practical standpoint also. The question is whether this Bill will encourage hand-loom industry to an appreciable extent and what the effect will be of such an enactment as this. It may not discourage the mill industry, but on the other hand, it may give a fillip to the mill industry and mill-made goods might be dumped on the market even in the remotest villages. Foreign goods may be sold in diverse ways. I am afraid, Sir, that thus the object of the Bill may be frustrated. Big and wholesale cloth dealers might pay off Rs. 5 annually and this levy will be less than a flea-bite to them, and at the same time they may go on increasing their business twofold or even fourfold. But the large mass of small cloth-dealers will be hard hit because they will be compelled to pay Rs. 2 annually, however small their monthly turnover of business may be. For all these reasons, Sir, I say it would have been better if the Bill had been circulated to elicit public opinion; but as that is not possible now, I would strongly urge that a measure of this kind which is a novel one, perhaps unheard of hitherto in this Province, should be referred to a select committee.

"A measure of this kind, however good it might be, should not be rushed through into law."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel I have to oppose the motion for this Bill being referred to a select committee because I do not think any useful purpose will be served by investigating further the provisions of this Bill. The Bill is so wholly indefensible. Sir, I am speaking here on behalf of the Indian Mercantile Community and not in a mere spirit of opposition to the Government in opposing this measure. I speak just to impress on them that my community deserves some consideration. They are, Sir, afraid because this Bill indicates what the Government has in mind with regard to future plans of taxation. They are afraid of what is in

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store for them. The Bill by itself may not cause us much hardship. It might be a trivial thing. But the very principle of it causes uneasiness in the minds of my community. Sir, I shall not refer in detail to what has been said before. I shall not even take into consideration why the Bill has been introduced, whether it is intended to make a provision for hand-spinning or handloom weaving or for anything of that sort. To any person who looks into the Bill the preamble suggests, I am not going into the details, the preamble suggests that it is a Bill for regulation. Regulate what? Regulate the trade in cloth. Trade in cloth! Is it a noxious substance? Is it an explosive? What does it want regulation for? To regulate the trade, to levy a licence fee. A licence fee for what purpose? I have on a previous occasion tried to define licence fee and licence-tax in regard to this contemplated licence for cloth dealers and when the Government brought in a measure of this nature they must give regular definition of these two terms. But I find I am still in the position of being unenlightened in this matter. The Government have not defined into which category this Bill falls.

"It is only true to say that the principal object of the Bill, the object of the statement in the preamble, is not the real object. And I think my friend the hon. Mr. Nuttall has clearly stated what are the objects that are behind this Bill.

"I think I have to emphasize the point, an important and valid point, a really important point raised by him in the course of his speech. Have the Government any idea as to how many people they are going to tax? Have they made any investigations into the scope of a fiscal measure like this of far-reaching consequential importance? Is it not fair for the Government to make an investigation, a properly conducted inquiry and furnish this House with information as to how many would be affected, what the revenue would be and what the administration of this Bill would cost?

"Sir, on a previous occasion I voiced an objection to any possible legislation that the Government might bring in this connexion on the principle of discrimination. Sir, the principle of discrimination is a serious one in the problem of taxation. The Hon. the Premier in his reply to the general budget debate said that I vied with the hon. Member for European Commerce in emphasizing this aspect of the matter but that is no answer to my question. The principle of discrimination is there. It has not been refuted. His justifying it merely on sentimental grounds, grounds that may be of much value to his party, is not a refutation of my charge.

"Sir, the language in which the arguments were couched might have appeared seemingly convincing but if you look really into it, if you scan and analyse the reply given by the Hon. the Premier in this matter you will find that there is nothing in it. Sir, the Bill seeks to eliminate the handloom cloth dealers from paying a licence fee. But is it really, that all of them need protection? Are there not several

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dealers in handloom cloths doing business in lakhs of rupees a year? Will they not be able to pay this two or five rupees? Why let them go?

"Sir, there are some other points that I wish to refer to on this matter but I am afraid I might be misunderstood, coming as I do after Mr. Nuttall. But it looks as though the Government want to punish the dealers in cloth. I do not say that they do it in a revengeful spirit, that they do it with a vendetta. But it looks as though they want to harass them. Now, what are Government getting out of this Bill?

"The consequential revenue to the Government is so small that there seems no need for the Bill at all. Sir, another member who spoke before me stressed on the administrative difficulties. I am afraid it is a very potent factor. I do not know if the Government has not taken this aspect into account. The Government has not taken us into their confidence and told us how they are going to collect the fee.

"Then what about hawkers? Surely the Hon. the Leader of the House, as I have no doubt, sympathises with these poor people and does not want to include them in the scope of the Bill. Is the Hon. the Leader of the House familiar with these people engaged in the handloom industry, people who take out the cloth produced by them during the day and try to sell them in the street corners from house to house, perhaps. Often it is a case of small boys bringing out what has been produced by the elders in the house and trying it on the public. Sights like these are not unfamiliar in Conjeeveram and other handloom weaving centres. What about these people? Do they have to take out a licence?

"Sir, at the outset, I mentioned that my community is afraid of the consequences of the introduction of this Bill. The Hon. the Premier's statement in his speech in reply to the budget strengthens their fears. He says that this Bill will provide the means for ascertaining and furnishing experience for imposing more taxes, ostensibly to help the handloom weaver. It is not so much that the dealers have to pay two rupees or five rupees, it is not so much the trouble to obtain a licence, but it is the fear of what is to come. That is what is in the minds of my community. Sir, I am loath to use strong language, but I think, the zeal on the part of the Government to do something to the handloom weaving or hand-spinning industry has been allowed to outrun their discretion. I am afraid that this Bill is against the elementary canons of public finance and public administration and placing the Bill on the Statute Book will not be a credit to this Government. I am really astonished to see that the Government composed of such experienced men should have the effrontery to place before the House a Bill so indefensible in character."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
"Mr. Speaker, if I rise to speak on this occasion, I do so to speak on the principles of the Bill. As for the reference to a Select

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Committee I would only say that as a last resort, I do not want to stand in the way. But I am one of those who think that there has not been any necessity for a measure like this and this House should consider that aspect more than anything else.

"Sir, what is aimed at here? So far as we could read the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill we are not able to know definitely what is the main intention of the Government. Is it to raise a big revenue, or is it to regulate the sale of cloth or is it to encourage the handloom industry or is it anything else? Probably, there may be a mixture of all these things. That is my only guess. Sir, my hon. friend representing the commercial community so well on the floor of this House has more than once explained the view point of the merchants. Though I am myself a merchant I need not put forward again the view of the mercantile community and tire the House. Suffice it to say that I agree with every word of my hon. friend representing the Chamber of Commerce inasmuch as he has rightly voiced the feelings and apprehensions of the mercantile community. As he has said, it is not the two or five rupees that will matter but it is the main principle that matters and therefore there is the apprehension in the minds of the mercantile community as to what is in store for them in the future, what might be done by this Government against them. If this Government is a popular Government, Sir, as is rightly claimed that it is, and as I would also concede, I should say this is a surprising measure to be brought in by a Government constituted as it is to-day. Sir, the explanation given by the Hon. the Premier the other day in reply to the discussion on the general budget has not convinced at least some of us on this side, over this proposed measure. He has convinced us only to this extent that the tax is not a heavy tax. But on the question of principle he has yet to convince us. Sir, the object as stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is to regulate the trade of dealers in cloth within the province. I was wondering whether I could raise a point of order. But unfortunately I have not been able to get any precedent to raise a point of order and ask you to come to the rescue of all of us. The Bill as drafted and placed before us, has nothing to do with the object stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. But I am afraid I am not in a position to raise a proper point of order asking the Hon. the Speaker to rule the Bill out of order. Otherwise I would have taken that step, and it would have been very interesting. I should only say that the Bill as drafted now, does not in any way intend to regulate the trade of cloth. If it is a licence-fee and not a regulation-fee, there must be some service done by the Government to the cloth dealers in turn. And I do not see in the Bill any provision to that effect. And as for the total revenue that is expected out of this measure, as has been already agreed by the Hon. the Premier, he does not expect much money out of this tax. Therefore what does it come to? It only comes to this that at the back of this legislation there is an attempt to discriminate between the various dealers in cloth in this Presidency.

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It is one thing to give support to a particular industry or to a particular kind of cloth. I can very well understand the anxiety of a party or a Government to give support to a particular industry. But at the same time to show discrimination against others is a thing which the House has to consider very seriously. If the Government will take advantage of the amendment to the Industries Act passed a few days ago and give a subsidy to the handloom industry, that will be a very proper proposition to be put before the House. But to introduce a piece of legislation like this and show some sort of discrimination—sentimental discrimination—makes people feel that the trade in cloth other than handloom woven, is not a respectable trade. I think it is going too far. I have nothing more to say except that I object to the principle of the Bill."

11-15
a.m.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I proceed at once to say that the opposition to the principle of the Bill has been very ably put forward and in very considerate language, though it could have been put in strong language. But before dealing with it, I would like to mention this, that if a desire is expressed, as has been suggested, that the Bill apart from being opposed in principle should be examined and shaped in a Select Committee, I have advised the Hon. the Mover of the Bill to withdraw his original motion to have the Bill immediately taken into consideration and to substitute a motion that it may be referred to a Select Committee which should report to-morrow.

"But that apart, I am trying to answer the points raised against the whole Bill, which is really the essential matter. It was stated, Sir, last that this is not a Bill to regulate the trade in cloth as stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and that it was indeed a surprise that dealing in cloth should be considered wrong or indecent, to be sought to be regulated. Sir, it should be known by now that the Government's attitude in regard to what is indecent or wrong is that they do not want to *regulate* such trades but to abolish such trades. But the idea that we should regulate, implies that it is a proper trade but only needs regulation. That is why we use the word 'regulate.' If drinking or gambling is wrong, we should not introduce a Bill to regulate such a thing. If they are permitted and considered decent, the Government must regulate them. The position that the Government takes in this matter is this, Sir, that the opposition in dealing with the measure, takes up the taxation aspect and says, there is not much tax in it; it is meaningless; taking the aspect of protection, they say, 'this is not the way to protect, we must protect in some other way.' So, they propose to demolish it in detail, without taking the whole together. I submit, in answer, Sir, that it is necessary to tax for various reasons. It is necessary to raise taxes from all and in a just manner. But that does not mean that we should not proceed step by step, that we should only bring in an earthquake of taxation and that we should not calmly think of it one by one in an orderly manner. It

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is not our case that if we propose to tax to some extent the cloth-dealers this year or to-day, we do not propose to tax other people to-morrow. In fact, the psychology of the tax-payer will have to be tackled, and one will have to be taxed before another can be prejudiced. And that is the best way or procedure in regard to the taxation aspect of the matter.

"Then, Sir, it was said in that connexion, 'what is the amount that you propose to realize, what is the number of dealers, where are they, how much can you raise by the tax?' Surely Government should have an estimate of that kind before taking a financial measure before the House.' I agree, Sir, there are various kinds of things in the world. It is possible to find out the number of salaried people; it is possible to find out the number of houses in municipalities, but it is not quite so easy to find out the number of hawkers in the market; it is not quite so easy to find the number of shops that are started to-day and not kept up to-morrow. It is in order to get a substantial statistical basis for further taxation, for that among other reasons, that this Bill is introduced for the regulation of the trade in cloth. We will be able to know out of this Bill how many are dealing in the kind of cloth that is brought under this Bill. Not only that, it will aid the collection of information in respect of the protection given to handloom cloth under this measure. Even the handloom cloth will come under this Bill; only it is exempted from the fee altogether. We will know what class of people are trading in cloth, in what measure and in what numbers in each class, and this licensing regulation that we now propose will enable us to get a proper and steady basis for making any estimate for further taxation. But that is not the only object. Let not the hon. Members again make a mistake. What I say is that this object will be achieved very easily and satisfactorily by this Bill. Statistical information will be before the House when we propose a substantial measure of taxation. Most certainly, that will enable us to place before the House more information, if the House permits us to go on with this measure.

"Then, Sir, it was said, 'this is discrimination; if you want to tax, you must tax everybody.' The hon. Member for the European community said, 'yes, I agree with the Premier who said that the people who are fed must be taxed; in order to feed them, you should raise taxes.' It is quite true that everybody should be taxed and taxed justly. That does not mean that this Bill is wrong. I think that everybody should be taxed equitably. But who is being taxed even to the measure that this Bill proposes, namely, Rs. 2 per annum for a small shop and Rs. 5 per annum for bigger shops; now, who are these people? Much use was made of the word 'discrimination.' Surely, I hope that Members will not recommend that we should all lose discrimination in one sense of the word. Discrimination is very good in our view for legislation as well as for business, and discrimination is necessary. Therefore, a particular kind of discrimination is wrong

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and not all discrimination. Now, what is the particular kind of discrimination here? I propose to justify that discrimination now. What are the handlooms doing, and what are the mills doing? That is the thing to be examined. Sir, I am quoting not from a politician but from official records when I say, 'there are in our province two lakhs fifty thousand handlooms engaged in the weaving of cotton fabrics,' two lakhs fifty thousand handlooms which support and which afford means of subsistence for 12 lakhs of people, if you count the minimum number as five for each family. Now, 12 lakhs of people and 2½ lakhs of handlooms in our province certainly need attention. It is the next biggest industry to agriculture—I would consider agriculture itself as an industry in our province. Our province is very different in this respect. Among other provinces, our province has the largest number of handlooms to be looked after. Now, why do they need to be looked after? Who is hurting them? There are two or three enemies—if I may use that term in the common sense of that term. Now, handloom is hurt terribly by the cloth that comes from Japan, and secondly, the handloom is hurt also—though not so badly as by the Japanese cloth but to a very large extent, and I am therefore entitled to say terribly here also, though less terribly—by the Swadeshi mills. The hon. Member for the European community referred to a possible motive in my mind. I may assure him that my mind has no room for such motives; I may assure him that I am responsible for this Bill; I may assure him that nobody with a vindictive frame of mind has shaped this Bill. But it is possible for them to say that this may be working in the back of your minds unconsciously. I admit that such distinctions can be made. But I want to say that it is not true, it is not correct, because who are the people whom the Congress was trying to boycott or whom the people under the instigation of the Congress were trying to boycott? The foreign mills. The Swadeshi mills were drawn into the Congress by contracts and agreements, and they supported the Congress. To-day, Sir, if this measure is, if I may say so, aimed against anybody, it is aimed against the Swadeshi mills which signed the contracts during the boycott movement. It is aimed against those mills which signed the contracts, apart from the Japanese and others who did not sign the contracts. I do not keep anything back that is in my mind, and that is the very difficulty of this measure. I do not propose to get along with any measure by making people believe anything. I say openly and clearly here that my friends—those are our friends—the people who own the mills in Bombay and Ahmedabad, are the persons against whom this will react. It is not against any particular mill in Madras; Madras is nothing in this matter. It is they that are coming in and are greatly oppressing the handloom weaver. So, Sir, it is not a replica of the boycott movement. It is on the other hand a piece of ingratitude against those who assisted us in the boycott movement. But I say it is a just piece of ingratitude, because we have to protect the cause of the handloom weaver. The 2½ lakhs of handlooms are crying for help. How shall we help them? It is the handloom against the mills; discrimination again from another point of

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view. What are the mills doing to the handlooms and what has the Government done to the handlooms? The Government has protected the mill industry of India against foreign cloth and against foreign yarn to a great measure. The previous Governments have done it. Now what does that protection mean? Any protection given to the Indian mills is welcome as against the foreign cloth. But what has it done in fact? It has strengthened a giant against a giant, then it has also strengthened the giant against the worm, the handloom. This protection that is offered to the Swadeshi mill industry—whether European or Indian-owned it makes no difference—this protection that has been given to the Indian mills has enabled the mills to sell their cloth cheaper than the rate at which the hard-worked handloom weaver is expected to put his cloth in the market. I say the Indian mills that make the yarn and give the yarn to the handloom weaver give the yarn at such a price that he might work all the hours, day and night, available for work—possibly he can produce a piece of cloth which is better than that the mill can ever produce—and yet he will get very little for his sustenance. The very same mill that sold him the yarn puts into the market cloth at a price less than what the handloom weaver can charge. Therefore his cloth goes back to his home unsold, because the mills have been able to undercut him. Are we to shut our eyes and fold our hands against this operation? And is any help rendered to him by an extended hand to be called discrimination, because one class of dealers comes in as against another class of dealers? This I say is wrong under the dictionary meaning of the word 'discrimination' and not under the Government of India Act meaning of the word. It is a wise and just discrimination as opposed to impolitic and unjust discrimination, or deleterious and penalizing discrimination which is contemplated under the Government of India Act. I have carefully read the Government of India Act, and there is a whole Secretariat carefully reading the Government of India Act, and an additional Secretary for Special Responsibilities reading the Act, apart from the Government of India, the Secretary of State and a host of parliamentary draftsmen who are there in London to see the whole thing. They have not raised the point. But it is in a general and vague manner raised here just to cloud the atmosphere, so to say, with poisonous words like 'discrimination,' 'want of care and caution' and all that. That will not do. Either a thing is permitted to us or it is not permitted to us. Let us understand that this discrimination would not be very much in the way. This is not discrimination; we do not discriminate—let me say this clearly as it was raised the other day and a section of the Act also was quoted—one province as against another; we do not discriminate one country against another, but discriminate in favour of one class of workers who are working on 250,000 handlooms against another operation going on in our country which competes with them. If this discrimination is not permitted under the Act, then it will have to be amended with a view to giving protection to the handloom weaver. Otherwise we shall have to go

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his motion. That will be in order. In view also of the fact that Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig did not mention the Members of the Select Committee which he wanted, and in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister has made a suggestion for reference to the Select Committee which was accepted, the hon. Member, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, may withdraw his motion."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"I withdraw my motion."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Hon. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai's motion that the Bill be taken into consideration at once was also, by leave, withdrawn.

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"With the permission of the Chair, I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

- (1) The Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar.
- (2) " V. V. Giri.
- (3) Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur.
- (4) Mr. J. Nuttall.
- (5) " M. Bhakthavatsalam.
- (6) " J. Raja Rao.
- (7) " T. T. Krishnamachariar.
- (8) " Abdul Hameed Khan.
- (9) " H. S. Hussain.
- (10) The Hon. Mr. Yakub Hasan.
- (11) Mr. N. S. Varadachariar.
- (12) " B. Bhakthavatsalu Nayudu.
- (13) " K. R. Karant.
- (14) The Mover,

with an instruction that it should submit its report in time for being presented to the Assembly to-morrow for consideration."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill referred to the Select Committee.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Chairman of this Select Committee shall be the Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar."

IV.—THE MADRAS PROHIBITION BILL, 1937 (L.C. BILL No. 1 OF 1937).

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar will present the report of the Select Committee on the Madras Prohibition Bill, 1937."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I have pleasure to inform the House that the Select Committee has submitted its report^a which I now present to the House.^a It is on the Table and with the Hon. the Speaker. I move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

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"The principal change made is that the prohibition against advertisements, which comes into force immediately, has been modified to this extent that the newspapers that print the advertisements will have time till first January 1938, and it is only thereafter that they are covered by the prohibition. I do not think there is any other important change effected except certain minor verbal alterations, removal of certain overlappings and the like. I do not think, Sir, there is anything else of substantial importance."

* MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Select Committee, I wish to make my position clear. As the whole House knows, I spoke against prohibition during the Budget debate and I still hold the views that I then held. But when I was invited by the Government to take a place on this Select Committee I felt that it was my duty, as a citizen, to accept that invitation, to attend the Committee, to do all I could to modify the provisions of the Bill so as to make it more to the taste of those people who have the same ideas as regards prohibition as myself, and, having done all that, to honestly help the Government in introducing a Bill which was technically free from flaws. I made this position clear to the Hon. the Premier and I was given to understand that I was at perfect liberty to say, even on the third reading, what exactly I thought about the Bill. I still feel, Sir, that the assumption of the supporters of the Bill that the psychology of the Indian drinker is different from the psychology of drinkers in other parts of the world where a similar Bill has been found *unworkable*, is not justifiable. Of course only time can tell. To that extent, I feel that the Bill is based on bad psychology.

"I also still feel that the financial effect of prohibition will be so disastrous to the province that before even ten districts are declared dry, all the hidden reserves of this province will have been tapped and the burden of taxation would have grown so great as to prove a cause of serious discontent. This is a point which can only be ascertained after the Bill has been in operation for a certain period.

"As for the human element that has to be employed in the experiment of prohibition, I feel that here is the greatest danger of all. A department which was under discipline is being sent away from the district. It is true that another department that is also under discipline, the Police department, is to be entrusted with carrying out a great part of the Bill. But in addition there are to be honorary people who are not under discipline; at any rate, they are not people who can be punished by the Government departmentally for wrong conduct. This is embarking on a very dangerous programme. It may lead to a large number of crimes of violence, because it sets the drinkers in a district against the non-drinkers. It may produce a state of mind which may result in crimes of violence such as were never known in Salem before. This is my personal opinion.

"Sir, I joined the Select Committee only to try to help the Government to arrive at a Bill which might be a reasonable Bill and, even if

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out of office and let others take it up. 'Surely you are interfering with a certain class of people' said the hon. Member for Muslims of Madras City, 'you are making it difficult for the poor people to carry on their occupations.' But unfortunately in this world we have to choose between two evils; of course it breaks my heart to make the living of these people impossible; it does hurt me to have to legislate in this manner, but we have to see who is worse hit. I have lived in those villages where live hundreds of weavers weaving day and night; I have heard the tick-tick of their fly-shuttle; but when the next morning the cloth is taken they see another load, the hawkers' load with Japanese cloth and mill cloth, and they have to take back their load unsold. So is it wrong, is it bad to pity the weaver and do something to help him? We do not expel the other man from the country. The point raised by the hon. Member for Muslims in Madras is a very good point and it furnishes the means whereby we can exactly understand the objects of the Bill. As was well pointed out, it will lead to taxation, I admit. But the real meaning of this measure is this. They have big shops; they are not going to change their wares or close their shops because we impose Rs. 2 or Rs. 5 per annum. I daresay they are not going to change their business. But there are small hawkers in villages who on account of the facility with which the foreign cloth and the mill cloth is thrust upon them with special commissions for their sale and the like would prefer that load to the village product; it is they that will have to pay the Rs. 2 and take out a licence. They may say now, 'why should I pay Rs. 2 and take out a licence? Let me take the other cloth (the village product), people are also willing to buy this cloth.' Further, the big mill-owners have got numerous shops with numerous branches, they have got a big organization to carry on the trade and put their wares under our very nose. Yet our country is luckily so large, luckily so wide, that it is still a jungle for these organized industries. There is so much of poverty and unemployment in the country that the mill-owner taking advantage of it says, 'look here, you can earn one anna a day if you carry that load'. The poor handloom weaver is not able to give that one anna to the hawker. That is the miserable organization under which we are suffering, organization of poverty and misery so to say. This Bill—let me again say plainly what I have in my mind—will make the local village hawkers to take the handloom load rather than the mill load and make the money which they are now making; and the persons who buy in the village market will buy this cloth, because they prefer the handloom cloth to the mill cloth, and the hawker will not be deprived of his occupation but there will be a tendency for the handloom cloth going into those capillaries of trade, the arteries and veins where hitherto the mill cloth was going. This is the agency we want to create by this Bill which will give occupation to the poor people and which will direct their energies into the right channels; this fee they have to pay will not be so heavy as to punish them but will really lead them into the path of extending a helping hand to the handloom weaver.

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"Sir, the point raised by Mr. Hameed Khan—I am grateful to him—has furnished me the means wherewith to explain how the points raised by him did not apply and also to show what the real intention of the Bill is. It was said by the Member for the Indian Chamber of Commerce that it is a very bad Bill. He really pitied us for bringing forward this Bill and said: 'the whole world will laugh at you; it shows no financial ability, no financial experience.' I am prepared to accept all those grounds. This is the first time we are in office, this is the first time we are framing a Bill; but we have got the very good quality of confessing when we go wrong. We have shown it more than once; we have launched movements and withdrawn them, not once or twice or thrice but many more times.

"But I have a feeling it is not so bad after all as my friend describes it to be. If it was bad I think the Opposition would have agreed to it; because I think it is good enough, that is why the Opposition is opposing it. (Laughter.) So I will not set much store by that method of reasoning. May be we may be both wrong. Fears and doubts there may be on both sides. They are hard words which were used by the member for the Indian Chamber of Commerce, but luckily hard words break no bones, and we will go on with our measure. I submit, therefore, that the hon. Mover, if the Opposition will assist us in this matter, will move an amendment to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. But of course we will say, we won't give six months of time, but we want the Bill to-morrow. I suggest therefore that the House may allow him to withdraw the motion for immediate consideration, and move an amendment for referring the Bill to a Select Committee. But of course I may again say that it does not mean that the Members who opposed the principles of the Bill are prevented from voting against the Bill. Even the Member who serves on the Select Committee might be allowed by the House to vote against the principle of the Bill as a whole at the third reading if he desires to do so. We do not stand in the way of his recording his vote on the point, and we do not want to stand in the way of a proper examination of the details, if that is necessary."

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my motion that the Bill be taken into consideration and move that it be referred to a Select Committee consisting of . . ."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"On a point of order, Sir. I do not think there can be two motions of the same nature and at the same time for the consideration of the House. We have Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig's motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, and the Hon. Minister wants the same Bill to be referred to a Select Committee. The two motions are of the same kind."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"In view of the statement made by the Hon. Member in charge of the Bill, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig may withdraw

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the Bill is not a reasonable one in my opinion, to assist the Government to produce a Bill that was technically free from flaws."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I am not going to speak at any length on this matter, because I have already given expression to my views in regard to prohibition on the floor of this House. I am only speaking now in relation to what took place in the Select Committee of which I was a member. I am not going to criticise the Bill here. I think it will be sufficient for me here to state that at the moment the problem is one of enforcement. People of my way of thinking have certain misgivings with regard to this. At the same time, the fact has to be conceded that there is enormous scope and power given to the Government in the body of the Bill which an ordinary citizen may look upon as making inroads into the personal liberty and security of the citizens. It is only with regard to this that I have to make an explanation. The Bill and the provisions of it have been largely adopted from the Abkari Act. It has to be remembered that the Abkari Act is a fiscal legislation intended to be applied to a comparatively small section of the public and the penal provisions therein are necessarily severe. These provisions are now sought to be extended to a much longer range of activities of the citizen. It certainly brings within its ambit a very much larger section of the people and it will be reasonable doubt if people should raise the question whether it is safe to allow the Government to have such large power over a large section of the people. As I said before my problem is the problem of enforcement. I feel, and I have no hesitation in feeling in regard to this matter, that as the Government has definitely launched into this matter, it is the duty of every citizen to give it support. I feel that it should not be said later that merely because any member of the Select Committee raised objections to certain powers conceded to the Government in the Bill and they were agreed to by the Government in the shaping of this Bill, that the question of enforcement could not be properly dealt with. It is only because of it I want to give the Government as much power as they want, and as much co-operation as they want so that they can make this matter of prohibition a success. I believe I have sufficiently explained my position as a member of the Select Committee."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am glad, Sir, that at this reading, discussion has been so brief. I think everything that has to be said has been said and every one knows exactly the aims and objects of this Bill."

"I may perhaps now draw the attention of this House to an addition which I did not refer to when I spoke last, that in the section that penalizes malicious action under cover of this measure, we have included a sub-clause which brings in for punishment even those, even though they may not be officers, who maliciously and falsely lay information leading to search, seizure, detention or arrest."

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"Sir, the purport of the speeches of those who said anything beyond saying that they did not agree to this interference with personal liberty is that they did not want to curtail the powers of the Government and that they wanted the Government should be given a long rope to hang themselves. In fact, they said that the Government should be given every concession, every privilege and every convenience to prove themselves to be wrong. I welcome that attitude, Sir; but this leaves a subtle influence in national and social psychology. I do hope and pray that gentlemen in the House now will not carry this propaganda of scepticism while the Bill is under operation, but will give us their co-operation also. It is not enough merely to give us clauses in a Bill. It is not enough to withdraw dilatory motions. It is necessary that they should in their drawing rooms, on their pials and in their clubs and in their relaxing moments also not go on disturbing the confidence of the people and the right of the people to go to a state of affairs which will drive the curse of drink outside our country."

"They should not undermine the confidence of people in measures which the State takes for the reform of the people. If it were a taxation measure, I for one would not ask people to stop agitation against taxation. But in a measure of social reform, I think we would be doing the right thing in appealing to the Opposition, if the opposition to this measure is not pro-alcoholic, that the policy of prohibition is not an impossible and impractical thing. If this is the compromise arrived at between us and the Opposition, then I want to be helped not only by members of this House, but also by their friends, their relations and their companions who should all be induced to give us that psychological assistance which is of the greatest value to any measure of social reform. With these words, I hope the Bill will be taken to the next stage."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill as amended by the Select Committee was taken into consideration.

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a representation to make to you. The Bill as reported by the Select Committee has just now been handed over to us and I request you to be good enough to allow amendments to be moved on the floor of the House as and when members like. There is no time to read the report of the Select Committee and move amendments, after giving notice of them. I hope you will consider the special circumstances under which we are asked to consider this Bill. I hope there will not be many amendments from our side. Probably the Government themselves may have to make amendments here and there."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Notices of amendments will be received as and when they are moved; they may be handed over to me or the Secretary in writing."

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 were put and carried.

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Clause 17.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I wish to know from the Hon. Premier with regard to sub-clause (a) of this clause—the amendment made in the Select Committee is 'for their own personal use'—whether the Government are going to specify the quantity that an individual can carry with him."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"As the clause was conceived it was not the intention of Government to interfere with or lay down the quantity, but if it leads to abuse, there is power in the measure to make rules with reference to it."

Clause 17 was put and carried.

Then clauses 18 and 19 were put and carried.

Clause 20.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"As to sub-clause (d) of clause 20, which reads 'licences to any person in charge of a restaurant car attached to a railway train to possess liquor and serve it to bona fide passengers travelling by the train,' I want to know from the Hon. Premier whether any restrictions may be made with regard to the question of limiting the sale of liquor to passengers travelling to long distances in general terms or whether the question of distance which a passenger has to travel may also be specified."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Here again, it is a difficult thing to take away the whole sub-clause, or to lay down as to what distance a passenger should travel to entitle him to purchase liquor, or who are bona fide travellers, or whether short distances require more quantity of drink or longer distances require more quantity of drink. The question will have to be taken up in a spirit of trust. We are going to apply this measure only from place to place and not apply it wholesale at once to all the places. So we do not want to interfere with the freedom of passengers on the railway train as it would otherwise be a sort of extra territorial abuse of the powers vested under this Bill. So it is not necessary to lay down rules here so far as we can imagine. But if it leads to abuse suitable rules will be framed under section 54."

Clause 20 was put and carried.

Then clauses 21, 22 and 23 were put and carried.

Clause 24.

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, I just like to speak with reference to the kind of penalty that is sought to be imposed for any breach of the rules. It is mentioned in this clause that six months' imprisonment or a fine of Rs. 1,000 may be imposed. I wish to only ask whether such a heavy punishment is necessary and whether Government do not consider it necessary to lower the maximum punishment."

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THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Some of the offences of the class referred to here would very well deserve the whole fine, but it is open to the magistrate to fine even one anna and I think even in assault cases if hon. Members will look at the heavy punishments prescribed in the Indian Penal Code, their hair will stand on end. But we have to trust the magistrates."

Clause 24 was put and carried.

Clause 25 was then put and carried.

Clause 26.

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, I have just given the amendment to omit the whole of this clause. I have very strong grounds when I say that the whole clause should be omitted. There were wild rumours that there may be non-official agencies appointed to supervise the work envisaged in this Bill. I am very glad that the Government in their draft Bill itself did not speak of other agencies. But according to this clause they are likely to form committees, because they say here 'the Collector of the district or such other Prohibition Officer may constitute prohibition committees.' Here again I may say that the success of a measure depends upon the impartial manner in which the various provisions are put into effect."

"Sir, I should not be understood to be decrying non-officials. What are we? We are all non-officials and I am not here trying to decry non-officials. But we must take account of party factions that are still alive in the various villages and in the rural parts. A provision like this will give a handle to certain persons to blackmail their neighbours. I only wish that a legislative measure of this kind should not give a handle to persons to have their own way in the villages. The Bill as it is now before the House contains many harsh provisions. We are not objecting to them because we do not want to stint with regard to the powers which the Government should have for the enforcement of prohibition. We do not want the Government to say later on 'You did not give us the necessary powers and that is the reason why we have failed in the prohibition scheme.' We say we shall give all the powers asked for. We object to the principle of the Bill, but once this Bill is going to be law, we shall give every power to put it into effect so that the Government may not complain afterwards. But in this case, I may say that by this provision you are not helping yourself. You are helping only boot-leggers and such other persons, probably. At present no persons have been appointed as members of committees and therefore I would not be defaming anybody if I said that nobody would be surprised if the members of the committee to be appointed take money. Probably, some of them may have a grievance against me for saying this, but since no committee has been formed as yet I am at liberty to say that these committees will not be above corruption. Therefore, Sir, I submit that it is a very important principle. The Government

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who have an enormous army of officers—the Hon. the Leader of the House said that the cadre of the Revenue officers of this Presidency is an important bulwark of the administration—should make use of them. If the whole cadre from the village munsif and the village karnam to the Collector and the Chief Secretary is not enough, if the ordinary officials are not enough to look to this matter, extra officials may be deputed to this district to do this work. I personally feel that the ordinary officials are quite enough. But if more are necessary they might be appointed and paid. A measure like this must be worked by full-time Government servants who will be responsible to the Government and who will be above party factions. It is in the general interests of the public that I am speaking. I feel that this clause does not give any additional power to the Government to implement the Act; on the other hand it will be a drawback of the Act. It is in this view, Sir, that I propose that the clause may be deleted.”

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the motion so ably moved by my Hon. Friend, the Kumararaja of Chettinad, that clause 26 may be deleted. In doing so, Sir, I should like to bring to the notice of the House that it is rather inexpedient, if I may use a mild term, to bring into existence a body of persons outside the official cadre to enforce the very severe and drastic regulations of the Prohibition Act. It is always inexpedient and inadvisable to have a set of people to work any Act who are not directly amenable to official discipline and control. Further, section 25 of this Act already provides for the appointment of paid or honorary officers with such designations, powers and duties as the Provincial Government may think fit. This clause further lays down that the Government may order that all or any of the powers and duties assigned to any person shall be exercised and performed by any existing Government official or any other person. Thus, large powers are taken under the Act to appoint paid or honorary officers so that the Government may see that the provisions of the Act are duly enforced. When that is the case, I fail to see the need for the appointment of Prohibition Committees. Sub-clause (2) of clause 26 states that every member of a Prohibition Committee shall observe the working of this Act in his taluk and report thereon. It is contemplated, therefore, that for every taluk there will be a band of men going about to see how far the provisions of the Prohibition Act are observed and whether there are any breaches of the same. It is extremely undesirable, I should think, to bring into existence a band of men who are not responsible, and who are under no official discipline to enforce the provisions of this Act. The enforcement of this Act is sufficiently safeguarded by the appointment of the Prohibition Officer, by giving powers to the Collector, by having resort to the whole Police force, and by taking power to appoint paid or honorary officers. I think it will be better if the Government stop with these agencies and not proceed to appoint Prohibition Committees.”

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KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not quite sure whether this clause is quite necessary. But I think we can find by the working of this Act whether such a clause is necessary. It may be or it may not be. So, I suggest that the operation of this clause may be suspended for a time and if in the actual working of this Act it is found that such an organization is necessary, then it may be put into force.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Sir, I am again compelled to offer my thanks to the hon. Member from South Kanara for the extremely reasonable attitude he always takes in regard to points raised by him. But I am sorry, I shall not have the pleasure of acceding to his wish so entirely but it is really in effect acceding to him if I say, just reversing the position, that if this procedure leads to any abuse or difficulty it will certainly be withdrawn and the whole thing will be as the hon. Member wants it. But, Sir, the proposal that the clause should be omitted has to be answered by me, though briefly. I want the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, who moved the amendment to read the clause with these words added:—‘ Every member of the Prohibition Committee shall have a salary of Rs. 15.’ I think he would then have no objection to this clause.”

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD:—“ I want permanent Government servants.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ He would still have objection? Then it comes to this that the present staff of the Government, the present executive is enough to deal with this matter. I submit, Sir, that a large number of people are apprehensive that the present staff is not enough and that the whole of the public service to-day feel that the burden is too heavy and they must probably need much more help. They do not wish to stand in the way of the new experiment. They will feel their way and then make further proposals in order to assist the members of the Public Service to carry out the new and heavy duties. These provisions have to be worked and the work has to be watched all over the Province—the countryside especially—and each taluk or each village, so to say, should have a reliable Committee which will carry out some of the duties which the public servants will have to carry out, though not exercise the powers which the public servants may exercise. The duties are divided among these committees but not the powers. I also wish to point out to hon. Members who supported the motion for the deletion of this clause that even to-day, without the formation of those committees, any citizen, any villager can go and give false information. Any influential man, whether he is a member of a Prohibition Committee or not, can go and give false information and do all the mischief that has been referred to. Nothing prevents it. This clause says that the Collector shall specify a few gentlemen who have been selected carefully to be members of the Prohibition Committee. They will have the power of giving information and sending reports. That excludes the possibility of everybody putting his finger, so to say, to a

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great extent, whereas the removal of this clause will not remove the possibility of persons blackmailing, giving false information and the like which were vividly described. Ordinarily the power is there. They can blackmail, they can give false information and the like. But the only use of this body is that it is a responsible body to whom the officers can look for help and if any one interferes the officer can say, 'Go to that committee first and then come to me before you bring any such information.' I submit a Committee like this is a great help in practical administration in a matter of general social reform like what is intended in this Bill. I may also point out this. Under the present Abkari Act we have the licensing system and illicit distillation, illicit sale and offences against the Abkari Act are to be watched against to-day. The system that prevails is a terrible system—private men giving information and getting money for that information from the officials in secrecy. So blackmail can be carried out even in the working of the present Abkari Act. They have been doing it, but it has not become so bad because, after all our people are not so bad as in some of our fears and suspicious, we take them to be. On the whole our people are good; on the whole our people are just, on the whole the inertia of nature prevents people from manufacturing crime and carrying on organized crime like this. That is the ultimate support on which we rely. So I submit, Sir, that this section will not work havoc or danger as is apprehended. I beg that the House may allow the clause to stand."

The motion that clause 26 be omitted was put and lost.

Clause 26 was put and carried.

Clauses 27, 28 and 29 were put and carried.

12-30 P.m. Clauses 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57 were put and carried.

The schedule was put and carried.

Clauses 1 and 2 were then put and carried.

The Preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, I rise to move that the Bill be passed into law.

"I wish to make just one observation, in connexion with this motion. I want to assure on behalf of Government, those hon. Members who have any apprehensions in regard to the matter that it is not the intention of the Government to allow harassment, blackmailing and things of that kind. That of course is obvious, but what might perhaps need an assurance is this: that in the enforcement, while Government desire cent per cent enforcement, it will not permit the greater of the two evils to be committed in connexion with such enforcement. It will not permit social and private life being assaulted, so to say, on suspicion, and things of that kind. And with this assurance, I move, Sir, that the Bill be passed into law."

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MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, it is a settled fact that the Prohibition Bill now becomes law and any talk is only futile. It is with that clear conscience that I rise to place before the House a few of my views on the matter. I do not want to examine the merits of the Bill. The merits of the Bill have, we must presume, been examined by the Select Committee. But what I mainly stress upon this House is just the indecent haste and the hurry with which this legislation is becoming law. The Bill was published on the 17th September. That is what the Select Committee report says, but I am not certain whether that is the correct date; I think there must be some mistake there. Of course I am speaking subject to correction. I do not think it was published so early as the 17th September; anyhow, I take it, it was published on that date, introduced within a week on the floor of the House on the 25th September and referred to a Select Committee on that very day. The Select Committee sat for a few hours that same evening of the 25th and on the next day we have its report before us with a very few alterations. It may be argued, Sir, that because the Select Committee has made very few alterations, there was nothing greatly needed to examine the various clauses of the Bill, that there was no need for any further scrutiny. I must submit, Sir, that the process through which this legislation has gone is certainly not desirable, nor can we say that it is good legislation.

"There has always been an adage that those who act in haste have perforce to repent at leisure. I do not know whether this legislation is going to be of one such kind. All the same, there has been great injustice done to the Members of this House in going through this legislation in such a hurry.

"The Bill not only aims at a very laudable object of achieving prohibition in a selected area in the province, but at the same time, the means and the method suggested are considerably drastic, and they aim at a curtailment of the liberties of several individuals. The liberties which persons have believed in and still hold fast to and may still continue to hold fast to, such liberties are being curtailed. Very well, Sir, the Provincial Government have the right, the Madras Government and particularly a democratic and a representative Government may claim to have the right to curtail the liberties and privileges of persons which have been enjoyed by them hitherto; but even in the curtailment of such liberties there must be some time given, some method in a madness if it could be said so. There must be some time allowed for the very persons who are going to be affected by this legislation to consider how their rights are to be taken away, what is going to happen to them and what exactly will be their action or conduct which would amount to an offence and which would not amount to an offence. Has that time been given? It is the common people who are going to be affected, though it may be in one particular district for the time being. Heavy penalties have been imposed; very serious and drastic powers and privileges have been

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given to prohibition officers and those who are to help them. When you consider the magnitude of the liberties that are taken away on the one side and the penalties and impositions brought into effect by this legislation, it becomes such a serious affair. That such a serious legislation should have gone through the anvil of the Assembly consisting of 215 members in the course of a day or much less probably, is certainly most astonishing. This, therefore, I may respectfully submit is very bad legislation. I therefore urge on the Hon. the Prime Minister that this should not be passed this day. Some time must be given for people to think over all these points; and probably it will be better, in the interests of good legislation, that the third reading should not be passed this very day. There must be some time allowed.

"Another important matter which the Hon. the Prime Minister could have done is this: he might have got the Bill published in the various languages of the province. After all, the primary languages of the province are only three, for the West Coast districts, the Central districts and the northern districts. The Bill was not published in any of these three vernaculars. Tamil being the language of the district in which this prohibition is to be introduced, it could have been published at least in that language. It would not have been very difficult. The Bill must have been prepared long ago; even on the 17th September when the English copy was published in a Gazette Extraordinary, simultaneously with that or a day later, Tamil copies could have been made available to the general population who are concerned in this matter.

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P.M.

"Is it the people speaking the vernacular who are affected or is it the people knowing English who are affected by this legislation? It is the people in the villages who are affected by this evil habit of drink and it is their concern to know as to what exactly the legislation is which is proposed for their benefit. I, therefore, consider, Sir, that it will not be proper that we should pass through this Bill and make it law even this day. I submit that there has been very little time to examine the Bill in greater detail and there must be time allowed for us and the country at large to examine the Bill as reported by the Select Committee. There has been absolutely no time given for us to consider as to what exactly the Report of the Select Committee in all its aspects is. I do not think that this is fair or just to the Members of this House who have also to discharge their responsibilities. It becomes rather disgusting for us to take any part in a legislation of this kind where no opportunities are given for examining it. In fact as notice of amendments had to be given to-day on the report of the Select Committee there has been no time to examine the report. I received a copy of the report only to-day and there has been no time given to us. That, I think, is not fair or right and in the interests of good legislation it is necessary that it should be a slow matter. I also think that ample and enough opportunities should be given not only to the public at large but also to the Members of this House to examine the report.

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I therefore say, Sir, that this Bill should not be passed into law this day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Do I understand that the hon. Member has simply made an appeal to the Premier or does he seriously raise an objection? There are two ways of putting the thing. Am I to take it that the hon. Member, as I understood from his appeal, simply appeals to the Premier?"

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I spoke with the full knowledge that the objection will be overruled and the Hon. the Speaker is going to have his own decision on it which we can easily presume. The next alternative seems to be to appeal to him to allow us time."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed has been very unfair to the Chair. Those remarks ought not to have been made by him. No ruling of the Chair can be presumed by him in advance and certainly a comment ought not to come from his lips."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I am sorry, Sir. I did not mean any offence to the Chair. Knowing the position as I do I only made clear what my feelings were. I did not mean any offence to the Chair. My appeal only is before the House for the Premier to consider."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, the hon. Member's appeal was to the mover of the Bill but the Speaker intervened merely for want of time. And so I think there was no offence meant to the Speaker.

"I submit, Sir, that I should have hesitated before rejecting his appeal if I had the slightest feeling in my mind that the people to whom he referred desired that this Bill should be delayed and that the hon. Member really represented the wishes of such people. On the contrary, I feel, Sir, that the country would be dissatisfied and disappointed if the Bill was not passed to-day into law. If I had the slightest suspicion that I was doing any injustice to these poor people to whose interests the hon. Member referred in pathetic language, if I had the slightest suspicion that those people were going to be hurt by the passing of this Bill, I could understand and I would have accepted his suggestion. On the contrary, the only feeling in me is that perhaps we might have omitted a good provision or two that we should have added on account of the hurry of the moment. But we are prepared, Sir, to work the Bill such as it is.

"I submit that with reference to language and all that we are forgetting that the object of the Bill, that the plan of the measure, that the aims and objects of this movement, are not new and people have suffered for it and people have undergone privations for it and not only the literate but especially the illiterate know more to-day about the provisions of this Bill than, I think, even the literate or the Members of this House. There is no difficulty about people understanding the terms of the Bill or the objects of the Bill. And I

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submit, Sir, that if there is only a feeling that the terms of the Bill have not been properly understood by the people, I submit, Sir, that every care will be taken, every trouble will be taken to see that everybody understands the terms of the Bill. In fact possibly we may have too much of agitation over it and not too little, too much of understanding and not too little. In point of fact other Members were apprehensive that the terms of the Bill might be utilized by all and sundry a little too much. I, therefore, believe that there is no object to gain by postponing. I say I am unable to accept the proposal. It is not because there is nothing to be gained by hurry but because there is much to be lost by delay and I, therefore, repeat my appeal, Sir, that the Bill be passed into law."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
"Sir, the Hon. the Leader of the House replied to the appeal made by Basheer Ahmed Sayeed and still there may be hon. Members who may like to add their good wishes also on a Bill like this. As a matter of fact I was waiting for an opportunity to say a good word, saying how laudable the object of this Bill is and how we all assure the Hon. the Premier our goodwill in the matter. It is only with that object I have risen to speak. I have said times out of number that my Party stands for prohibition and if in the earlier stages of the Bill hon. Members of this House have expressed doubts it is because they sincerely felt that this Bill may not achieve its full object. It is that only that made hon. Members suggest that there should be caution in this matter. Sir, earlier in the morning when the Hon. the Prime Minister was speaking on the Cloth Bill, he said that his Party realized as he also realized, that experiments should be undertaken and withdrawn if found to be a failure. When he is moving that the Prohibition Bill be passed into law, I only wish to remind him that he owes it to the House to come to the House and tell the result of the Prohibition scheme in Salem and tell the House of the amount of support and success it has achieved. Then probably he will have done his duty by the House. In view of the fact that the Bill contains very severe penalties, I think it as well that the Government should assure this House and the public that there will be no undue harassment, that there would not be done anything beyond what is necessary. Sir, finally let me wish the endeavour all success."

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it fills my heart with joy to-day to be in this House and to know that it has been possible for this Assembly to pass an enactment which goes to remove the economic poverty and the ruin of the many families in our province. Sir, I was greatly surprised when my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, spoke to-day for postponing the enactment. Knowing him as I do for the last eleven years, he has been pleading before the Council in time and out of time for total prohibition, (Hear, hear.) It was no little surprise to me when he said it was not a matter of hurry. We know the nation is starving for prohibition. It is not one community that is starving. Every community in this

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land is starving for prohibition for the last so many years. The hon. Member representing the Opposition has rightly pointed out that his Party stands for prohibition. I know, as a matter of fact, the Justice Party has passed a resolution in unequivocal terms some eight years back that total prohibition must be in our land in twenty years and to-day if there is congratulation to anybody it is to every one of the Members of this House. The decision of to-day will go down to posterity and the future generations will, I am sure, admire the sagacity and wisdom of every one of the Members of this Assembly. My hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, has raised again the question of personal liberty. I think on the floor of this House the Hon. the Prime Minister has cleared the ground so many times. Sir, as one who has been in the field of temperance for the last 28 years, I may assure this House, that it will fill with joy the hearts of all those temperance workers, recognized or unrecognized, to see that this National Government has been able to achieve a thing which was not possible for ages. Sir, this Bill has been piloted through by the Premier who has been the editor of a paper known as the 'Vimojanam', and as the Secretary of the Total Prohibition League of India, it has fallen to his lot and it has been possible for him to put this enactment on the Statute Book which will be prized not only in this province, not only in India, but by all people who love civilization, in the whole world."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it gives me much pleasure to congratulate the Hon. the Prime Minister on piloting the Prohibition Bill through this Legislative Assembly successfully and in as short a time as possible. Sir, if the Hon. the Prime Minister was able to get through this Bill within such a short time, I am sure he will agree with me when I say it is on account of the fact that the country is with him, that all the representatives of those people in this province who have been asking for prohibition for such a long time are almost unanimously with him in this legislation. (Hear, hear.) Of course it has been pointed out by speakers, and foremost by the Hon. the Prime Minister himself, that so far as the Muslims are concerned there can be no two opinions in regard to this question. Mr. Speaker, after accepting the principle if there are a certain number of Members on the Opposition who might not have agreed with certain details, they have done well in not pressing their views in order that the Government which has undertaken to see that prohibition succeeds at least in one district of this province, for the present, may succeed without any hindrance from any part of this House.

"I know that in the working of this Bill, when it becomes an Act, 1 p.m.
the Government will encounter many difficulties. We realize it fully and I think the Government also realizes equally fully that although they have had practically unanimous support in this House, when once the Act is put into effect, they will encounter many difficulties. There will be a great deal of agitation against it from those who are interested against prohibition being made successful on the one hand and on the other from those who are really and sincerely opposed to

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any compulsion being enforced in this matter. Yet, Sir, if the Government succeed to the extent of weaning from this evil the poor labourer whose economic condition has to be improved in every possible respect—and this, in my opinion, is the main aspect in which he could be given relief—I am sure, Sir, that we would have succeeded in a large measure in eradicating poverty from the labourer to a certain extent and also in helping him to be more loyal to the members of his family and to improve his economic condition as a whole.

“I conclude with the wish that this measure will succeed in such a manner as to enable the Government—the Government has every power under this Bill—to extend this measure from district to district. I hope it will not be long before the Government will find it possible to extend this measure from the district of Salem to other districts also, so that the whole province will come under this prohibition law within the shortest possible time.

“Sir, I may make a suggestion to the Hon. the Premier, when he considers the question of extending this measure to other districts, that he might next take the Ceded districts which require his earnest attention, immediately he succeeds in the Salem district which is very near to his heart. Sir, I conclude with a hope and prayer that this measure which is not only from the point of morals but also of religion a very welcome measure, will succeed in a phenomenal way.”

MR. MAHABOOB ALI BAIG:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me thank the present Government and its Premier as well as the Hon. Minister in charge of the portfolio from the bottom of my heart for the great good that they do by this Prohibition Bill for the country. I may assure the House, Sir, and the Government that the country will feel doubly grateful to the Government for introducing this Bill. It is very significant that it has become possible for this Government and this Assembly, of all the other provinces, and also it has become possible for this Government and not the past Governments for introducing this Bill and for having succeeded in passing it into law. There are no doubt many difficulties in the working of this enactment, but there is no pleasure in getting things done in which there is no risk. It is only where there is risk there is pleasure, especially where a matter is for the benefit of the country, there is no risk which is not worth taking. It is in that spirit, Sir, that this Act must be worked and there is no one, I suppose, in the country who will be sorry ever if the enactment fails. If in the nature of things it fails, let it fail. But the attempt is there, the motive is there to do good to the country. With these words, I congratulate the Government on passing this measure into law.”

The Hon. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Sir, I do not think I need add a word to what my Colleague, the Hon. Mr. Muni swami Pillai, has said. He has reminded me by his speech of my connexion with various organizations and activities regarding the exclusion of alcohol from our social and economic life. And that he

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served to move me so deeply that I have lost the ability to add anything to what he has said. I shall therefore close immediately and join with the rest of the House in the prayer that if this Bill be passed now the people of Madras may benefit thereby and that the world may see that we have not launched upon a great and good thing in vain, but that we shall be enabled by Providence to show success in the role that we wish to achieve and in the succour that we wish to give to the women and children and the numerous families that are suffering as victims to this great evil.”

The motion was put and carried, and the Bill was passed into law. (Cheers and cries of ‘Jai.’)

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I now adjourn the House to meet again at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.”

The House accordingly adjourned.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 265 asked by Mr. P. R. K. Sarma at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 27th September 1937, page 879 supra.]

Statement.

Fifty workmen are employed in the workshop. Their designations and wages are as shown below :—

	RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.	
Carpenter	..	..	0 14 0	to 1 7 0 per diem.
Wood turner	..	..	..	1 4 0 "
Fitter	..	..	1 1 0	to 1 10 0 "
Turner	..	..	1 2 0	to 1 10 0 "
Welder	..	..	..	1 8 0 "
Blacksmith	..	..	..	1 6 0 "
Tinker	..	..	..	1 7 0 "
Moulder	..	..	..	1 6 0 "
Hammerman	..	..	0 13 0	to 0 15 0 "
Painter	..	..	..	1 9 0 "
Coolie	..	..	0 8 0	to 0 12 0 "

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 266 asked by Mr. E. Kannan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 27th September 1937, page 881 supra.]

(1)

G.O. Ms. No. 840, Education, dated 15th May 1927.

Representations have been made to the Government that Hindi may be included in the list of subsidiary languages in which instruction may be given in recognized secondary schools. The Director of Public Instruction, who was consulted, is in favour of the proposal, provided proper provision is made in schools for giving instruction in the language. The Government are pleased to accept the recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction and direct that Hindi be included in the list of optional or 'C' group subjects in the scheme for the award of Secondary School-Leaving Certificates.

2. The following notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* :—

NOTIFICATION.

In the scheme for the award of Secondary School-Leaving Certificates published on pages 383-386 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 27th July 1909, as subsequently amended in the list of subjects under group 'C' in paragraph IV, add 'Hindi' after 'Sinhalese' against '(c) Indian vernaculars.'

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education and Local Self-Government)

T. RAGHAVAYYA,
Secretary to Government.

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(2)

G.O. Ms. No. 4921, L. & M., dated 29th November 1935.

The Government decline to approve the proposal of the Municipal Council, Palacole, to introduce 'Hindi' as a compulsory subject of study in Forms I to III of the Municipal High School.

2. They have, however, no objection to the introduction of 'Hindi' as a genuinely optional subject, subject to the following conditions :—

- (i) that attendance at Hindi classes shall be optional and no compulsion shall be brought to bear on pupils either to join or attend 'Hindi' classes;
- (ii) that the study of 'Hindi' shall not be introduced in the place of or to the neglect of the vernacular or to the detriment of the other subjects of the curriculum, nor shall it be substituted for the study of Sanskrit where the latter has been already introduced, unless the parents of the pupils concerned express in writing a desire to that effect; and
- (iii) that the essential needs of the institution as regards provision of suitable accommodation, satisfactory sanitary condition, adequate equipment and facilities for physical training shall be fully met before funds are spent on the introduction of 'Hindi.'

, (By order of the Government. Ministry of Local Self-Government)

T. B. RUSSELL,
Secretary to Government.

(3)

G.O. Ms. No. 2716, L.S.G., dated 25th June 1936.

A copy of G.O. Ms. No. 4921, L. & M., dated the 29th November 1935, on the subject of 'Hindi', teaching in secondary schools under the control of local bodies is communicated to all presidents of district boards and executive authorities of municipal councils.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education and Local Self-Government)

T. B. RUSSELL,
Secretary to Government.

(4)

G.O. Ms. No. 2544, Education, dated 27th November 1936.

Representations have been made to the Government that Hindi may be included in the list of 'A' group subjects in the scheme for the award of Secondary School-Leaving Certificates. The Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Board and the Director of Public Instruction, who were consulted, are in favour of the proposal provided that the choice of the subject is restricted to those pupils whose mother-tongue is not one of the South Indian vernaculars. The Government are pleased to accept the recommendation and direct that Hindi be included in the list of 'A' group subjects in the scheme for the award of Secondary School-Leaving Certificates.

* * *

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education and Public Health)

C. H. MASTERMAN,
Secretary to Government.

[27th September 1937]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 271 asked by Mr. S. M. Laljan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 27th September 1937, page 883 supra.]

G.O. Ms. No. 1520, Public (General), dated 11th August 1937.

[Political activities—Flying of Congress flag on buildings belonging to or occupied by municipal councils and local boards, etc.—Ban cancelled.]

Various orders have been issued by the Government from time to time prohibiting the hoisting and flying of the flag used by the Indian National Congress on buildings belonging to or occupied by municipal councils, local boards, etc. After a careful examination of the whole position, the Government have decided not to prohibit the hoisting or flying of the said flag on such buildings. All previous orders on the subject are hereby cancelled.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

C. F. BRACKENBURY,
Chief Secretary.

To all Executive Authorities of Municipal Councils
 „ all Presidents of District Boards with copies for distribution to ex-union Panchayats and Valparai Panchayat Board
 „ the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, through the Mayor
 „ Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards with copies for distribution to Presidents of other Panchayats
 „ all Collectors.

Copy to the Departments of the Secretariat.
 „ Inspector-General of Police.
 „ Commissioner of Police.

through Local Administration Department.

APPENDIX IV.

27th September 1937]

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 145 asked by Mr. D. R. Isaac at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 27th September 1937, page 892 supra.]

	West Godavari.	East Godavari.	Kistna.	Guntur.	Visagapatnam.
(a) In how many villages house-sites have been acquired by the Labour Department for the scheduled caste people and others and what the cost is to Government for such acquisition.	Forty-four villages, cost Rs. 54,000.	Two hundred and sixty-nine villages, cost Rs. 9,04,450.	Hundred and fourteen villages, cost Rs. 1,42,196.	Hundred and four villages, cost Rs. 2,38,446.	....
(b) Whether they have been asked to pay the cost of land together with the interest thereon.	Yes ..	Yes ..	Yes ..	Yes ..	....
(c) Whether they have been asked to pay also for the pathways marked out in the acquired land.	No. Government bear the whole cost of the portions set apart for pathways and streets.	Yes. Up to the issue of Labour Commissioner's D. Dis. No. 1762/27, dated 10th October 1927 (copy enclosed). After that date the cost of communal lands is borne by Government.	In sixty cases prior to 1927 the grantees have been asked to pay also for the pathways marked out in acquired lands.	Prior to 1927 the applicants were also asked to bear the cost of the streets formed in seventy-six villages. In the remaining twenty-eight villages Government bore the cost of the pathways.	....
(d) How much these pathways would cost at the rate purchased by the Government.	An amount of Rs. 12,000 was spent on pathways.	Rs. 50,434	..	The cost of the sixty cases comes to Rs. 9,850.	Total cost of pathways comes to Rs. 48,985 out of which an amount of Rs. 22,094 was borne by Government.
(e) How much interest up to date they have paid on the money advanced by the Government for the lands.	Rs. 8,300	..	Rs. 1,84,393 up to the end of July 1937.	Rs. 27,773	Rs. 56,096
(f) Whether it is a fact that in many places the cost of the site worked out higher than the market value of adjacent lands.	No ..	..	..	No ..	..

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	West Godavari.	East Godavari.	Kistna.	Guntur.	Vizagapatnam.
(a) Whether it is a fact that on account of the higher cost of the land many people to whom the lands have been sold on instalment payment system have not been able to pay after some payments.	Only in two villages of Ellore tank the amounts could not be collected from some of the individuals. The individuals could not continue to pay the instalment due to poverty. The higher cost of the land is not the reason for failure.	Some people have not been able to pay on account of poverty.	Yes. In some cases, main reasons are— (1) Economic depression, exiguous means of livelihood of the grantees and (3) the higher rates at which the lands were acquired before the present slump.	In a number of cases the parties were not able to continue payments. The failure was due to the economic depression subsequent to acquisition and fall in the rates of villages.	
(b) Whether the Government have taken away the lands from such defaulters of payment.	Yes	Five hundred and seventy-four sites were resumed.	One thousand and thirty-four sites were resumed.	Yes. Some plots were also abandoned by the grantees.	....
(c) Whether the Government have considered the possibility of reducing the value of the lands consistent with the ability of the poor people.	After considering this question the Government ordered that in deserving cases concession may be shown to depressed classes by waiving the recovery of interest and extending the period of payments.				....
(d) Whether the Government have considered the feasibility of writing off the balance of dues and restoring the lands to those who made part payments.			Yes, in deserving cases.		

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Circular of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, D. Dis. No. 1762 of 1927, dated 7th October 1927.

The practice at present prevailing in the different districts where acquisition of land for house-sites for the depressed classes is conducted appears to be to calculate the value of the entire land acquired and make it payable by the proposed grantees of house-sites. In addition any charges incurred in connexion with subdivision, demarcation, encumbrance certificate, registration, stamp duty, etc., are treated as a liability of the grantees and recovered from them as a part of the loan advanced for the purchase of house-sites.

2. The District Labour Officers are informed that incidental charges such as those referred to above after or before the acquisition cannot in equity be collected from the grantees of house-sites. These charges are for the most part incurred to secure to Government a clear title to the land which continues to vest in Government after acquisition and till the 10, 15, or 20 annual instalments are paid, and should therefore be borne by Government. The Commissioner will be prepared to sanction these charges from his allotment under "Supplies and Services—Miscellaneous" (Grants-in-aid—Miscellaneous—Non-recurring—Old style).

3. As regards the cost of the acquisition proper the Commissioner observes that several District Labour Officers are unaware of the fact that expenditure on pathways and raising the level of house-sites can be sanctioned by him from the same head of Supplies and Services—Miscellaneous. In future therefore when a compact block is acquired for house-sites, subdivision of the necessary pathways in the block should be effected and the proportionate cost of all communal lands covered by pathways or temple or play-ground should be calculated. An application should be made to the Commissioner for sanction of this expenditure under the head of Supplies and Services—Miscellaneous. Only the actual cost of the house-site portion should be treated as a loan, apportioned among the grantees according to the extent of site proposed to be given and collected from them in instalments.

4. Where the original award is enhanced by Civil Courts the explanation of the District Labour Officer concerned who made the original inadequate valuation should be submitted to the Commissioner. If it appears that the District Labour Officer made his original award after the exercise of due diligence and reasonable care, the Commissioner will be prepared to request Government to debit the extra cost involved on the portion covered by house-sites to the head of Supplies and Services—Miscellaneous. The share of the extra cost on the land covered by streets, pathways, etc., will of course be sanctioned by the Commissioner himself from his allotment under that head.

5. These instructions will apply to all pending cases of land acquisition and will not affect agreements or conveyance deeds already executed.

6. The District Labour Officers are reminded that Commissioner's powers of sanction from the allotment of Supplies and Services—Miscellaneous extend only to Rs. 2,500 in each case.

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with a person effecting a search without a warrant. The Committee has accordingly inserted similar words at the end of clause 28. The introduction of the power of detention and arrest in this clause has necessitated the insertion in it of a proviso similar to that found in clause 29 for the admission of persons so arrested to bail.

It has also necessitated consequential amendments in clauses 31, 38 and 39 where clause 28 has to be referred to along with clause 29 and other clauses.

12. *Clause 56.*—The Committee considers that the provisions in sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause which relate to notice, limitation or costs, are unnecessary, as such matters are governed by the provisions of the general law. Those sub-clauses are accordingly deleted.

13. In regard to the extension of the provisions of the Bill to any other local area under sub-clause (3) (b) of clause 1, the Hon. the Prime Minister on behalf of the Government gave an assurance that ample notice would be given of the Government's intention to bring the Act into force in such local area.

14. A copy of the Bill as amended by the Committee is annexed. The changes made by the Committee are not so important as to justify the republication of the Bill.

C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR,

Chairman.

26th September 1937.

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ANNEXURE.

[Note.—The changes made by the Select Committee are shown in clarendon type and the portions omitted are shown by dots.]

(As amended by the Select Committee.)

A Bill to introduce and extend the prohibition of the manufacture, sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors and drugs in the Province of Madras.

WHEREAS

. it is expedient as early as possible to bring about the prohibition, except for medicinal, scientific, industrial or such like purposes, of the production, manufacture, possession, export, import, transport, purchase, sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors and drugs in the Province of Madras;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to give effect to the abovementioned policy by introducing it in certain selected areas in the said Province and utilizing the experience gained therein for extending it to the other areas thereof;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

CHAPTER I.—PRELIMINARY.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937. Short title, extent and commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

(3) (a) This section and sections 3 and 6 shall come into force in the whole of the Province of Madras at once.

(b) The rest of this Act shall come into force—

(i) in the district of Salem, at once; and

(ii) in any other local area in the Province of Madras on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification, appoint.

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APPENDIX V.

[Vide item IV at page 910 infra.]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY, MADRAS.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Prohibition Bill, 1937, has the honour to make the following report.

2. This Bill was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Extraordinary in English on the 17th September 1937.

3. The Committee was appointed on the 25th September 1937. An instruction was given to the Committee to make its report in time, so that the report may be available for consideration by the House on the 27th September 1937.

4. The Committee met at 5 p.m. on the 25th September 1937 and at 11 a.m. on the 26th September 1937 in the Assembly Building, Senate House, Chepauk, for considering the Bill.

5. The Committee has subjected the provisions of the Bill to a careful scrutiny, and, as a result thereof, has made the following, among other changes in the Bill.

6. *Clause 3.*—A definition of "Sweet toddy" has been added, as that expression is referred to in clause 19 and needs to be specifically defined.

7. *Clause 6.*—In sub-clause (b) of the proviso, exemption from the prohibition of advertisements, is already provided for in the case of newspapers and books printed and published outside the province. The Select Committee considers it desirable to extend the exemption to periodicals also, so published.

The Committee considered the question whether any exemption should be granted to advertisements contained in newspapers printed and published within the province, and resolved that such exemption should be granted only in respect of any advertisement contained in a newspaper printed and published in the province before the first day of January 1938.

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8. *Clause 8.*—This clause provides for the punishment of various kinds of malicious or vexatious acts done by an officer or person exercising powers under this Act. The Committee considers that among such acts should be included the act of maliciously and falsely laying information leading to a search, seizure, detention or arrest, and has inserted a new sub-clause accordingly.

9. *Clause 16.*—This clause empowers the Local Government to notify exemptions from all or any of the provisions of the Act in respect of "any liquor or intoxicating drug or article" on the ground that such liquor, drug or article is required, among other things, "for any purpose other than use as a beverage". As these words are inapplicable to the case of "an intoxicating drug or article", the Committee has deleted them and has, in their stead, inserted the words "or such like" before the word "purpose."

Similar amendment has been carried out in clause 18 and also in the Preamble where the words occur.

10. *Clause 17.*—This clause empowers the Local Government, by notification, to exempt liquor in the possession of *bona fide* travellers passing through any local area in which this Act is in force whether by road or by rail. To make it clear that such liquor shall be exempted only where it is intended for the personal use of such travellers and not for the purpose of sale or distribution to other people, the Committee has inserted the words "for their own personal use" in an appropriate place in sub-clause (a). It also thinks that the words "whether by road or by rail" at the end of the sub-clause are unnecessary and has caused them to be deleted.

11. *Clause 28.*—This clause refers to the issue of search warrants. Clause 29 refers to powers of entry and search, without warrant. The last words of that clause, however, enable the person effecting such search without a warrant, to detain and search, and if he thinks proper, arrest any person found in such place whom he has reason to believe to be guilty of any offence under this Act. Such power should be given to a person executing a search under a warrant equally

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Repeals.

2. From the date on which the provisions of this Act other than sections 1, 3 and 6 come into force in any local area, the enactments mentioned in the Schedule shall cease to be in force in such area to the extent specified in the fourth column thereof:

Provided that the Provincial Government may, by notification, declare that the provisions of this Act other than sections 1, 3 and 6 shall cease to be in force in any local area on such dates as may be specified in the notification and thereupon the enactments mentioned in the Schedule with any subsequent statutory modifications thereof shall revive and come into force in such area with effect on and from such date.

Definitions.

3. In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context—

‘bottle’

(1) “bottle” means to transfer liquor from a cask or other vessel to a bottle, jar, flask or pot or similar receptacle for the purpose of sale whether any process of manufacture be employed or not and includes rebottling.

‘buy’ or
‘buying’

(2) “buy” or “buying” includes any receipt including gift.

‘Collector’

(3) “Collector” means a Collector of land revenue, or any person appointed under clause (b) of section 25 to exercise all or any of the powers or to perform all or any of the duties of a Collector under this Act.

‘Commissioner’

(4) “Commissioner” means the officer appointed under clause (a) of section 25.

‘cultivation’

(5) “cultivation” includes the tending or protecting of a plant during growth and does not necessarily imply raising it from seed.

‘export’

(6) “export” means—

(a) to take out of any local area to which this Act applies to any other local area in the Province of Madras to which this Act has not been extended, or

(b) to take out of the Province of Madras otherwise than across a customs frontier as defined by the Central Government.

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(7) “import” means—

‘import’

(a) to bring into any local area to which this Act applies from any other local area in the Province of Madras to which this Act has not been extended, or

(b) to bring into the Province of Madras, otherwise than across a customs frontier as defined by the Central Government.

(8) “intoxicating drug” means—

‘intoxicating drug’

(i) the leaves, small stalks and flowering or fruiting tops of the Indian hemp plant (*Cannabis sativa* L.) including all forms known as *bhang*, *siddhi*, or *ganja*;

(ii) *charas*, that is, the resin obtained from the Indian hemp plant, which has not been submitted to any manipulations other than those necessary for packing and transport;

(iii) any mixture, with or without neutral materials, of any of the above forms of intoxicating drug, or any drink prepared therefrom; and

(iv) any other intoxicating or narcotic substance which the Provincial Government may, by notification, declare to be an intoxicating drug, such substance not being opium, coca leaf, or a manufactured drug, as defined in section 2 of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930.

II of
1930.

(9) “liquor” includes toddy, spirits of wine, ‘liquor’ methylated spirits, spirits, wine, beer and all liquid consisting of or containing alcohol;

(10) “local body” means the Corporation of Madras, any municipality constituted under the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, or any local board constituted under the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920;

Madras
Act V
of 1920.
Madras
Act XIV
of 1920.

(11) “manufacture” includes every process, whether natural or artificial, by which any fermented, spirituous, or intoxicating liquor or intoxicating drug is produced, prepared or blended, and also re-distillation and every process for the rectification of liquor;

‘manufac-
ture’

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'place'

(12) "place" includes also a house, shed, enclosure, building, shop, tent and vessel;

'police station'

(13) "police station" includes any place which the Provincial Government may, by notification, declare to be a police station for the purposes of this Act;

'Prohibition Officer'

(14) "Prohibition Officer" means the Commissioner, a Collector, or any officer or other person lawfully appointed or invested with powers under section 25;

'rectification'

(15) "rectification" includes every process whereby spirits are purified or are coloured or flavoured by mixing any material therewith;

'sale' or 'selling'

(16) "sale" or "selling" includes any transfer including gift;

'spirits'

(17) "spirits" means any liquor containing alcohol and obtained by distillation (whether it is denatured or not);

Explanation.—"Denatured" means subjected to a process prescribed by the Provincial Government by notification for the purpose of rendering unfit for human consumption;

'sweet toddy'

(18) "Sweet toddy" means juice drawn into receptacles treated so as to prevent any fermentation;

'toddy'

(19) "toddy" means the fermented or unfermented juice drawn from a coconut, palmyra, date, or any other kind of palm tree; and

'transport'

(20) "transport" means to move from one place to another within any local area to which this Act applies.

CHAPTER II.—PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES.

4. (1) Whoever,

(a) imports, exports, transports or possesses liquor or any intoxicating drug; or

(b) manufactures liquor or any intoxicating drug; or

(c) except in accordance with the rules made by the Provincial Government in that behalf, cultivates the hemp plant (*Cannabis*

Prohibition of the manufacture of, traffic in, and consumption of, liquors and intoxicating drugs.

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sativa); or collects any portion of such plant from which an intoxicating drug can be manufactured; or

(d) taps any toddy-producing tree or permits or suffers to be tapped any toddy-producing tree belonging to him or in his possession; or

(e) draws toddy from any tree or permits or suffers toddy to be drawn from any tree belonging to him or in his possession; or

(f) constructs or works any distillery or brewery; or

(g) uses, keeps or has in his possession any materials, still, utensil, implement or apparatus whatsoever for the tapping of toddy or the manufacture of liquor or any intoxicating drug; or

(h) bottles any liquor for purposes of sale; or

(i) sells liquor or any intoxicating drug; or

(j) consumes or buys liquor or any intoxicating drug; or

(k) allows any of the acts aforesaid upon premises in his immediate possession

shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to any act done under, and in accordance with, the provisions of this Act or the terms of any rule, notification, order, licence or permit issued thereunder.

(2) It shall be presumed until the contrary is shown—

(a) that a person accused of any offence under clauses (a) to (j) of sub-section (1) has committed such offence in respect of any liquor or intoxicating drug or any still, utensil, implement or apparatus whatsoever for the tapping of toddy or the manufacture of liquor or any intoxicating drug, or any such materials as are ordinarily used in the tapping of toddy or the manufacture of liquor

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or any intoxicating drug, for the possession of which he is unable to account satisfactorily; and

- (b) that a person accused of any offence under clause (k) of sub-section (1) has committed such offence if an offence is proved to have been committed in premises in his immediate possession in respect of any liquor or intoxicating drug or any still, utensil, implement or apparatus whatsoever for the tapping of toddy or the manufacture of liquor or any intoxicating drug, or any such materials as are ordinarily used in the tapping of toddy or the manufacture of liquor or any intoxicating drug.

Punishment for rendering or attempting to render denatured spirits fit for human consumption.

5. Whoever renders or attempts to render fit for human consumption any spirit, whether manufactured in British India or not, which has been denatured or has, in his possession, any spirit in respect of which he knows or has reason to believe that any such attempt has been made shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

For the purpose of this section it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved that any spirit which is proved on chemical analysis to contain any quantity of any of the prescribed denaturants is or contains or has been derived from denatured spirit.

Prohibition of advertisements.

6. Whoever prints or publishes in any newspaper, book, leaflet, booklet or any other single or periodical publication or otherwise displays or distributes any advertisement or other matter commending, soliciting the use of, or offering any liquor or intoxicating drug other than liquor or drugs exempted under section 16, or specially approved as of medicinal value by the Medical Council established by the Madras Medical Registration Act, 1914, shall be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees:

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Provided that this section shall not apply—

- (a) to plain catalogues and price lists which may be generally or specially approved by the Commissioner; or

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- (b) to the normal circulation within the Province of newspapers, periodicals and books printed and published in accordance with law outside the Province; or

- (c) to any advertisement contained in a newspaper printed and published in the Province before the first day of January 1938.

7. When two or more persons agree—

Punishment for conspiracy.

- (a) to commit or cause to be committed any offence under sub-section (1) of section 4 or under section 5, or

- (b) to evade or nullify the provisions of this Act in any area where it is in force,

each of such persons shall, notwithstanding that no act except the agreement was done by any of the parties thereto in pursuance thereof or that the agreement was made or the operations thereunder took place in an area to which this Act has not been extended, be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both.

8. Any officer or person exercising powers under this Act, who—

Punishment for vexatious search or arrest.

- (a) without reasonable ground of suspicion, enters or searches or causes to be searched, any closed place; or

- (b) vexatiously and unnecessarily seizes the property of any person on the pretence of seizing or searching for anything liable to confiscation under this Act; or

- (c) vexatiously and unnecessarily detains, searches or arrests any person; or

- (d) maliciously and falsely lays information leading to a search, seizure, detention or arrest; or

- (e) in any other way maliciously exceeds his lawful powers,

shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

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punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

Exemption
of *bona fide*
travellers
and lawful
consign-
ments.

17. Until the Provincial Government by notification otherwise direct, the provisions of this Act shall not be deemed to apply—

- (a) to liquor in the possession of *bona fide* travellers for their own personal use while passing through any local area in which this Act is in force; or
- (b) to lawful consignments of liquor or intoxicating drugs carried by a railway administration through or into any such local area.

Licences for
bona fide
medicinal
or other
purposes.

18. The Provincial Government or subject to the control of the Provincial Government, the Collector, may issue licences to any person or in respect of any institution whether under the management of Government or not, for the manufacture, export, import, transport, sale or possession of any liquor, intoxicating drug or article containing such liquor or drug, on the ground that such liquor, drug or article is required by such person or in respect of such institution for a *bona fide* medicinal, scientific, industrial or such like purpose

Licences for
tapping for
sweet
toddy, etc.

19. Subject to the control of the Provincial Government, the Collector or any officer empowered by him may issue—

- (a) licences for the tapping of any trees for sweet toddy for consumption thereof without fermentation or for the manufacture of jaggery therefrom, or
- (b) permits for the possession, transport or sale of such toddy.

Permits and
licences.

20. The Provincial Government or any officer empowered by them in this behalf may issue—

- (a) permits authorizing any person to consume and possess for personal consumption any liquor or intoxicating drug;
- (b) permits authorizing any person or institution to possess and use any liquor for any religious purpose in accordance with ancient custom;

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(c) licences to any institution to possess liquor and issue it to such of its members as hold permits under clause (a); and

(d) licences to any person in charge of a restaurant car attached to a railway train to possess liquor and serve it to *bona fide* passengers travelling by the train.

21. Every licence or permit granted under section 18, 19 or 20 shall—

Form and
conditions of
licences and
permits.

- (1) be granted on payment of such fees, if any, for such period, and subject to such restrictions and limitations and on such conditions; and
- (2) be in such form and contain such particulars as the Provincial Government may direct either generally or in any particular case.

22. Every person taking out any licence or permit under section 18, 19 or 20 may be required to execute a counterpart agreement in conformity with the tenor of his licence or permit, and to give such security for the performance of his agreement as the Collector may require.

Counterpart
agreement
to be exe-
cuted by
licensees.

23. (1) The Collector may cancel or suspend any such licence or permit—

Power to
cancel or
suspend
licences and
permits.

- (a) if any fee payable by the holder thereof be not duly paid; or
- (b) in the event of any breach by the holder of such licence or permit or by his servants or by any one acting with his express or implied permission on his behalf, of any of the terms or conditions of such licence or permit; or
- (c) if the holder thereof is convicted of any offence against this Act, or of any cognizable and non-bailable offence; or
- (d) if the conditions of such licence or permit provide for its cancellation or suspension at will; or
- (e) if the purpose for which the licence or permit is granted ceases to exist.

(2) The Provincial Government may cancel or suspend any such licence or permit without assigning the aforesaid or any other reasons.

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Punishment
for
vexatious
delay.

9. Any officer or person exercising powers under this Act, who vexatiously and unnecessarily delays forwarding to a Prohibition Officer or to the officer in charge of the nearest police station as required by section 38, any person arrested or any article seized under this Act, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

Punishment
for abetment
of escape of
persons
arrested,
etc.

10. Any officer or person exercising powers under this Act who—

(a) unlawfully releases or abets the escape of any person arrested under this Act, or abets the commission of any offence against this Act, or

(b) acts in any manner inconsistent with his duty for the purpose of enabling any person to do anything whereby any of the provisions of this Act may be evaded or broken, and

any other officer of the Provincial Government or of a local body who abets the commission of any offence against this Act,

shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

Punishment
for offences
not other-
wise
provided
for.

11. Whoever is guilty of any wilful act or intentional omission in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act, or of any rule, notification or order made thereunder and not otherwise provided for in this Act, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

Punishment
for abetment
of offence
against Act
in area to
which Act
is not ex-
tended.

12. Where any offence against this Act is committed in any area to which it has been extended, whoever commits, or attempts to commit, or abets the commission of, any of the acts making up the offence shall be liable to be punished therefor, whether such commission, attempt or abetment takes place within or outside such area.

Things
liable to
confiscation.

13. In any case in which an offence has been committed against this Act, the liquor, drug, materials, still, utensil, implement, or apparatus in respect of by means of which the offence has been committed

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shall be liable to confiscation along with the receptacles, packages, coverings, animals, vessels, carts or other vehicles used to hold or carry the same.

14. (1) When the offender is convicted or when the person charged with an offence against this Act is acquitted, but the Court decides that anything is liable to confiscation, such confiscation may be ordered by the Court. Confiscation
how ordered.

(2) When an offence against this Act has been committed but the offender is not known, or cannot be found, or when anything liable to confiscation under this Act and not in the possession of any person cannot be satisfactorily accounted for, the case shall be inquired into and determined by the Collector or other Prohibition Officer in charge of the district or by any other officer authorized by the Provincial Government in that behalf, who may order such confiscation:

Provided that no such order shall be made until the expiration of fifteen days from the date of seizing the things intended to be confiscated or without hearing the persons, if any, claiming any right thereto, and evidence, if any, which they produce in support of their claims.

15. All offences under this Act shall be cognizable and the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Offences
under Act to
be cogniz-
able.
V of 1898, with respect to cognizable offences shall apply to them.

CHAPTER III.—EXEMPTIONS AND LICENCES.

16. (1) The Provincial Government may, by notification and subject to such conditions as they think fit, exempt any specified liquor or intoxicating drug or article containing such liquor or drug from the observance of all or any of the provisions of this Act on the ground that such liquor, drug or article is required for a medicinal, scientific, industrial or such like purpose. Power to
notify
exemptions.

(2) When issuing a notification under sub-section (1), the Provincial Government shall have power to provide that a breach of any of the conditions subject to which the exemption is notified shall be

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Penalty for breach of the conditions of licences and permits.

24. In the event of any breach by the holder of such licence or permit or by his servants or by any one acting with his express or implied permission on his behalf, of any of the terms or conditions of such licence or permit, such holder shall, in addition to the cancellation or suspension of the licence or permit granted to him, be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both, unless he shall establish that all due and reasonable precautions were exercised by him to prevent any such breach.

Any person who commits any such breach shall, whether he acts with or without the permission of the holder of the licence or permit, be liable to the same punishment.

CHAPTER IV.—ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTROL.

Appointment of officers and withdrawal of powers.

25. The Provincial Government may, from time to time, by notification—

- (a) appoint an officer to exercise all the powers of a Collector under this Act in all local areas in which it is in force and to have the control of the administration of the provisions of this Act in such areas;
- (b) appoint any person other than the Collector of land revenue to exercise within a district all or any of the powers and to perform all or any of the duties of a Collector under this Act, either concurrently with or in exclusion of the Collector of land revenue, subject to such control as the Provincial Government may from time to time direct;
- (c) withdraw from the Commissioner or the Collector of land revenue any or all of the powers conferred on him by this Act;
- (d) appoint paid or honorary officers with such designations, powers and duties as the Provincial Government may think fit;
- (e) order that all or any of the powers and duties assigned to any person under clause (d) shall be exercised and performed by any existing Government official or any other person; and
- (f) delegate to any Prohibition Officer all or any of their powers under this Act.

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26. (1) The Collector or other Prohibition Officer in charge of a district may constitute prohibition committees in every taluk thereof to assist him in carrying out the objects of this Act in the district.

Prohibition Committees.

(2) Every member of a prohibition committee shall observe the working of this Act in his taluk and report thereon and on every matter connected therewith at the prescribed intervals and at any other time he thinks fit, to the Collector or other Prohibition Officer aforesaid.

(3) Every member of a prohibition committee shall be entitled to give information at any police station in his taluk regarding the commission or suspected commission of any offence against this Act in such taluk, and the officer in charge of such station shall take action on such information and investigate the case in the manner laid down in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

V of 1898.

27. The Provincial Government may, by notification, and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed in such notification, empower all or any of the officers or classes of officers or persons mentioned in section 32 throughout the Province or in any local area, to admit a person arrested under that section to bail to appear, when summoned or otherwise directed, before a Police or Prohibition Officer or Magistrate having jurisdiction to inquire into the offence for which such person has been arrested, and may cancel or vary such notification.

Power of Provincial Government to authorize officers to admit persons arrested to bail.

CHAPTER V.—POWERS, DUTIES AND PROCEDURE OF OFFICERS, ETC.

28. If any Collector, Prohibition Officer or Magistrate upon information obtained and after such inquiry as he thinks necessary, has reason to believe that an offence under sub-section (1) of section 4 has been committed, he may issue a warrant for the search for any liquor, intoxicating drug, materials, still, utensil, implement or apparatus in respect of which the alleged offence has been committed. Any person who has been entrusted with the execution of such a warrant may detain and search, and if he thinks proper, arrest any

Issue of search warrants.

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person found in the place searched, if he has reason to believe such person to be guilty of any offence under this Act.

Provided that every person arrested under this section shall be admitted to bail by the person arresting, if sufficient bail be tendered for his appearance either before a Magistrate or before a Police or Prohibition Officer as the case may be.

Before issuing such warrant, the Collector, Prohibition Officer or Magistrate shall examine the informant on oath and the examination shall be reduced into writing in a summary manner and be signed by the informant, and also by the Collector, Prohibition Officer or Magistrate.

Powers of entry and search without warrant.

29. Whenever a Collector, any Prohibition Officer not below such rank as the Provincial Government may determine, any Police Officer not below the rank of sub-inspector, any officer in charge of a police station, or any other paid or honorary officer authorized by the Provincial Government in this behalf has reason to believe that an offence under sub-section (1) of section 4 has been committed and that the delay occasioned by obtaining a search warrant under section 28 will prevent the execution thereof, he may, after recording his reasons and the grounds of his belief, at any time by day or night enter and search any place and may seize anything found therein which he has reason to believe to be liable to confiscation under this Act; and may detain and search and, if he thinks proper, arrest any person found in such place whom he has reason to believe to be guilty of any offence under this Act:

Provided that every person arrested under this section shall be admitted to bail by such officer as aforesaid if sufficient bail be tendered for his appearance either before a Magistrate or before a Police or Prohibition Officer as the case may be.

Power to enter and inspect places of manufacture and sale.

30. The Collector, any Prohibition Officer not below such rank as the Provincial Government may determine, or any Police or other paid or honorary officer authorized by the Provincial Government in this behalf, may enter and inspect, at any time by day

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or by night, any place in which it is reasonably suspected that any person draws toddy or carries on the manufacture of any other liquor or any intoxicating drug, or stores any liquor or intoxicating drug; and may enter and inspect, at any time, any place in which any liquor or intoxicating drug is reasonably suspected to be kept for sale by any person; and may examine, test, measure or weigh any material, still, utensil, implement, apparatus, liquor or intoxicating drug found in such place.

31. If any officer empowered to make an entry under section 28, 29 or 30 cannot otherwise make such entry, it shall be lawful for him to break open any outer or inner door or window and to remove any other obstacles to his entry into any such place. Power to use force in case of resistance to entry.

32. Any Prohibition Officer, any officer of the Police or Land Revenue departments, and any other person authorized in that behalf— Arrest of offenders and seizure of contraband liquor and articles without warrant.

- (a) may arrest without warrant any person found committing an offence punishable under sub-section (1) of section 4;
- (b) may seize and detain any liquor, drug or other article which he has reason to believe to be liable to confiscation under this Act; and
- (c) may search any person, vessel, vehicle, animal, package, receptacle or covering, upon whom, or in or upon which, he may have reasonable cause to suspect any such liquor, drug or other article to be, or to be concealed:

Provided that if the officer or person making the arrest under this section be not empowered under section 27 to admit to bail, the person arrested shall be forthwith forwarded to an officer so empowered, if such an officer is known to be within a distance of five miles from the place where such arrest took place. And it shall be the duty of such officer empowered as aforesaid to admit such person to bail if sufficient bail be tendered for his appearance before a Police or Prohibition Officer or Magistrate having jurisdiction to inquire into the case.

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Arrest of persons refusing to give name or giving false name.

33. Any person, who may be accused or reasonably suspected of committing an offence against this Act, and who on demand made by any Prohibition Officer or any officer of the Police or Land Revenue departments or by any other person authorized in that behalf refuses to give his name and residence or who gives a name or residence which such officer or person has reason to believe to be false, may be arrested by such officer or person in order that his name and residence may be ascertained.

Searches how to be made.

34. All searches under the provisions of this Act shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Duty of Officials of all departments and local bodies to assist.

35. Officials of all departments of the Provincial Government and of all local bodies shall be legally bound to assist any Prohibition or Police Officer in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Offences to be reported, etc.

36. Every official employed by the Provincial Government or by any local body, other than a Police or Prohibition Officer, shall be bound to give immediate information at the nearest police station or to a Prohibition Officer, of all breaches of any of the provisions of this Act which may come to his knowledge; and all such officials shall be bound to take all reasonable measures in their power to prevent the commission of any such breaches which they may know or have reason to believe are about or likely to be committed.

Landholders and others to give information.

37. All zamindars, proprietors, tenants, under-tenants and cultivators who own or hold land or house-property on or in which there shall be any tapping for toddy or manufacture of liquor or intoxicating drugs shall in the absence of reasonable excuse be bound to give notice of the same to a Magistrate or to a Prohibition Officer or to an officer of the Police, or Land Revenue departments immediately the same shall have come to their knowledge.

Persons arrested how to be dealt with.

38. (1) When any person is arrested under the provisions of section 28, 29, 32 or 33, the person arresting him shall, unless bail shall have been accepted under the provisions of section 28, 29 or 32, forthwith forward him to the nearest police station or to a Prohibition Officer, with a report of the circumstances under which such arrest was made.

V of 1898.

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(2) On any such person being brought to a police station as aforesaid, the officer in charge thereof shall either admit him to bail to appear when summoned, before himself, or before the Prohibition Officer if any, or any Police Officer within the limits of the jurisdiction of which Prohibition or Police Officer, the offence with which he is charged is suspected to have been committed, or, in default of bail, shall forward him in custody to such officer.

Procedure of Police station officer

(3) On any such person being brought in custody before a Prohibition or Police Officer as aforesaid or appearing before such officer on bail or when such officer as aforesaid has himself made the arrest such officer shall hold such inquiry as he may think necessary and shall either release such person, or forward him in custody to, or admit him to bail to appear before, the Magistrate having jurisdiction to inquire into or try the case :

Procedure of Police or Prohibition Officer empowered to inquire.

Provided that if such inquiry is not commenced and completed on the day on which such person is arrested by or is brought or appears before such officer, he shall, if sufficient bail be tendered for the appearance of the person arrested, admit such person to bail to appear on any subsequent day before himself or any other officer having jurisdiction to inquire into the case.

39. It shall be the duty of any officer arresting any person under the powers conferred by section 28 or 29 and of any officer in charge of a police station or any Police or Prohibition Officer before whom a person arrested is brought or appears under the provisions of section 38 to release such person on bail if sufficient bail be tendered for his appearance before a Police or Prohibition Officer or before a Magistrate as the case may be.

Persons arrested to be admitted to bail.

40. (1) Before any person is released on bail, a bond in such sufficient but not excessive sum of money as the officer admitting him to bail thinks proper shall be executed by such person and by one or more sureties, conditioned that such person shall attend in accordance with the terms of the bond and shall continue to attend until otherwise directed by the Police or Prohibition

Bond of accused and sureties.

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Officer before whom he was bailed to attend, or by the Magistrate, as the case may be :

Provided that the officer admitting any such person to bail may in his discretion dispense with the requirement of a surety or sureties to the bond executed by such person.

(2) The Provincial Government shall from time to time determine the form of the bond to be used in any local area.

Procedure in case of default of person admitted to bail to appear before Prohibition Officer.

41. When by reason of default of appearance of a person bailed to appear before a Police or Prohibition Officer, such officer is of opinion that proceedings should be had to compel payment of the penalty or penalties mentioned in the bond of the person bailed or of the surety or sureties, he shall forward the bond to the Magistrate having jurisdiction to inquire into or try the offence of which the person bailed was accused, and the Magistrate shall proceed to enforce the payment of the penalty or penalties in the manner provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, for the recovery of penalties in the like case of default of appearance by a person bailed to appear before his own Court.

V of 1898

Power of Police or Prohibition Officers to summon witnesses.

42. Any Police or Prohibition Officer holding an inquiry in the manner provided in section 38 may summon any person to appear before himself to give evidence on such inquiry or to produce any document relevant thereto which may be in his possession or under his control :

Provided that no such officer shall so summon any person to appear before him if the journey to be made for complying with such summons exceeds ten miles by road or fifty miles by rail or such other limits as the Provincial Government may fix.

Terms of summons.

43. Every summons issued under section 42 shall state whether the person summoned is required to give evidence or to produce a document, or both, and shall require him to appear before the said officer at a stated time and place.

Examination of witnesses.

44. Persons so summoned shall attend as required and shall answer all questions relating to such inquiry put to them by such officer. Such answers shall be reduced to writing and shall be signed by such officer.

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45. It shall be lawful for a Police or Prohibition Officer, instead of summoning to appear before him any person who, from sickness or other infirmity, may be unable so to do, or whom by reason of rank or sex, it may not be proper to summon, to proceed to the residence of such person and there to require him to answer such questions as he may consider necessary with respect to such inquiry; and such person shall be bound so to answer accordingly, and the provisions of section 44 shall apply to such answers.

When attendance of witnesses to be dispensed with, and procedure in such cases.

46. Any Police or Prohibition Officer may after recording his reasons in writing, summon any person to appear before him whom he has good reason to suspect of having committed an offence under this Act. On such person appearing before such officer, the procedure prescribed by sections 38 to 45 shall become applicable.

Power of Police or Prohibition Officer to summon suspected persons.

The officer may also, if he considers it necessary for the investigation of the case, exercise the powers conferred by sections 42 to 45 before summoning the person suspected.

47. The law for the time being in force as to summonses and compelling the attendance of persons summoned in criminal courts shall, so far as the same may be applicable, apply to any summons issued by a Police or Prohibition Officer and to any person summoned by him to appear under the provisions of this Act.

Law relating to criminal courts as to summoning of witnesses to apply.

48. When a Police or Prohibition Officer forwards in custody any person accused of an offence under this Act to the Magistrate having jurisdiction to inquire into or try the case, or admits any such person to bail to appear before such Magistrate, such officer shall also forward to such Magistrate a report setting forth the name of the accused person and the nature of the offence with which he is charged and the names of the persons who appear to be acquainted with the circumstances of the case, and shall send to such Magistrate any article which it may be necessary to produce before him. Upon receipt of such report the Magistrate shall inquire into such offence and try the person accused thereof in like manner as if complaint had been made before him as prescribed in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Report of Police or Prohibition Officer to give jurisdiction to competent Magistrate.

cf 1898.

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Powers of
Police and
Prohibition
Officers
to cause
attendance
of witnesses
before
Magistrate.

49. When a Police or Prohibition Officer forwards in custody any person accused of an offence against this Act to the Magistrate having jurisdiction to inquire into or try the case, or admits him to bail to appear before such Magistrate, such officer shall exercise all the powers conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, on an officer in charge of a police station in respect to causing the appearance before such Magistrate of such persons acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case as he considers it necessary that such Magistrate shall examine as witnesses for the prosecution of such case. ^{V o 189}

Accused
not to be
detained
in custody
for a longer
period than
twenty-four
hours
without
special
authority.

50. No person accused or suspected of having committed an offence under this Act shall be detained for a longer period than under all the circumstances of the case is reasonable; and such period shall not, in the absence of the special order of a Magistrate, whether having jurisdiction to try the case or not, exceed twenty-four hours, exclusive of the time necessary for the journey of such person to the place where a Police or Prohibition Officer may be and from thence to the court having jurisdiction to try the case.

Police
to take
charge of
articles
seized.

51. All officers in charge of police stations shall take charge of and keep in safe custody pending the orders of a Magistrate or of a Prohibition Officer, all articles seized under this Act which may be delivered to them; and shall allow any Prohibition Officer who may accompany such articles to the police station, or who may be deputed for the purpose by his superior officer, to affix his seal to such articles and to take samples of and from them. All samples so taken shall also be sealed with the seal of the officer in charge of the police station.

Power
of District
Magistrate
to transfer
cases.

52. The District Magistrate shall have power to transfer any case under this Act pending inquiry or trial before any Magistrate or Officer in the district to any other Magistrate or Officer therein.

Operation of
the Code of
Criminal
Procedure,
1898.

53. Nothing contained in this Act shall affect the operation of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. ^{V o 1893}

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CHAPTER VI.—RULES AND NOTIFICATIONS.

54. (1) The Provincial Government may make rules ^{Power to make rules} for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, the Provincial Government may make rules—

- (a) for the issue of licences and permits and the enforcement of the conditions thereof;
- (b) prescribing the powers to be exercised and the duties to be performed by paid and honorary Prohibition Officers in furtherance of the objects of the Act;
- (c) determining the local jurisdiction of Police and Prohibition Officers in regard to inquiries and the exercise of preventive and investigating powers;
- (d) authorizing any officer or person to exercise any power or perform any duty under this Act;
- (e) prescribing the powers and duties of prohibition committees and the members thereof and the intervals at which the members of such committees shall make their reports;
- (f) regulating the delegation by the Commissioner or by Collectors or other district officers of any powers conferred on them by or under this Act;
- (g) regulating the cultivation of the hemp plant, the collection of those portions of such plant from which intoxicating drugs can be manufactured and the manufacture of such drugs therefrom;
- (h) declaring how denatured spirit shall be manufactured;
- (i) declaring in what cases or classes of cases and to what authorities appeals shall lie from orders, whether original or appellate, passed under this Act or under any rule made thereunder, or by what authorities such orders

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 28th September 1937.

The House met in the Assembly Building at ten of the clock, the Deputy Speaker (MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI) in the Chair.

The proceedings commenced with the singing of ' Vande Mataram ' by Mrs. Lakshmi Sankara Ayyar.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:—" May I request the hon. Member, Mr. K. Varadachari, to put the questions Nos. 279, 280 and 281, all together since they are identical in nature and will be given one single answer? "

Protest against the proposal of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Committee for laying a motor road from Mamandur to Tirumalai.

* 279 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Committee has resolved upon laying a motor road to Tirumalai from Mamandur;
- (b) if so, at what cost;
- (c) what is the length of the proposed road; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Tirupati Municipal Council and the public of Tirupati have protested against the laying of the said road?

Details with respect to plans and estimates for the proposed Mamandur-Tirumalai Hill Road.

* 280 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

- (1) whether it is a fact that the proposed road via Mamandur to the Tirumalai Hill involves further expenditure on
 - (a) new rest-houses;
 - (b) electric lighting of the whole roadway and buildings;
 - (c) acquisition of land from Government;
 - (d) acquisition of land from the District Board of Chittoor;

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(2) whether the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Committee have sent to Government any detailed plans and estimates for

- (a) the road from Mamandur to Tirumalai;
- (b) electric lighting of the roadway;
- (c) acquisition of land from the Government;
- (d) acquisition of land from the District Board of Chittoor;

(3) if so, whether the Government have sanctioned these plans and estimates;

(4) whether the said plans and estimates have been scrutinized by any Government Engineers; and

(5) what the estimated recurring cost of the maintenance of the proposed road is?

Alleged danger to human safety on account of the proposed Mamandur-Tirumalai Hill Road having to run through a reserved major forest.

* 281 Q.—MR. K. VARADACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the proposed road runs through an A class reserved major forest;

(b) whether the said forest abounds in tigers and other wild beasts;

(c) whether pilgrims who use the road would be exposed to the danger of wild animals infesting the forest on either side; and

(d) whether Mamandur and the whole forest area through which the road is proposed to be laid is highly malarial and unfit for human traffic?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The question of the formation of a motor road via Mamandur is under the consideration of the Government, and the Commissioner, Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams has been instructed not to proceed with the development of the motor road until the Government have examined the question fully and come to a final conclusion.”

* 282 Q.^a.

When Question No. 282 was called, the Hon. the Revenue Minister was absent.

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“Madam, the practice laid down by the Speaker is that when the Hon. Minister is not present at the time when a question is called, it is to be answered by the Parliamentary Secretary after all the other Ministers have answered.”

283 to 288 Qs.^b.

^a Vide pages 970-971 infra.

^b Vide pages 964-970 infra.

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Minimum marks prescribed for admission to the Public Service Commission examination and recruitment to public service, in respect of S.S.L.C. candidates.

* 289 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in respect of candidates who have completed the S.S.L.C. prior to 1932, 35 per cent of marks in English and some other subjects is being insisted on for admission to Public Service Commission examination and recruitment to public services, while 33 and even 32 per cent renders them eligible for University course; and

(b) similarly, whether it is a fact that in respect of candidates who have completed the S.S.L.C. subsequent to 1932, 40 per cent of marks in English and some other subjects is being insisted on for admission to Public Service Commission examination and recruitment to public services while lesser percentage of marks renders them eligible for University course?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) & (b) The answer to clause (a) of the question is in the affirmative so far as it concerns admission to the Public Service Commission Examination and recruitment to posts in the public services for which service rules have prescribed the minimum general educational qualification. Candidates who have completed the S.S.L.C. subsequent to 1932 have to get 40 per cent in two subjects only, viz., in English and in a second language.

“Eligibility for University courses of study is determined by the Universities concerned according to their own rules as to which the Government are not consulted.

“The attention of the hon. Member is also invited to the latter part of the answer given in the Assembly on the 4th September 1937 to clause (a) of question No. 40 (unstarred).”

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“May I know from the Hon. the Premier whether he is aware of the fact that the Madras Service Commission Examination consists of four subjects, i.e., general knowledge (two papers), English composition and translation and précis writing?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I take it from the hon. Member.”

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“In that case, may I know from the Hon. the Premier whether there is any point in drawing the distinction between candidates who have secured eligibility certificates for University courses, and candidates who have secured certain specified number of marks?”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“On an examination of the papers I find that this matter was gone into at great length and with much circumspection, and in view of the fact

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that the University changes its rules from time to time and accepts moderation and things of that kind which do not come under the purview of the Government, they have thought fit to prescribe certain rules in the matter without at the same time interfering with the expectations raised by the rules with regard to the S.S.L.C. Examination prior to the time when they made these rules, and that is why these rules about entry into the public services are made, one set with reference to a prior date and another set with reference to a later date. The amount of qualifications with regard to English precis writing, composition and the like which the Public Services Commission demand is necessarily different in standard from what may be demanded in a University course, which specializes in science and other matters according to the option of the student."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Since both these sets of candidates have to face the same examination for entering into public service, where is the point in making a difference?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It is a matter of argument. If the hon. Member will put down a memorandum on the subject, I shall have it examined by those who are responsible for prescribing these detailed rules."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Thank you, Sir."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether this in any way affects the communal Government Order?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am not able to see the connexion between the communal Government Order and this; but I may say this for the information of the hon. Member who put this question, that a certain lower qualification is prescribed for the scheduled classes even with reference to examination in English."

Salaries and service conditions of the gardeners employed in the Marina.

* 283 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI on behalf of Mr. P. R. K. Sarma: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Marina gardeners are attached to the Public Works Department;

(b) what the cost of maintaining them is;

(c) what the number of workers and supervising establishment employed is, and what are the scales of pay, and service conditions of the latter;

(d) what the salaries and service conditions of the gardeners, both men and women, are;

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(e) whether most of the gardeners have been serving for long periods such as 20 to 30 years and even more; and

(f) whether they are entitled to any gratuity, pension or any provision for retirement?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) Rupees 1,320 per mensem.

" (c) Workers—90.

Supervising establishment—2.

Superintendent, Marina gardens—Pay Rs. 75—5—125.

Garden foreman—Pay Rs. 45—5/2—65.

They belong to the regular permanent establishment subject to the usual leave and pension rules.

" (d) The scales of pay of the gardeners and women sweepers are—

	Old scale.	New scale.
	RS.	RS.
Gardeners	13—15	10—13
Women sweepers	10	8—10

" They belong to the work charged establishment and are not entitled to any pension or leave salary. They are eligible for casual leave not exceeding eight days in a year.

" (e) There are several gardeners who have served for more than 20 years but none over 30 years.

" (f) The answer is in the negative."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"May I ask, Sir, in view of the fact that the maintenance charges of a convict in Government jails amount to roughly Rs. 7 per month and in view of the fact that an average Indian family consist of 4.5 equated adults, whether the Government will be pleased to fix the minimum wages of these gardeners at not less than Rs. 30 per month, especially in the metropolis where the cost of living is very high?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"The pay was recently revised; we cannot revise it again."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"Why not, Sir?"

(No answer.)

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"If the Government are not prepared to grant them even convict wages, will they consider the desirability of throwing open the gates of the jails to these gardeners and their families so that they can be fed at least on convict rations (including of course buttermilk) at Government cost?"

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Alleged misuse of the services of the Marina gardeners.

* 284 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI on behalf of Mr. P. R. K. Sarma: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Marina gardeners are asked to do private menial work in some officers' houses and that other gardeners have to do the work of the gardeners so utilized;

(b) whether the Superintending Engineer has received any complaints in the matter; and

(c) if so, what action was taken and with what results?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) & (c) Yes, the complaint was investigated and found to be baseless.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I know by whom the matter was investigated?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“It was investigated departmentally by the person in charge who was answerable to the person he was under.”

Charges and allegations against the Park Superintendent.

* 285 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI on behalf of Mr. P. R. K. Sarma: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there have been serious charges and allegations against the Park Superintendent;

(b) whether there were allegations of bad faith and demand for enquiries regarding a fund which he was conducting with large sums of money belonging to the workers;

(c) whether the department enquired into the complaint and if not, why enquiries were not made;

(d) whether he has been harassing and victimising the workers and whether the immediate superior officers have been allowing him free hand;

(e) how many workers have been discharged during the last one year in the gardens on the Superintendent's complaints;

(f) how many written warnings have been issued to the gardeners during the last one year;

(g) how many fines were inflicted, what the amounts of the fines were, what the alleged complaints were and what the salaries of the workers were in each case;

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(h) whether the Superintendent was in the habit of selling forms for leave applications and whether the practice has since been stopped; and

(i) if the answer to (h) be in the affirmative, what action the department took against the Superintendent for the unauthorized practice?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASSAN:—“(a) & (b) Yes. Some two years ago.

“(c) Enquiries were made and it was found that the allegations were baseless. The complainants were informed that Government have nothing to do with funds collected among themselves for the festival.

“(d) The answer to first part of the question is in the negative and the second part of the question does not arise.

“(e) Only one gardener by name Kuppan was discharged as he stayed away from duty of his own accord for a considerable time.

“(f) 111 warnings.

“(g) The total number of cases in which fines were inflicted is 27 and the total amount of the fines is Rs. 23. The pay of the workers fined was—

in five cases Rs. 18 each;

in twenty cases Rs. 15 each;

in one case Rs. 13; and

in one case Rs. 10.

• The fines were inflicted for breach of discipline and for misconduct. The fines ranged from As. 4 to Rs. 2. In only one case was a fine of Rs. 2 inflicted as the watchman surreptitiously removed grass from land let out on lease.

“(h) & (i) It was the practice for over ten years for the gardeners most of whom are illiterate, to submit their applications for leave in a printed form. The Garden Superintendent had the forms printed for the men and charged them a little over a pie for each form. This practice has been stopped now for over a year as soon as it came to notice.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“Is it not a fact that the Superintending Engineer has received a complaint that about Rs. 100 was collected from the gardeners and utilized by the Garden Superintendent?”

(No answer.)

* MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the Payment of Wages Act applies to these workers, and, if so, whether the fines collected will be utilized for the benefit of the workers?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASSAN:—“No; the fines are not utilized for the benefit of the workers.”

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MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the Payment of Wages Act it is laid down that the fines collected should be utilized for the relief of the workers?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASSAN:—"Whatever is laid down in the Act will be attended to."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether this Superintendent is still in charge of the same Marina?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASSAN:—"I think he is."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"If so, will the Government advise the head of the department to have him transferred?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASSAN:—"I will consider it."

Supervision of the village panchayat courts in the presidency.

* 286 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of village munsifs' courts in the province of Madras;

(b) the total number of village panchayat courts in the province of Madras;

(c) whether the jurisdiction of the above courts comprises single villages or groups of villages;

(d) the condition of the working of these courts; and

(e) who is the authority that inspects these courts and what is the manner in which the inspection is carried out?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) & (b) At the end of 1936 the number of village courts in the Province of Madras was as follows:—

Village Munsifs' Courts	...	...	...	11,978
Village Panchayat Courts	...	...	...	4,520

"(c) Ordinarily village panchayat courts and village munsifs' courts are constituted for each revenue village. In certain cases, the Government group two or more revenue villages and establish one court for them, or constitute divisions in any such village and establish separate village courts for each of such divisions.

"(d) The annual reports on the working of village courts show that the working of these courts is on the whole satisfactory.

"(e) Revenue officers and District Munsifs inspect the civil work of the panchayat courts. The Government have framed a list of questions for use in connexion with the inspection of records in village panchayat courts by District Munsifs and Revenue officers. There are no orders prescribing a form for inspection of the work of village munsifs."

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AN HON. MEMBER:—"How many times have they inspected these offices?" 10-15 a.m.

MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Not more than once, I think."

MR. R. S. VENKATARAMAYYA:—"Were there any complaints in regard to inspection by two sets of officers?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"So far no complaint has been received by Government on account of the fact that these panchayats are inspected by two sets of officers."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of giving these village munsifs at least one month's training in the exercise of their powers?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government consider that training for one month in legal matters is absolutely useless."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask the reason why there is a dual machinery to inspect these courts?"

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"In revenue matters the village officers are under the jurisdiction of revenue officers and the Revenue Divisional Officers are given power to inspect the village courts and in so far as they are dealing with civil matters, the district munsifs also are given power to inspect their work."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"Is it a fact, Madam, that the village munsifs generally take one rupee for every suit instituted in their courts?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The Government have no information."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"Will the Hon. Minister kindly make enquiries into the matter?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It is not possible. Instead of that, the hon. Member may bring such instances, if any, to the notice of the Government."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister what the minimum period necessary for training is?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"There is no particular training provided for the village munsifs."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether it would not be desirable to give the village officers some training in civil matters, in addition to the Revenue Test?"

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"There is no Revenue Test qualification prescribed for village officers for exercising the powers of village munsifs."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Whether it is a fact, Madam, that men untrained in revenue matters are allowed to occupy these offices?"

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THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"That does not arise out of the answer given."

* 287 Q. ^a

Protest against the formation of the Udipi Municipality.

* 288 MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government are aware of the recent public meeting held on the 16th August 1937 at Udipi in South Kanara to reiterate the protest in respect of the municipality introduced in that town?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The answer is in the negative."

Release of political detenus in the Andamans.

* 290 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government moved the Government of India in regard to release of political detenus in the Andamans; and

(b) if so, when, if not, why not?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (a) There are no 'detenus' of this Government now in the Andamans.

" (b) Does not arise."

* Qs. 291 ^b, 292 ^b and 293 ^b

Proposal to assign cultivable waste lands in the Presidency to the landless poor and the educated unemployed.

* 282 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR on behalf of Mr. G. Krishna Rao: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total extent of cultivable waste lands in the Presidency on 1st July 1937 (end of 1346 fasli);

(b) the extent of such cultivable waste lands in each district;

(c) whether the Government have any idea of turning such cultivable waste lands to good account by assigning them as far as possible to the landless poor and the educated unemployed on easy terms of assessment;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, why not?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) & (b) It is presumed that by the expression 'cultivable waste land' is meant waste lands which are actually fit for cultivation. Information on this point

^a Vide page 971 infra.

^b Vide pages 972-975 infra.

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cannot be obtained without a detailed survey, village by village, and even if such a survey is made, only a very rough estimate of 'cultivable waste lands' can be obtained. Further, opinions will vary as to what lands are actually fit for cultivation. But figures have just been collected of the extents of good arable lands at the disposal of Government available for assignment in each of the districts and these will be found in the statement ^a annexed.

"(c) to (e) Applications from the landless poor and the educated unemployed for the lands shown in the statement will be sympathetically considered, provided the lands are available for assignment to them. But practically all land fit for reasonably easy cultivation has already been taken up and the difficulty is in finding appreciable extents fit for profitable cultivation. The Government will be prepared to consider the question of granting concessions in regard to assessment on such lands for the first few years."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask, Madam, whether such waste lands have been assigned to educated unemployed in any district so far?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"It is not easy to give the answer offhand. If a question is put down, information will be given."

MR. V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"May I know, Madam, if when Government take up the question of assigning lands for the landless poor, the need of each village for grazing areas will be considered?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"Of course it will be considered."

Teaching of Urdu in institutions other than Muslim schools and colleges.

* 287 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any arrangement for the teaching of Urdu in schools and colleges other than Muslim schools and colleges; and

(b) which are the schools and colleges in which there is such arrangement?

MR. C. J. VARKEY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) A list ^b of secondary schools and colleges in which provision is made for the teaching of Urdu is placed on the table. There are elementary schools in which there are Urdu sections but Government have no detailed information of their number and location."

^a Printed as Appendix I on pages 1016-1017 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix II on pages 1018-1020 infra.

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Revision of the scale of fees for audit of the accounts of co-operative societies.

* 291 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIAR on behalf of Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the scale of audit fees charged for the audit of accounts of co-operative societies;

(b) the names of several societies and the amount of audit fees collected from them during the last co-operative year;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government for revising the scale of audit fees; and

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, whether the Government propose to publish their proposals and invite the opinion of the societies affected before passing final orders?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the notifications published at page 616 of Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st May 1935, and at page 77 of Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st January 1936.

“(b) The audit fees for the last co-operative year ending with 30th June 1937 are payable on or before 31st December 1937. It is not therefore possible to furnish the information now.

“(c) and (d) The answer is in the affirmative.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIAR:—“May I know, Madam, whether the 1935 Gazette is available now?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“I invite the hon. Member to peruse the Gazette in the Library of the House.”

MR. KALA VENKATA RAO:—“Will the Hon. Minister consider the question of authorizing a Provincial Co-operative Audit Union being formed?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The matter will be considered.”

Promotion of gazetted officers of the Industries Department to selection categories.

* 292 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIAR on behalf of Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) how many gazetted officers of the Department of Industries have been promoted to selection categories in the Industries service for the first time during 1936–37, and what their names are; and

(b) whether any officers promoted to a selection category have at any time before been punished for purchase irregularities under the punishment rules of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and

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Appeal) Rules, and if so, who they are and what the reasons are for setting aside the punishment?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) & (b) No Gazetted officer was promoted for the first time during 1936–37 to a selection category. Clause (b) of the question therefore does not arise.”

Qualifications of the Principal, Textile Institute, Madras.

* 293 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR on behalf of Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Principal of the Textile Institute has obtained any University degree in textiles, and if not, what other technical or academical qualifications he has;

(b) what pay he is drawing now, and whether it was raised recently, and if so, for what reasons; and

(c) what the total cost of the Textile Institute was during the past three years, and whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to cut down the cost of establishment?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) He possesses no University Degree but has had technological training in spinning, weaving, bleaching and finishing in the City and Guilds London Institute and in the College of Technology, Manchester, and also in Textile Chemistry, etc., in the latter College.

“(b) Rs. 900 plus a personal pay of Rs. 50 per mensem. This personal pay of Rs. 50 in the scale of Rs. 50–50/2–100 was sanctioned only recently for the reasons that the duties and responsibilities of the post had, in recent years, increased and that his pay compared unfavourably with that of similarly placed technical officers in the department.

“(c) The total cost was as follows:—

Year.	Cost.
	RS.
1934–35	42,632
1935–36	39,979
1936–37	46,181

There is no proposal before Government to cut down the cost of the establishment.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Madam, what percentage of the total cost of the institute is covered by the salary, etc., of this officer?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Notice.”

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MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—" May I know, Madam, what the Hon. Minister means by 'personal pay'?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Personal allowance."

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—" May I know whether it is not a fact that the Textile Institute under the management of the present Director does give very great value to the textile industry of this Province generally?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" It is a matter of opinion. Further, I would like to have notice of the question."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I ask whether the same liberality will be evinced by the Government with regard to increasing the wages of the workers of the Government Press and other workshops?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I cannot reply off-hand. My sympathy will be with the hon. Member."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—" May I ask, Madam, why this additional impost of personal pay?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Probably his pay was considered not very high."

10-30 a.m. MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" Is it not a fact that persons occupying similar posts are paid higher than the textile expert?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" It is a matter of opinion."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether it is not a fact that the Industrial Engineer and the Inspector of Industrial Schools are paid far higher than the textile expert?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" It may be a fact."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether the Government is considering the question of reorganizing the Industries department with a view to remove any incongruities and also to displace the square men in round holes?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" If the hon. Member puts a question on this matter, it will certainly be given consideration."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" Is it not a fact that the only section on which the Government should concentrate is the Textile department and is it not a fact that this department has received the least encouragement from Government so far?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Not to my knowledge."

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AN HON. MEMBER:—" May I know whether the Government will consider the question of putting down the cost of establishment in this department?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" We shall consider this matter with reference to all departments."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" May I know the total cost of the Textile Department?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" It is rather a large question. I cannot answer it off-hand."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider the possibility of awarding technological scholarships to deserving students for undergoing training in commerce and industry in highly industrialized countries like Germany and Japan?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I do not think that question arises out of this."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MOTION UNDER RULE 15 (3).

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The next item is the Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" May I suggest to you, Sir, that the Select Committee Report on the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937, may be taken up first as the report is ready? If item III is taken up now the hon. Mover of the Bill will present the report of the Select Committee. So, I move, Sir, under rule 15 (3) that item III on the Agenda, i.e., the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937, may be taken up first."

The motion was put and carried.

III.—THE MADRAS REGULATION OF THE SALE OF CLOTH BILL, 1937 (L.A. BILL No. 2 OF 1937).

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the report^a of the Select Committee on the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937, and move that the Bill^a as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I feel constrained—particularly in view of the fact that this Bill has been fathered by my old Friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai, but yet public interests compel me—to oppose the consideration of the report of the Select Committee with all the ability that I can command."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"I suppose the hon. Member is not moving any amendment; no Member has given notice of any amendment."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"I just have a word to say just like yesterday. I have to request you to allow hon. Members to suggest any amendments on the floor of the House when each clause is taken up. The report has just been given to hon. Members and therefore we could not give amendments earlier."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I want to know if there are any amendments. If there are, hon. Members can pass them on to me."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Several amendments have been given notice of and they will have to be considered along with the Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"After the Bill has been referred to the Select Committee the Select Committee has reported on it. Any fresh amendments will have to be given notice of. That is the rule. Hon. Members moving any other amendments will have to pass them on to me. I shall waive notice."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I beg your pardon. Those amendments which have been given notice of have been considered in the Select Committee but they are to be discussed and disposed of here also. Therefore they are still in force."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am very sorry to have to suggest to the hon. Member who raised this point a reconsideration of his position. The whole object of forming a Select Committee is to examine the Bill in detail in the light of the amendments that had been given notice of by hon. Members and to minimize the work of this House. It is open to hon. Members who gave notice of amendments to reconsider their position in the light of the Bill as shaped in the Select Committee and offer such amendments which have not been embodied in the Bill and which were originally given notice of, or now give notice of any other amendments."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"All the amendments have been circulated in connexion with this Bill and they are in the possession of the House. If liberty could be given to Members to move those amendments without asking us to give fresh notice of amendments, it would be better. There was no time to read the Bill through as presented by the Select Committee. So, Sir, if you could give us the liberty of moving those amendments which have already been given notice of, it would satisfy us."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That will set aside the whole procedure in a deliberative Assembly. Due notice should be given of any amendments under the rules. The Chair waives notice in this particular case since the Select Committee report has been presented to-day; the amendments can be passed on to me just now. But all the previous amendments cannot be taken as amendments on the agenda paper."

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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I cannot understand this hurry and haste with regard to this matter. I can understand the reason for passing the Prohibition Bill in such hot haste because prohibition has to be introduced on the 1st October. But I am not convinced as to what urgency or what great hurry there is for a measure of this kind. After all this is a taxation measure. When taxation is to be introduced, there ought to be sufficient time given to persons who are interested in it. However much people may be willing to support the Government with a view to encourage handloom industry, fairness requires that there should be given some time for Members to consider what amendments are necessary, either to add to the provisions of the Bill or to delete some of the clauses already existing in the Bill. In the absence of any case having been made out for the measure to be rushed through in this manner, may I say in all humility to the Hon. the Premier that this matter may be postponed to some future date, say to some few weeks later or some other time? Nothing will be lost. This is a taxation measure and that being the case, Government will not be seriously handicapped if the matter is postponed for a short while so as to enable the people to understand the scope and implication of the various clauses. It should not be understood that we are against this measure for encouraging the handloom industry as against the mill industry or any other industry. As the Hon. Premier knows, this House does not intend to put any spokes in the wheel of the Government measure. Government, at the same time, should understand that it should allow time for Members to consider the measure and suggest amendments. It is impossible in a House of this magnitude, if such short notice is given, to consider amendments and argue on them and convince the Treasury Bench. So it is only reasonable that there should be some delay. Things should go at a moderate speed and not at this headlong speed."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I submit that we have to make a repetition of what we said yesterday when last this Bill was before the House. I do not think it will profit any one to go over the same argument. The only proposal that I have made is that the third item in our agenda of to-day might be taken up first. I want that to be taken first in order to preserve the continuity of discussion in regard to both matters, viz., the Sale of Cloth Bill and the Local Boards Bill. The Local Boards Bill has to be taken into consideration by the House and there seems to be a certain amount of difference amongst Members of this House in regard to that also. So I do not think it would be convenient if the clauses of the Cloth Bill were to be hung up to come in between a discussion on the Local Boards Bill and something else. I therefore suggest that this matter be taken up first."

"Now as regards the procedure as to amendments, I do not think any difference of opinion arises out of the proposal to adjourn the whole Bill. The Select Committee having presented their report only to-day the Chair has been pleased to waive the prescribed notice in regard to amendments. But the House having decided once to send the Bill to

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the Select Committee for report, and the report having been received they must agree to take up the Bill for consideration. Now the only question is if any hon. Member who has given notice of amendments still thinks that the notices of those amendments should be there and those amendments should be moved now even after the Select Committee has reported, he must simply say 'I move the amendments notice of which I have already given,' so that even writing work is not involved. The same notice may be referred to. It may be taken as notice of amendment for the Bill as shaped by the Select Committee. I submit, 10-45 a.m. Sir, that it would therefore be proper to proceed with the Bill leaving it to hon. Members to say whether they move amendments, they have given notice of or not."

MR. SPEAKER:—"May I know if the amendments previously given notice of are being communicated to me?"

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"I have just passed on a list of amendments to be handed over to you, Mr. Speaker."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I started by saying that I feel constrained to oppose the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee. Ordinarily when a Bill is sent to a Select Committee, it is the intention of the Government as well as the Opposition that it should be changed in such a way as to remove the points to which objection is taken by the Opposition, but this Bill has emerged from the Select Committee in a worsened form. I say 'worsened' deliberately considering the point of view of the class of people whom this Bill will affect. The alterations that have been made are of such a nature that I should have thought—although I do not raise a point of order on that point now—that republication of the Bill would be justified. I do not want to take up that position now, because we do not wish to employ any dilatory methods. On the other hand, if I oppose the motion, it is on principle. The foremost change has been made with regard to the sphere to which this Bill will apply. The word 'cloth' was there in the original Bill and the Select Committee considered the 'Sale of Cloth Bill.' Now we find the words 'place of business,' 'hawkers of cloth' and 'wearing apparel made of cloth' have been added. If the Bill had not been sent to the Select Committee only those dealers who sell cloth would have been affected. If the Bill had not been sent to a Select Committee, only dealers in pieces of cloth would have been affected. But as the Bill has emerged from the Select Committee even the selling of apparel made of a particular cloth is licensable. Originally under clause 4"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I ask if this is the stage at which the discussion of the details of the Bill should take place? The hon. Member may discuss the general provisions of the Bill and the principle of the Bill."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am opposing the Bill and I am giving my arguments why I oppose the Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not permissible for the hon. Member to go into every detail of the Bill."

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MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"If I do not point out the changes made in the Bill on account of which I am opposing it, I have no grounds for opposing it."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may take five minutes. If we proceed at this rate, one hour may be taken by the hon. Member in dealing with the details of the Bill."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I think, Mr. Speaker, you permit me to state my arguments and within those five minutes allowed to me that objection does not hold good."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Though that objection still holds good, it will not be taken serious notice of."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Thank you very much, Sir."

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was trying to show how the Bill has emerged in a worse form from the Select Committee. Now, Sir, not merely the places of sale but also hawkers who carry bundles of cloth in the streets have to be licensed. The other thing is the amount of Rs. 5,000 has been reduced to Rs. 3,000, so that any shop where the sale exceeds Rs. 3,000 will have to pay Rs. 5 as licence fees. Therefore, Sir, I am opposing the Bill not merely for the reasons I have already advanced but also for the main reason that it affects the poor hawkers. These people find it difficult to get any occupation, because they are not able to make both ends meet by their agriculture, they are taking to this hawking of cloth. As I have already stated, though this Bill is ostensibly intended to help the handloom industry, our opinion is that it does not help it to any extent. It affects, firstly, a class of people who have made this their occupation. It has been argued, Mr. Speaker, that if these hawkers cannot pay the licence fee, they may take to the hawking of handloom cloth. But the fee is not sufficiently high to make them give up the selling of mill cloth and take to the selling of handloom cloth. All the same they are adversely affected. I hope the hon. the Mover of the Bill and the Hon. the Premier will take into account this point of view and exclude the hawkers from the purview of the Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There are two amendments on paper one for circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion, and the other for referring the Bill to the Select Committee again. I do not think the second motion will be moved, at any rate the first motion may be moved now."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"They have been moved and disposed of. I now want to oppose the Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does it require considerable discussion?"

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Only one word, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes."

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KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“Sir, I would be failing in my duty to the electorate and the country at large if I did not throw my weight in opposing the Bill. My only object is and was to exempt the poor dealers including the hawkers from licence fees that are to be levied on the cloth dealers. All the arguments I could think of have been advanced both here as well as in the Select Committee. Government seem to think that the very object of the Bill will be frustrated if the smaller dealers are excluded. I am not, however, satisfied with it. So, Sir, I have to do my duty to oppose the Bill. The Government know all the arguments on our side and I hope they will reconsider the matter and kindly make up their minds to exclude the poor hawkers.”

(An hon. Member rose up to speak.)

* **MR. SPEAKER:—**“I think it has been sufficiently discussed. It would be waste of time to have any more discussion.”

* **DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—**“Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I should like to say just a few words on the general principles of the Bill. In the first place, I have to question the necessity for introducing a system of licensing with reference to the cloth trade. Generally, Sir, licences are levied in respect of matters affecting public safety and public welfare—licences for motor driving, licences under the Arms Act, licences for occupations like the keeping of dairy farms, storing of skins, explosives and the like. Cloth trade is the most harmless of all trades and there seems to be no necessity to regulate the cloth trade by the levy of a licence fee on dealers. In fact, the trade never at any time in the history of this world was in need of regulation. The Bill which ostensibly purports to regulate the cloth trade has not a word about any regulation. Regulation regarding the place of sale or the manner and method of sale, the people who should sell, the hours of sale—all these details are not found in the Bill. There is absolutely no regulation in the Bill so far as the cloth trade is concerned. On the other hand, the Bill seeks to levy a licence fee by way of taxation. If taxation is what is at the back of the mind of the Government who have brought forward this Bill then they could straightaway have recourse to the appropriate sections of the Government of India Act.

“Sir, I may inform the Hon. House that the Government of India Act gives sufficient power to Government to levy taxation. Section 82 of the Government of India Act says that a Bill or amendment making provision for imposing or increasing any tax shall not be introduced or moved except on the recommendation of the Governor and a Bill making such provision shall not be introduced in the Legislative Council. I take it, Sir, that there is sufficient power given under the Act for the imposition of taxation. And if the Government consider that without further taxation it would not be possible to run the administration they can resort to taxation. In Schedule VII. items 46 and 48, the same idea is perpetuated and we find that the Local

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Legislature is empowered to levy taxes on professions, trades, callings and employments and taxes on the sale of goods.

“That being the case, Sir, recourse is now had in the shape of the present Bill to fresh taxation, by calling the tax a licence. It has been very clearly defined in several cases that came both before the Privy Council and the High Courts of this Presidency and other Presidencies; that licences are intended only for fees leviable as compensation by any particular body or Government for expenses incurred in the issue of licences or the general regulation of the trade and other occupations which are licensed for the purpose of keeping such occupations under control. In other words, licence fee is intended to compensate a body, whether it is a local body or the Government, for expenses incurred by it for controlling a particular item of administration. In this case, Sir, if it is a compensation for the purpose of regulating the cloth trade and therefore it is necessary that it should be called a licence, I submit there is no necessity at all to regulate the cloth trade. As I have already submitted, cloth trade is the most harmless of trades. Every man that passes by, gets a few pieces of cloth and sells them and derives what little profit he can, as the margin between the cost of production and the sale price; this needs no regulation. What is apparently needed is additional revenue. If additional revenue is necessary, why not we go about the matter in a businesslike way and have recourse to section 82 of the Government of India Act and place before this House a measure for the levy of taxes on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor? If His Excellency the Governor's recommendation is to be dispensed with, by having recourse to this licence fee, I should say that it is not fair to this House or to the public who have sent us all to this House.

“In this connexion, I would invite the attention of the hon. Members to the decision of the Privy Council in 61 Madras Law Journal, page 740, *Corporation versus Pazandaung Bazaar Company, Limited*, Their Lordships of the Privy Council stated that the most elementary principle in the matter of the levy of licence fees is only a compensation for regulation. In an earlier decision, the same principle was put forward by the Madras High Court: in a case between the Corporation of Madras and Messrs. Spencer and Company, the Hon. Judges of the High Court decided in distinct terms that a licence fee could only be levied as a matter of compensation for regulating any particular business. Such being the case, Sir, I would, at the very outset, make objection to the consideration of this Bill which is in the nature of fresh taxation and not licence. Licence is not needed for the purpose intended by the Bill.”

* **THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—**“Mr. Speaker, Sir, by the attitude adopted by the Speakers on the Opposition benches, the impression is likely to be produced on the minds of the public that the Government, having a large majority at their back, are carrying this measure in the teeth of great and united opposition. Sir, I feel pity for the handloom weavers of Southern India, that not a single

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person on the Opposition benches has stood up to vindicate their cause and to enlist the sympathy of the House in their favour. All the sympathy and the concern shown in this House on the Opposition benches was for the mill industry. I am really sorry if this House has no sympathy for the handloom weaver; but I cannot say the 'House' because in the case of the people who belong to the Congress party, their mouths are shut, they are under restraint, they cannot stand up and speak, and also because they think it is not necessary for them to waste their breath in support of a measure of this nature, the need for which should be obvious to all those people who consider that the handloom industry requires some support and encouragement against the great competition that it has been facing for years and years together. The fact that $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of looms are working to-day in Southern India shows that there is something in the industry which has enabled it to withstand the great competition of both the foreign and the Indian mills. What is there in it, Sir, that it has survived all this competition? The reason is that there is a demand for handloom product, not only in this country but in foreign countries as well. Large stocks are being shipped of handloom products to foreign countries, orders are coming for them, orders have been coming for the past half a century. The handloom products have a great export value. I may also say that the handloom industry in the Madras Presidency, is the largest as compared to that of other provinces; and therefore it deserves all our support. Sir, I have myself been connected with the import of piecegoods from foreign countries and with export of piecegoods from India to foreign countries, for the last thirty-seven years in Madras, and I have therefore some experience of this trade. I may give one or two incidents just to illustrate how this handloom industry has been struggling. There is a large export of lungi cloth, and of cloth, which is called in foreign countries the Madras handkerchief. Manchester tried to take away this business from our province; they tried to imitate it; they dumped foreign goods into other countries where Madras goods were going; but the people there rejected the Manchester goods and said: 'No. It is all mill made, we won't have them.' Then Manchester puts holes on the edges of the cloth to show to and to deceive the people that it was handloom product; but the people again rejected it; they smelt it and rejected it. You know, Sir, that our handloom weavers use a kind of oil to just smoothen the yarn, and the people in Africa and elsewhere smelt the pieces and rejected the Manchester product because it had not that peculiar smell. So, Sir, Manchester gave up the idea in utter disgust and thought there was no use their imitating this handloom cloth. I have given this only one instance; if there is time, I would give you several instances to show what the handloom industry has achieved against foreign mill competition.

"I have not got facts and figures about handloom industry with me now; if they were collected and placed before you, I am quite certain they will stagger everybody and show what amount of this trade is now going on and how many people are now engaged in this handloom

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industry. This industry, as I said, is a big industry in our province. There is great demand for our product from people who are used to handloom products. They will not have anything other than handloom made cloth. That being the case, Sir, it does require some form of protection. If comparison is made of the present output of the handloom with what it was some 25 years ago, it will be found that it has gone down considerably. If there are $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of looms working to-day, we can well imagine that at least four times this number should have been working some thirty or forty years ago. Competition is encroaching much upon it and it is time that some protection is given to this industry.

"Sir, the levy of Rs. 2 or Rs. 5 on the sellers or dealers of cloth does not give any protection to this industry. But why then, it is asked, if it does not bring in much revenue and does not give any protection, why should this Bill be brought forward. That argument has been persistently put forward by the people sitting on the Opposition benches. But, Sir, this measure must be taken in another light. By passing this measure, a message will be sent from this Government to the handloom weavers in the whole province that this Government are on their side and they will not allow their industry to suffer. By passing this Bill a census will be taken of the dealers of handloom products and of the others, they will be classified and we will then know how many of them will have to pay the licence fees and how many will not have to pay. By passing this Bill, it is such a census that we will be facilitating. We will then know how this handloom industry stands and how further support can be given to it. At the same time, the message that we send of encouragement to the weavers by this enactment is bound to do a great deal. Personally, I should feel very sorry if this message were not to go from this House as a whole and it goes out only from the Congress Party.

"Sir, I need not take any more of the time of the House. I appeal to the Members sitting on the opposite side to take a broader view of this question and not to haggle about small things. After all, a licence fee of Rs. 2 or Rs. 5 will not kill the mill industry. The mill industry is quite able to take care of itself.

"One thing also I may mention. On Saturday last some members spoke as if handloom cloth was only 'Khaddar.' The handloom product covered by this Bill is not khaddar alone. Khaddar is a very very little part of the handloom product. The handloom cloth is made mostly of Indian mill yarn and foreign yarn; no doubt hand-spun yarn is used to a small extent; but it is Indian mill yarn and to my shame, I have to say that a large quantity of foreign yarn is used in the handloom products. Something may be done in future to restrict the use of the foreign yarn in the handloom but that is not our concern now. The whole product of the handloom industry requires encouragement and this Bill is intended to give that encouragement and serve as a message of support from this Government to the handloom weavers."

* MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have just now listened to a very good speech and I do believe that it is a

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my duty to speak a few words at this stage. I am sure the issue has been very much confused by the Hon. Minister for Public Works. We on the Opposition Benches, never wanted to say anything against the handloom weaver. We are not against the handloom weaver. We are here taking this opportunity to protect the interests of the hawker, the poor hawker, about whom I want to speak here. It is unfortunate that in our affection for the handloom weaver we should forget the interests of the other sections of the community. In our love for the handloom weaver we are forgetting that there are other sections of the community who have also a claim in our sympathies. It is not sentiment that should be allowed to have a part in the administration of any province. It is not sentiment that can guide us in the adoption of a definite policy of taxation. On the other hand it should be the fundamental principles of taxation that should govern us in our activities. But unfortunately the issue has been confused.

"I can assure you, Sir, that we have our heartfelt concern for the handloom weaver and we realize that that industry requires support and encouragement. If the Government is prepared to give ten lakhs of rupees to that industry instead of two, we are prepared to vote. But unfortunately the Government must understand that in their anxiety to give any kind of help or support to the handloom weaver, they should not jeopardise the interests of other sections of the community.

"Sir, as the Premier remarked the other day we are making a choice between two evils here. There is the handloom weaver and there is the hawker. But unfortunately I fail to see how we are going to improve the situation by making a choice of that sort. Are we sure, thereby, to minimize the misery that is already there? If we, out of our love for the handloom weaver, tax the hawker so that the support given to the handloom weaver is substantial, are we going to minimise in any way the misery in the country? Why should we have a rate system which does harm to these poor hawkers? But unfortunately the Premier is not willing to explain. He referred to classes of hawkers, one dealing with mill cloth and another the weaver himself taking the produce to the market. According to the Premier the hawker dealing in mill cloth was also in the market. Why should not the hawker be there? Why should not the handloom weaver also be there? It is for the buyer to give the encouragement to whomsoever he likes. The Government may appeal to people to support the handloom weaver. That is the kind of propaganda that the Government should carry out. It should not be a question of our spoiling the market for the hawker. After all both the handloom weaver and the hawker are out there to earn their livelihood. It is for the people not to purchase mill cloth. It is for the people to understand the interests of the handloom weaver. The Government should not spoil the interests of the hawker for the sake of the handloom weaver.

"And if the hawker shows a preference for the mill cloth, I am afraid it is because of its low cost of production. He is able to sell the mill cloth at a cheaper rate. It is not the case with the product of the

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handloom weaver. Our duty therefore is to improve the handloom industry and bring down the cost of production in that industry too. In my opinion if there is anyone who can be said to sin against the handloom weavers it is the public and not the hawker. The public should sympathise with the handloomer and give him the necessary co-operation.

"Sir, in his reply to a criticism the other day that the Bill might prove a failure, the Hon. the Premier said that in the past they had launched movements and withdrawn movements and it would not stand in his way to accept the failure of this Bill. But I cannot see the analogy between that and this thing. Here you are in power. Power has been conferred on you and you are expected to act with the utmost sagacity and wisdom. It is not a question of mere experiment. We are dealing with money that has been poured into our hands by the millions of the poor citizens of this province. We are administering public finance and I am afraid that it won't be good on our part to go on experimenting. So long as power has not been conferred on us we may experiment in policies but, once we are in power, our aim must be to carry out those policies that prove to be in the interests of the people. But it is not open to us to experiment in matters that touch public finance.

"Sir, I have nothing more to add except a request that I just wish to make and that is that the Treasury Benches should not presume that we are trying to put any kind of opposition or obstruction to their programme. We wish only to point out the difficulties that we see in the Bill. It is for them to see if the difficulties are real and if they are real, to give them the necessary consideration."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am deeply grateful, Sir, for this last speech that was made. It has shown to me that there is no use being tired of saying a thing over and over again if you want to impress it on people who hold a different opinion. It was a perfect illustration of a very good heart, of very correct principles and wrong conclusions. I cannot find fault with the motive behind every utterance that we heard, Sir, from Mr. Abdur Rahman Khan, from Kurnool, if I am right. Every proposition was sound and it is interesting to see how the result could be wrong and that is just what I am trying to place before the House just now. He said, 'why should not the hawker be there?' Why should not the handloom weaver also be there? It is the customer, it is the buyer that goes wrong. It is true that the handloom weaver should be supported. But we must ax the customer. We must not interfere with the hawker. It is quite right; but we have interfered with the handloom weaver. That is what I want him to remember. We are now, as the hon. Member says, trying to interfere with the hawker. But we have already interfered with and ruined the handloom weaver. And what I propose the House should do is to make some little reparation for what has been

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done already. Does not the hon. Member know, Sir, that the Indian mills have been protected by law, that taxation has been levied and that hon. Members including all of us, pay a certain tax indirectly for the mill cloth that we buy because, we want to protect it against foreign cloth? Now in that protection, I want to point out to the hon. Member, we have done something which has hit hard the handloom weaver. Can the handloom weavers, the Manchester weavers, the Japan weavers, be put on the same scale? That is what has been done. What we are now trying to do is to help the handloom weaver at least to find a market. It was said that the hawker is poor and that he has been trying to eke out a livelihood somehow to make both ends meet, by going to the markets in the villages with a load of mill cloth. The hon. Member said that he is carrying his produce. It is not his produce. He is acting as a tool. He is carrying other people's produce, produce being the result of the work of giants. There is no mistake about the facts. There is only a mistake in the reasoning of the hon. Member. The hon. Member forgets for a moment that the produce the hawker is carrying, is other people's produce, giants' produce and this goes to hurt the handloom weaver. But what really he can say is that this man's occupation is being interfered with and that is the aspect of the matter in which he comes in line with the hon. Member Mr. Schamnad and the leader of the Muslim League and Mr. Appadurai Pillai to some extent. Well, the point is, is it right to interfere with the occupation of the hawker? And in that connexion, Sir, it is important, as the Bill has now emerged from the Select Committee, it is important for me to explain why we want this poor hawker to be charged a licence fee of two rupees. I quite admit, as Mr. Appadurai Pillai says, if the question was as to the amount of fees, the principles he referred to by quoting cases establish that the fees should not be very heavy, should not be on a taxation standard but should only be on a regulation and control standard. The fee that is now sought to be levied is two rupees or five rupees and it does not come up to the taxation standard which is condemned. In the cases that he referred to, the question is not as to the amount of fees at all. I hope the hon. Member will forgive me when I say that he was confusing the question of licence with the question of licence fee. The question that he made out from the decided cases was only about the fees. Here there is no question of any exorbitant fee involved. He asks me why"

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"On a point of explanation. The Hon. the Prime Minister said that I was confusing the issue between a licence and licence fee. Sir, it is my humble submission the High Court laid down a clear dictum as follows:—

'There is a very great deal of difference between taxes and licence fees leviable under the Madras City Municipal Act of 1919 and the power given by section 385 (2) of the Act to the Council to levy a licence fee cannot be regarded as power of taxation.'

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THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I could have read exactly the same thing. He has read it for me. I do submit that the quotation he makes is not an answer to my objection to the Bill as it stands. The position is, is regulation the object of the Bill? The object of the Bill is regulation and control. The object of the Bill is to give protection to the handloom. It is not a taxation measure. It may lead to taxation but it is not a taxation measure. Sir, the protection that we seek to give to the handloom is not by taking money from the hawker or the licence dealer but by creating a market and a machinery for the handloom weaver and by removing the machinery, all too easy machinery, which the enemy of the handloom weaver commands.

"The idea is that some of these very poor village hawkers will not prefer to continue dealing in mill cloth paying the licence fee, but may prefer to a great extent or a small extent to give support and encouragement to their neighbour, the handloom weaver. They live together, they are moving in the same area, they are in the same market, and if only they prefer to carry a load of handloom cloth instead of mill cloth, both of them could live and both of them could help one another, and the handloom weaver need not starve for want of a market. That is the object. We are more particular that the small dealer, the small hawker should have to make a preference in favour of handloom cloth. We are not so particular about taxation that is to be levied from the big dealer. That is why, Sir, that whatever the volume of his business may be it is proposed to levy a licence fee of only Rs. 5. We are very particular that the village dealer should have a hurdle across his way. He should feel the effects of the hurdle. The slightest obstruction on the footpath makes us respond to the inertia, and we make a curve and just get round the obstruction. In the same way, this Rs. 2 hurdle is just a little thing standing in the way of the small hawker just to make him take a little turn aside and take to the handloom product for sale if he feels it hard to pay this licence fee.

"I think I have answered all the objections. The first of the objections was, 'why do you interfere with the hawker, who cannot afford to pay this fee?' I have answered it. Then, it was asked, 'why do you put a small fee in the case of the bigger dealers?' The answer is, is it only regulation and licensing.

"Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed went over the whole ground, and also Mr. Abdur Rahman went over the whole ground again. I submit, Sir, we are not discussing the whole of the principles over again, though it comes up again and again without end.

"Reference was made to the magic phrase 'His Excellency the Governor's recommendation.' That also was discussed on a point raised, I think, by Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed. These Bills come from the Government and cannot come without His Excellency's recommendation, and that is all that is intended in the section of the Government of India Act, that was referred to. A private Member cannot bring

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Neutral.

1 Zamindar of Bodinayakkanur.
2 Zamindar of Kattuputtur.3 Mr. D. R. Issac.
4 Mrs. Kadija Yakub Hassan.

Ayes: 143. Noes: 25. Neutral: 4.

The motion was carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Bill as reported by the Select Committee will be taken into consideration. I shall put clause by clause."

Clause 2.

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name, namely,—

'Omit the words "or in articles of wearing apparel made of cloth" appearing in lines 3 and 4 of sub-section (1) of clause 2.'

"My submission in the first place is that the insertion of these words has made the situation worse than what it was before the Bill went up to the Select Committee. The licence fee on cloth would affect only a single party, whereas the licence fee on all articles of wearing apparel made of cloth affects also the tailor who can put together bits of cloth and make a wearing apparel of them. This would be carrying the business of taxation even to the homes of the poor tailors. I would plead for the omission of the words 'or in articles of wearing apparel made of cloth,' so that the clause may remain as it was before it went up to the Select Committee."

The motion was duly seconded.

The amendment was put and lost.

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"I do not move my next amendment because it is on the lines of my amendment under sub-clause (1)."

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3 was put and carried.

Clause 4.

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"I beg to move my amendment, viz.,—

'insert the words "per year" after the word "payable" appearing in line 1 of sub-clause (1) of clause 4.'

"My intention is only to bring out the fact that this is an annual fee and not a monthly or a periodical fee; it is a fee payable per year. My amendment is only intended to make the provision of the clause clearer."

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MR. B. BHAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU:—"I second it."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Before the question is put, may I point out to the hon. Member that it is merely a drafting amendment? The proposal was fully considered in the Select Committee and it was pointed out that it would merely create confusion. The licence is an annual licence; the renewal is an annual renewal. It is only a fee and not a fee per year. It would create unnecessary ambiguity if we insert the words 'per year' after 'payable.' There is no question of principle involved in this. The hon. Member thinks that the meaning of the clause is brought out better by putting in the words 'per year.' It would only bring in confusion. So I request him not to press his amendment."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"I do not press it."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'that in line 4 of sub-clause (a), after the words "under this Act," the words "is more than one thousand rupees but" be added.'

"The object of this amendment is to exempt the petty cloth dealers, particularly those who, out of the remnants they get here and there, make small pieces of wearing apparel and sell them on shandy days. We find on these days any number of people of the tailoring class getting a living wage, earning 3 to 4 annas a day. If you are going to tax them also it would be a great hardship to them. Therefore I move this amendment, that all those whose monthly turnover is less than Rs. 1,000 may not be taxed."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second it."

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noon.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, if we have been opposing this measure, we have been doing so for some reasons of which this is the main one. We agree with the Government that the class of people who are engaged in the handloom industry should be helped and that is why we agreed with the Government in passing the grant of two lakhs for the spinning wheel. We know that a certain class of our people is helped by this means. At the same time we do not want that the Government should take away from the very, very poor class of people who, for want of other employment, are engaged in this trade, anything from their meagre earnings. If we tax large traders, I suppose they can afford to pay, but not these poor people. Our intention in moving this amendment is to exempt these poor class of traders in cloth. It does not matter to us what they deal in, whether in mill cloth or in handloom cloth. In compelling this class of people to pay this licence fee, we are convinced not by sentiment but by

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in a Bill of this kind. That is the meaning of that section. Only the Government can do so, and therefore there is no objection by way of any illegality or anything of that kind, though a reference to the section might make one imagine that we are doing something outside the Government of India Act.

"I submit, Sir, that we have spent more time than we should over the Bill, after the Select Committee has very carefully examined the Bill, the Committee including, let me remind you, all those Gentlemen who now raise the point. It is true, it is perfectly right that they have the right to raise these points. I do not say they have no right. They wanted that this Bill should be sent to the Select Committee, and they came into the Select Committee. I wish to say this, that the Bill was reshaped in the Select Committee with their assistance. Therefore, I say that we might proceed to consider the Bill."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is: that the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and declared carried.

MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF demanded a poll, which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

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| 1 The Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar. | 32 Mr. M. Doraikannu. |
| 2 " " T. Prakasam. | 33 " A. R. A. S. Doraiswami Nadar. |
| 3 " " Yakub Hasan. | 34 " C. K. Govindan Nayar. |
| 4 " Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 35 " V. J. Gupta. |
| 5 " Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai. | 36 " S. Guruvulu. |
| 6 " " V. V. Giri. | 37 " K. Ishwara. |
| 7 " " S. Ramanathan. | 38 Mrs. Jebamoney Masilamoney. |
| 8 " " K. Raman Menon. | 39 Mr. D. Kadirappa. |
| 9 " " B. Gopal Reddi. | 40 " Kala Venkata Rao. |
| 10 Mr. P. Achuthan. | 41 " A. Kaleswara Rao. |
| 11 " P. M. Adikesavalu Naicker. | 42 " K. Kamaraja Nadar. |
| 12 Srimathi G. Ammannaraja. | 43 " E. Kannan. |
| 13 Mr. B. Anantachar. | 44 " K. R. Karant. |
| 14 Srimathi Anjalai Ammal. | 45 " A. Karunakara Menon. |
| 15 Mr. N. Annamalai Pillai. | 46 " K. Kolandavelu Nayanar. |
| 16 " H. B. Ari Gowder. | 47 " K. Koti Reddi. |
| 17 " Muthu. Kr. Ar. Kr. Arunachalam Chettiyar. | 48 " S. Krishna Kudumban. |
| 18 " S. C. Balakrishnan. | 49 " G. Krishnamurti. |
| 19 " M. Bapineedu. | 50 " L. Krishnaswami Bharathi. |
| 20 " M. Bhaktavatsalam. | 51 " K. Kulasekharan. |
| 21 " K. Bhashyam Ayyangar. | 52 " P. S. Kumaraswami Raja. |
| 22 Sriman Y. V. A. Bhaskara Rao Mahasayo. | 53 " P. I. Kunhammad Kutty Hajee. |
| 23 Mr. V. Bhuvaram Ayyangar. | 54 " K. Kuppuswami Ayyar. |
| 24 " P. Buchappa Nayudu. | 55 " V. Kurmayya. |
| 25 " K. Chandramouli. | 56 Srimathi A. V. Kuttimalu Amma. |
| 26 " G. Chelvapathi Chetti. | 57 Mr. O. Lakshmanaswami. |
| 27 " O. Chengam Pillai. | 58 " P. Lakshmanaswami. |
| 28 " S. Chidambaram Ayyar. | 59 Srimathi Lakshmi Ammal. |
| 29 " P. Chinnamuthu. | 60 " K. Lakshmi Ammal. |
| 30 " T. S. Chockalingam Pillai. | 61 Dr. N. Lakshmi Devi. |
| 31 " M. P. Damodaram. | 62 Mr. P. Madhavan. |
| | 63 " R. S. Manikkam. |
| | 64 " M. Mariemuthu. |

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Ayes—cont.

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| 65 Mr. S. T. P. Marimuthu Pillai. | 105 Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi. |
| 66 " P. K. Moideen Kutty. | 106 Swami A. S. Sahajananda. |
| 67 " K. S. Muhammad Abdul Kadir Ravuttar. | 107 Mr. K. Sakthivadivelu Gounder. |
| 68 " Muhammad Abdur Rahman. | 108 Dr. M. J. Samuel. |
| 69 " K. Muhammad Rahmattullah. | 109 Mr. P. R. K. Sarma. |
| 70 " B. S. Murti. | 110 " A. B. Shetty. |
| 71 " Muthuramalinga Tevar. | 111 " K. Shanmugam. |
| 72 " V. Nadimuthu Pillai. | 112 " K. A. Shanmuga Mudaliyar. |
| 73 " N. Nagaraja Ayyangar. | 113 " B. T. Seshadriachariyar. |
| 74 " S. Nagiah. | 114 " H. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 75 " D. L. Narasimha Raju. | 115 " J. Sivashanmugham Pillai. |
| 76 " C. Narasimham. | 116 Sri Raja Vasireddi Durga Sadasiveswara Prasad Bahadur Manne Sultan. |
| 77 " K. V. Narayana Rao. | 117 Mr. Kallur Subba Rao. |
| 78 " M. G. Natesa Chettiyar. | 118 " Karunakaram Subba Rao. |
| 79 " P. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 119 " N. M. R. Subbarama Ayyar. |
| 80 " C. Obi Reddi. | 120 " P. Subbayya. |
| 81 " V. C. Palaniswami Gounder. | 121 " C. P. Subbayya Mudaliyar. |
| 82 " M. Pallam Raju. | 122 " A. Subramanian. |
| 83 " C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar. | 123 " K. V. R. Swami. |
| 84 " P. Pedda Padalu. | 124 " V. S. R. M. Valliappa Chettiyar. |
| 85 " K. S. Periaswami Gounder. | 125 " K. Varadachariar. |
| 86 " K. Periyaswami Gounder. | 126 " N. S. Varadachariar. |
| 87 " M. P. Periyaswami. | 127 " A. Vedaratnam Pillai. |
| 88 " V. R. Perumal Chettiyar. | 128 " G. Venkanna. |
| 89 " B. Perumalla Nayudu. | 129 " Gopavaram Venkata Reddi. |
| 90 " R. Ponnuswami Pillai. | 130 " K. Venkata Reddi. |
| 91 " R. Raghava Menon. | 131 " B. Venkatachalam Pillai. |
| 92 Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah. | 132 " P. T. Venkatachariar. |
| 93 Mr. B. Raja Rao. | 133 " B. Venkatanarayana Reddi. |
| 94 " A. K. A. Ramachandra Reddiyar. | 134 " S. C. Venkatappa Chettiyar. |
| 95 " R. B. Ramakrishna Raju. | 135 " R. Venkatappa Nayudu. |
| 96 " T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi. | 136 " K. Venkatappayya Pantulu. |
| 97 " D. Ramalinga Reddiyar. | 137 " P. Venkatarama Ayyar. |
| 98 " A. Ramalingam. | 138 " R. S. Venkataramayya. |
| 99 " D. V. Ramaswami. | 139 " B. Venkatarama Baliga. |
| 100 " K. S. Ramaswami Goundar. | 140 " R. Venkatasubba Reddiyar. |
| 101 " V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 141 " V. Venkatasubbayya. |
| 102 " N. Ranga Reddi. | 142 " T. Viswanatham. |
| 103 " G. Rangayya Nayudu. | 143 " K. P. Yagneswara Sarma. |
| 104 " P. Ratnavelu Tevar. | |

Noes.

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| 1 Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan. | 14 Kumararaja M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar of Chettinad. |
| 2 Arakal Sultan Abdur Rahman Ali Rajah. | 15 Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig. |
| 3 Mr. K. Abdur Rahiman Khan. | 16 Mir Akram Ali. |
| 4 " D. Abdul Rawoof. | 17 Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur. |
| 5 Jamedar Adimoolam. | 18 Mr. J. Nuttall. |
| 6 Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai. | 19 " J. Raja Rao. |
| 7 Mr. P. M. Attakoya Thangal. | 20 " Saiyed Ibrahim. |
| 8 " B. Bhakthavathsalu Nayudu. | 21 " M. A. Salam. |
| 9 " E. H. M. Bower. | 22 " Shaiku Muhammad Laljan. |
| 10 " E. M. D'mello. | 23 " J. M. Smith. |
| 11 " S. Ghouse Mohideen. | 24 Khan Sahib V. K. Unnikammoo. |
| 12 " H. S. Hussain. | 25 Sir William Wright. |
| 13 " T. T. Krishnamachari. | |

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experience, we will be compelling them to go out of the trade. We want to prevent that catastrophe. I hope the Government will not allow this to go to the extent of taking away the food from the mouths of a class of people whose only means of livelihood is this trade."

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr Speaker, I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Rawoof. Sir, after considerable discussion in the Select Committee, the sum of Rs. 5,000 which was originally fixed was reduced to Rs. 3,000. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'Whom does it help?')

"Sir, I may tell the House, the very life of this Bill lies in this clause. Some of my hon. Friends feel that if this clause is passed certain classes of people will go without wages and without work. I may assure those friends that there is no ground for that apprehension. Most of the people who, they say, carry on business as hawkers will equally be benefited by having an Act of this kind. I think the amendment would not fit in with the framework of the Bill. I therefore oppose it. This is the most important part of the Bill."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 4 was put and carried.

Clause 4-A.

* MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"Sir, I move that clause 4-A be deleted. I have already explained my reasons for this omission and therefore it is unnecessary for me to speak at length on this point.

"Sir, the Hon. the Premier said some time ago that the hawker will in course of time, take to selling the handloom product. I am afraid it is not so easy as that. There should be a spontaneous desire on the part of the public to buy the handloom products. Till then, is the hawker of the mill cloth to die of starvation? If this clause is allowed to remain in the Act, it will do a great hardship to the hawkers. I am sure the Hon. Minister will find some way out of this and do something for the class of hawkers who deal in mill products."

MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"I second the amendment."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Sir, I little thought, when the Bill went before the Select Committee, that it would emerge in this form. I have got more than I have bargained for. The clause not only hits the shop-keeper but it also hits my poor friend the hawker. Sir, the hawker is exposed every day to sun and rain and it will be very hard for him if he is to be brought under the licence system. There will be considerable difficulty to find out the 'place of business' or shop of these hawkers. A hawker has no shop. It is only his house. He collects pieces of cloth and then goes about hawking. I do not know what would be called his place of business. If it is his house, it will be hard to tax a man in his own house, and if it is under a tree or on a pial, it will be equally hard.

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"My next submission is that hawkers sometimes carry with them mill cloth as well as handloom cloth. It will be difficult to differentiate which portion of his goods consists of mill cloth and which portion consists of handloom cloth. In view of this difficulty it will be better if the hawker is left out of consideration. After all, the loss incurred by leaving the hawker out of consideration, as I said, would not be much. I believe the intention of the Hon. the Premier and the Hon. Mover of the Bill is that if a hawker is subject to a licence fee he might be induced to confine his attention only to handloom cloth and would be deterred from taking to the sale of mill cloth. Sir, this result will be achieved in course of time when the shop-keepers themselves would cease stocking mill cloths and would have recourse only to handloom cloth seeing that it is licence-free. The hawker also would then fall in line. But now to take hold of him and levy a licence-fee from him would be unfair. I would therefore plead for the deletion of the whole clause which relates to the hawker."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, this is the real life-blood of the whole Bill. The hawker is the last and the most important part of the instrument of the machinery which is working against the handloom weaver. The weaver weaves and goes to his neighbouring market and finds that market closed against him because of the hawker who is employed and given credit by the foreign importer of Japanese cloth and the managers of cheaper mill products. I submit, Sir, that the story that the hawker will give up his business altogether, because we demand Rs. 2 for one year is a little exaggerated, if not altogether wrong. These people who are asked to pay Rs. 2 per year belong to one of two classes; either they get credit from their principals for selling this cloth, in which case, they will be paid these Rs. 2 by people who organize the sales through them and the licence will be purchased by the principals, or, if they are their own masters and they buy and sell on their own account, without any important connexion with the managers of foreign cloth business or mill business, they will not refuse to choose one of two alternatives; to pay the Rs. 2 if they really believe in the way that they have hitherto been selling or to buy their neighbour's cloth and take it and sell it and nothing will happen.

"Then it was said, Sir, that they will be involved in trouble and that I must find a way out. I say, I have found a way out. I say: 'My friend, the hawker, Rs. 2 per year is not too much. But you can help your neighbour, the handloom weaver, to sell his cloth. But if you think your cloth sells better, you can ask your owner to pay the licence fee for twelve months.' These Rs. 2 that we propose to levy are immediately transferable to the mill-owners and the importers of foreign cloth. But in cases where it is not transferable, the fee is made so small as Rs. 2 just to suit the hawkers, so that they

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may not give up their business altogether. If this is removed, on the other hand, the whole Bill might as well be given up. That is the situation."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 4-A was put and carried.

Clauses 5 and 6 were put and carried.

Clause 1 was then put and carried.

The Preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I have given notice of a numbering amendment, Sir. As it is, the Bill, for the first time, introduces section 4-A and things like that. They might as well be avoided. I move that clause 4-A be numbered as 5, clause 5 be numbered as 6, and clause 6 as 7."

The motion was put and carried.

12-15 p.m. THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"I move that the Bill as amended by this House be passed into law."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

IV.—THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1937.

* THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill * further to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards and Elementary Education (Amendment) Act, 1934, for certain purposes and move that the Bill be taken into consideration by the Assembly at once.

"Sir, the Bill has already been published on the 21st instant and I now move that the Bill be taken into consideration. As I move for the consideration of this Bill, it is very strange that my maiden speech on the floor of this House should be on a measure which is so contentious in its nature and controversial in its effect. But as I feel the urgency for a measure of this kind I bring forward this Bill. I know that hon. Members opposite will thunder on this Bill. In considering this question it is the system of nomination that has to be seriously taken into account. I always feel strongly against the system of nomination. If I say anything strongly on this subject I should not be understood that I am saying anything against any particular Minister or the previous administration.

"Now we are having Provincial autonomy in eleven Provinces in India. All of us know that the Provincial Assemblies are functioning on an entirely elective basis and no member is nominated to them by anybody. In these circumstances, if nominated members in the District Boards are removed by this Legislation, I do not think much comment is needed for that. But, as I expected, some amendments have been

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given notice of by hon. Members and some controversy will be raised on this. Anyhow let me take back the House to the days of nominations when they were in vogue for several years and they were administered by several Ministries from 1920—perhaps even prior to this we had these nominations—right up to 1930 when my Hon. Colleague Dr. Subbarayan moved the amending Bill of 1930, and got rid of nominations altogether. There is a specific provision in the Act of 1930 that all the Members of the Board shall be elected. There is no condition given, nor any scope to nominate members. It has been specifically provided that no nominated members will have seats in the Municipal Councils and Local Bodies. After four years had elapsed, in the beginning of 1934, we had an amending Bill to the Local Boards Act whereby nominations were sought to be revived in the District Boards. I feel there is an unfortunate clause in the transitory provision—section 7(cc) of the Schedule in Appendix XII—in the Local Boards Act, whereby in the case of bifurcated District Boards the Government have got the power of nominations. I can very well understand the abolition of Taluk Boards. I agree that there was justification for the bifurcation of district boards, but I do not know what considerations prevailed for bringing back this much hated system of nomination in the local bodies. It will be remembered that there is section 9 (1) giving power to Government for reserving seats for minority communities even in the case of bifurcated district boards. There is a feeling in the House, that, if this Bill is passed, it is going to upset all previous arrangements and remove all the nominated Members straightaway. Owing to the abolition of taluk boards in April 1934, about 208 taluk board presidents and about 3,000 taluk board members were asked to quit their places. These presidents of taluk boards got themselves elected after great strain. When compared to this, to ask 119 members of the bifurcated district boards to go away is nothing. The late Mr. Munuswami Nayudu introduced taluk boards for all revenue taluks. They were abolished within 13 months, and by an amendment of the Act people were nominated in different ways to the district boards, besides abandoning the provision that reserved seats for minority communities and women should not exceed one-fourth the total strength of these boards. They have upset many other things done by the previous Ministry. So if I do anything now it is not because I feel I must upset something done by the previous Ministry but because, of the experience gained and the several circumstances that have cropped up afterwards. It is on account of these factors that I am bound to bring forward this measure and ask that these nominated people should go. This nomination is bad in principle and may I add, Sir, worse in application. I will give you figures to show how the system of nomination was used by the previous Ministry. When the amending Bill of 1934 was brought forward by the Raja of Bobbili and when it was referred to the Select Committee there was nothing in the original Bill or in the Select Committee Proceedings to show that they were going to waive this one-fourth limit for the minority community out of the total strength. Everybody thought that

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they were going to stick to this one-fourth limit for the representation of minority communities and women even in the case of bifurcated district boards. But when it came to voting just at the close of the debate one nominated Member Mr. Devadasan, moved an amendment saying that 'notwithstanding anything contained in section' so and so the maximum strength of the minority communities and women might be raised, and that the Government may be permitted to exceed the minimum limit of nominated members to bifurcated boards. It is rather unfortunate that section 7 (cc) of the transitional provisions which was found in the original Bill and also in the Select Committee report was sought to be amended in this way at the eleventh hour and the Rajah of Bobbili accepted the amendments. I myself feel that sufficient consideration was not bestowed on that clause. The bifurcated boards would have functioned well irrespective of the minimum and maximum strength but for that particular clause moved by Mr. Devadasan and accepted by the Rajah of Bobbili. In my opinion that clause works a great hardship to the elected majorities in the District Boards.

12-30 p.m. "Sir, for the benefit of the House I may cite the nominations made to a few district boards. Ellore comes first with 10 nominated members. The total strength is 30 and there are already three members representing minority interests. Thus it comes to 13 members out of 30 or over 40 per cent. Likewise there are several boards where such nominations have been made. Narsapur, North Ramnad, Erode, Dharmapuri and North Nellore, are boards where nominations have worked havoc.

"As I object to the very principle of nomination, I also protest very vehemently against the application of the principle. Any constitutional theory must be judged by the effect it produces, and the system of nominations has worked havoc in several district boards against the elected majorities. When we see how the elected majorities have been converted into minorities, my objection to the principle of nomination becomes stronger.

"After the bifurcation of the district boards, power was taken by the Government to nominate members to the bifurcated district boards. I think it was in November 1935 that the first bifurcation was effected. My hon. Friend Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai was the first victim of that bifurcation and nomination policy. Tanjore was bifurcated; suddenly one part of the district was taken away from his hands and nominations were made. Another member who was diametrically opposed to him in politics became the district board president. The general elections were over and Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai was elected the president of the entire board. One fine morning he sees half the district taken away from his hands and put into the hands of his political opponent. Thus from November 1935 till January 1937, we had these bifurcations hanging over all district boards. Even Nilgiris the smallest district seems to have been thought of for this purpose. I do not know why it was abandoned. Perhaps Mr. Ari Gowder will be able to tell us. But board

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after board was bifurcated. I do not object much to bifurcation. Certain boards will have to be bifurcated owing to their unwieldy nature and the difficulty of administration. That is a different principle altogether. We will come to it when my hon. Friend Dr. Subbarayan will move an important amendment about the reamalgamation of bifurcated district boards. I want to refer to the bifurcations that were made last December in the case of six boards. These six boards were East Godavari, Kistna, Nellore, Salem, Coimbatore and Ramnad. They were having their general elections and there were indications that in all these boards except probably in Kistna the Congress Party was going to have a decisive majority. In Ramnad about 17 to 20 seats were captured by the Congress unopposed. Nellore returned 17 candidates unopposed on the side of the Congress. In East Godavari also the Congress got many seats unopposed. In Salem more than 20 seats were captured by the Congress unopposed. In Coimbatore though the Congress did not actually contest the election there were signs that a nationalist candidate would become the president of the board. In this state of affairs when the 23rd of December was fixed as the last day for the election, on the 15th December these boards were sought to be bifurcated. There were suspicions that these bifurcations had been ordered in order to thwart the elective majorities of these boards. On the 15th December they were bifurcated; but immediately there were no nominations. After waiting for days and days, nobody was certain how many nominations were going to be made. Some said that 10 members would be nominated, some said, 4, while others said that there was a tussle between the Secretary and the Minister and that there was not going to be any nomination at all. The whole district was kept in suspense and nobody knew what was going to happen in the presidential election. Sir, these nominations, as I have already answered in connexion with some supplementary questions, were sometimes published in Gazettes Extraordinary and communicated telegraphically to the nominated members so that they could participate in the presidential elections. I know of one case where the election was fixed for the 5th January while on the 3rd January a Gazette Extraordinary was issued and telegraphic communication was sent to the members nominated asking them to participate in the presidential election. The Collector also was directed that irrespective of the short notice given, the nominated members must be allowed to take part in the election of the president. That, Sir, is a very wrong policy that elected members should be kept in suspense for such a long time and that on the eve of the presidential election unknown people—by unknown people, I mean people whose names were not published previously so that they may be canvassed—were nominated and they all voted against the Congress Party candidate. So, Sir, I contend that these nominations were all made with a purpose. I do not question the motive of the nominations made then or subsequently, but I say that it was unfortunate that these nominations were used as if to spite the Congress and spite the Congress majorities in the several district boards. In spite of such nominations

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of six, seven or eight members in some cases, in spite of all of them voting against the Congress candidates, the Congress candidates won in some places and in other places lost by one vote. Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar of Dharmapuri, in spite of seven nominated members voting against him, lost his election only by a narrow majority of one vote. Sometimes the reverse also happened. In Rajahmundry, in spite of seven nominated members voting against him, Mr. Subba Rao won the election by one vote and became the district board president. Thus, except in one case, all the nominated members voted against the Congress candidates. Besides that, there are instances where defeated people have been nominated to these district boards. Generally defeated candidates are not nominated but under the system of nominations to these district boards, even defeated candidates were nominated to them in some cases. My friend Mr. Bapineedu tells me that defeated candidates were nominated to the Narsapur board. Again, I think it was in Ramnad that a defeated Muhammadan candidate was nominated. When you take defeated candidates, nominate them on the eve of the presidential election and publish the nominations in a Gazette Extraordinary and make them take part in the election of the president with a view to convert the elected majorities into minorities, I feel very strongly that these nominated members have no business to be in the district boards. I do agree that minorities should get representation. I am one with my hon. Friends sitting on the other side in thinking that minorities should be adequately represented not only in the panchayat boards, municipal councils and district boards but even in the topmost representative bodies like the Federal Assembly. I am second to none in thinking that representation should be given to the minorities and their interests protected. But when we are deciding policies, when there are two parties contending for leadership in the district, we should not make use of the minorities as scape-goats and tell them, 'Here you are; we are going to give more representation to you; you be on our side and defeat the elected majority.' It is a wrong principle. I submit that the system of nomination should be abandoned and that we should go back to the days of 1930 when my Hon. Friend Dr. Subbarayan proposed that all the members of the district boards should be elected and that there should be no nomination. I think, Sir, I have made out a good case for the removal of these nominated members.

"The second point is this. It is said that if I removed these nominated members there will be deficiency in the representation of some communities in some district boards. I know that certain communities are not at all represented in some bifurcated boards. For instance if a board is bifurcated and if some Christian members of the board are taken over to one of the bifurcated boards, there will be deficiency of Christian representation on the other board. Likewise there will be deficiency in **Adi-Andhra** representation in some boards and deficiency in the representation of some other communities in some other boards. To remedy that, I am proposing co-option by this Bill. There is a good deal of difference between nomination and co-option. Many people think that

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co-option and nomination are the same as long as there is no direct election, and people are not put to the necessity of approaching the voters. The nominated members though they represent certain communities have no constituencies, but the co-opted members though they have no constituency of voters have the constituency of the elected representatives of the people on the board. By this system the majority party will capture all the seats of the co-opted members. Thus the co-option system is very different from the nomination system, because nominations are done by an outside agency whereas co-option is made by the elected representatives of the respective district boards and I am sure hon. Members will agree that this is the best system under the existing circumstances. After all, this is only a transitory provision and this is not going to be a permanent feature of local board administration. Wherever there is a deficiency we shall apply this principle of co-option till the next general elections to the district board, and at the next general elections the principle of election for the representation of minorities will automatically come into force. Therefore, I beg to point out that co-option is only a transitory provision, a temporary measure till the next general elections come off. My hon. Friend need not object to the system of co-option, because when we remove the nominated members and there is a deficiency there is no other way of bringing in representatives of minority communities. The only practical course will be to specify some constituencies and ask them to elect representatives of minority communities. But that would mean three or four by-elections in several district boards and that will cause unnecessary trouble. As certain boards are going to have general elections this year, certain other boards next year and a third group of boards in November 1939, we take it that this co-option system is only a temporary measure. With these words, Sir, I move that my Bill be taken into consideration immediately."

* **DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI**:—"Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name, that the Bill before the House be referred to a Select Committee of which the names of members shall be given later on."

"In doing so, I would just mention one or two outstanding features of the Bill that has been presented to this House. Sir, the Bill implies piecemeal legislation. It has been the unfortunate fate of the Local Boards Act to be now and again tinkered with on the floor of the Legislative Councils. The ratepayers do not know where they stand with reference to the provisions of the Local Boards Act. As it suited the Government, the one thing that was handy to be tinkered with, was the Local Boards Act.

"Now, Sir, the present legislation is attempted to effect an alteration in the Act on a small detail regarding nomination of members to district boards in order to satisfy the requirements of minority communities. It is considered that by the action of the former Government, a great deal of inequality has been brought about and the amendment that was

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p.m.

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introduced into the Act to abolish nomination, has been nullified by clause 7 (cc) introduced by the Act of 1934 enabling nominations. It is said that by nomination, the Government of the day succeeded in converting a minority into a majority. Sir, this could be said of any democratic form of Government in power, particularly in the district and other local boards. What seems good for the particular party in power will seem harmful to the party that succeeds it. Is it fair or is it expedient to tinker with an Act by means of piecemeal legislation in this manner? If the Government of the day consider that a great deal of inequality has been brought into existence and that the Act therefore needs amendment very urgently to set right those inequalities, the fairest way of doing it is to give up nomination. I am game for it; but then to bring back nomination in the name of co-option seems to be open to question. A rose smells as sweet by any other name; call it a rose or call it a lily, the smell is there. So, call it nomination or call it co-option, the effect is the same. In nomination, one Government tries to put in their own favourites from their own party, in order to create an equilibrium; another Government by means of co-option tries to effect the same object. I question the difference. I am very much beholden to the Hon. the Minister who introduced the Bill for the lucid explanation he gave regarding the difference between nomination and co-option. Unfortunately, Sir, either I am dull, or I am not prepared to be convinced. I do not see the difference between nomination and co-option. What one Government brought into force by means of nomination, another Government which has also the interests of the tax-payers at heart brings into effect by means of co-option. I should be very glad to lend my whole-hearted support to the measure, if it confined itself to the work of abolishing nominations altogether. It may be hard for the community that wishes to get into the district boards, and it will have to contest seats; but the contest would be in circumscribed circles. It is not likely to be scattered throughout the district: I would far sooner face an election contest for a reserved seat than allow co-option which, in other words, means nomination.

"I think the matter is of sufficient importance to be referred to a Select Committee."

MR. B. BAKTHAVATSALU NAYUDU:—"I second this motion."

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Sir, I wish to hear from the Hon. Minister whether he would like to have this Bill referred to a Select Committee, before I offer a few remarks."

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No."

* MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"I understand that he is not willing to have it referred to a Select Committee."

"Sir, I think there is a difference between nomination and co-option. I regret I cannot agree with the remarks of my hon. Friend Mr. Appadurai Pillai. This Bill is a step forward towards the decentralization

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of powers from the Provincial Government to the local bodies; it is no doubt a delegation of power, as it were, of nomination to the local bodies, but it is not to be exercised in the same way. I congratulate my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Administration on his having made an excellent maiden speech on this Bill. If I speak from this side of the House, it is to show more that any speeches made in opposition to the speeches made from the other side of the House should not be taken to be representative, because there are a number of people over here that do agree with the Government in this matter generally. I think it is a wise step forward to have this co-option tried, and after all it is to be temporary. It obviates a lot of difficulties to the local bodies which will otherwise have to go through elections and waste a lot of time and money for filling up such temporary vacancies.

"Sir, I am glad to be assured that this co-option system is not going to be a permanent feature. Such being the case, there can be no difficulty whatsoever in accepting the proposal of the Government. If this measure is to go to a Select Committee, I do not think it will undergo any material change. Hence it does not appear to be necessary to go on postponing everything on the plea that it should be referred to a Select Committee. If we insist on the practice of referring Bills to Select Committee in everything, the result will be unnecessary delay and many measures useful to the people will be delayed or scrapped finally for want of time. I therefore wish that this Government should take steps to have every Bill and every measure intended for the benefit of the people introduced and passed into law as early as possible, because one does not know how long the present Ministry will be in office. (Laughter.)

"Sir, I mentioned at one of the meetings in which one of our Ministers was also present, that if only the former Ministry had done all that it has done in three months instead of in fifteen or sixteen years, it would not have lost its popularity. It will be a good thing for the present Ministry to get through measures as expeditiously as possible; otherwise, I think there would be much waste of time not only of this House but also of the public. Any measures introduced and passed in time would save a lot for the public.

"I once again congratulate the Hon. Minister on having made a good speech."

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid the Government cannot accept the proposition for the reference of this measure to a Select Committee, for the simple reason that the viewpoint put forward by the Bill and the viewpoint held by hon. Members sitting opposite over there are diametrically opposed to each other. When this very Bill was under consideration in the last Legislative Council, I pointed out to the then Minister in charge of Local Self-Government the difficulties that might arise if he gave in to this system of nomination. This Bill was considered by a Select Committee,

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but at that time the question of nomination was not considered at all. On a motion moved by an hon. Member belonging to the party in power then, the Hon. Minister accepted the amendment by which this system of nomination was introduced.

P.m. "My Hon. Colleague who moved the amendment has made out a strong case for the abolition of these nominations; because there have been several instances where majorities have been turned into minorities under such nominations. I pointed out the danger that might occur at the very time these nominations were introduced. I know the then Minister for Local Self-Government was himself not very enamoured of this system of nominations. But situated as he was then, he found it rather difficult to resist the request that was being made by hon. Members sitting on his side. What the Bill tries to do now is not to turn minorities into majorities. If any community is not represented on any of these bifurcated boards, power is given to the boards to co-opt members in order to equalize inequalities that might occur if a board has been bifurcated. But hon. Members will see that the Government is also taking power, by an amendment which I will move when the Bill is taken into consideration, to amalgamate most of these boards where they think amalgamation is necessary. I shall speak on that motion when that amendment is moved."

The motion to refer the Bill to Select Committee was put and lost.

The motion that the Bill be taken into consideration at once was put and carried.

Clause 3.

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amendment that stands in my name is—

'Omit all words after the words "from the commencement of this Act" in line 3 in clause 3.'

"The object of this amendment is to do away with the nominations and to give power to the local boards to co-opt instead. The provision for nomination was introduced as a temporary measure and it is in the schedule as a transitory provision. It will continue there, perhaps, only for a few months or for a year more. So there is no necessity to substitute that measure by another measure which, I do not think, is far superior to the one which is going to be replaced. If by sending away the nominated members it is found that the strength of the new boards are not enough to work the boards, the number of members necessary may be taken by holding by-elections. It would not be very difficult, because so many by-elections in every District Board occur now and then. It may be two or three members who are wanting. Those members may be taken by holding by-elections.

"I have also got some other amendments which are consequential. They are to omit clauses 4, 5 and 6."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Would you speak on all of them at once and then move them?"

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KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—
 "These motions for omitting clauses 4, 5 and 6 are necessitated by my motion to omit in line 3, clause 3, all the words after the words 'from the commencement of this Act.' It will mean 'All persons nominated to any district board under clause (cc) aforesaid shall cease to hold office with effect from the commencement of this Act.' The remaining portion will be omitted. I hope, Sir, the Government will consider the desirability of not replacing the seats of nominated members by co-opted members. They may have recourse to by-elections. With these words I resume my seat."

The amendment was duly seconded.

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—

"Mr. Speaker, it might look very strange if I did not intervene in the debate. That is the chief reason which makes me intervene in this debate. I do not think I shall tire the House with any defence of the previous Ministry's policy. It will not be well received by a large section of the House and I do not want to waste the time of the House with that. There will be other occasions for us to boost the policy of our party and to decry the policy of another party. But on this occasion I do not want to take up the time of the House unnecessarily. I shall only say, Sir, that I should congratulate the Hon. Gentleman, the Minister for Local Administration, on his beautiful maiden speech, with the contents of which I do not agree, but the manner of the delivery of which I appreciate. But one thing I note from his speech is that though he put up a case for the abolition of nominated seats, at the same time he has made a very very effective speech against the co-optive element being introduced in the district boards. Sir, the object of the amendments moved by Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur is not to have a wrong righted by another wrong. If co-option is introduced I think it will be worse than nominations. I would much rather trust a Minister for Government responsible to the electorate and the Legislative Assembly, to nominate members, than the district boards. I do not want to mention the name of any district board. It is not my purpose here to make any personal remarks. Suffice it to say that it will be advisable not to give this power to the district boards. A strong reason for that is the fact, and we must not overlook the fact, that the majorities and minorities in the district boards are a fluctuating factor. The majority of three or four months ago may be a minority to-day and the minority of to-day may become a majority to-morrow. Hon. Members here who have been presidents of district boards and who have very intimate knowledge and experience of district board administration, know very much better than I do about the allegiance of members of parties in district boards. But so far as I am concerned I have not had any personal experience. It is true that I was connected with the Madras Corporation but in the Madras Corporation Council parties function in a very good spirit. I only trust that the Government will not give themselves to piecemeal legislation. I have no objection to the Congress Party coming forward with a

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reform for the Local Board Administration whether in the shape of the revival of the taluk boards or some such thing. I wish to indicate that the public will appreciate the Congress Party or any party coming out with a large question of administrative reform of the district board. But when I say I am travelling on difficult ground because I know there are several members in this House who hold strong opinions as to the question whether non-officials should be given more power in district boards or no more than advisory powers, and whether executive work should or should not be carried on by executive officers alone. I am one of those who feel that to some extent there should be a proper assessment of the work that a non-official could do and the work that an executive officer could do and I do think it will not be beyond the wisdom of the House to bring out such a scheme as would harmonize all the powers and duties of the non-official element as well as the official element in district boards and other local boards in this Presidency. Why I am saying this on this occasion is merely to point out that it should not be a concern of this Legislature to think of legislating for a particular exigency for a few months. If you do like this, six months hence you might have to legislate again. Therefore I feel that legislation may be confined to larger issues. The reason why I have risen to support the particular amendment that is before the House is at least to see that another evil is not brought in. People may have a serious and sincere objection to the system of nominations. Nomination as a policy was given up by the previous Ministry. It was again put in only as a temporary measure and people may agree that even the temporary measure should be discontinued as early as possible. But, at the same time, to introduce co-option, Sir, is too much, I should say. I think it is not democratic. Some of the bifurcated boards have some two more years to run. Therefore you may ask the question, 'Are you going to keep these nominated members for two more years? Why don't you allow the elected element to function?' I would say that this may sound well but why should you unnecessarily introduce this system of co-option? I do not wish to say anything more on this occasion. I hope that the Government will be reasonable in this legislation. They will not be open to attack if they do not introduce the co-opted element. Probably if Government are able to introduce more elected reserve seats, it may be all right, but the Hon. the Minister said, it will not be possible for him to accept the elective arrangement. I would only tell him that this transitory provision of co-opting members cannot be a proper substitute for the nominated element. I hope the Government will see the reasonableness of these suggestions."

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—"The question is that all the words after the words 'from the commencement of this Act' in line 3 of clause 3 may be omitted. The motion is now for discussion."

* **MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will perhaps be strange that a person who has no concern with local boards should interfere in the course of this discussion. In seeking

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to support this amendment, I want merely to discuss the psychology behind it. Of course, people who have stood up before me have spoken on the ethics of the question of co-option as opposed to nomination. Actually what you have to look for is the psychology behind it. During the last sixteen years since the Montford reforms came in, in the time of the previous Ministries, the local boards were administered by the party in power, whoever it might be including my friend the Hon. Dr. Subbayan for the benefit of their party.

"The policy behind the administration or maladministration of the local boards seemed entirely to depend on the views of the party in power. Local board administration is pitch: if you touch it, it fouls, it sticks to the hand and it carries contamination. For the fervour with which the party is now pushing out this question of nomination there must be some basis behind it. Some people were doubting whether this was with a view to readjusting the balance of power in the various district boards. Why do they want to interfere with the district boards? Do they do it merely for the love of it, or do they want it for display, or to do good to people? No, Sir. The whole thing is uncanny. The object of my rising from my seat and speaking now is to utter a word of warning to a party which has come here to-day and has given to the country a promise not to concern itself with factious politics, not to be embroiled in district board politics, not to continue the maladministration in the district boards. If you want to make the administration better, do not allow yourselves to be cajoled into moving an amending Bill to substitute co-option for nomination to suit certain interests in your party. By this, you will only be continuing the policy that has been carried on all along. I wish to utter this warning to the Government that the local boards are good if they are properly administered. But if they are going to be the play things of party politics and factions, the Government will have to face what happened to the Justice Party. The Justice Party has met its doom on the question of local board administration. It will not be long before Nemesis will overtake this Government if they are going to run the local board administration in the manner the Justice Party has been doing. The very spirit with which they have introduced this Bill is actuated by this feeling that I have referred to before, that it is just that I should utter a word of warning. I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak."

* **SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:**—

கனம் தலைவர் அருளே. ஸ்தலஸ்தாபன இலக்கா மத்திரி அவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்த லோக்கல் போர்டு திருத்தத்திற்காக மொத்தம் சந்தை ஏற்படுத்தினர். அத்துடன் என்னுடைய பெயரையும் கொண்டு கொள்ளினர். ஆனால் லோக்கல் போர்டுகள் ஒன்றாக இல்லாதால் அங்கே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு போதுமான மெம்பர்ஸ் ஸ்டான்ஸ்கள் கிடைக்கவில்லை. ஆகையினால் ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிலும் மைனாரிட்டி ஜனங்கள் எவ்வளவு ஜனங்கள் இருக்கின்றார்களோ முக்கியமாக ஹரிஜனங்கள் எவ்வளவு ஜனங்கள் இருக்கின்றார்களோ அவர்களுக்கேற்றவாறு ஒவ்வொரு டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் போர்டிலும் ஸ்தானங்கள் கொடுத்தால் அது அவர்களைப் பாதுகாக்கும்.

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members and let the minorities take care of themselves.' I do not wish to fall into that trap. If you remove all the nominated members, what have you done? You have given no representation to Mussalmans, no sufficient representation to Harijans, to Christians and so on. It is no good advice, Sir. If such advice had come even in the Committee room, I would have explained the thing further, and taken the member to task for giving advice that puts the Government in danger. Suppose all nomination is abolished. What is the answer to Swami Sahajanandam's objection? Then, we cannot hold office without explaining to everybody and without justifying every step that we take. Then, we will be tried not only by our own opponents, but by our own ideals. Therefore, we cannot accept the advice which the Hon. Member for Indian Commerce gave."

The amendment was put and lost.

1-30 p.m. * DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name, viz.—

' For clause 3 (b), substitute the following:—

" (b) one representative each of such of the communities mentioned in clauses (a) to (e) of sub-section (1) of the said section 9 as the Provincial Government may determine:

Provided that no such direction shall be given:

in the case of women, if a woman is a member of the district board, and

in the case of community, if a member of that community is a member of the district board;

having been elected thereto to fill a seat reserved for women or for the community concerned, as the case may be."

" The clause as it stands seems to indicate that in co-opting representatives of particular communities, power will be taken to co-opt more than a single member of that particular community. In the first place, Sir, I object to co-option on the ground that it is tantamount to nomination. But if co-option could not be dispensed with, in the circumstances explained by the Hon. the Premier, I would plead that this co-option may be restricted in its application to one member of a particular community. It is so drafted in the proviso of the Bill in the case of the women candidate. So also in the case of other communities, I would suggest that only a single member might be co-opted in a particular community. I have already submitted that co-option would only introduce indirect franchise instead of direct franchise with all its merits. It has been the sole object of the Government of India Reforms to introduce direct franchise as much as possible. Sir, we are in a way rendering the provisions of the Act nugatory by introducing in this Bill indirect franchise. But we have been told that this indirect franchise could not be dispensed with for the simple reason that nomination has played havoc in the constitution of district boards and that

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it should be regularized as soon as possible. Regularize it by all means, but not by introducing co-option. I may be permitted to suggest that the co-option of members for these different boards may be restricted to a single member of the particular communities concerned. My amendment is intended to secure that object in view."

MR. B. BHAKTAVATSALU NAYUDU:—" I second it."

* THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Sir, on behalf of the Government, I accept *in toto* the amendment proposed by my hon. Friend Mr. Appadurai Pillai. In doing so, I just want to say something again in favour of co-option. I have before me a complete list of all the district boards where a deficiency is going to arise. I need not read the whole list. In several of the district boards women have no representation, in certain districts Adi-Dravidas have no representation, in certain other districts Indian Christians have no representation, and in about 7 or 8 districts Muhammadans have no representation. If we are not going to have this co-option system, these communities will go unrepresented altogether. Of course, there are Anglo-Indians and Europeans. That is a separate question altogether; we shall examine it and wherever the population justifies it we will give them representation. For the time being I am keeping that out of account.

" My Friend Mr. Schamnad Sahib has asked, why not have bye-elections in all the districts straightaway; why bring in this indirect system? I will tell him that this system is not a novel one. There are four standing committees in all district boards where they co-opt two people from outsiders. Then again, in the City Municipal Act, there are what are called Aldermen. You take in five people from outside and give them the dignified name of Aldermen. What is this but co-option? If it is good for the City Municipal Act, if it is good for the standing committees, why is it not good for the representation of these minority communities as a temporary measure on these bifurcated district boards also? I am accepting this amendment with this proviso, that because there are several district boards where there is absolutely no representation for several communities . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Is the Minister going to accept the amendment with a proviso? "

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" With a proviso in speech, though I accept it *in toto*, as I said. If I accepted the previous amendment, then several of these communities will go unrepresented. That has been dwelt upon by the Hon. the Leader of the House; so I need not dwell on that point. In accepting this amendment I just want to say one word, that co-option is not very bad after all, it has been there already in the City Municipal Act, in the election of Aldermen, it has been there in the Local Boards Act, in the elections to standing committees. It is not a new thing. It is only a transitory provision. So those communities who go unrepresented in the bifurcated district boards may have this sort of representation by means of co-option. If I am going to have these bye-elections, then again there is the danger. You may say 'you have managed things so

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cleverly that you have given these reserved seats to wards where you expect a majority.' There is again that danger. I do not want to adopt that and subject myself to the criticism of members opposite. So in the last resort I am adopting this system of co-option."

Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai rose to speak.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Are you rising to congratulate the Hon. Minister?"

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your usual sagacity you have anticipated me. I wish to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for having accepted this amendment. For once in my life (Laughter) I have had the satisfaction of bringing out an amendment and getting it accepted."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Though out of order, I might tell you, Sir, that whenever a reasonable amendment is proposed by the Hon. Member Mr. Appadurai Pillai, it will immediately be accepted (Laughter)."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 3 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 4 was put and carried.

Clause 5.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I shall wait till new clause 8 is moved, because my amendment to clause 5 is consequential to that clause."

Clause 5 was allowed to stand over.

Clauses 6 and 7 were put and carried.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

New clause 8.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I now move that the following clause 8 may be inserted after clause 7 of the Bill:—

'The following clause 8 may be inserted after clause 7 of the Bill:—

"8. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 3-A of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the Provincial Government shall have power, at any time by notification, to amalgamate two or more districts which were constituted from a single district by a notification under that section, and thereupon the following provisions shall apply:—

(i) All the elected members of each of the district boards which are amalgamated (hereinafter referred to as the old boards) who were holding office immediately before the date of issue of the notification under this section shall, with effect on and from such date, be deemed to have become members of the amalgamated district board (hereinafter referred to as the new board), and the co-opted members, if any, of the old boards shall, with effect on and from the same date, be deemed to have vacated their offices.

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(ii) The members of the new board shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 54 and sections 56, 57 and 59 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, hold office until the date on which they would have vacated their offices on the old boards by efflux of time if a notification under this section had not been issued.

Section 7 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, in so far as it fixes the maximum number of members of a district board shall not apply to the new board until the date aforesaid.

(iii) The circles of the old boards as existing on the date of issue of the notification under this section shall be the circles of the new board, unless and until the Provincial Government otherwise direct by a notification under section 47 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

(iv) If any vacancy in the office of an elected member of any of the old boards existed at the time of issue of the notification under this section, a member shall be elected to the new board at a casual election by the circle concerned.

(v) If any vacancy in the office of a member of the new board occurs otherwise than by efflux of time, such vacancy shall be filled by a casual election by the circle concerned, and any person elected at such an election shall hold office only so long as the member in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office if the vacancy had not occurred.

(vi) The presidents and vice-presidents of the old boards holding office on the date of issue of the notification under this section shall be deemed to have vacated their respective offices with effect on and from such date, and the members of the new board shall, as soon as may be thereafter,—

(a) meet for the election of a president on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by the Collector of the district; and

(b) meet for the election of the vice-president on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by the president so elected."

"Mr. Speaker, this amendment is moved in order to take power in the hands of the Government to get back the old district boards without any co-opted or nominated members. That is, in many ways, it will have the effect of what hon. Members have in their minds to bring back the verdict of the electorate itself. But it will be done by the Government because, as the Act stands to-day, power is necessary to do this and that power is being taken by the amendment now proposed."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, I just wish to explain why such a long clause has been asked to be taken in as an amendment.

"In all this kind of departmental or administrative legislation, so to say, a defect—removing power is given to the executive Government, and that is proposed actually in the new clause 9. In the old Act as it

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now stands there is enormous power given to the Government to do anything. This long clause which has been just moved takes away from the power of the Government to the extent that it prescribes a necessary and definite course where such amalgamation takes place; otherwise, the executive Government would have the power to do anything they like under the circumstances of an amalgamation. Therefore, I submit, the longer this clause is, the greater the restriction put upon the power of the Government. That is the justification why this clause has been moved now as an amendment. It might even appear that it could have been framed earlier and notice could have been given. Sir, the defect-removing clause, new clause 9, short and sweet as it may appear, gives power which would not be definite in the case of definite circumstances. Therefore the House will be well-advised in accepting this clause."

The amendment was put and carried and the new clause 8 was inserted.

Clause 5—cont.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, I move—

'In line 4, before the words "hold office" insert the words "and of section 8 of this Act."'

"This is a consequential amendment in view of the amendment carried by the House just now."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 5, as amended, was then put and carried.

New clause 9.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, I move that the following new clause 9 may be inserted after clause 8:—

'9. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Provincial Government may, by order, as occasion may require, do anything which appears to them to be necessary to remove the difficulty.'

"Mr. Speaker, the Hon. the Premier has already anticipated this clause and spoken on it while seconding my last amendment. If hon. Members will look back, in the various amendments which have been carried to the Local Boards Act, such power as is asked for in this clause, has always been taken, because it is very difficult to legislate for every point that might arise in the application of a new amendment to an old Act. Hon. Members need not be afraid that this clause is going to be a roving clause and is going to be used on every occasion. This clause is necessary because if any interpretation is to be made to remove defects, this omnibus power, as it is called in all pieces of legislation, will enable the Government to do so. I commend this clause to the House."

* SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Mr. Speaker, it has been the practice in recent years, both here and elsewhere, for Governments to

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take power in Bills such as this which virtually means that all machinery for the execution of an Act is devised and built by the permanent services. This practice has been roundly condemned by the Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Hewart, about 12 years ago. Even this extension of the rule-making power is an extension of the powers of the executive against both the Legislature and the Judiciary. The whole aim of our system surely is to safeguard the people against the unfettered use of executive powers.

"Before the Great War, the catchword of the Labour Party in England against taking such power often shouted out in the House of Commons was Star Chamber. Surely this clause is what may be called 'Star Chamber legislation.' I particularly wish to make this protest because it appears that a similar provision, in effect, is included in the Moratorium Bill. I should like to ask the Government whether this is going to be the case in all Government Bills. Because, if it is to be regarded as a clause in every Bill we are going to consider, surely we can save the taxpayers' money by holding much shorter meetings of the Legislature and all Bills may consist of Preambles and one clause: 'Whereas Government desire certain powers in respect, let us say, of the prohibition of the consumption of liquor. It is hereby enacted that Government may make such rules as it deems expedient for prohibiting the consumption of liquors.' There is no reason for having a detailed Bill at all. I would appeal for the fundamental protection which the 'Parliamentary' system affords. Government should specify in detail the powers which they intend to take, and all those powers must be the subject of debate in this House. Clauses of this sort should not be inserted in the Bill and we should not, in effect, be asked to give a blank cheque to the Government to alter the conditions of the machinery in any Bill which comes up before the House."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, a word by way of defence seems called for. The powerful voice of democracy has found an exponent from unexpected quarters. (Loud cheers). As long as Sir William had to act as a representative of the Europeans in the old Legislature, we had to sit in the opposition and we raised our loud but ineffective voice against authority taken by the executive Government under the old regime, and there was not this sympathetic eye cast upon the claims of democracy from gentlemen now represented by the Hon. Member Sir William Wright. They never raised their voice against the powers taken by the executive under various laws which have been rightly called repressive laws. They never raised their voice against rule-making powers taken by the executive Government under all kinds of excuses even when they had been previously put to uses for purposes not wholly within the ambit of the original intention. But to-day, Sir, when an amending Bill has been put before us for a local administration affair, modifying a mere administrative or departmental law, the opportunity has been availed of to bring before us a very sound theory that rule-making powers had better not be given to executive Governments because they are always likely to become despots if you

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [28th September 1937]

ஏற்கெனவே தாலுகா போர்டுகள் இருந்தபோது அங்கங்கே உள்ளவர்கள் தங்களுடைய நலங்களைக் கவனித்துக்கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். தாலுகா போர்டுகளை எடுத்துவிட்ட பிறகு லோகல் போர்டுகளை ஒன்றுக்கிவிட்டபிறகு அந்தந்த தாலுகாவில் நடக்கவேண்டிய காரியங்கள் நடைபெறாமலிருக்கின்றன. டிஸ்திரிக்ட் போர்டு ஒன்றுக்கிவிட்டபிறகு அந்தந்த தாலுகாவுக்கு செலவழிக்கவேண்டிய பணத்தைச் செலவழிக்காமல் டிஸ்திரிக்ட் போர்டு பிரெசிடெண்டுகள் அவரவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய தாலுக்காக்களுக்கு செலவழிக்கிறார்கள். அந்தந்த தாலுகாவுக்கேற்றவாறு பணத்தைப்பிரித்து டிஸ்திரிக்ட் போர்டிலிருந்து கொடுத்து அந்தந்த தாலுகாவில் செலவு செய்வதற்கான ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும். அந்தமாதிரி செய்தால் ஒவ்வொரு தாலுகாவிலும் நடக்கவேண்டிய காரியங்கள் நன்றாக நடைபெறும். இத்துடன் மைனாரிட்டி வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஒவ்வொரு லோக்கல் போர்டிலும், அங்கே எவ்வளவு ஜனங்கள் இருக்கிறார்களோ அதற்கேற்றவாறு ஸ்தானங்கள் கொடுக்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, I rise, Sir, to intervene now, because a point has been raised by Swami Sahajanandam that the minorities' interests be protected. He referred only to Harijans, in this connexion, whatever may be done. While welcoming the proposal of the Government in this matter, he added this caution, and it becomes my duty to explain the position. On the other hand, the hon. Member for Indian Commerce was kind enough, again in his usual manner, to give us the benefit of his detached view of things and to advise us how to proceed, so that we may be true to our own principles. May I tell him, through you, that it would be much more useful and effective if he came into the inner counsels of the Government and gave us such advice, so that we might tell him exactly our difficulties and we might exchange our opinions, not exactly over this table but over a more convenient committee table? It is difficult to consider delicate matters like this, such as those he proposes us to consider. But as far as it is possible to meet the objection he raises, I shall endeavour briefly to say what I feel in the matter. Sir, it is easy at a particular point of time to say, 'this is party politics, don't touch it.' If a man has fallen into a ditch and comes out, it is no good saying, 'don't touch him; this man has fallen into a ditch, he is covered with ditch matter, don't try to wash him.' If a man has fallen into a ditch, perhaps there is no need to touch him. But supposing your child has come out of the ditch, you cannot slur over it, you cannot say, 'we can't help it, we shall not clean it.' Here the Hon. Mover of the Bill, in somewhat too frank a manner, in my humble opinion, has explained before the House all that has been found and done in this matter. Members have been nominated almost to an indecent proportion. I do not think any further elucidation of that point is necessary. Everybody who sees the figures would admit it. Now, to leave it at that, saying 'we don't want to touch party affairs, we don't want to touch local affairs; we shall keep our hands off local bodies,' may be self-righteous, but it is really allowing the wrong thing to continue, which I think is not fulfilment of the duty of Government. I therefore wish to say to the hon. Member who raised the objection that it would be an imperfect fulfilment of the non-partisan policy if we allow a partisan administration to work without

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interference or check. That, Sir, is the object of the proposed amendment and not to continue a policy, an erroneous policy, which stands condemned on the face of it and which moreover has been condemned by the electorate. Hon. Members will not, I submit, take me to be saying something irrelevant, if I say, while the Members of the Government Party claim that the electorate has returned them on the manifesto that they have placed before the country, there are a number of people who do not wish to give the whole credit to the successful party at the elections for coming out in that manner, who say the previous Government fell because of their policy in regard to the local boards, because of their bifurcations and their nominations; the thing is stinking in the nostrils of the people and therefore the electorate smashed the previous Government, and that is why the Congress came into power and not because of the merits or virtues of the Congress. I am not prepared to accept that explanation of the success of the party. It is also a matter to be considered if it is a reason for the great event as the success of the Congress. There must be something in the data, so that we must take it as established that the country is disgusted with the policy which has been adopted before, and it is our duty that we should come here. Of course, our duties are great; other duties are greater. But now we cannot allow a thing with which the electorate has been so disgusted that some people even trust and leave it to the sense of the Government which is now in office. We cannot allow that mistake to continue. That is the motive and basis of this Bill and the justification for our taking up this matter. We want to do the least bit of reform in that connexion, so that nothing new may be attempted now. All that the Bill proposes is that nomination should cease.

“ Then comes Swami Sahajanandam's point, 'what about my people?' He asks rightly what was the basis on which these nominations were sought to be made. They said, 'to fill certain defects in the bifurcated areas; certain minorities are not properly represented, and therefore we must help them.' That was the ostensible basis with which nomination power was taken. It was misused. But misuse does not justify ignoring the purpose itself. Therefore the Mover of the Bill says, 'let us give such proportion of representation as is due, let us rectify the defect in the representation by a proper method.' It is no use saying, 'we shall not nominate, we shall ask the country to go into an election again.' Therefore an intermediate position has been adopted, that is to say, 'let the elected people, people who have secured a fair share of the confidence of the electorate, let these people choose'. No doubt, indirect election is not as satisfactory as direct election. It is certainly better than nomination. It is only an indirect form of election to the seats that ought to be filled. That is the justification behind the proposal. It was said that this co-option is only an indirect form of patronage. But that is no solution of it. What is the solution? It may be co-option as against direct election. The solution of my friends who are opposing the Bill is, 'let there be only elected

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give them power. This theory of the new despotism has been touched upon and written about by men with the bias of judicial experience and judicial training in England. Lord Chief Justices, Judges and others do not like Parliament giving away power to executive Governments. Very natural. Even here, we were the other day, hearing questions about the separation of the judiciary and the executive. But, Sir, immediately that power has been transferred in a measure and in a way, in a very qualified way, to the people, protests are raised from unexpected quarters, as I said. 'Oh, no. The principle of democracy is infringed by this rule-making power being given to the Government. What does it matter? To-day they may be representatives of the people, but sometime to-morrow they may not be representatives of the people and may not be really in touch with the people. We should not give these powers.' Sir, I need not labour the point. But I wish to point out that when, in 1934, this very legislation which the present Bill seeks to amend was before the Legislative Council, section 13 was passed and it is now on the Statute Book. I shall read it."

2 p.m. 'If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of these rules or of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, or of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, as amended by this Act, the Local Government, as occasion may require, may by order do anything which appears to them to be necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.'

I wonder, Sir, whether the Hon. Member Sir William Wright or any colleagues of his who were Members of the Council then or the representatives of that constituency which they so vigilantly represent now raised such objection at that time. I wish they had done that, but it was not done and I say it was rightly not done because. . ."

* SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"On a point of personal explanation, Mr. Speaker, I was not a Member of the Legislative Council then. If I had been a Member in 1934, I would have done exactly what I did to-day."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I expected that that explanation would come. Not that I did not anticipate that. But I do not think Sir William Wright's constituency was non-existent at that time. I do not think it was then represented by any inefficient Member. At least Sir William has no right to say so (laughter).

"I submit, Sir, that will not do. What was permissible then must be justifiable now. Whatever the new despotism may prove to be to other people in other circumstances this rule-making power in departmental administrative legislation is absolutely necessary. I refer the House to one of the fanatic opponents of new despotism Lord Hewart, the Chief Justice of England. He has written a whole book against this subject and he says in a passage:—

'It is tolerably obvious (that is the English style but it would not be possible here) that the system of delegation of Parliamentary powers of legislation is within certain limits necessary at least as regards matters of detail, because it is impossible, if for want of time, for Parliament to deal adequately and in detail with all the matters calling or supposed to call for legislation indeed

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without drastic alterations of those methods of procedure. It would be impossible for Parliament to deal adequately even with a comparatively small part of the present volume of departmental legislation.'"

Sir, I think this dictum is quite enough for commending the amendment to the House."

The motion was put and carried and the new clause 9 was inserted.

Clauses 2 and 1 were put and carried.

The Preamble was then put and carried.

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I move that the Bill as amended be passed into Law."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I rise to congratulate the Hon. Minister for introducing this Bill which, I hope, is the forerunner of a consolidated Bill, though I am not in agreement with his proposal to co-opt. Sir, a consolidated Bill is a necessary piece of legislation, and I congratulate the Hon. Minister on the beautiful way in which he has piloted the Bill which will facilitate the introduction of a consolidated Bill at an early date for removing the defects of local board administration."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

V.—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RE BILLS TO AMEND THE STATE AID TO INDUSTRIES ACT AND THE REVENUE RECOVERY AND THE CITY LAND REVENUE ACT.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have got one or two announcements to make. The President of the Legislative Council has sent me a message signed by him stating that the Bill to amend the Madras State Aid to Industries Act as passed by the Assembly has been agreed to by the Council without any amendments. He has also communicated a message to this Assembly signed by him that the Bill to amend the Madras Rent Revenue Recovery Act and the City Land Revenue Recovery Act, as passed by this Assembly, have been agreed to by the Council without any amendments."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 10 a.m. the next day.

APPENDIX I

[Vide answer to starred question No. 282 asked by Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar on behalf of Mr. G. Krishna Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 28th September 1937, page 971 supra.]

Statement showing the extent of good arable land available for assignment in each of the district.

Name of the district.	Extent of the good arable land in acres.	Remarks.
(1)	(2)	(3)
Vizagapatam	70-21	Already under occupation.
East Godavari	10-07	
West Godavari—		
Bhimavaram taluk	473-98	
Narsapur taluk	4,128-17	
Ellore taluk	2,133-48	Commanded by irrigation projects under execution. Can be cultivated in the second-crop season with canal water but reclamation at a trifling cost of Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 an acre is necessary for clearing the 'jammu' and other weeds.
Kistna	32,342-62	
Guntur	4,375-00	Excludes extents under sivayi-jama occupation. Out of this an extent of 2,885 acres is already under sivayi-jama occupation and includes 1,860 acres, the assignment of which is prohibited under the Romperu project scheme.
Nellore—		Includes 1-10 acres under sivayi-jama occupation. Though arable, the lands are not fertile and are of very poor soil and unfit for continuous cultivation. Irrigation facilities are not available. A small portion is under sivayi-jama occupation.
Kavali and Nellore taluks	364-59	
Udayagiri taluk	6,281-71	Some of the lands in this extent are under sivayi-jama occupation.
Kurnool	59,293-99	
Cuddapah	70,233-47	
Bellary	43,400-00	
Anantapur	378,096-90	
Chittoor	18,777-71	

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Chingleputt	495-84	Includes lands reserved for depressed classes and 4-10 acres of bought-in land.
North Arcot	60,833-00	
South Arcot	1,860-00	Of this 1,432 acres have been reserved for the depressed classes and 305 acres for Kallars. The figures are reported to be based on the reports of the karnams and revenue inspectors. It might be found on detailed inspection that some reclamation was necessary in a portion of the fields. The Collector suggests a 20 per cent reduction in any scheme based on these figures is formulated. Includes 320-68 acres of bought-in land and 328-89 acres of relinquished land, etc.
Tanjore	914-66	
Trichinopoly	8,012-91	
Madura	9,686-00	
Ramnad	910-96	Includes 720-43 acres reserved for the depressed classes.
Tinnevely	54-87	
Salem	141,431-00	
Coimbatore	10,622-77	
The Nilgiris	(Report not received.)	
South Kanara	1,562-59	
Malabar	5,354-24	

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II.—COLLEGES—*cont.*b. *Other Colleges.*

- 99 Salem College, Salem.
- 100 Voorhees College, Vellore.
- 101 Women's Christian College, Madras.
- 102 The American College, Madura.
- 103 The Madura College, Madura.
- 104 The Madras Christian College, Tambaram.
- 105 S.R.R. College, Bezwada.
- 106 Hindu College, Guntur.
- 107 V.R. College, Nellore.
- 108 Mrs. A.V.N. College, Vizagapatam.
- 109 P.R. College, Cocanada.

II.—COLLEGES—*cont.*b. *Other Colleges—cont.*

- 110 Andhra Christian College, Guntur.
 - 111 Hindu College, Masulipatam.
 - 112 Union Noble College, Masulipatam.
- III.—EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.
- 113 Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School, Lovedale.
 - 114 St. Joseph's College, Coonoor.
 - 115 St. Aloysius High School, Vizagapatam.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide item III at page 975 supra.]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY, MADRAS.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1937), has the honour to make the following report.

2. This Bill was published in English in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 14th September 1937.

3. The Committee was appointed on the 27th September 1937. An instruction was given to the Committee to make its report in time, so that the report may be available for consideration by the House on the 28th September 1937.

4. The Committee met at 1 p.m. on the 27th September 1937 in the Assembly Building, Senate House, Chepauk, for considering the Bill.

5. The Committee has subjected the provisions of the Bill to a thorough scrutiny and as a result thereof, has made the following, among other changes in the Bill.

6. *Preamble.*—The Select Committee has added the words “and articles of wearing apparel made of cloth” to make the object and intention of the Bill clearer. The words have also been inserted in the various clauses of the Bill where the word ‘cloth’ occurs.

7. *Clause 2.*—The intention of the Bill is to include all dealers in cloth; and the introduction of the words ‘at any place’ is likely to create a doubt as to whether only traders who have a shop or place of business are included therein. The Select Committee has therefore deleted those words in this clause. In the explanation to the clause, the Committee has added the words ‘or place of business’ after the word ‘shop’ in both places in which it occurs.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 287 asked by Mr. H. S. Hussain at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 28th September 1937, page 971 supra.]

List of institutions in which Urdu is taught.

I.—SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

a. Board Schools.

- 1 Board High School, Amalapuram.
- 2 Board High School, Bhadrachalam.
- 3 Board Middle School, Akidu.
- 4 Board High School, Tanuku.
- 5 Board Middle School, Nagaram.
- 6 Board Middle School, Kondapalli.
- 7 Board Middle School, Idugapalle.
- 8 Board High School, Pamarru.
- 9 Board High School, Nandigama.
- 10 Board High School, Gudivada.
- 11 Board High School, Harpanahalli.
- 12 Board High School, Yemmiganur.
- 13 Board High School, Cumbum.
- 14 Board Middle School, Kamalapuram.
- 15 Board Middle School, Rayachoti.
- 16 Board High School, Rajampet.
- 17 Board High School, Kalyandrug.
- 18 Board High School, Uravakonda.
- 19 Board High School, Penukonda.
- 20 Board High School, Bapatla.
- 21 Board High School, Repalle.
- 22 Board High School, Kavali.
- 23 Board High School, Kandukur.
- 24 Board High School, Kanigiri.
- 25 Board High School, Gudur.

I. SECONDARY SCHOOLS—cont.

a. Board School's—cont.

- 26 Board High School, Chittoor.
- 27 Board High School, Kalahasti.
- 28 Board High School, Kauveripauk.
- 29 Abdul Hakim's High School, Arcot.
- 30 Board Middle School, Kuthanallur.
- 31 Board High School, Uthamapalayam.
- 32 Board High School, Erode.
- 33 Board High School, Dharapuram.
- 34 Board High School, Krishnagiri.
- 35 Board High School, Dharmapuri.
- 36 Board High School, Kumaranallur.
- 37 Board High School, Valapad.
- 38 Board High School, Kadirur.
- 39 Board High School, Quilandy.
- 40 Board High School, Cherukunnu.
- 41 Board High School, Payyanur.
- 42 Board High School, Tirur.
- 43 Board High School, Perintalmanna.
- 44 Board High School, Koduvayur.

b. Municipal Schools.

- 45 Municipal High School, Ellore.
- 46 Municipal High School, Hospet.
- 47 Municipal High School, Adoni.
- 48 Municipal High School, Bellary.

b. Municipal Schools—cont.

- 49 Municipal High School, Nandyal.
- 50 Municipal High School, Kurnool.
- 51 Municipal High School, Bezwada.
- 52 Municipal High School, Rajahmundry.
- 53 Municipal High School, Anantapur.
- 54 Municipal High School, Cuddapah.
- 55 Municipal High School, Dindigul.
- 56 Municipal High School, Villupuram.
- 57 Municipal High School, Tiruvannamalai.
- 58 Municipal High School, Gudiyattam.
- 59 Municipal High School, Tirupattur.
- 60 Municipal Middle School, Ranganayakulupet (Nellore).
- 61 Municipal High School, Hindupur.
- 62 Municipal High School, Cannanore.
- 63 Municipal High School, Coimbatore.
- 64 Municipal High School, Salem.
- 65 Municipal High School, Proddatur.
- 66 Municipal High School, Ootacamund.

c. Schools under private management.

- 67 Surangi Rajah's High School, Ichapur.
- 68 C.B.M. High School, Vizagapatam.
- 69 MacLaurin High School, Cocanada.
- 70 P.R. College School, Cocanada.
- 71 U.L.C.M. High School, Bhimavaram.
- 72 Taylor High School, Narasapur.
- 73 S.K.P.V.V. Hindu High School, Bezwada.
- 74 S.R.M. High School, Nuzvid.
- 75 Sree Rama High School, Masulipatam.
- 76 Hindu College School, Guntur.
- 77 A.B.M. Middle School, Kanigiri.

c. Schools under private management—cont.

- 78 London Mission High School, Gooty.
- 79 Madras Christian College School.
- 80 St. Paul's High School, Vepery, Madras.
- 81 C. Abdul Hakim's Secondary School, Georgetown, Madras.
- 82 Danish Mission High School, Tiruvannamalai.
- 83 C.S.M. High School, Arkonam.
- 84 Islamiah High School, Melvisharam.
- 85 R.C. Town High School, Chidambaram.
- 86 St. Peter's High School, Tanjore.
- 87 Kalyanasundaram High School, Tanjore.
- 88 Union Christian High School, Madura.
- 89 Madura Drivvyam Thayumanawar Hindu College School, Tinnevely.
- 90 Mahajana High School, Erode.
- 91 Kanara High School, Mangalore.

d. Government Schools.

- 92 Teachers' College, Saidapet—Model School.
- 93 Government Middle School for Girls, Cuddapah.

II.—COLLEGES.

a. Government Colleges.

- 94 Ceded Districts College, Anantapur.
- 95 Presidency College, Madras.
- 96 Queen Mary's College, Madras.
- 97 Government Brennen College, Tellicherry.
- 98 Government Arts College, Rajahmundry.

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Free for
licence.

4. (1) The fee payable for the grant or renewal of a licence in respect of the business at any one **shop or place of business** shall be—

(a) two rupees, where the monthly turnover of business in that **shop or place of business** as determined by rules made under this Act, does not exceed **three** thousand rupees; and

(b) five rupees, where such monthly turnover exceeds **three** thousand rupees:

Provided that no fee shall be levied for the grant or renewal of a licence in respect of the business carried on at any **shop or place of business**, if it relates exclusively to cloth woven on handlooms **or articles of wearing apparel made therefrom** and the dealer declares in writing that he has not sold and will not sell any other cloth **or articles of wearing apparel made of cloth** at such **shop or place of business** during the period of currency of the licence.

Explanation.—In this sub-section 'monthly turnover' means the aggregate amount for which sales are effected in a month.

(2) Where a licence is granted or renewed free of fee under the proviso to sub-section (1), the licence shall become void if any cloth not woven on hand-looms or any article of wearing apparel not made therefrom is sold at the place mentioned in the licence, and no **cloth or article of wearing apparel made of cloth** shall thereafter be sold at such place unless a fresh licence has been obtained on payment of the fee specified in sub-section (1).

4-A. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to hawkers of cloth or of articles of wearing apparel made of cloth, provided however that a hawker shall be liable to obtain only one licence for a financial year, whatever his area of operations may be.

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5. A person who in respect of any financial year fails to obtain a licence as required by sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 2, or to renew a licence before the date on which it expires, or to obtain a fresh licence as required by sub-section (2) of section 4, shall be liable to pay in respect of such year twice the amount of the fee payable by him under sub-section (1) of section 4, or if no fee is so payable, a fee of one rupee; and any amount payable under this section may be recovered as if it were an arrear of land revenue. On payment or recovery of the amount prescribed by this section, a licence shall be deemed to have been granted to or renewed in favour of the person aforesaid for the financial year, to which such payment or recovery relates.

6. The Provincial Government shall have power to make rules—

- (a) prescribing the authority competent to grant or renew licences under this Act,
- (b) for determining the monthly turnover for the purpose of levying the licence fee,
- (c) for the recovery of any amounts due under this Act; and
- (d) generally for carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.

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8. *Clause 4.*—The Committee considers that the maximum amount of monthly turnover for which the annual licence fee of Rs. 2 should be payable, should be Rs. 3,000, and that for amounts of monthly turnover exceeding Rs. 3,000, the annual licence fee should be Rs. 5.

9. The Committee thinks that a hawker or vendor of cloth from house to house should not have to pay a separate fee for selling cloth in different places but that he should be allowed to take out a single licence on payment of the appropriate fee, whatever his area of operations may be. It has accordingly introduced a new provision in the following terms, viz. :—

“ 4-A. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to hawkers of cloth or of articles of wearing apparel made of cloth, provided however that a hawker shall be liable to obtain only one licence for a financial year, whatever his area of operations may be.”

10. *Clause 5.*—The Committee has altered clause 5 so as to make it clear that a person who has failed to obtain a licence or a renewal of licence, has only to pay the sums mentioned in this clause, and that on such payment or the recovery of the said sums, a licence will be deemed to have been issued or renewed in his favour.

11. A copy of the Bill as amended by the Committee is annexed. The changes made by the Committee are not so important as to justify the republication of the Bill.

C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR,

Chairman

27th September 1937.

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[Note.—The changes made by the Select Committee are shown in clarendon type and the portions omitted are shown by dots.]

L.A. BILL No. 2 OF 1937.

A Bill to regulate the trade of dealers in cloth within the Province of Madras.

(As amended by the Select Committee.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the trade of dealers in cloth and articles of wearing apparel made of cloth within the Province of Madras; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Act, 1937. Short title and extent.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

2. (1) Every person who, on the date of the commencement of this Act, is carrying on the business of a dealer in cloth or in articles of wearing apparel made of cloth, in the Province shall, within two months of such date, obtain a licence under this Act for carrying on such business. Dealing in cloth to be licensed.

(2) Every person who after the date of the commencement of this Act starts the business of a dealer in cloth or in articles of wearing apparel made of cloth in the Province shall, within two months of starting such business, obtain a licence under this Act for carrying on such business.

Explanation.—Where a dealer has more than one shop or place of business whether in the same town or village or in different towns and villages, he shall obtain a separate licence in respect of each shop or place of business.

3. Every licence granted under this Act shall expire on the last day of the year for which it was granted but may be renewed from year to year. Expiry and renewal of licence.

Explanation.—In this section ‘year’ shall mean the financial year.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 29th September 1937.

The House met in the Assembly Building, Chepauk, at ten of the clock, the Deputy Speaker (MRS. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI) in the Chair.

The proceedings commenced with the singing of the 'Vande Mataram' song by Mrs. Lakshmi Sankara Ayyar.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Measures for repairs and improvements to the Buckingham Canal.

* 294 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what steps the Government propose to take to keep the Buckingham Canal in a decent and healthy condition in the limits of the City of Madras;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that boat owners are put to much hardship owing to silting of the said canal beyond the northern limits of Ennore in Chingleput district; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what measures the Government propose to take to tackle the problem?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) Beyond pumping sea water into the Cooum whenever the level falls below 21.50 which incidentally helps that stretch of the Buckingham Canal between the Cooum and Adyar rivers, the Government do not propose to take any action in the matter. It is for the Corporation to take steps to keep the canal in a sanitary condition within the limits of the City.

“(b) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the orders in G.O. No. 82, Irrigation, dated 15th January 1937 (copy^a placed on the table of the House).

“The Chief Engineer has since reported that the question of silt clearance bristles with difficulties and that all possible steps are being taken to maintain a navigable depth.

“The question of clearing silt with the aid of dredgers is also under examination by him. Funds have been sanctioned by Government during the current year for special repairs to lock gates, etc., revetment to junction canal, cutting open the Pulicat bar and for silt clearance work.”

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MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask what happened to the scheme of pumping water into the Cooum river and the Buckingham Canal so as to make them sanitary? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" It is referred to in the paper I have placed on the table."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether any money has been allotted in regard to that scheme and if so, why that scheme has not been completed by the Government? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Notice, Madam."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—" May I ask, Madam, whether debasing and disgusting advertisements are allowed to be exhibited along the sides of the canal for a paltry consideration of a small licence fee? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Notice, Madam."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government are aware that the present condition of the Cooum and the Buckingham Canal in the City has affected the health of the people considerably? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" The Government are aware of it."

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I ask, Madam, whether the Government are aware that the canal has been in a very unsatisfactory condition for a very long time? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Yes."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" If the Government are aware that the health of the City has been affected by the condition of the Cooum river and the Buckingham Canal, may I ask what steps the Government propose to take to enforce sanitary conditions in that part of the City? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" As I have said before, it is the business of the Madras Corporation to look to the sanitation of the canal and if they continue to neglect it, the Government will have to compel them to do it."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—" Madam, some years ago the Corporation passed a resolution requesting the Government to allot some money for the purpose. May I ask what steps the Government have taken in that respect? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Notice."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government have received any representation from the Boat Owners' Association to the effect that the condition of the canal in regard to the Pulicat portion of it has been very unsatisfactory by reason of the fact that the Government have opened a bar at a place which is not suitable for it instead of opening it at a suitable place? "

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THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" We have received the boat owners' representation and we have dealt with it in the paper placed on the table."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Subsequent to the Government Order of January 1937, is it a fact that the Parliamentary Secretary of the Hon. Minister visited the spot when representations were made to him to the effect that the bar has been opened at an unsuitable place and may I ask whether the Government will be pleased to consult expert opinion in the matter? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" We are considering it."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government will consider one of the representations of the boat owners, namely, that the fees due to the Government might be collected in instalments instead of in one lump sum? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" I have mentioned in this paper that it cannot be collected in instalments."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask why the Government cannot show a concession and collect the fees in four instalments? I understand that the fee is about Rs. 90 per boat."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" No, we have decided not to collect the fees in instalments."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask, Madam, whether any difficulty stands in the way of the Government doing it? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" I have already answered that."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask whether departmental orders have been issued to the subordinates not to remove the silt on the ostensible ground that rains will wash them down and it would be difficult to calculate the quantity of work done? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" No such orders have been issued."

When question No. 295 was called, Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam who gave notice of it, was not in his place.

Attendance of C.I.D. officers at the meetings of the parties opposed to the Congress creed.

* 295 Q.—RAO BAHADUR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether Government have issued any orders in the matter of C.I.D. officers attending public meetings and reporting their proceedings, and if so, whether they will be pleased to lay a copy of the order on the table of the House; and

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(ii) whether orders have been issued that C.I.D. reporters are no longer to attend meetings of the Congress party and other bodies allied to the Congress but that on the other hand they are to attend and report the proceedings of the meetings held under the auspices of bodies opposed to the Congress such as the Justice?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I wish to answer this question even though the Member who has put down the question is not here. (The Hon. the Premier read the question to the House.) I have read the question so that the House may understand it and I shall proceed to answer it.

"(i) No such orders have been issued by the Government.

"(ii) The answer to this clause is also in the negative."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"May I ask whether the report that even the movements of the Hon. Ministers are being watched by the C.I.D. is true?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I have not seen any such reports; I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to."

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"May I ask the Hon. Premier whether he has issued any instructions for C.I.D. reporters to attend the meetings of the European Association?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"No such orders have been issued and if any such C.I.D. officers come, I authorize the European Association to take suitable steps." (Laughter.)

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Am I to understand that the orders of the previous Government with reference to the activities of the C.I.D. still continue?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The previous Government's orders are still operative and nothing has been done to stop the work of the C.I.D. in the proper manner. The C.I.D. is given the discretion to choose its victims." (Laughter.)

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"May I ask whether the C.I.D. are attending and reporting the meetings of the Congress party as before?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Probably the nature of the meetings is also different now, Madam."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"May I ask whether the present Government will issue orders to save these victims?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I should not use any humorous language if it is to be understood in this manner. I do say that a certain amount of discretion is to be given to every officer of the Government to choose the manner in which he should exercise the powers conferred on him. If the exercise of the powers amounts to an abuse of the powers, action

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will be taken by the Government. But it is not possible for the Government to issue orders to the C.I.D. to go to such and such meetings or not to go to such and such meetings."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether an opportunity will be given to people whose speeches have been reported to say whether those speeches have been reported correctly or not?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"When any judicial or statutory action is taken upon such reports, the opportunity is bound to be given."

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask, Madam, whether there are proposals to divert the activities of the C.I.D. to putting down corruption in official circles?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"No, Madam. The Government do not think so poorly of their officers as to put the C.I.D. over them."

Alleged irregularities in the accounts of the Industrial Workshops, Madras.

* 296 Q.—MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Industrial Workshops have been showing any profits or loss during the past three years and what is the amount of profit or loss; and

(b) whether at any time account irregularities and consequent loss to Government have been noticed by auditors in the accounts of the Industrial Workshops, and whether Government have punished any officers on this account and if so, who they are and what the amount recovered from each is?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (a) The Industrial Engineering Workshop has been working at a loss during the past three years as shown below:—

Year.	Loss. RS.
1934-35	8,182
1935-36	4,035
1936-37	2,427

"(b) The reference presumably is to the loss caused to Government by the purchase of certain stores in advance of actual requirements brought to notice in the audit report on the accounts for the year 1929-30. The Madras Public Service Commission held that the purchases were made by the Assistant Industrial Engineer without authority and that the Industrial Engineer, though he was not directly responsible, made himself responsible when he passed the bills for payment. The Government accepted this finding and recovered the loss amounting to Rs. 5,126-5-0 from the two officers in equal shares."

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Protest against the increase in the percentage of marks required for selection for appointment to public service.

* 297 Q.—DR. M. J. SAMUEL: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that under the notification issued by the Madras Public Service Commission, dated 26th June 1937, Indian Christian candidates are required to obtain not less than 40 per cent of marks in English and in the Language in Group A;

(b) whether in previous years only 35 per cent of marks in English and in the Vernacular in Group A was required in the case of Indian Christian candidates; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what are the reasons for the change?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“(a) & (b) The answer is in the affirmative, assuming that the hon. Member refers to candidates who took the S.S.L.C. under the revised scheme introduced in 1929.

“(c) The concession of a lower percentage of marks in English and in a language in Group A was shown to certain communities for a limited period in order to secure to the members of those communities their due share in the public services according to the communal rule. As it was reported by the Commission that Indian Christian candidates fully qualified under the rules were available in the required numbers, there was no reason to continue the concession to members of that community which was therefore withdrawn.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the minimum prescribed and referred to in clauses (a) and (b) of the question applies not only to this community but also to other communities?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Yes, Madam; but the concession that had been previously given to Indian Christian candidates having been subsequently withdrawn, the question arises and the answer is given.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask, Madam, how long this concession was enjoyed by the Indian Christian community and what are the reasons for it?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“It seems unnecessary, Madam, to give reasons for a concession which existed before and which has now been withdrawn.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Are there any complaints received by the Government that the Service Commission is not doing full justice to any community?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I do not think, Madam, it would serve the public purpose to answer that question; but it should not also be imagined that I have accepted even the slightest flavour of that question.”

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Proposal for placing Indian Christians in a separate class for purposes of communal representation in the Public Service.

* 298 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether under the principle of communal representation in the matter of recruitment to services, Indian Christians are placed in a single class with members of some other minority communities such as Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Non-Asiatics;

(b) whether representations have been made to Government in the past through the Legislative Council and otherwise that such a classification places the Indian Christian candidates at a disadvantage;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to remedy this grievance; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider the desirability of placing the Indian Christians in a separate class for purposes of recruitment?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“(a) & (b) Yes.

“(c) & (d) This Government can add nothing to Sir Charles Souter's replies to the speeches of the hon. Members of the late Legislative Council in connexion with budget motions under Demand X for 1935–36 and for 1936–37 printed respectively at page 540 of the Legislative Council Proceedings, Volume LXXVI, and at page 535 of the Proceedings for 1936–37 (extracts * circulated separately).”

After reading out the answer, the Hon. the Prime Minister added: “And for the benefit of the Member immediately, I may read this, Madam, the main part of the speech * referred to.” (Appendix II was read.)

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“May I know from the Hon. the Prime Minister whether the Government, as at present constituted, will not be pleased to go into the question and examine it since the complaint still stands?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“The Government will, if pressed by the hon. Member, certainly examine the question again; but, Madam, I have already stated that after such examination as has been done after this question was put down, this Government felt they could add nothing to what Sir Charles Souter has already stated. The difficulties are the same.”

Flying of the Congress flag on public buildings.

* 299 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state why the Congress flag is permitted to be flown on public buildings?

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THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"May I answer the question, even though the Member is not in his place?"

"The question is 'why the Congress flag is permitted to be flown on public buildings?' The answer is this:

"The hon. Member presumably refers to the recent orders cancelling the ban on the hoisting and flying of the flag used by the Indian National Congress on buildings belonging to or occupied by municipal councils, local boards, etc. The orders were issued by the Government because they are of opinion that there is no good reason to prohibit it."

* 300 & 301 Qs.^a

* 302 Q.^b

Alleged irregularities on the part of the Circle Inspector of Police, Pulivendla, regarding the arrest of Komma Eswara Reddi and Komma Sesha Reddi.

* 303 Q.—MR. N. RANGA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) (i) whether it is a fact that in the month of March 1937 the Circle Inspector of Police of Pulivendla having arrested Komma Eswara Reddi and Komma Sesha Reddi of Kasanoor, Pulivendla taluk, Cuddapah district, under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, got them handcuffed on their way to the Magistrate;

(ii) whether there were any circumstances justifying the arrest;

(b) when under-trial prisoners are to be handcuffed and whether there were any circumstances justifying handcuffing;

(c) whether the Police Inspector of Pulivendla laid a complaint before the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Pulivendla as C.C. No. 54 of 1937 against the abovesaid two persons and thirteen others under sections 147 and 366 of the Indian Penal Code;

(d) whether the majority of the witnesses were police subordinates and whether the statements of non-police witnesses were recorded under section 164, Criminal Procedure Code;

(e) whether the case was withdrawn before examination of any witnesses without any grounds being shown, and whether the District Magistrate was consulted in the matter of withdrawal;

(f) what the grounds of withdrawal were;

(g) whether it is a fact that the Circle Inspector of Police mentioned in his complaint itself that the parties had compromised, and wanted to wreak vengeance on him in particular, and on the police in general;

(h) whether it is a fact that Reserve Police party was requisitioned from Cuddapah and for what purpose, if the parties had compromised, and for how long the party stayed in Kasanoor;

^a Vide pages 1038-1040 infra.

^b Vide page 1035 infra.

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(i) whether it is a fact that the leaders wanted to complain against the Circle Inspector against his illegalities and whether they were prevented by the application of the coercive steps; and

(j) whether another case of the same village between the same parties happened in 1936 and whether they are now being prosecuted by the Police?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (a) to (j) The Government have no information but have called for it."

Representation of Muslims on the District Economic Council, Kurnool.

* 302 Q.—MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that there is not even a single non-official Muslim on the District Economic Council, Kurnool; and

(b) whether the Government are considering the advisability of reconstituting this Council giving adequate representation to the Muslim community on the said Council?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The general question of reconstituting the District Economic Councils is under the consideration of Government."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know in what light the proposals for the reconstitution of the District Economic Councils are being considered."

• THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" The whole matter is under the consideration of the Government."

MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU:—" May I know if the principle of communal representation underlies the constitution of District Economic Councils, and if so, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider the claims of all the communities? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" I would refer the hon. Member to the Government Order regarding the constitution of these Councils."

Qualifications of the Secretary, Cuddapah District Board.

* 304 Q.—MR. N. RANGA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) what the qualifications prescribed for the appointment of a secretary to a district board are; and

(b) whether the present incumbent of the office of the Secretary to the District Board, Cuddapah, has got the required qualifications; if not, whether any exemption has been granted, and if so, on what ground?

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THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The qualification prescribed for the post of secretary under district boards are—

“(i) Matriculation Examination of the University of Madras or a completed Secondary School-Leaving Certificate issued under the authority of the Government of Madras or any equivalent examination held by any of the recognized Universities; and

“(ii) A pass in Part I of the Account Test prescribed for subordinate officers in Government Service, within the period of probation unless he has already passed in the said part.

“(b) The present incumbent of the post of Secretary under the Cuddapah District Board did not possess the Account Test qualification on the date of his appointment to the post. Under the rule prescribing qualifications, it is permissible for him to pass the test during the period of probation. The question of exemption did not therefore arise.”

MR. N. RANGA REDDI:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that one of the qualifications for the appointment of the Secretary is that he should have served either in the Revenue Department or in the Local Self-Government Department?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There is no such rule, Madam.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Madam, whether the Government have considered the desirability of fixing higher educational qualifications for district board secretaries for the future at least, in view of the responsible work they have to do?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“We don't think so, Madam.”

MR. N. RANGA REDDI:—“Is there any time-limit for passing the Account Test examination, any probation period?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is two years, Madam.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Has there been any such examination recently?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Not yet.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know why the Government refuse to fix a higher educational qualification for these Secretaries?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Government think that the qualification fixed at present is sufficient.”

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—“Was he directly recruited?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I think so.”

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MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—“Was there any advertisement made for the appointment?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is not necessary, Madam.”

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—“Why?”

(No answer).

Supersession of the Panchayat Board, Bapatla.

* 305 Q.—MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) what is the nature of the charges alleged against the Bapatla Panchayat Board and its president before the orders of supersession were passed;

(b) whether any enquiry was held under the authority of the Government into the alleged charges against the administration of the panchayat board;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Local Boards based his orders of supersession on a report based on an enquiry said to have been conducted by Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari, ex-M.L.C., into the affairs of the Board;

(d) if so, whether the Government is satisfied that Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari, ex-M.L.C., conducted any enquiry at all at the office of the panchayat board or anywhere else locally by examination of witnesses or records;

(e) whether Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari, ex-M.L.C., was appointed officially by the Inspector of Local Boards to conduct such an enquiry and invested with the necessary authority for the same and whether a copy of the order of such appointment was sent to the President, Panchayat Board, Bapatla, for information or whether the fact of the enquiry was locally notified;

(f) if so, whether the order of appointment will be placed on the table of the House;

(g) why in this particular instance Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari, ex-M.L.C., was appointed to enquire, especially in view of the fact that he was then a candidate for election to the Madras Legislative Assembly from the Ongole division, in which area the Bapatla Panchayat Board is situate;

(h) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Local Boards took special and urgent steps to get the order of supersession of the Bapatla Panchayat Board notified in the *Guntur District Gazette* immediately after it was passed and immediately before the date of elections to the Madras Legislative Assembly;

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(i) whether it is a fact that a perusal of the concerned file of the office of Inspector of Local Boards would reveal that the Inspector was unduly anxious to pass supersession orders in this instance before the date of general elections to the Provincial Assembly; and

(j) whether the Government will be pleased to take necessary steps at an early date to restore the Bapatla Panchayat Board?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Clauses (a) to (j) Particulars have been called for.”

Transfer of board school teachers by the South Tinnevelly District Board.

* 300 Q.—SRIMATHI LAKSHMI AMMAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware that about 200 transfers of teachers were made in board schools in the South Tinnevelly District Board in July last; and

(b) whether the teachers concerned were given travelling allowances;

(c) what are the reasons that necessitated the transfers; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to remedy the state of affairs in this regard?

MR. C. J. VARKEY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—“(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information. A report will be called for.

“(d) Orders have been issued to local bodies instructing them to consult inspecting officers in regard to the transfer of teachers. They have also been informed that orders of transfer should indicate whether travelling allowance has been sanctioned or not in order to enable the inspecting officers to investigate cases of irregular refusal to grant travelling allowance.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask, Madam, whether the report called for will be placed on the table of the House?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“It will be laid on the table.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether such investigation is going to be made in respect of other district boards also?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“Notice.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I request the Government to call for a report from all the district boards regarding the transfers of secondary and elementary school teachers and ask them whether allowances were given in respect of such transfers?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“The question will be considered.”

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MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“In view of the complaints received on the question of teachers being transferred in various districts, may I ask whether Government will compel every district board to employ a District Board Educational Officer?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“The whole question is being considered by the Government, and when the revised scheme is put forward, consideration will be given to this aspect also.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether the Government are aware that husbands and wives who serve as teachers in the same district board are constantly transferred to different and distant places?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“The Government are not aware of that.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“May I ask whether there are proposals under the consideration of Government to instruct the district boards to see that transfers are not ordinarily made during the course of the year except during the Summer holidays?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“No such orders have been issued.”

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“I am not speaking of orders issued; I want to know whether there are any proposals to issue such orders?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“The matter will be considered.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask, Madam, whether the Government are aware that in certain district boards, District Board Educational Officers have been appointed and in certain other district boards they have not been appointed; and if so, why not?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“I beg to submit, Madam, that that does not arise out of this question.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Madam, are there any complaints received by the Government from the teachers themselves or from teachers' associations that on account of these frequent transfers, so many hardships are undergone by them?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“Such representations have been received and they are being considered.”

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of giving instructions to the district board presidents not to transfer teachers from the taluks to which they belong?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“It may not be always possible.”

Number of Indian Christian Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the Guntur district.

* 301 Q.—MR. J. RAJA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) how many Deputy Inspectors of Schools are serving in the Guntur district; and

(b) how many of them are Indian Christians?

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(e) whether it is a fact that a number of clerks in the Coimbatore Collectorate, particularly in the Audit section, have been there for decades ever since their entertainment in service and have been in practice exempt from transfer;

(f) whether it is a fact that the practice of transferring clerks from one branch of work to another branch to prevent the acquisition of vested interest is not observed in this branch and if so, why; and

(g) whether it is a fact that clerks with Kollegal service are again transferred to Kollegal in the face of the existence of a large body of men in the Collectorate with no service in Kollegal to their credit, what the policy behind this discrimination is?

A.—(a) Transfer of a Government servant from one station to another is not a form of punishment. The question of the transfer of officers in the Coimbatore district to Kollegal as a punishment does not therefore arise.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The rule is that usually clerks and Revenue Inspectors who have put in two years' service in the Kollegal taluk are transferred to other taluks if and when opportunities occur. But if clerks are found wanting while employed elsewhere, they may be kept longer in Kollegal where work is lighter than in other taluks.

(d) Under the rules, leave cannot be claimed as a matter of right. When the exigencies of the public service so require, discretion to refuse or revoke leave of any description is reserved to the authority empowered to grant it.

In the Coimbatore district, leave was refused this year to certain clerks not only in Kollegal but also elsewhere in the district because no suitable substitutes could be found on account of the deputation of clerks on survey training and on special duty for the preparation of electoral rolls. Two clerks in Kollegal were thus refused leave which was applied for on other than medical grounds.

(e) & (f) The answer is in the negative. A few have however been retained in the Collector's office in the interests of work.

Clerks are transferred from time to time but unnecessary transfers are avoided as they dislocate work for some time. There is however no question of exemption from transfers or of acquisition of vested interests in particular posts.

(g) It is not the case that clerks are transferred to Kollegal over and over again. Service in Kollegal is not generally liked and clerks posted to that taluk after staying there

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a few months apply for leave. As such clerks seem to evade service in Kollegal they are ordered to go back to Kollegal on return from leave to do their two years' service there. Clerks of the Collector's office are sent to Kollegal just as clerks from other offices and no discrimination is made.

Number of Muslims employed as permanent Upper Division clerks in the Secretariat.

157 Q.—MR. D. K. SAIYED IBRAHIM: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) how many Muslims are working as permanent Upper Division clerks in each department of the Secretariat at Fort St. George and what their academic qualifications are;

(b) how many of them have put in a service of more than ten years;

(c) how many of them have acted as Superintendents in the Secretariat;

(d) how many of them have acted as Managers or Personal Assistants in any of the Government offices in the City; and

(e) how many of them have discharged the duties of heads of office in any of the Government offices in the City?

A.—(a) to (e) A statement^a is laid on the table of the House.

Number of pupils attending the Muslim High School, Malappuram.

* 158 Q.—MR. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal departments be pleased to place on the table of the House a list showing the number of pupils from each taluk of the Malabar district attending the Muslim High School, Malappuram?

A.—

Chirakkal taluk	...	...	...	...	...	6
Kottayam	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kurumbranad	...	...	...	...	...	6
Calicut	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ernad	...	...	...	...	...	67
Walluvanad	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ponnani	...	...	...	...	...	13
Palghat	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wynad	}	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cochin						

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MR. C. J. VARKEY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—“(a) 25 (16 in the junior scale and 9 in the senior scale).

“(b) 2 (in the junior scale).”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Arrears of rent and decrees in the Mandasa estate.

152 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that large arrears of rent and decrees have enormously accumulated in the Mandasa Estate now under the Court of Wards management;

(b) if so, whether the Government would investigate into the causes of such accumulation of arrears of rent and decrees; and

(c) whether the Government would consider the desirability of granting adequate relief to tenants heavily burdened with arrears of rent?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) A copy ^a of the report received from the Court of Wards on the subject is annexed.

Resumption of lands in certain villages in the Ichchapur taluk.

153 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that banjar lands which were under the occupation and enjoyment of ryots in Kesapur, Idipur, Sanyasiputtagu and Burjapadu villages of the Ichchapur taluk for uninterrupted periods of over 50 years are now being ejected from their owners and that heavy premiums are being demanded of the owners;

(b) whether the Government are aware that these holdings have passed many hands through sales, mortgages and other kinds of transfer;

(c) whether the change in Board's Standing Orders which came into effect in recent years would apply to owners who had acquired rights long before their coming into force; and

(d) whether the Government would consider the desirability of exempting the owners of these lands from the payment of premiums under these special circumstances?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have no information but have called for a report.

^a Printed as Appendix III on pages 1090-1091 infra.

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Complaint against the shop-keepers opposite the Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore.

154 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the District Medical Officer, Mangalore, Capt. K. K. Nambiyar, filed a police complaint against the shop-keepers carrying on their trade opposite the hospital compound; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the complaint will be placed on the table with the action taken by the police thereon?

A.—(a) & (b) No written complaint was filed by the District Medical Officer. One of the patients complained that some shop-keepers near the maternity section of the Lady Goschen Hospital were abusing her. The police were asked to enquire into the matter and it was found subsequently that the patient was suffering from delusions and that the shop-keepers were not to blame.

Payment of allowances to the families of Moplah prisoners, detained under the Moplah Outrages Act.

155 Q.—MR. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government pay any allowance to the families of Moplah prisoners detained under the Moplah Outrages Act; and

(b) if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) Prisoners detained outside jail under the Act were given an allowance for their own support and additional allowances for the support of the members of their families living with them. No persons are at present so detained.

Transfer of officers and clerks from and to Kollegal in the Coimbatore district.

156 Q.—MR. D. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that officers and officials transferred 'on punishment' are sent to Kollegal in the Coimbatore district;

(b) whether Government treat Kollegal as a penal settlement for public servants;

(c) whether there is a working rule that two years' service in Kollegal entitles an official to transfer to the plains and if so, whether it has been observed impartially in the case of clerks in Kollegal;

(d) whether it is a fact that applications for leave by clerks in Kollegal are withheld by their immediate superiors or are refused even in cases where there is leave to the credit of the applicant, and that not unoften an applicant is required to produce a medical certificate;

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Proposal for the replacement of the newly introduced photo-stat system by the old one.

159 Q.—MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) in how many districts the photo-stat system has been introduced in the Registration Department;

(b) how many clerks were consequently thrown out of employment;

(c) how many of them so thrown out of employment have since been re-employed;

(d) what, if any, is the net gain to Government by the introduction of the above mechanised process;

(e) what the amount spent in purchasing foreign materials by the introduction of such a system is;

(f) whether the Government are aware that the introduction of the system has not received public support; and

(g) whether the Government intend to revert to the old system in the districts where this new system has been introduced?

A.—(a) to (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to starred question No. 182 given in the Assembly on 22nd September 1937.

(d) The net saving in 1935 was Rs. 3,522. Later information is not available.

(e) The Government have no information. A report has been called for.

(f) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested.

(g) The system is still in an experimental stage. The question whether it should be continued permanently or abandoned will be considered before the present sanction for it (which extends up to 31st March 1939) expires.

Condition of the trunk road between Tiruvottiyur and Minjur in the Chingleput district.

160 Q.—MR. O. CHENGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the trunk road between Tiruvottiyur and Minjur, Ponneri taluk, Chingleput district, is very much damaged during the rainy season?

A.—The road in question is not a trunk road. It is an unmetalled road and so it will be subject to damage during heavy rains.

Collection of punitive police tax from non-resident owners of land in Kalyanapuram village, Tanjore district.

161 Q.—MR. A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether punitive tax was collected in the Kalyanapuram village, Tanjore district, on account of Veerasingampatti rioting;

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(b) whether the Government are aware that the tax was collected on all persons owning lands in the village, including those who do not reside in the village, but own lands therein; and

(c) whether the Government will consider the advisability of returning the punitive tax collected from those who do not reside in the village, but own lands therein?

A.—(a) The cost of an additional Police force stationed in the Kalyanapuram village was recovered under section 15 of the Police Act V of 1861.

(b) The Government are not aware.

(c) The cost was recovered in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The Act provides that the Government may exempt any persons, or class or section, from liability to bear any portion of the cost, and a considerable number of persons including persons who satisfied the authorities as to non-residence were so exempted. It is impracticable for Government to consider, now, the question of returning any portion of the amounts collected.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

II.—BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS WAKF BILL.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker took the Chair.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed will have to move for leave to introduce the Madras Wakf Bill. The hon. Member is not present. We must pass over that item. It must be deemed to have been withdrawn.”

(2) THE MAPPILLA MARUMAKKATTAYAM BILL.

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Mappilla Marumakkattayam Bill.”

* MR. SPEAKER (after a pause):—“ There being no objection, the leave is granted.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ I introduce the Bill, Sir.”

(3) BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE REMOVAL OF SOCIAL DISABILITIES AMONG CERTAIN CLASSES OF HINDUS.

RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—“ Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the removal of social disabilities among certain classes of Hindus.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ As there is no opposition, the leave is granted.”

RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—“ Sir, I introduce the Bill.”

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system of voting should be removed not only with regard to constituencies where there are separate seats reserved for the Harijan members, but also in respect of all the plural member constituencies, where the cumulative system of voting is in existence. Therefore my amendments run thus:—

(1) Add the words “ *wherever it is adopted* ” between the words “ *cumulative system of voting* ” and the words “ *in the general constituencies* ”.

(2) After the words “ *Legislative Assembly* ” for the words “ *wherein seats are reserved* ”, substitute the words “ *including seats reserved* ”.

“ You know, Sir, there are six or seven general constituencies also where there is cumulative system adopted. On account of the existence of more seats than one in those constituencies, the cumulative system was adopted, in order to give some help to the minorities. The single transferable vote by proportional representation is probably the best system if minorities are to be helped, and at first in the recommendations made by the Government of Madras, the single non-transferable vote was recommended. That is a thing which is being experimented with in Belgium and other small countries. It is new thing not having been in practice in any well-known constitution. The object was that whatever may be the number of seats and whatever may be the number of votes to which the voter is entitled, he can only exercise one vote in favour of any one candidate for all the seats. But somehow, after better consideration, that system was given up, and finally we have got the cumulative system. The disadvantage of the cumulative system is the corruption that is possible under it, and the rich man has the advantage over the poor man. All these things have been well described by my friend, Mr. Rajah, and I completely agree with him that the cumulative system or any other system by which each voter is prevented from exercising his votes in favour of several candidates is really very bad. What I want is that the cumulative system should be done away with, with regard to other constituencies also wherever it exists. In this province, there is no special necessity for protecting minority interests; the Anglo-Indians, the Europeans, the Mussalmans, the Indian Christians and the Harijans have all got their special communal representation. Seats are either reserved in the general constituencies, or they have separate electorates. Also other interests like zamindars, merchants, labourers and women are given special representation, and therefore, we need not take any special care for the protection of minorities. Only political minorities probably want this system in order to get some seats. It was advocated by the Liberals in the old days and probably the Justice Party also seemed to have favoured this system when this question came up before the last Government. But under the representative Government that we are going to establish, we want stable majorities of any party here.

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“ Otherwise there will be no stable administration, there will be no strong administration and, no well-cut and strong programmes can be taken up with courage and confidence by anybody. For instance in the post-war constitutions on the continent proportional representation was adopted. No doubt minorities have all got seats but what has happened? Nothing but confusion prevails. No party system has been possible under this proportional representation. Only groups have come into existence and coalition governments have been formed and they are as easily dissolved as they are formed. So this attempt to give proportional representation to the minorities under the cloak of methods of representation is really bad. And after all what do you do if we have a number of groups with different political opinions? Of course there can be no stable government at all. The beauty of the English system is that it has developed and maintained two stable and strong parties. If one party goes out in the elections, another party is ready to take up office, to legislate and carry on the administration. In the United States there are two parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. In France there are groups. In sixty years there have been eighty cabinets that have been formed and dissolved and therefore we need not be anxious about giving special representation or help to the minorities. Minority political groups are always a danger to stable administration and stable legislation. There should be two strong well-formed parties and each should explain its programmes and on the merits of the programmes the voters should elect representatives. And then there should be a strong party. They should be the only Opposition. Therefore the group system ought to be discouraged. In this country the Justice Party was a strong party. It went into the polls and of course it was defeated on account of the better programme, in my opinion, of the Congress Party. The Congress Party has come out successful in spite of the attempts made against it by even some rich people in several parts of the country. If now the Congress which has a big majority will put into practice its programmes and if the programmes are found wanting and unpopular, then in the next polls a better party with a better programme will succeed. If the Congress programme which, I hope, will be very good, is accepted by the people, naturally this party will continue in existence.

“ Therefore, we should help the formation of a stable legislature and a stable administration. Otherwise, when there is no strong parliamentary system established in any country, the danger will be the same as that which exists in Italy, Germany and Russia, where totalitarianism and dictatorships have come into existence because the parliamentary system of government has not been well rooted. Therefore you must all, whether you belong to the Justice Party or the Independent Party or the Congress Party, you must all help and unanimously support that system of voting that will bring into existence two strong, well-organized political parties. Here there can be only two parties, that party which fights imperialism, which wants

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to get complete independence and the other party which likes to be controlled and influenced by the British. There can be only two parties, particularly in a country which is not independent but whose people form a slave nation, and therefore, I submit my amendment to the House for acceptance."

RAO BAHADUR MR. M. C. RAJAH:—"Sir, at this stage I may say that I accept the amendment."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The mover of the resolution has accepted the amendment. The amendment has to be seconded."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"I second it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will put the amendment of Mr. Kaleswara Rao formally to the vote of the House."

The amendment was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The resolution as amended is now for the discussion of the House."

* MR. B. S. MURTI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this resolution as amended. Whatever may be the motive of the persons who have introduced this system of voting we have seen the effects of it during the last elections when the mighty Congress was facing not only the imperialistic forces but also the vested interests. We knew how the Congress leaders and workers had to labour under this mischievous system. I call it mischievous, Sir, because it has tried its level best to divide community from community and leader from leader. The Hindu community from which the Harijan community has been long divided, was, by virtue of the Poona Pact, united. And we hope that in course of time, without speaking a word about the removal of untouchability, we could drive away this demon of untouchability, because of the new system that it would be given to us to enjoy. But this cumulative system has tried to engender fear and hatred even in Congress ranks. We have all along been under the impression that the cumulative system was brought in to help the minority communities. But in actual practice we have seen that it has worked against them. So I am glad and thankful that Mr. Rajah has brought forward the resolution, at the earliest possible moment, to do away with a system which has been introduced against the wishes of Congress leaders. Sir, I think it will not be out of place if I say that many Congress leaders including those from the Madras Presidency, fought against the inclusion of this system when it was being considered. But the representations and the appeals which the Congress made were not heeded. Now that we have come into power at the will and wish of the electorate, at the instance of the population, at the instance of the masses, we should see that the system which is working against unity should be done away with as early as possible. With this I commend that this resolution as amended be accepted by this Honourable House."

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* MR. E. KANNAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am indeed grateful to the hon. the Mover of this resolution for having brought forward this resolution at a most unique opportunity. Those of us who had to face the electorates in the last elections in special constituencies, have felt sufficiently the disastrous effects of this mischievous system of cumulative voting. I think I need not remind hon. Members of the House the circumstances under which the Poona Pact came into existence. I feel that the anxieties of those days are still fresh in the minds of the hon. Members. At a time when the Hindu community was going to be attacked from all sides, all divisions were brought together by the Poona Pact and it was the anxiety of all people concerned, the anxiety of all honest people in the country that there should be no further divisions allowed to be created in Hindu society. When the system of cumulative voting was decided to be introduced in this country, the depressed classes with one voice opposed it stoutly. For whatever reasons, I cannot say, the Government of the day found it better or more convenient to introduce this system in spite of all opposition from all concerned. I remember well the hardships which I, as a Harijan candidate had to meet in my own constituency. My hon. Friend, Mr. Karunakara Menon, who was the candidate for the general seat was uniformly appealing to the electorate that there should be no cumulative system of voting, that he did not want to come to this House if I was to be defeated on this question of cumulative voting. But what was it that my rival and the party that supported him did? They went about preaching, 'We are not concerned as to whether Karunakara Menon gets in or not, but we want that Mr. Kannan should be defeated and the easiest method by which it could be achieved is that not only those who are inclined to vote for the Congress but also those who are against it should give both their votes for Mr. Karunakara Menon so that the votes which Mr. Kannan may get may be less.' This mischief, I understand, was to be met with everywhere where the candidates had to face the electorate in special constituencies. Apart from this, as Mr. Rajah has very correctly pointed out, the very purpose and the ideal of the Poona Pact has been defeated by this system. I feel that in an enlightened community like the Indian community and in an enlightened country like ours, as we are advancing towards a political goal which has to be a model for every other country and in which there will be no mutual suspicions between communities and communities, this system should not be allowed to continue for a minute longer. Therefore I very strongly support this resolution and I pray that this may be accepted by the House and then by the authorities concerned also without any hesitation or opposition."

* MR. V. KURMAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution as amended by Mr. Kaleswara Rao. We all know how this cumulative system has worked and created a lot of confusion and mischief between community and community. Before the Poona Pact

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III.—RESOLUTIONS.

(1) ASSIGNMENT OF LANDS IN THE GUNTUR DISTRICT.

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. V. Kurmayya was deemed to have been withdrawn, the hon. Member not having moved it:—

“This Assembly recommends to the Government that the grants of the lands granted on darkhast subject to the project conditions in the Guntur district be made absolute without demanding market value.”

(2) TOTAL PROHIBITION OF STRONG DRINKS IN ONE YEAR.

Mr. S. M. Laljan in whose name the following resolution stood not being present to move it, it was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

“This Assembly recommends to the Government that total prohibition of strong drinks should be established in this Province within a period of one year.”

(3) ASSIGNMENT OF LANDS IN THE GUNTUR DISTRICT.

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. K. Venkata Reddi was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

“This Assembly recommends to the Government that all grants of lands in the Guntur district formerly made on darkhast, subject to project conditions and remaining till now unconfirmed, be confirmed without demanding payment of price of the lands; and that orders be issued to the district authorities to stop all proceedings now initiated in the district to demand payment of price of the lands for confirmation of such grants and on default, to resume the lands.”

(4) INSURANCE OF BANKS ACTING AS BANKERS TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. S. K. SHAIK ROWTHER in whose name the following resolution stood, not being present to move it, it was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

“This Assembly recommends to the Government that banks acting as bankers to the Government of Madras be requested to place all their insurances exclusively with insurance companies incorporated in India with Indian capital.”

(5) SUBSTITUTION OF DISTRIBUTIVE SYSTEM OF VOTING FOR CUMULATIVE SYSTEM.

*RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—“Sir, I move the resolution standing in my name, viz.:—

“This Assembly recommends to the Government to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for India to do away with

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the cumulative system of voting in the general constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly, wherein seats are reserved for the scheduled castes and to substitute the system of distributive voting instead.”

“Sir, in commending this resolution to this House, I need not make a long speech. The main object of the Poona Pact is to prevent any division in the Hindu community and to preserve Hindu solidarity so as to keep the scheduled castes within the Hindu fold. The cumulative system of election, Sir, is quite contrary to the provisions of the Poona Pact. It is human nature, Sir, that communities always tend to strengthen their own representation. As a matter of fact, in the recent elections, some of us observed that caste Hindu voters were always inclined to plump their votes in favour of caste Hindu candidates, and the scheduled caste voters were also inclined to plump their votes in favour of the scheduled caste candidates. This, Sir, is quite contrary to the essence of the Poona Pact. Moreover, Sir, the cumulative method of voting lends itself to new forms of corruption. Inasmuch as a candidate was permitted to canvass not only for one vote but also for all the votes which a voter was qualified to give, it was a greater incentive for a rich man to buy up all the votes, and also it was a greater incentive for a voter to sell his votes for a higher price. Hon. Members who are sitting here are all legislators who are subject to passing through an election. As a matter of fact, this system of cumulative voting has been criticized by most of the hon. Members during the last elections and even before. Therefore, Sir, it is not necessary for me to explain the system of elections and its disadvantages. The only system which will be of advantage to all and which will carry out the intentions of the Poona Pact is the system of distributive voting, whereby the caste Hindu voter will be forced to give one vote in favour of a depressed class candidate, and so also the scheduled caste voter will be forced to give one of his votes to the caste Hindu candidate. If this system is adopted there will be greater cordiality, there will be more friendly feelings between the Harijan voters, the Harijan candidates, the caste Hindu voters and the caste Hindu candidates. On these grounds, I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House.”

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, கனம் M. C. Rajah அவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்த இந்த தீர்மானத்தை நான் ஆமோதிக்கிறேன். சாதாரணமாக குவியல் வோட்டாக இருக்குமானால் அந்த இடங்களிலுள்ள பணமுடையவர்கள் செல்வாக்குடையவர்கள் ஒரே அடியாகப் பணத்தைக் கொடுத்து வோட்டுகளை தங்களுக்கு வாங்கிக்கொண்டு போய்விடுகிறார்கள். பங்கிடு வோட்டாக இருந்தால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஜாதி விரிந்துக்களுக்கு கொடுப்பார்கள். ஜாதி விரிந்துக்கள் ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்குக் கொடுப்பார்கள். ஆகையினால் கனம் M. C. Rajah அவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்த தீர்மானத்தை நான் முழு மனதுடன் ஆமோதிக்கிறேன்.”

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move two amendments to the resolution proposed by my friend Mr. M. C. Rajah. My object in moving these amendments is that the cumulative

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was entered into, the Imperialistic Government wanted to separate the Harijans from the rest of the Hindu community. With very great effort and courage Mahatma Gandhi and the leader of our community, Mr. M. C. Rajah supported joint-electorates from the very beginning and that agitation was supported by all the Harijan Associations throughout India. Even after the Poona Pact was ratified and supported by the Government, the Government wanted to do some mischief mainly to separate the Harijans from the rest of the Hindu community. That is why the Government, I think it is the previous Government, wanted to apply this cumulative system of voting which will deceive us and will separate the Harijans from the rest of the Hindu community.

11 m. "Before this system was thought of, Mr. M. C. Rajah had tried his level best for the introduction of the distributive system. He went before the Delimitation Commission and gave evidence, strongly supporting the introduction of this system. At that time, Mr. Siva Raj fought for the introduction of the cumulative system. Now many members here have supported this resolution, because the cumulative system has worked a lot of mischief among the masses in general and created a lot of ill-feeling between candidate and candidate set up by the same party. So I request this House to pass this resolution unanimously and send it to Parliament as early as possible for their ratification."

* MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this resolution. When the Delimitation Commission considered the question of the advantages and disadvantages of both systems of voting, I was examined as a witness, and a member for the European constituency was also asked to give evidence. That representative and I urged very strongly that we ought to have the distributive vote. At the present moment, the Europeans and Anglo-Indians are, I think, alone in possessing this distributive vote. The cumulative system seems to me most unfair, because it is possible that men with long purses may use undue influence over a few men, and contrive to get the cumulative votes of these few men, and thus the man who is supported by a minority may succeed against the man who is supported by a majority of individuals. I feel that the distributive vote is the correct manner of voting in a democracy, for ascertaining the views of a particular electorate. For that reason I strongly support this motion as amended. I feel that all Indians should be placed on the same level in this matter."

Mr. M. BAPINEEDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a humble Harijan worker and as a Congress member I feel it my duty to commend this resolution so ably moved and in time by my Friend Mr. M. C. Rajah. As my other colleagues and friends pointed out, the cumulative system is mischievous. It is mischievous in the sense that it tends to divide the Hindu community still further. The very object of the Poona Pact as was rightly pointed out by my hon. Friend M. C. Rajah was defeated by the introduction of this cumulative system. It

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divided the Savarnas from the Harijan members. But thanks to the good sense of the electorate, we were able to return all the Harijan members; and as a member belonging to the Congress Party, I take pleasure in the fact that in one of the constituencies a Harijan has been returned and a caste member has failed to be returned by that constituency. We are all anxious to see that the Poona Pact is worked in the proper spirit, and as such we take great pride in the fact that the Harijans in spite of the inherent defect in the system of voting were able to return the candidates belonging to one party. As such I feel that the sooner the cumulative voting is done away with the better. I have great pleasure in commending this resolution for the unanimous support of the House."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—

"గౌరవనీయులగు అధ్యక్షా! నేను యిచ్చటకు వచ్చినిలుచుకున్నాను. అంటే, M. C. రాజాగారు పెట్టిన తీర్మానమును ఆమోదించుటకే కాకుండా, దానికిపెట్టిన సవరణను కూడా ఆమోదించడానికి వచ్చియున్నాను. యీ బిల్లువారు పెట్టినందులకు నేను మనస్ఫూర్తిగా, నా వ్యక్తివంతముగా కాకుండా, నా constituency తరపున, cumulative system క్రింద వాదపడినవారందరి తరపున, వారికి మనస్ఫూర్తిగా వందనలు అర్పించుచున్నాను. యిది చాలా అన్యాయము చేసినది. యిది మా ఒకరికేకాదు, మా constituency లో ఉండే కాంగ్రెసువారికి మనసు కష్టము అనిపించినది. కాంగ్రెసు యిప్పుడు కొన్ని principle లు, పద్ధతులు, నియమములలో మెలగుచున్నది. కొందరికి కీడుచేయకూడదు, అన్యాయం చేయకూడదు అనే పక్షం. అట్టిదికూడా rival candidates, election tactics చేసి, చమత్కారములుచేసి, మోసపుచ్చుటకు చూచినప్పుడు, వీరుమాత్రం ఓడిపోవలసి వచ్చినా, అటువంటి విషయంలో యీ కాంగ్రెసువారు నియమములో నిజవబడి, మేము ఓడిపోయినా, హాజరులు ఓడిపోకూడదని తలచి, హరిజనులకు సహాయం చేసినారు. cumulative system సవర్ణులకు హరిజనులకు కష్టమైనది. యిది యెవరు తీసుకొనివచ్చారోగాని, యితర పార్టీలను పడగొట్టవలెననే ఉద్దేశంతో తెచ్చివుంటారు. యిది మా జాతికి, దేశమునకు, మతమునకు, ఆందరకూకూడా, అన్యాయం చేయుటకు, కళంకము చేయుటకు, యెవరియందు మాకు భక్తి ఉన్నదో, అటువంటివారికీకూడా, మమ్ములనుగాక, మమ్ములను పైకితెచ్చిన వారికీకూడా, యిద్దరికీకూడా వ్యతిరేకముగా చేసినారని నమ్మకము నాకున్నది. యిటువంటి చట్టముపోవలెనని, system పోవలెనని, నేను యిక్కడనేకాదు, ప్రతి సవర్ణుల తరపున, ప్రతి హరిజనుల తరపున చాటి చెప్పుచున్నాను. యీ చట్టము అన్యాయము చేసినది. దీనిని నేను యేకగ్రీవముగా ఆమోదించుచున్నాను. నా సహవాదరులందరూ యీ చట్టమును యేకగ్రీవముగా ఆమోదించవలెనని ప్రార్థనచేయుచున్నాను."

* THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that I must lend my support to the principle contained in the resolution of my hon. Friend Mr. M. C. Raja. The Poona Pact, Sir, has two objects in view: (1) to eradicate the evil of untouchability and (2) to produce mutual good will and trust among the Harijans and the caste Hindus. But due to the system of cumulative voting these objects underlying the Pact could not be achieved. I know as a matter of fact my hon. Friend Mr. M. C. Raja had pleaded before the Delimitation Committee for the preservation of the distributive system

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யினில் நமது நாட்டிற்கு இன்றியமையாத இந்த இரண்டு ஓட்டு முறையில் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் ஒவ்வொரு வேட்டைக் கொடுக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்ய இந்த மாகாண சர்க்கார் இந்தியா மந்திரிக்கு சிபார்சு செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கொண்டு வரப்பட்ட இந்த தீர்மானத்தை முழுமனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.”

“அன்பார்ந்த தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த தீர்மானத்தை இந்த சபையுள்ள ஒவ்வொரு மெம்பர்களும் மனப்பூர்வமாக ஆதரிக்கவேண்டுமென்று மிகவும் தாழ்மையுடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். ஏனென்றால் இந்தச் சபையில் நமது மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகளுடைய அரும்பெரும் முயற்சியால் பது ஹரிஜன மெம்பர்கள் வீற்றிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த ஹரிஜன மெம்பர் தவறாது வந்திருப்பினும் இந்த முப்பது ஹரிஜன மெம்பர்களுக்கும் குவிவோட்டு முறையினால் ஏற்பட்ட கஷ்டத்தை இந்த சபையிலிருக்கும் 215 மம்பர்களும் அறிந்திருப்பார்கள். இந்த குவியல் வோட்டு முறை ஒருவரை ஒருவர் எமாற்றச் செய்வதற்கும், ஒருவரையொருவர் நம்பக்கூடாத முறையாகவும் இருக்கிறது. இந்த குவியல் வோட்டு முறையிலுள்ள கஷ்டத்தை ஹரிஜன மெம்பர்களும் மற்றும் உயர் ஜாதி மெம்பர்களும் சென்ற எலக்ஷனில் இருக்க அனுபவித்திருப்பார்களென்று நினைக்கிறேன். இந்தக் குவியல் வோட்டு முறை வோட்டர்களை மிகவும் கேவலமாக விலைக்கு வாங்கும் முறையாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையினால் தனித்தனியாக இந்தக் குவியல்வோட்டு முறையைப் பிடி கொடுப்பதே மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகளின் அபிப்பிராயத்திற்குக் கொத்ததாக ஒருவரோடொருவர் அன்புடனும் பரஸ்பரம் சிநேக பாவத்துடனும் நடப்பதற்கு ஆதரவாகவுமிருப்பதனால் இந்த தீர்மானத்தை ஒவ்வொருவரும் ஆதரிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

2 'Sir, the amendment standing against my name emphasises the necessity
to adopt the recommendations of the Hammond Committee so far as the consti-
tuencies go. With regard to the system of voting, the amendment suggests that
instead of the cumulative system of voting recommended by the Hammond Com-
mittee, the distributive system of voting be adopted.'

“ Referring back again to the proceedings, Sir, I am reported to have spoken thus:

'Let me pass on to a few more arguments about the distributive method of voting. If the ideal of overcoming the communal and sub-communal differences that have unfortunately entered our public life is to be achieved, then, I

* MR. K. KULASEKARAN:—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, நமது இந்தியா நாட்டில் அரும் பெருந்தலைவர்கள் மகா அறிஞர்கள் அநேக காலமாக செய்த பிரயத்தனத்தின் பயனாக ஏற்பட்ட பூனா ஒப்பந்தத்தின்படி கூட்டுக்கமிட்டி ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டது. இரட்டைவோட்டுகள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டன. அந்த இரட்டை ஒட்டு முறையை அப்பொழுது நடந்த அந்த எலக்ஷனில் ஒவ்வொருவரும் தானாகத் தெரிந்துகொண்டார்கள். அந்த முறையில் பார்த்தால் நமது நாட்டில் பலகாலம் பல கூட்டுறவு பல பரம்பர ஒற்றுமைகள் வேறுபட்டிருந்த முறையை அந்த எலக்ஷனில் கண்டிருக்கிறோம். அந்த முறையில் பார்த்தால் இரட்டை வோட்டானது ஒருவரை ஒருவர் நேசிக்கவும் ஒருவரை ஒருவர் விரும்பவும் ஒருவரோடொருவர் பரம்பரம் நேசப்பாவுத்தானிருக்கவும் இருந்தது. அதைத் தடுத்து இரண்டு வோட்டையும் ஒருவருக்குக் கொடுக்கும் முறை இருப்பதால் பணமுள்ளவர்கள் இரண்டு வோட்டினையும் காசு கொடுத்து வாங்கிக் கொள்வார்கள் என்ற பயமிருந்தது. ஆகவே

[V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar] [29th September 1937]

suggest that the one safest way of doing that would be to reflect the opinions of the voters in its true sense by compelling them to vote for as many candidates as possible and not by promoting communal differences by giving them the privilege of plumping all their votes in favour of one candidate. This method of distributive voting has to be preferred both to the single non-transferable method of voting as well as the cumulative method of voting.'

"Sir, I think this is the very argument which the hon. Mover of the resolution has advanced in support of his motion. Sir, I am glad to find that this House which fully reflects the popular mind is accepting this resolution without a single dissentient voice. Sir, I am doubly pleased that the one method which the Congress party had the privilege of recommending in the old Council is to-day becoming *fait accompli* and that the resolution recommending this method to the Government is going to be passed *nem con.*'"

* MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—

"అధ్యక్ష మహాశయ! ఈ తీర్మానము మిక్కిలి ప్రశంసనీయమైనది. హరిజనులు ఒక్కరే కాదు. దేశమునందును ప్రజలందరు రాజకీయ విషయములు తెలిసిన వారందరు దీనిని అమోఘతగా తీసుకొని. ఈ cumulative వోటు distributive వోటు అను రెండు విధములు తెచ్చి పెట్టి మన దేశములోని సంఘములకు అనేక కలహములు సంభవించుచేసినారు. ఈ విటిఫికేషన్ దొరతనమువారు హరిజనులకును, ఇతరులకును వికమత్యము కలుగకుండ, చక్క-ఇద్దరికి పోట్లాటపెట్టి తమాషా చూడవలెనను ఉద్దేశ్యముతో నిర్మించిన పద్ధతి ఇది. ఇది వారికిగాని, మనకుగాని, ప్రపంచములో మరి యెవరికిగాని, లాభము గలుగు పద్ధతి కాదు. హరిజనులకు నష్టము. ఈ పద్ధతిచేత హరిజనులు నష్టపడవలెనని వారి తలంపు. హరిజనులను మనము నష్టపెట్టలేదు. మనమే నష్టపడినాము. ఇతర హిందువు అభ్యర్థులు కొన్ని ప్రదేశములలో హరిజనులు యొక్క ఓడిపోవుదురో అను భయముచేత తాము ఓడిపోవుటకు సంభవించు ఇష్టపడి హరిజనులను జయింపచేసియున్నారు. ఇది గాంధీగారి తపః ఫలము. వారు హరిజనులకును, ఇతర సంఘములకును, ఏవిధమైన విభేదముబుండకూడదని వాదించిరి. సమిష్టి నియోజకవర్గము సృష్టించి, వికమత్యము కలుగ చేయవలెనను ఉద్దేశ్యముతో ఆయన తపస్సుచేసి, దీర్ఘవ్రతములుండిరి. మహాత్ముని తపః ఫలముచేత హరిజనులకు కొంత ఉపకారము కలిగినను ఈ వ్యూహాలేటివి ఓటు పద్ధతితో ఆది నిష్పలమైనది. ఇది చాల అన్యాయమైన పద్ధతి. వర్గ అన్యాయము మోసము. ఈ మోసమునకులోబడి, మనలో మనము కలహములు పెట్టుకొని, కొట్టుకొని చచ్చుచుండగా మన దేశమున అనేకవేల సంవత్సరములు ఆంగ్లేయులు తమ ప్రభుత్వము సాగించవచ్చునని తలంచి ఇట్లుచేసినారు. మనము జ్ఞానము కలిగి, వీరి తాళముపట్టించెదమను సంగతి వారు గ్రహించలేదు. ఆయినప్పటికిని, ఇట్టి తీర్మానము అవసరములేకుండనే, మనము సర్దుకొన్నాము. ఆశక్తి మనదగ్గర ఉన్నది. కాని యంతకాలము మనము సర్దుకొనగలము? ఒకానొక సమయమున సర్దుకొనలేని పరిస్థితులు సంభవించవచ్చును. కనుక ఇట్టి తీర్మాన మవసరమే. ఈ పద్ధతి రద్దుచేయబడినయెడల తప్పక న్యాయము కలుగగలదు. అప్పుడు సంఘములకు వికమత్యము కలుగును. జస్టిసు పార్టీ, కాంగ్రెసు పార్టీ, హరిజన పార్టీ, మహమ్మదీయ పార్టీ అను ఈ పార్టీలలో క్రమముగ వికమత్యము నెలకొల్పబడి దేశాభ్యుదయమునకందరు ముందంజవేయు కాలము యెచ్చాటుచేయ సమీపించుచున్నదిని దృఢముగ జెప్పగలను. మహమ్మదీయులు ప్రత్యేక నియోజకవర్గములు అక్కరలేదు, సమిష్టి నియోజకవర్గములే కావలయునని చెప్పు కామోక్షమును కాక తప్పుడు దేశములో అందరము ఒక సంఘము, ఒక జాతి అని చెప్పు పరిస్థితులు యెచ్చడకను తప్పుడు.

[29th September 1937] [Mr. G. Rangayya Nayudu]

మహమ్మదీయులకు వేరే దేశములేదు. హిందూదేశమే వారి జన్మభూమి. వారు హిందూదేశములోనే పుట్టి పెరుగుచున్నారు, చచ్చుచున్నారు. వారు దేశగ్రీవముగ ఈ తీర్మానమును అంగీకరించి, నెగ్గించగోరుచున్నారు. బ్రిటిషు దొరతనమువారు వెంటనే ఈ తీర్మానమును అమలులో పెట్టి వ్యూహాలేటివి ఓటు సిద్ధాంతమును రద్దుచేయవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను. శ్రీ కాశ్యపరావు పంతులుగారి సవరణ చాల బాగుగన్నది. ఏ యెన్నికలలోకూడ ఈ cumulative system ఉండకూడదు. ఈ తీర్మానమును నేను హృదయపూర్వకముగ ఖల పరచుచున్నాను."

* MR. G. VENKANNA:—

"అధ్యక్ష మహాశయ! అస్పృశ్యత శృంఖలములవల్ల బంధించబడి మానవులనే మానవత్వము కోల్పోయిన మమ్ములను ఉద్ధరించుటకు గాంధీ మహాత్ముడు అవతరించెను. గవర్న మెంటు వారుకూడా, ఆమాయకులైన హరిజనులను హిందూ సంఘమునుండి విడదీసి ప్రత్యేక ఎన్నికలు యెచ్చాటుచేయగా, మహాత్ముడు దానికి అడ్డుతగిలి, నిరాహార దీక్షపూని హరిజనులను హిందూ సంఘమునుండి విడదీయకూడదని జాయింటు ఎన్నికలు శరణ్యమని దేశం అధ్యంతము ఉద్ఘాతముపెసినారు. దీనిఫలితముగా 30 స్థానములలో 26 స్థానములకు కాంగ్రెసు హరిజనులవచ్చినారు. యిప్పుడు cumulative వోటువలన చాల నష్టముకలుగుచున్నది. యిదివరకు జరిగిన యెన్నికలలో, జస్టిసు పార్టీవారు, peoples పార్టీవారు, కాంగ్రెసును పడగొట్టవలెనని అనేక యెత్తులుపన్ని, ప్రయత్నంచేసినారు. కాని మాయొక్క శ్రమముకోరే కాంగ్రెసువారు, హరిజనులనుకూడా తీసుకొని రావలెననే ఉద్దేశంపెట్టుకొని మాతోపాటు చాలాకష్టపడి, యీ యెన్నికలలో పనిచేసి, మేముకూడా యెక్కువగావచ్చేటట్లు, తోడ్పడినారు. మాయొక్క డివిజనులో, పోటీ, మాలోమాకు యెక్కువగా పోటాపోటీలు పెట్టినారు కాని ఒకవేళ హరిజను మెంబరు రాకపోతే, నేను రాజీనామాపెట్టి హరిజను మెంబరును నేను గెలికిస్తానని వారు అన్నారు. యేది యేలగున్నన, యిప్పుడు యీ cumulative వోటు పద్ధతి తగ్గించి వేసి, యెవరి వోటు వారికి యివ్వనునట్లుంటే బాగుండునని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను."

* MR. K. V. NARAYANA RAO:—

"సభాపతి! యీ అసలు తీర్మానమును గౌరవనీయులగు M. C. రాజాగారు ప్రవేశపెట్టునప్పుడు, కేవలం హరిజనుల seats లకు ఉద్దేశించబడినది. దానికి సవరణగా, గౌరవనీయులగు కాశ్యపరావుగారు యిచ్చిన సవరణను M. C. రాజాగారు కూడ అంగీకరించుట చాలా బాగావున్నది. కాశ్యపరావు పంతులుగారు నేను యెన్నుకొనబడిన జిల్లాలో joint seats లలో హరిజనులు కాకుండా కేవలము, joint seats లలో మాత్రము ఘోరమైన అన్యాయం జరిగింది. యీ పద్ధతివలన మాత్రస్థాయి కేవలము ఆ పద్ధతిలోవున్నటువంటి లోటులను ఆధారముచేసుకొని, కాంగ్రెసు నిలువబెట్టిన అభ్యర్థుల మధ్య పోటాపోటీలు పెట్టి మాలో మాకు తగాదాలు వెంచుటకు ప్రయత్నములు చేసినారు. యిది ప్రజలందరూ తెలుసును. యీ పద్ధతిలోవున్న లోటుపాటులు ప్రజలు తీవ్రముగా నిరసించినారు. మా అభ్యర్థులు కేవలము ఒక seat ను అయినా సంపాదించవలెననే ఉద్దేశంచేత, 2 వోట్లు తమకు యిచ్చుటకు ప్రయత్నంచేస్తూ మాలో మాకు పోటీలు పెట్టుటకు election ప్రచారం సాగించారు. మాలో ఒకరు 2 వోట్లు వేయించుకొనుచున్నారని ప్రచారం సాగించారు. చిట్ట చివరవరకు, ప్రజలకు ద్వేషభావము పురికొల్పినారు. కాంగ్రెసు అభ్యర్థికి వోటుయిచ్చి హరిజన అభ్యర్థికి వేయలేనని అనుమానించి, 2 వోట్లు ఒక అభ్యర్థికి వేయవలెననే ఉద్దేశంతో అలాచించుటకు మొదలు పెట్టినారు. కాబట్టి

[Mr. S. Guruvulu] [29th September 1937]

స్వలాభము కొరకు పరుగెత్తవలసివచ్చినది. Constituency లో యీ కృత్రిమపద్ధతి వ్యక్తలను, అభ్యర్థులను, ప్రజలను, విడదీయటకు ముఖ్యమైనదివంటి పద్ధతి. యీ కృత్రిమపద్ధతి, యీ న్యాయరహితమైనపద్ధతి, స్వలాభపరులు పెట్టిన పద్ధతి. వాళ్ళంతటా పరిపాలనచేయు కాంగ్రెసువారికి తగదు. యీ పద్ధతిని మనకు నిర్మూలము చేయవలెను. నిర్మూలముచేసి, సక్రమపద్ధతిని మనకు యిప్పుడు స్థిరపరచాలి. యీ పద్ధతిని నిర్మూలముచేసి, మన ప్రజలందరికి న్యాయం కలిగేటటువంటి పద్ధతి స్థిరపరచవలెనని కోరుతూ యింతటితో విరమిస్తున్నాను."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members will please remember that there has been no opposition to this resolution at all. The resolution is no doubt one of very great importance and a large number of hon. Members have spoken. I do not want to prevent the contribution of any single idea to this discussion. But there is considerable repetition of the same arguments over and over again. If hon. Members want to contribute even a single new idea to this discussion, they are welcome to do it."

* MR. D. KADIRAPPA:—

"అభ్యర్థకులతో! నాకు యీ తెలుగు మాటలలో మాట్లాడుటకును, మామొక్క కష్టసుఖములను చెప్పుకొనుటకును, అవకాశం యిచ్చినందుకు మీకు మా హరిజనుల తరపున అనేకవేల వందనములు అవరించుచున్నాను. అయితే యీ వోటు విషయం నాకు తెలిసినంత మాత్రం కొంచెం చెప్పగలను. రాజశ్రీ M. C. రాజాగారు ఒడంబడిక విషయంలో నాయొక్క అభిప్రాయం అడిగినారు. అది యేకారణంచేత అడిగినారు అనగా, మహాత్మా గాంధీగారు joint election భంటేగాని వీలవేదని హరిజనులకు వోటింగు విషయములో కోరికే, దాక్కురు అంటేదక్కరు separate election కావలెనని కోరినప్పుడు, మహాత్మా గాంధీగారు ఉపవాసంలో భస్మపుడు అంటేదక్కరు మా ప్రతినిధికాదని, M. C. రాజాగారు మా ప్రతినిధి అని, ఆయన చెప్పినట్లు మేము అంగీకరిస్తామని అనంతపురం జిల్లా హరిజనుల తరపున తంజివరను కంపిసవారిలో నేను ఒక్కడను. ఆ joint system యిప్పుడు పెట్టగా అనేక యిడుముల పాలగుచున్నాము. దానికోసం, నేను election లో జరిగిన మోసములు అనేక విధములుగానున్నవి. మహారాజశ్రీ కల్లూరి సుబ్బా రావుగారు యొక్క ఒడిపోతారో అని కొందరు దుఃఖించారు. హరిజనులు యొక్క ఒడిపోతారో అని కొందరు దుఃఖించారు. యీ విధముగా ఉభయ సంఘములుచూస్తే, హరిజనులకు యీ cumulative joint vote వస్తే ఒక vote మునిసిపాలిటీలు, డిస్ట్రిక్టు బోర్డులు, యూనియను బోర్డులు, వానిలో joint చేయవలెనని తీర్మానం separate గా పెట్టవలెనని ప్రార్థన. అట్లు పెట్టకపోయిన, అందరకూ, హరిజనులు ఒక్కరికే కాదు, హిందువులకు కూడా వస్తుంది. అనేకవేల రూపాయలు ఖర్చు చేసుకొని మా డిస్ట్రిక్టు కదిరి తాలూకాలో, ఒక రెడ్డి సుమారు 7, 8 వేల రూపాయలు ఖర్చుచేసి, తాను 2 హరిజనుల election లో అక్కడ జనసంఖ్య అయినదానివలన వడిపోయి 2 హరిజనులు వచ్చినారు. అటువంటిది హిందువులకుకూడా బోధించవలసియున్నది. ఆ యొక్క వోటు separate గా పెట్టే ప్రతి ఒక్క మునిసిపాలిటీ, డిస్ట్రిక్టు, యూనియను బోర్డులో పెట్టవలెనని నాయొక్క ప్రార్థన. మీ అందరకూ వందనములు"

29th September 1937]

* MR. R. MARUTHAI:—

"కనం తలైవర్ అవరంగే ఇప్పొమితు scheduled వక్రప్పినిరుక్కు seat గిశర్వ చెయ్యవేణ్ణెయిదు అవశియం. నమతు బారత నాడు విరుతలై అడెంత పిన్. గిశర్వ చెయ్యిరుతై ఇమిత్తువిడలం. ఇప్పొమితు కువయిల్ వోవొండు మురై, పంక్తిరు వోవొండు మురైయెప్పర్రెరి పేసప్పట్టు. అమ్మరైయిల్ అతు గంత వోవొండుయిరుంతాలూం శరి అంత వితమాన్ వోవొండు మిరాశతార్ వోవొండు, కుడియాన్ వోవొండు గుండు శొల్లెలొయొమితి కువయిల్ వోవొండు పంక్తిరు వోవొండు గుండు శొల్లెలొవతరకు గుండువిల్లె. శుకైయిన్ కనం M. C. Rajah అవరంగే కొణ్ణెం వంత తీర్మానతై నాన్ ముమ మనతున్ శుతరీక్కిరు తున్ మర్రెల్లొం పిరతినితికలం శుమోతిక్కుంబడియక కేండుకొణ్ణెం."

* MR. S. NAGAYYA:—

"స్వీకరంగి నాయొక్క వందనములు. యీ election విషయములలో M. C. రాజాగారు చెప్పిన తీర్మానమును, నేను అంగీకరించుచున్నాను. మొట్ట మొదట మేము వచ్చినప్పుడు, గాంధీ మహాత్ముని మాటలలో కాంగ్రెసు టిక్కెట్టువేసిన నిలువ బడినవాడను. యీ దినం మనం joint election లేకుండా, ప్రత్యేక election భంటేగాని నా అభిప్రాయం. అట్లా చెప్పేవానికి యిప్పుడు విధిలేదు. యీ కాలముందు గాంధీ మహాత్ముడు, మొట్టమొదట యీ మాటలు విని, యీ పద్ధతి joint election లేకుండా, ప్రత్యేక election భండవలెనన్నచో, చాలా అన్యాయం. యిది చాలామంది ఒప్పుకొన్నది కాదు. కాబట్టి, నేను చెప్పబోయే మాట యేమంటే, Round Table Conference జరిగి, యింతమందో మార్చిని, దిక్షగాను, కాసనసభ, డిస్ట్రిక్టు బోర్డు, మునిసిపాలిటీల election లకు కాంగ్రెసువాళ్లు పెట్టినారు. యిన్ని మాటలు చెప్పినప్పటికీ గూడా, మనకు యిప్పుడు కావలసినది, ఒకరు చెప్పే మాటలు విని మేము మోసపోము. కాబట్టి యిది నేను మనవి చేస్తున్నాను."

* MR. M. P. PERIASAMY:—

"కనం తలైవర్ అవరంగే గ్రీమాన్ అణ్ణెంమలైం పిన్ణై శొణ్ణెం మాతిరి అణ్ణెం జిల్లొంకలొం తామిత్తప్పట్టవరంగలొంకలొం మర్రెవరంగలొంకలొం వోవొండుకలొం శుయిరంగలొంకలొం వోవొండుకలొం విత్తియాశం గరప్పట్టిరుక్కిరు. ఇంబొం జిల్లొంకలొం వోవొండుకలొం తొగతి మెంబరంగలొంకలొం 42,000 వోవొండు గిశర్వ కిట్టిల్ వంత ఘరిజైన్ మెంబరంగలొంకలొం 10,000 వోవొండు, ఇన్ణెంబల మాతిరియాన్ విత్తియాశం అతికమాక గరప్పట్టిరుక్కిరుతాకం పార్తిరుక్కిరైం. గతిరంగలొంకలొం తామిత్తప్పట్టవరంగలొంకలొం పొతుత్ తొగతియిల్ నిన్రె వరంగలొంకలొం విత్తియాశం అతికమాక ఇరుక్కిరు. మకాత్మా కార్తియాడికలొం పురొ పాక్ట్రిం పిరకారం అతు శరియాక న్డన్తు వరవిల్లె. పల కక్కిలొం ఇతై గుత్తుశ్ శొల్లెలొవతరకు ఇట్టిల్లొంకలొం సమమాక వోవొండుకలొం పంక్తిరుక్ కొండుత్తు మకాత్మా కార్తియాడికలొం శొణ్ణెం ఇప్పరత్తై నాన్ ఇంకై నిరై వేరైవేణ్ణెం."

"కనం M. C. Rajah అవరంగే కొణ్ణెం వంత తీర్మానతై నాన్ ముమ మనతున్ శుతరీక్కిరైం."

MR. M. MARIMUTHU:—

"కనం తలైవర్ అవరంగలొంకలొం ముతన్ మర్రెగి అవరంగలొంకలొం గుండు తామియ్యాన్ వంతనతైత్ తెగిలిత్తుకొణ్ణెంకైరైం. ఇప్పొమితు మకాణ్ణెంకలొంకలొం, గాజుతానియాకలొం, జిల్లొంకలొంకలొం, తామిత్తప్పట్టవరంగలొంకలొం కిరామంగలొంకలొం గరప్పట్టిరైం గల్లొం కార్తియాడికలొం కవరన్మెండ్రిల్ వరైం జిల్లొంకలొం. గాతి ఇన్తుకలొంకలొం శొల్లెలొం వక్రప్పైశ్ శేరన్త గుండుకలొంకలొం గరప్పట్ట కక్కిరై తీర్న్తువిరుమెన్రై నమ్పిక్కైయైక కొణ్ణెంకలొంకలొం

[Mr M. Marimuthu] [29th September 1937]

கிறோம். ஆகையினால் எங்களுடைய அனுதாபங்களும் நன்றியும் அதற்குத் தகுந்தாற்போல் ஷெட்யூல்ட் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த முப்பது பேர்கள் இந்தச் சபையில் அங்கத்தினர்களாக வீற்றிருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு இருக்கிறதா இல்லையா என்ற விஷயத்தைத் தெரிவிக்கவேண்டுமென்ற ஒரு நோக்கத்தின் பொருட்டு முதன் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கும் தலைவர் அவர்களுக்கும் எங்களுடைய அனுதாபங்கள் நன்றியாவையும் தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டதுடன் மைனாரிட்டியாகிய (scheduled) ஷெட்யூல்ட் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த எங்களுடைய கஷ்ட நிஷ்டைகள் யாவையும் எடுத்துச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள்.

“எங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு வசதி வேண்டியதோ அவ்வளவும் எங்களுடைய நிலைமைக்குத் தக்கவாறு எங்களுடைய கஷ்டங்களை அறவே போக்குவதற்கான வசதியாகவே இந்த காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மென்டினுடைய சார்பாக வெளிப்படையாகத் தெரிந்துவிட்டது. ஆனால் அமுத பிள்ளைதான் பால் குடிக்குமென்று சொல்லுவார்கள். அதே மாதிரியாக எங்களுடைய கஷ்டங்களை சிறிதளவு சொல்லவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. எங்களுடைய கஷ்டங்கள் யாவையும் போக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் கனம் M. C. Rajah அவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்த தீர்மானத்தில் கண்டுள்ள முறைப்படிதான் போக்க முடியும். ஆகையினால் அதை அமுலுக்கு கொண்டுவரும்படியாக நான் தாழ்மையாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

MR. A. RAMALINGAM:—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே நம்முடைய சென்னை மாகாணத்தில் நடந்த எலக்ஷனில் பெரிதும் கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டது. அந்தக் கஷ்டம் என்னவென்று பார்த்தால் முதலாவது பிரதம எலெக்ஷன் ஒன்று ஏற்படுத்தினதினால்தான். ஆகையினால் ஆக்கட திருத்தி பிரதம எலெக்ஷனை எடுத்துவிட்டு வேறு விதமாக பிரதம எலெக்ஷன் இல்லாமல் எல்லோருக்கும் எல்லா இந்துக்களுக்கும் இருக்கிறதபோல் வைக்கவேண்டும். பிரதம எலெக்ஷன் ஏற்படுத்தினதினால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டது. பிரதம எலெக்ஷன் விஷயமாயுள்ளதை ஆக்ட்டில் திருத்தி அமுலுக்குக்கொண்டுவரும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.”

MRS. LAKSHMI SANKARA AYYAR:—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே கனம் M. C. Rajah அவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்த தீர்மானத்தை நான் கனம் காளைஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்கள் திருத்தத்துடன் கூட ஸ்திரிகளின் சார்பாக நான் முழு மனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன் என்பதைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு உட்கார்ந்து விடுகிறேன்.”

12 on. * THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, this resolution has been moved by a leading member of the Harijan community sitting in this House and has been supported by almost every Harijan member in the House and by many other members belonging to all sections of the House. And, as you observe, Sir, there is not a single voice raised in opposition to this proposal. The fact that such an overwhelming body of opinion is in support of this proposal and yet a different system of election had been ordered before in spite of protests is a remarkable fact. It needs explanation, but this is not the occasion to search for such an explanation, inasmuch as there is not one coming forward to support the present system, i.e., the cumulative system of voting. Whatever the causes might be for the ordering of the cumulative system of voting, it is now obvious that all shades of opinion, and specially all shades among the Harijan members, representative members who have received the confidence of their people at the last elections, are in support of the proposal that the cumulative system should go and the distributive system should

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take the place instead. On behalf of the Government, I have great pleasure in informing you, Sir, that they support this proposal inasmuch as responsible members of the Harijan community have unanimously supported it. They are the principal persons concerned in this matter, and therefore their opinion should weigh; and Government recognize that fact and give their support to this proposal.

“Sir, the last election gave us considerable experience in this matter. The point is not whether one party wins or another party wins; the point is not about corruption either so much as about whether the object of the Poona Pact, the solemn agreement in regard to representation of the Harijans has been properly served or not. Experience at the last election has shown that we are shoved back into separatist election by this cumulative system. In the plural-member constituencies where there is an election to a seat from among the general community, more than one member competes for that place and therefore the voters who are interested in the candidates and who support the candidates are keenly interested in the issue with reference to the election and in the competition between the candidates that contest for the general seat, and nobody can afford to take risks. Everybody wants to take the greatest possible precaution to secure the success of himself or of his friend; and therefore even the generous minded caste-members, even those who are interested in the welfare of the Harijan community, who want the right candidate to be returned on behalf of the Harijan community, cannot afford to take risks; and in an election it is not possible to say whether that caution is to be condemned or to be tolerated. Any one can see the amount of risk that is undertaken before the election is decided, and therefore everybody fights his own battle, and the Harijan community is left entirely to itself. Thereby the communal or separatist consciousness is encouraged and maintained, and what has been put down as a general and joint election is finally reduced to the very separate election which the Poona Pact was framed to prevent. That is the reason why this cumulative system is condemned by me and those who think with me, and I have the great pleasure of announcing therefore, that Government have resolved to support this proposal in case the support of the Harijan members has been received. There is ample evidence that not only has it received the support of all the Harijan members of all shades of opinion, but it has received the support of all sections of the House, and there is not a single voice raised against it.”

* RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH:—“Sir, my task has become easier, for this motion before the House has been supported by all sections of the House and by all sexes also here. Sir, attempts have been made in the past to do away with this system of election. As a matter of fact, when I appeared before the Provincial Franchise Committee, I objected to the present system; when again I appeared before the Hammond Committee, I put forward my views advocating the distributive system. Then, in the Central Legislative Assembly,

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we tabled a motion favouring the introduction of this system of distributive voting. Afterwards, I think my hon. Friend, Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, also gave notice of a motion to that effect in the Madras Legislative Council. Sir, we have not succeeded; now, we find greater support. Since we are all creatures of the last elections, it has been our experience at the last election that this system is disastrous and that opinion is very much stronger in favour of the distributive system. The present system of election cuts at the very root of the Poona Pact and instead of unifying the different sections of the community, it disintegrates the society; and that is the very reason why we are all against this system. My Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, has already pointed out how we have been trying to get rid of this system and how we have not succeeded. Our Premier has said that different sections of the House and different parties in the House and all the Harijan members have supported this motion. Myself, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, Diwan Bahadur Srinivasan and Rao Sahib Guruswami, have all fought against this system of election, and we now hope, Sir, that the present Government which is a popular Government, representing particularly the poor Harijan people, will take action in this matter and request the Government of India to immediately give effect to this system of distributive voting.

“Sir, I think to-day is a Harijan day, because I had the good fortune of moving this morning a motion for leave to introduce a bill to provide for the removal of social disabilities among certain classes of Hindus; and now, Sir, I am glad that the House has unanimously and universally supported this most important motion which I have moved now. I have nothing more to say, Sir, except to thank the various parties, on behalf of the Harijan community, for their support to this motion.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I shall now place before the House the resolution as amended.

“The question is:

‘This Assembly recommends to the Government to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for India to do away with the cumulative system of voting wherever it is adopted in the general constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly, including seats reserved for the scheduled castes, and to substitute the system of distributive voting instead.’

(Mr. Speaker requested the Members to raise their hands first in favour of the resolution, then against it and afterwards for the neutrals. As none raised their hands either against the resolution or as neutrals, the Speaker declared the motion carried unanimously. The Opposition Members did not raise their hands any way.)

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I owe you an explanation. On this side of the House, several Members did not raise their hands either one way or the other, nor even for the third time when you called for ‘neutral.’

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Therefore, it is that I now stand to explain the position of those who took that step. This is a novel procedure adopted now and that is why we had to take that course. We hope, Sir, we would have your indulgence and forgiveness, if the matter is one to be forgiven.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“The explanation, Sir, is only a personal explanation for not raising their hands and completing the accounting by a nil balance, and it is perfectly sound, viz., that it was a novel procedure and they were taken by surprise. But what I wish to suggest now is this: the resolution may be taken as having been carried *nem con*, *nem con*, meaning without contradiction. There is no doubt about that. If necessary, if we wish to stick to the conventional practice, perhaps we will not lose much time if you will kindly take the Ayes and the Noes, as usual.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Hon. Members may be informed that the taking of votes by show of hands obtains in certain Parliaments, and therefore there is nothing unusual about it, though probably in the Madras Parliament, it is unusual. I shall adopt the old time-honoured procedure to which the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition wants to stick.”

The resolution as amended was put and carried unanimously.

(6) LEVY OF DUTY ON COPRA AND COPRA PRODUCTS.

The following resolution standing in the name of Mr. C. K. Govindan Nayar was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

“This Assembly recommends to the Government that the Government of India may be requested to levy a duty of Rs. 100 on every ton of copra and copra products imported into India.”

(7) ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL GUARD FOR THE PROVINCE.

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resolution that stands in my name reads as follows:—

‘This Assembly recommends to the Government that necessary steps be taken for the early establishment of a “National Guard” for the Province, and that the Central Government be approached for the grant of a substantial subsidy for this purpose.’

With your leave, Sir, and the leave of the House, I would just like to substitute the word ‘guard’ by the word ‘militia.’ I have come to understand, Sir, that the word ‘guard’ does not import the full meaning of what the intention or the significance of the resolution is. I therefore put it as ‘national militia’ instead of ‘national guard.’

“Sir, the object of the resolution is to enable the Government to take interest in the subject of the establishment of a military unit for this province. It is within the competence of the Provincial Government, without offending any of the provisions of the Government of India Act, to establish a military unit for the autonomous province.

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form of Government, and it is supremely necessary that each State or province should have a unit and the citizens of the State should be prepared for national defence. It will be a supplementary force for the regular army of the State. For that purpose, in other countries, the Federal Government itself has been making large subsidies. The provincial autonomous Governments themselves no doubt contribute towards the establishment of such a national militia within the province. But very often, we find that the Central Government comes forward with large subsidies to the Provincial Governments for the establishment of such a militia. I suggest the same course may be adopted by our Government and the Central Government may be asked to make a substantial subsidy for such a purpose. It is not without the scope of the Government of India to sanction such a subsidy for several provincial purposes. The Central Government has been sanctioning subsidies, and this is a very important and necessary purpose, and if only the Government were to make the right kind of approach with a definite scheme after consultation with military experts, the Government of India will certainly come forward to aid with a substantial subsidy.

"There is also an advantage in getting a subsidy from the Central Government. The Central Government will have control and effective control, if they like, over the provincial unit in the matter of its efficiency, in the matter of its training and equipment. That is very necessary, because no provincial military unit will be of any use or help unless and until it is kept in touch and on a line with the regular army, which is under the control of the State. So, the granting of a subsidy and the receipt of it will establish a mutual connexion and a connexion of supervision and control in favour of the Central Government over the provincial military unit. I therefore suggest, Sir, that it is desirable that the Provincial Government should address the Central Government for a subsidy for this purpose. I do not think I need lay any emphasis upon the need for our citizens undergoing military training, and with that view, I hope everybody will accede to the principle of the resolution. I therefore commend this resolution to the acceptance of this House."

* Mr. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, in seconding this resolution, I thank my hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed who has brought forward this resolution before this hon. House. There is no more important subject, just now, than the formation of a militia in this Province. We see in other countries everybody is given the option of joining the militia and training himself and be ready to protect his own country. In this country, we are prevented from taking any kind of training for learning military operations or even reading such books. So, if we start with a small militia just now, we can continue the practice and in due course we may be in a position to defend our own country. When we demand independence, they ask 'If the British Army is withdrawn, can you defend yourself?' That is the charge levelled at us in time and out of time. I say that it is quite possible to defend our country even

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now because the present army is mostly Indian Army and not British Army. The British Army consists of only 75,000 whereas the Indian portion of the army consists of 175,000. Of course, the officers are Englishmen; there are no Indians. We have been asking for a very long time to give us the opportunity to get the necessary training to officer our own army in the best manner possible. But all sorts of difficulties are thrown in the way of getting Indian officers trained for the Indian Army. Apart from that question, Sir, even recently when the question arose in the Central Assembly, the Commander-in-Chief said that there is no public opinion in this matter, and that if there is sufficient public opinion the Government also will think of helping in the matter. Now if a resolution in an Assembly of this kind is passed, the Central Government will know that there is public opinion in regard to it and that it is necessary to give special training in military matters. Now we are fighting on very many points to no purpose. When we look round India and look at what is happening outside India, we just now see a small country like Japan has launched a great war against China, a country which possesses 400 millions of people, whereas Japan consists of only 45 millions. Now, people think it more likely that Japan may win. Why should Japan have such power? It is because every one living in Japan knows how to bear arms and how to fight. So it is necessary to arm ourselves and to get ourselves trained to bear arms and to join the army when there is necessity.

"Another thing I submit to this House is that we should introduce in all high schools and colleges a system of military training. We must make it compulsory for every student that he should know how to drill and how to bear arms for the country. It must be made a condition precedent for Government service that a man who has not got military training is not fit for public service.

"As my hon. friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed pointed out, this would help in the nationalization of the army. If we have got a national army which is ready to fight for the country, we need not have such a large standing army. We can reduce the army expenditure because there will be an auxiliary army ready in the country to fight the enemy. There is also another difference between the army now in India and the army that may hereafter be formed. The difference is this. While the soldiers in the present army are only mercenaries, the army that will be formed hereafter will be composed mainly of patriots who will fight to the last man in the cause of India. And it is also my impression that if this movement gains ground we need not ask for independence at all. It will come of its own accord. If we have got a well-trained army in India it will be difficult and hard for any Britisher to say, 'No, we cannot grant you independence.' On the other hand the Britishers would try to make friends with us.

"Another thing I want to submit to this Assembly is that it should not think for a moment that if Japan, for instance, after succeeding in the war with China, takes it into its head to attack India, the Britishers

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This procedure is not strange. Several autonomous Governments or States in the world have succeeded in establishing provincial units, or State units, not in conflict with the federal army or the regular army. The idea of a provincial military unit will be to supplement the regular army of the country whenever exigencies demand it. The States will keep their national militia up to date, efficient and on a line with the regular army maintained by the Federal or the Central Government, and whenever necessity arises, either for internal purposes or for purposes of the country as a whole, these State units will be made available. It is with that object, Sir, that I propose this resolution.

"We all know, Sir, what a great demand and urge there is among Indians to undergo military training. In this country, the opportunities afforded for military training even for the martial races are so few. The martial races, Sir, have been accepted to be those who have had opportunities on a previous occasion to show themselves up as being fit for military purposes.

12-15 P.m. "But, I do not think that that will be a privilege that could be claimed by any one section of the people of this country. Any section, any citizen, trained for the purpose, will come up to the mark, and may be a very useful and efficient member of any force or platoon or any regiment. So that, what I meant to say is that even this section of the community in this country whose ancestors have distinguished themselves by service in wars has not been given the necessary ample opportunities once again to distinguish themselves in war or martial endeavours or enterprises. Much more is there need and necessity for affording such opportunities to every citizen who is of that way of thinking and who is possessed of that aptitude and whose faculties are inclined to take to that line of activity. The cry has been raised for several years now that the army should be Indianized. That is only one aspect of the problem. The resolution before the House contemplates another aspect of the problem, namely, that even the citizens within the provinces must be given the facility to train themselves for purposes which are called military.

"Sir, there have been several attempts made in the previous Legislative Council by that Gallant Member, Subadar-Major Nanjappa for the organization of a unit for the Madras Province. Once the Government accepted that resolution and undertook to forward it to the Central Government for necessary action. We have not heard as to what exactly was the result thereof. Sir, as a result of the agitation in this country, the Government of India thought it fit to establish the University Training Corps for the students of the University. That has been in existence for several years now, and about a few hundreds of students are being trained from year to year. But when we look at the amount of training, the scope of the training and the facilities that are afforded them for further development on those lines, we have come to the conclusion that it does not serve much of a purpose. No doubt, it involves a certain amount of spirit for military training on the part of a very small section of the University

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students. On the other hand, there is one school of opinion which wants compulsory military training for every student of the University. That has also been urged on several platforms and by several resolutions. But nothing has come out of it. So we wish the Government were pleased to extend the scope of this University Training Corps. After all, that University Training Corps serves the purpose only to a small extent, to a limited extent and it serves no ultimate purpose. The object of several of us to gain military training so as to be able to defend our country is not achieved by the present University Training Corps, and after all, the University Training Corps for the time being is restricted only to the Madras University. The Andhra University has not been given that privilege, nor even the Annamalai University. Besides, Sir, the real purpose of this Training Corps is rather doubtful. Students get training for two, three or four years and a certain number of them get into the Corps only with a view to add to themselves an additional qualification, so that it might be handy enough for them when they seek a career. I do not think, Sir, that that was the object for which the Training Corps was intended. It has no doubt degenerated now into that. Almost every student who wants to join or who actually joins the Corps thinks of it only from that point of view, namely, that it will serve as an additional qualification for him to seek a job under the Government or in any other department of life. That, I think, Sir, is not very helpful. That will not infuse or inculcate into the Indian citizen the spirit for defending his own country. Besides, Sir, after two or three or four years of training, these University men who have been trained in the corps and who have been certified to have undergone a certain amount of training, are not given opportunities for the further development of their aptitudes. They are not taken into the regular army. There are no opportunities given to them to qualify themselves for appointments in the commissioned or non-commissioned services of the Government of India. No University student who has so far obtained this training has secured a King's Commission nor even the Viceroy's Commission. So that, it does not really serve the purpose for which we are all endeavouring. It is supremely necessary that in this province all sections of the community should be given an opportunity to get themselves trained for military purposes, with a view to be able when the time comes to defend the province and to defend his own country.

"I know, Sir, there are difficulties both from the military point of view as well as from the financial point of view to undertake such a big venture. But all that I am seeking through this resolution is that the Government should examine the question, and if circumstances permit and if they are favourable, they should take steps for the establishment of a national militia. The idea is not novel. In the United States of America, notwithstanding the regular State forces, the regular armies, each State has got its own military unit for its own internal purposes and also for the purpose of the State when an emergency arises. Even so, this country is going to have a Federal

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would protect this country. It is not possible, seeing the complications in Europe and seeing that there are other forces which would take up the whole time and attention of the British Empire, it is not possible for them to protect us at all. This is a very serious matter, because we saw in the Great War that all our armies were taken there. Had it not been for our armies, the Britisher would have lost his freedom altogether. That is a well-known fact acknowledged at the time, though it was forgotten thereafter. So it is also necessary, absolutely necessary, for us to train ourselves and be ready for all contingencies. We have seen the aims and ambitions of Japan. We have read about their future plans. It must, by this time, be clear to us that after China, Japan wants to attack India. There is no mistake about it. Well then, when there are so many enemies of England in Europe itself, when Italy is trying to keep the whole of the Mediterranean and Spain is being occupied by Germany and Italy, do you think it is going to be possible for Britishers coming from a distance of 7,000 miles to help us? No, it is not possible for England to defend us at all. So our position would be to swim or sink. There is no other go. With the help of the few trained men here we must fight or we must be prepared to live under the domination of another foreign nation, if not the English nation. The best guarantee for our freedom and for our independence is military training. We cannot get away from that fact. There is no use saying that we have not the money required for it. We must find the money somehow. We must curtail other items of expenditure. We must curtail the education that we give to our boys. It is much better to have a few boys ready to fight for the country and for independence than to have a great number of boys who are willing to become the subjects of one foreign nation or another. Till a century ago we could defend ourselves even like the Mahrattas who fought great battles. The Andhras, it is said, went up to Delhi and conquered the whole of India and like that every nation in India itself at one time or other fought for its glory. Now what has happened? We have not completely lost that military mentality. There are no non-martial classes in this country at all. Everybody would fight provided he is given the opportunity. Do not think that there are classes in this country who would flee away in the face of the enemy. One charge that was never brought against us is that we are cowards. Now the present army consists of all sorts of people, not one class; not one race, not one creed. Yet when they went to Europe and fought with Germany in the Great War, there was not one case in which our men could be said to have shirked facing the enemy. They fought the greatest battle in the world. They have got heroism in them. The only thing they want is training. We must all insist upon having military training. If the Central Government are not prepared and willing to give a subsidy, it is up to us to do whatever we can. The other day when we were asking the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons whether he would extend the scope of licences for fire arms he could not say definitely that it would be done. He was so much afraid because he wanted to continue the old policy. What I want is that there must be not only military training but shooting galleries should

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be established in big towns and cities. It is a great shame for our country that we do not know shooting. Everywhere in England it is put up in the galleries 'Learn shooting and protect our country.' What a nice thing to do! I do not blame anybody for not taking out a licence because the Government comes in the way. If we ask for a licence we are put to much hardship and the position is rendered most intolerable.

"The present system wants to prevent us from knowing anything about military matters, from knowing about shooting and about things that will make us at any time independent. But the Government also are, I am quite sure, committing a great blunder in this matter. If this is the case, when the time comes when our help is needed how can we offer our help? In the Great War a judge of the High Court was asked what he would do if the Germans came here. He said, 'We would give them a nice welcome.' We know how to present addresses. We have not got the army to present the enemy with. We have not got any army for bombardment of the enemy's camp. So I submit that I am joining with my hon. friend in appealing to this House to vote for the resolution. I also want to express my opinion that we are ready to form a national militia. Our desire is that such a militia should be formed. When it is to be formed, what expenditure should be incurred; all that will have to be considered. When this is formed, I think my hon. friend will allow people to have shooting galleries. There are men, money and every thing. With these few words I commend this resolution for your unanimous acceptance."

* MR. KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—

"అభ్యుదయ! యీ జాతీయ నైసికదళ విషయము చాలా అవసరమైనది. యిప్పుడు మే జాతియొక్క కీర్తి ప్రతిష్ఠలుగాని ఆ జాతి నైసికలయొక్క నీతి నియమములపై ఆధార పడిన, నేవాత్మాగములవలన యేర్పడియున్నది. యీ దినము కాంగ్రెసువారు యీ సభలో ఆధిపత్యం వహించియున్నారు. అనేక కాంగ్రెసు నైసికులు అత్యర్హులచేసి, దేశము యొక్క కీర్తిని నిలువబెట్టడానికి అవస్థపడినందువలన నే, యీ మహాసభ యీ వైభవముతో యిక్కడ కూడిన సందర్భం యేర్పడినది. యిప్పుడు జాతీయ నైస్యం మనకు చాలా అవసరము. మొట్టమొదటిది, మనజాతిని మనము సంరక్షించుకొనుటకు శక్తి మనలో ఉన్నదని ప్రపంచమునకు చాటుట. ఎల్లప్పుడూకూడా, నైసికులుగా తయారుగా ఉండడానికి మేము సంసిద్ధముగా ఉన్నామనే యువకులు అనేకమంది అన్ని గ్రామములలో ఉన్నారు. వారందర కును తగిన తరీఖరును ఒసగి, జాతీయ నైసిక శిక్షణనుగ చేసినచో, యెంతయో అవసరమైన కార్యములు చేయుటకు వీలవుతును. యిదిగాక దేశముయొక్క దురవస్థలను తప్పించుటకు, హిందూ దేశములో యువకులు సిద్ధముగా నున్నారని చాటుటకు తోడ్పడును. ముఖ్యముగా యిప్పుడు, యీ దేశపరిస్థితులను, ప్రపంచ పరిస్థితులను అలోచన చేసి చూచినచో, హిందూ దేశమువారు అనేకమంది నైసిక శిక్షణను పొంది, తమ దేశమును తాము సంరక్షణ చేసుకొనుటకు సంసిద్ధులైన యువక వీరులకు యెల్లప్పుడూ అవసరమున్నది. తయారుచేయవలసినది ప్రభుత్వముయొక్క ధర్మము. కనుక యీ ముఖ్యమైన ధర్మమును, యితర ప్రాంతములలో కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వమువారు national militia ను తయారుచేయవలెనని ప్రయత్న పడుచున్నట్లు యీ మృదాను కోస్తాలోనూడ, యీ మిలిటరీ దళము తయారుచేసి, ప్రభుత్వమువారి తరపున, సర్వకాల సర్వావస్థలందు సమస్త కార్యములకు సిద్ధమై, సాహసముతో తయారుగా ఉన్నదని చూపించుట అవసరము గనుక యీ తీర్మానమును నేను బలపరచుచున్నాను."

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* **MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI**:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it may be a matter for surprise that a Brahman like me and a congressman whose party is pledged to the principle of non-violence should rise and support this resolution for the recommendation of steps to be taken at the earliest moment to establish a militia or defence guard in every province, especially in Madras. I submit that aware, as we are of the world situation at the present moment, of the great movements that have come into existence all over the world to-day, the recent political events that have taken place in China and Japan and also the great army movement for pan-Germanic expansion, we would be far behind the times if we do not give immediate military training to the people of our country. We must remember that we would be playing a dangerous game if we simply allow our individual or organizational principles of non-violence to interfere and keep us mum over this question of national defence. It is therefore absolutely necessary that we should take time by the forelock and make the necessary attempts to see that national militia or defence guards are established in practically all the provinces in the country. There is also another ground for this suggestion. We have in our own province the martial classes in Malabar, in the Ceded Districts and also in the Northern Circars, classes who have got the hereditary instincts to fight and whose forefathers have won distinction in fighting for the defence of their linguistic province, Telugunadu.

12-45 p.m. "I therefore appeal that a more liberal view may be taken by the Government of India than what they had done in the proceedings of the Skeen Committee. They approved the recommendation with regard to the nationalization of a unit in the Indian army; but it is a very tardy recommendation in my humble opinion. I therefore submit that both officers and units must be increased and the defence of India begun with a greater sense of proportion. Our country contains millions of people. If to-day our country is threatened by foreign invasion, we shall be at the mercy of British Imperialism or that of any other nation which has got greater armed strength. Therefore I feel that this matter must be taken up by our Provincial Cabinet and brought to the forefront by appealing to the Government of India to make arrangements at least for starting this citizen-guard at once."

* **MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR**:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it gives me great pleasure to support this resolution. I may inform this House that I was a member of the University Training Corps for two years and have attended two camps. In England, corresponding to the University Training Corps, we have what is known as the Officers' Training Corps where they enjoy a status and are given certain privileges. They are taught the use of various arms and weapons that are employed in modern warfare. They are even taught the science of manufacturing various kinds of arms and ammunition. They know what is meant by 'S.K.' and mustard gas. Probably many of the hon. Members of this House may not have known what 'mustard gas' is and, without any contradiction I may say, Sir, they do not know how to use a gas-mask. I would appeal to the Government to see that at least our University Training Corps is put on a level-with the Officers'

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Training Corps in England. There, they have got a status as I already referred to, and they are being absorbed in the regular army. But here we have the sorry spectacle of a cadet of the University Training Corps perforce joining the ranks of the unemployed graduates who come out successful in the science branches of the study after making vigorous researches for a long period in the science laboratories, but finding no use for their knowledge. It serves no public purpose.

"Another thing I would refer to is Mackenzie King's plan in the Dominion of Canada. He has started a number of colleges for training officers required for the army. So also we must have a number of officers before we can have an effective army for the protection of our country.

"Now, Sir, I would refer to the artificial and invidious distinction involved in the classification of the various peoples in the country as martial and non-martial. The other day the Hon. Prime Minister said that he was not aware of the existence of such a distinction. I would submit humbly that he, after investigation, may be pleased to take early steps to remove such a distinction existing in our country.

"Another thing is, the Punjab Government have recently instituted a number of scholarships for enabling deserving and poor students to undergo military training.

"I hope that a similar provision would also be made by our benevolent Madras Government. People in this province must be given a chance of knowing how to use a rifle. After all it is not difficult to learn it either. I, as a young student, feared that while unfixing bayonets, people may injure their own eyes. But after experience, Sir, I found to my satisfaction that nothing of the kind happens. If really good opportunities are given and attractive terms offered for entering into the army a number of people, not excluding some of the hon. Members of this House, would take to a military career. Therefore, Sir, I would suggest that the necessary arrangements may be made to enable more people joining the Indian army. I would lastly urge only this, Sir, that when the time comes for the inauguration of the All-India Federation and when this Province of Madras is asked to join it we must insist that on a population basis our military rights are protected in the matter of recruitment to the Indian Army. Otherwise we must not join it. With these words, Sir, I support the resolution."

MR. P. T. VENKATACHARIAR:—"Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this resolution. In India we have no doubt got an army, but unfortunately we have not got the pride to call it a national army. Now if the Government would make a beginning to establish a National Guard which would be the nucleus of a national army they would have done a great thing for the country and for the people. We in India are defended by others. The army in India may probably be used at times against our own men. It is not a national army in any sense of the term. Therefore the establishment of a national corps will be the first step in the realization of our object, an Indian army to defend our life and country. Therefore I have great pleasure in supporting this motion."

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MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with great pleasure that I stand here to support this resolution that our Province shall have a national militia. Thanks to the system that has been adopted in this country by the British Government, we are already a dying nation physically. Our national physique had deteriorated to such an extent that if this degeneration is allowed to continue for one or two decades more, this nation, in spite of all the endeavours of the Congress, will be nowhere. A nation that is not physically strong cannot survive in the battle for life. So it is a very healthy sign that we have bestowed some attention on this question of regenerating the national physique of our country. Certainly a provincial government or a quasi-provincial government militia implies some amount of training in the soldier's life. I do not know yet, Sir, the limit to which we shall be allowed to train ourselves regarding the national militia. Whatever it be, I take it that we shall be allowed to have a national militia which if necessary may form the nucleus of a whole Indian national army. Apart from that, there is the question of physical strain that is implied in it. That is a thing which is absolutely necessary. The system of education that has been imparted by the Universities in our country has been responsible for the national deterioration. We are on the lowest rung as regards our national health. Secondly, if the national militia is formed there would develop a sense of strength. The despondency and helplessness that Indians feel at the sight of an alien army, whether armed or unarmed is the result of that deterioration. That helplessness pervades all through the national life. I am certain that a national militia and the training that is necessary for it will certainly give a sense of security to the country and a sense of personal safety to the individual concerned. Thirdly, I think a national militia certainly implies the physical regeneration of the country. Certainly our children would grow as robust men and will be healthier than the children that we see now. It is no exaggeration to say that to-day we are a dying nation, and so the formation of a national militia would be a very good beginning from the standpoint of national destiny. I have great pleasure in commending this resolution to the hon. Members of this House."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I rise to speak on this motion, Sir, it is with a genuine desire that this House should adopt this measure and strengthen the hands of the national government to do all that lies in its power for the furtherance of the object of this resolution. You might remember, Sir, recently I asked a question regarding this matter and suggested that this Presidency should lead in this matter also as it is leading in other matters. Whatever that may be, I feel that we do not deserve independence unless we are in a position to defend the independence. The meaning of independence is that the persons who want it are in a position to protect themselves from outside and are able to maintain peace inside. These are the two functions of an independent country, that they have to maintain themselves against foreigners and maintain peace inside. So people who are now striving to attain swaraj or independence, I might say even people who want dominion status with the choice to

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secede from the British Commonwealth of Nations, must be in a position to defend themselves. It is not only a duty, Sir, but it is the privilege of every one living in a country to defend his own country. May I submit, Sir, the readiness of a person to lay down his life for the defence of his country is a sort of pride; you might have lakhs and crores of mercenaries but that readiness and attitude of mind to die for the country will not be there. Therefore I emphasize the word 'National' in National Army. It may be asked: Why do you want an army? Why do you want to be violent? We want an army for our own safety; we want to be strong not because we want to be aggressive but in order that others may not attack us. It is necessary to be strong and it is unwise to be weak. May I also submit that it is wisdom that one should be able to defend himself, and nobody will subscribe to the view that this may be done by another and that we may be depending upon another for our existence, protection and livelihood.

"What we want is this: we want to be self-reliant. We want to have our own defence. We do not want to rely upon any third party to defend us. That is the meaning of our demand that a militia should be organized at the earliest possible moment so that we need not depend upon others for the defence of our own country."

"Sir, Federation will soon be formed and then all Provinces would have to make their contribution for the defence of the country. In order that we may not be behind-hand at that time, we want to support this motion to have a National militia. I hope the present Government with its national outlook, with its national demand and all that, will do all it can carry this resolution into effect."

MR. K. V. NARAYANA RAO:—

"సభాపతి! జాతీయ సైన్యము మనకు చాలా అత్యంత అవసరమని తెలియచేయుటకు గాను యీ తీర్మానము సభలో ప్రవేశపెట్టబడినది. దీనికి నేను సంపూర్ణముగా యిష్టుడనై కాని దీనియందు నాకు కొన్ని సందేహములున్నవి—విమటంజే, మన జాతీయ సైన్యము, కేవలము మన జాతీయ గౌరవమును, మన జాతీయ హక్కులను, ప్రపంచములో మన యొక్క స్థానమును నిలవబెట్టుకొనుటకు ఉద్దేశించబడినట్లు అయితే దానికి నేను పూర్తిగా యిష్టుడను కాని యీ జాతీయ సైన్యము, ఒకానొకప్పుడు, దురదృష్టవశాత్తు జాతీయ సైన్యం అనే పేరుతో, జాతీయ పెట్టుబడి సంఘములను బాపరచుటకు ఉపయోగించబడు సంఘం ప్రపంచ దరిత్రల కనుపించుచున్నది. ఇప్పుడు రేపో, మాపో, ప్రపంచములో యుద్ధము బయలుదేర వచ్చును. యుద్ధ మేములు ప్రపంచమునందు ఆవరించి యున్నది. అట్టి సమయములో బిజీసు సామ్రాజ్యములో 150, 200 సంవత్సరములనుండి శున్నప్పటికి యుద్ధం వచ్చినప్పుడు శత్రువులను తప్పించుకొనుటకు, మనము అస్సాతృతులము మన దేశములోనున్న సైన్యము జాతీయ రక్షణకొరకు కాదని కాని గౌరవార్థిలకు తెలుసును కాబట్టి యిప్పుడు మన దేశములో శున్న టువంటి సైన్యము, యుద్ధము వచ్చినట్లయితే సరిపోదు. అది ఇంగ్లండు యొక్క సరిహద్దులకు అనేక పర్యాయములు పంపబడినది. అట్టి సమయములో మన దేశము చాలా నిస్సహాయ స్థితియందు ఉండవలసిన స్థితి మనకు అనేక పర్యాయములు కలిగింది. కాబట్టి యీ ప్రపంచ ప్రళయము సంభవించినట్లయితే, అట్టి సమయములో దానిని మనకు ధౌర్య

[Mr. K. V. Narayana Rao] [29th September 1937]

గొన్నట్లుకు సంసిద్ధులముగా నుండవలెనన్న, మనకు నైస్యము అత్యంత అవసరము. జపాను దేశము వైమాను ముక్కలు ముక్కలుగా చీల్చి అనేక విధములైన ఘోరకృత్యములు జరుపుచున్నది. అట్టి సమయములలో వారికి జాతీయ నైస్యము భుండబట్టి, వారు అప్పు ఆత్మరక్షారములు సహించుచున్నారు. కాని మన రాష్ట్రము అట్టి పరిస్థితులలో లేదని నిశ్చయముగా చెప్పగలము. కాబట్టి యుద్ధము వచ్చినప్పుడు, మన militia భుండుట అత్యంత అవసరము. కాని ఆ నైస్యము, కేవలము యిప్పటి మాదిరిగా, ఒకరిద్దరి స్వాధీనములలో భుండుకొనుటకు ప్రజా ప్రతినిధులైనట్లుంటి యీ సభ యే మాత్రము అంగీకరింపదు. జాతీయ నైస్యము democratic గా, ప్రజా ప్రతినిధులయొక్క స్వాధీనములలో భుండి పరచవలెను. అప్పుడే మనకు జాతీయ నైస్యముయొక్క లాభము కలుగుతుంది. మన democratic ప్రజాశక్తి నిధులయొక్క అభివృద్ధి అనుగుణముగా నడచునదిగా భుండవలెను. ఈ విషయములలో మన దేశములలో భుండుటవంటి అందరు ప్రతి నిధులకూడా, స్పష్టముగా తమ అభిప్రాయమును వెల్లడిచేసినారు. ఈ సందర్భములలో నేను ప్రత్యేకముగా అంధ్ర రాష్ట్రమువజన సంఘముల తరపున (కాంగ్రెసువాదినే కాకుండా, యవజనులతో నాకు సంబంధంవున్నది గనుక) వారి ఉద్దేశముకూడా యీ సభకు తెలియజేయుట అత్యంత అవసరము. అంధ్ర రాష్ట్రము వజన సంఘ తీర్మానములలో వారు స్పష్టముగా military training అత్యంత అవసరమని తీర్మానములు చేసినారు. కాని కొందరు దానికి యవజన సంఘములయందు యిష్టము లేనట్లు వంటి అనేకమంది నిందారోపణలు కల్పించుచున్నారు. వాట్లు కేవలము వ్యక్తి గత దౌర్జన్యము భుండుకొనుటకు military డ్రీల్లు సాకు చూపుచున్నారని అంటున్నారు గాని దానికి ఆధారము లేదు. దౌర్జన్యంతోవారికి సంబంధం లేదని నేను యీ సభలో ఘంటా పడుముగా చెప్పగలను. అట్టి యవజనల సహాయంకూడా, యీ national guard కు ముఖ్యముగా భున్నది. నాకున్న సందేహం అది ఒకటి; Democratic గా భుండేమో అనే భయమున్నది. దానిని యీ మహా శయలు జాగ్రత్తగా ఆలోచించి, యేదో ఒక నిర్ణయమునకు వచ్చెదరని నమ్మచు విరమించు చున్నాను.

* MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my support to the principle underlying this resolution. Sir, the world conditions now are such that the sooner we take steps to improve the system of our defence the better will it be for our country. Sir, both in the East as well as in the West, war clouds are gathering in great intensity and to-day we see that the last war which was waged for the purpose of ending war has not really achieved its purpose, but instead, a greater war and a darker war waged with all the deadly weapons that human ingenuity can command seems to be on the horizon. I therefore think that this is the psychological time when the representatives of the people in the Legislature should unequivocally point out to the powers that be, the necessity of organizing a national militia. An army of non-nationals, trained and manned by others not natives of this country, can never achieve the purpose for which it exists. I do not for one moment desire to be understood as saying that the army is not efficient, but looking at the question from the aspect of military tactics and from the aspect of protection of this vast country of ours, it seems to me that no army on the present scale can adequately fulfil the purpose if real aggression or danger threatens our country. That such a danger is not merely hypothetical, is not merely imaginary will be

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realized by hon. Members of this House if they can picture to themselves the possibility of aggression either from the East or from the West by the militarist powers. In this situation the sooner we organize our military forces as well as our civilian population for the purpose of meeting the aggression, the better it will be for our country.

"Sir, as I said, the world condition to-day is such that it is our imperative duty not merely to organize the military forces of the country but also to train the civilian population in the art of defence. I refer, Sir, in particular to the system of defence prevailing in England and the other western countries, and also the gas drill training given to the civilian population for defence against gas attacks and the like also. Our civilian population should be given training in the use of the underground defences against gas attacks or aerial bombings. Sir, a possibility of such an attack on our country is not, as I said, beyond the picture. Sir, in the year 1914 the German Cruiser Emden took us unawares. If we remember that, we can easily realize the gravity of the situation to which we are exposed to-day. Sir, that one small cruiser was able to create panic in our midst in this very city. We were all caught napping, including the coastal defences of this Presidency, with the result that a panic was created and the city was almost evacuated within two or three days. We should be properly trained in future in the art of defence and, for that, military training is necessary. I would even suggest to this honourable House that for an independent country for which we are aiming there must be a national militia. National militia is the *sine qua non* of an independent country. You cannot imagine an independent country which has no national militia and which has no military defence of its own. But it must be remembered, Sir, that in any system of military organization our greatest principle should be that this military organization must be an instrument of peace and must be a guarantor against aggression and not an instrument of aggression.

"Sir, no time should be lost in organizing the military potentialities of our country in order to bring them to the required military standard. Sir, in a vast country like ours there is an abundance of human material and therefore there will be no question of dearth of men offering to undergo military training when once an appeal is made to them. In the last war, if I remember right, India contributed over 1,300,000 men (13 lakhs), a war in which India was not directly interested. That being the case, Sir, you can easily imagine how great will be the response for military training and for military organization if it is made plain that that organization will be used for the defence and for upholding the honour of our native land.

"I think, Sir, that it is very essential that all organizations with respect to the proper defence of our country, not only land forces, but sea and air forces, should be formed. If properly organized the people are ready to volunteer for the training. The time has come when you must make a start on these matters. With regard to the question of Indian navy the position seems to be so unsatisfactory that the few of

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our men who are young and who are having training in the training-ship called 'Dufferin' do not get employment in the Mercantile Marine. That is a matter which has to be attended to by the Government. With regard to other forces, viz., land and air forces we must see that our people are sufficiently trained and are able to man even aeroplanes. In this respect there is no country in the world including Abyssinia which can stand comparison with us in point of unpreparedness for meeting any aggression or facing an enemy. I should say that immediate steps should be taken to give training to our young men in this direction. It is a very sad commentary upon those who have been in charge of the affairs of our country for 170 years of British Rule to have left our people quite emasculated and defenceless and without any military training to enable them to defend our own country. I think the time has come when really the voice of the people is beginning to make itself heard. When the vast masses of our country carry their enthusiasm through to such an extent that when the time comes for the Britisher to leave the reins of administration of this country in our hands, then we must be able to take the responsibility and the burden of administering our country without any danger to national safety. It is only for that national safety that this national militia is demanded. As I said, there is no danger of using this national militia as an instrument of aggression. It is only to guard ourselves against any danger from outside that this national militia should be created. I think that it is one of the primary duties of any Government which calls itself responsible to harness all man power and all other potential resources in defence of the hearth, home, and honour of the Indian."

* Mr. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"Sir, I do not think any real argument is needed to convince this House or the country that Indians should have a national militia or that they should be given military training. It is such an obvious fact that one need not labour much about it to convince us about the truth of that statement. The only question that the House should consider at present is: How are we to achieve our object? Sir, this question of military training is not in the hands of this Government. If it were so and if this Province had autonomy in the real sense of that word, the first duty of this Government would have been to commandeer all able-bodied young men of this Province and compel them to undergo military training so that they may undertake any duties which may be cast upon them in times of emergency. There is absolutely no doubt about that. If the idea underlying this motion is to strengthen the hands of this Government and to make this Government take adequate steps in achieving this object, I am a hearty supporter of this resolution. If similar resolutions are passed in all the Provincial legislatures consisting of the accredited leaders of the country, I am sure the Central Government will loosen their purse strings and put us in funds. I therefore suggest that our Government should try their utmost to induce the Central Government to give us as a first step the necessary funds to see that our young men are properly trained in the art of warfare. More than

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that I submit we cannot discuss on that point. I do hope that such an expression of opinion as this will make the Central Government give us what we want on this point."

* Mr. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"I have great pleasure in supporting this resolution. I should think that no arguments were needed to support a proposition so plain but for the fact that we have been denied such an elementary right all these years. Whenever a demand is made for Self-Government, we meet with the argument that India is not able to defend herself to-day and if independence is granted to India, it will be a danger rather than a boon for the country. Assuming it to be true and assuming that we are not able to-day to defend ourselves, what is it due to? Is it not due to the policy consistently followed by the British Government from the days when she established herself in this country of depriving the Indians of the right of using arms, of denying to us any knowledge of using the arms, and of denying us all opportunities of training ourselves in the latest arts of warfare. If we are far less able to-day than we were some 70 or 80 years ago, say, at the time of the Sepoy mutiny, it is because the British Government has effectively seen to it all these years that the whole nation is emasculated. If this state of things is allowed to continue for another 40 or 50 years, we shall be left in a state of subjection and dependence from which it will never be possible for us to emerge. There can be no greater condemnation of British rule in India than that after 150 years of British Rule they should leave us, if they should leave, a great nation of warriors in a state of utter helplessness and dependence thus making India a prey to any foreign nation which may choose to invade it. This resolution only asks that Britain may vindicate her honour by granting this request to India, thus compensating for all the sins and wrongs that she has done to her in the past.

"With these few words I heartily commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House."

* Mr. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—

"అవ్యక్త మహాశయ! ఈ బిల్లును మిగుల ముఖ్యమైనది. అందు నాబోటి కయ్యవద్దను ఈ బిల్లునుమైన మాట్లాడుట అత్యంతావసరము. విలసన, నాకు కొంచము ప్రపంచావధము కలదు. మనము ఈనాడు, వ్యర్థమైయు యున్నాము. నిరాయుధులముగ ఉన్నాము. ఆయుధ విహీనులము. ఎట్టి శక్తియును లేదు. మనకు ఆధ్యాత్మిక శక్తి మాత్రము నశించలేదు. కాని అది యిప్పుడు పనికిరాదు. ఆ శక్తిచేత ప్రపంచమును జియించిన భారతజాతి నేటికీ, ఈ ప్రభుత్వమునందు నిర్వీర్యముగ ఉన్నది. ఆయ్యా! మన కిప్పుడు దంతాయుధములు మాత్రము మిగిలినవి. పూర్వకాలమందు, రామరాజు యుద్ధములో దంతాయుధములతో బోల్లొడిగ వానరులకు వర మనకును దంతాయుధములే మిగిలియున్నది. ఇప్పుడు నవనాగరికతవలన, ప్రజలు కాఫీ, టీ, త్రాగుడు మొదలైన దురభ్యాసములకు లోనగుటచే దంతముల పటుత్వముకూడ తగ్గియున్నది. ఇక మన శక్తున్నది? మన దేశమని వెళ్ళుకొనుటకు అవకాశము మాత్రము మిగిలియున్నది. అదికూడా పోయి యుండునా? కాని జాతీయ మహాసభ, అనగా కాంగ్రెసు మహాసభ 52 సంవత్సర

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from time to time that in the organization of the defence of India as a whole, Madras has suffered, that once upon a time Madras had regiments which have been taken away and therefore there is a slur on this province which should be removed and that there can be no better opportunity than the present for taking steps in this direction. That, I take it, is the purport and the motive of this resolution. Personally, Sir, I admit the suggestion to be a perfectly sound and honourable one.

"Sir, the previous history of the matter is known to those who are conversant with the proceedings of the House or have read the old records. Even the Government of the day, represented by what has been usually called the Reserved Half, have admitted the claim of the people of this province for an adequate representation in the Army. The usual talk that the people of other provinces are martial and that the people of this province are not so classed is without any justification or even much sense. The word 'martial' is often confounded with a temperamental readiness to pick a quarrel. It may not at all be the same thing to be an efficient martial people as to be a nation of short temper. Neither do I suggest that those people who have been hitherto called martial are wanting in patience or that they are short tempered; nor do I admit the position generally admitted without examination that the people of this province are not as martial as any other people in the right sense of the term. Let me not speak about it myself lest it might merely amount to a political claim. Let me but give a short extract from what the Hon. Sir Hopetoun Stokes said on the occasion when this question was raised at a previous sitting of the Legislative Council of Madras.

1-45 p.m. "The Government of Madras consider that the interests of the province demand that the military tradition and the proved military capacity of the Madrasee should be recognized by the restoration of the old Madras regiments. So long as the army is an Imperial concern, it is obviously desirable that it should be associated by recruitment with as wide an area as possible, and the revival of the Madras regiments may also help towards the attainment of the goal mentioned in Volume 2, paragraph 211 of the report—that is, the Statutory Commission's report—the position of a self-governing India with military forces of its own. For, the fact that at present such an overwhelming proportion of the army is recruited from the Punjab and the United Provinces is one of the obstacles to the formation of an independent Indian national army on which the Commission has laid stress. The Madras army has a fine record of gallant and loyal service and military traditions are still strong in many parts of the Madras Presidency. If the North India recruit is admittedly a superior in physique, the Madrasee claims superiority in intelligence, which is likely to count far more in the future than it has done in the past."

"Sir, with mechanised armies and with modern instruments of warfare, even if we admit the charge that the Madrasee is poorer in physique than people of other provinces, in modern warfare, it is not quite certain that the Madrasee may not fare better, or at least as well as any other people, with the modern instruments of warfare. Nor is it quite the same thing that a man is bulky in size and strong of limb as that a man is fit for marches and for the privations and trials of physical warfare. Very often our countryside half-starved peasantry show such stamina to bear sun and rain which the large gymnasts who perform their feats on sports-grounds in Madras, for

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instance, may not be able to show. Physical strength is not the same thing as the stamina that is required in modern warfare. Certainly it is not the same thing as the qualities that are wanted in modern warfare in regard even to the use of the modern instruments of death.

"As regards, therefore, our fitness, I must, Sir, join with the Mover of the proposition and enter a protest against all those who tend to create in us a complex of inferiority in this respect. Then, what shall we do, is the question. This suggestion has to be examined very carefully in regard to the actual proposals made. It is one thing to be unanimously of opinion that something should be done to train the people of our province in the art of defence and that they should be in an efficient condition of defending the country during a time of aggression; but it is quite another thing to decide what is to be done to achieve this end.

"I cannot refrain from expressing my own personal opinion that it is not so easy as perhaps the Mover of the proposition imagines, to agree to a provincial army of any kind. I do not feel satisfied personally—again I say, so that it may not be mistaken to be a decision of the Government—I do not feel satisfied that in organizing an army, we can give room for the development of the provincial spirit too much. It is one thing to compete with one another in the conquests of peace; but in the conquests of warfare, in the victories of warfare, we must be one and united, all-India, indivisible. It is dangerous to allow the pride of provincialism in regard to this matter. It may be that in other countries, the particular shire or county which supplies the men in a regiment takes a pride, a very good and useful pride; but the provinces in India are not exactly the same. Unfortunately, we have differences of language, religion and the like, and all these things taken into consideration, it is very doubtful whether it would be wisdom to have several provincial units or an army which is one and indivisible and central only. I have pointed out this difference without going into the more dangerous and perhaps more inconvenient problems about divisions into communities and the like. Bristling with difficulties, therefore, is the problem of exact organization. The Government cannot therefore at once accept the resolution which is shaped in such a way that it would commit the Government to a particular form of organization. Therefore, Sir, personally, I tender my wholehearted agreement to the proposal that our province should be given the opportunity to complete its education and equipment and training and fitness for national life in this respect. I also promise that this question will receive the attention of the Government and in view of the changed constitution and the present condition of the country, the matter will receive fresh consideration and steps will be taken. In view of this statement, I request the Mover of the proposition to withdraw his resolution."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard very carefully the speech of the Hon. the Premier, and I have also had the privilege of exchanging opinion with him. I thank the

[Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed] [29th September 1937]

Hon. the Premier and all those members of his party who have extended their wholehearted support to the spirit underlying the resolution. No doubt, Sir, the Hon. the Premier will agree with me in saying that there is room for difference of opinion as to the question of organization of a national militia for the province; but all the same, Sir, I think that it is essential and necessary, in the interests of the nation as a whole, that steps should be taken in the direction of organizing a militia, such as is possible. I do not think, Sir, that though for the time being there are impediments—I think they are only seeming impediments and they are only temporary and transient—but in the light of these transient and seeming impediments it will not be the right thing for us to give up the idea of forming a provincial militia for this province. I feel, Sir, very strongly that great good and advantage will flow from such a national militia. I do not think that it will lead to any great dangers, though there might be some scope for thinking that it is not without any risks for the time being. But ultimately, Sir, it is sure to promote a very healthy feeling and a healthy spirit among those who will be participating in the organization, development and the maintenance of that national militia. But, in view of the fact that the Hon. the Premier has stated that he accepts the general principles of the resolution, I hope he will take the necessary steps with the Government of India and make them consider the matter and give us the scope and the opportunity and thus bring to fruition the aspiration of this House. I think, Sir, that I will be well-advised in not pressing this motion."

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

(8) CLOSING OF PUBLIC OFFICES ON FRIDAYS BETWEEN 11 A.M. AND 2 P.M.

Mr. P. K. Mohideen Kutty in whose name the following resolution stood, did not move it, and it was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

'This Assembly recommends to the Government that all public offices in this Presidency be closed on Fridays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.'

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Non-official business for the day is over. I now adjourn the House to meet again to-morrow at 10 o'clock in the morning."

APPENDIX I.

29th September 1937]

[Vide answer to starred question No. 294 asked by Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 29th September 1937, page 1027 supra.]

G.O. Ms. No. 82, P.W. (Irrigation), dated 15th January 1937.

In their letters, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, the Andhra Chamber of Commerce and the Buckingham Canal Boat Owners' Merchants' Association made representations to the Government about the condition of the Buckingham canal with special reference to the following matters:—

- (1) Keeping open the sea bars,
- (2) maintenance of the various locks in order,
- (3) prompt closing of breaches,
- (4) proper silt clearance,
- (5) appointment of gangmen to patrol the canal,
- (6) appointment of a full-time Executive Engineer to be in charge of the canal,
- (7) reduction of licence fees,
- (8) payment of licence fees in four instalments,
- (9) delegation of the powers of a canal officer to the nearest lock superintendent,
- (10) duration of wharf tickets,
- (11) waiver of berm rent between Ennore and Madras,
- (12) provision of water-tap, lighting, latrine, etc.,
- (13) construction of a basin at Barbers' bridge,
- (14) levy of penalty for the conversion of six weeks' licences into annual ones,
- (15) increase in the number of wharf stations, and
- (16) appointment of an advisory committee.

[Mr. G. Rangayya Nayudu] [29th September 1937]

ములనుండి కొంచెము తెలివితెచ్చుకొని, ఇంక మనము ఉపేక్షించినయెడల, మనదేశము సంపూర్ణముగ నశించి, మనకు భారతీయులమని చెప్పుకొనుటకుగూడ అవకాశముండదను విషయమును గ్రహించి పాటుపడుటచేగదా యిప్పుడు మన బహిరు ఆహ్వానముగారు, మనకు జాతీయ నైస్యము కావలెనని తీర్మానము తెచ్చుటకు దైర్యము కలిగినది. మహాత్మా గాంధీగారి సత్యాగ్రహాద్యము పటుత్వముగదా ఈ సామాన్యమునకు కారణము. ఇప్పుటికి మనకు జాతీయ నైస్యవశ్యత కలిగినది. మనకు ఎట్టి జాతీయ నైస్యము కావలసియున్నదను విషయమును ముందు చర్చింతము. ఆంగ్లేయులు చాల తెలివితక్కువవారు. తెలివితక్కువమని అనుకొనుచున్నారు. కాని అట్లు కాదు. మనలను నిరాయుధులనుచేసిన, వారి కార్యములు సాధించుకొనవచ్చును అనుకొనుచున్నారు. వారు అంతర్జాతీయ యుద్ధములలో జిక్కుకొన్నప్పుడు, భారతీయుల సాహాయ్యములేక భారతీయులను కాపాడలేము, తమను తామును రక్షించుకొనలేము అను సంకతి గ్రహించినచో మనల నిరాయుధుల చేసియుండరు. ఇప్పుడు చైనా, జపాను యుద్ధములో, ప్రపంచమంతయు తగులకొనక తప్పదు. మన ప్రెసిడెంటు జవహరులాలు నైక్రమాగారు, జోస్యము చెప్పినారు. పాశ్చాత్య దేశీయులకూడ చెప్పుచున్నారు. తప్పకుండా శీఘ్రకాలములో ఆంధరు యుద్ధములలో తగులుకొని, నశిపోక తీరదు. ఇప్పుడు తెలివితెచ్చుకొనవచ్చును. ఇప్పుడు మన ఈ జాతీయప్రభుత్వములో వైస్రాయిగాని, Secretary of State గాని, రాజుగారుగాని, తెలివితెచ్చుకొని, భారతీయులకు వెంటనే జాతీయ నైస్యము నిర్దించుకొనుటకు ఉత్తరువులు జారీ చేయించవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను. జాతీయ నైస్యము యేర్పడినట్లయితే, నేనుకూడ నైసికుడనుగా చేరి, తుపాకి పట్టుటకు, ఫిరంగికాల్పుటకు సంసిద్ధముగ నుండునని వాగ్దానము చేయుచు, ఇంతటితో నా యువవాసనకును ముగించుచున్నాను."

1-30 p.m. * MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA PANTULU:—"Sir, the House may be surprised that an old man like myself should have risen to support this resolution. There need be no great arguments on my part as to why this resolution should be accepted by the House. No nation could avoid having an army of its own. No doubt we have what is called an Indian Army, but it is an army of occupation; it is not a national army. Nobody in the country takes pride in its achievements. A national army is one in which every individual soldier will be ready to lay down his life for the sake of the honour and safety of his country. Otherwise no army can be called a national army."

"Sir, this resolution aims at constituting a nucleus of the national army. The framer of the resolution has advisedly used the words 'national guard' and not a 'national army' or 'national militia.' The idea underlying it seems to me to eschew all ideas of conquest or aggression against other countries. What is aimed at is merely an army of defence and so long as we aim at this, it does not conflict with our creed of non-violence. It is high time that we formed a nucleus of the Indian army. Now that we have started the beginnings of a national government, it is but right that we should also begin to constitute the national guard."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Sir, I was very pleased to hear some of the speeches made from the other side of the House. We have receded from the age of pacificism and come to the age of fascism. The time has come when we have to change the entire attitude of the

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nation towards national defence and its necessity. I am very glad that the Opposition without any dissent is supporting this move of which I am one of the sponsors. Sir, military training is not so much for the defence of our country as long as we are under a foreign country. The power that is holding us under subjection will look to that. Nor do we want a militia to overthrow the power that is holding us under subjection, because that would not be allowed. All the same a national militia is necessary in order to train our boys in modern ways of living. Military training gives a discipline which every nation should have and every nation except India has it. Lack of discipline in India hurts India very much. That is why Herr Hitler said that the Britishers taught Indians to walk. What Herr Hitler meant by that was more than what meets the eye. He did not mean that we were not able to walk before and that the Britishers taught us to walk. He meant that we were less than men and that we were nearer to our animal ancestors. If we give military training to our people, it will give the proper reply to Herr Hitler. Our boys must understand how to move with the times like the Westerners. If there is one thing that India lacks, it is the knowledge of the way to conserve our energy. For instance we all talk so much but do so little. Other people think we are all talkies and no movies. It is for that that I urge that military training and military discipline must form an important part of our activities."

"I know, Sir, there are many obstacles in our way. The details will have to be worked out and the Government of India must agree to give a subsidy. For without a subsidy this Government cannot set on foot any scheme. It is not enough if we say that we want a national army; we must take the necessary steps to establish it. This militia is intended to give both physical and mental training to our young men. Japan is one of the foremost nations of the world to-day, because it knew long before us that military training on Western lines was necessary in the world where Western ideas are spreading so fast."

The HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resolution is about a national militia for the province. Obviously it is outside the scope of this Government to do anything themselves. That is admitted by the Mover of the resolution. What he wants is that this Government should take steps to bring about the state of things recommended in the resolution by making adequate representation in the matter in accordance with law. So far as opinion in this matter is concerned, there is no doubt as to what the people want. Hon. Members from various parts of the House have had the fullest opportunity to express their opinions in the matter and there is no doubt a general feeling that the people of this province should have their due share in the defence of the country against any aggression from abroad, and that one of the usual objections raised to the progress of democracy and self-government in our country should be removed. There is also a feeling which is found expressed not only on this resolution and at this sitting but, if we look up the proceedings of the House of previous years, there has been a feeling which has found expression

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These representations were referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for report. The Chief Engineer's report has been received and after carefully considering all the points the Government are pleased to issue the following orders :—

- (1) *Keeping open the sea bars.*—The grievance relates primarily to the conditions obtaining at the Pulicat bar. The Chief Engineer has reported that this open reach creates a very baffling problem and that all possible steps have been taken to keep open the bar. A sand bag lock has been constructed across the reach and silt cleared to a bed level of +17.00 in the portion of the canal connected with the Pulicat lake. In selected portions silt is being cleared to a bed level of +16.00. The question of providing masonry abutments to the sand bag lock is also under consideration.

In the supplemental memorandum presented by the Buckingham Canal Boat Owners' Merchants' Association it is stated that the sand bags referred to have since been washed away. The attention of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is drawn to this and he is requested to take effective steps to keep the canal in this as well as in other reaches in a satisfactory condition.

- (2) *Maintenance of the various locks in order.*—The complaint is that many of the locks are leaking or in need of repairs. The Chief Engineer has now taken steps to repair or renew the locks wherever necessary. He does not consider that in view of the technical difficulties involved it would be practicable to introduce screw shutters and locking arrangements as suggested by the Association.

- (3) *Prompt closing of breaches.*—The Chief Engineer has issued necessary orders to ensure that the instructions contained in Russell's "History" on inspection of the canal banks and closing of breaches are strictly followed in future. Steps have also been taken to provide regular paved inlets and outlets at places where small breaches occur, and to provide stone revetment for certain sections of the bank so far as funds permit.

- (4) *Proper silt clearance.*—The main complaint is that the minimum depth prescribed for the canal is not maintained and that even the silt actually removed is not carried far enough but is thrown on the banks with the result that it is washed back again by rain. The Association point out that the best work done by manual labour cannot preserve the minimum depth and that, therefore steam dredgers should also be used.

The Chief Engineer reports that silt clearance is being done regularly once a year, usually in February after the rains have ceased. He has now issued instructions that silt should be cleared more than once a year in places where the canal silts up rapidly and where it is absolutely necessary to facilitate passage of traffic. He is also considering the question of dredging by dredgers worked by oil engines.

The Chief Engineer's report however reveals a state of affairs which is by no means satisfactory. The canal as a whole is apparently not easily navigable even after the annual clearance of silt in certain sections. The Government are inclined to think that a good deal of the trouble arises from the failure to ensure strict insistence on the timely and effective removal of silt, at least where the canal runs between banks as opposed to open reaches, to a place beyond the bank, so that it cannot be washed back into the canal. The Chief Engineer is requested to issue necessary instructions to see that this is done. The officers concerned should be required to inspect the canal more frequently to see that the instructions are properly carried out. Provision should be made in the estimates for more funds if necessary for carrying the silt a longer distance before dumping.

The Chief Engineer is requested to report at an early date on the question of using oil engines for dredging.

- (5) *Appointment of gangmen to patrol the canal.*—Action has been taken by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to examine the necessity for employing lascars or mile coolies to look after the canal.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 298 asked by Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 29th September 1937, page 1033 supra.]

Extract from the speech of the Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter on 18th March 1935 in connexion with the debate on the Budget for 1935-36.

"Somebody, I think it was Mr. Appadurai Pillai, said that we ought to increase the 12 to 14 and in that extra two, we should include the Indian Christians and the backward communities. If we are to go on like this, we shall have to give up working the communal rule altogether. I have worked this communal rule myself for some time and we have already found that there is a considerable amount of complexity in its working; and if we increase the complexity any more by including this or that community, the rule will become absolutely unworkable and I consider that the various remedies suggested will make the position of the various communities referred to worse than what it is at present. I regret that it is impossible for Government to revise the present communal rule. It is based on the population of the various communities. If as a matter of fact we work the rule strictly on a population basis, we should have to exclude one Muhammadan from the 12 and probably one Indian Christian. I therefore strongly advise the two communities that the present communal rule is better. Otherwise they will find themselves in a worse position."

Extract from the speech of the Hon. Sir Charles Souter on 18th March 1936 in connexion with the debate on the Budget for 1936-37.

"I have already told the House definitely that I am not prepared to go into the question of re-examination of the proportion of representation among the various communities, i.e., Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Indian Christians, Muhammadans and so on."

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 152 asked by Mr. P. Syamasundara Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 29th September 1937, page 1040 supra.]

Proceedings of the Court of Wards, Madras, No. 854, Mis., dated 26th August 1937.

[Arrears—Mandasa—Accumulation of rents—Report.]

The Court submits the following report.

2. The estate came under the management of the Court of Wards on 28th August 1934, i.e., in fasli 1344. The arrears of the pre-assump-

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tion period, i.e., up to the end of fasli 1343 were Rs. 2,20,137. The arrears after the Court of Wards took over the management of the estate are given below:—

	Fasli	RS.
1344		29,844
1345		36,119
1346		64,462
Total	...	1,30,425

3. After the assumption of the management of the estate, the Court received petitions from numerous ryots of the estate praying for the grant of remission. These petitions were forwarded to the Estate Collector for report. The then Commissioner for the Court of Wards went to Mandasa and heard a deputation from many ryots and after consulting the Collector ordered the grant of—

- (1) A remission of Re. 0-5-4 in the rupee for fasli 1344 for all Uddanam (sea-coast) villages, except those newly leased out.
- (2) A remission of Re. 0-5-4 in the rupee for fasli 1344 for dry lands in villages paying partly in cash and partly in kind.
- (3) A remission of 4 annas in the rupee for fasli 1344, 3 annas for fasli 1343 and 2 annas for fasli 1342 for the villages in respect of which cash rents were already fixed.
- (4) Remission of one anna in the rupee for fasli 1344 for Savara villages.
- (5) In respect of arrears for which suits were filed the defaulters were excused interest if they paid up the balance arrears and costs in full before 30th June 1935.

The Estate Collector azmoished the holdings and submitted proposals through the Collector for the grant of remission for fasli 1345. After careful consideration of the position, the Court granted remission amounting to Rs. 25,953 for fasli 1345 also.

4. In spite of the fact that remissions were already granted for faslis 1343 to 1345, still there were heavy arrears. The Court called for proposals for the realization of the arrears from the Collector of Vizagapatam. After examining the proposals the Full Court issued orders on 31st July 1937 directing that all arrears prior to fasli 1341 amounting to Rs. 1,48,723 be written off the accounts as irrecoverable and that four annas in the rupee for all arrears from fasli 1341 to fasli 1345 amounting to Rs. 1,37,377 be also written off the accounts on payment of the balance in each case.

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(6) *Appointment of a full-time Executive Engineer for the charge of the canal.*—The Government agree with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that a special Executive Engineer is not necessary. Periodical inspection by superior officers is however, likely to have a salutary effect on the work of maintaining the canal. The Chief Engineer is requested to see that the Superintending Engineer inspects the more important portions of the canal, and Executive Engineers the whole length of the canal in their charge, annually. Copies of the inspection notes should be submitted to Government.

(7) *Reduction of licence fees.*—In 1933 the Government decided after a detailed examination that there was no case for a reduction of fees as the canal was then working at a loss. The position has not changed now as the canal is still being maintained at a loss. The Government therefore consider that it is not possible to reduce the licence fees at present.

(8) *Payment of licence fees in four instalments.*—The fees are not so heavy as to make annual payment in a lump sum a great hardship. Any person who wants to use his boat for a short time can do so by obtaining one or more six weekly licences. The Government do not therefore see any need to permit the payment of licence fees in instalments.

(9) *Delegation of powers of a canal officer to the nearest lock superintendent.*—The Chief Engineer proposes to issue instructions to see that necessary powers are delegated to selected lock superintendents.

(10) *Duration of wharf tickets.*—The Chief Engineer reports that the period of seven days allowed for boatmen to unload their cargo at the Madras wharf counts only from the date of issue of the wharf ticket at the Madras wharf, and not from the date when the boat passes the Ennore south lock (or the Adyar lock) as presumed by the Association. This is in accordance with rule 92 of the Navigation Rules.

(11) *Waiver of berm rent between Ennore and Madras and*

(12) *Provision of water-tap, lighting, latrine, etc.*—The Association should address the Corporation of Madras in the matter.

(13) *Construction of a basin at Barbers' bridge.*—Necessary action is being taken by the Chief Engineer on the lines, suggested.

(14) *Levy of penalty for the conversion of six weeks' licences into an annual one.*—The Southern India Chamber of Commerce has pointed out that applicants for licences are being made to pay a penalty proportionate to the number of six-week periods that have elapsed from the commencement of the year. The Chief Engineer has issued instructions to stop this practice which is not warranted by the Navigation Rules. The Government desire to impress upon the officers concerned that the Navigation Rules should be applied with sympathy and consideration and should not be improved upon by local officers to the detriment of the boatmen.

(15) *Increase in the number of wharf stations.*—The Government agree with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that it is not possible to increase the number of wharf stations as original measurements have to be taken when licences are issued to new boats.

(16) *Appointment of an Advisory Committee.*—The Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by an Advisory Committee.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

W. SCOTT BROWN,
Secretary to Government.

[29th September 1937]

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 30th September 1937.

The House met in the Assembly building, Chepauk, at ten of the clock with the Deputy Speaker (MRS. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI) in the Chair.

Proceedings began with the singing of the ' Vande Mataram ' song by Mrs. Lakshmi Sankara Ayyar.

(At this stage, Mr. Speaker took the Chair.)

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Grants to secondary schools transferred to the management of local bodies.

* 306 Q.—MR. C. NARASIMHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) the number of secondary schools in the Province which were originally being managed by Government and which were transferred to local bodies with a promise of being aided from Provincial Funds under the salary grant rules;

(b) the names of the schools coming under the above head and the localities in which they are situated;

(c) the amounts of annual recurring grants which such schools have been receiving; and

(d) the cost of maintenance under several heads of each school at the time of transfer and now?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) to (d) A statement containing the particulars available relating to secondary schools which were at one time managed by Government and were subsequently transferred to the control of local bodies is placed on the table. Particulars of the expenditure incurred on these schools prior to their transfer are not available in all cases. Some of these schools were transferred in the early eighties with the buildings and furniture belonging to the schools and it was stated that such schools would be aided from provincial funds under the salary grant rules. The grants admissible to the schools under these rules were comparatively small. The salary grant system was abolished in 1906 when a new grant-in-aid code specially applicable to schools under private management was promulgated.

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 1120 *infra*.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 157 asked by Mr. D. K. Saiyid Ibrahim at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 29th September 1937, page 1043 supra.]

Department.	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Number of permanent upper division clerks.	Name.	Academic qualifications.	Whether he has more than ten years' service and total number for all departments.	Whether he has acted as Superintendent and total for all departments.	Whether he has acted as Manager of Government office in the city and total for all departments.	Whether he has discharged the duties of head of office in any Government office in the city and total for all departments.	Remarks.
(1)								
Public Works Department	..	Mr. Mustafa Ali Baig	B.A.	Yes-1	Yes-1	..	..	..
Finance Department	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chief Secretariat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Legal Department	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Revenue Department	1	Mr. Saiyid Muhammad	B.A. and Diploma in Economics.	Yes-1	..	..	..	..
Local Administration Department.	(Provisionally substantive).	..	S.S.L.C.	Yes-1	..	..	..	..
Home Department	1	Mr. M. Nasiroddin	..	Yes-1	..	..	..	..
Development Department	(Provisionally substantive).	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	Mr. S. Matuniar	B.A., B.L.	Yes-1	..	Yes-1 (as Personal Assistant to Superintendent, Government Museum, in addition to his own duties as Personal Assistant).	Yes-1 (the duties of Superintendent, Government Museum, in addition to his own duties as Personal Assistant).	..
Education and Public Health Department.	2	Mr. Sals-ud-din Ahmed.	B.A.	No-1	..	..	..	..
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	5			4	1	1	1	1

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) The council had agreed to raise the water and drainage tax to the extent necessary to finance the scheme. The Government have no information whether the tax has been actually collected.

“(c) The answer is in the negative.

“(d) No definite date when the scheme will come into operation can be given. The plans and estimates have not been finally sanctioned. After they are sanctioned the execution of the scheme has to be entrusted by the council to one or more engineering firms on contract.”

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“With regard to clause (b), may I ask why the Congress Government should not remove the tax on water, a God-given gift?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“I do not really understand the question of the hon. Member.”

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“Why should not the Congress Government cancel the tax on water, a God-given gift?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“That is not a question arising out of this.”

Provision of conveyance for students of the Government Training School for Muhammadan Women, Kurnool.

* 310 Q.—MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state the arrangements made by the Government for the conveyance of the gosha girls studying in the Government Training School for Muhammadan Women, Kurnool?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Provision has been made for hiring a cart for the conveyance of students to and from the school for ten months of the school year.

“A fee of Re. 1 per month is levied from girls, other than scholarship holders and poor pupils, who use the conveyance.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Will those facilities be available for other districts also, Sir?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“If only the hon. Member had looked into the interpellation, viz., to state the arrangements made by the Government for the conveyance of the gosha girls to schools, he would not have put the question. If such Muslim girls' schools in other districts require the arrangement, the Government will take that into consideration.”

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MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“That is exactly the answer I wanted, Sir.”

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to cancel the rule for taking a fee of Re. 1 per month from the girls?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“No, Sir. The Government are of opinion that people who can afford to pay for conveyance should be treated differently from those other people who are not so well situated in the world.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“If I remember right, the Hon. Minister answered that the fee was levied even from the poor girls. I shall be glad to get that answer clarified.”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I thought, Sir, the hon. Member for Muslims in the City of Madras having had a long association with legislatures would have taken the trouble to follow the answer I read out, which is as follows: ‘A fee of rupee one per month is levied from girls, other than scholarship-holders and poor pupils, who use the conveyance.’ The words ‘other than scholarship-holders and poor pupils’ are explicitly there.”

Appointment of a part-time officer as Numismatical Assistant in the Government Museum, Madras.

* 311 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a part-time post called “Numismatical Assistant” in the Government Museum on a salary of Rs. 100 per mensem;

(b) whether the present incumbent is a B.A., B.L., allowed to practise in addition to his attending office only on Saturdays and Sundays; and

(c) whether the Government will consider the desirability of appointing a full-time qualified hand for the post?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) & (b) The answers are in the affirmative.

“(c) The part-time arrangement is reported to be working satisfactorily and the Government do not consider that there is any need at present to sanction a full-time appointment.”

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—“What are the salaries of similar appointments in other branches of the Government Museum?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I did not think the hon. Member would want such information. If he wants the information, I would advise him to put down another question on paper.”

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schools managed by local bodies were taken out of the purview of this code and Government contributions have been sanctioned on their behalf from time to time. The contributions now paid to schools which were transferred to local bodies in the eighties are far more substantial than the grants they were receiving at the time of the transfer."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know what is the basis on which aid is given to board secondary schools and when it was fixed? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" The question of grant-in-aid to board secondary schools was considered in all its aspects in the year 1927, and finally fixed. After that date, the Government have not promised any contribution towards the opening of secondary schools by district boards. The fixation principle at that time was that the district boards should get an amount 5 per cent more than what they were receiving at that time, and that will be the grant to which secondary schools managed by local bodies will be eligible."

MR. C. NARASIMHAM:—" May I ask why the grant to the Chicacole High School is lower, comparatively? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" As I said just now, Sir, the grants were fixed at a certain figure which was put 5 per cent more than what the schools were receiving at that time. On that basis, the grant to the Chicacole Municipal High School was then fixed, and it remains so even now."

MR. C. NARASIMHAM:—" May I ask whether it is not possible to enhance it, when an application for reconsideration is made? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Unless the whole question is reopened *de novo*, there is no possibility of any such reconsideration at present."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" Will the Government consider the question of redistribution of grants to secondary schools? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" As I said, Sir, grants after that date were fixed, and I have no intention of going into them, because there are more urgent matters to be taken into consideration by the Government."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know whether the grant fixed by the Government long ago is not equitable now? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" The question of going into the equities of the grant does not arise at the present moment."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" In the interests of education, will a proposal for revision or reconsideration be taken up now? "

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" The expression 'Interests of education' is only a relative term. What may be important in the eyes of the hon. Member may not be so in the eyes of the Government."

Expenditure incurred on the supply of clothing in the several departments of the Government.

* 307 Q.—MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) the several departments for which cloth is required for uniforms and other purposes; and

(b) the annual expenditure for clothing for each department?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) & (b) A statement ^a is placed on the table."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give permission to the departments to buy khaddar? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I am afraid there is no such proposal before the Government."

* 308 Q. ^b

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—" May I put the question in the absence of Mr. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib, Sir? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" Is the hon. Member deputed in writing by Mr. Schamnad Sahib to put the question? "

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—" No, Sir. I am interested in the question."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Then, he cannot put the question."

Water-supply scheme for Guntur.

* 309 Q.—MR. J. RAJA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any scheme for the supply of fresh drinking water to Guntur town;

(b) whether any additional tax has been collected for the purpose from the residents of Guntur town, if so, how much;

(c) whether any contribution has been made by Government for the purpose, if so, how much; and

(d) from what date the Government expect the scheme to come into operation?

^a Printed as Appendix II on page 1121 infra.

^b Vide pages 1101-1102 infra.

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MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I know what the Government consider to be the irreducible minimum remuneration for the post? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" As I have said in the answer itself, the part-time gentleman is well able to do the work, which is necessary in regard to this numismatic work of the museum, that is, collection of coins. The gentleman in question understands the work and knows what to do. As long as he remains, the Government do not see any necessity for another man. When that time comes, the Government will consider what salary should be paid for the appointment."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know what the qualification possessed by this gentleman is? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Numismatics is not a qualification at all. This is a hobby really of some people, and this gentleman, as I said, understands the work of collecting coins and the import of such collection."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I know why, when Honours graduates with research qualifications in History, Archaeology, are available, a part-time man is appointed for the purpose? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" The hon. Member must be aware that numismatics is not mere archæology. As I have said, the gentleman, who does that work, has had experience in it and has studied the subject and understands the work."

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—" May I know, Sir, the progress of work done in numismatics by this gentleman? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" In the opinion of the Government, the progress of his work is satisfactory."

* 312 & 313 Qs. *

Remission of assessment in respect of tea and coffee cultivations in the Presidency.

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" I put the question No. 314 on behalf of Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Are you deputed by him in writing? "

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" Yes, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Then you can put the question."

* 314 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR for Mr. V. Nadimuthu Pillai: With reference to the answers given to the supplementary questions to my starred question No. 245 answered on

* Vide pages 1102-1103 infra.

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23rd September 1937, will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any remission under any category has been given to tea or coffee cultivated in dry lands even it be with reference to the level of prices of foodstuffs, for faslis 1343, 1344 and 1345;

(b) whether any such remission has been granted to tea, coffee, etc., cultivated in registered wet lands;

(c) whether it is a fact that such remissions have been granted to Nilgiris and Malabar; and

(d) if the answer is in the affirmative, the reason underlying the grant of such remissions?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam):—" (a) to (d) A report has been called for from the Board of Revenue."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" May I know the answer to clause (d)? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" A report has been called for from the Board of Revenue. That is the answer to all the clauses."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" Will the report when received be placed on the table? "

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I request the Hon. Minister to place it on the table for the information of the hon. Members of the House? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" That is another question: it does not arise out of this."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" I submit, Sir, that the question does arise out of this. May I know whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to place the report that is received from the Board of Revenue on the table for the information of the hon. Members of this House? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" The Government will in that case consider the desirability of placing the report on the table for the information of the hon. Members."

Proposal for opening a railway line to connect Tanjore and Pattukkottai and Arantangi and Karaikudi.

* 315 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR for Mr. V. Nadimuthu Pillai: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there has been a long-standing proposal to open a railway line between Tanjore and Pattukkottai and between Arantangi and Karaikudi;

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(b) whether the Government of India consulted the Local Government recently on this matter and wanted a guarantee from the Local Government for the income;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the District Board of West Tanjore have given the guarantee; and

(d) whether the Local Government have given the guarantee?

MR. K. R. KARANT (Parliamentary Secretary on behalf of the Hon. Mr. Yakub Hasan):—“(a) The proposal regarding the Tanjore-Pattukkottai Railway was dropped by the Railway Board in May last; and the one regarding the Arantangi-Karaikudi Railway was not pursued by the district board since 1928.

“(b) Presumably the hon. Member refers to the discussions held in August last by this Government with the Chief and Financial Commissioners of Railways. They indicated that the Central Government would require a guarantee from the Local Government in addition to one from the district board, against loss on both the lines.

“(c) The district board has offered to guarantee against loss the Tanjore-Pattukkottai line but not the Arantangi-Karaikkudi line.

“(d) The question is under examination.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether it is not a fact that a guarantee is usually given, and if so, how long it will take to give the guarantee?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“The guarantee is not usually given; the merits of each case have to be looked into before any liabilities are undertaken by Government or guarantee given. As regards the time it may take, I cannot say anything at present.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know what the difficulty is for the Government giving the guarantee when the district board has given it?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“Government will have to consider whether the provincial finances can be guaranteed, apart from the views of the district board.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Is it in addition (to the guarantee of the district board), Sir?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“The Railway Board looks to the Provincial Government for giving a guarantee, and not merely the district board.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether the Collector of the district has recommended the giving of the guarantee?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“Notice, Sir.”

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MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“What is the present stage of the proposal in respect of which the district board is giving the guarantee?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“Government are considering whether they should also give a guarantee: it comes to about Rs. 70,000 per annum.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“How long have they been considering and what time will they require to come to a decision?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“I have already answered the latter part of the question; as regards the former part the answer is, two or three years.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether the recent discussions held between the Government and the financial Commissioners of Railways were private?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“I have already stated it in answer to the main question.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether the result of the discussions will be placed on the table for the information of the hon. Members of the House?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“I am sorry, Sir, that cannot be given.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Why not, Sir?”

MR. K. R. KARANT:—“Government cannot give it: it is all part of the negotiation.”

Number of Mappilla prisoners released from the jails in this Presidency and from the Andamans.

* 308 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question (starred) No. 92 answered on 14th September 1937 the number of Moplah prisoners actually released recently from the jails in this Presidency and from the Andamans respectively?

MR. AHMED THAMBI MUHAMMAD MOHIDEEN MARACAIR (Parliamentary Secretary on behalf of the Hon. Mr. K. Raman Menon):—“The number of prisoners actually released from the jails in this Presidency is 3.

“The Government have ordered the release of three Moplah prisoners in the Andamans. The Government have no information whether they have actually been released. One, Ossan Ali of Mannarghat, Walluvanad taluk, who is in the Mental hospital,

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Madras, is still there because no relatives or others have come to take charge of him. The District Magistrate, Malabar, has been requested to take action in the matter."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—" May I know the number of prisoners who have been ordered to be released but not actually released? "

MR. AHMED THAMBI MUHAMMAD MOHIDEEN MARACAIR:—" All Mappilla prisoners have been ordered to be released; there may be a few still to be released in some places."

Particulars regarding the number of districts having combined Public Prosecutor and Government Pleaders and the number of districts having separate Public Prosecutors and Government Pleader in the Presidency.

* 312 Q.—MR. K. S. PERIASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the number of districts in which the offices of the Public Prosecutor and the Government Pleader are held by one and the same person; and

(b) the number of districts in which they are held by two different persons?

MR. AHMED THAMBI MUHAMMAD MOHIDEEN MARACAIR (Parliamentary Secretary on behalf of the Hon. Mr. K. Raman Menon):—" (a) Twenty-one.

" (b) Four (Ramanad, Trichinopoly, Chingleput and Salem)."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether Government have got any proposal to follow the system now adopted, viz., of entrusting the two offices to two different individuals? "

MR. AHMED THAMBI MUHAMMAD MOHIDEEN MARACAIR:—" The whole question is under consideration."

* MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I know what the principle followed is in selecting persons for the post of Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders, whether it is politics, or efficiency? "

MR. AHMED THAMBI MUHAMMAD MOHIDEEN MARACAIR:—" The procedure followed by the Government is to act on the recommendation of the District Magistrate and the District Judge of the district concerned."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I know on what basis they recommend persons? "

MR. AHMED THAMBI MUHAMMAD MOHIDEEN MARACAIR:—" On the merit of the candidates, they make their recommendation."

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Proposal to transfer the control over the construction of the Godavari Bridge to the District Board, Rajahmundry.

* 313 Q.—MR. K. VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajahmundry L.F. District Board applied for the transfer of the control as regards the construction of the Godavari Bridge; and

(b) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The President, District Board, Rajahmundry, has been informed that the question of the agency for the execution of the bridge work has not yet been decided and that the District Board's request will be considered in due course."

MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—" May I know when the question will be considered? "

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It is not possible to say at present."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—" I do not put question No. 316."

* 316 Q. (Withdrawn.)

Appointment of personal clerks to the Ministers and to the Speaker.

* 317 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) how many personal clerks for the Ministers and the Speaker have been freshly recruited after the Congress Ministry came into existence;

(b) what their qualifications are and whether the communal Government Order was applied to such a recruitment; and

(c) whether the Madras Services Commission was consulted before recruitment?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (a) Even in the former Ministry, each Minister had two personal clerks. Similarly each Minister of the present Ministry has two personal clerks. One of these particularly works with the Parliamentary Secretary. Twelve out of these twenty clerks were drawn from the Secretariat and ten out of these twelve had been serving the previous Ministers. The rest were drawn from outside. The eight new men were appointed by the Ministers under rule 13 (b) (i) of the Madras Secretariat Service Rules. One person was appointed as clerk or personal assistant to the Speaker under rule 15 (a) of the Madras Ministerial Service Rules. None of these nine posts can be regarded as appointments to the service nor does such appointment confer

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any claim to appointment in any service. The appointments cease when the Minister or the Speaker, as the case may be, vacates office.

“(b) & (c) The qualifications of the new clerks are given below:—

To whom attached.	Qualifications
1 Prime Minister	B.Sc. Typewriting (Lower). Shorthand (Lower).
2 Minister for Public Works Department ..	B.A. Typewriting (Higher). Shorthand (Lower).
3 Minister for Administration Reports and Public Information.	M.A. (Economics).
4 Minister for Revenue	B.A.
5 Minister for Industries and Labour ..	Matriculate. Shorthand (Intermediate). Commerce (Intermediate). Banking and Book-keeping (Elementary).
6 Minister for Education and Legal	Failed S.S.L.C. Typewriting (Lower).
7 Minister for Local Administration ..	B.A. (Hons.). M.A. (Allahabad).
8 Minister for Courts and Prisons ..	B.A.
9 Speaker	M.A. Typewriting (Lower).

“The communal Government Order does not apply to such recruitment nor was it necessary to consult the Madras Services Commission.”

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“With regard to clause (c), may I know whether the persons recruited from outside are eligible for service according to the list prepared by the Madras Public Services Commission?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I shall request the hon. Member to repeat the question, for it appears to me that he is questioning what I have already answered.”

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—“May I know whether the men that are recruited are borne on the list eligible for service prepared by the Madras Services Commission?”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I have already said that none of these nine posts can be regarded as appointments to the service, nor, even when the holders of these posts cease to hold office when the Minister or Speaker vacates office, can these appointments confer any claim to appointment in any service. Therefore it is not necessary to consult the Madras Public Services Commission. But I am unable to say without consulting them whether the qualifications I have given amount to the qualifications notified by them. I am not experienced in that business.”

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Transfer of elementary school teachers serving under Cuddapah District Board.

* 318 Q.—MR. N. RANGA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) the number of transfers of elementary school teachers in Cuddapah District Board since February 1936 till the end of August 1937; and

(b) the number so transferred without travelling allowance?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) & (b) Detailed information is not available but a report in the matter has recently been received from the Divisional Inspector which is under the consideration of Government.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“May I know when the decision may be expected?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“As I have already said, the whole matter is under consideration on the report of the Divisional Inspector. The Government hope to arrive at conclusions in a very short time.”

MR. E. KANNAN:—“May I know whether the Hon. Minister will consider the desirability of stopping such transfers without travelling allowances?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The Government have already issued instructions to Presidents of District Boards that they should order transfers only after consultation and in very necessary cases; but when such transfers are ordered, they have also been instructed to sanction travelling allowances to the persons transferred.”

Alleged irregular transfer of teachers by the President, District Board, Cuddapah.

* 319 Q.—MR. N. RANGA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether any Government Order has been issued to the effect that teachers employed in the Local Board service can be transferred only after consultation with the District Educational Officer;

(b) whether the President, District Board, Cuddapah, transferred about 150 teachers after the issue of the abovesaid Government Order without consulting the District Educational Officer, and

(c) what action the Hon. Minister proposes to take in such cases?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) & (c) A report has been called for.”

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MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Sir, may I ask how it is possible to call for a report in regard to clause (c) of the question?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The hon. Member must realize that action can be taken only after the report from the District Board President has been received. The answer is to clause (b) and only consequently to clause (c)."

MR. E. KANNAN:—"May I ask whether the Government are aware of the fact that the interim Minister for Education made such transfers while he was President of the Malabar District Board?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am afraid I am not concerned with the interim Minister for Education or his administration of the Malabar District Board, because that question does not exactly arise out of this."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Realization of the aims and objects cherished in the abolition of taluk boards and the bifurcation of district boards.

162 Q.—MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state to what extent the objects of the Government before 14th July 1937 in abolishing the taluk boards and bifurcating the district boards have been realized in the new structure of the local board administration set up, with particular reference to their financial condition?

A.—There has been on the whole a reduction of Rs. 12.97 lakhs in the expenditure of district boards since the abolition of taluk boards but it is not possible to calculate the actual extent to which each district board benefited owing to the abolition of taluk boards, as the increases or decreases in expenditure may be due to other causes also. A large number of district boards were bifurcated only towards the end of 1936–37 and it is too early to gauge the financial effect of the bifurcation. As regards panchayats, although they got additional land-cess income after the abolition of taluk boards, it is not possible to furnish figures showing the extent to which the boards benefited.

Outturn of work by the Panchayat Officers in the South Kanara district.

163 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) what are the reasons for having two Panchayat Officers for the South Kanara district;

(b) how many panchayat boards were opened by the present Panchayat Officers;

(c) the total number of boards in the district;

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(d) the total number of wells dug by the present Panchayat Officers;

(e) the total number of schools opened by them;

(f) the number of roads opened by them in the South Kanara district;

(g) whether there is a reserved seat for the scheduled castes of South Kanara district in the panchayat boards;

(h) whether these seats have always been filled by nomination;

(i) whether these nominations were made by Government in consultation with the district authorities;

(j) who the present nominees to the seats are, to what particular community in the list of scheduled castes each of them belongs and for what purpose the Government have reserved these seats for the depressed classes?

A.—(a) There is only one District Panchayat Officer with an Assistant Panchayat Officer. Both of them are necessary to supervise the working of the Panchayats in the district.

(b) Sixty-three Panchayats have been constituted on the reports submitted by the District Panchayat Officer since his appointment.

(c) The total number of Panchayat Boards in the District is 158.

(d) The total number of wells sunk during the years from 1933–34 to 1936–37 is 16.

(e) Proposals for the opening of Panchayat Schools are received from Panchayat Boards themselves through the District Educational Officer. No proposals have so far been received from the District Panchayat Officer.

(f) The number of roads opened during the period from 1933–34 to 1936–37 is 32.

(g) The answer is in the affirmative.

(h) The answer is in the negative. The seats have always been filled up by elections.

(i) In view of the answer to clause (h) the question in the clause does not arise.

(j) In view of the answer to clause (h), the question in the first part of this clause does not arise. As regards the second part, seats have been reserved for Adi-Dravidas in order to give them due representation on the board.

Grant of scholarships to pupils belonging to the depressed classes community in South Kanara for higher studies.

164 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Labour Department has decided to grant scholarships to pupils belonging to the depressed classes community in South Kanara for higher studies;

(b) if so, the total number of scholarships; and

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(c) the names of schools and classes in each taluk to which scholarships are to be given?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) & (c).

1 Government College, Mangalore.	I University class.	Two scholarships at Rs. 9 per mensem.	Half fee rate.
2 Court Hill Higher Elementary School, Mangalore.	Standard VIII ..	Five scholarships at Rs. 8 a year.	No fee rate.
	" VII ..	Three scholarships at Rs. 8 a year.	
	" VI ..	Six scholarships at Rs. 6 a year.	
	" V ..	Two scholarships at Rs. 6 a year.	Half fee rate.
3 Canara High School, Mangalore.	Form VI ..	One scholarship at Rs. 54 a year.	
	" V ..	Three scholarships at Rs. 54 a year.	
	" II ..	Three scholarships at Rs. 30 a year.	Half fee rate.
	" I ..	Two scholarships at Rs. 30 a year.	
4 Ganapathi High School, Mangalore.	Form VI ..	Two scholarships at Rs. 54 a year.	
5 Begant Girls' School, Mangalore.	Standard VII ..	One scholarship at Rs. 18 a year.	Half fee rate.
	" V ..	One scholarship at Rs. 18 a year.	
	" ..	One scholarship at Rs. 18 a year.	
6 Kuleri Board Higher Elementary school, Trikarour post (Kasaragod).	Standard VIII ..	One scholarship at Rs. 8 a year.	No fee rate.
	" VII ..	Three scholarships at Rs. 8 a year.	
	" VI ..	Three scholarships at Rs. 6 a year.	
	" IV ..	One scholarship at Rs. 6 a year.	Half fee rate.
7 Padne Board Higher Elementary School, Padne post (Kasaragod taluk).	Standard VIII ..	One scholarship at Rs. 8 a year.	
	" VII ..	One scholarship at Rs. 8 a year.	
8 Christian High School, Udipi (South Kanara).	Form V ..	One scholarship at Rs. 54 a year.	No fee rate.
9 Board High School, Coondapoor (South Kanara).	Form I ..	One scholarship at Rs. 14 a year.	
10 Board Middle School, Byndoor (Coondapoor).	Class V ..	One scholarship at Rs. 12 a year.	

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL RE MADRAS PROHIBITION BILL.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to announce to the House that the following message, dated Fort. St. George, 29th September 1937, has been received by me from the Hon. the President of the Madras Legislative Council:

'In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Prohibition Bill as agreed to by the Council, without any amendment and signed by me'."

III.—POINT OF ORDER RE 'VANDE MATARAM' SONG.

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—"I rise to a point of order. The other day, that is on the 23rd September 1937, I raised a point of order and asked that there must be a ruling given on the Vande Mataram song which is a war cry against Islam."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What is the point of order, please? Please state the point of order without making a speech."

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MR. S. M. LALJAN:—"I only solicit a point of information."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"A point of information from the Chair?"

MR. S. M. LALJAN:—"Yes, a point of information from the Chair."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Please write it down and pass it on to me."

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL, DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1937.

* THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, I introduce a Bill* further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1935, for certain purposes and move that it be taken into consideration at once.

"In moving this I need not speak at length as the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill fully explains the need for the Bill. I am taking power to prolong the life of the present municipalities throughout the presidency, and eight district boards in the presidency whose elections are due this year and also 15 councillors whose term expires this year. In due course, perhaps in November or January, I will come before the Legislature again and ask to be permitted to adopt the Assembly electoral roll for the purpose of these elections and if there are difficulties, hon. Members may raise those points then and the whole thing will be considered by the Government. Primarily, the new Bill will remove the necessity of duplicating the machinery for the preparation of electoral rolls. At present the Assembly electoral rolls are being prepared by the Revenue Officers and the municipal voters' lists are prepared by the commissioners, etc. If this Bill is accepted we shall remove the necessity for duplicating the machinery for preparing the electoral rolls. With these few words I move this Bill for immediate consideration."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, in appreciating the intention behind this piece of legislation, I would take this opportunity to mention one or two difficulties that persons in the municipal and local board areas are put to. Representations have been made both to the Inspector of Local Boards and the Minister in charge of this portfolio about the desirability of realigning certain voting centres. Now, this piece of legislation seeks to postpone the elections from the usual date. I trust the Hon. Minister will issue instructions to the Inspector of Local Boards to examine the representations that have been made to him in regard to the question of changing or creating new polling centres, and that the old plea that

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 21st September 1937.

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between now and the date of the elections in November there is hardly time for examining the question would be abandoned and a fresh start would be made in the disposal of these representations.

"In this connexion I also wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that the question of amending certain rules framed under the Madras Local Boards Act with regard to the places where certain persons have to exercise their votes has to be considered. What is passing in my mind, Sir, is this: that with regard to the district board elections there are a number of voters who have to reside within the municipal area. Under the rules now in existence, these voters have to go out of the municipality to a place in the district board area itself for exercising their votes. In view of the fact that in all municipalities there are large numbers of voters qualified to vote at the district board elections, I request that the inconvenience to which they are now put to may be removed by modifying the rules in such a way as to enable persons in municipal areas voting in the municipal area itself. Unless this is done the whole object of elections would be defeated and we would not be able to ascertain the real wishes of the voters with regard to the candidate by whom they want to be represented in the local bodies.

"There is also one other difficulty which has been felt in the preparation of electoral rolls. I am giving a specific instance. In the municipality of Tiruppattur there were 1,300 and odd voters in the first list, but by a process of elimination, the number of voters on the second list was reduced to 400 by the removal of over 900 voters from the first list, on the ground that there were some irregularities. I submit that when we have extended the qualifications for the franchise by including also the literacy qualification, removal of such large numbers from the roll is not justifiable. There has been something wrong in the preparation of the electoral rolls, I grant. But by no stretch of imagination can we conceive of a wrong being committed necessitating the removal of three-fourths of the number included in the first list. Sir, in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister is taking power to extend the term of the municipalities or postponing the elections thereto, I am mentioning these difficulties so that they may be attended to at this stage."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, may I make a suggestion in this connexion in respect of the Corporation of Madras? Elections to 15 seats in the Madras Corporation to be vacated every year is to take place in February next. These, as well as the elections to the Standing Committees of the Corporation may also be postponed."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, as the Government desire to know the attitude of the Opposition towards this measure, it is as well that I get up and mention our viewpoint. We have been always at one with any Government that comes to the House and says that an extraordinary or transitory measure is

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necessary to carry on the work of the Government. In this case they say that they have some scheme for effecting electoral reform and therefore they do not want to put the people to trouble and expense twice over in a short time. In measures like this and whenever there is an emergency, the Government can always expect the co-operation of the Opposition. We are only anxious that the existing order should not be upset suddenly and we have the assurance in regard to this measure that the Government will take care not to upset the existing arrangements without careful consideration. It is only with that object, I take it that Government have come forward with this measure asking us to agree to the extension of the term of councillors of municipalities and local boards. Personally I have nothing to do with the district boards or municipal councils. But I am very glad that the Government have come forward with such a measure and I hope that whenever they think of any measures of reform they will give an opportunity to the public to think over the contemplated reforms by the Government and also to express their opinions through the press and in public meetings. If this is done, it will help the Government to come to better decisions. For these reasons I have great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House."

* THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I thank the Hon. the Leader of Opposition for the generous co-operation which he has promised in all measures like this. This measure, as the House is aware, is neither revolutionary nor radical. The Government only want to extend the term of members of municipalities and local bodies for some more time, i.e., for a few months more. As regards Mr. Natesa Chettiyar's objection, I may tell him at once that there are no elections to the Standing Committees in the City Corporation this year. Elections to Standing Committee in the City Corporation take place only once in three years, and there is no likelihood of any election to that body being held this year, though there cannot be any objection to this measure on this score. As regards the point raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, that there will be a reduction in the number of voters in the voters' list, I may say I have examined the figures myself and I agree with him that there will be a reduction. But the reduction is not due to any manipulation of any officer concerned. In the case of Assembly electoral rolls, those who had paid their dues before 31st March are entitled to vote, whereas in the case of municipalities, it is not so. The mere fact that one is assessed will not entitle him to have a vote. That makes a great difference and that is the reason why so many in the Tiruppattur Municipality have lost their votes.

"The second suggestion that he made was that voters residing in municipalities are put to great difficulty in going to long distances and voting for district board elections. I may at once assure him that I have already taken up that question and I expect to issue orders shortly.

"As regards the third point that he made that the number of polling stations should be increased, I am afraid that that question does

10-45
a.m.

[Mr. V. V. Giri]

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of the guarantee given by them in respect of the debentures issued by the Madras Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank, Limited, to a total face value of Rs. 150 lakhs exclusive of such debentures as the Bank may from time to time redeem, such debentures being issued for periods not exceeding in any case 25 years from the date of issue and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent per annum. The additional guarantee may be given after deciding upon the scheme to be adopted for ensuring repayment of the debentures.'

There was the original resolution with the proviso circulated. The proviso was changed after discussion with Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar, the President of the Land Mortgage Bank. He suggested the amendment which he placed before the Council and which I have accepted. Therefore the amended Resolution has now been placed before the House and I need not waste the time of the House, Sir, because hon. Members must have already read the explanatory note to the Resolution. I now formally move this Resolution for your acceptance."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a Director of the Central Land Mortgage Bank, Limited, I rise to support, if any support is needed on my part, the resolution so ably moved by the Hon. Minister in charge of Industries and Labour. We all know that two years ago this guarantee came into existence and the interest and capital due to shareholders was guaranteed by Government to the extent of one hundred lakhs of rupees. Sir, the avidity with which the agriculturists took the loans granted by the Land Mortgage Banks necessitated an increase in the guarantee and the former Minister in charge of co-operation moved for an increase of guarantee on the floor of the Legislative Council and that was readily granted. The total guarantee went up to 125 lakhs of rupees. Now, Sir, the magnitude to which transactions have grown has necessitated a further addition to the guarantee and I am very happy to find that the present Minister in charge of the portfolio has come forward with an offer to increase the guarantee by another 25 lakhs of rupees, making the total 150 lakhs.

"The work has grown to such an enormous extent as to involve the extension to new districts like Malabar and South Kanara which have not been touched so far. Steps have been taken by the President of the Central Land Mortgage Bank, who has made extensive tours, in the direction of creating interest in the operations of the Land Mortgage Banks. He has been endeavouring his best to popularize these banks under the Agriculturists Loans Act. The operations of the Land Mortgage Bank afford considerable relief to the ryots who are indebted to a very large extent. There is also, Sir, before the House a Moratorium Bill. What with loans granted under the Agriculturists Loans Act, the operations of the Land Mortgage Banks and the Moratorium Bill now before the House, the prospects of relief to agriculturists to an appreciable extent from the heavy load under which they are groaning, seem very fair. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for having taken such

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prompt measures to accede to the request of the Central Land Mortgage Bank to increase the guarantee. Every endeavour will be made to move very cautiously in the matter and to see that the additional guarantee now asked for is utilized to the best advantage of the ryot population. I, therefore, Sir, very heartily support the resolution moved by the Hon. Minister."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I want to know why it is put down here in the resolutions, 'bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent per annum,' though no doubt, the proviso says that there is discussion going on between the Madras Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank and the Government in the matter of a satisfactory settlement of the rate of interest to ultimate borrowers. Though the amount of guarantee should be increased the rate of interest should not be more than 3 or 3½ per cent. The Government might have put down 3 or 3½ per cent as the maximum. I just want that information."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member might have heard the resolution as moved. That does not contain the proviso referred to."

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government by guaranteeing the debentures to the extent of 25 lakhs of rupees more than what they have done previously, are showing genuine sympathy on behalf of the ryots. Sir, I find that the Ceded districts have been very much neglected in the matter of starting land mortgage banks and I take this opportunity to request the Hon. Minister to take more and more interest in the Ceded districts and start as many land mortgage banks as he would receive applications from. Further, the present policy of the Government is not to encourage the starting of land mortgage banks in the zamindari areas. That is very good, the reason being that the zamindar has got the first charge on the rents due to him from the tenants and hence if the assessment is not paid, the land might come for sale and the zamindar might purchase it for a farthing and thus the land mortgage bank would lose its security. Sir, it is in the zamindari areas that a high rate of assessment is prevailing and it is the zamindari ryots that require this assistance from the Government more than the ryotwari tenants. And I request the Government to see that a more suitable amendment is made in the Estates Land Act and to see its way, in a short time, to extend the benefits of land mortgage banks by starting them in the zamindari areas also. Sir, with these observations I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment which has been moved by the Hon. Minister."

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I must first thank the various hon. Members on the right and on the left for supporting this resolution which I have moved. My hon. Friend, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, raised the question of the extension of the benefit of the land mortgage banks to Malabar and South Kanara. I may tell the House that during the budget discussions I made it clear that the question of extending the benefits of the land mortgage banks to Malabar and South Kanara

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not arise out of this measure. But if applications come forward stating that there is a lot of difficulty in going over long distances for voting, the Government will surely take that into consideration and examine the whole question.

“ So, Sir, in the end I say this is an innocuous measure, no amendment having been brought forward. I think I have answered almost all the points raised by hon. Members.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ This is an emergent measure commanding the support of all the sections of the House. The notice of six days which is contemplated by rule 75 has been dispensed with by the Chair. The question now is that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.”

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ This Bill being a non-contentious measure, I put all the clauses of the Bill to the vote of the House.”

All the clauses and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ I now move that the Bill be passed into law.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ The Bill is certainly non-contentious. If this is a Government in which the Opposition has no confidence and they think that the Government will do harm in bringing forward a measure of this kind, then the Opposition would oppose it. But we on this side of the House have confidence in the *bona fides* of the Government and particularly the Member in charge of the portfolio who makes the best possible use of the opportunity afforded to him. I would like to say only one thing. It cannot be assumed that I am making any assumption on account of the fear I have in my mind. I say this on sound information. I know that the Government is intending to revive and enlarge the franchise by introducing the new system of electoral roll. I am afraid there may be a sufficient number of municipalities in which the number of voters may be decreased on account of this new system. So I want the Hon. Minister to see that by the introduction of the new system the object of enlarging the electorate is not frustrated, but the number of electors is considerably increased. Under the existing system at least there are many poorer class of people who get themselves enrolled on payment of a small licence fee, or on payment of some tax or other or on account of owning a house or of renting a house. These are very good features of the existing franchise. Under the new franchise my fear is that except for the fact that there is franchise given to all literate people, there will be decrease in the number of voters. I hope the real object of the Hon. Minister in charge is to enlarge the number of voters and to enable people to take their due share in the administration of these local bodies. Sir, I hope the Hon. Minister will do his best to achieve this object.”

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KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—“ If I rise again I rise only to point out to the Hon. Gentleman the Minister for Local Administration that he has not indicated to the House in what manner he will apply all the sections relating to the extension of terms of members of municipal councils and local bodies. I wish only to suggest that it would be far better to give the extension to all alike and that there should be no discrimination made between one municipality and another. It would be better if he adopts the same period for all district boards and municipalities. It is well if he would consider this point. So the only thing that I suggest is that every one of the municipal councils and district boards should be given the same term of extension. With these few words I support the motion.”

* THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ Sir, I may straightway assure hon. Members that no discrimination with regard to the extension of term of municipalities would be made. On the other hand it is my firm belief that all the municipalities should have elections on the same date as the Legislative Assembly. I will also see that the elections of chairmen and vice-chairmen are held on the same date. If the co-operation of the Police department and the Revenue department is forthcoming, I assure the House that elections to all the municipalities will be held on the same date without any discrimination. There will be no discrimination in my department.

“ Then as regards the suggestion of the Muslim Member for the City of Madras, I may say that our concern is to see that the number of electors in municipalities and district boards is enlarged. Certainly it is our belief that with the revision of the Assembly Electoral Roll the number of electors in municipalities and district boards also will increase. But there may be certain cases where as we have already pointed out if the voters have not paid their taxes before the 31st March, there is every likelihood of their names being omitted from the electoral list. There may be many cases like this where people will lose their votes. On account of the new system many women will get themselves elected. Under the old system, if a woman had not paid her profession-tax, her name would not be included in the electoral roll. Under the new system the wives of people who pay a tax of Rs. 3 to the municipality are entitled to vote. If you take all these things into consideration there will not be much reduction in the number of voters. In certain cases there will be a greater number of people included in the electoral roll.”

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

V.—GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION RE GUARANTEE IN RESPECT OF DEBENTURES ISSUED BY THE MADRAS LAND MORTGAGE BANK. 11 a.m.

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move at—

‘ this Assembly recommends to the Provincial Government that they may, under sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks Act, 1934, increase the maximum amount

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was receiving the immediate attention of the Government. And so far as the suggestions made by the hon. Member, Mr. Ramakrishna Reddi, are concerned, it is a question that has to be investigated and I am not in a position at the present moment to state definitely the views of the Government on the matter. I do not think any other points have been raised and I thank once more hon. Members for the support they have given to this resolution."

The resolution was put and carried.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, with regard to the passing over of question 2 on the agenda . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am coming to it. The Hon. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai will introduce the Madras Agriculturists' Moratorium Bill."

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—*cont.*

(2) THE MADRAS AGRICULTURISTS' MORATORIUM BILL, 1937.

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker Sir, before I proceed to the introduction of the Madras Agriculturists' Moratorium Bill * of 1937, the Hon. the Prime Minister will make a statement."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill has been published at the instance of the Government and it has been before the public for about a week. Naturally the character, the aims and objects of the measure have attracted considerable attention. It is a matter, however, for considerable satisfaction that it has evoked much less opposition than one might have expected for such a measure. I may remind hon. Members of the statements made in the course of a debate in another connexion by hon. Members, the Raja of Challapalle and Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, not to speak of others, supporting the idea of a compulsory scaling down of debts in view of the condition of the agricultural classes in our province and the declaration of a moratorium in the interval.

11-15 a.m. "Still, Sir, after much hesitation the Government feel that a little more time should be given so that the public and organizations may have adequate interval to consider the measure before the House takes up the Bill. A measure like this, Sir, however, cannot be hanging like other measures. The very character of the proposal renders speedy action necessary in the interests of all the parties concerned. So, Sir, Government have decided after anxious consideration that it should not be moved to-day and that it should be done at a later date. The moratorium being not a universal or all round moratorium there are many legal points to tackle and some amount of drafting work has to be done over the measure. As soon as Government decide on the final shape,

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary, dated 23rd September 1937.

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I promise that it will be published again if any material additions or changes are made and hon. Members will have time to consider the position and the Bill will be moved. As I said already quick action is necessary and the Government will not postpone it very long."

MR. G. KRISHNA RAO:—"On a point of information, Sir. May I know the approximate time when this Bill will be brought up again in its changed shape? Will it be in a fortnight's time?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not think any useful purpose will be served by mere conjecture. All that I can say is that it will be very soon."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Sir, I want that the House as well as the public outside who are very anxious about this measure should be given some sort of satisfactory answer as to whether it will take months or weeks or days, whether it would be done in the January session or in an earlier session and so on, so that the fears and the anxieties of the public may be allayed."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am sorry, Sir, that my answer has been considered not satisfactory. But my intention in not giving an answer is to discourage any tactics on anybody's part, because very poor people, their properties, the happiness and peace of their families are concerned in this matter. I think, Sir, that in a matter of this kind I should not make any further conjecture, but I say this much: that it will not be months but will only be weeks."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker Sir, the Bill was published a week ago and the people had a real complaint that the Government were trying to rush through a measure of such great importance in such a short time. We must also not fail to appreciate the very quick way in which the public have taken note of this measure. No measure brought forward by the Government in recent years has attracted the attention of the public so quickly as this measure has done. Within the short space of three or four days the people have studied the Bill and the newspapers are full of articles and letters on the subject expressing varying shades of opinion. The variety of opinion and the variety of persons who have contributed these articles demonstrate that nobody is having any personal interest in the matter except the interests of the common weal. I want to make it clear that nobody in this House has so far attempted or is thinking of any dilatory methods. If hon. Members suggest that this measure should be considered by the public and that we should have the benefit of the public opinion in the matter, it is done in all sincerity, it is not done with a view to support one class of persons as against another. As the Hon. the Leader of the House has pointed out, this House has discussed the question of rural indebtedness on several occasions. I am second to none in saying that a relief of the proper kind should be

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given to these agriculturists. The only question on which there is difference of opinion is as to the method by which relief should be given. I want to be practical and I want to know the manner in which money is going to be given to the agriculturists. The Bill that is sought to be introduced has no reference to money; there is only reference to a proposed legislation. That is why people are alarmed. Instead of allaying discontent, it has spread alarm in the country so far. If the Government give more time, if they receive memoranda from the public representing agriculturists, creditors and other classes of people, they will be able to re-shape the Bill suitably in the few months that are before them. Then the Bill will be satisfactory to all concerned. I do not want to go into the details of the measure now, but suffice it to say, that caution is advocated—I need not say advised—by many prominent men of this Presidency who are equally anxious to serve the country like any other party or any other individual. I only urge upon the Government to be good enough to take note of the opinion of the public in the few months to come and re-shape the Bill in such a manner as will be satisfactory to all concerned. It should not be understood that the opposition to this measure is from the vested interests, from the money-lending classes. I hope that the new measure which the Government will introduce in the next session of the Assembly will be a reasonable one and will really give relief by way of giving money. Unless they give money, I do not think any measure will be worth troubling the House with, or will be worth the paper on which it is printed."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, in the remarks made by the Hon. Premier, I think, he referred to the 'tactics' which might be employed by some class of people. Am I right in thinking that he did not refer to any Member of this House or to any section thereof?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, I remember that I am dealing with extremely sensitive people in this House. I did not mean that at all. I meant merely operations as between the debtor and creditor."

"Mr. Speaker, if you will permit me, I just wish to say a few words. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition gave a very correct and generous advice. I ask him to go a bit further and to appreciate not only the quick manner in which the public have taken up the question and dealt with the proposal—that is explainable, because the public know that we are serious people and they are bound to take notice of the thing proposed by a set of fanatics, so to say—but I would ask him to go further into this matter so that he might appreciate the quick way in which the Government have responded to the feeling that there should be a little more time. And I may add that if this time leads to any trouble or mischief in the sense that either creditor tries to harass debtor or debtor tries to deceive creditor, Government will not hesitate to take action and adopt quicker measures than they have proposed here. Sir, it is as well that I make this statement. There is a strong

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feeling that once having published this measure, it is dangerous to postpone it now. I have faith in my people and therefore I have pressed upon my colleagues and others that we should give time and that the people will not make any bad use of the time that we give, but that they will only tend to think more about it and co-operate with us and make the measure a success.

"Sir, I entirely appreciate the remarks made by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that what is needed is not merely a moratorium but a settlement and a payment. It is not merely generosity on the part of the creditors who demand payment; they know that the debtors are practically, in ordinary language, insolvents, that their debts have gone up so high that they cannot pay anything unless the Government come in and force a compulsory scaling down and pay cash. After all, Sir, money is not wealth. The real wealth of the country is the labour and the produce of the country. Money is not everything. After all it is merely a promise that more labour will be given and more wealth will be produced. Money is nothing but a symbol. Merely giving a bit of copper or paper with stamps on it should not satisfy the creditors more than the better condition of the debtor which will ensure that he will give more labour and produce more wealth for the creditors as well as for other people. Therefore I am certain all will co-operate. As long as our people remain as good as they are and follow the ancient *dharma* of this land, nobody will suffer and this little maladjustment with which we propose to deal will really be dealt with in a proper fashion though by very inexperienced people like us. I pray that all sections of the House will receive the proposal in the spirit in which it is made. There is a little postponement; let no construction be put upon it and afterwards let everybody co-operate to make our land happier than it is."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to rise up once again. The very object of my speaking on the first occasion was to show how not only we sitting in this House but also the entire public outside very much appreciate the manner in which the Government have agreed to deal with this Bill. Sir, I want now to make it very clear that it gives me very great pleasure, on my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members sitting on this side of the House, and might I say also on behalf of the large public outside, to say that we are all very glad that Government have taken note of the feeling of the public and responded in a very handsome manner."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Government have now proposed the postponement of the Moratorium Bill. There is one thing more. Is the hon. Member Mr. Laljan here? (After a pause.) The hon. Member is under the impression that the session is coming to a close to-day. It is not so. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

The House adjourned.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 306 asked by Mr. C. Narasimham at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 30th September 1937, page 1093 supra.]

Statement.

Serial number, name and location of the school.	(1)	Annual recurring subsidy now paid by Government.			Present cost.			Receipts.			Net cost.		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1 Board High School, Bhadrachalam ..	..	17,700	20,875	14	0	17,700	3,145	3	0	30	11	0	0
2 Municipal High School, Bellary ..	..	9,750	30,633	1	4	9,750	17,163	0	0	3,720	1	4	0
3 Do. Kurnool ..	..	11,050	28,530	0	0	11,050	15,278	0	0	2,202	0	0	0
4 Do. Anantapur ..	..	5,100	22,652	0	0	5,100	13,291	1	0	4,260	15	0	0
5 Do. Cuddapah ..	..	14,715	36,201	0	0	15,010	13,719	0	0	7,472	0	0	0
6 Do. Chica-ole ..	..	2,100	25,376	0	0	2,120	17,560	0	0	5,696	0	0	0
7 Board High School, Tiruvarur ..	..	..	35,709	11	0	..	14,158	10	0	21,551	1	0	0
8 Municipal High School, Cannanore ..	..	2,500	28,788	0	0	1,365	23,491	0	0	3,932	0	0	0
9 Board High School, Chittoor ..	..	11,070	33,422	14	0	11,070	21,155	4	0	1,197	10	0	0
10 Municipal College, Salem ..	..	8,050	55,271	0	0	8,050	33,428	0	0	13,795	0	0	0

N.B.—The figures in columns (4) to (6) against items 1 to 8 relate to the year 1935-36 and those against items 9 and 10 to the year 1936-37.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 307 asked by Mr. K. Veeraraghavaswami Nayudu at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 30th September 1937, page 1095 supra.]

Statement of annual expenditure incurred on clothing by the various departments.

	RS.	A.	P.
1 Government Secretariat (all departments) ..	2,661	3	3
2 Secretariat of the Madras Legislature	128	8	4
3 Office of the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts ..	58	11	8
4 Office of the Board of Revenue (including Collectors.)	2,162	13	11
5 Judicial Department	1,986	4	3
6 Madras Record Office	30	11	0
7 Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.	89	9	9
8 Forest Department	5,691	8	4
9 Electricity Department	93	10	0
10 Jails Department	12,687	1	8
11 Police Department	3,03,012	8	0
12 Medical Department	14,684	3	1
13 Registration Department	863	3	11
14 Veterinary Department	169	7	4
15 Education Department	324	7	8
16 Agriculture Department	93	10	0
17 Industries Department	23	6	5
18 Co-operative Department	13	10	1
19 Government Museum	100	14	9
20 Fisheries Department	131	8	4
21 Excise Department	5,047	9	4
22 Public Health Department	525	11	6
23 Civil Works Department	140	9	4

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 1st October 1937.

The House met in the Assembly Building at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

The proceedings commenced with the singing of 'Vande Mataram.'

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Protection of beggars in the city.

* 320 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what measures Government propose to take to house the beggars and provide them with means of subsistence, particularly those who are disabled by natural infirmities and disease;

(b) whether the Government are granting any subsidies to any of the Annadana Samajams now in existence; and

(c) whether the influx of beggars, diseased and maimed, from the surrounding districts, into the city is prevented by the police and if not, why not?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The Government have no such proposal under consideration.

“(b) The Government are granting subsidies to the following Langarkhanas:—

(i) Triplicane Langarkhana, Rs. 400 per mensem.

(ii) Sholingur Annadana Chatram, Rs. 1,281 per annum.

(iii) Kurnool Langarkhana, Rs. 30 per mensem.

“(c) The Police have no statutory powers to prevent beggars from entering the city.”

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—“Have the Government received any proposal from the Corporation of Madras about dealing with this beggar problem in the City, especially the diseased and the maimed?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“So far as I am personally concerned, I have not received any.”

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MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to grant any subsidies if the Corporation of Madras puts up proposals for dealing with this problem?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The matter shall be considered if proposals are put up."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, from the Hon. the Minister for Public Health whether he is aware that the beggar nuisance is becoming intolerable in the City, particularly at places of public resort like the bazaars, bus-stands and tram-car waiting stations?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"As a citizen of Madras, Sir, I know the beggar problem is increasing day by day in the City."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, if the Government would therefore take measures at an early date to deal with the problem squarely?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is essentially a problem for the Madras Corporation."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to order the collection of statistics of beggars in the City to be made at an early date?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I thought it was the duty of the Corporation to do it first."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"May I point out that the Government have got greater facilities for the collection of such statistics?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is the fundamental duty of the civic body to do it and when that body makes an investigation and puts up proposals before the Government, then it will be time for the Government to consider the question."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"What is the amount of the subsidy paid by the Government for the beggar house maintained by the Corporation?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No subsidy, so far as I am aware, Sir, is paid by the Government."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is the subsidy, which is now being paid, likely to be increased?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"My hon. Friend must understand that under conditions where no subsidy is given, the question of increase does not arise at all."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"The Hon. the Minister stated, Sir, that no subsidy is given to the Corporation."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the Hon. Member kindly put the question straightaway?"

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MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"The Hon. Minister stated, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat. Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, in answer to a supplementary question, the Hon. Minister stated that the question is primarily one for the Corporation of Madras. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to bring in legislation, giving powers to the Corporation to compel beggars, when there is a Beggars' Home, to go to that place first?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, the hon. Member must understand that it is a very big problem. When we once square up all the beggars, the fundamental duty is laid upon whatever body it is that compels them to go to the home, to provide, first of all, housing accommodation for them; and if that is provided for, then we can enforce all the beggars to go into the home. That is all. Therefore, it is not a question which could easily be answered in the course of a supplementary question."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Will the Government be pleased to examine the question thoroughly with a view to bring forward legislation to deal with this matter?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Under the circumstances stated, I would like the Corporation to take the initiative in the matter first."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, whether in view of the past history of attempts made at legislating for the beggars, the Government will be pleased to consider any legislation that may be brought before this House with a view to segregate the beggars and also compel them to resort to a poor house?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Unless sufficient accommodation is provided for all these people, no coercive legislation is possible; and the Government will not be justified in bringing forward one."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask whether the Government will call upon the Corporation by a Government Order, to provide enough accommodation so as to receive all the beggars that are now committing nuisance in the streets of Madras?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am afraid the Government cannot do any such thing as is suggested by the hon. Member."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"Are the Government aware that the Corporation has already passed a resolution for the purpose of establishing a home, and they have applied to the Government for a loan in respect of this matter?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am not aware of it, Sir."

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above a certain rank, with powers to arrest these beggars when they commit nuisance and to send them to the poor house maintained by the Corporation? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ As the hon. Member himself has put it, the proposal should originate from the Corporation; and when the Corporation puts this proposal before the Government, it will be duly considered.”

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ Will the Hon. Minister for Public Health consider the proposal to amend the City Police Act suitably, so as to give powers to the Magistrates to commit diseased beggars to the home? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ I want to inform the hon. Member who asked this question that there is a new Public Health Act just now under preparation; we are now going into the whole question and in about a month or two or as early as possible, a new Act will be placed before this House for sanction. And all such questions as have been raised to-day will be duly legalized.”

Compilation of accounts and preparation of budgets in panchayat boards.

* 321 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) who are attending to the compilation of accounts and preparation of budgets of panchayat boards; and

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the compilation of accounts and preparation of budgets of panchayat boards are not attended to regularly and at the proper time?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ (a) The accounts of panchayat boards should be compiled by the panchayat staff, if there is such staff, and in other cases, the presidents of district boards should depute the district board staff to compile the accounts. The president of the panchayat board should prepare its budget.

“ (b) The Collector of South Kanara brought to the notice of the Government that many of the panchayat boards in the district have not been maintaining and submitting their accounts properly. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has been instructed to take steps to ensure the proper maintenance of the accounts.

“ No complaints have been received regarding the irregular preparation of budgets of panchayat boards.”

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Alleged irregular acceptance by the President, District Board, Cuddapah, of a tender for the construction of a hostel to the Rajampet High School.

* 322 Q.—MR. N. RANGA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the President, District Board, Cuddapah, has given the contract of Rajampet High School Hostel to the highest tenderer and not to the lowest tenderer;

(b) whether the lowest tenderer has been recommended by the District Board Engineer;

(c) whether the rules require the sending up of the agreement to the Government for approval in cases of contracts costing more than Rs. 20,000; and

(c) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether the President, District Board, Cuddapah, has sent up the agreement for approval of Government before asking the contractor to commence work?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ (a) & (b) There were two tenderers for the work. The District Board Engineer recommended the acceptance of the lower tender. The President selected the higher tenderer for the work after recording his reasons for rejecting the lower tender.

“ (c) The answer is in the negative.

“ (d) The question does not arise.”

Recruitment of Commissioners of Municipalities from the ranks of District Panchayat Officers and District Board Secretaries.

* 323 Q.—MR. K. VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the grades of pay now in vogue for the Commissioners of Municipalities;

(b) the grade in which one is started ordinarily when he is employed;

(c) whether some have been recruited from the ranks of District Panchayat Officers and District Board Secretaries; and

(d) if so, the names of such and the grades in which they were started and their previous grades and salaries on the date of recruitment?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ (a) There are four grades of pay for Municipal Commissioners, namely—

(1) Rupees 250—750.

(2) Rupees 175—250.

(3) Rupees 125—175.

(4) Rupees 100—125.

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MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that notwithstanding the fact that there is enough accommodation in the present poor house run by the Corporation, the beggars are not going there on account of the absence of any coercive measure?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"My hon. Friend must understand that we cannot pass coercive legislation only for a particular set or group of people. The Corporation will have to prove that they have made provision for the accommodation of all the beggars in the city before they ask the Government to give them such powers."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, are the Government aware that a number of diseased beggars congregate near the residence of the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I have heard no complaint from the Deputy Speaker to that effect."

DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister in charge of Public Health, now that there is so much public interest aroused on this question, whether the Government will consider the desirability of drawing the attention of the Corporation to this matter?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government will certainly adopt the suggestion; but I may assure the hon. Member that very little will come out of it."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Is it not proper, Sir, that the members of the Corporation Council who are also members of this Assembly should bring pressure on the Corporation to do something in the matter?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I should think so, Sir."

MR. M. A. SALAM:—"In the interests of public health, will the leper class of beggars be sent to the Leper asylum?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I do not quite understand the question."

MR. M. A. SALAM:—"In the interests of public health, will the leper class of beggars be sent to the Leper asylum?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Leper asylum cannot accommodate all the lepers that are going about the streets of Madras."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—"May I know whether those who are rich cannot be asked to pay for their stay in the asylum?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I may inform the hon. Member that there is no paying system in the Leper asylum at Tirumani; all cases are poor cases and they are fed and maintained there at the expense of the Government."

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MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that lepers who are sent from the City are not admitted into the Chingleput asylum?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"There has been no such complaint, so far as I know."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"The Corporation having submitted a proposal to the Government in the matter of dealing with this problem for the establishment of a home, will the Hon. Minister give some assurance on behalf of Government that the proposal will receive substantial consideration at their hands?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The whole question is problematical. There are too many 'ifs' for it. But if ever any proposal is submitted by the Corporation, I may assure the hon. Member that the Government will look into the case and consider the whole matter very favourably."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"May I inform the Hon. the Minister that the proposal has already been passed by the Council and submitted to the Government?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"At any rate, I am not aware of it."

DR. N. LAKSHMI DEVI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government consider it necessary to instruct the local bodies to consider this question, as it is a provincial affair?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"If that problem is so very difficult of being handled by a premier city municipality like the Corporation of Madras, I really do not think that we can ask any local body to deal with this question."

MR. P. R. K. SARMA:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is the intention of Government to begin a drive against leprosy in this province, and if so, whether it is proper to allow beggars affected by leprosy to frequently visit places of public resort?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I want to assure the hon. Member that the nature of infection with regard to leprosy has undergone a very tremendous change in recent times. The fact is that those gruesome lepers that go about the roads are really cases that are called 'burnt-out' cases and that they are not infectious cases although they look abhorrent and loathsome. I want hon. Members not to think that all such cases are infectious; in fact they are past the stage of infection and they are considered to be very innocuous."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask, in view of the reluctance of Government to enunciate their policy with reference to putting down this beggar problem, whether they will at least consider the desirability of investing the officers of the Corporation,

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"(b) The grade of each Commissioner is determined by the pay in his previous appointment.

"(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(d) A statement^a is appended. It is a long statement and I do not propose to read it."

11-15 a.m. MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that there are cases of Commissioners who are drawing lesser salaries than their previous emoluments at the time of their recruitment?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"May be, Sir."

MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—"Does the Hon. Minister consider that these are hard cases?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Perhaps so, Sir."

MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to reconsider these cases and do them justice?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly, we shall consider."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Will the consideration be on application, Sir?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly, Sir."

MR. K. VENKATA RAO:—"Written or oral, Sir?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Both, Sir."

MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the question of recruiting these officers from the bar?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We do not propose to do that, Sir."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is it not a fact that these officers are a burden on the municipalities?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We do not think so."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"Will the capacity of the municipalities to pay for them be considered in fixing the pay of these various officers?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly, Sir."

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Will the Hon. Minister state whether the Government are considering any proposal to abolish the commissionership of municipalities?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly not, Sir."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—"Why not, Sir?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Because, I do not think so."

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 1142 infra.

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MR. K. VEERARAGHAVASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Are there not many cases where inconvenience is caused by the appointment of Commissioners to municipalities?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Both inconvenience and convenience have been experienced by the appointment of these Commissioners."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Have the Government received any complaints that the relations between the Commissioners and the municipal councils are very bad?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No such complaint has been received."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

I.A.—SHORT NOTICE QUESTION *RE* PLAGUE SITUATION IN THE PRESIDENCY.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. the Leader of the Opposition wants to put a short notice question for which the Hon. the Minister for Public Health is prepared to waive notice and make a statement to the House."

* KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, I am grateful to you and to the Hon. Gentleman, the Minister for Public Health, for agreeing to answer a short notice question on the plague situation in the Presidency. We are all much concerned to see that plague is still continuing in Ootacamund and that it is spreading to other parts of the Presidency. We shall therefore be very glad to have a statement from the Hon. Gentleman the Minister for Public Health as to the measures that Government are taking in the matter. I think it has caused consternation in the minds of the people. We have seen in the last night's papers that Salem town is affected and that a rat fell in the house of the Municipal Chairman who had to vacate the house, and that on examination the rat was found to be positive to plague. The Vellore district and also some parts of the Chittoor district seem to have been affected. It is essential that Government should take steps to prevent traffic from one place to another so that infection may not spread. I had no doubt that the Hon. Gentleman the Minister would agree easily to answer the question, because he is a doctor himself and would be fully posted with the knowledge of the situation, and I am glad he has kindly agreed to answer my question without any notice."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am indeed very thankful to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition for the opportunity he has created by this question for the Government to state its position. But, giving the answer offhand, I may not be correct exactly with regard to the figures. Barring such discrepancies, I will make a statement of all that has been done to deal with the plague situation in this Province. Sometime ago, the first announcement of the outbreak of plague happened at

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above a certain rank, with powers to arrest these beggars when they commit nuisance and to send them to the poor house maintained by the Corporation? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ As the hon. Member himself has put it, the proposal should originate from the Corporation; and when the Corporation puts this proposal before the Government, it will be duly considered.”

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ Will the Hon. Minister for Public Health consider the proposal to amend the City Police Act suitably, so as to give powers to the Magistrates to commit diseased beggars to the home? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ I want to inform the hon. Member who asked this question that there is a new Public Health Act just now under preparation; we are now going into the whole question and in about a month or two or as early as possible, a new Act will be placed before this House for sanction. And all such questions as have been raised to-day will be duly legalized.”

Compilation of accounts and preparation of budgets in panchayat boards.

* 321 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) who are attending to the compilation of accounts and preparation of budgets of panchayat boards; and

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the compilation of accounts and preparation of budgets of panchayat boards are not attended to regularly and at the proper time?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ (a) The accounts of panchayat boards should be compiled by the panchayat staff, if there is such staff, and in other cases, the presidents of district boards should depute the district board staff to compile the accounts. The president of the panchayat board should prepare its budget.

“ (b) The Collector of South Kanara brought to the notice of the Government that many of the panchayat boards in the district have not been maintaining and submitting their accounts properly. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has been instructed to take steps to ensure the proper maintenance of the accounts.

“ No complaints have been received regarding the irregular preparation of budgets of panchayat boards.”

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Alleged irregular acceptance by the President, District Board, Cuddapah, of a tender for the construction of a hostel to the Rajampet High School.

* 322 Q.—MR. N. RANGA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the President, District Board, Cuddapah, has given the contract of Rajampet High School Hostel to the highest tenderer and not to the lowest tenderer;

(b) whether the lowest tenderer has been recommended by the District Board Engineer;

(c) whether the rules require the sending up of the agreement to the Government for approval in cases of contracts costing more than Rs. 20,000; and

(c) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether the President, District Board, Cuddapah, has sent up the agreement for approval of Government before asking the contractor to commence work?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ (a) & (b) There were two tenderers for the work. The District Board Engineer recommended the acceptance of the lower tender. The President selected the higher tenderer for the work after recording his reasons for rejecting the lower tender.

“ (c) The answer is in the negative.

“ (d) The question does not arise.”

Recruitment of Commissioners of Municipalities from the ranks of District Panchayat Officers and District Board Secretaries.

* 323 Q.—MR. K. VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the grades of pay now in vogue for the Commissioners of Municipalities;

(b) the grade in which one is started ordinarily when he is employed;

(c) whether some have been recruited from the ranks of District Panchayat Officers and District Board Secretaries; and

(d) if so, the names of such and the grades in which they were started and their previous grades and salaries on the date of recruitment?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ (a) There are four grades of pay for Municipal Commissioners, namely—

(1) Rupees 250—750.

(2) Rupees 175—250.

(3) Rupees 125—175.

(4) Rupees 100—125.

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Ootacamund. The public and the Government are aware of the importance of the hill station of Ootacamund, which is the residence practically for a good part of the year of the Head of the Province, as well as that of a number of Secretaries to Government who happen to go there for a little recreation, apart from the season time when the station is quite full. The Government are at a loss to know the origin of the infection primarily at Ootacamund. But it is surmised that the infection came from the Mysore territory side in the Gundalpet area, and travelling through the Gudalur taluk it spread up to Ootacamund. That is what we have been able to trace so far. As soon as the epidemic was declared to exist in the area, the whole of the provisions of the Act for prevention of plague was put into operation. The Collector of the Nilgiris with an energetic staff of health officers turned up on the scene and carried out a vigorous system of investigation of cases that were found to be suffering from plague or were suspected to be so; they were immediately removed from their houses and put into the isolation hospital and attended to by the doctors in the hospital.

"But with regard to the preventive measures that were taken, I may tell you that almost everyone in and around Ootacamund was inoculated and as many as nearly eleven thousand people of that area had the inoculations. I may also here mention the most agreeable fact of the readiness with which the people responded to the call of the doctors and got themselves inoculated. Cases of voluntary applications for inoculation have come in large numbers; and it is a feature of which all of us must be proud that the sanitary conscience has permeated into the minds of the people to the extent that they came out voluntarily to offer themselves for inoculation and protect themselves.

"There have been, so far during the course of the last four weeks, about 31 deaths and about 50 attacks and more. But for the last one week there has been no attack at all. Rats, which as the hon. Members may be aware, are the precursors of plague infection and which perhaps are the messengers that give us notice, succumb to plague, in the nature of things, first and foremost, even earlier than human beings. They are tackled by a wholesale destruction by means of what is called the cyno-gas. When this cyno-gas is forced into every rat-hole, the rats get suffocated and they die. This is the latest method of rat destruction that has been found very effective and very useful. Rat destruction by means of the cyno-gas has been put into vogue in all the places where this epidemic was at all found. Now, the whole hill station of Ootacamund is free from the epidemic. But rats do come out now and then. There is also the inconvenience that when rats are poisoned in their holes by the cyno-gas, many of them try to escape, and probably there are a large number of rats coming out of their holes than under ordinary circumstances, with the result that even uninfected or early infected cases of rat infection are easily

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spotted. The rats are all sent to the Guindy Institute and there dissected up and examined whether they have got plague or not, so that that really helps the prevention of the spread of plague very much. When once the rat population is declared free from infection, there is always the certainty that plague has left that place. So far, now in the recent week, the rats that have been examined have shown to be negative to plague. So, we may take it that Ootacamund is practically rid of it.

"Last week a report with regard to Coonoor was received, and there has been only one case of rat positive to plague. But it is just likely that the traffic that is going on from Ootacamund to other places may have carried the infection to the other districts that have not been affected till now. All the adjoining districts have been warned and every stuff that is sent out from Ootacamund has been disinfected and fumigated. The whole grain market of Ootacamund has been closed down and grain and sugar that were stocked in this market have been subjected to the process of fumigation. No doubt, it has given a lot of inconvenience to the merchant class of people, from whom the Government have received numerous representations asking us to throw open the market. But in the interests of the public health of the province, it has been found necessary that godowns must be closed down. The market is now temporarily housed in a place which has been properly provided against rat infection. Until the market is renewed and put on a rat-proof basis, the Government do not propose to reopen the market.

"With regard to Vellore, Ambur, Chittoor and other places, the District Officers, Magistrates and health and sanitary staff have all been put on to the work. Voluntary inoculations are going on, and I can only say that what appeared almost a certain infection in the town of Vellore has been warded off, and there has been no human infection of plague in the town of Vellore. I may here state with great pleasure the kind of work that has been put into this work by the sanitary and health department of the Government from the highest to the lowest officer, and I should also acknowledge with pleasure the services rendered by the magistrates and the police in all those areas. It is due to the efforts of all these people added to the willing co-operation of the people to put themselves to a certain amount of inconvenience to eradicate the infection, that we have so far succeeded in having eradicated or at least prevented the infection, from taking root in many of the towns which I have mentioned to-day.

"The latest report is from Salem. I do hope it is not going to be anything more than what has happened at Vellore. I am sure 11-30 a.m. that the preventive work that has been adopted in the other districts will also be adopted in the Salem district. The Government will spare no pains in eradicating the disease as far as it lies in their power. There need not be any panic with regard

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to the prevalence of plague. It can be prevented and we have prevented it. The public and the Health department must work hand in hand to save our brethren from this dire disease. It can be done and I am sure the Government are doing all that they can and there need be no panic amongst our people."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government have taken any steps to prevent the export of vegetables from Ooty so as to prevent infection by that means?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I forgot to mention that. The Government have done it, Sir."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Have they taken all steps necessary to prevent people going into the affected area from other places?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The hon. Member will understand that it is not possible. Particularly in view of the condition to-day such a stringent provision is not necessary."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Cannot the Government prevent at least persons who are not inoculated from going into the infected area?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Yes, if the infection is very severe."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Last night's report says that there are a few cases in Ooty, a few human cases. Has the Hon. Minister anything to say on that?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I will inform the House, Sir, that those cases are not in Ooty itself. They occurred in the surrounding villages. Probably they are cases which migrated from the town of Ooty and they are all confined to the neighbouring villages. They are not in the town of Ooty."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the arrangements in the isolation hospital at Ooty are not satisfactory, particularly in regard to women, and those who observe purdha?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government are not aware of this particular difficulty. But if there is such a thing as that we shall certainly look into it."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will enquire into the great inconvenience caused to gosha women in the hospital at Ootacamund?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is just likely that there is a certain amount of inconvenience particularly due to the epidemic and therefore such inconveniences are more or less difficult to overcome. But I do think that, if there is really a grievance in this matter, the Government will certainly go into it."

KUMARARAJA M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"In places of epidemic may I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of deputing some of the able civil surgeons

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and assistant surgeons to be in charge of the isolation hospitals instead of leaving the patients to be treated by the municipal dispensary doctors, some of whom are incompetent?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I may assure the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that this suggestion has already been acted upon and in all the isolation hospitals where these cases have been taken to, all the civil surgeons and all available medical help have been called into play and they have really done very good work. I can also instance the case of Guntur where not only Government medical officers were requisitioned, but all the practitioners in the town were employed in preventive work, with the result that in about five days' time, the epidemic was brought under control."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Is the Hon. Minister for Public Health aware that there was plague in Kuppam, Chittoor district, in the month of January?" (Continued laughter.)

Mr. K. Veeraraghavaswami Nayudu rose.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Veeraraghavaswami Nayudu will please resume his seat."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I could have got this information from my Colleague, but I feel that the House should have the benefit of this information." (Renewed laughter.)

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"May I appeal to my Hon. Colleague that we had better follow Parliamentary traditions? It is not usual for Members of Government to ask questions of one another."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Sir, if I have done anything which is not usual, I have done so, of course for the benefit of the House. What I wanted to be considered now is that it has been said that plague originated at Ootacamund and from there it spread to the surrounding parts. I wanted to suggest that it is quite possible that Ambur and Vellore may have got that infection from Kuppam."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am sure the Government, of which the Hon. Mr. Yakub Hasan is a Member, will certainly take the necessary measures." (Loud laughter.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Number of local and non-local in-patients and out-patients treated in the King George Hospital, Vizagapatam.

165 Q.—MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state for each of the years 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37—

(a) the number of local and non-local or foreign patients treated in the in-patient wards and out-patient ward respectively in the King George Hospital, Vizagapatam; and

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(b) the number of such patients according to districts from which they come to Vizagapatam for treatment as in-patients and as out-patients?

A.—(a)—

Year.	In-patients.		Out-patients.*
	Local.	Non-local or foreign.	
1934-35	3,860	1,713	34,223
1935-36	4,107	1,718	31,486
1936-37	4,362	2,033	41,559

(b) —

	In-patients.		
	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
Madras	6	5	10
Nellore	60	26	48
Guntur	205	201	340
Kistna	345	360	420
West Godavari	359	377	385
East Godavari	330	345	450
Ganjam	345	321	325
Vizagapatam	3,860	4,107	4,362
Foreign (other Presidencies) ..	63	83	55
Total	5,573	5,825	6,395

* Separate figures for local and non-local outpatients cannot be furnished as no column is provided for 'residence and address of patients' in the out-patient nominal register.

Proposal to declare as illegal the levying of fees from applicants for employment.

166 Q.—MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that it is contrary to the Washington Unemployment Convention to levy fees from applicants for employment; and

(b) if so, what action the Government propose to take to make this practice illegal wherever prevailing?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government have no information about the existence of such a practice in this Province.

Suspension of teachers belonging to the depressed classes in South Kanara.

167 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Labour Officer of South Kanara, Mangalore, has suspended many teachers belonging to the depressed classes from their service, in the years 1933-37;

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(b) whether any order has been issued by the Labour Commissioner; and

(c) if so, when and whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have no information, but have called for a report.

Transfer of elementary school teachers serving under the Erode District Board.

168 Q.—MR. K. S. PERIASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Erode District Board, a 'mass transfer' of about 250 elementary school teachers was effected in June, July and August 1937;

(b) if so, (i) how many have been effected on the recommendation of the inspecting officers,

(ii) how many on public grounds, and

(iii) how many on personal request;

(c) whether these transfers are in conformity with the Government Order on the subject, dated 13th July 1937;

(d) how many of the female teachers have been disturbed by these transfers;

(e) how many teachers who happen to be husband and wife have been separated by transferring either of them;

(f) how many months' pay was due to them at the time of the transfer and whether travelling allowance was given for these transfers;

(g) how many of these transfer orders once issued have subsequently been modified or cancelled, and on what grounds; and

(h) how many of the transferred teachers have been suspended or otherwise punished by fine or warning for not obeying the orders immediately?

A.—(a) to (h) A report has been called for.

Number of prisoners in jail convicted and sentenced in the Virasingampatti rioting case.

169 Q.—MR. A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) how many people were sentenced in the Virasingampatti (Tanjore district) rioting case; and

(b) how many of them are still in prison?

A.—(a) After taking into account the results of appeals in the High Court, the number of persons sentenced in the Virasingampatti rioting case is thirty-two of whom three died before the High Court disposed of their appeal.

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- (b) Three prisoners were released either under remission rules or medical grounds. One prisoner died; thus leaving twenty-five. Of these, four are in the Andamans as they volunteered to go there.

Proposals for land revenue reforms.

170 Q.—MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the incidence of land revenue is different in different districts under the present system of land tenure;

(b) whether the Government propose to overhaul the present system of land revenue; and

(c) if so, what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) & (c) The recommendations on the subject made by the Land Revenue Enquiry Committee are under the consideration of the Government.

II.—MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to announce to the House that the following messages, dated Fort St. George, 30th September 1937, have been received by me from the Hon. the President of the Madras Legislative Council:—

I

'In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1937) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

II

'In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1937, as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

III

'In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1937, as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.'

III.—STATEMENT RE VANDE MATARAM SONG—PRAYER.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The next item about which I want to say a few words is the 'Vande Mataram' song of which hon. Members have asked for certain information. Sir William Wright put a question on a previous occasion. He asked 'May I suggest that a translation of the prayer which is given in this House every morning be supplied to the Members of the House who, unfortunately, do not understand it?'

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and the Speaker said: 'Yes, it will be supplied.' Since that time, attempts were made to secure the best translation of the song and the Government Translator also was asked to communicate a correct translation of the song. The Speaker received a number of translations. It is very difficult to translate it. But to-day, the original song * in Devanagari, the transliteration * of it in English and the translation into English have been printed and circulated to hon. Members of the House. The translator is no less a distinguished person than Sri Aurobindo Ghose himself. The original was written by Sri Bankim Chander and the translator has appended this note:

'It is difficult to translate the National Anthem of Bengal into verse in another language owing to its unique union of sweetness, simple directness and high poetic force. All attempts in this direction have been failures. In order, therefore, to bring the reader unacquainted with Bengali nearer to the exact force of the original, I give the translation in prose line by line.'

"A prose translation also has been supplied to hon. Members of the House. My own rendering of 'Vande Mataram' has always been 'Hail, Mother,' and it was adopted by a large number of translators in English also. But I have supplied the translation by Sri Aurobindo Ghose to hon. Members without touching any line of it. That translation is on the table and probably it need not be repeated to hon. Members of the House.

"With regard to this matter, I should invite the attention of hon. Members to another point.

"Hon. Members will remember that when the hon. Member, Mr. Laljan, raised a point of order regarding the singing of the prayer in this House on the 23rd of September, I had, while explaining my reasons for introducing it, stated as follows: 'What form the prayer should take was a matter of anxious consideration from the beginning, and the Speaker was considering, in view of the numerous religions, numerous faiths, of the Members attending this House, what form it should be given.

"Later on I said: 'The Speaker is seriously thinking of having a prayer, a national prayer, supplemented every day, one day from the Vedas, another day from the Koran and the third day from the Bible, respectively,—in order to give this House the real dignity of a Parliament—of the House of Commons in England, of the House of Commons in Canada, New Zealand and elsewhere. In order to develop that convention, the Chair has been seriously considering to develop the first item of the prayer, and the matter will be placed before the House for discussion after it has been fully considered.

"Hon. Members will no doubt realize that the question is one which bristles with difficulties and that to hit upon a form of prayer which would be acceptable to all sections of the House, is not an easy thing. The Chair has had no time during this session to bestow the amount of attention that the solution of this question requires and to place a

[Mr. Speaker]

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considered formula before the Members of the House." In the meantime the Chair thought that no objection could be taken to the continuance of the song that is sung during prayer hour in this House, especially as the hon. Member, Mr. Laljan, himself withdrew the point of order which he raised on the 23rd September. Before the House assembles for the next session, I think that my proposals will be ready and I may assure Hon. Members that no change would be effected without taking them into confidence.

"One thing more. The attention of hon. Members is also invited to the fact that the prayer has been in existence in the House of Commons in England for over five centuries, and the political parliamentary sermon was a marked feature of the Commonwealth. The prayer assumed alterations as time went on and the present form of prayer in the House of Commons as well as the House of Lords is the result of a series of changes that took place in the prayer. Therefore, hon. Members will be given full opportunity to discuss this matter, when the Speaker comes to mature consideration over this question."

11-45
a.m.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"With your permission, may I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that you kindly invite the leaders of the various parties in this House to a conference, so that when the House meets again the question will have been settled? On the other hand, if the question is to be considered by the whole House, the Hon. Speaker would have to depend on the vote of the House for the decision of the question. Such a decision will not ultimately be to the satisfaction of all concerned."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that this question has been raised. Sir, it is not a question of religion at all with which we are concerned. It is only a question of the freedom of the people of India; and every one of us, whether he is a Muhammadan, a Christian or a Hindu, will have to hail the land on which we live. The present song which has been sung here hitherto . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will please resume his seat. Hon. Members are not invited to discuss the matter at present. It is a matter of great surprise that the hon. Member has gone on with a discussion now."

"In this connexion I should add that the leaders of all the parties will be consulted in the matter. Not only that, this is a matter of such great importance that every individual Member of the House is invited to tell the Speaker whatever he has to say upon the matter."

MR. K. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR:—"Tell the Speaker when and how?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Whatever method hon. Members choose, they are welcome to adopt it."

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IV.—MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR *RE* PROROGATION.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The next item in the agenda is the reading of a message from His Excellency the Governor. I have received the following message from His Excellency the Governor:—

(The whole House stood up.)

'In pursuance of clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, John Francis Ashley Lord Erskine, Governor of Madras, hereby prorogue this session of the Madras Legislative Assembly.

ERSKINE,
Governor of Madras.'

"The House now stands prorogued."

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[1st October 1937]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 323 asked by Mr. K. Venkata Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 1st October 1937, page 1130 supra.]

Name of Commissioner.	Previous appointment.	Scale of pay of previous appointment.	Pay drawn on the date of appointment as Commissioner.	Scale of pay of Commissioner.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		RS.	RS.	RS.
T. M. Ramaswami ..	District Panchayat officer.	150—10/2—180	150	175—15/2—250
B. Rajagopal Nayudu ..	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
C. Sundaresa Mudaliyar ..	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
N. G. Reddi ..	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
C. Vengala Rao Nayudu ..	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
K. Ramakrishnaayya ..	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
H. H. Schamnad Sahib ..	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
C. Narasimham ..	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
V. Sobhanadri Rao Nayudu ..	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
S. T. Varadachari ..	Officiating Secretary, Cuddapah District Board.	125—10/2—175	135	125—10/2—175
A. Raghava Reddi ..	Secretary, Cuddapah District Board.	Do.	175 + 45 Personal pay	175—15/2—250
G. Rajendra Rao ..	Secretary, North Nellore District Board.	Do.	135	125—10/2—175
* K. Sanyasi Raju ..	Secretary, Vizagapatnam District Board.	300—25—500	250 + 150 Personal pay.	300—25—500
B. Lakshmana Pillai ..	Officiating Secretary, Anantapur District Board.	125—10/2—175	125	125—10/2—175

* In this case, the Commissioner was given the scale of Rs. 300—25—500 which is the same as that of his substantive post prior to 1st June 1934, instead of being brought on to the scale of 1 Grade Commissioner.

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APPENDIX II

(Vide item III at page supra.)

वन्दे मातरम्

सुजलां सुफलां मलयजशीतलां

सस्यश्यामलां मातरम् ।

शुभ्र-ज्योत्स्ना-पुलकितयामिनीम् ,

फुल्लकुसुमित-द्रुमदलशोभिनीम् ,

सुहासिनीं सुमधुरभाषिणीम्

सुखदां वरदां मातरम् ॥

(Transliteration in English.)

Vandē Mātaram !

Sujalām, Supalām,

Malayaja śītalām,

Sasyaśyāmalām,

Mātaram !

Śubhra Jyotsnā Pulakita Yāminīm,

Pulla Kusumita Druma Dala Śōbhinīm,

Suhāsinīm, Sumadhura Bhāṣhinīm,

Sukhadām, Varadām, Mātaram.

(Translation in prose by Sri Aurobindo Ghose.)

I bow to thee, Mother,
richly-watered, richly-fruited,
cool with the winds of the south,
dark with the crops of the harvests,
the Mother !

Her strands rejoicing in the glory of the moonlight,
her lands clothed beautifully with her trees in flowering bloom,
sweet of laughter, sweet of speech,
the Mother, giver of boons, giver of bliss !

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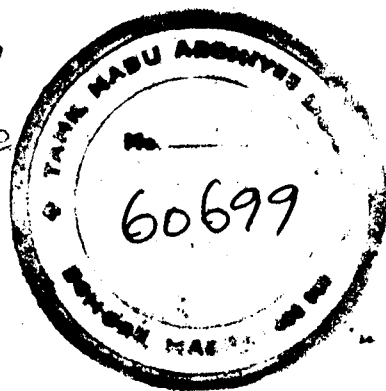
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