

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

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

Volume V.

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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 of 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.
 Railway lands—Jurisdiction.
 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—

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

Provincial subjects—cont.

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.
Village establishments.
Water-supply.
Yeomias.

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.

Isolated tombs of European Government servants and their families including isolated tombs of historical or archaeological interest and of British soldiers, non-commissioned officers and their families.

Minor ports.

Minor railways, light and feeder railways.

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

Railway—Accidents.

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.

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 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:—

Provincial subjects—

Adulteration of foodstuffs and other articles.
Appeals from medical and public health staff employed under local boards and municipal councils.
Burials and burial grounds other than European cemeteries.
Choultries.
Hospitals and dispensaries.
Inns and inn-keepers.
Langarkhanas including Triplicane Poor House.
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.
Religious and charitable endowments.
Sanitation.
Stores—Rules and general questions.
Town-planning.
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 or contagious diseases affecting men.

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 (to 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. RAMANATHAN**, Minister for Public formation. 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.
 Towns Nuisances Act.
 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.
 Tramways within municipalities.

Federal subjects—

Local self-government in cantonment areas.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

Speaker.

• THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI.

Deputy Speaker.

MRS. A. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI.

Panel of Chairmen.

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

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

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

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
95 Muthuramalinga Tevar ..	Ramnad, General, Rural.
96 Nachiyappa Goundar, K. A. ..	Omahur, General, Rural.
97 Nadimuthu Pillai, A. Pl. N. V. ..	Tanjore, General, Rural.
98 Nagappa, S.	Kurnool, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
99 Nagaraja Ayyangar, N. ..	Namakkal, General, Rural.
100 Nagiah, S.	Cuddapah, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
101 Nanjappa Goundar, K. N. ..	Gobichettipalayam, General, Rural.
102 Narasimha Raju, D. L. ..	Sarvasiddhi, General, Rural.
103 Narasimha Raj, P. L. ..	Vizianagram, General, Rural.
104 Narasimham, C.	Chicacole, General, Rural.
105 Narasimham, V. V. ..	West Godavari <i>cum</i> Kistna <i>cum</i> Guntur Factory Labour, Labour.
106 Narayana Raju, D. ..	Bhimavaram, General, Rural.
107 Narayana Rao, K. V. ..	Bozwada, General, Rural.
108 Natesa Chettiyar, M. G. ..	Dharmapuri, General, Rural.
109 Natesa Mudaliar, P. ..	Saidapet, General, Rural.
110 Nuttall, J.	European.
111 Obi Reddi, C.	Anantapur, General, Rural.
112 Orchard, G. L.	European Commerce (Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association).
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. (Minister). ..	Madras City, South-Central, General, Urban.
127 Prasad, D. S. (Sri Raja Vasi Reddi Durga Sadasiveswara Prasad Bahadur Manne Sultan). ..	Bezwada, General, Rural.
128 Raghava Menon, R.	Palghat, General, Rural.
129 Rajagopalachariar, The Hon. Mr. C. (Prime Minister). ..	University.
130 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C. ..	Chingleput, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
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. (Minister). ..	Ponnani, General, Rural.
139 Ramanathan, The Hon. Mr. S. (Minister). ..	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. (Deputy Speaker). ..	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 Sambamurti, The Hon. Mr. B. (Speaker). ..	Cocanada Town, General, Urban.
155 Samu Pillai, V. J.	South Arcot <i>cum</i> Trichinopoly <i>cum</i> Salem <i>cum</i> Coimbatore, Indian Christian.
156 Samuel, Dr. M. J.	Central Districts, Indian Christian.
157 Sarma, P. R. K.	Madras City Dock and Factory Labour excluding Textile and Railway Labour, Labour.
158 Saptharishi Reddiyar, K. S. ..	Southern Central Landholders.
159 Sattanatha Karayalar, L. ..	Koilpatti, General, Rural.
160 Seshadriachariyar, B. T. ..	Cudiyattam, General, Rural.
161 Shaik Rowther, S. K.	Palghat, Muhammadan, Rural.
162 Shanmugam, K.	Gudur, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
163 Shanmuga Mudaliar, K. A. ..	Tiruppattur (North Arcot), General, Rural.
164 Shoik Dawood, Khan Sahib K. A. ..	Salem <i>cum</i> Coimbatore <i>cum</i> The Nilgiris, Muhammadan, Rural.
165 Sheik Mansoor Tharaganar, V. S. T. ..	Tinnevely, Muhammadan, Rural.

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

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
201 Venkataramiah, R. S. ..	Palni, General, Rural.
202 Venkatarao Baliga, B. ..	Mangalore, General, Rural.
203 Venkata Rao, Kala	Amalapuram, General, Rural.
204 Venkatasubba Reddiyar, R. . .	Tindivanam, General, Rural.
205 Venkatasubbayya, V. ..	Nellore, General, Rural.
206 Viswanatham, T. (<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>).	Vizagapatam Town, General, Urban.
207 Walker, G. E.	European.
208 Wright, Sir William Owen ..	European Commerce, The Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association.
209 Yagneswara Sarma, K. P. ..	Tinnevely cum Palamcottah Towns, General, Urban.
210 Yakub Hasan, The Hon. Mr. (<i>Minister</i>).	Chittoor, Muhammadan, Rural.
211 Zamindar of Bodinayakkanur (T. V. K. Kamaraja Pandiya Nayakar).	Southern Landholders.
212 Zamindar of Challapalli (Zabdatul Aqran Sreemanthu Rajah Yarlagadda Siva Rama Prasad Bahadur Zamindar).	Bandar, General, Rural.
213 Zamindar of Chemudu (Vyricherla Narayana Gajapathi Raju Bahadur).	Northern Landholders I.
214 Zamindar of Mirzapuram (Sri Raja Meka Venkataramaiah Appa Rao Bahadur).	Northern Landholders II.
215 Vacant	North Arcot, Muhammadan, Rural.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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

Tuesday, the 1st March 1938.

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

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

I.—STATEMENT *RE* PRAYER.

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“ Sir, I would like, with your permission, to make a request, on behalf of Government, with reference to the procedure as to prayers before the conduct of the business of the House. We are aware of the deeply religious and patriotic motives as well as practical wisdom and respect for the general parliamentary practice of civilized nations on which was based the procedure you were hitherto pleased to direct. But unfortunately misunderstandings have arisen in certain quarters, so that objections have been raised to what had been these twenty-five years and more practically accepted universally as an expression in song of prayerful devotion and love of motherland in which all classes and communities might share with equal fervour and which would be the best basis for corporate service to the State. We have been disappointed in our hope that the misunderstandings would be cleared in course of time. On the contrary, the misunderstandings have been exploited to create increasing bitterness and hostility. We feel that the very object we have in view may be frustrated by such bitterness as we see fostered. We are firm believers in the policy of peace and mutual adjustment. We are, therefore, sure that in course of time these misunderstandings will clear away. I would, therefore, request you on behalf of Government to hold this matter in abeyance. Let us for the time being deprive ourselves of the inspiration and the joy of this joint prayer and national invocation, seeing that some of our colleagues persist in feeling unhappy over it. Those who have been intimately associated with or partaken in the national struggle can understand the feelings that have grown round the sacred words and the solemn tones of the *Bande Mataram* song. It may not be realized by all what supreme sacrifice it involves, but we can as a nation advance only by such sacrifices. Our action may be misconstrued as dictated by fear or weakness. But we should resist the temptation to be moved by such considerations when national interests demand a policy or a step to be taken in the cause of national harmony. We have faith enough to hope that these mists will clear away soon. I request of you, Sir, to hold the matter in abeyance until an understanding is reached.”

[1st March 1938]

MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the Hon. the Premier expect the understanding to come about very soon?"

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I believe, Sir, as I have already stated, and I do hope that it will come about."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I will wholeheartedly congratulate the Hon. the Premier if he will be able to bring about such a unanimous and happy understanding. Until then the prayer is suspended."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I have a word in connexion with this?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is all finished."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I thank the Premier."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is all finished. We shall take up questions."

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Alleged cases of corruption in the Registration department.

* 192 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any cases of corruption were reported in the Registration department during the last year and the present year;

(b) whether any enquiries were made on any such reports; and

(c) whether in any cases the delinquents were punished during the last year?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) Yes. Fifty-three petitions were received in the Registration department in 1936 and 55 petitions were received in 1937 alleging corruption against sub-registrars, clerks and peons.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) Yes. In seven cases of 1936 and three cases of 1937. Twelve cases are still pending enquiry. The remaining cases were on investigation found to be either anonymous or pseudonymous or not proved."

Assessment of revenue on dry and wet lands in ryotwari villages.

* 193 Q.—MR. O. CHENGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any difference in the assessment of land tax between ryotwari dry lands and wet lands; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, why a land tax of Rs. 4-8-0 per acre is levied on the dry lands as in the case of wet lands in Ennore and Pulithivakkam, Ponneri taluk, though the dry lands are cultivated only with rain-water and there is no irrigation channel for them?

[1st March 1938]

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraphs 2 and 3 of Board's Standing Order No. 1 which indicate the general principles followed in the fixation of assessment on lands.

" (b) The lands referred to by the hon. Member are presumably manavari lands, described in Board's Standing Order No. 1—1 (7). As wet crops are grown on such lands, the lands are assessed at rates intermediate between the dry and wet rates which would be applicable to them otherwise. Manavari lands of higher taram are likely to bear rates of assessment equal to or higher than those borne by wet lands of lower tarams."

Remodelling of the Manambathan channel in the Chidambaram taluk.

* 194 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the remodelling of the Manambathan channel in the Chidambaram taluk, South Arcot district, was undertaken by the Public Works Department and if so, whether the same has been completed since;

(b) when the said remodelling was commenced and completed; and

(c) what the total cost of the remodelling scheme was and what the scope and effect of the remodelling is with reference to the irrigation of the area concerned?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a) & (b) It is reported that no remodelling of the Manambathan channel was undertaken recently, but in the year 1922-23, dams Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 were converted into trapezoidal notches at a total cost of Rs. 990. Further in connexion with improvements to the Morattu channel, it was proposed to supplement supply to Morattu channel, in the reach below Vylamur escape through Velangipet channel, a branch of Manambathan channel. Certain improvements were made in Manambathan channel and Velangipet channel and these improvements were commenced in 1934 and completed in 1936.

" (c) The total cost of improvements made to Manambathan channel after 1932-33 is approximately Rs. 1,750 exclusive of Rs. 1,490 for works in this channel in connexion with the improvements to Morattu channel. The works were done to improve the supply to Morattu channel."

The cost of and the revenue expected from the Thippayapalem project and the extent of land to be irrigated by it.

* 195 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state in respect of Thippayapalem project—

(a) whether the project has been completed;

[1st March 1938]

(b) the extent of the area likely to be irrigated in the first year and after ten years;

(c) the total cost of the project; and

(d) the annual revenue expected?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) The project at first designed consisted of an earthen dam which was completed in May 1935. After the heavy rains of August 1935 the dam breached in three places. It was then considered that an earthen dam would always be liable to danger and should be replaced by a masonry dam. The work in the masonry dam which is almost complete now, will be finished during 1938-39.

“(b) As the project is a protective work there will not be any progressive growth of irrigation from year to year. The average area that will be irrigated in a year is 1,200 acres.

“(c) Rs. 4,67,600 (works outlay).

“(d) Rs. 13,472. This works out to 2·8 per cent.”

Amount spent on adult education last year.

* 196 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state the amount spent on adult education last year?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“A sum of Rs. 1,212 was disbursed as grants for adult education classes in 1936-37. Night schools and public libraries maintained by local bodies and private agencies also promote adult education. Particulars of expenditure incurred on these are not available, and it is not easy to collect them either.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask whether Government have any scheme for adult education in this Presidency?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The Government are so fully occupied with the reorganization of primary education that they have not had time to think of any other scheme.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask whether the Government will appoint an expert committee to make proposals with regard to a scheme for adult education?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I am sure the hon. Member knows as well as I do the effect of these committees. Therefore I do not believe in the appointment of any committee.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he will not introduce adult education at least in some districts in the province?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“If the hon. Member for Madras Muslims had followed my answer he would have found that my hands are fully occupied with the reorganization of elementary education which is quite enough to occupy Government's attention.”

[1st March 1938]

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask whether the Director of Public Instruction has at any time submitted any scheme of adult education?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“No Sir.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know how long the hands of the Hon. Minister will be full with the reorganization of elementary education and when he is likely to take up adult education?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I am afraid it will take some time, in spite of all the will in the world and all the urging of the hon. Muslim member for the City of Madras, as the matter has to be carefully considered.”

Maintenance of the dispensary at Jangareddigudem, East Godavari.

* 197 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) when the dispensary at Jangareddigudem, Polavaram division, East Godavari district, was established;

(b) whether there is any dispensary within a distance of 14 miles from it;

(c) whether it has been doing good work since it was started and especially during the last ten years;

(d) whether it is a fact that the District Board, East Godavari, is not in a position to maintain this dispensary and improve it further; and

(e) whether the Government will consider the desirability of taking it under its management or giving it increased grant?

MR. A. B. SHETTY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:—“(a) The dispensary at Jangareddigudem was opened in the year 1913.

“(b) There is a Government dispensary at Jeelugumilli at a distance of fourteen miles and a rural dispensary at Kannapuram at a distance of twelve miles.

“(c) It has been doing good work ever since it was started.

“(d) The Government do not consider that the district board is unable to maintain the dispensary at Jangareddigudem from its own resources.

“(e) The Government have considered the proposal recently and have decided against it.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I know whether any provision has been made for carrying on the work of the dispensary at Jangareddigudem?”

MR. A. B. SHETTY:—“I have already stated that the Government have considered the proposal and decided that they cannot find funds for giving larger grants to this dispensary.”

[1st March 1938]

Transfer of the sum of Rs. 4,000, standing to the credit of the Edward VII Coronation Fund unutilized since 1910, to the Villupuram Municipality.

* 198 Q.—MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of the Villupuram Municipality drew the attention of the Collector of South Arcot to the existence of a sum of Rs. 4,000 to the credit of the Edward VII Coronation Fund unutilized since 1910 for the purpose for which it was collected and requested him to arrange for its transfer to the municipality and that the Collector returned the papers to the Commissioner asking him to refer to the authority under which a Collector could interfere;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Collector's attention was drawn by the Commissioner to section 9 of the Madras Regulation VII of 1817, by which Collectors are bound to report to the Board of Revenue cases of neglected endowments, and whether even then, the Collector declined to take any action in the matter; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to call for a report on the subject?

MR. A. B. SHETTY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:—(a) & (b) The Collector was addressed by the Commissioner on the subject.

“(c) The Collector has been empowered to file a suit under section 92 of the Civil Procedure Code for the settlement of a scheme for the effective management of the fund.”

Publication of the changes in rates of duty on spirituous medicinal preparations imported into Madras.

* 199 Q.—MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the changes in rates of duty on spirituous medicinal preparations imported into Madras are notified otherwise than through the official gazette; and

(b) if not, whether the Government will consider the desirability of notifying the changes in the Press, by communicating the same to the Chemists and Druggists Association and by instructing the subordinate excise officials to give wide publicity to them in their respective ranges by circulars?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) The changes in the rates of duty on spirituous medicinal preparations are at present notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and are communicated to all local officers for information. They are not otherwise notified.

[1st March 1938]

(b) The Government are separately issuing instructions that in future the order directing changes in the rates of duty should be communicated to the Chemists and Druggists Association and be placed at the disposal of the ‘Press.’ The Government do not consider it possible for the subordinate excise officials to give wide publicity to the changes by means of circulars.”

Utilization of the amount set apart for the handloom industry in the Budget for 1937–38.

* 200 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) the manner in which the amount set apart in the Budget for 1937–38 for the handloom industry and the hand-spinning movement is proposed to be utilized; and

(b) whether any portion of the amount has been spent up till now?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) (1) The amount set apart for the hand-spinning movement for 1937–38 is proposed to be utilized as follows:—

	RS.
(1) Cost of making and distributing gins ...	4,050
(2) Cost of making and distributing bows with guts ...	22,000
(3) Cost of making and distributing spindles with thin pulleys ...	4,375
(4) Cost of making and fitting speed wheels ...	6,250
(5) Cost of making and distributing vertical and horizontal charkas ...	7,500
(6) Cost of making and distributing fly shuttle looms and fittings ...	5,000
(7) For research work in carding, spinning, printing, dyeing and weaving—Salaries, implements and materials ...	2,060
(8) For training workers, including stipend, salary of teachers, materials and implements ...	1,573
(9) For employing workers as instructors in the villages for increasing the efficiency of the artisans and the implements used.	7,533
(10) For providing a subsidy on the actual increase in the production of khadi during 1937–38 up to a maximum of ...	1,25,000
Total ...	1,85,341

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- (2) The amount set apart for the development of the handloom industry will be spent in subsidizing the Madras Handloom Weavers Provincial Co-operative Society and it will be utilized as follows:—

	RS.
(a) Direct help to societies (subsidy) 80 societies.	30,000
(b) Machinery	64,900
(c) Sizing machines	2,625
(d) Emporium	3,100
(e) (1) Sales depots	3,900
(2) New depots to be opened in 1937-38 at the centres selected by the committee.	4,500
(f) Establishment	11,815
(g) Travelling allowance and other contingencies	11,300
Total ...	1,32,140

“(b) In the amount set apart for the hand-spinning movement nothing has yet been disbursed. As regards the amount for the development of handloom industry a sum of Rs. 39,545 has been spent up to 31st December 1937.”

MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—“Is there any proposal, Sir, to introduce this handloom industry in the famine camps now working?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The matter is under consideration.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“With reference to the answer to clause (a) of the question, may I know the agency or agencies which are sought to be employed in the distribution of the various items that have been read out just now?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Through the All-India Spinners' Association.”

MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—“May I know what proportion of the amount is to be given to the All-India Spinners' Association?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“It is proposed to give the whole amount to the Association.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“With reference to clause (b) of the question, may I know whether the Government have considered at any time any report from the Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society, and if so, what the orders of the Government were?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The report has come to the Government, but the Government have not yet passed orders thereon.”

[1st March 1938]

Settlement of labour disputes by arbitration courts in the Presidency after 14th July 1937.

* 201 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of labour disputes that have arisen after the 14th of July 1937 in the various parts of the Presidency of Madras;

(b) what the points at issue were in the said disputes;

(c) how many arbitration courts were instituted to deal with them and with what result; and

(d) what the terms of settlement in the several disputes that were brought for arbitration are?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) & (b) The information * is given in the statement annexed.

“(c) & (d) A board of conciliation and a court of enquiry were appointed to deal with the strike in Sri Ganeshar Aluminium Works, Madras, and in the Madura Mills Co., Ltd., Madura, respectively. The report of the Board of Conciliation was published on pages 2032-2035 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 7th December 1937, and the report of the Court of Enquiry on the Madura Mills Dispute on pages 2127-2135 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st December 1937. Another court of enquiry has been constituted to enquire into the labour situation in the textile mills in Coimbatore area—vide Press Communiqué published on pages 38-39 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th January 1938.”

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that there is a dispute between the Tramway Company and the Tramway Men's Union, and if so, whether a court of enquiry will be appointed to enquire into the grievances of the tramway men?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“That does not arise out of this question, Sir, but still I may give the information to the hon. Member that certain representations have been made by the Tramway Men's Union.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the Government propose to arm themselves with co-equal powers with the Government of India under the Trade Disputes Act, in order to enable them to directly settle trade disputes whenever they arise on the Railways, the Port Trust and similar undertakings which are under the management of the Central Government?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“That is a fairly big question which has to be gone into very carefully.”

* Printed as Appendix I on page 93-95 infra.

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Scheme for the promotion of industrial development to combat the heavy imports.

* 202 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether any schemes have been prepared by the Government for the manufacture locally of any of the articles except cloth and sugar, which are now imported into this province on a large scale?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ Among the articles, except cloth and sugar, which are imported on a large scale may be mentioned: certain chemicals, dyes obtained from coaltar, glassware, hardware, electrical goods, machinery and mill work, rubber manufactures, fertilizers, iron and steel goods, metals excluding ores, paper, motor vehicles, and provisions and oilmen's stores. The Government have not prepared schemes for the manufacture of any of these articles but have been largely responsible for the development of the alkali industry which is in progress at Mettur. The possibilities of establishing the calcium carbide and power alcohol industries and certain classes of hardware have been subjected to preliminary study, whilst the whole question of fertilizer manufacture with particular reference to the production of sulphate of ammonia is under examination.

“ The Government have pioneered chrome tanning, aluminium work, lead pencil manufactures and soap industries. Further, the experimental varieties of toilet articles are in progress. The exploitation of Salem iron ores is under investigation.

“ The Industries department is also investigating the question of the manufacture of builders' hardware and rubber goods and electric bulbs.

“ Regarding paper manufacture, as there are large quantities of Eeta grass suitable for paper making in Tinnevely, the possibility of its manufacture the Government propose to examine in connexion with the Papanasam Hydro-Electric Project.

“ There is a glass factory in Madras and there is a proposal to establish another factory at Salem.

“ Two ceramic factories which applied for State aid under the Act are in process of establishment on the East Coast and would help in reducing imports of pottery and porcelain.”

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“ Do I understand the Hon. Minister to say that he is arranging to introduce a scheme for the manufacture of electric bulbs and electrical accessories? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ The question whether a scheme is to be introduced by the Government or by private agencies in regard to electrical accessories, is now under investigation.”

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Supply of books and periodicals to the libraries attached to jails last year.

* 203 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the amount spent on purchase of books last year for libraries attached to jails; and

(b) the nature of periodicals supplied and the value of the same?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“ (a) Rs. 332.

“ (b) The following are the periodicals purchased and supplied and the cost thereof:—

	RS.	A.	P.
(1) <i>Ananda Vikatan</i> , a Tamil weekly, each jail and Borstal school supplied with three copies. Amount of subscription paid ...	225	0	0
(2) <i>Kalaimagal</i> , a Tamil monthly, one copy for each of the two Borstal schools ...	8	0	0
(3) <i>Grihalakshmi</i> , a Telugu monthly, one copy for each of the two Borstal schools ...	8	0	0
(4) <i>Kairali</i> , a Malayalam monthly, one copy for the Borstal school, Palamcottah alone ...	3	0	0

Total cost of the periodicals purchased ... 244 0 0

“ In addition to the above, copies of the *Howard Journal*, a weekly journal published by the Jail department in English, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam are also supplied to the jails and Borstal schools.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“ May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he will see that the daily papers are supplied to the jails? ”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“ The question is under the consideration of the Government.”

Manufactures undertaken in jails last year.

* 204 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the several manufactures undertaken in jails;

(b) the cost of raw materials purchased last year;

(c) the value of the finished goods sold or used last year; and

(d) the net revenue derived from the same last year?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“ (a) Carpentry, cumbly weaving, cotton spinning and weaving, oil pressing, book-binding, leather goods, tailoring, kora and aloe mat weaving, tent making, stationery tags, sealing wax, wax cloth, coir fibre work, ropes, blacksmith work, aluminium work, wool spinning and weaving, jute work and brick-making.

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"(b) Rs. 4,33,551-2-0 in 1936. Information for 1937 is not yet available.

"(c) The value of finished goods sold and used in 1936 is Rs. 5,43,349-7-6 and Rs. 1,80,410 respectively. Figures are not yet available for 1937.

"(d) The revenue derived from jail manufactures in 1936 was Rs. 2,90,208-5-6. The net revenue after taking into account the cost of maintenance of prisoners and other costs chargeable to these manufactures is nil. Figures are not available for 1937."

MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know whether hand-spinning is included in the list of manufactures in jails?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It is slowly being introduced as an experiment in certain jails."

MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"Which jails?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It has been done in the Women's jail at Vellore."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know in how many of these jails there are convicts without work?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Not very many, to my knowledge."

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he expects a considerable reduction in the revenue from this source owing to the rapid diminution of the jail population?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"To the extent there is diminution in income, there will be diminution in expenses also."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask whether the net profit and the percentage of profit have been worked out from these figures?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"There is no net profit."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask, Sir, whether it is worked under loss?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The cost of the whole jail administration will be much more than the amount derived by way of revenue by making these people work."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask, Sir, whether if amounts are invested in industries within the jails, the Government expect or do not expect any profit?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It is not with the idea of making any profit that industries are introduced into these jails."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know the idea underlying the introduction of these manufactures in the jails, is it not for profit?"

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THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"In order to improve the prisoners while they are in jail."

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister to state whether Government have under consideration the question of making jails self-supporting by introducing industries?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The idea of the Government is, if possible, to make jails self-supporting; but the commercial idea is not the only consideration in the matter of the introduction of these industries."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the articles manufactured in jails are sold at a lower price than articles obtained from outside?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"So far as I am able to see, it is not so."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of introducing the manufacture of paper by hand?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Government will consider the question."

Construction of either a causeway or a bridge across the Pennar river at Tadpatri on the Cuddapah-Bellary road.

* 205 Q.—MR. C. OBI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the stage at which the proposed construction of a causeway or a bridge across the Pennar river at Tadpatri (Anantapur district) on the Cuddapah-Bellary road stands at present;

(b) for how long the matter has been under consideration;

(c) whether it is one of the works recommended in the Vipan Report to be taken up as an important and urgent one; and

(d) whether the Government will consider the desirability of including it in the programme of works for the year 1938-39 by providing for it in the budget for that year?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) & (c) The construction of a causeway at Tadpatri is included in Mr. Vipan's report. An estimate amounting to Rs. 1,61,000 was prepared. The scheme was accordingly included in the Seven Years' Programme of road development in this province to be financed from the road fund and approved by the Board of Communications. The Government of India also were addressed in November last to sanction the scheme. In the meanwhile, the Chief Engineer made certain alterations in the design increasing the cost to 2.64 lakhs. At this stage the District Board Engineer, Anantapur, who was in charge of the investigation reported that, instead of a causeway costing 2.64 lakhs, a bridge would be decidedly better and would cost only Rs. 3.5 lakhs and that the construction of a bridge

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would be preferable to that of a causeway. The expenditure necessary for a preliminary investigation with a view to prepare estimates for a bridge has recently been sanctioned from the funds of the Tadpatri Municipality.

“(b) The question has been under consideration from time to time since 1930.

“(d) The work will be taken up for execution after it is decided whether a bridge or a causeway should be constructed and the approval of the Government of India is obtained.”

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—“In view of the famine conditions prevailing in the Anantapur district, will this work be taken up as urgently as possible?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Famine conditions have nothing to do with the construction of a causeway. I have already stated in the answer that the Government of India's sanction has to be obtained first.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“May I know whether this work has been placed in the Vipan Report as one of the urgent works to be taken up immediately?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am not quite sure; I want notice of the question.”

Construction of roads out of special grants in the malaria affected parts of the Sulturpet and Gudur taluks, Nellore district.

* 206 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there are any proposals with the Government to lay down roads by special grants in the rural parts affected by malaria in the eastern portion of the Sulturpet and Gudur taluks, Nellore district?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The answer is in the negative.”

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—“May I ask, Mr. Speaker, whether the Hon. Minister is not aware of the fact that these villages are subject to recurring ravages of malaria in those areas, especially as the Hon. Minister himself represents a division of that district?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Malaria is not my department, Sir.”

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—“But, Mr. Speaker, does not the Hon. Minister consider that laying out well-planned roads will go a long way in mitigating the distress in these areas?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I do not know whether roads have anything to do with malaria.”

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Failure on the part of some village munsifs of this province to publish Government notifications in their villages.

* 207 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the village munsifs in several parts of the Province of Madras do not actually publish Government notifications intended to be done so but report to the higher authorities as if they were published in villages under their jurisdiction by taking pseudo-signatures; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government propose to take to remedy the defect?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“(a) & (b) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested.”

Construction of a permanent masonry dam across the Cheyyar river for feeding the Uttiramerur tank during periods of floods in the river.

* 208. Q.—MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether an investigation was made by the Public Works authorities a few years back regarding the construction of a permanent masonry dam across the Cheyyar river in the place of the temporary dam put up every year, so as to facilitate water being taken to the Uttiramerur tank from the Cheyyar river during floods;

(b) whether the Government are collecting a sum of Rs. 2,000 every year for the purpose of the dam; and

(c) whether the Government will consider the desirability of expediting the construction of the masonry dam at least during the next official year?

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

“(b) The amounts collected for the erection, maintenance and repair of the temporary dam were as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
1934-35	113	12	4
1935-36	953	7	0
1936-37	1,138	4	8

“(c) The proposal is being examined by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Board of Revenue and the Government have not received their final reports. The Government will consider the scheme on receipt of the reports.”

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MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that on certain representations made on behalf of the Cheyyar people, the present scheme of constructing a dam for supplying water to the Uttiramerur tank has been temporarily postponed and a scheme of an alternative dam to be built at Tandarai near Tiruvetipuram is being explored?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"As I have said, we have not received the report, and we will consider the matter when the report is received."

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—"Is it not a fact that the Chief Engineer has considered and drawn up a scheme about this?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I have already said we have not received the report."

Generation of electricity at the Mettur power station.

* 209 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity of electricity produced at Mettur electric power station;

(b) the cost incurred for the same;

(c) the quantity supplied to the public; and

(d) the revenue collected thereby?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (b) 3,482,620 units.

" (b) Rs. 15,975 (for operation and maintenance).

" (c) 2,820,482 units.

" (d) Rs. 98,620.

" Regular operation of the Mettur electricity system commenced only from the 1st November 1937 and the figures given above refer to the two months November and December 1937."

Removal of untouchability and the disability to enter Hindu temples.

* 210 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the resolution passed recently by the Executive Committee of the Harijan Savak Sangh, namely, "this Committee requests the Government of Madras to help the emancipation of Harijans by facilitating the declaration of all Hindu temples within their jurisdiction open to the Harijans"; and

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce any Bill to abolish untouchability in law and to enable trustees to open the temples to Harijans?

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MR. A. B. SHETTY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:—" (a) It is not clear to which Harijan Savak Sangh the hon. Member refers. The Government are aware of a similar resolution passed by the Temple Entry Committee of the Malabar Harijan Sevak Sangh.

" (b) The matter has not yet been decided."

MR. G. RANGIAH NAYUDU:—"Is it not a fact that the Bill to remove untouchability in the Bombay Presidency has been introduced?" (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is not allowed."

Opening of a rural dispensary at Nidugurthi, Gudur taluk, Nellore district.

* 211 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 500 has been sanctioned by the Government as a contribution to start a rural dispensary at Nidugurthi, a hamlet of Reddipalayam, Gudur taluk, Nellore district;

(b) if so, whether the dispensary has been opened for the use of the public;

(c) if not, why not; and

(d) what steps the Government propose to take to have the said dispensary opened at an early date?

MR. A. B. SHETTY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:—" (a) With effect from 8th October 1937, the Government have sanctioned the payment of a subsidy of Rs. 800 a year to the South Nellore District Board for the medical practitioner and midwife to be employed in the rural ayurvedic dispensary proposed to be opened at Nidugurthi.

" (b) No report has yet been received regarding the opening of the dispensary.

" (c) The Government have no information.

" (d) When sanctioning the payment of subsidy the Government have instructed the President of the District Board to start the new dispensary as soon as possible. They do not propose to issue any further instructions in the matter."

MR. G. RANGIAH NAYUDU:—"Are there any proposals to open new dispensaries in the district in the coming year?"

MR. A. B. SHETTY:—"The hon. Member may await the budget." (Laughter.)

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Appeals received by Government from 1st April 1937 to 15th July 1937 under rule 3 (c) of the rules issued with Notification No. 30, Public (Services), dated 19th January 1937.

120 Q.—MR. D. K. SAIYED IBRAHIM: With reference to the rules issued with Notification No. 30, Public (Services), and published at pages 65–113 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 19th January 1937, will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) how many appeals under rule 3 (c) of the said rules were received in each department of the Secretariat at Fort St. George from 1st April 1937 to 15th July 1937 when the Interim Ministry was in office;

(b) how many of such appeals were disposed of before the Interim Ministry vacated office and how many are still pending; and

(c) what the dates of receipt of such appeals as are still pending are?

A.—(a) to (c) Only one such appeal, dated 3rd April 1937, was received in the Education and Public Health Department. As the order appealed against was subsequently cancelled, no action was necessary on the appeal.

Number and cost of cows maintained for dairy purposes in each of the last ten years.

121 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cows kept by Government for dairy purposes;

(b) the cost of maintenance to Government in each of the last ten years; and

(c) the loss or gain in each year?

A.—(a) Cows are kept for dairy purposes only at the Coimbatore Agricultural College. The number kept in the past ten years is as shown below:—

Year.	Coimbatore College dairy cows.
1927–28	57
1928–29	51
1929–30	53
1930–31	48
1931–32	41
1932–33	47
1933–34	49
1934–35	44
1935–36	40
1936–37	39

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(b) Separate accounts are not kept. The statement below shows the cost of maintenance of cattle as a whole:—

Year.	Agricultural College
	RS.
1927–28	41,003
1928–29	40,502
1929–30	37,753
1930–31	31,152
1931–32	25,344
1932–33	21,774
1933–34	18,564
1934–35	18,133
1935–36	12,856
1936–37	10,889

(c) The profit or loss was as shown below:—

Year.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Profit.	Loss.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1927–28	41,003	35,073	..	5,930
1928–29	40,502	35,437	..	5,065
1929–30	37,753	32,171	..	5,582
1930–31	31,152	32,138	..	9,014
1931–32	25,344	17,025	..	8,319
1932–33	21,774	12,600	..	9,194
1933–34	18,654	11,354	..	7,340
1934–35	18,133	12,255	..	5,900
1935–36	12,856	11,603	..	1,253
1936–37	10,889	11,081	192	..

Profit and loss account of the Co-operative Agriculture and Industrial Society, Limited, Kallakurchi.

122 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the present state of affairs of the Kallakurchi Co-operative, Agriculture and Industrial Society, Limited;

(b) the different branches of work carried on by this society;

(c) the gain or loss in each of the years since loan was granted by the Government to the society;

(d) the reasons for the loss, if any;

(e) the present value of the assets of the society; and

(f) the amount of loan still due to the Government?

A.—(a) The society's affairs seem to be taking a turn for the better.

By extending its area of operations to the entire district, it seems to have strengthened its position. It had encountered considerable competition from its own constituent members who set up rival factories.

(b) The society is at present carrying on the work of decorticating groundnuts and hulling paddy. It is running a modern poultry farm and distributing eggs to affiliated societies at a nominal price. It has recently begun granting loans to members on the pledge of produce which is stored in its godowns.

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- (c) The figures of gain or loss sustained by the society are furnished below:—

Year ending 30th June.						Net gain.			Loss.		
						RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1926	..	..	..	..	..	3,370	11	3	..	..	..
1927	..	..	..	..	..	1,331	6	7	..	..	..
1928	..	..	..	..	..	2,045	5	0	..	..	..
1929	..	..	..	..	..	861	13	0	..	..	..
1930	..	..	..	..	..	1,402	3	0	..	..	..
1931	..	..	..	..	..	295	9	0	..	..	..
1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,015	0	0
1933	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.	..	..	Nil.	..	..
1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	119	1	0
1935	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,546	5	0
1936	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,899	4	0

- (d) The loss for the year ending 30th June 1932 was due to heavy expenditure by way of establishment charges, working expenses, payment of interest and depreciation of fixed assets. Since 1934, the Society's accounts show net losses mainly due to its writing off each year a sum of Rs. 5,218 as depreciation on plant and machinery.
- (e) The assets of the Society on 31st December 1937 were valued at Rs. 65,576-13-0.
- (f) The Society paid the entire outstanding balance in March 1937.

Proposal for the establishment of a Central Medical Store for indigenous medicines and drugs.

123 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the annual value of indigenous chemicals and medicines supplied to Government, and local board ayurvedic, siddha and unani hospitals in the presidency;

(b) where these are manufactured and from whom they are purchased;

(c) what the present machinery for buying, storing up and distributing them is;

(d) whether spurious, impure and even counterfeit preparations have flooded the market bringing disrepute to the old Indian systems;

(e) whether proposals have been made to the Government for establishing a Central Indian Medical Stores for the province; and

(f) whether the Government have considered such a proposal and with what result?

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A.—(a) Rs. 85,000 approximately.

(b) The requirements of the Indian Medical School Hospital are manufactured at the hospital itself from raw drugs which are purchased in the open market on the tender system. The other institutions of Indian Medicine obtain their supplies in the following ways:—

(i) By indenting for raw materials and making the required preparations on the spot;

(ii) by indenting for prepared medicines from the approved list of medical stores (where it is not possible or convenient for the medical officers to prepare their own medicines).

The majority of the medical officers are indenting for prepared medicines only as they are not provided with necessary pharmacy equipment.

(c) The Presidents or Commissioners of concerned local bodies invite tenders for the institutions under their control after obtaining an estimate of their requirements for the year. The administrative authorities accept the lowest satisfactory tenders and direct the medical officers under their control to submit their indents to them, calculating the cost on the basis of tender rates supplied to them. These indents are then transmitted to the Principal, Indian Medical School, together with the certificate of the administrative authority regarding financial provision made to meet the cost of indent. They are then scrutinized by the controlling authority and returned to the administrative authority with such deletions and variations as the controlling authority may decide. These approved indents are then sent to the accepted tenderer for making supplies to medical officers direct.

(d) Complaints from medical officers to this effect have been received. This has been brought to the notice of both Government and local bodies.

(e) & (f) Yes. The Government did not accept the proposal.

Reduction of the rate of interest on loans granted to agriculturists.

124 Q.—MR. R. VENKATASUBBA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received representations urging that the rate of interest on the industrial loans granted to agriculturists be reduced to 5 per cent; and

(b) whether the Government propose to reduce the rate of interest on such loans to 5 per cent irrespective of the fact whether there has been representation or not?

[1st March 1938]

A.—(a) No.

(b) When such representations are made, the matter will be considered.

Prosecution of Mr. Batliwala.

125 Q.—MR. G. VENKATA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of expenditure incurred by the Government for the prosecution of Mr. Batliwala from the date of sanctioning his prosecution up to the close of his trial;

(b) whether the Government instructed the Public Prosecutor who conducted the prosecution of Mr. Batliwala to represent to the Court on 9th November 1937 “that if the accused were to be found ‘guilty,’ he (the Public Prosecutor), on behalf of the Government, would press only for a nominal punishment”; and

(c) if the answer to the above clause be in the affirmative, the reasons which actuated the Government so to instruct the Public Prosecutor?

A.—(a) Rs. 2,388-6-6.

(b) & (c) The statement in clause (b) of the question is wrong. The Public Prosecutor was instructed not to press for more than a nominal sentence if the court found that there was no incitement to violence and disorder in the speech. The reason for this instruction is the policy of Government in regard to freedom of speech.

Abolition of the regular dispensary at Santa Kaviti in the Bobbili Zamindari.

126 Q.—SRIMAN Y. V. A. BHASKARA RAO PATNAIK MAHASAYO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased—

(i) to state—

(a) the circumstances that necessitated the opening of the regular dispensary at Santa Kaviti of the Bobbili Zamindari;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said dispensary was found unnecessary and recommended to be abolished by the District Medical Officer; and if so, what steps the Government have taken in the matter; and

(ii) to place on the table the last inspection report of the District Medical Officer?

1st March 1938]

A.—(i) (a) The local fund hospital at Palkonda was ordered to be provincialized with effect from 1st May 1930, subject to the condition, among others, that the old Vizianagaram Taluk Board should earmark the savings which would accrue from the provincialization of the hospital, for the opening and maintenance of one or more regular Allopathic or Ayurvedic dispensaries. Accordingly the Vizagapatam District Board opened a regular dispensary at Santa Kaviti as the place was considered to be suitable by the then District Medical Officer.

(b) The District Medical Officer, Vizagapatam, advised the District Board to convert the regular dispensary into a rural dispensary. It is for the District Board to take necessary action in the matter.

(ii) The report ^a is placed on the table.*Import and sale of foreign liquors in this Province.*

127 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of shops licensed for selling foreign liquors in this Province;

(b) the rates of licence-fees charged for such shops;

(c) the number of taverns licensed for selling foreign liquors in retail in this Province; and

(d) the total value of the foreign liquors imported into this Province during the last year for which statistics exist?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) A statement ^b containing the information asked for is appended in respect of 1937-38. It includes particulars regarding beer shops and foreign liquor taverns sold in public auction.

(d) The total quantity of foreign liquor imported during 1936-37 was 627,265 gallons and the duty realized thereon amounted to Rs. 25,36,795. The value of foreign liquor imported cannot be estimated.

Zamindaris in the Bhadrachalam taluk.

128 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Bhadrachalam taluk or any portion of it is under the zamindars;

(b) if so, who they are;

(c) whether there are any inferior proprietors under the zamindars;

(d) if so, who they are;

^a Printed as Appendix II on page 95 infra.^b Printed as Appendix III on page 96 infra.

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- (e) whether inferior proprietors pay any peshkash, etc.;
- (f) if so, how much is paid by each; and
- (g) what they were paying previous to the last settlement?

A.—(a) A large part of the taluk is zamindari.

(b) A statement ^a is annexed giving the names of the estates.

(c) to (g) Of the 31 estates in the taluk, one estate (Bhadra-chalam) with 91 villages belongs to a superior proprietor and the remaining estates to inferior proprietors.

A statement ^a is annexed showing the amounts which the inferior proprietors have to pay under the 1922 settlement as compared with the payments which they have to make under the 1890 settlement.

Periodical settlement of peshkash payable by the zamindars and the inferior proprietors in the Agency, East Godavari.

129 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the peshkash to be paid by zamindars and inferior proprietors in the Agency, East Godavari, is periodically settled; and
- (b) if so, what the period is between one settlement and another?

A.—(a) Yes, in the proprietary areas of the Nugur and Bhadrachalam taluks.

(b) The current settlement in the Bhadrachalam taluk was ordered by Government to be in force for a period of thirty years. As regards the Nugur taluk, the current settlement will be in force until a further settlement is decided upon by the Government.

Periodical settlement in Nugoor and Albaka Estates in Nugur taluk.

130 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether Nugoor and Albaka estates in Nugur taluk are subject to periodical settlement?

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Famine relief operations in the Ceded Districts for the last 40 years.

131 Q.—MR. H. SITARAMA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the Ceded Districts—

- (a) the amount of money spent towards famine relief works for the last 40 years;
- (b) the amount of land revenue remitted on account of famine conditions and failure of rains and similar reasons for the last 40 years; and
- (c) the amount of takavi loans written off and the amount of interest on takavi loans written off for the last 40 years?

^a Printed as Appendix IV on page 97 infra.

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A.—(a) In 1896–97, there was famine in Cuddapah, Bellary, Kurnool and Anantapur districts. The figures for the amounts spent are not available. In 1921 famine occurred in parts of Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur districts and the cost of relief amounted to Rs. 11,06,295. In 1926–28 famine visited the Ceded districts and the amount spent on relief then was Rs. 4,73,638. In 1931 and 1934 there was again famine in parts of the Ceded districts. The expenditure incurred in connexion with the famine of 1931–32 was Rs. 1,38,911 and the expenditure in 1934–35 was about Rs. 17 lakhs.

(b) & (c) Particulars are not available.

Report of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the Ghatana Reservoir Scheme and the orders passed by the Government on the proposal.

132 Q.—MR. K. P. YAGNESWARA SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state, with reference to the Ghatana Reservoir Scheme—

- (a) what the final orders of Government are on the proposal; and
- (b) whether he will be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the same?

A.—The scheme has not been under the consideration of the Government. It was, however, considered by the local officers and investigated by the Executive Engineer, Tinnevely division. On the basis of the report from the latter, the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) informed the Secretary, Mahajana Sangam, Tinnevely, that the scheme was not feasible as there was no suitable site for the reservoir.

Suspension by the Divisional Inspectors of Schools of the Certificates of Elementary School Teachers under Madras Educational Rule, 154.

133 Q.—MR. S. M. LAIJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) how many Elementary School Teachers' certificates have been suspended by the Divisional Inspectors from the beginning of 1937 under Madras Educational Rule, 154;

(b) whether the certificates were suspended for moral delinquency or gross insubordination; and

(c) if not, why the suspension of certificates is being resorted to so often?

A.—(a) Forty-seven certificates.

(b) In 44 out of the 47 cases, the certificates were suspended for moral delinquency or gross insubordination.

(c) The question does not arise.

A—7

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Number of cases of murder registered by the Police and tried and convicted by courts during the last ten years.

134 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) what is the average number of murders registered by the Police during the last ten years;

(b) what is the average number of murder cases which were tried in sessions courts;

(c) what is the average number of murder cases which ended in acquittal of the accused;

(d) what is the average number of executions by hanging awarded as punishment for murder; and

(e) what is the average number of murder cases ending in transportation and imprisonment?

A.—(a) to (e) The average number of murder cases registered per year for the ten years ending 1936 was 1,033.

The number of cases in which sentence of death was awarded during the ten years works to an average of 131 per year. Beyond this, the Government have no information at hand and it will be throwing a needless burden on officers to collect further information such as required in the question.

Depressed classes teachers employed under the District Board and the Municipalities in the South Kanara district.

135 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Depressed Classes teachers now employed under the District Board and Municipalities in South Kanara district; and

(b) their grades of pay?

A.—(a) The information is not available.

(b) The District Board, South Kanara, and the Municipal Councils, Udipi and Mangalore, have adopted the following scales of pay for elementary school teachers. These scales apply to scheduled castes teachers also.

District Board, South Kanara, and Municipal Council, Udipi.

	Trained.	Untrained.
		RS.
Boys' schools—		
Lower Elementary grade ..	Rs. 15— $\frac{1}{2}$ —20 ..	..
Higher Elementary grade ..	.. 20— $\frac{1}{2}$ —24— $\frac{2}{2}$ —30 ..	15
Secondary grade ..	.. 25— $\frac{2}{2}$ —45 ..	20
Girls' schools—		
Lower Elementary grade ..	Rs. 20— $\frac{1}{2}$ —25 ..	15
Higher Elementary grade ..	.. 25— $\frac{1}{2}$ —29— $\frac{2}{2}$ —35 ..	20
Secondary grade ..	.. 30— $\frac{2}{2}$ —50 ..	25

The Government have permitted the District Board to adopt the lower scales of pay for men teachers and for women teachers appointed after 7th August 1936.

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Municipal Council, Mangalore.

Men and women teachers.	Scale of pay.
Secondary trained and certified teachers ..	Rs. 30— $\frac{3}{2}$ —45— $\frac{2}{2}$ —55.
Higher Elementary trained teachers ..	.. 23— $\frac{2}{2}$ —45.
Lower Elementary trained teachers ..	.. 20— $\frac{2}{2}$ —24— $\frac{1}{2}$ —28.

Removal of certain toddy and arrack shops in Mangalore.

136 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state with reference to the answer to unstarred question No. 101 laid on the table on 14th September 1937—

(a) whether any information or report has been received by the Government; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to be taken by them for the immediate removal of the toddy and arrack shops to a less objectionable locality?

A.—(a) A copy of the report * of the Collector of South Kanara on the subject is annexed.

(b) The Government do not consider it necessary to remove the shops from their present sites.

Conversion of the Labour department into a permanent department.

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

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government to make the Labour department a permanent department; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the Government have not passed any orders to that effect till now?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative. The work of the Labour department is essentially preparatory and supplementary, its primary object being to bring the depressed classes into line with the rest of the community in the matter of eligibility for the ordinary benefits of Government and it is not intended permanently to replace vis-a-vis the depressed classes the existing departments of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Extension of the term and increase in the strength of the District Board of South Kanara.

138 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the term of the District Board of South Kanara has been extended till the 31st March 1938;

(b) whether the strength of the board has been increased from 35 to 37; and

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the above orders?

* Printed as Appendix V on page 98 infra.

[1st March 1938]

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

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

Village courts in the South Kanara district.

139 Q.—MR. K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the number of village courts in the South Kanara district;

(b) the names of places where such courts are located and the average number of times the courts are held every week; and

(c) whether there are any reserved seats for the depressed classes in the village courts?

A.—(a) 387 (142 village panchayat courts and 245 village munsifs' courts) at the end of the year 1936.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The answer is in the negative, but the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Circular^a, dated 22nd September 1937 (attached) issued on the subject.*Scholarships granted to the Harijan students for higher studies in the Presidency.*

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Harijan students applied to the Government for scholarships for higher studies in the years 1934–1937 in the Madras Presidency; and

(b) if so, the number of scholarships granted to Medical, Law, Industries, S.S.L.C., and other courses in the years 1934–1937?

A.—(a) & (b) The required information is given in the Annual Administration Reports of the Labour Department. Attention is invited to pages 16–18 of the Administration Report for 1936–37.

Application of a Harijan student, Perumal, for a Labour scholarship in 1937.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that one Perumal by name, Harijan student of the Medical College, applied for a Labour scholarship in the year 1937; and

(b) if so, the reasons for refusing to grant the same by the Labour Commissioner?

A.—(a) No; but one K. S. Perumal of the Government School of Indian Medicine, Kilpauk, applied to the Commissioner of Labour for a scholarship.

^a Printed as Appendix VI on page 99 infra.

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(b) K. S. Perumal was a boarder of the Paddison hostel for some years and was also in receipt of a Labour Department Scholarship then. He failed in Form III in 1932 and was not selected to appear for the S.S.L.C. Examination in 1936. He was, however, allowed to continue in the hostel with the scholarship again in Form VI during 1936–37, but was again found not fit to sit for the S.S.L.C. Examination. He was therefore sent out of the Paddison hostel in February 1937. He applied in August 1937 for a scholarship for the L.I.M. course in the Government School of Indian Medicine. In view of his previous history and of the fact that he is now in his 22nd year of age, the Commissioner of Labour refused to grant him a scholarship.

Refusal of the Labour Commissioner to give grant to the Harijan hostel in the Alur taluk, Bellary district.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Harijan hostel in Alur taluk, Bellary district, run under some private management;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the year 1935–36 a grant of Rs. 100 was given to the hostel authorities; and

(c) whether the Labour Commissioner has refused to give the grant recently, and if so, why?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) A grant of Rs. 100 was given to the Adi-Andhra Boys' Hostel at Alur in the Bellary district for the first time in 1936–37. And this grant has been renewed for the current year.

Employment of prisoners in jails for running oil and flour mills.

143 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that convicts are being used in prisons for oil and flour mills;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative,

(i) how many prisoners are so employed and what their hours of work per day and in a week are; and

(ii) whether the Government would consider the desirability of stopping such a practice?

A.—(a) Prisoners are so employed in certain of the jails.

(b) (i) About eight to ten men are employed on each oil mill and two or three on each flour mill. The actual number of men employed on this work varies from jail to jail and is dependent on the quantity of oil or flour consumed in each jail.

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Prisoners work from about 7 a.m. to 4-30 p.m. in the cold weather and up to 5 p.m. in the summer, with an interval of one and a half to two hours rest after the midday meal. They work for about 48 hours in a week.

- (ii) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Appeals submitted to Government by certain teachers of the Municipal High School, Vizianagram, regarding their claims for promotion.

144 Q.—MR. V. J. GUPTA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) (i) whether it is a fact that between October 1933 and May 1934 about half a dozen appeals were preferred by the teachers of the Municipal High School, Vizianagram, to the Government against certain orders of the Municipal Chairman, alleging that their claims to higher cadre have been ignored and superseded;

(ii) whether it is a fact that the Government referred the appellants to the Municipal Commissioner who was subsequently appointed, for orders on the appeals; if so, when;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner placed the said appeals for disposal before the Appointments Committee and gave effect to the orders of the said Committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that the teachers affected by the decision of the Appointments Committee again submitted appeals to the Government for alleged injustice and that they are pending disposal from October 1936; if so, how many; and

(d) what action the Government have taken on the appeals and when they will be disposed of?

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

(ii) Yes, in January and February 1935.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes; eleven.

(d) They are under consideration and orders will be issued shortly.

Inability of the Vizianagram Municipality to maintain the present highly paid Commissioner.

145 Q.—MR. V. J. GUPTA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received the resolution passed by the Municipal Council, Vizianagram, that it cannot maintain the present high-paid Commissioner, in view of its financial condition; and

(b) whether the Government have taken, or propose to take any action, on the said resolution?

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

(b) The Council's request has been noted by the Government. The present Commissioner will be replaced by a Commissioner on lesser pay when a suitable opportunity occurs.

[1st March 1938]

Attendance of Government doctors on Government servants in their houses free of charge.

146 Q.—MR. K. KOLANDAVELOO NAYANAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a Government Order that the Government doctors in hospitals should attend free on Government servants in their houses; and that this privilege will extend only to servants getting Rs. 100 per mensem and more; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to cancel or modify the Government Order?

A.—(a) Yes. All Government servants in receipt of pay amounting to one hundred rupees and upwards are entitled to the attendance of the medical officer of the station or district at their own houses in cases of illnesses which prevent their consulting the medical officer at his house. There will, no doubt, be cases of not infrequent occurrence in which it will be proper for the medical officer to visit, at their own houses Government servants in receipt of salaries of under rupees one hundred. The Government trust to the good sense and good feeling of the medical profession in preference to laying down any precise rules for such cases.

It is to be distinctly understood that medical officers will not be expected to attend Government servants in their own houses unless the patient is unable to wait upon the medical officer either at his house or at such place and time as, having due consideration for the position of the servant and circumstances of the case, may be appointed for the purpose. This is subject to the condition that the Ministers appointed under the Government of India Act, during the period of their employment as such, Government servants holding gazetted appointments and those drawing a pay of two hundred and fifty rupees and upwards, are, in all circumstances, entitled to gratuitous medical attendance for themselves at their own residence from the Surgeon of the district or the Civil Surgeon as the case may be.

(b) The question of revising the existing orders regarding medical attendance on Government servants is under the consideration of Government.

Oil baths to prisoners in jails.

147 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any provision in the Prisons for giving facilities for oil baths to the prisoners; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, why the provision is not operative?

[1st March 1938]

A.—(a) & (b) The answer to clause (a) of the question is in the negative and clause (b) does not arise.

Alleged non-recruitment of candidates to the Engineering service on communal basis.

148 Q.—MR. M. A. SALAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have given up the method of recruitment to the Engineering service according to the principle of communal rotation, and if so, for what reasons?

A.—The principle of communal rotation applies only to direct recruitment to the Madras Engineering Service. The direct recruitment to the service has been suspended till all the persons who commenced their probation in the service before the introduction of direct recruitment to the service are confirmed.

According to rule 3 (d) (ii) of the General Rules for Provincial Services, direct recruitment to any service can be made only against substantive vacancies and not against temporary or officiating vacancies. As the persons who commenced their probation in the Madras Engineering Service before the introduction of direct recruitment have a statutory right to all the substantive vacancies in preference to direct recruits, no such vacancy can be reserved for the latter. Direct recruitment to the service according to the principle of communal rotation cannot therefore be made till all the persons who were probationers in the service on 1st April 1936, the date of introduction of direct recruitment to the service, are confirmed.

Provision of fresh water wells in Podili taluk, Nellore district.

149 Q.—MR. M. A. SALAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the use of water from the present sources, a peculiar disease is prevalent amongst many inhabitants of Podili taluk (Nellore district);

(b) when this was brought to the notice of the Government; and

(c) what steps the Government propose to take to provide the inhabitants of Podili taluk (Nellore district) with fresh water wells?

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

(b) On 1st November 1937.

(c) The Government have sanctioned the sinking of a deep bore-well at a cost not exceeding Rs. 3,000 in the Podili taluk as an experimental measure, for providing drinking water free from flourine and have placed the amount at the disposal of the Director of Public Health who has been asked to arrange with the Industries Department for carrying out the work in consultation with the Director, King Institute.

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[Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar]

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

III.—BUDGET FOR 1938-39.

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Sir, I rise to present to the House the Revised Estimates for the year 1937-1938, and the Budget Estimates for the next year 1938-1939.

“I cannot begin, however, without giving expression to the feeling that is foremost in my mind. The sky was overcast with two great clouds that threw their gloomy shadows on us and made the future dark. In the United Provinces and Bihar, the Congress vacated the seat of responsibility unable to tolerate the haunting ghost of the old dyarchy that refuses to disappear from its old haunts and attachments, and seeks to interfere and cast its pale shadow over the autonomy which the representatives of the people are invited to preside over. We are glad to note that for the time being the problem has been solved. But there cannot be confidence or security for responsible government until the evil spirit is finally exorcized.

“Then there is the riddle of the Central Government. An All-India Federation, as it has been alluringly called, still sits like a nightmare on the plans and policies of the Provincial Governments. It is not yet certain whether wisdom will prevail, and a more natural and suitable form of Central Government be devised which will make strength and reality flow into the veins of the Provincial Governments.

“In spite of these dark clouds overhanging we must carry on, for the present ignoring them. Thus only can the Congress hope to function in power and responsibility, carrying on as if staying for a century, but ever ready also to retire the next morning if necessary.

“It is but six months since I presented the budget estimates for the current year under circumstances that necessitated the unusual procedure of introducing a budget nearly half way through the year to which it related. We now return to the normal budgetary procedure of passing the annual budget through the Legislature before the close of the previous year, and to conditions under which Government is fully responsible for the

Political background.

[Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar]

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proposals embodied in the budget and for the policy underlying those proposals. My colleagues and I fully accept that responsibility, and we are confident that these proposals reflecting as they do the wishes and aspirations of the vast body of the people of the Province, as far as they are consistent with the circumstances and conditions under which we have to work, will secure the acceptance of the House.

“Before coming to a consideration of the Revised Estimates for 1937-1938 and the Budget position for 1938-1939 I will first refer briefly to the salient features of the final accounts for the year 1936-1937. The preliminary accounts for that year which were incorporated in the Budget for 1937-1938 as presented to the Legislature last September showed a revenue deficit of Rs. 17·89 lakhs which, as I explained in my speech at the time, was almost entirely due to the transfer of Rs. 17 lakhs from Revenue to the Famine Relief Fund. To that extent the deficit was not a real one, since the Rs. 17 lakhs were not spent but in effect taken out of the Provincial balances for investment as part of the Famine Relief Fund. The real deficit in 1936-1937 was, according to the preliminary accounts, only Rs. '89 lakh, which as the result of subsequent adjustments was increased to Rs. 2·33 lakhs in the final accounts. Similar late adjustments in respect of heads relating to capital accounts, loans and advances and deposit accounts resulted in a net debit of Rs. 2·37 lakhs. The free closing balance of that year was thus reduced by Rs. 3·81 lakhs from the figure of Rs. 129·56 lakhs at which it stood according to the preliminary accounts. The free opening balance for the year 1937-1938 was therefore Rs. 125·75 lakhs, inclusive of the minimum deposit to be maintained with the Reserve Bank and the cash in the Provincial treasuries and sub-treasuries, but exclusive of the value of securities held in the Famine Relief Fund amounting to about Rs. 60 lakhs.

“The only other feature of the final accounts for 1938-1937 which may be mentioned is, that the decentralized balances which were adjusted against the debt due to the Central Government on the 31st March 1937 turned out to be Rs. 21 lakhs higher than was anticipated. This increase in our deposit liabilities meant a corresponding reduction in our consolidated debt to the Central Government without affecting the rate of interest on that debt, thereby reducing our recurring annual payment in respect of the debt (which has to be paid for 45 years) by Rs. 1·15 lakhs.

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1937-1938.

Seasons.

“I come now to the current year 1937-1938. In my budget speech last September I expressed the hope that conditions during the year might prove to be more favourable to the ryot than in the previous year. Rainfall was excessive in the Carnatic, the Central districts and the South, with the result that a number of districts were affected by abnormal floods. District Collectors were instructed to make arrangements for the early inspection of affected areas and to afford relief to sufferers, for which the Government placed such funds as were required at their disposal. The December rainfall was below normal.

Famine.

“The Royala Seema was very adversely affected. The *mungari* crops in parts of Bellary district fared badly owing to inadequate rains in May and June. The *kingari* crops were sown late after the rainfall in September and October, but owing to subsequent lack of rains the crops suffered a good deal. In parts of the Anantapur district both the monsoons were partial failures. Parts of the Kurnool district were also affected. The result was a contraction of normal agricultural operations in parts of these three districts necessitating the provision of employment for agricultural labourers. Some relief works and several test works have been opened in the Adoni, Alur, Bellary and Siruguppa taluks of the Bellary district, in the Gooty taluk of the Anantapur district and in the Pattikonda taluk of the Kurnool district, and the expenditure anticipated on them is about Rs. 2 lakhs in the current year and about Rs. 6 lakhs next year. In Anantapur, employment has also been provided by the opening of road works by the District Board which has been given grants amounting to Rs. 25,000. Similar road works financed by a Government grant of Rs. 15,000 have also been started by the Kurnool District Board in the affected parts of the district. These grants will have to be supplemented if as appears probable the works have to be continued until the next monsoon.

“To meet the scarcity of pasture and fodder, several ryots' forests in the Anantapur district have been thrown open for free grazing, and cultivation of fodder crops in tank beds has also been permitted. In the Bellary district a scheme for the collection and distribution of hill grass has been organized and a special staff to deal with applications

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for loans for the purchase of fodder has been sanctioned. The collection of land revenue as well as of loan instalments in respect of loans granted in previous years has also been suspended.

11.45 a.m.

“Water-supply is normal except in parts of these three districts and a few other areas. The outturn of crops has been generally fair except in Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur, and the condition of cattle good. The retail prices of all food-grains except ragi are generally at a rather higher level than during last year; but those of coconut, pepper, jagger and commercial crops (especially groundnut and cotton) continue to be disappointingly low.

“The actual figures of revenue and of expenditure to be met from current revenues for the year just closing, 1937-1938 as per the budget estimate and as per the revised estimate may be summarized as follows:—

	Budget Estimate.	Revised Estimate.	Increase.	1937-1938, Revised Estimate— Revenue Account.	Prices.
	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.		
Revenue	RS. 15,91.80	RS. 16,13.04	RS. 21.24		
Expenditure on revenue account	15,91.74	16,10.35	18.61		
Surplus	.06	2.69	..		

“Some explanation of the figures is however necessary for a proper understanding of the real position, since there are wide variations in the case of certain main heads which are of considerable importance. Thus the receipts from LAND REVENUE including irrigation are expected finally to fall below the original estimate by about Rs. 24 lakhs, one contributory reason for which is the grant of larger remissions of revenue than were provided for, mainly in the Royala Seema. There is further a heavy fall of over Rs. 6 lakhs under the head of STAMPS, which is entirely attributable to Judicial Stamps and indicates a continued decline in litigation. The receipts from ELECTRIC SUPPLIES would have exceeded the budget estimate by Rs. 2½ lakhs but for the fact that it was deemed proper, in view of the rapid development and intensive working of the Pykara system, to begin contribution to the depreciation and special reserve funds of the project

from the revenues in the current year, the fifth year of operation, instead of postponing it to commence from the sixth year as originally intended. As a result of this the net receipts from electric schemes will fall some Rs. 3 lakhs below the budget estimate. On the other hand, it is anticipated that the EXCISE revenue will exceed the budget estimate by Rs. 15½ lakhs on account of increase of receipts from rentals for shops. Increases in revenue, though not on the same scale, are also found in the case of other heads such as FOREST (Rs. 3½ lakhs), REGISTRATION (Rs. 2½ lakhs) and MOTOR VEHICLES (Rs. 6 lakhs).

“The net effect of all these variations would be a fall in the total revenue for the year of about Rs. 3 lakhs, but this will be converted into an increase of Rs. 21.24 lakhs by the assignment of INCOME-TAX which we may expect to receive from the Central Government at the end of this month under the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order in Council, 1936. It is a matter for gratification that the distribution of income-tax to the Provinces under the Neimeyer award has commenced sooner than was until recently expected, and it is to be hoped that this year's revival of the prosperity of the Indian Railway systems will continue, in spite of the set back experienced in the past three months, so as to permit of the continuance of the distribution without interruption and without reduction in the amount of the distributable pool. The amount for which credit has been taken in the estimates on account of income-tax assignment is Rs. 24.25 lakhs in the current year and Rs. 20.55 lakhs in the ensuing year, which was calculated on the latest information available at the time of preparation of our estimates. We have since received advice that these amounts may have to be reduced by Rs. 3.75 lakhs and Rs. 1.35 lakhs respectively, but as our estimates had by then gone to Press the figures originally given stand. But, as against this, probable reductions on the revised-estimate-figures of expenditure under certain heads have similarly come to notice too late to be taken into account, and it is therefore possible that the final account-figures will not be very greatly affected. I should perhaps mention that our income-tax receipts in the current year will be based on the Government of India's final estimate which will be made by about the 20th March, and will be credited in our accounts by the 31st March. This payment in respect of 1937-1938 will be subject to adjustment

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Income-tax
assignment.

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in the accounts of 1938-1939 after the actuals for the year are known, about August or September, and the same process will be repeated in each subsequent year of the five-year-period during which the distributable amount depends upon the Central Government's receipts from income-tax and railway contribution. Within that period income-tax assignment cannot be regarded as an assured source of revenue for the Provinces.

"The revised estimates of expenditure on revenue account for the current year under the various main heads do not show such violent departures from the budget estimates as in the case of revenue. The sum total of the variations on the basis of the original budget scheme comes to a saving of Rs. 7.87 lakhs which, with the improvement in revenue of Rs. 21.24 lakhs, would have increased the budget surplus from Rs. .06 lakh to Rs. 29.17 lakhs. But the House will recollect that in the Budget for 1937-1938 a departure was made from past practice in meeting the expenditure on the commutation of pensions from non-revenue sources. As stated by me in my last budget speech, that was done as a temporary measure until proposals for increasing revenue or for reducing expenditure in other directions could take shape and materialise. In view of the improvement in our finances which I have just explained, it is proposed to debit the expenditure on commutations this year to revenue, and a supplementary statement of expenditure will be presented to the House shortly for this purpose. The effect of this change will be to reduce the revenue surplus for the year from Rs. 29.17 lakhs to Rs. 17.69 lakhs, and to release for other useful expenditure on revenue account something over a lakh of rupees per annum for the next 10 years, which would otherwise have had to be provided from revenue for the repayment of the debit to capital.

"But a surplus of Rs. 17.69 lakhs is itself unnecessarily large when there is such a crying need for funds for carrying out schemes for the welfare of our people which, though of lasting benefit, cannot properly be regarded as of a 'capital' nature. First and foremost among the pressing problems in most districts in this Province is the provision of an adequate supply of pure drinking water for the people in the rural areas. In my last budget speech I explained the general principles on which the Government propose to tackle this problem. Our aim is to secure, by means of a comprehensive scheme spread over a number of years, that within a reasonable time every village in the Province will have the benefit

Rural water-
supply.

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of a pure water-supply, in the form of either a protected well with a pulley, if not with overhead tank and taps, or a bore well with hand-pump attached, or a connection from an existing municipal water main for villages through or near which such a main might happen to pass. We consider that this scheme should be financed from Provincial funds without insisting on any contribution from the villages or from the District Boards. We have made a start in this direction from the provision of Rs. 1.50 lakhs in the current year's budget for rural water-supply by placing at the disposal of the Collectors of 18 districts adequate funds to enable them to provide protected wells in eight to ten villages in each district, and with instructions to select for the purpose villages which stand most urgently in need of a water-supply. Meanwhile the Director of Public Health is preparing a programme for the ensuing and subsequent years in the form of a priority list of villages. In order that the scheme may not be held up for want of funds the Government propose this year to establish an earmarked Fund like the Famine Relief Fund for the improvement of rural water-supply which will serve this one specific and great purpose. Contributions from revenue will be made to this fund from time to time in succeeding years as money becomes available, and it is proposed to start the fund this year with an initial contribution of Rs. 15 lakhs in the current financial year, for which a supplementary statement of expenditure will shortly be presented to the House. I hope the House will give its seal of approval to this great step by which the Government hope to ensure steady progress of the scheme independently of the budgetary exigencies of particular years. The voting of this sum of Rs. 15 lakhs out of the revenue account in the current year will reduce the revenue surplus for the year from Rs. 17.69 lakhs to Rs. 2.69 lakhs, which should be adequate to ensure a balanced account when the final accounts for the year come to be made up.

Fund for Im-
provement of
Rural Water-
Supply.

"I need not trouble the House with a detailed analysis of the figures under the Capital and Debt Heads. It will be observed that Capital expenditure is expected to fall short of the budget provision by Rs. 16.91 lakhs, which is due mainly to the proposed transfer from capital to revenue of the expenditure on commutation of pensions to which reference has already been made. Other contributory factors are the lapse of the provision made for the construction of a Parliament House, large recoveries by the sale of Cauvery-Mettur project machinery which are adjusted in reduction of expenditure, and somewhat slower progress than was anticipated on certain electricity schemes and civil works. Under Loans

1937-1938,
Capital and
Debt Heads.

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and Advances, recoveries are estimated to fall a little short of the budget on account of the postponement of recoveries of loan instalments from agriculturists in the famine districts of Royala Seema, while the disbursements under Loans to Agriculturists for redemption of debt are likely to be about Rs. 18 lakhs less than the budget through the scheme being held in abeyance pending the formulation of a scheme in accordance with the Agriculturists' Relief measure. A further major variation from the budget occurs in respect of the loan floated in August last. The loan was heavily oversubscribed and partial allotment had to be made. As the allotment had to be made at a round percentage figure, the nominal value of the loan as issued came to Rs. 164.03 lakhs as against Rs. 150 lakhs contemplated in the budget. In this connection I should like, in passing, to express the appreciation of the Government for the efficient arrangements made by the Reserve Bank for the flotation of the loan, and for the confidence shown by the investing public in the financial strength and stability of our Province.

"As a result of the several variations which I have considered it desirable to explain in some detail, and of the variations under other debt and deposit head transactions which do not require specific mention, the total cash closing balance for the current year, i.e., excluding the balance to the credit of the Famine Relief Fund held in securities, is expected to stand at Rs. 109.88 lakhs inclusive of the minimum balance which we have to maintain with the Reserve Bank and of the actual cash in our treasuries and sub-treasuries, as against Rs. 64.62 lakhs anticipated in the budget.

"We can now turn to the budget estimates for the new year. The figures for Part I of the Budget for 1938-1939, i.e., for the estimates of revenue and of expenditure on standing sanctions based on existing orders and commitments compare as follows with the Revised Estimates for 1937-1938:—

	Revised Estimate, 1937-1938.	Budget Estimate, 1938-1939, Part I only.		Decrease.
	LAKHS. RS.	LAKHS. RS.	LAKHS. RS.	
Revenue	..	..	16,08.89	4.15
Expenditure	..	..	15,80.51	29.84
Surplus	..	..	2.38	..

1937-1938,
Closing
Balance.1938-1939,
Budget
Estimates—
Revenue
Account,
Part I.

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"The figure Rs. 16,08.89 lakhs given as the Part I Budget estimate of revenue for 1938-1939 represents the total revenue anticipated for 1938-1939 without taking into account additional revenue or loss of revenue from Part II schemes which have been incorporated in the printed estimates now before the House, to which I will come presently. It shows a fall below the figure of the revised estimate of revenue for 1937-1938 of Rs. 4.15 lakhs. As I have already stated, the amount of INCOME-TAX assignment for which we have taken credit in 1938-1939 is Rs. 20.55 lakhs. According to later advices the estimate may prove to be too high by Rs. 1.35 lakhs, but the difference is not great in comparison with variations between estimates and actuals of receipts and expenditure which habitually occur, and which generally succeed in cancelling each other out. The other variations under major heads between the Part I estimate of revenue for next year and the revised estimate of revenue for the current year practically neutralise themselves in the sum total.

"The decrease in expenditure of Rs. 29.84 lakhs is mainly accounted for by the fact that the figure for the current year includes Rs. 15 lakhs contribution to the rural water-supply improvement fund, Rs. 11.48 lakhs for expenditure on commutation of pensions, and provision for the Part II schemes for the year. We do not propose to make a transfer from revenue to the fund for the improvement of rural water-supply next year unless the revised estimate for that year indicates that there would otherwise be an appreciable revenue surplus. We also propose to make provision for the expenditure on the commutation of pensions next year under Capital, as we did in the original budget for the current year, in order to have an adequate amount available for Part II schemes. This decision also might be reversed later on and the expenditure written back to the revenue account, as is being done this year, should there be an improvement in our finances during the year.

"I feel that a detailed exposition of some of the major policies on the basis of which the Part I Estimates have been framed will be expected of me, and this is perhaps the most appropriate place to give it. On the important subject of Land Revenue policy, which is rendered most difficult not only by its intrinsic nature but by reason of the limitations and

Land
Revenue
policy.

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difficulties of Provincial finance under the Government of India Act, I am not in a position to say much at present. The Government have under their anxious consideration the question whether they may formulate a new and workable policy to be pursued in respect of the Land Revenue system, and in that connection the recommendations of the Land Revenue Enquiry Committee form the most important starting point. For the current fasli the Government have in a Press Communiqué, dated the 16th December 1937, announced the special land revenue concessions to be granted. It is estimated that the concessions thus announced will involve a remission of land revenue in the fasli amounting to Rs. 73.15 lakhs as against Rs. 56.55 lakhs in 1936-1937. The Budget for 1938-1939 has been framed on the assumption that concessions to the same extent will be repeated next fasli also.

New
taxation.

“The estimates for next year do not take credit for additional revenue from any new major taxation measures. The Government are alive to the necessity for finding more revenue and undertaking the unpleasant task of expanding existing sources of revenue or imposing new taxation, and the problem is being subjected to detailed examination along several lines. But the discovery and detailed examination of new sources of revenue in a Province like ours, whose capacity has been already tapped by no unskilful hands, is not a thing which can be done in a few months, and large measures are not yet ready for introduction. Revised scales of Registration fees have been brought into force since January 1938, which have brought the fees in this province into line with the scales prevailing in other provinces like Bengal and Bombay. The annual increase on this account is estimated at between four and five lakhs of rupees.

Economy
measures.

“Every effort is being made to secure additional resources or to cut down expenditure within the existing system, by energetically pursuing the economies previously initiated. Measures which were approved and taken into account in the budget for the current year were estimated to increase revenue by Rs. 7.57 lakhs and to reduce expenditure by Rs. 1.75 lakhs annually. Further measures which we have since brought into effect have increased those figures to Rs. 14½ lakhs and Rs. 5½ lakhs per annum respectively. The Budget for 1938-1939 thus benefits to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs in all as a result of these

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efforts, which anyone conversant with the difficulties of administrative organization and knowing its resilient opposition to economies would admit, is no small sum. I may mention a few of the economy measures which have recently been adopted.

Salary
reduction.

“In the important matter of salary reduction, which I adumbrated in my last Budget Speech, new revised scales of pay applicable to new entrants and promotees in the Provincial and Subordinate Services have been brought into effect from 1st January 1938 and 1st February 1938 respectively. In view of the Press Communiqué which was published on the subject I need not take time now over the details. It is estimated that the new scales will give an ultimate annual saving, in the case of the Provincial Services of Rs. 12½ lakhs as compared with the 1933 scales and of Rs. 30½ lakhs as compared with the old scales, and in the case of the Subordinate Services of Rs. 3½ lakhs as compared with the 1933 scales and of Rs. 18 lakhs as compared with the old scales. As the Government decided to apply the new scales only to new entrants or promotees and not to the present incumbents of posts, the saving will of course be small in the beginning, but will increase at an accelerated rate year by year until the full annual saving of Rs. 16 lakhs as compared with the 1933 scales is realized. The actual reduction of expenditure on this account in 1938-1939 has been estimated at about Rs. 41,000, for which credit has been taken in the estimates, but it might quite possibly be more.

Honorary
Medical
Officers.

“With a view to effect some saving in the cost of Medical administration, as well as to help the medical profession with opportunities for service and improvement, the Government sanctioned in December 1937 a scheme of reorganization of the Madras Medical Services and extension of the system of appointing honorary medical officers. Under this scheme, barring the Surgeon-General, Superintendents of hospitals in the Madras City, District Medical Officers and Superintendents of District Headquarters hospitals, Chief Medical Officers in charge of hospitals with a bed strength of 30 and above, Resident Medical Officers, posts in the Bacteriological department and other such special places, all appointments in Government medical institutions will be thrown open as and when vacancies arise to honorary medical officers, so far as medical practitioners may be available suitable to take up such appointments. Seven posts of Civil Assistant Surgeons and three posts of Women Sub-Assistant Surgeons will be immediately filled up

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by honoraries. There will be some saving on this account in the current year. In 1938-1939 the amount of saving is estimated at Rs. 4,000 for which credit has been taken in the Budget. Ultimately it is hoped that there will be a recurring saving, if not of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum as estimated in the department, of a considerable sum. There will be further appreciable savings not only in regard to pay but on account of allowances and leave and pensionary charges. The departmental calculations as to savings are based on one honorary doctor taking the place of one full-timed paid officer. Experience may show that in many posts two or more honoraries will be required to replace one paid man and this may make the savings rather less than estimated, but all the same the gain to the tax-payer will be considerable.

"The Government have decided to put into practice a policy of conditional releases in favour of prisoners convicted of crimes other than those that may be deemed to be of a type indicating that such clemency might prove dangerous to the community. Such a policy is, in view of the recommendations of prison-reformers as well as official committees, long overdue. The cases of all persons confined in various jails sentenced to any term of six months or more, who in the opinion of Government can be released without danger to society, are being examined and they are given generous remissions and released in batches subject to continuing good behaviour after being set at large. Besides being in furtherance of a generous and approved policy of reformation of criminals, this large measure of reduction in the jail population will result in reduced expenditure in jails. Credit has been taken in the budget estimate for 1938-1939 for a saving of half a lakh of rupees on this account.

"A saving of public expenditure has been effected by the abolition of the annual summer move of the Government to Ootacamund. It has, however, been decided, for reasons based on what may in one sense be called personal considerations, and which the Government are satisfied are as just as they are expedient, that Secretaries to Government may this year spend about two months at Ootacamund with just their personal staff; but the main part of the expenditure due to the exodus of the Government as a whole, viz., the Ministers, the Secretariat officers and a good part of the Secretariat establishment, has been abolished. This has saved nearly half a lakh of rupees.

Conditional
release of
convicts.Ootacamund
exodus.

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Sale of Cloth
Act.

"A measure which, though not primarily intended as a taxation measure, is yet revenue producing, is the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Act, the main object of which is to regulate the trade of dealers in cloth within this Province with a view to encourage the production and use of handloom products. It is too early to know the financial results of this measure with any degree of exactitude, for although licences for the current year should have been taken out by the middle of December 1937, the penal provisions of the Act have not so far been enforced in view of the short notice at which the Act was introduced, and the prevailing ignorance about the details of the new law. It was not the intention of the Government to levy court-fees on applications for the grant or renewal of licences and this position has been made clear by orders. For eighteen districts in respect of which information has been received, 508 licences have been issued on payment of a fee of Rs. 5 each, 10,000 licences on payment of a fee of Rs. 2 each, and 8,640 licences have been issued free of fee to dealers exclusively selling handloom products. Applications are however still being received. It is clear that all dealers liable to be licensed have not yet come in and these figures do not represent the full receipts that may ultimately be expected on this account. There is reason to believe that an annual revenue of Rs. 1 lakh may not be very wide of the mark.

Education.

"In view of the importance of the Provincial Educational Budget, which now amounts to over Rs. 2 crores 60 lakhs per annum, some reference to the policy of Government is necessary. The general policy in respect of elementary education as outlined in the Press Communiqué, dated the 26th June 1937, is in the main being carried out. The report of the Curriculum Committee appointed in accordance with that policy, which has just been received and is under the consideration of the Government, seems to make recommendations to some extent on the same lines as the reorganization of elementary education contemplated in the Wardha Scheme. But whether the proposals of the Wardha Scheme taken as a whole will reduce or increase Provincial expenditure on education it is not possible as yet to say. The Government have the whole question under their consideration and meanwhile budget provision is being made in accordance with existing arrangements.

Broadcast-
ing.

"The short wave transmitting station at Saidapet (Madras) is nearing completion and is expected to start functioning in two or three months' time; while the medium wave transmitter at Trichinopoly is expected to be ready towards the end of the year. The capital cost

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Ameliorative
measures for
Scheduled
Classes.

of construction in both these cases is being borne by the Central Government, and leases of studio buildings at both the places are being arranged for on behalf of that Government. The Government are arranging for the supply of radio receiver sets to a few important villages in each of the districts. The sets will receive from the transmitter stations broadcast talks which, it is hoped, will provide the rural population with healthy amusement in the evening hours and instruction on matters which are of immediate importance to them, e.g., agriculture, sanitation, diseases, ruling prices of commodities, and the like. Orders have been placed with the All-India Radio for 100 such sets, towards the cost of which a small contribution has been voluntarily made by several villages. More than half of the municipalities in the Presidency have offered to purchase and maintain about 50 receiver sets for their respective towns, and orders for these sets have also been placed with the All-India Radio. All the 150 sets are expected to be supplied during the course of the official year, 1938-1939, and budgetary provision has been made accordingly.

12-15 p.m.

"Lastly, I should like to mention that the budget for next year provides for a continued expansion of the Government's activities for the amelioration of the condition of the Harijans. As the House is aware, the ordinary Revenue Department staffs or special staffs directly under the control of Collectors and under the supervision of the Commissioner of Labour are working in all districts to cater for the special needs of these unfortunate people, such as the provision of educational facilities, including maintenance of hostels and boarding houses and grants towards payment of examination fees; drinking-water wells; pathways, burial grounds, and other such matters. Co-operative societies formed by members of these classes are given grants for clerical assistance, and from next year, members will be given also grants for payment of registration fees and fees for the production of encumbrance certificates. They are freely given grants and loans for the acquisition of house-sites, although unfortunately a substantial part of the loans so granted has often times to be written off as irrecoverable together with accrued interest. The amount spent on these special activities for the scheduled classes was Rs. 8-98 lakhs in 1936-1937, the revised estimate for the current year stands at Rs. 9-77 lakhs, while the budget provision for 1938-1939 is Rs. 11-24 lakhs, an increase by Rs. 2½ lakhs over the expenditure in 1936-1937. These figures are exclusive of the cost of supervision by the Commissioner of Labour, and also of the provision made for these classes along with others under the heads Education, Industries and Fisheries.

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1938-1939,
Budget
Estimates—
Revenue
Account—
Part II.

"The anticipated surplus on Part I of the Budget has been shown to be 28-38 lakhs of rupees, and the question which the Government had to decide was how best this amount could be utilized for the well-being of the Province and for the health, happiness and prosperity of its peoples. In view of the Government's policy of working towards the complete prohibition of drugs and intoxicating beverages throughout the Province, it will come as no surprise to the House to know that the question of utilizing a part of the improvement in our finances to carry that policy another step forward received first consideration.

Prohibition.

"The Prohibition Act has been in force in Salem District since October 1st, 1937. The enforcement is in the hands of the police who, with but slightly increased strength, have been working with most commendable energy and zeal under the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate. A Prohibition Officer and a Special Development Officer are also assisting the Collector. The excise staff formerly employed in the district has been abolished. I can say confidently that the working of the Act in Salem has so far been very satisfactory. There can be no doubt that it has effectively stopped the consumption of liquor in the district. The success so far attained has been largely due to the support of the general public and to the existence of a strong popular opinion in favour of it. It may be admitted that all persons who used to take liquor have not willingly surrendered the habit, and that there are still a considerable number of persons who would, if permitted, resort to illicit courses either for indulgence sake or for making illegal profit. But they are effectively deterred from breaking the law not only by the preventive measures of the local authorities but by fear of the social obloquy which they will incur. There have been, as was perhaps inevitable, a certain number of cases of smuggling of liquor and drugs from adjacent non-prohibition areas and also a few cases of illicit manufacture of toddy and arrack in the district. This was only to be expected; but it is anticipated that, as the police acquire experience in the detection of this sort of crime which was hitherto outside their province and as popular opinion is more effectively organized in the villages and in the Taluk and District Committees for promoting preventive and ameliorative measures, the number of offences against the Act will be materially reduced.

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"It is calculated that the net cost of Prohibition for the last six months of the financial year 1937-1938 will amount to Rs. 13,19,000, made up of Rs. 13 lakhs loss of excise revenue and Rs. 51,000 cost of additional police and special officers, offset by a saving of Rs. 32,000 on the excise staff previously employed in the district. The cost for the year 1938-1939 is estimated at Rs. 26, 22,000.

"All observers agree that Prohibition is welcomed by the mass of the people, especially the women, and that the families of the labouring classes in particular have benefited considerably by the diversion of the money which used to be spent on liquor to the provision of more and better food. There is not, so far, concrete and reliable evidence to show that the drinking classes have saved money as a result of Prohibition, but it is generally stated that more money is expended than formerly on food and clothing, and on amusements. I may be permitted to quote from the latest report of the Collector, Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, a passage wherein he summarizes the position as he has observed it on the spot:—

'Viewing generally the effect of Prohibition on the lives of the people, I am convinced, after three months' experience, that Prohibition is proving a great boon to the poorer classes in this district. Leading as they do a hand-to-mouth existence, earning at the best barely enough to maintain the minimum standard of life necessary for health and strength, they simply cannot afford the expensive luxury of drink which used to reduce the small earnings of the labouring classes to a miserable pittance, quite insufficient for the proper maintenance of a family. Drink brought misery into the homes of many thousands of the poor classes in this district, misery in the shape of domestic unhappiness, insufficiency of food and crushing debt. Already in thousands of homes in this district conditions have changed to a remarkable extent. Domestic brawls have ceased, a sufficiency of food is available, and the grip of the money-lender has relaxed. This has happened within the short space of four months. If this Act continues to be enforced no less effectively than it is now, I anticipate a great and permanent improvement in the material well-being of the peasants and the labourers of this district.'

"The Special Development Officer has been appointed to organize activities and interests for the leisure of the drinking classes and to institute and foster thrift societies. Measures are also being taken to organize alternative employment for those whose means of livelihood depended on the production and sale of liquor.

"There is no doubt that prohibition has had an excellent start in Salem. The main problem now is to maintain and develop the forces of public opinion on the side of prohibition. This calls for the co-operation of all officials and non-officials in the district. Government have stressed the responsibility of their officers in the matter and have every reason to believe that the support of the general public will continue to assist and make even more effective the working of the Act.

"Coming to the question of extension of the Prohibition area, it is desirable that the new area should not be too widely separated from the present dry area, since the object of a later stage as soon as that becomes possible should be to link them both up into one large compact area with a minimum of external boundary across which smuggling might take place. Acting on these lines, the Government have decided to introduce prohibition into the two Districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah as from 1st October 1938, the detailed arrangements being generally similar to those adopted in the case of Salem district. The additional loss of revenue on this account may be put at about Rs. 8 lakhs in 1938-1939 and at Rs. 16 lakhs in future years.

"Another proposal of the Government also involves the relinquishment of a big slice of revenue for the benefit of the rural population. The Government propose to reduce by half the present rates of grazing fees in forests throughout the Presidency, with effect from the 1st April 1938 (Cheers). By this means a longstanding grievance will be met and a large section of the agricultural population benefited. The loss of revenue will be Rs. 3.07 lakhs per annum.

"After allowing for these two measures, the balance available for the new expenditure in 1938-1939 comes to a little over Rs. 17 lakhs, and the schemes of new expenditure to which it has been allotted will be found detailed on pages 169 to 178 of the Finance Secretary's Memorandum. Generally speaking, provision has been made for only such building and road works as are regarded as absolutely essential, and because works have been constructed or commitments entered into on a promise of grants, sanction for which cannot reasonably be postponed any longer. Provision has been made for all protected water-supply and drainage schemes put forward by local bodies in the mufassal, as also for anti-malaria measures and measures for the control and eradication of plague; for the appointment of health officers in certain municipalities where they

Grazing fees.

Schemes of new expenditure.

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have not been appointed; for subsidies for opening new rural dispensaries and employment of midwives in some of the existing dispensaries; for the opening of cancer treatment facilities in five headquarter hospitals; for the teaching of Hindustani in 125 secondary schools; for a grant for new buildings for the Pachayappa's College, the proposal to rehouse which in a new and suitable locality can no longer be justly opposed or delayed; for fruit culture and nurseries; for the expansion of the Veterinary department; for expenditure on establishments required to supervise agricultural credit institutions to enable agriculturists to take full advantage of the scaling down of debts under the Debt Relief enactment; for further ameliorative work for Harijans; for strengthening the supervision of the working of ryots' forests, and for the supply of bedding for the first time to under-trial prisoners in police lock-ups.

"A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs will be transferred from the Rural Water-supply Fund for work in this direction in 1938-1939. This amount may be increased by a further transfer later in the year if it is found possible to spend more within the year.

"For the further development of handspinning and hand-weaving, a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made which will be utilized on the same lines and for the same purpose as were adopted in the current year, viz., for the manufacture and introduction of improved appliances and implements, the training and employing of workers, and the payment of a subsidy calculated at the rate of one anna per square yard of increase of actual production of handspun handwoven *khadi*, shown by the All-India Spinners' Association in the Province.

"The gross expenditure on the new schemes thus summarized amounts to nearly eighteen lakhs which, following the classification adopted by me in last year's budget speech, is distributed as follows:—

	Amount.	Percentage to total.
	LAKHS.	PER CENT.
	RS.	
Primary functions of Government	..	4.8
Development Services ..	..	92.2
Charges common to both the above	..	3.0

"Even under the first category, about one-third of the expenditure represents the cost of the re-employment of forest panchayat deputy tahsildars and the supply of bedding to under-trial prisoners.

"After allowing for the revenue which it is anticipated will accrue from the adoption of some of the new schemes, and of the extra portion of the cost of the Public Works establishment and tools and plant charges which will be transferred from the revenue account to capital on account of the acceptance of some new schemes debitable to capital heads under Irrigation and Civil Works, the revenue account for next year is expected to close with a small surplus of Rs. 12,500.

1938-1939,
Revenue
Account—
Surplus.

"As regards capital expenditure, what is anticipated next year on account of electricity, irrigation, cinchona and building schemes already in progress comes to Rs. 83.41 lakhs, and a provision of Rs. 12.69 lakhs has to be made as already explained for payment of commuted value of pensions. New capital schemes have been provided for as detailed on pages 178-179 of the Budget Memorandum, for which Rs. 38.11 lakhs have been set aside.

1939-1939,
Capital
expenditure.

"There may be an impression that relatively more funds are being provided for new electrical works than for new irrigation schemes. It is wrong to assume that expenditure on these two classes of works is mutually exclusive. Our credit stands high, and the budget proposals for next year which I am now submitting to the House will, I venture to anticipate, tend to enhance it. There is reason to suppose that we shall be able to raise on reasonable terms whatever money might be required for all our remunerative capital schemes, whether the latter be electrical or irrigation. Irrigation works have been the subject of State attention for a long time in our Province. Whereas electricity is in a much earlier stage of development and, naturally, the scope for expansion is much greater than it is in the case of irrigation.

2-30 p.m.

"I would like to let the House know how the position stands in the matter of the State's generation and distribution of electricity. The Pykara Hydro-electric scheme is now in the fifth year of operation. The whole of the Nilgiris and Coimbatore and parts of Malabar and Madura districts are served by it. Provision has been made for additional

Electricity.

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storage of water by the construction of the Mukurti reservoir which is nearing completion. The erection of additional generating plant and penstock pipes sanctioned in 1936 is in progress. A network of rural distribution lines for agricultural and other purposes has been laid in the Coimbatore district and similar distribution of power to rural areas in other districts is being undertaken. Regular supply of Pykara power to Madura was given in January 1938 and extension of work from Madura to Virudunagar, Rajapalayam and Koilpatti is in full swing. The Mettur hydro-electric scheme is now nearing completion, but the operation of the system commenced even from November 1937. A textile mill and an electro-chemical factory are under construction in the Mettur township area and they are expected to take supply during 1938. Salem, Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts which were first served by Pykara power have been transferred to the Mettur system. The other districts served by Mettur power are South Arcot, North Arcot, Chittoor and part of Chingleput. Work on the extension of transmission lines to Villupuram, Conjeevaram and Arkonam and to Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri is in progress.

"We are also establishing big thermal electric stations in areas which are not at present served by hydro-electric schemes. One such thermal station is now under construction at Vizagapatam which is expected to be in operation in April 1938. It will serve the whole of the Vizagapatam district. It is possible, however, that part of this load may be transferred to another hydro-electric scheme in the same district which is at present under investigation. A similar thermal station is under construction at Bezwada which is intended to co-ordinate electric supply in the Kistna, West Godavari and East Godavari districts in conjunction with a hydro-electric scheme at Chettupet.

"The possibility of sinking deep bore wells in the Royala Seema for lifting water for irrigation by electric pumping is under investigation. Sites were selected near Cuddapah and boring was done in one of the sites. Tests with high capacity pumps are being made. If the experiment proves successful investigation will be made in other places and if they also prove successful small thermal stations can be established for pumping water for irrigation and drinking purposes. The importance of these experiments in Royala Seema

cannot be overemphasized as the area suffers from periodical failure of rains, and the discovery of a means whereby water can be found and supplied to the villages will go a long way towards relieving the periodic distress.

"The most important of the new schemes proposed for 1938-1939 is the Papanasam hydro-thermal electric scheme which will meet the requirements of the Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely districts. This scheme will constitute the major hydro-electric project that will fill up and complete the scheme of electric generation and distribution in the province. Other important new schemes proposed for 1938-1939 are the extensions of Pykara power to Pakala and Tirupati, and the establishment of thermal stations at Cocanada and Palacole which will supplement the needs of the East Godavari and West Godavari districts. Pykara power is now supplied to Palghat. The question of further extension of Pykara power to the West Coast has been investigated and 1940-1941 may probably witness the supply of power to the rest of Malabar.

Irrigation.

"I may now explain the position as regards the salient features under irrigation. Negotiations between the Governments of Madras, Mysore and Hyderabad as to the sharing of the waters of the Tungabhadra have not been easy but a decision is expected to be reached soon. Such delicate transactions cannot be profitably hustled. The Government is conducting an exhaustive and intensive programme of experiments at Siruguppa in the Bellary district to determine the reaction of the typical soils, both heavy and light black cotton, and to determine the most suitable crops and their rotation. The experiments should be conducted for a period of three years before drawing final conclusions.

"The other important scheme under consideration is the Bhavani project in the Coimbatore district. The Government have before them a modified scheme which appears to have certain advantages over those hitherto considered. In the new scheme the proposal is that the whole project area should be supplied with water from October to February in order to enable the ryots to grow commercial crops like cotton, while during the South-West monsoon when the canals will be closed, the ryots can grow a green manure crop free of charge. The question whether this scheme should be further investigated is under consideration.

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"The Government sanctioned in April 1935 a special and accelerated programme of improvements to minor works of irrigation costing Rs. 50 lakhs to be spread over three years. The scheme contemplated the wholesale overhaul of the entire tank system with a view to executing repairs to bunds, sluices, supply channels, etc., and restoring them to their original effectiveness and efficiency as irrigation sources. It was also considered that the special programme would enable the expenditure on ordinary maintenance to be greatly reduced for some time hereafter. So far as the budget estimate for 1938-1939 is concerned, there is a reduction of Rs. 4 lakhs in the provision from current revenues under minor irrigation consequent on the expenditure on minor works of irrigation under the special programme.

"The grant of State loans is, in our country, an important item of service which the Government have to render to the people. It is of the nature of remunerative capital expenditure, and the total provision for this purpose made in next year's budget is Rs. 117.55 lakhs. Out of this sum, as much as Rs. 50 lakhs are earmarked for loans to agriculturists which it is intended to utilize solely to enable the smaller ryots to take full advantage of the scaling down obtained by law under the new measure for the Agriculturists' Debt Relief. In former times when reduction of debt could be achieved only by voluntary conciliation, the credit provided by the State could not be properly or adequately utilized. It is hoped that under the different conditions created by compulsory scaling down the half crore provided for loans to peasants will be fully utilized.

"Another sum of Rs. 7.27 lakhs is provided for other loans to agriculturists, e.g., for the erection of better dwelling houses; Rs. 53.34 lakhs for loans to the Madras Corporation and other local bodies for their capital expenditure; and Rs. 6.77 lakhs for advances to industrial concerns and co-operative societies for the scheduled classes and others.

"After taking into account the anticipated opening cash balance on the 1st April 1938 of Rs. 109.88 lakhs, the revenue surplus for the year 1938-1939 of Rs. 12 lakh and the probable debits and credits under all capital, debt, deposit, remittance and suspense heads during the year, the position at the end of the year would be a shortage of Rs. 110.43 lakhs, as against remunerative capital expenditure planned for the year to the extent of

1938-1939,
Loans for
smaller
peasantry.1938-1939,
Ways and
Means.

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New loan.

Conclusion.

Rs. 2½ crores. As the House is aware, we have under our agreement with the Reserve Bank to maintain with the Bank a minimum deposit of Rs. 40 lakhs, and we also have to provide cash in the Provincial treasuries and sub-treasuries, which is likely to amount to Rs. 15.35 lakhs. The Government have therefore decided to float a loan of Rs. 175 lakhs in the course of next year which will be sufficient to meet all the requirements of the year and to leave a free cash balance at the end of the year of about Rs. 9.22 lakhs. At the risk of repetition and of stressing the obvious, I might explain, in view of certain misapprehension which were disclosed during the last budget debate, that no portion of this loan money is required or will be used for revenue (i.e., current) expenditure, since the revenue account by itself works to a surplus. The remunerative expenditure proposed to be incurred next year on capital works and loans to agriculturists, local bodies and others is about Rs. 222 lakhs, which is much in excess of the loan of Rs. 175 lakhs which the Government contemplate raising. The balance will be found from the free opening cash balance, recoveries on account of loans previously advanced by Government, and other non-revenue sources such as the net credit under deposit heads.

"This, Sir, completes the picture of the finances of the Province in the three years covered by the review, the year that has last closed, the year that is now about to close, and the year which is about to begin. I must have strained the patience of Hon'ble Members, but I trust I have made the general outline clear against its proper background of the Government's policy. The figures and facts of revenue and expenditure and balances are dull and lifeless and the peculiar classification of budget items tends to make them even unintelligible. But read on the background of an eager policy for the betterment of the conditions of life of the millions of the sons and daughters of the Province whom we have the honour to serve, these same figures become quick with life and meaning.

"A land revenue remission again this year of three-quarters of a crore, the initiation of an earmarked fund at the back of a planned policy of rural water-supply with a substantial start of fifteen lakhs of rupees, half a crore to be utilized in the coming twelve months for redemption of the debts of the small peasantry, a fifty per cent reduction of grazing fees and the extension of Prohibition to two more districts are, I believe, enough to commend this budget that I have the honour to present to the House.

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"I may claim, Sir, on behalf of the Government, that we have made good headway during the last eight months in implementing our promises of service to the masses. Apart from our legislative record, which perhaps does not fall within the scope of a budget speech, it will be seen that although in 1938-1939 the Government will be sacrificing a considerable amount of revenue as compared with 1936-1937, viz., Rs. 34 lakhs excise revenue, Rs. 18 lakhs land revenue and Rs. 3 lakhs forest revenue or Rs. 55 lakhs in all, the provision made in the Budget for 1938-1939 exceeds the expenditure in 1936-1937 by Rs. 5½ lakhs under Education; by Rs. 5 lakhs under Medical relief, by Rs. 20 lakhs under Public Health and rural water-supply; by Rs. 4 lakhs under Agriculture, Veterinary, and Co-operative Credit, and by Rs. 4½ lakhs under Industries. All this has been possible because we have had the firmness to oppose expenditure of certain types. These figures must stand for a measure of contribution towards the improvement of the conditions of the life of the people. And this has been done while maintaining as stable an equilibrium between Revenue and Expenditure as should satisfy the most exacting of financial critics. Our debt position is no less sound. The total of the Provincial debt including all deposit liabilities falls short by more than 6 crores of rupees of the value of remunerative assets held by the Provincial Government. I claim with confidence that the advance we have so far been able to make is built upon a foundation of sound policy together with financial rectitude. Thus only can we hope for assurance for the future and backing for further advance in the direction which we hope to pursue.

"With these observations, Sir, I commend to the acceptance of the House the Revised Estimates for 1937-1938 and the Budget Estimates for 1938-1939.

"It is not as a mere convention but to give sincere expression to what I feel that, before closing, I desire to tender on this occasion my thanks to Mr. C. E. Jones and generally to the Finance Department for all their diligent and untiring labour in the preparation of these estimates."

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IV.—THE MADRAS MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill^a further to amend the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1938) for a certain purpose, and move—

'that it be taken into consideration at once.'

"It is a one-clause Bill and it is moved to obviate a technical difficulty on account of a change in the law. Under section 10 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, certain payments have to be made to the local bodies out of the collections made by Government by way of taxes on motor vehicles. Under the old Government of India Act, there was a provision that any moneys that is liable to be paid to any local body by virtue of a local enactment shall be paid and shall be non-votable. But, under the Government of India Act, 1935, it is provided that when provincial revenues are required to be charged for any item of expenditure it can be done only by a particular piece of legislation. The transitory provisions made under the Act give power to the Local Government to the end of 1939, and so to make further payments under section 10 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, this Bill has been introduced. Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

- Clause 2 was put and carried.

12-41
p.m.

Clause 1.

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'that in clause 1, for the figures '1937', the figures '1938' be substituted.'"

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 1 as amended was put and carried.

The preamble was then put and carried.

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I now move, Sir,—

'that the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1938, be passed into law.'"

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

THE MADRAS TRAFFIC CONTROL BILL, 1938.

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Bill^b to provide for the control of traffic in public places in the Province of Madras and move—

'that it be taken into consideration at once.'

^a Published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 5th October 1937.

^b Published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 22nd February 1938.

[Mr. K. Raman Menon]

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"His Excellency the Governor has recommended the Bill for consideration and it has been duly published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 22nd February 1938.

"The need for legislation on the lines of the Bill is accepted on all hands. It is an admitted fact that the arrangements that are now in force for controlling road traffic and for licensing motor vehicles are far from satisfactory. The motor traffic control is now vested in the police and in the local bodies. It has been found difficult and sometimes almost impossible to secure the necessary co-ordination between them. The object of the Bill is to unify the control and at the same time to secure that the single authority in which the control will be vested shall exercise its powers subject to proper safeguards.

"Section 202 (5) (a) and (b) and (6) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, section 306 (8) (b) and (c) and (9) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and section 349 (8) (b) and (c) and (9) of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, are the various provisions under which local bodies have been empowered to make by-laws to regulate the use of, and traffic in, public roads and streets. In so far as there are certain roads which are in charge of and maintained by the Government, the Madras Government Road Traffic Control Act, 1931, was passed, with a view to give powers to the Government to regulate the use of and traffic in such Government roads. The power to make rules and regulate and control the use of motor vehicles in public places is given to the Local Governments under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914. The powers of the police and the local bodies overlap to some extent which makes the harmonious working of the system almost impossible. Experience has shown that a dual control over a matter like this is almost unworkable. It is therefore proposed that the powers now vested in the local boards under the enactments mentioned above to make by-laws for the purpose of regulating the use of traffic in public roads and streets should be withdrawn and such powers should be vested entirely in the Local Government. Rules to be made for this purpose will become law after due publication. In view of the provisions of this Bill, the Madras Government Roads Traffic Control Act, 1931, becomes unnecessary and it is therefore proposed to repeal it. It is also proposed to repeal the various provisions in the Madras City Municipal Act, the Madras District Municipalities Act and the Madras Local Boards Act relating to their powers to make by-laws for the regulation of the use of any public place and for the regulation of traffic in public places.

"Again, permits and licences for plying motor vehicles have, under the existing laws, to be obtained from different authorities who are independent of one another and this has caused a good deal of trouble to all parties concerned. An attempt was made to bring about co-ordination and uniformity by an executive order whereby an informal committee consisting of the District Magistrate, the District Board President and the District Superintendent of Police was constituted. This committee was authorized to fix routes for motor vehicles plying for hire and the number of vehicles which may ply on each route. The working of this informal committee was not satisfactory and it was desired result. The decision of the President of the District Board being subject to an appeal to the district board, difficulties were felt in making the decisions of the informal committee final. There was no statutory authority which would be appealed to also against the decisions of the committee in cases where the committee might have made mistakes. Instances have come to the notice of the Government where in the matter of issuing permits and licences the President of the District Board and the District Superintendent of Police have taken different views. What is proposed by this Bill is to centralize the powers in a board to be constituted for each district known as 'Traffic Board' and to provide a Central Board of Control which is to be an appellate authority over the decisions of the District Traffic Board. The necessary co-ordination between various districts in the matter of motor traffic is sought to be secured by authorizing the Central Board to lay down regulations and otherwise control motor transport. The decision of the Central Board will be final except that the Local Government have always the power to override its decision when found necessary. The repeal of section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act and section 174 (a) of the Madras District Municipalities Act entails the abolition of licence fees now levied on motor lorries and motor vehicles plying for hire within the area of the district boards and municipalities. To make good the loss thereby incurred by the local bodies, it is proposed to enhance the provincial motor vehicles taxation to the necessary extent and to contribute to the local bodies the amount equal to the sums which they now receive from licensing fees. By doing this, the local bodies will not have to incur any expenditure in the matter of controlling motor vehicles through their licensing system. Hereafter there will be only one licence and one tax. Licence is to be issued by the police under the direction of the District Traffic Board and tax is to be collected by the Government. Under the existing law there is a great disparity in the matter of amounts payable to the local boards for lorries not plying for hire and lorries plying for hire. This disparity was availed of by not a few to evade payments of legitimate fees by getting lorries registered as not plying for hire. And in so far as all lorries whether plying for hire or not get an equal right to the use of roads, it is but right that the taxation should be uniform. The method of distribution of the income got out of the taxes levied on motor vehicles coming under the purview of this Bill is detailed in clause 9 of the Bill. In so far as the Government have to incur additional expenditure on account of a fuller and more efficient control on motor vehicular traffic, the administrative and other expenditure entailed thereby is sought to be taken out of the tax collections. In having brought about a uniform rate of taxation on all lorries, it was found feasible to relieve the overburdened taxation on lorries let or plying for hire to some extent. Sir, with these words, I move once again that this Bill be taken into consideration at once."

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[Mr. K. Raman Menon]

desired result. The decision of the President of the District Board being subject to an appeal to the district board, difficulties were felt in making the decisions of the informal committee final. There was no statutory authority which would be appealed to also against the decisions of the committee in cases where the committee might have made mistakes. Instances have come to the notice of the Government where in the matter of issuing permits and licences the President of the District Board and the District Superintendent of Police have taken different views. What is proposed by this Bill is to centralize the powers in a board to be constituted for each district known as 'Traffic Board' and to provide a Central Board of Control which is to be an appellate authority over the decisions of the District Traffic Board. The necessary co-ordination between various districts in the matter of motor traffic is sought to be secured by authorizing the Central Board to lay down regulations and otherwise control motor transport. The decision of the Central Board will be final except that the Local Government have always the power to override its decision when found necessary. The repeal of section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act and section 174 (a) of the Madras District Municipalities Act entails the abolition of licence fees now levied on motor lorries and motor vehicles plying for hire within the area of the district boards and municipalities. To make good the loss thereby incurred by the local bodies, it is proposed to enhance the provincial motor vehicles taxation to the necessary extent and to contribute to the local bodies the amount equal to the sums which they now receive from licensing fees. By doing this, the local bodies will not have to incur any expenditure in the matter of controlling motor vehicles through their licensing system. Hereafter there will be only one licence and one tax. Licence is to be issued by the police under the direction of the District Traffic Board and tax is to be collected by the Government. Under the existing law there is a great disparity in the matter of amounts payable to the local boards for lorries not plying for hire and lorries plying for hire. This disparity was availed of by not a few to evade payments of legitimate fees by getting lorries registered as not plying for hire. And in so far as all lorries whether plying for hire or not get an equal right to the use of roads, it is but right that the taxation should be uniform. The method of distribution of the income got out of the taxes levied on motor vehicles coming under the purview of this Bill is detailed in clause 9 of the Bill. In so far as the Government have to incur additional expenditure on account of a fuller and more efficient control on motor vehicular traffic, the administrative and other expenditure entailed thereby is sought to be taken out of the tax collections. In having brought about a uniform rate of taxation on all lorries, it was found feasible to relieve the overburdened taxation on lorries let or plying for hire to some extent. Sir, with these words, I move once again that this Bill be taken into consideration at once."

* Mr. G. L. ORCHARD:—"Sir, on behalf of the European group I am in the privileged position of offering to Government our congratulations on the general principles embodied in the measure now

[Mr. G. L. Orchard]

[1st March 1938]

before the House. We disagree on certain matters of detail which form the subject of amendments which will be debated at a later stage, and which we hope will receive Government's sympathetic consideration.

"We have not had such a full opportunity as we should have wished for, to consider the Bill and our amendments. We did not receive the Bill until Wednesday evening, and we were not aware until Sunday that it was to be introduced to-day, and may I also remind the House that Monday was a holiday.

"My group is always anxious to offer to Government every form of constructive help within their power. As in previous sessions we have objected to the undue haste in which Government have forced controversial legislative measures on the House, I should not like Government to feel that we in this group approve of undue haste in pushing through legislation which we find ourselves able to support.

"The Central Government have had under contemplation legislation of this nature for some years past. Due to one reason or another, mostly justifiable, delays have occurred. However, in the meantime, all connected with the development of transport, not excluding the railways, whose place in our transport system is as vital as road transport, have had every opportunity of airing their views. Further light and assistance to the transport problem has been given by the very valuable and comprehensive Wedgwood Report.

"Generally it would appear to me, that the Madras Government have drawn on these many sources of information in framing their Bill. I presume that a similar course will be followed in framing the all important rules to be made under the Bill, and that these rules will be freely circulated for an expression of public opinion.

"The Bill advocates a unified control which has been strongly and constantly urged on the Madras Government and on the Government of India during the past few years by many of our local associations, interested in this subject.

"This Bill contemplates the development of transport along provincial lines as opposed to district lines. The evils and anomalies of district control have been apparent for many years. It speaks well for the vital importance of motor transport, that it has thrived as it has under such unsettling influences.

"Government now have the opportunity of weaving the transport fabric, best suited to the requirements of this Province, with each strand in proper relation to the whole. India cannot develop in one form of communications alone; for our agricultural, industrial, social and political advancement, railways, roadways, waterways, and in fact airways, balanced in the proper relation one to the other are of equal importance.

"I am sorry to see that, as I shall be able to consider in detail at a later stage, motor transport is not to have any substantial relief from the heavy burden of taxation, which Government admit in the Statement of Objects and Reasons it has to bear at present. I had hoped

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[Mr. G. L. Orchard]

that when Government reviewed this subject, provision would have been made whereby bullock-carts should contribute some share towards the upkeep of roads. I understand that when tolls was the system of taxation in this Province, bullock-carts contributed some Rs. 30 lakhs per annum to our revenue.

"It is easy to be sentimental and argue that the bullock-cart owner is a poor man and cannot afford to pay a tax on his vehicle; but bullock-carts by reason of their construction and great numbers do substantial damage to the roads; because of their great numbers a small incidence of taxation would bring substantial revenue and would not materially affect the individuals concerned.

"It is an unfair and a shortsighted policy, that motor transport should continue to subsidize bullock-cart transport. Further, railways and motor transport, who bear heavy taxation, lose considerable traffic, which should properly be theirs, to the taxless bullock-cart. I would strongly urge that Government should re-examine this question at an early date.

"There are some other small matters of detail on which I am obliged to differ from Government, but they are minor points, and amendments have been tabled to deal with them, and I will not discuss them at this stage.

"I am very glad to be able to support Government, on behalf of my group, on the main principle of the Bill, and also to support the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration."

* * RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Mr. Speaker, 1 p. Sir, I beg to move that the Madras Traffic Control Bill, 1938, be referred to a Select Committee.

"Sir, I am in perfect agreement with the principles of the Bill as enunciated by the Hon. the Minister in charge. I have had sufficient experience of the working of the various Motor Vehicles Acts which are now current in our province first as President of the District Board of Tanjore, and later as a Member of the Government in charge of the Motor Vehicles. I may say that the law as it now stands causes considerable inconvenience to persons who purchase cars whether for their own use or for hire, by reason of their having to approach various authorities for obtaining the requisite permits and conflict of opinion between these authorities does sometimes arise; and though as President of the District Board, there was no occasion for me to come into clash with other licensing authorities, I have known of difficult situations arising by reason of difference of opinion between the various licensing authorities such as the President of the District Board, the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate. The necessity for a measure of this sort which seeks to remedy those evils has been keenly felt. If, however I want the Bill to be referred to a Select Committee, it is only that we may be in a position to understand the full implications of this Bill and we cannot be too careful in the framing of an Act whose aim is to remedy the numerous difficulties

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which have so far been experienced. Though in view of the possibility of my motion being accepted, I do not want to adopt a complaining or critical attitude, I feel I must once again refer to the unsatisfactory attitude of the Government in that sufficient notice has not been given to the House of the Government's intention to introduce the Bill and have it passed into law. The rules and the Standing Orders have no doubt been satisfied on a very strict interpretation. The Bill was published on the 22nd February and to-day—exactly a week later—on the 1st March the Bill has been introduced. The rule requires only six days' notice and it has been technically satisfied. It must, however, be admitted that although the Bill was published in the Gazette on the 22nd February, it would not have been in the hands of most of the Members in the mufassal before the 24th, though the City Members may have had the Gazette on the 23rd. Further it is not always possible for Members to go through the Bill immediately they have it or within the short time at their disposal. In this particular case speaking for myself I was not in possession of the Bill till late in the afternoon yesterday when the copy sent by the office of the Legislature reached me. After going through the whole Bill, I find that it is absolutely unintelligible as it stands. It begins by saying 'omit section so and so of the District Municipalities Act' 'omit section in some other Act' and so on. We do not expect the Members of the House to have the various provisions of the several Acts in their minds so as to be able to perceive in what respect those Acts are sought to be amended. I read it once, twice, thrice and I was not able to make out what the exact implications of this Bill were. I am thankful to the Hon. Minister for the general explanation he has given in moving this Bill after which alone one is able to see some light. In a matter like this a considerable amount of thought is required and if the Government had allowed a little more time to the Members of the House to enable them to really get a correct idea and properly understand the implications of the legislation to which they are going to be a party, it would have been far better. I do not wish to say anything more on this occasion.

"I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee as that seems to be the only chance of my motion being accepted. I add that it be an instruction to the Select Committee that its report be presented in time for consideration by the House to-morrow. Personally, however, I feel there is no need for such extraordinary urgency in this matter. I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—

- (1) The Hon. Mr. K. Raman Menon.
- (2) " B. Gopala Reddi.
- (3) Mr. N. Ranga Reddi.
- (4) Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi.
- (5) Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam.
- (6) " A. Karunakara Menon.
- (7) " V. S. R. M. Valliappa Chettiayar.

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- (8) Mr. N. M. R. Subbarama Ayyar.
- (9) " D. Narayana Raju.
- (10) Rao Bahadur Sir A. T. Pannirselvam.
- (11) Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar.
- (12) " G. L. Orchard.
- (13) " Abdul Hameed Khan.
- (14) " Mir Akram Ali.
- (15) " D. Abdul Rawoof."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the motion moved by Sir Pannirselvam. As the hon. Mover of the motion said, it will certainly be impossible for us to understand the Bill or to get it through in this sitting itself without referring it to a Select Committee. If this Bill is considered by a Select Committee, perhaps the House will be in a better position to consider it after it has emanated from the Select Committee. I must at the outset say that I am in entire agreement with the principles of the Bill. A legislation for the control of motor traffic is long overdue in this Province and there is no doubt that a conflict of interests took place between the various authorities empowered to give licences. This was a great handicap for improving the motor industry and motor traffic in this Province. In several cases, licences had to be got from three or four district boards for buses plying in the different district board areas. Such being the case, there was always a conflict of interests between the various authorities and now the authority is going to be centralized.

* "The Central Board as well as the District Board will have the control of this traffic. This certainly will go a great way to do a good deal of good service to this industry. At the same time we see in this Bill that the Government wishes to take power by means of rule-making to control this traffic. I find from some of the provisions of this Bill which is to become law that the Government at every stage wishes to undertake more of this law-making by means of rules. I do not know whether the Government are justified in taking power to transact this business by means of rules. Well, Sir, I hope that the Select Committee will examine this question of the power which the Government would take so far as the rule-making is concerned. Now it is suggested that the Government will publish the rules for public consideration and then they will bring them into force. No measure of legislation should be of such a nature as to be of less importance than the rules that the Government should make. I hope, Sir, the Government will realize the disproportionateness of this position. I find that the Government instead of merely satisfying itself by merely trying to empower all these local boards or central board are also in one measure interfering with the power of these various local bodies and they are also in this very same measure enhancing the rates and taxes. I do not know whether the Government can justly provide, in a Bill which is intended merely to control the traffic, also for interference with the rates of taxes which are naturally to be fixed by the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, instead of in this Bill. I hope, Sir, that for these

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I was anxiously looking forward to the Hon. the Premier giving expression to that effect, but I was disappointed that he did not pursue his speech to that extent. But he merely left it, after saying that we shall meet at 3 o'clock and that possibly it would suit for all time. I would like respectfully to submit and I would request the Government to see that the convenience of all the parties is taken into consideration and a suitable time is fixed, after consideration."

1-30 P.M. * MR. SPEAKER:—"If any hon. Member wishes to speak on this subject he may do so for a few minutes."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I dare say, Mr. Speaker, you are aware that the convention has been . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member never respects conventions. He may speak straight to the point whether the time of sitting will be suitable to him."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, the convention has been . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member does not respect conventions. He may speak on the point of the time of sitting of the House."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am not able to understand exactly what the Hon. the Speaker wants me to do."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may resume his seat if he does not want to speak about the time of sitting of the Assembly."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I was speaking on nothing but that."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may go on with his speech on the point without making other observations."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"The Hon. the Speaker may kindly have . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may resume his seat. Does any other hon. Member want to speak on this question?"

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"What is the meaning of this? I want to know what exactly you mean, Mr. Speaker . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not show such discourtesy and insult the chair by entering into such discussions."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"There was absolutely no discourtesy on my part."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member shall not hereafter say 'What is the meaning of this?' It is positive discourtesy and I excuse him this time."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"It is my right to know what exactly the Speaker . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not say 'what is the meaning of this?' and that sort of thing. Much indulgence has been shown to the hon. Member all these months."

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"Sir William Wright will now speak."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Is it about the Vande Mataram?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not say anything about Vande Mataram. Much indulgence has been shown to the hon. Member by the chair as well as by the House. He should not take liberties with the House to an extraordinary extent. Sir William Wright."

* * SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the group which I represent, I should like to say that the suggested hours of sitting of the House will entirely meet with our convenience, and we welcome the change. I would only like to suggest that we may now regard it as one of the Standing Orders of the House that it will sit from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and that the procedure of the House of Commons should be followed, namely, that we should be given 24 hours notice by the Leader of the House if the standing orders are for any reason to be altered."

MR. SPEAKER:—"There is no such convention here regarding the 24 hours notice."

* SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"I know that there is no such convention here that 24 hours notice should be given before any alteration of the hours of sitting is made, but with all due respect I should like to suggest that it would be a good convention that the sittings should be between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and that the Hon. the Leader of the House, whenever possible, will give us 24 hours notice if he wishes to alter these hours. I merely put this forward with all respect, as a suggestion for the future."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Sir, the proposal now before the House that the House should sit between 3 and 8 p.m. is tantamount to an amendment of the existing rules. Existing rule No. 14 says—

'While in session a meeting of the Assembly shall ordinarily commence at 11 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. . . .'

"If any of the rules regarding the conduct of business in the Assembly has to be altered, we have to adopt the procedure laid down in Chapter XIX according to which alone rules can be altered. Rules cannot be altered in this summary fashion by a few people expressing their personal convenience. As for myself I might say that during the session I am here mainly for the work of the Assembly and to the extent physical endurance will permit, I am prepared to sit for any time. As regards sitting till 8 o'clock, though it is probably just the dinner time for most people for the few days on which the Assembly sits, they may perhaps put off their dinner hour by half an hour or so. It may not in itself be a great inconvenience. But there is another inconvenience with regard to the House concluding its business for the day at 8 p.m. If on the last day of the sittings of the Assembly, the

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Assembly should sit till 8 p.m., it would mean that in the case of most mufassal members they would have to waste the next day in Madras doing nothing."

MR. SPEAKER:—"We will put it at 7 o'clock on the last day alone."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"That would be a much more convenient hour as most of the trains leave Madras for the mufassal between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Otherwise, if we ask the Members to sit here till 8 p.m. it would mean that they would have to waste one more day here."

MR. SPEAKER:—"If on the last day of the sittings we rise at 7 o'clock that will remove one of the inconveniences straightaway."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"We want to consider whether there will be any further inconveniences. Therefore we will strictly adhere to the rules and adopt the procedure outlined in Chapter XIX with regard to the amendment of the rules instead of coming to offhand conclusions straightaway."

V.—THE MADRAS TRAFFIC CONTROL BILL, 1938—cont.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Before the House rises, I wish to announce to the House that I have appointed the Hon. Mr. K. Raman Menon as the Chairman of the Select Committee on the Madras Traffic Control Bill. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. to-morrow."

The House adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. the next day.

VII.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. Judgment in Ramnad Sessions Case No. 96 of 1937.
2. G.O. No. 110, Development, dated the 10th January 1938, confirming amendments to rule XV of the rules issued under the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, 1932.
3. Notification appended to G.O. No. 460, Home, dated the 27th January 1938, exempting from payment of the tax leviable under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, one motor car used by the Vice-Consul for the United States of America at Madras.
4. G.O. No. 135, Development, dated the 15th January 1938, confirming amendment to clause (d) of sub-rules (1) and (2) of rule XXVII of the rules issued under the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, 1932.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 201 asked by Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 1st March 1938, page 33 supra.]

Statement of trade disputes that occurred in this Presidency after the 11th Ju'y 1937 up to 25th January 1938.

Serial number and name of the concern with particulars of the district.	Points of issue in the disputes.
<i>West Godavari.</i>	
1 Agricultural Labourers—Idigas and Malas, Tanuku taluk, Narasapur division.	Adequacy of wages of persons working in the fields of Kammas.
<i>Guntur.</i>	
2 Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company, Chirala.	One labourer was accidentally killed in demolition work and some temporary clerks persuaded the labourers to strike work.
<i>Nellore.</i>	
3 Agricultural Labourers, Kodurpad village.	Adequacy of wages in kind and cash.
<i>Chingleput.</i>	
4 Scavengers of Chingleput Municipality.	Adequacy of wages.
5 Tannery of Hajee Abdulla & Co., Kodambakkam.	A maistri who assaulted a labourer was asked to be dismissed and fair treatment with punishments under the Payment of Wages Act was demanded.
<i>South Arcot.</i>	
6 Cartmen of Chidambaram Municipality.	Police charged drivers loitering in unlicensed places.
7 Scavengers of Cuddalore Municipality.	Demand for cash loans and not credit loans of stores from co-operative society.
<i>Trichinopoly.</i>	
8 Dhobies of Srirangam	Prohibition by the municipality of washing of clothes within three miles of the municipal limits except in three places.
<i>Madura.</i>	
9 Madura Mills, Madura	Introduction of a system of two weeks night shift and one week day shift from 9th September 1937 in the Ring Frame department.
10 Handloom weavers of Madura	The weavers and the merchants entered into an agreement as regards wages in October 1936 which was not given effect to by the merchants.
<i>Tinnevely.</i>	
11 Madura Mills, Tuticorin	Misunderstanding between the management and the workers about tiffin sheds, drinking water facilities, etc.

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Serial number and name of the concern with particulars of the district.	Points of issue in the disputes.
<i>South Kanara.</i>	
12 The Mijarkar Cashewnut Factory, Mangalore.	Reduction of wages from 6 pies to 4 pies and prohibition of the use of mechanical peelers.
<i>Malabar.</i>	
13 Puthiyara Tile Works, Calicut taluk.	Demand for increase of wages and dismissal of a labourer by the Manager.
14 Malabar Columbia Works	Due to dismissal of two workers.
15 Sri Krishna Weaving Company, Anjankandi, Cannanore.	Thirty workmen were discharged for want of work and the remaining 30 asked for their reinstatement and for higher wages. The management refused.
16 Solar Dyeing Factory, Pallikannu desam, Chirakkal taluk.	Demand for working hours to be reduced, increase of holidays in a month and pay to be given on the fifth of each month.
17 Vishnu Weaving Factory, Chowa, Chirakkal.	General increase of wages by 1 pie from 11 pies to one anna.
<i>Coimbatore.</i>	
18 The Rajalakshmi Mills	Labourers overworked, underpaid and beaten.
19 The Lakshmi Mills	Workers were asked to look to two sides of the machine when in motion.
20 The V. S. Mills, Limited, Coimbatore.	Non-payment of wages on due date.
21 Fourteen mills in and around Coimbatore town—	
(1) The Sarada Mills	Annual bonus, Deepavali bonus and several other grievances.
(2) The Murugan	
(3) Radhakrishna	
(4) Janardhana	
(5) The Coimbatore Cotton Mills.	
(6) Vasantha	
(7) The Cambodia	
(8) The Pioneer	
(9) Sri Ranga Vilas Ginning Mills.	
(10) The C. & S.W. Mills	
(11) The Kaleswarar Mill	
(12) The Somasundaram or Mall Mills, and	
(13) The Lakshmi Mills.	
(14) Saroja Mill, Coimbatore.	Introduction of 10 hours work shift from 4th January 1938.
<i>Madras.</i>	
22 (a) Sri Ganesh Alumunium Factory, Rayapuram.	Dismissal of one worker.
(b) Sri Ganesh Alumunium Factory, Rayapuram.	Dismissal of two workers.
23 The Good Pastor Press, Madras ..	Dismissal of three men.
24 The Madras Button Works	Refusal to grant an increase in the wages from 6 annas to 7 annas for a gross of buttons.
25 The Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, Carding Department.	Demand for an increase of wages.
<i>Kistna.</i>	
26 Grandhalaya Printing Press, Bezwada.	Removal from employment of a worker whose reinstatement was demanded.
<i>Nellore.</i>	
27 Agricultural Labourers, Chennapallepalem.	Incorrect payment of grain wages in kind (grains).

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Serial number and name of the concern with particulars of the district.	Points of issue in the disputes.
<i>Ramnad.</i>	
28 Handloom Weavers of Aruppu-kottai.	Inadequate wages.
<i>Tinnevely.</i>	
29 Papanasam Mills	Spinners' demand to attend to one side instead of one and a half.
30 Papanasam Mills	Demand for increased wages and leave with allowances.
<i>Malabar.</i>	
31 New Durbar Beedi Workers, Tellicherry.	Dismissal of two workmen and demand for restoration of old rates of wages.
32 Vasu Dev Bhatta, Beedi Factory, Tellicherry.	Refusal of workers to work in batches in separate buildings on the ground that the proprietors attempted to evade the Factory Rules.
33 Four Beedi Factories in Cannanore.	Increased wages at 10 annas per 1,000 beedies demanded.
34 Twenty-eight Weaving Factories in Chirakkal taluk.	Demand for increased wages from 3 pies to 6 pies per yard for certain patterns of cloth.
<i>South Kanara.</i>	
35 Seventy-one Handloom Weaving Factories in and around Mangalore.	Demand for increased wages and better treatment.
<i>Coimbatore.</i>	
36 The C.S. & W.W., Ltd.	Transfer of women workers from the Spinning to the Reeling department.
37 Sri Ranga Vilas Mills	Introduction of 22 hours of work a day by the management to avoid wastage as against 21 hours.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 126 asked by Sriman Y. V. A. Bhaskara Rao Patnaik Mahasayo at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 1st March 1938, page 47 supra.]

Extract from the inspection report, dated 25th September 1937, of the District Medical Officer, Vizagapatam, on Local Fund dispensary, Santhakavity.

18. *General impressions.*—Neither the population in the village nor the environments under which this dispensary is located warrant its being a full-time one. The Board may not construct a type-design dispensary at all. The accommodation is very poor and the outturn of work cannot be better although the medical officer is a willing and conscientious worker. Considering the relative cost and return therefrom, I would rather advise the Board to convert this into a rural dispensary. In fact, with this money three more rural dispensaries may be opened.

The medical officer is doing his best to popularize the dispensary. His request for a transfer to a better station may be granted.

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 127 asked by Mr. K. V. R. Swami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 1st March 1938, page 47 supra.]

Statement showing the total number of fixed fee licences issued for the vend of foreign liquor during 1937-38 and the rates of fee charged for each licence and also beer shops and foreign liquor taverns sold in public auction.

Kind of licence.	Number of licences issued.	Rates of annual licence fee.
(1)	(2)	(3)
F.L. 1—Wholesale licence for the sale of foreign liquor, Indian-made foreign spirits, etc., not to be consumed on the premises.	27	Rs. 1,000 in Madras and Rs. 500 per licence in other districts.
F.L. 2—Retail licence for the sale of all kinds of foreign liquor, Indian-made foreign spirits, coconut toddy arrack, etc.	217	Rs. 250 for each licence in Madras and the Nilgiris and Rs. 150 in other districts.
F.L. 3—Licence for the sale of brandy by chemists on the prescription of a qualified medical practitioner.	63	Rs. 5 for each licence.
F.L. 7—Hotel licence for the supply of liquor to residents in hotels and boarding-houses, etc.	31	Rs. 100 for each licence in Madras and Rs. 50 in other districts.
F.L. 8—Bar licence for the supply of liquor for consumption on the licensed premises in bars conducted on European lines.	22	Rs. 100 for each licence.
F.L. 9—Licence for refreshment rooms maintained by or under the supervision of railway companies, etc., for supply to bona fide travellers.	62	Rs. 50 for each licence.
F.L. 10—Licences for refreshment rooms conducted on European lines in which the sale of liquor is combined with meals or eatables, etc.	29	Rs. 150 for a licence in Madras and Rs. 75 elsewhere.
F.L. 11—Occasional licence not exceeding ten days at one time.	92	The fee levied shall not exceed Rs. 10 a day.
F.L. 13—Licence for the sale of pure rectified spirit	41	Rs. 10 for a licence.
F.L. 17—Licence for the sale of medicated wines and similar preparations.	215	Rs. 10 for a licence.
F.L. 20—Military Canteen licences	14	Rs. 12 for a licence.
Dining car licences	11	Rs. 20 for a licence.
<i>Special licences.</i> —These licences will be issued by Collectors in consultation with the local Excise officers for fixed periods.	11	Fees fixed at the discretion of Collectors.
Beer shops—F.L. 6 and 6 (a)	30	These shops are sold in public auction. Amount realized for 1937-38, Rs. 1,96,596.
Foreign liquor taverns—F.L. 5 and 5 (a)	22	Foreign liquor taverns are sold in public auction. Amount realized for 1937-38, Rs. 1,62,420.

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 128 asked by Mr. K. V. R. Swami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 1st March 1938, page 48 supra.]

Statement I—List of estates in the taluk of Bhadrachalam.

1 Bhadrachalam Estate.	17 Gundala.
2 Rekapalle Estate.	18 Sitarampuram.
3 Kotarugommu.	19 Kolanugudem.
4 Chokkanapalle.	20 Chintalagudem.
5 Lellavaya.	21 Sitampeta.
6 Kumaraswamigudem.	22 Reguballi.
7 Edugurallapalle.	23 Madimeru.
8 Tekubaka.	24 Dantenam.
9 Venkatayapalem.	25 Singavaram.
10 Narasingapeta.	26 Pragallapalle.
11 Nandigama.	27 Gangolu.
12 Tripurapantavidu.	28 Burravemula.
13 Rayunipeta.	29 Kesavapatnam.
14 Devarapalle.	30 Kottagudem.
15 Gogubaka.	31 Nadikudi.
16 Pinapalle.	

Statement II—Statement comparing the resettlement with the settlement of 1890 with respect to peshkash and funds in respect of inferior proprietors in the Bhadrachalam taluk.

Estate.	Settlement of 1890.	Settlement of 1922.	Increase.	Decrease.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Rekapalle	5,001	9,977	4,976	..
Kotarugommu	20	100	70	..
Chokkanapalle	233	425	192	..
Lellavaya	70	144	74	..
Kumaraswamigudem	77	112	35	..
Edugurallapalle	39	37	..	2
Tekubaka	110	345	235	..
Venkatayapalem	17	85	68	..
Narasingapeta	42	66	24	..
Nandigama	1,412	3,177	1,765	..
Tripurapantavidu	1,248	2,408	1,160	..
Rayunipeta	319	674	355	..
Devarapalle	138	505	367	..
Gogubaka	116	276	160	..
Pinapalle	124	136	12	..
Gundala	58	56	11	2
Sitarampuram	41	75	34	..
Kolanugudem	15	32	17	..
Chintalagudem	106	145	39	..
Sitampeta	50	305	255	..
Reguballi	25	45	20	..
Madimeru	21	110	89	..
Dantenam	91	61	..	30
Singavaram	36	178	142	..
Pragallapalle	53	321	268	..
Gangolu	60	180	120	..
Burravemula	50	198	148	..
Kesavapatnam	69	237	168	..
Kottagudem	168	304	136	..
Nadikudi	136	158	22	..

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APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 136 asked by Mr. K. Ishwara at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 1st March 1938, page 51 supra.]

Letter from the Collector of South Kanara, D. Dis. No. 4623/37, dated 17th September 1937.

[Abkari shops—Arrack and toddy—Mangalore town—Location—Legislative Assembly question—Report.]

The toddy shop at Jedigudde has been existing on the present site for the last twenty years and the arrack shop for the last 23 years without any objection. These shops being situated within the Mangalore municipal limits, their location in the specific premises had the approval of the Excise Licensing Board of the Mangalore municipality. They are situated in the most favourable sites available within the notified limits and in places where demand for liquor exists. The schools and other institutions are sufficiently away from these sites and there have been no complaints from the authorities concerned so far, in the matter. The plot on which the arrack shop stands belongs to the Lord Bishop of Mangalore and if the existence of the shop there was really objectionable on account of its proximity to the Roman Catholic Church it is not likely that the Bishop would have leased out the plot to the renter for the purpose.

The liquor shops at Bijai are rural shops standing outside the Mangalore town limits. They have been in their present localities for the last over seventeen years without any objection from anybody. These shops are located sufficiently away from the schools and the Harijan colonies which consist of only sixteen houses in all, i.e., twelve houses in the colony in S. No. 9-3 and four houses in the other colony in S. No. 10-8. The building in which T.S. No. 9 Kodial-bail (Bijai) is situated, belongs to the proprietor of the "Poor Service Lodge" referred to in the Legislative Assembly question and if its location there was really objectionable, it is not likely he would have rented out the building for the purpose.

The location of the shops in their present sites does not appear to be objectionable. I am afraid that any attempt to remove these shops from their present sites or locality to other places would not only affect the excise revenue but is likely to give room to objections from the public.

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APPENDIX VI.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 139 asked by Mr. K. Ishwara at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 1st March 1938, page 52 supra.]

Circular Memorandum No. 8386-E-2, Home Department, dated the 22nd September 1937.

[Court—Village panchayat—Nomination of Adi-Dravidas—Instructions.]

Representations have been made to Government regarding the necessity for reserving seats for Adi-Dravidas in village panchayat courts. The Government have considered them and are of opinion that the purpose underlying them will be served for the present by utilization, by the Collectors, of the provisions of section 9 (3) (a) of the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888. Collectors are accordingly requested to see that, as far as practicable, an Adi-Dravida is nominated as a member of each village panchayat court in accordance with the provisions of this section.

H. M. HOOD,
Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

- Copy to the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue and Settlement.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 2nd March 1938.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Proposal to codify the law of land revenue for the Madras Province.

* 212 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the present Government propose to undertake the codification of a law of land revenue for the Province of Madras, and if so, when?

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“ The Government have under consideration the main principles by which land revenue should be determined. The question being one of great complexity, it has not been possible for the Government to arrive at a decision as yet. The question of the codification of a law of land revenue can be taken up for consideration only after the other question referred to is decided.”

Introduction of a Land Revenue Bill.

* 213 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCIAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce a Land Revenue Bill; and

(b) if so, when?

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 212.”

Improvements to the supply channel of the Edamichi tank in the Conjeeveram taluk.

* 214 Q.—MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the District Collector of Chingleput received petitions and deputation from the ryots of Edamichi, Porpandal and Gidangarai villages regarding improvements to the supply channel of the Edamichi tank in the Conjeeveram taluk;

* This question was allowed to be answered in the public interest, though the Member who had given notice of it was absent.

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(b) whether the District Collector has replied that the scheme is expensive and hence it may not be taken up;

(c) whether the ryots have promised to undertake to give an extra compounded fee of Rs. 750 per annum in case the scheme fructified; and

(d) whether the Government will undertake the scheme if they find the return profitable?

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

“(b) The reply given by the District Collector was that the scheme cannot be taken up at present for want of funds and on account of the difficulties that have to be solved after much consideration and that it may be reopened two years hence.”

“(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(d) As the scheme has not been investigated the question does not arise.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will suggest to the Hon. the Revenue Minister that dry rates may be collected until irrigation facilities are given?”

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“We will consider it.”

Proposal to strengthen the flood bank surrounding the Peravaram village.

* 215 Q.—MR. KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received a representation from the villagers of Peravaram to strengthen the flood bank surrounding their village and whether the Government received any definite proposals from the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, in the matter; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, when the Government are going to give effect to it?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—“(a) & (b) Representations from the villagers of Peravaram have been received and they have been referred to the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) for report which is awaited.”

Reasons for declaring certain schools in the Province as uneconomical.

* 216 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) who passed the orders declaring certain schools to be uneconomical; and

(b) the reasons for passing such orders?

MR. C. J. VARKEY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—“(a) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to elementary schools. The District Educational

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Councils on the recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction or the Divisional Inspector of Schools declared schools to be uneconomical.

“(b) Because the schools had very low strength and were inefficient or superfluous.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I know how many schools have been declared to be uneconomical?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“The Director of Public Instruction has been asked to submit a list.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether the Government will consult the district boards concerned before they declare schools as uneconomical?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“Yes, they are being consulted.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know if this uneconomical school theory applies to schools for backward communities?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“The matter is under consideration as to which schools are to be considered uneconomical and to be abolished.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—“May I ask whether the Government will reconsider their decision so far as schools for backward communities are concerned?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“A Press Communiqué will be issued on this subject in a day or two.”

* MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“May I ask whether the Government have taken measures to make these schools economical?”

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—“It was found impossible to make these schools economical because there are so many other schools in the same area.”

Investigation of fruit canning industry in the Province.

* 217 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the question of fruit canning has been investigated since the present Government took office; and

(b) if so, with what result?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) & (b) The Government have under examination a scheme for starting experiments in fruit canning at the Fruit Research Station, Anantapur (Cuddapah district).”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I ask whether the experiments will be started next year?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“The matter will be considered.”

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Fruit canning at Anantarajupet.

* 218 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any fruit canning carried on at Anantarajupet; and

(b) what the process followed there is?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) No. The attention of the hon. Member is also invited to the answer given to his starred question No. 217.

“(b) Does not arise.”

Glass factories and their output in this Province.

* 219 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any glass factories in this Province;

(b) if so, what the value of goods manufactured last year is;

(c) whether the Government are paying any subsidy; and

(d) what the value of glassware imported into this Province last year is?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) Yes. There is one factory, the Jamal Glass Works in Tondiarpet, Madras.

“(b) Goods worth Rs. 72,000 were manufactured during the year 1937.

“(c) No.

“(d) The value of glass imported into this Province during the calendar year 1937 is furnished below:—

	RS.
Imports from foreign countries	21,14,877
Imports from coastwise	3,79,643 ”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“May I know if this Jamal Factory applied for any subsidy from the Government?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“No.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I ask whether the Government will encourage the starting of more factories when there is so much demand for this commodity?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Certainly the matter will be investigated and if there are any applications under the State Aid to Industries Act they will be considered.”

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MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I know whether the Government themselves will start a big factory for the purpose?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“If others fail to apply for grants under the State Aid to Industries Act, the matter will be considered.”

Paper industry in this Province.

* 220 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any paper mills in this Presidency; and

(b) whether any paper is produced by hand in this Province?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) Yes; there is one at Rajahmundry.

“(b) So far as information is available, hand-made paper is now produced only at Amjekarai near Poonamallee.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I ask whether the Rajahmundry Mill is likely to produce paper in the near future?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“It is hoped so. We are equally anxious that the mill should produce paper.”

MR. G. KRISHNAMURTI:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have made any investigation into the possibility of the manufacture of newsprint from sugarcane as promised in October last?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“I am afraid that this does not arise out of this question. If the hon. Member puts down another question I shall get the information.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“May I know who is working the Rajahmundry Mill now?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“This does not arise. I do not remember exactly; otherwise I would have answered it.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I know whether making of paper by hand will be introduced in one of the technical schools?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The matter is being investigated.”

Tirumala Naik Mahal at Madura.

* 221 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the officer who is in charge of the entire buildings comprising the Tirumala Naick Mahal at Madura;

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(b) who the authority is that is empowered to issue passes to the visitors to the said Mahal;

(c) whether the ancient monuments inside the Mahal are being preserved properly; and

(d) whether complaints have been received that the Sarishtadar of the Madura District Court and his several peons have been systematically behaving themselves in a very discourteous manner towards the public when they visit the said Mahal?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a) The Executive Engineer, Ramnad Division, P.W.D., is in charge of the buildings for the purpose of their upkeep, while the District Judge, Madura, administers general control over the buildings as they are occupied by the offices of the Judicial department.

“(b) The Sarishtadar of the District Court, Madura, issues the passes.

“(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(d) The Government have received no such complaint.”

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—“May I ask whether the Government will place these buildings under the control of a person or officer who knows better manners?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The question is disallowed.”

Refusal of the Government to sanction the prosecution of M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Sambasiva Chettiyar, Chairman, Municipal Council, Conjeeveram, for alleged spending of municipal funds for his personal suit.

* 222 Q.—MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Conjeeveram Municipal Council, Rao Bahadur C. Sambasiva Chettiyar, was surcharged Rs. 177-12-0 for spending the amounts from the municipal funds to defend his personal suit and that a municipal councillor asked the Government for sanction to prosecute him and the same was refused by the Government; and

(b) if so, why?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) The Government considered it unnecessary to accord sanction to prosecute the Chairman as it was then reported that the amount surcharged was pending recovery in pursuance of a decree of a court of law.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“May I ask whether the amount has been recovered now?”

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THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am afraid it is not.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“May I ask what the Government propose to do in the matter, whether they would consider the advisability of a prosecution or sanctioning a prosecution?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“We will try to collect the amount.”

Submission by the Chairman, Municipal Council, Conjeeveram, of only garbled and corrected versions of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council instead of their true copies, to the Collector.

* 223 Q.—MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Government on the report of some of the municipal councillors of Conjeeveram that the Chairman, Municipal Council, did on 31st July 1936 and on previous occasions, send to the Collector of the district only garbled and corrected versions of the proceedings of the meetings of the municipal council and not true copies of the same as required by the Act?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Government have not received the report referred to; nor have they information as to whether any such report was received by the Collector.”

Assessing of land revenue in proportion to the net produce of the land.

* 224 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what proportion the land assessment bears to the net produce in ryotwari areas; and

(b) whether any committees set up in the past by the Provincial Government or otherwise made recommendations with regard to land assessment in ryotwari and other areas, and if so, what their recommendations were?

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The principle of the ryotwari settlement is that the State is entitled to not more than one half of the net money value of the crop on the land.

“(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reports mentioned below which are available for reference in the Secretariat Library:—

(i) Report of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization in India.

(ii) Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Government of India Bill, 1919.

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(iii) Report of the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee.

(iv) Report of the Malabar Tenancy Committee of 1928 presided over by Diwan Bahadur T. Raghavayya Garu, C.S.I."

Suspension of settlement operations and stoppage of the collection of rents at enhanced rates.

* 225 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have accepted the proposal of the Marjoribanks report to suspend settlement operations in all ryotwari areas and to stop the collection of rents at enhanced rates?

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"No such recommendations have been made in the report."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to adopt the same policy as they have adopted for ryotwari areas and extend the same benefits to the zamindari areas where resettlement operations are going on with a view to enhance the existing cash rents?"

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"No such undertaking can be given now under the present circumstances."

Construction of a tidal lock near Gopayalanka in the Godavari Central Delta.

* 226 Q.—MR. KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to build a tidal lock near Gopayalanka in the Godavari Central Delta; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, when the scheme will be started?

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

" (b) The proposal is being scrutinized by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation), and if on examination it is found suitable, it will be considered in connexion with the budget for 1939-40."

Inclusion of Malabar in the scheme of Radio Broadcasting in Madras.

* 227 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Malabar is left out of the proposed Government of India scheme of Radio Broadcasting in Madras, and if so, why; and

(b) whether this Government have made any representation to the Government of India for including Malabar in the scheme?

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THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a) The Government of Madras have decided to supply village receiver sets to four or five villages in each district except Malabar, South Kanara and the Nilgiris, the reason for the omission of these districts for the present being the difficulty of fitting in Malayalam and Kanarese programmes with Tamil and Telugu programmes, within the limited period of a few hours of talk in the evenings.

" The Municipal Council, Calicut, has however asked for a set and its request will be complied with.

" (b) It is not necessary to consult the Central Government in this matter."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" May I know, Sir, if Telugu and Tamil programmes can be arranged, what is the difficulty in arranging for Malayalam programme? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" As I said, within the limited time available, only Tamil and Telugu programmes can be arranged, and we cannot add Malayalam to these two. At present we are not able to do it; later on we may be in a position to do so."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" Then, why not the Tamil programme be given to Malabar? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Calicut has asked for a set and it will be given; and if any other stations want Tamil, then, the question will be considered."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" Does the Hon. Minister mean to say that because people have not been wanting it, it is not given to Malabar? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Sets were being given to Tamil and Telugu districts because we have made arrangements for Tamil and Telugu programmes. If any places in the Malayalam or Kanarese districts want Tamil or Telugu programmes to be given to them, we will then consider the question."

MR. KALA VENKATA RAO:—" Will the Government be pleased to arrange for Kanarese programme for the Kanarese districts? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" At present, we are not prepared to do that."

Estimate in regard to the period for the completion of the fisheries research work at West-Hill, Calicut.

* 228 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any estimate made in respect of the further time required to complete the work of fisheries research that is being conducted at West-Hill, Calicut, so as to make it to be of any practical application;

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(b) whether any such estimate was made in 1921 when the research work was started or at any time thereafter; and

(c) if no estimate has been made till now, whether one will be called for now?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) The nature of all scientific research, particularly fisheries research, is such that no time limit can be fixed for the attainment of results.

“(b) The answer is in the negative.

“(c) The Government do not consider that any reliable estimate can be prepared.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I know how long this research will go on?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Investigation of fisheries problems involves simultaneous study of the effect of many different factors such as the biological, the chemical, the hydrographical and the meteorological conditions of the sea. As such, no time can be fixed.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask how long it has been carried on up to now?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“For the past eleven years.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Is the Hon. Minister in a position to say what has been the achievement during these eleven years?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Notice, Sir.”

Conversion of the veterinary dispensary at Anantapur into a hospital.

* 229 Q.—MR. C. OBI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any minimum of average daily attendance fixed by the Government for a veterinary hospital;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Director of Veterinary Services, Madras, and Sir P. T. Rajan, Ex-Minister for Public Works, recommended the conversion of the veterinary dispensary at Anantapur into a regular hospital, having due regard to the growing need for it, the former as long ago as 20th January 1931 and the latter as recently as 5th November 1936;

(c) whether there is in this Presidency any district headquarters town except Anantapur without a veterinary hospital in it; and

(d) whether the Government will consider the need and desirability of converting the veterinary dispensary at Anantapur into a hospital?

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THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) No definite minimum has been fixed; but the average daily attendance is one of the factors taken into consideration in deciding whether a dispensary should be converted into a hospital.

“(b) The answer is in the negative.

“(c) There is no veterinary hospital in the headquarters of Kistna district.

“(d) A recent investigation showed that the average attendance did not justify such a step. The progress of attendance is however being watched. If it is found encouraging, the question will again be considered.”

MR. C. OBI REDDI:—“Is it a fact that about a couple of years back, the Government proposed to acquire a site of 2 acres with a view to convert the veterinary dispensary into a regular hospital?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“No, Sir.”

Financial help under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act to the silk filature concern at Mudigudem.

* 230 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the application made by the proprietor of the silk filature at Mudigudem for financial help under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act was considered;

(b) whether any help has been given; and

(c) if so, the nature of the help given?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) & (c) The Government have agreed to take shares to the value of Rs. 17,850 in the new company, ‘The Kollegal Silk Filatures, Ltd.’ subject to certain conditions.”

Appointment of Labour Officers to certain districts in the Northern Circars.

* 231 Q.—MR. G. VENKANNA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of District Labour Officers in the Presidency;

(b) whether in appointing District Labour Officers, the Government will take into consideration the desirability of appointing such men as are sympathetic towards the Harijans;

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(c) whether the Government are aware that there are some districts in the Northern Circars in the Andhra area without Labour Officers; and

(d) whether the Government will consider the desirability of appointing Labour Officers in such places?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) 14.”

“(b) Collector is the appointing authority. The Government have no reason to think that men who have no sympathy with the cause of Harijans are being appointed.

“(c) There is no District Labour Officer in Vizagapatam district in the Northern Circars.

“(d) In districts without District Labour Officers, the needs of the depressed classes are being attended to by the ordinary Revenue staff. It has not been found necessary so far to appoint a District Labour Officer for Vizagapatam district.”

MR. E. KANNAN:—“May I know whether the Government or the Commissioner of Labour has received complaints against the District Labour Officers of Bellary, West Godavari and Malabar?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“I have no information, except in the case of Bellary, in which case, the matter is being investigated.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I ask whether the appointment of these District Labour Officers is governed by any rules?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“It is governed by the ordinary rules.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“May I ask whether in the case of Vizagapatam, the Government will consider the advisability of appointing a labour advisory board?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“That matter is a bigger one which is now under the investigation of Government.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“May I take it that by ‘rules’ the Hon. Minister meant rules governing the subordinate services in this Presidency?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“Rules governing the subordinate services and rules which are based on commonsense.”

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

II.—MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF RULE 17 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES.

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“Sir, I move that rule 17 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Wednesday, the 2nd March 1938, i.e., to-day.”

The motion was put and carried.

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III.—THE MADRAS TRAFFIC CONTROL BILL, 1938.

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I present the report* of the Select Committee on the Madras Traffic Control Bill, 1938 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1938), and move

‘that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration at once.’

“Sir, the Select Committee went into the whole Bill and only two amendments have been made by the Committee. In clause 9, an addition of a definition has been made, and that was an amendment of which notice had already been given by me before the Bill went up to the Committee. Again, in sub-clause (v) of the same clause, a small amendment has been made by the Select Committee. I now move, Sir, that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.”

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3.

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—“Sir, I have given notice of an amendment; probably there has not been sufficient time to have it typed and circulated to the House. My amendment is one which covers clauses 3 to 7 of the Bill.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Under what clause of the Bill does the amendment come?”

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—“It is absolutely within your discretion, Mr. Speaker. You can either split up my amendment into five different amendments and allow each to be moved separately in respect of each of the clauses, or you can allow it as an omnibus amendment. They all cover one ground.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The speech on the amendment may be made once for all; but the amendment will be put to vote in respect of each clause.”

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—“My amendment is

‘that clauses 3, 4, 5, sub-clauses (ii) and (iii) of clause 6 and sub-clauses (ii) and (iii) of clause 7 be omitted.’

“Yesterday, Sir, when speaking on this Bill, I stated that I was in agreement with the main principles of the Bill, and therefore it might seem a bit inconsistent on my part to now move for the omission of a whole series of clauses of the Bill. I may at the same time state that even yesterday I stated that for several reasons of which short

* Printed as appendix on pages 150-160 infra.

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notice was the main one, I had not been in a position to understand the full implications of this Bill. It was not till yesterday afternoon while sitting at the Select Committee that I realized to what extent I had not understood the implications of the Bill. The Bill really covers two aspects; the first aspect, to which clauses 3, 4, 5 and sub-clauses (ii) and (iii) of both clauses 6 and 7 relate, is to deprive the Madras City Municipality, the district municipalities and the local boards of their power to frame by-laws regarding the user of public streets and public roads within their respective areas, and also their control over traffic in their own streets and roads. The second aspect relates to a unification of the authority from which licence would have to be taken out before any owner of a motor-car can allow that car to ply on public roads for hire. With the latter aspect, as I said even yesterday, I am in absolute sympathy. On the other hand, I am afraid I must wholly oppose the other portion, for this reason; that by these provisions, the Government seek to deprive the municipalities and district boards of their right to frame by-laws for regulating the use of their roads, use of their public places, and also their right in respect of the control of traffic along those roads. The Government seek to take that power themselves. The effect of that would really be that the body whose business it ought mainly to be to look to these matters, is deprived of the power of making rules, while the central authority, i.e., the Government want to take over that power.

3-30
p.m.

"Of course, it would be said, as it has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, that the main reason for the Government taking over this power is to create or rather bring about uniformity in these rules. I would submit that it is just the matter in which uniformity would be not merely impossible of achievement, but also undesirable. It seems to me that rules and regulations relating to the use of public roads and public streets and controlling the kind of traffic that should go along them would be a matter which should vary according to circumstances. In my own experience I have found that certain by-laws framed with reference to one set of roads or for the matter of fact, a particular road, in a district have been found to be altogether inapplicable to another road, even in the same district. Hence we have framed by-laws for each road, and therefore I think the main reason put forward by Government falls to the ground.

"I have got another fundamental objection to this Bill. Why should we create local boards and call them self-governing institutions, if we are going to deprive them of one power after another? It would be an unnecessary and unwanted interference with the autonomy of these self-governing bodies. It might be said that some of these local bodies are not exercising their powers properly, and that there is abuse of powers. If that is so, it is not for the Hon. Minister for Courts and Prisons to interfere. But it is for the Hon. Minister for Local Self-Government to take action. If there be any chairman of a municipality or any president of a district board allowing himself to be influenced by considerations other than beneficial and straightforward,

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it is for the Hon. Minister for Local Self-Government to pull him up and bring him to the straight path. Perhaps the experience of the present Ministry in the matter of local administration is not quite happy. Whatever might be their experience, even in the best of times, we are bound to have a few instances of misuse or abuse of power and in such cases, it would be a matter for disciplinary action. Supersede that particular body and reconstitute it if you like. And should you see that there is no chance of mending the local bodies, better abolish them altogether, but don't take away one power after another, calling them all the while self-governing or autonomous bodies. Now what is sought in the present Bill is to take the power of the local bodies to frame by-laws. This right, as it stands to-day, is not absolute. The law says that local bodies shall frame by-laws, but that they shall come into force only after being approved by the Government. Thus their right of initiation of laws is taken away by this Bill. There is great difference between initiation of laws subject to approval of somebody and initiation by somebody else. Take clause 3, which I want to be omitted. It says, 'the Provincial Government may, after previous publication, make rules to provide (a) for the regulation of the use of any public place and the closing thereof or parts thereof; and (b) for the regulation of traffic in any public place or its reservation for particular kinds of traffic.' And 'public place' is defined in clause 2 as a road, street, way or other place, whether a thoroughfare or not, to which the public are granted access or over which they have a right to pass. What does this come to? How a particular municipality should run a particular cart-stand in one little corner of its town, what kind of traffic should be allowed along a particular road, what weight should be allowed to pass over a particular bridge,—who are the persons best fitted to judge such cases? Is it the local body or the Government sitting here? After all, whose advice are the Government going to take in these matters? Of course, their officials in the several districts. Thus are you going to substitute a bureaucratic form of Government in the place of the self-governing bodies?

"Clause 5 refers to the Madras City Municipal Act. It says that sub-clauses (b) and (c) of clause (8) of section 349 shall be omitted. That is a clause which now gives the Madras City Municipality right to frame by-laws for roads. Clause 6, sub-clauses (i) and (iv) relates to the right of issuing licences for carts plying for hire. I do not want to interfere with that. Sub-clauses (2) and (3) in clause 6 and sub-clauses (2) and (3) in clause 7 relate to the powers of the district municipalities and district boards respectively. The wording is almost the same. What are the powers? For instance, section 306, clause 8 and sub-clauses (b) and (c) runs as follows:—

'The council may make by-laws, not inconsistent with this Act or with any other law to provide for all matters expressly required or allowed by this Act to be provided for by by-law.' says 'for all matters' and this is one of the matters:—
(b) for the regulation of the use of public streets, and the closing thereof or parts thereof;

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(c) for the regulation of traffic in public streets, or their reservation for particular kinds of traffic.'

"These are matters which I think should properly be in the hands of local boards and municipalities. After all, no abuse of power is possible here at least; this is a matter with very little scope for abuse; for when a by-law is framed, it cannot be made in such a way as to benefit some and injure others; and even when the by-laws are framed they cannot come into force all at once without the approval of the Local Government. Again, they cannot be altered without notice, for the law provides that there should be six weeks' gazette notification before any alteration can be made in the by-laws, i.e., before bringing them for reconsideration before the local board. Therefore I cannot conceive of any board trying to injure any particular persons or abuse their powers. As I said, they are much more competent to frame the by-laws than the Government with no knowledge of the breadth of a particular road or the strength of a bridge over which they propose to regulate traffic. Most of the bridges in the Tanjore district are 150 years old and more. Most of them have been opened in the days of the ancient Hindu Rajas; the roads are situated in deltaic areas, and most of them cannot stand heavy traffic. I wonder how the Government, having no knowledge of these things, are going to frame rules for the regulation of traffic over these roads? Can the Government claim a more intimate knowledge of the roads of the Tanjore District Board than the District Board of Tanjore? I feel, Sir, the district boards are better authorities in these matters. It is safer to leave these matters in their hands and retain the power of approving the by-laws in the hands of the Government.

"Sir, I move my amendment."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the amendment so ably moved by my Hon. Friend Sir A. T. Pannirselvam. There is just one little point which I wish to bring to the notice of this House in connexion with this amendment. The vesting of roads and public communications in district boards and municipalities and at the same time taking away from them the power of regulating traffic and the use of roads, seems to me to be rather anomalous. For that will be giving power by one hand and taking it away by the other. The implications of this amendment would be clear if I read for the information of the House the clauses that are affected. Let us for instance take clause 8, sub-clauses (b) and (c) of the Madras City Municipal Act. Clause (b) refers to 'the regulation of public streets and closing thereof, or parts thereof.' And what is the effect? As I have submitted already the local boards and municipalities have power to safeguard the proper use of the public communications. Now by this amending Bill no encroachments on these public roads can be dealt with by the local boards! On occasions of festivals, marriage or some other similar occasion, the occupation of a portion of the road or the margin of the street is done only after obtaining due permission on payment of licence fees, etc. This power

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would be interfered with if the proposed clause is passed. If we say that local bodies will have no power to regulate street traffic that will be acting contrary to the existing statutory provisions of law. I would therefore on this ground very strongly support the amendment of Sir A. T. Pannirselvam.

"After all, Sir, the idea underlying the creation of democratic form of Government is to vest large discretionary powers in local bodies, and years of careful tending has brought about the present state of affairs in the field of local self-government. The local bodies after patient toil and great deal of attention have been brought to function always on behalf of the public to their general good, and they are taught the ways and methods of local self-government. Sir, local bodies controlling roads, keeping them in order for the general use of the public is also a portion of local self-government, and if you concede that, I should think that taking away power from the local boards to make proper use of the communications will be acting contrary to the ultimate principles of local self-government. I would therefore commend the amendment for the acceptance of the House."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, I oppose 3-45 this amendment moved by the hon. Member, Sir Pannirselvam, and, in p.m. doing so, I wish to say that the considerations that have been placed before this House by both the mover and the seconder of the amendment are not really considerations that should be the guiding factors in deciding whether this clause 3 should be there in the Bill or not. It would appear as if an attempt has been made by the Government to deprive these autonomous or democratic institutions of the small powers that they are now enjoying. This Bill is certainly not intended for any such purpose. The idea underlying this Bill is that in the matter of the traffic control there should be a unitary body—in fact even now a unitary body is carrying on these functions—to carry on these functions unhampered by any authority good or bad putting obstacles in the way of that body carrying out its duties. If we are to view the matter from that standpoint, the question as to whether the autonomous or democratic local bodies are being vested with powers or whether their powers are being taken away, would not arise at all.

"The hon. Mover has said that the power that is vested in the local bodies to make by-laws for regulating the use of roads and controlling traffic thereon is subject to sanction by the Government. He admits therefore that the by-laws have no force at all unless the Government sets its seal of approval upon them. Every by-law passed by a municipality or district board will have force only after approval by the Government. Now, what is contemplated by this Bill is to take away these powers from the local bodies and vest them in the Government, so that they may make rules so as to satisfy the requirements of the various local bodies. That being the case, I really cannot understand how a power which is already vested in the Government of either accepting or refusing to accept the by-laws passed by the

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local bodies should not be assumed entirely by the Government and how it will be hampering the exercise of autonomous powers by the local bodies.

"My hon. Friend also said that what is aimed at is uniformity. He complained that uniformity is neither desirable nor possible. Well, Sir, I may tell him that we are attempting at uniformity only to the extent desirable and possible. Only so much of uniformity that is desirable and possible will be attempted by the Government. Nothing more and nothing less. The advantage of having some sort of uniformity in the by-laws is that the public who may have to go from one place to another will not be put to difficulties and hampered by new rules and regulations at every turn. It cannot be disputed that it is the police who have ultimately to discharge the function of traffic control. Already complaints have been made on the floor of the House that there is so much of mortality on account of the absence of proper traffic control on the roads. The police are doing their level best to see that traffic is properly regulated. But they are sometimes hampered by the local bodies and efficient control of traffic suffers. What is sought to be done under this Bill is to take away this power of interference by the local bodies in the arrangements made by the police for traffic control and to see that there is proper traffic control. For these reasons, I submit that the amendment of my hon. Friend cannot be accepted."

The amendment was put and lost.

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I move—

'After sub-clauses (a) and (b) of clause 3, add the following as sub-clause (c):—

"Provided that no rules made by the Provincial Government shall become operative until and unless the draft thereof is placed before the Legislative Assembly and a motion approving the same is carried by the House."

"Sir, now that the House has rejected the motion for omitting clause 3 altogether, on the ground according to the Hon. Minister that it is necessary in the interests of public safety and to avoid accidents that the power should be vested in the Government, there could be no objection to the amendment that I have proposed by way of a proviso. Such a proviso exists in most of the enactments made in recent years. My amendment does not object to the Government taking power to make rules. It only asks that the Government should take the Legislative Assembly into its confidence whenever it is in session. Sir, it is very probable that the Legislative Assembly will be in session throughout the year and it would not be difficult to get the approval of the Assembly to any draft of the rules that the Government may propose to make. After all, I may point out that the Government have already stated that the Provincial Government may after previous publication make rules. They have now agreed under this clause to previous publication.

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There must be some meaning in previous publication. I submit, Sir, that hitherto previous publication meant nothing to a very large section of the public. The rules are published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and that is not available to most people. This virtually amounts to no publication at all, because only in certain public institutions copies of this Gazette are available. In other places people do not get this at all. Even those who subscribe for this Gazette do not notice these publications. Hon. Members of the House, possibly a good number of them, notice these rules, etc., in the Gazette copies received by them. The public at large do not see the publication in this Gazette. Therefore, Sir, in our country this sort of publication cannot be said to be real publication at all. Publication ought to be in the vernaculars and very widespread. These rules are published long after they actually become rules. I do not think that a draft rule whenever it is published in the official Gazette is published at the same time in the local languages of this province. The rules are published after they become finally approved by the Government. Now, the procedure that I suggest is that any rule that the Government makes, following the practice that has been established by the Government in this province, should be placed before the House for its approval before it is put into force, whether it be a rule for the regulation of the use of any public place or the closing of any public place or its reservation. I suggest that the representatives of the various interests assembled here should be given an opportunity to express their views gained after personal experience of the needs and circumstances of the various localities. I do not think the Government can have any objection to this reasonable and fair proposition. There should be no difficulty at all for the Government in getting the draft rules approved by the Assembly. This procedure has been accepted in the case of the State Aid to Industries Act and so on. I submit that a salutary provision of this kind will be also in the interests of the Government as it will be in the interests of the people and in the interests of the public at large. I do not think it derogates to any the least extent from the powers of the Government that they should get the approval of the Legislative Assembly to any draft rule that they may propose. With these few words I place this motion before the House for its acceptance."

RAO BAHADUR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I second it."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, it would be a rather difficult job for any person to be opposing an amendment whereby powers are sought to be vested more and more in the Assembly. My hon. friend wants only that, when rules are framed by Government under clause 3 before they become operative, they should be placed before the Assembly and a motion approving the same should be carried by the House. Sir, but for the fact that this sort of procedure if adopted will almost make the rule-making power of the Government nugatory, I would very willingly have accepted this amendment. I feel that instead of having a rule-making power with such a condition added to it, it would perhaps be better to have no such rule-making power at all

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vested in the Government. It would be perhaps better if it is suggested that amendments of the sections of the statute are the better course. There cannot be any question of making rules after having got the approval of the House, for the reason that the meeting of the House is rather rare and, even in such cases it would be very difficult to get these rules passed in proper time. It is for these reasons that I have to oppose the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 3 was put and carried.

Clause 4 was put and carried.

Clause 5.

4 p.m. * RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I move the following amendment to clause 5:—

'Omit clause 5.'

"I would submit that my amendment comes to this. Under clause 3 Government have taken over power to frame by-laws. Clauses 5, 6 and 7 seek to deprive the local bodies of their power. I say 'Dont.' The Hon. the Minister said that the by-laws which the Government propose to frame will be just those which will achieve the possible and desirable uniformity applicable throughout the province. Well, at best they will be only, what I can term, skeleton by-laws covering probably a few points leaving out the details. Retain those by-laws which will be necessary to suit the varying conditions obtaining in the various parts of the province. Well, let the Government frame these skeleton by-laws, but let the local boards be also allowed to frame subsidiary by-laws. When two different bodies are given the right to make by-laws on one matter, it may be said that a conflict might arise. My suggestion will be that when these two authorities, one a superior authority and the other a subordinate, have got power to make by-laws, if any of the by-laws framed by the subordinate authority come into conflict with the by-laws of the higher authority, well, the by-laws of the subordinate authority are of no legal value. Therefore only such by-laws as are consistent, at least not inconsistent, with the by-laws framed by the Government, the local boards will have the right to make. At least that power, give it to them. The Government cannot understand what the requirements are in a particular area. I say this from the experience I have had in the administration of the local boards. So many cases come in there which you cannot visualize. You take the major parts; create certain by-laws which will cover the whole province, and leave the subordinate, or what I will call, the subsidiary by-laws, to be framed by the local boards, so that they may make by-laws to suit their local conditions. My Hon. Friend the Minister referred to the fatalities in motor traffic and things of that sort. It is obvious that all of us who face such arguments are under the impression that the power to work these rules or laws which concern motor vehicles ought not to be given to local boards; but you are

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taking the powers to frame by-laws not merely for motor traffic but also with regard to single bullock-carts and slow traffic. These rules do not concern motor vehicles only. They concern every kind of traffic, even the rickshawman and the single bullock-cart man in the villages, and by these by-laws you are trying to control all these. Therefore leave the power in such cases, at least the subsidiary powers, to the local bodies."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed seconded the amendment.

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"There is nothing which I may add to what I have already stated when I was speaking on the amendment moved by my hon. Friend previously. I say that whatever uniformity is possible is sought to be secured by taking the power from the hands of the local bodies. But in cases where uniformity is not possible the Government will be making rules at the instance of local bodies or the District Traffic Boards. These boards, sought to be created by the Government's rule-making power, will keep in touch with the local needs and advise the Government accordingly on the matter.

"As regards the particular by-laws that may be necessary for the proper carrying out of the regulations of traffic in any particular area, and the apprehension that has been expressed in regard to the same, namely, that the Government may not be in a position to understand the needs of the particular areas and that the Government will not be able to make such rules as the situation in a particular place may demand, I may assure the House that there is no need for apprehension on that point. The Government is always agreeable to take suggestions from the district board, from the traffic board as well as from the various authorities that are constituted for the purpose, and the Government will make rules only after full and proper consultation with these bodies. It is not a case of the Government sitting in the Secretariat, making rules and asking the people in those places to carry out the laws, without any consultation with them as regards the result of the operation of such laws. I therefore oppose the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 5 was put and carried.

Clause 6 was put and carried.

Clause 7.

When clause 7 was put to the vote of the House, there was only one 'aye.'

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There is only one 'aye.' If there are three 'noes' it will be lost. (Laughter.) Hon. Members on the right side must take note of the fact that if there are three 'noes' the clause will be lost. So I want them to be careful."

Clause 7 was put again and carried.

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Clause 8.

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I move the amendment standing in my name.

"I first move—

'that sub-clause (d) of clause 8 be omitted.'

"Sub-clause (d) of clause 8 reads—

'Powers to the Provincial Government to control the Central Transport Authority referred to in clause (e) and the prescription that the decisions and orders of such authority shall not be liable to be questioned in any civil court by suit or otherwise and shall be final except in so far as they may be set aside or revised by the Provincial Government.'

"That I say should be omitted. My reason is that Government are making too many provisions under the rule-making powers, and particularly here they seem to take powers as to legislate against the common law of the land. The right of appeal is one which ought to vest in any authority which can be considered to be vested with powers of revision and appeal. This clause not only takes the power to control the Central Transport Authority referred to in clause (c), but also to restrict the right of any citizen who is affected by any order of the Central Authority going to court and getting it set right. That is one aspect of it. In the second place it also takes away the right of the citizen affected from going to court of law constituted by the Government against any decision of the Government that might be passed against the authority or over the authority of the Central Transport Board. That, I say, is very vicious. The right of any citizen who wants a remedy when he feels he is aggrieved is being taken away. Only very rarely cases may go before the central board. The central board may probably get only a few cases from the district boards. In many cases the district board may do the right thing and probably the occasions when these district boards may go wrong are very few. You have rightly provided for appeal against the decision of the district board to the central board. But the central board itself might go wrong when it sits in appeal against the decision of the district board. I submit, Sir, occasions when they go wrong and when the party feels he has got a right to be heard further may be very very rare and seldom. But when such cases occur, there ought to be no difficulty for the Government to provide for the courts to go in any adjudicate between the central board and the affected party. Now, that right is sought to be taken away by this clause (d). No doubt the Government takes power to revise or to set aside any order of the central board. When that is the case, why should the powers of the courts of law be affected by the rule-making powers of the Government? Government should not fight shy of their decisions being questioned in a court of law by any

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person who is aggrieved by them. Of course it might lengthen the procedure, but the Government need not take that into consideration when the party, who is aggrieved wants to have that luxury. Government ought to give freedom to the aggrieved party to go to a court of law. Government may or may not have decided rightly, and therefore, they ought not to take this power of being the final judges over their decisions and over the decisions of their subordinates. The party affected must have the right to go to the civil court and therefore this clause should be deleted."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The amendment falls through for want of a seconder."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, though my amendment for the deletion of the whole sub-clause has fallen through for want of a seconder, I shall take courage and move the next amendment."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"As a matter of fact, according to strict procedural law these are not amendments at all, but as the practice of this House allows them, they have been admitted."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'For item (ii) of sub-clause (d) substitute the following:—

"may be set aside or revised by the Provincial Government."'

"Sir, this amendment does not seek to take away the powers of the Government to sit in judgment over the decisions of the Central Transport Authority. I only want to provide that the decisions of the Government should not be final. The aggrieved party must have the opportunity to seek what remedy he is entitled to by regular procedure in a court of law. I, therefore, suggest that the clause should be amended in the form I have suggested."

MR. G. KRISHNA RAO:—"I second the amendment."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Sir, I oppose the amendment. The powers of the Provincial Government, sought to be taken under this amendment, are absolutely necessary for the proper administration of traffic control in this Presidency. The idea that the civil courts should be vested with the powers of revising the decisions of transport authorities formed to regulate road transport in the province or that the decisions of the Provincial Government also should be subject to revision by civil courts is a thing which does not obtain anywhere in any kind of legislation. I oppose the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I move—

'that sub-clause (e) of clause 8 be omitted.'

"This clause also is a repetition of the previous clause to some extent."

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* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"Therefore no speech is necessary."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, the rule-making powers of the Government ought not to affect the ordinary rights of a citizen to go to a court of law and seek the necessary remedy. The rule-making power of the Government should not be enlarged to such an extent. All transport authorities are comprised in this clause. I submit, Sir, that it is a very pernicious principle and that it cuts clean across the ordinary rights of the citizen to seek a remedy in a court of law whenever he feels aggrieved by the action of the Government or any subordinate authority set up by the Government."

MR. G. KRISHNA RAO:—"I second it."

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I oppose the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 8 was put and carried.

Clause 9.

* **MR. G. L. ORCHARD**:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing to my name. First of all, I would ask your permission to omit the reading of the amendment in full as it is a very lengthy one. Its effect is merely to substitute for the present schedule, a schedule of maximum rates 25 per cent less than those contained in the Bill as introduced in the House. If you wish me to read the amendment in full, I will, of course, do so, but in view of its length I suggest that you will probably find that this is not necessary."

"In the statement of the objects and reasons, it is made clear that Government realize that the taxation now imposed on motor industry is a very heavy burden and they add that it is their intention that no great increase should be made."

"It is not a simple matter to draw a strict comparison of the present incidence of taxation with that proposed under the provisions of this Bill. Broadly it appears that taxation on motor buses will not be greatly altered. Those running in one district board only will have to pay more and those now running in more than one district board will pay less. Lorries plying for hire will pay rather less. Private lorries will have to bear increased taxation by approximately 30 per cent. The lorry taxation comparison is rendered unusually difficult, because the present basis of taxation is unladen weight and the proposed basis of taxation is laden weight. I notice that motor cars are to bear a greatly increased burden of taxation."

"I will add that my comparisons are based on the maximum rates of taxation appearing in the schedule now under discussion. I hope that the Hon. Minister will inform this House the exact scale of taxation which Government propose to levy in the first instance."

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"I made reference in my speech yesterday to the heavy taxation burden which motor transport has to bear. The development of motor transport is a matter of vital importance to the agricultural, industrial, social and political development of this Province. The burden of taxation is a serious hindrance to this development. Furthermore the burden of taxation, in checking the development of motor transport, is a serious factor in arresting any increase of provincial revenues, which could be expected under this head."

"I do believe that, if Government were to follow a bold policy and reduce the scale of taxation as suggested in my amendment, it would pay them in a comparatively short time. The provisions of the new Bill and the rules to be framed thereunder will, I presume, take care of the fact that motor transport will only play its proper share in the general transport scheme in our Presidency in relation to railways and waterways. There should, in these circumstances, be no fear that with reduced taxation motor transport will develop beyond its economic and rightful sphere."

"I would now like to make a comparison of motor transport taxation in this Province with that existing in certain other Provinces in this country. To avoid giving the House any great mass of detail, I would confine my comparisons to a 21 seater bus."

"The maximum scale of taxation of a 21 seater bus as laid down in this Bill will be Rs. 1,680 per annum. I will not use this figure, because I am unaware as to whether Government intend to impose the maximum scale. I will take as my basis of comparison the present scale of taxation for a 21-seater bus plying in one District Board and one municipality, which is, as far as mufassal is concerned, the lowest scale in operation. The annual taxation amounts to approximately Rs. 1,400."

"The Province which comes next to Madras in the incidence of taxation is Bombay. The figure there is Rs. 550 per annum or 39 per cent of the Madras figure. In the Punjab the corresponding figures are Rs. 260 or 19 per cent. United Provinces, Rs. 250 or 18 per cent; Central Provinces, Rs. 220 or 16 per cent; Assam, Rs. 150 or 11 per cent; and finally Bengal with a taxation of Rs. 115 per annum which is only 8 per cent of the taxation in Madras."

"From my own personal experience and the information at my disposal, it cannot be argued that motor transport operators in this Presidency are at any advantage compared with other Provinces. One of the main factors the motor transport operator looks to, is the condition of roads, and the road system in this Province is far from satisfactory and cannot be described as being superior to road conditions elsewhere."

"I maintain, therefore, on those lines generally that the high incidence of taxation which motor transport suffers is unjust and unjustifiable."

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"As a particular issue I would again raise the question of bullock carts. As far as my information goes, during the last year when the tolls were in force, bullock carts provided our Provincial revenues with some 30 lakhs of rupees. I am not aware that the old tolls taxation was an intolerable burden on agriculture and commerce. I have received various estimates of the number of bullock-carts operating on our main roads. The most conservative estimate is in the neighbourhood of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million. A simple licence fee of a mere few rupees per annum could hardly be felt by the individuals concerned and would provide the province with a very satisfactory additional income.

"I maintain, Sir, that all users of the road should be made to pay directly for the use which they make of the roads. I don't say that all who use the roads should be made to pay in accordance with the damage which they do to roads, as I do admit that if this policy were followed, the vitally useful bullock carts would be put out of existence. The guiding principles should be, the use made of the roads, the damage caused to the roads, and the capacity to pay.

"In conclusion I would urge that to perpetuate the present taxation policy, is seriously to retard the development of motor transport, the development of roads, and in consequence to arrest a fair and reasonable development of provincial revenues.

"The opportunity is now presented to Government to correct the existing anomalies. Government have too long regarded motor transport as the goose that lays the golden egg. They have given this goose a hard life. It now wants nourishing badly, and I firmly believe that if this valuable bird is carefully treated, it will turn to a regular and profitable layer.

"Sir, I beg formally to move the amendment standing in my name, that is:—

'For the proposed new items 3 and 4 of Schedule II of clause 9, sub-clause (v) to the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, substitute the following:

Class of vehicles.	Maximum quarterly tax.	
	For vehicles fitted with pneumatic tyres.	For other vehicles.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
3. Motor Lorries—		
(a) Lorries not exceeding 20 cwt. in weight, laden	37 8 0	56 4 0
(b) Lorries exceeding 20 cwt. but not exceeding 30 cwt. in weight, laden	75 0 0	112 8 0
(c) Lorries exceeding 30 cwt. but not exceeding 45 cwt. in weight, laden	90 0 0	135 0 0
(d) Lorries exceeding 45 cwt. but not exceeding 60 cwt. in weight, laden	112 8 0	168 12 0

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Class of vehicles.	Maximum quarterly tax.	
	For vehicles fitted with pneumatic tyres.	For other vehicles.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
(e) Lorries exceeding 60 cwt. but not exceeding 85 cwt. in weight, laden	135 0 0	202 8 0
(f) Lorries exceeding 85 cwt. but not exceeding 110 cwt. in weight, laden	165 0 0	247 8 0
(g) Lorries exceeding 110 cwt. but not exceeding 150 cwt. in weight, laden	202 8 0	303 12 0
(h) Lorries exceeding 150 cwt. but not exceeding 180 cwt. in weight, laden	240 0 0	360 0 0
(i) Lorries exceeding 180 cwt. in weight, laden	262 8 0	393 12 0
(j) Additional tax payable in respect of lorries used for drawing trailers—		
(i) for each trailer not exceeding 20 cwt. in weight, laden ..	15 0 0	22 8 0
(ii) for each trailer exceeding 20 cwt. but not exceeding 60 cwt. in weight, laden	56 4 0	84 0 0
(iii) for each trailer exceeding 60 cwt. in weight, laden ..	112 8 0	168 12 0
4. Motor Vehicles plying for hire and used for the transport of passengers—		
(a) Vehicles licensed under the rules made by the Provincial Government under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, to carry in all not more than four persons	60 0 0	90 0 0
(b) Vehicles licensed under the rules made by the Provincial Government under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, to carry more than four persons—for every person which the vehicle is so licensed to carry	15 0 0	22 8 0

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have two amendments, which I shall take up later on. I shall not move one of them; I shall move the second alone."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What I have before me as the Member's amendment is practically covered by Mr. Orchard's amendment, except the latter portion, which refers to Madras."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"My amendment is only with reference to Madras. I have got a subsequent amendment adding a new clause. I would like to speak now on Mr. Orchard's amendment."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Irrespective of your amendment?"

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Yes, Sir. In seconding the amendment now before the House, I should like to be clearly understood that I am not doing so in any spirit of opposition to the Bill. Really, I am enthusiastically in support of the principles of the Bill and I take the opportunity of congratulating the Hon. Minister in bringing forward a Bill so comprehensive in its nature, and in itself so much capable of being improved upon (laughter) notwithstanding the objections of my friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed. The Bill does contain

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germs which can be improved upon, and we can, probably in due course, provided the Hon. Minister in charge shows the same amount of enthusiasm, have a transport board and a transport policy, for which I think we have all been agitating all along. That is the reason, Sir, why I am wholeheartedly in support of the principles of the Bill; but my objection is really to a trifling matter, which of course is a matter of money. The amendment moved by Mr. Orchard is to lower the fees that are to be charged, by 25 per cent. So far as I am concerned, I should not have asked for anything so big if the distinction between private lorries and hired lorries had been maintained. It is not because I am personally affected; but the fact really is that quite a number of people who have been paying a nominal fee to the local boards all along have to pay considerably more. I do not think the principle of abolishing this distinction is supported by the practice in other countries. The Road Traffic Act of 1931 of the United Kingdom has three classes of licences, A, B and C. The Road Traffic Act of the United States of America of 1935, has also got three classes—the private carrier, the contract carrier and the common carrier. Other countries have adopted similar traffic systems; Argentine, Northern Ireland and certain other European countries also maintain this classification. I admit, Sir, it is a difficult business to regulate, or for the matter of that, prevent evasions from paying the legitimate tax; that is what the Government have been experiencing before. But none the less, just because the machinery could not be created for avoiding such evasions, there is no use taxing people who do not use the road as much as the hired lorries or hired vehicles do. That is my principal objection to this sub-section, Sir.

“ Besides, it does not take into account the question of the use of the road. That takes me back to an old story that I had occasion to mention on the floor of the House some time back. The best and the most equitable way of taxing traffic will be a reversion to tolls. I should like to assure the members on the Treasury Bench, that I do not, in an under-hand way or by a subterfuge, try to advocate the taxing of bullock-carts. Actually, I am not in favour of taxing bullock-carts. I know there are many ways of justifying the non-taxing of bullock-carts. The Salter Committee in reporting about the equity of taxation in England, has excluded non-commercial and certain small commercial buses, because, they said, there was a capital outlay by the Government in respect of these roads, and the non-commercial and agricultural users could take advantage of the benefits of the capital outlay by the Government. Therefore, we cannot say that because the motor vehicles are taxed, other kinds of vehicles also should be taxed. The Government have already spent the money in laying out these roads, and therefore, these bullock carts have a right to use them. So, when I ask for a re-introduction of tolls, I am not at all making out a case for taxing bullock-carts. Re-introduction of tolls on motor cars, motor lorries and motor buses—that is all I ask.

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“ I may also refer, in this connexion, to the example, the admirable example of the neighbouring state of Mysore. There, they have achieved a happy combination of motor licences and provincial tolls. That means that the man who uses the road oftener will pay more. I do not see any possibility of that sort of thing being accepted by the Government here just now, but I would like to impress on the Government that this is a matter to be explored into further, because the rates contained in the schedule here will be convenient to some people while they may adversely affect some others as there is no rationale behind it. A light motor lorry may have to pay a heavy charge, while a heavy lorry may have to pay a light charge proportionately. There is no relation between the charges to be paid and the amount of damage caused to the road. These things will have to be investigated further; and if only Government will consider this matter, they may probably bring in amendments to this sub-section themselves. That is what I would like to impress on the Government, Sir, in connexion with the amendment that has been moved.”

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no idea of taking part in the debate on this amendment; but if I do so, it is only with a view to disabuse the impression which the motor and petrol trade, seem to be labouring under, that they and they alone are the contributors towards the maintenance and upkeep of the roads and communications in the province, and that the country-carts which use the roads, make no contribution whatsoever. I may say, Sir, that fifty per cent of the Madras revenue is contributed by the country-cart owners; because, after all, the country-cart is owned by the agriculturist who pays in the shape of land revenue alone to the tune of nearly Rs. 7½ crores out of a total revenue of Rs. 16 crores of this province. Again, Sir, the district boards lay out these roads; they lay them out of what? Out of the cesses that they collect from the agriculturists. They collect about 1½ annas for every rupee of revenue, and it is out of such funds so collected from the owners of country-carts that the roads are laid out. Therefore, Sir, I maintain that the agriculturist's contribution towards the maintenance and upkeep of the roads covers not only his share, but is more than his share.”

MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with all that has been said by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnamachariar. The object of the Bill, from what the Members of the Select Committee said yesterday, is to tax the motor vehicles, because they have been damaging the roads. But, it must be remembered that for the development of our trade, it is essential that we must have cheap rates in force. It must not be forgotten that these motor buses and motor lorries have contributed enormously to the development of trade and communications in our province. They have been paying taxes in the past, and as has been observed by my hon. Friend, they have been paying duty on petrol also. Petrol which costs about 10 annas is taxed

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and these motor vehicles have been paying that tax. The fact that they are using the roads more frequently need not, I think, be a consideration for taxing them higher. Our roads are no doubt getting very bad, but, the roads were laid out only at a time when these motor vehicles and fast traffic had not much come into existence. Now that we have got motor traffic, we must have better roads also; and therefore, I think, we need have no complaint against these motor vehicles.

"Then, Sir, it is regrettable that the taxes on these motor buses should have been raised to Rs. 20. The motor buses that are plying, particularly in the mufassal, have been working at a very great loss. To raise the tax to Rs. 20 in their case does not seem to be justifiable. I appeal to the Government to accept the amendment and see that the rates, particularly in the case of motor buses, are reduced."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose this amendment for further reduction of motor-tax. It may be possible that some difference can be made between motor lorries and motor buses. As regards motor lorries, I think it is a great concession that the Government have shown. I should think that they ought to tax these motor lorries still further, so that most of them may go out of existence. (Laughter.) I will say why it is. There are two agencies with which these motor lorries are competing. One is the bullock cart and the second is the railway. So far as the railways are concerned, even provincial Governments have a large interest in them inasmuch as they have to see that the income of the railways do not decrease. For one thing the railways are a great national asset, and so we must consider that the money invested in them is ours. And secondly the more the income of the railways, the greater will be our share of profits accruing from the railways. So, Sir, attempts should be made to increase the income of the railways, and it should not be unnecessarily reduced as it is ordinarily done.

"Secondly there is the bullock cart. There is no doubt some justification for giving facilities for the motor bus passenger traffic. But as for the motor lorries, I see absolutely no justification for their existence in our country. The bullock cart men are mostly ordinary ryots, small petty ryots, who make some income during the off-season. Now by the competition of motor lorries, the bullock cart men are practically deprived of this income. So they stand more or less on the same category as the cottage industry. Perhaps the only justification for the existence of motor lorries is in the case of marketing perishable commodities, such as fruits and vegetables, as quick transport is necessary for them when they have to find a market in distant places. Barring such exceptions, I personally feel it is much better in the interests of this country that most of these motor lorries go out of existence.

"Another objection against motor lorries is that the money invested in their purchase and in the purchase of petrol required for their upkeep go out of this country once for all, thus denuding this country of its money, except, of course, the small sums which come back to us by

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way of duty on petrol and motor lorries. I rather wish that a different system of taxation is adopted instead of this sort of new uniform taxation proposed. The system of taxation based on the consideration of the damage done to roads is not good. I do not believe in it. Possibly there is another method of assessing these taxes. So far as I can see, the only way by which it can be fairly done is to come to some sort of arrangement with the imperial Government by which a further duty is levied on petrol. (Laughter from the Opposition Benches.) I mean only alternative taxes, say, an increased duty on petrol and an increased duty on purchase of motor lorries and hand them over to the local Government. I think that would be more equitable.

"Again, Sir, I see now the motor lorries that do more damage to roads pay less in the matter of taxes. Very heavy lorries are now run on some roads and they do so much damage to roads that it ought to be the attempt of Government to drive them out of existence. The tax levied on them should be deterrent so as to discourage their existence, for the damage that is done to the road by a lorry carrying a load of 8 or 10 tons will be 50 times more than the lorry carrying a load of one or two tons. I wish, if not now, at least some time hence, Government will consider this matter and see why an adjustment should not be made in this matter.

"Again, Sir, heavy lorries carrying a load of 8 or 10 tons pay a less amount of tax than the comparatively light lorries carrying a load of one or two tons; for the duty levied on the former is not eight times the duty levied on the latter. It is very much less.

"I am very glad to hear the arguments brought forward to show that the bullock cart should not be taxed inasmuch as the agriculturist is already paying a tax along with land revenue and which is being utilized to maintain roads. After all, there is no sense in saying that the bullock cart is damaging the roads. Therefore, I wish this Government, or at any rate, those who are interested in seeing that the welfare of the ordinary ryot is improved by providing for him a subsidiary income, put a high tax on petrol and lorries. Sir, a time will come when it will pay us to manufacture our own lorries and a time will come when—it will not be long—it will be possible to use charcoal to run lorries instead of petrol. Until that date it should be the policy of Government to tax as much as possible motor lorries, so that they may go out of existence. With regard to bus passenger traffic I should think it cannot bear much higher taxation than that which obtains at present. For these reasons I oppose the amendment."

* MR. K. ABDUR RAHIMAN KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to add a few words in support of the amendment so ably moved and supported by my friends. I very carefully followed the speech of Mr. Koti Reddi, and I am afraid he did not make out a proper case for the bus-owners. The condition of the bus-owners is really a pitiable one at present. During the last budget discussion it was brought to the notice of the Minister concerned that the bus-owners are suffering

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under great difficulties, as the burden of taxation is heavy, and we thought that something would be done to make their condition better. But what do we find here? The burden has been increased by increased taxation. The increase in the number of buses has ceased to make the trade paying. So at present bus industry requires some sort of encouragement. It is not a case of competition with the Railways. For if we go to the mufassal we will see that the buses are plying there in areas where there is no other means of communication at all. So in fact the buses are satisfying a real need in the mufassal; only the large number of buses plying in one and the same route has rendered the trade unremunerative. I hope the Hon. Minister will limit the number of buses plying in each route and thus make the bus industry pay. Sir, I support the amendment for reducing taxation."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON :—"Sir, I oppose the amendment and in opposing it I may be permitted first to deal with the two arguments advanced in the matter of taxation that is sought to be levied on bus-owners. I may at once point out there is a mistake which has crept into their minds on account of the figures given in the schedules. It is to be seen that the rates of taxes on motor buses are the maximum that is to be levied, in case Government find it absolutely necessary. I do not want to give an undertaking which may possibly be construed as an undertaking which will be kept up for all time to come. But I can assure the House that the present Government have no idea of taxing anything over Rs. 17 per seat for the buses that are plying in the mufassal. That is something less than the tax they are paying to-day. It is because of that the Government have claimed in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that by the introduction of this Bill, it is their idea to reduce taxation to a small extent at least; and I hope with this assurance it will be taken for granted that though the schedule mentions Rs. 20 as the tax for the buses and Rs. 80 for the five-seater cars, Government are not for the moment contemplating taxing the utmost.

"And I may also point out that in every piece of legislation that has been introduced similar to this sort of taxation, it has always been the maximum figure that Government think of ultimately levying that is put; and it is done only to meet a situation if and when it arises; and I hope it will not arise so long as we are in office here.

"As regards bullock carts Mr. Pannirselvam has answered why tolls should not be levied on bullock carts; in fact that has been ruled out, for the Hon. Premier has made it clear on a previous occasion that it is the definite policy of this Government that bullock carts are not to be taxed, and however much we may want to get more finances, we would try to get them from sources other than by taxation of bullock carts. So the idea of taxing bullock carts being ruled out, the question will be as to how we are to get the finances necessary to keep the roads in good repair. Instances of other provinces have been cited by Mr. Orchard. I am not able to-day to compare the state of roads in those provinces with the state of roads in our own province.

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"Presumably their roads are cheaper in cost, due to the cheapness of labour and other materials. I cannot say that all their roads are in good condition. It cannot therefore be said that these provinces are taxing low and we are taxing high. We require extra amounts for purposes of road improvement or road-making. As it is, we find that by the abolition of the tolls we have lost somewhere about half of the Rs. 73 lakhs. When the tolls system was taken away by the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act of 1931, the Government undertook to make contributions to the various local bodies in order to make good the amounts that they had been getting out of the tolls.

"When the Government introduced taxation in pursuance of the Act of 1931, it was found that the Government was not able to make good even 50 per cent of the contribution which the various local bodies had to get. It might be said, it was because the bullock carts have been taken away from taxation that the fall in the revenue was caused. It is true that it is due to that also, but every effort has been made to make good that loss. We are still trying for that, because, even with the 80 lakhs or 75 lakhs that was being spent upon the roads, it is found that it will not be possible to maintain the roads in proper condition.

"When we want money we cannot be taxing the bullock carts. The only possibility is to try to get as much as possible from the other vehicles that are using the roads. We contend that the motor vehicles which are doing the greatest havoc upon our roads should be taxed. And we are taxing only to the extent which the Government think they are able to pay. It is not very easy to say that there will be a reduction. The Government claim that there has been a reduction in the taxation. Lorries which are used for hire, used to pay more under the existing law than what is now contemplated under the new Bill. The complaint seems to be that lorries which used to be registered as 'For trade purposes' and 'For private purposes' and which have been paying a nominal tax of Rs. 5 per year have now been brought under the general classification of 'lorries' and are made to pay a slightly higher figure than what they have been paying before. It is true that they have to pay more than what they have been paying hitherto, but the Government are of the view that they have to pay more, because they are using the roads as much as any other lorry is using. They are having the benefit of the road as much as the other class of lorries. They are therefore asked to pay as much as they are able to pay and they have to pay. Otherwise the Government cannot maintain the roads. That is the only intention for taxing the lorries on a uniform basis.

"As for the reintroduction of the tolls that has been suggested by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar and the imposition of a provincial tax suggested by several other hon. Members, I cannot accept them. With his full sympathy towards the bullock cartman, my hon. Friend says 'yet you cannot tax the motor-owners alone, but have the provincial tax as well as the toll.' If I remember aright, a cry was raised when the question of the abolition or retention of tolls was raised, of the

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nuisance and the pin-pricks that the people had to endure, having had within every few miles of the road to stop for the purpose of tolls. There is no objection for the reintroduction of the tolls and realising large sums of money out of it, provided that the tolls are to be only for the motor-owners. That matter is to be considered by the Government. My hon. Friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar asks, why not we agree to the introduction of the tolls on all the motor vehicles if we are to get more money by the imposition of a toll? We are not, strictly speaking, for the reintroduction of the toll. The poor villager, the bullock cart-man cannot be taxed.

"I may therefore say that a reduction in the tax which may appear at first sight to be fair will hamper the building up of roads. The tax is most necessary and even this amount is not sufficient to maintain the roads in a proper condition. I hope that increased motor transport will bring in more money into the Government coffers. With these words, I oppose the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I think the hon. Member's amendment is covered by Mr. Orchard's amendment."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I have given notice of a subsequent amendment."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What amendment?"

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"The addition of a new clause."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am not speaking about the addition of the new clause. What about the original long amendment?"

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I am not moving it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before we go to that, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan's amendment for substitution of words should be taken up, because the new clause will come after that."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the amendments formally—

'In item 4 (a) of the schedule for the words "five persons" substitute the words "four persons excluding the driver."

'Add further after the words "the driver" occurring in the above amendment the words "excepting those that are licensed and are plying in the City of Madras."

"It is with the sole object of finding out the mind of the Government on the subject that I am moving this amendment. Sir, first of all, there is one principle which the Government kindly accepted in the Select Committee and that is to exempt the motor-driver and the conductor in the case of buses and the motor-driver alone in the case of a taxi from the tax. I find from the report that so far as the former

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case is concerned, it has been made clear that these two seats that are occupied by the driver and the conductor will be excluded. My fear is not about the former case. The case of the taxi has not been made so clear as to remove all doubts. I know that it will be very difficult to fit in the words 'exclusion of the driver' in the provision as it stands now in the Bill. All the same, I wish the Hon. Minister to consider whether a suitable amendment cannot be made to item 4 (a) in the schedule by which means it will be possible to make it very clear and put it beyond doubt that the seat for the driver will be altogether exempted from taxation. That is my object in giving notice of this amendment and I leave the Minister to say as to what is the object of the wording of the amendment in the report that has been presented to us by the Select Committee. I have absolutely no desire to press this amendment.

"Then with regard to the other thing, Sir, the Hon. Minister realizes my hope . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question before the House is not with regard to the Hon. Minister. It is with regard to the hon. Member's amendment."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, I know that the Hon. Minister . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"How does the Hon. Minister come in before the question is proposed?"

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I wish to move it formally, Sir. Then the next part of my amendment relates to the motor vehicles that ply for hire both in the city and the mufassal. There are two classifications of motor vehicles that ply for hire and they are taxis and the 'buses.' The question of these vehicles is absolutely different from those that are plying for hire in the mufassal area. Here the taxi-owner or the bus-owner is paying only the provincial tax. He has not been paying any municipal tax as the corporation levies none. As such, he is at present paying only Rs. 8-12-0 or at the maximum Rs. 10 per seat whereas in the mufassal area the taxi or the bus-owner has been paying, as the Hon. Minister knows more than Rs. 15 or Rs. 20, as other taxes are included in it, per seat. By the consolidation of the taxes in the mufassal the owner of a bus or a taxi does not suffer. On the other hand a certain amount of relief is given to him, whereas the taxi-owner or the bus-owner in the city is greatly handicapped in so far as he is called upon to pay always as much as he can. If the Hon. Minister does not propose to charge the maximum rate of Rs. 20 and he only fixes it at the minimum of Rs. 17 per taxi, even then the taxi-owner and the bus-owner in the city has to pay Rs. 10 more than what he has actually been paying hitherto. It is in order to point out this difference between the owners of these vehicles in the city and those in mufassal that I am moving this amendment. There is a good

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deal of difference in the matter of tax as it exists in the city and what obtains in the mufassal. Competition also in the districts is very different from what it is in the city. The motor vehicles which ply for hire in the city have to meet competition from various sources. There is the tram car and there are motor cars which ply as unlicensed taxis. (Interruption.) I do not wish to give instances. Why, even some of us have been using cars at a very cheaper rate than the licensed taxis. This competition which has undoubtedly grown against the licensed vehicles in the city is really very grave. I am sure the Hon. Minister will take these facts into account and see whether he cannot by some means retain the existing rate of tax on the vehicles that are plying in the city. I accept the general principle of taxation of motor vehicles and carts. This of course does not apply to the city, because there is competition here. And then there is the question whether the amount that is collected from this taxation should not be raised with a view to maintain the roads; I do not think, Sir, that I need take the time of the House in giving my view so far as that point is concerned. I hope, Sir, that the Hon. Minister will in replying, let us know that the object he has in view is not to tax without any recognition of certain principles that are obtaining in different areas in this province and that he will take into account the difference that exists in the circumstances and the conditions that are obtaining in urban areas, in the rural areas and in the City of Madras. I hope he will take into account all these facts and give us an assurance that so far as the city is concerned, he is not going to tax a pie more than what actually these people are paying to-day. With these few words, I move these amendments."

The motion was duly seconded.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There are two amendments. The first is:—
'In item 4 (a) of the schedule for the words "five persons" substitute the words "four persons excluding the driver."'

"The second is—

'Add further after the words "the driver" occurring in the above amendment the words "excepting those that are licensed and are plying in the City of Madras."'

"The two amendments should be put separately, I suppose."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Yes, Sir."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"So far as these amendments are concerned, I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that the intention of the Government when the amendment in 4 (a) to substitute the words 'to carry in all not more than five persons for what the wording was before it went to the Select Committee, namely, 'to carry in all not more than four persons' was accepted was to exclude the driver from being taxed. That intention is being carried out by this amendment. But, if in the actual working of this enactment any difficulty is felt, the Government would only be too glad to rectify the mistake or to remove the difficulty. The idea of the Government

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not to tax the driver is there and that is going to be adhered to by the Government. On this assurance I hope the hon. Mover will withdraw his amendments."

The amendments were by leave withdrawn.

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I move in clause 9—

'that the word "and" at the end of sub-clause (vi) be omitted; and

'that the following be added as a new sub-clause (viii) after sub-clause (vii):—

"and

(viii) in item (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 11, after the words 'class of motor vehicles,' the words 'or motor vehicles running in any particular area,' shall be added'."

"Sir, the object of this amendment is really to afford relief to lorries, buses and taxis plying in Madras for the time being. What happens is that in the case of lorries the rates are increased by nearly 50 per cent if they happen to ply within the City of Madras only and in the case of taxis and buses the rates are doubled. Even according to the rates given in clause (vi), these are maximum rates. I think it will be recognized on all hands that it is a hardship. The Government could not have any intention, in introducing this Bill, to create a hardship to any class of people and make them pay cent per cent more than what they now pay. It is also possible that in urban areas where competition is very keen, for instance in Madras we have the competition of tram cars, and there is keen competition between one bus service and another, some kind of relief will have to be given to buses. I commend this amendment to the attention of the Government."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I second the amendment."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I accept this amendment. By this amendment it is sought to clear a doubt that may linger in the minds of some hon. Members as to whether by stipulating the maximum rate of taxation for lorries and buses according to the schedule we are going to insist on uniformity of taxation for the vehicles plying in the city and for those plying in the mufassal. By accepting this amendment, I do not concede the position that the purposes which in the Madras City the lorries, buses and taxis are put to are in any way different from the purposes which these vehicles are put to in other places. Everywhere the object is money-making. But I concede the position that from the existing rates which are about half in the Madras City of what they are in the mufassal if we are to effect an increase by cent per cent in the city, it would appear to be rather hard. The Government have no such idea of increasing the taxation. As will be seen from the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the idea of the Government is to adhere to the existing rate as much as possible. The idea of increasing taxation cent per cent all of a sudden is certainly not in the minds of the Government."

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So, the apprehension expressed in certain quarters of the House that the vehicles that are plying for hire in the city will be taxed all of a sudden to the maximum extent permissible has no basis. I may clearly state, Sir, that the Government would not all on a sudden increase the taxes to the extent apprehended. If it is done, it will be for all and not for the city alone. The matter will be considered by the Government who are taking powers under this particular clause to prescribe the taxes for the various classes of vehicles using the roads in the different areas of the Presidency. I accept the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 9, as amended, was then put and carried.

Clauses 10, 11 and 12 were put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is stated in sub-clause (3) of clause 1 that 'this section shall come into force at once.' I wish to know when it will come into force."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"When the Bill is passed and when it becomes law. This Bill will come into force as soon as it is passed into law, with all its implications which are contemplated, the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General and the publication of the Act in the Gazette."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Under the ordinary laws, every law comes into force at once, unless the contrary is stated. The idea is to make a distinction that, inasmuch as some sections of the Act are postponed, this section comes into force at once. If no provision is made for something to be done later, it is usual to say that the operative part of the Act comes into force at once. 'At once' means as soon as the law operates, when the Act is complete so far as legislation has to be enacted by the two Chambers. 'At once' does not mean a later date on which assent is given and that the operation will have retrospective effect. It only means as the law is complete."

Clause 1 was put and carried.

The preamble was put and carried.

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Sir, I move—
'that the Bill be passed into law.'"

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Sir, the Bill is perhaps a very small measure; it is however a Bill of no small importance. This Bill—at least two points of the Bill—is of considerable importance to this country. . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member oppose the Bill?"

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Sir, it will be meaningless to oppose the Bill at this stage. I wish to make a few general remarks on the Bill."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"What for? What is the object?"

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I wish to offer some remarks by way of criticism of the Bill. If you think that I can speak only under the condition that I oppose the Bill, I shall do so."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Some definite attitude should be taken."

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"At the third reading stage it is usual to pay compliments to the Hon. Minister, the reverse of compliments is equally relevant criticism. In spirit I am not opposing the Bill. If I would be privileged to speak only on condition that I oppose the Bill, I shall formally state that I do so. My experience is that criticisms are allowed at the third reading. We have to bow to your ruling; we have no right to question it. If you say I cannot speak unless I oppose the Bill, I shall oppose the Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What I say is this: There will be no limit to the number of speeches going on at this rate. If one Member offers a few remarks now, every Member will be entitled to speak. Special indulgence should not be shown to any particular Member. The Leader of the Opposition might comment adversely upon the quickness with which the Hon. Mover of the Bill has piloted it. There should be something specific before the House."

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I do not want any indulgence, Sir, much less special indulgence. If I get up, it is in exercise of a right."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may exercise his right."

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"My speech will not be flippant or of no consequence. I shall speak with a sense of responsibility; I shall not waste the time of the Speaker or the time of the House, much less, my own time and energy. If I speak at all, it is with the confidence that it will have some effect, though the confidence may prove to have been misplaced."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I do not say that the hon. Member has no right; I agree that he has the right and he might speak now."

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I expect that every Member of the House has got a certain amount of responsibility; no Member can be told that he is wasting the time of the House by making unnecessary remarks, even before he has begun."

"With these words, Sir, I proceed. This Bill, innocent as it looks, exhibits a very vicious principle, which this Government has been pursuing. Ever since this Government came to office, it has been seeking to take power to itself in all matters. A sort of centralization has been sought to be achieved. Under the old Government with a view to improved general administration gradual decentralization had been going on for a number of years. During the last seven months, there has been considerable retrogression. It has all been a case of centralization,

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depriving the local boards and other local institutions of their powers and the Government taking to itself every power.

"In this particular case I might perhaps agree with the Government that a higher fee should be levied on motor vehicles. However this matter of raising the amount of taxation affects people to a considerable extent. I wish to say that in the case of a measure of this importance, people would have expected greater consideration at the hands of the Government in the matter of sufficient notice being given and the time allotted for its discussion. I might state that judging by the speech of the Hon. the Premier in the third reading stage of the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Bill in the Legislative Council, I thought that we are going to have an end to this sort of hustled legislation. I read in the paper that the Hon. the Premier felt that he did not allow sufficient time to the other House for the consideration of that Bill and said that such a thing would not recur again. I felt that that statement would apply not only to the Second Chamber but also to this more popular House. It was therefore with a certain amount of surprise that I found a Bill of this importance published just a week ago and notice of this motion was given only just three days ago to the Members of this House. The Hon. Minister in charge of Courts and Prisons got up yesterday and wanted the Bill to be passed immediately. I would submit that if legislation of this type is hurried through, it is bound to be found to be incomplete in many ways. If every measure, important or unimportant—more so in the case of important measures—is rushed through, it will be sheer mockery to call this House a deliberative body. This House is bound to give its best consideration to every measure which the Government Members think of introducing. I do not deny that before they introduce a Bill in this House, the Government have given their best thought to all the proposals made by them. They might have their own experts by whom they have been guided; they might have obtained competent advice; they might think that their measure has attained the acme of perfection. If time is allowed for the consideration of the important Bills by the public and the Opposition, it would be found that there is still room for improvement. Thanks to the consideration shown by the Hon. the Premier, this Bill was referred to a Select Committee. If, on the other hand, the Bill had been rushed through yesterday itself, the amendment moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, would not have been accepted as it was done so generously now by the Hon. Minister for Courts and Prisons. The Opposition here is so small and so disorganized, that the Government feel no necessity to give any consideration to the Opposition. You claim to be a responsible Government and also that you are responsive to public agitation. To-day there was the demonstration of the taxis. My hon. Friend moved the amendment and the Hon. Minister accepted it. Probably the absence of demonstration would not have this effect. Within 24 hours the City is able to organize itself and make itself felt and it has its effect on the mental attitude of the Government. Mufassal people would have demonstrated in their own way of pressing their views and perhaps there might be further reduction of the rates, though personally I am opposed to such reduction.

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"I am only saying this in the hope that in future at least we will be shown more consideration by the Government. Over important measures of this sort I would like some months or at least weeks to expire between the publication and the final passing; for, all of us are not as quick in understanding things as some of the Hon. Members of the Treasury Benches might be. We are perhaps more slow witted and we would therefore want more time. I hope in future at least when other Government Bills come up there will be sufficient notice given, say a month or so and then when the Bill comes we can easily consider and pass it. What has happened now? We met at 11 o'clock yesterday and referred the Bill to a Select Committee but with instructions to report by this morning. The report of the Select Committee was in the hands of members only during the course of the day. And what happens? My friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed comes here at 3 o'clock and follows the unseemly procedure of passing on to you a slip containing the amendments which he wants to move."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not unseemly procedure."

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"It was generosity on your part, Sir, that made you accept it. I think it is not proper for any member to go up to you and say, 'Look here, this is the amendment I want to introduce,' handing over to you a slip. Don't you think it is unseemly?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not unseemly, there is nothing unseemly about it."

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Even if you think it is not unseemly, I would not want such scenes to be repeated in this House. I am saying that such scenes would not have been enacted if proper time had been allowed."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Chair has allowed a number of amendments handed over on the spot."

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I am extremely grateful for your consideration. I mean to say that it would not happen if sufficient time had been allowed. Of course you have got a very energetic Secretary, who acts with all possible promptitude and yet what happens! The amendment is circulated to the members about five minutes after the amendment had been moved and lost! (Laughter.) I am only suggesting this to the Government that at least in future they may be more considerate to us. I think that we can also make some little contribution. I would like to bestow thought on any proposed legislation and if possible try and convince them against their own view points."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, it is rather unusual for me to speak at this stage of the Bill and to pay compliments. I may say, Sir, that I must express my personal gratitude to the Hon. the Mover of this Bill, because several times I have discussed this question with him and have received very great consideration at his hands. I must say that this Bill though it looks a small measure of

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taxation will open out a very big vista of Government activity. I should think, Sir, it lays the foundation, as I said sometime back, for a Transport Board and for a comprehensive control of the Transport Policy of this province. And I wish indeed that a lot of good would come out of it. If the Government properly uses the powers given to it under this Bill, the Government will not only do a lot of good but can put down corruption in regard to the police persecution of buses, taxis and lorries and things of that sort. It will really prove a boon to this province. Sir, while on this subject, I might mention only one word that is with regard to the particular clauses in the Bill relating to the Central Transport Board. The Government have taken power to constitute a Central Transport Board. I would like to mention here that, though I am not making any suggestion as to how the Government should carry out their duties, it would be necessary for them to take in expert members and to create an executive which will formulate the policy and which will direct the work of the District Transport Boards in the same manner as it is done in other European and American countries. There is one other matter. With regard to the amendment I have moved to which reference has been made by Sir A. T. Pannirselvam, I might mention that I had discussed the question with my friend the Hon. the Minister long before any demonstration was made in front of the House. He had shown a genuine desire not to inflict hardship on any class of road users and promised to consider favourably any amendment I might bring forward to meet the case. I congratulate the Government and the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons in bringing forward this measure to a successful conclusion."

* MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I rise to welcome the measure. There are several spheres in which I have been opposing the policy of centralization, but in this sphere I welcome centralization. I have always felt that centralization was long overdue in regard to the matter of traffic control. We know in Madras how the District Superintendent of Police was pulling the motor vehicle owners on one side, the District Board President on another and the Municipal Chairman on the third and we know too the difficulty experienced by private owners of vehicles used for transport or hire. It was a most undesirable thing that we allowed the present state of affairs to continue so long. Now, Sir, this is a measure which has a far-reaching effect and as Sir A. T. Pannirselvam pointed out it is of far-reaching importance too. The Government have taken very great responsibility in the matter of administering this measure. Motor traffic control is certainly not an easy matter. I should have visualized the Government having taken up this matter long ago as the opportunities for making mischief would not have extended. It would have been very fair and reasonable and proper if the Government had not taken upon themselves the several powers which they have provided for in the measure. In the matter of the constitution of the District Transport Board and the constitution of the Central Board they could have decentralized, or at any rate, if that was not possible they could have taken legislative sanction for the constitution of these boards. Now, the power of constituting the

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Central Board as well as the District Boards is vested in them. Sir, governments come and governments go and the public must have confidence that their representatives have had a share in the constitution and in the provision and formation of these bodies. And this is very conspicuous by its absence in the present Bill.

"Sir, I must enter my protest against the very large powers the Government wants to assume by means of this subterfuge—the rule-making power. The Government ought not to take upon itself a larger and larger measure of rule-making power. It must be restricted to the actual minimum and absolute necessity. I find in this Bill the Government wants to assume very wide powers. The necessity for that has not been proved and no convincing argument has been advanced as to why by every section the Government seeks to assume very large powers by means of rule making instead of providing everything in the Act. To take up this power of rule making is really, I consider, most pernicious from the point of view of legislation and from the point of view of administration. As much as possible the Act that the Government wants to introduce must be self-sufficient and complete. Instead of they being able to put forward in the law everything for which they get the sanction of the Legislative Assembly, they merely want to be given a large reserve of power. I do not know, Sir, why they want to legislate on very many topics which concern the administration of public safety and public liabilities and charges. They ought not to say that 'we shall do so many things,' when it can be easily provided for by legislative enactment, 'by means of rule-making power.' I deprecate that tendency of the Government; I find it increasing from day to day in spite of our protests. We are to fix some day some limit with regard to the rule-making power that the Government seeks in every measure. In the old Legislative Council that tendency was developed and now it is reaching its climax. I wish, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier and the Members on the opposite benches realize that there should be some limit somewhere to this rule-making power.

"Now, with regard to the taxation that is proposed, there could have been more liberality and generosity shown. I expected to find in the measure the Government have proposed some provisions to prevent leakage of taxation, leakage of revenue. I like to point out the numerous sources through which the revenue which is legitimately due to the Government is being lost. The Motor Vehicles Taxation Act is not worked satisfactorily and that is the reason why the Government have not succeeded in carrying out the modifications that the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act introduced in several spheres. If there had been provisions in regard to the preventing of the leakage of revenue in respect of motors plying for hire, in the matter of renewing old licences of motor car owners, in renewing the registration licences, it would have been better. There are so many ways by which evasion of taxation and tax collection could be prevented. I challenge the

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Government whether the full revenue to which they are entitled under the law is being collected. Now, Sir, with regard to the rates proposed the Government could have been a little more considerate. The taxes are onerous; the owners must also ply their trades. The motor trade must also live and then that also must be taken as an industry which must be developed. The motor trade ought not to be crippled; it ought not to be driven to a stress. The people dealing in motor trade, motor material and motor manufacture are considerable and it may be that some of them are foreigners; but a good portion of the money comes to the State by way of revenue from licences, taxes, fees, etc., from the motor trade. And there is a large section of the population of this country which is engaged in this trade and which makes enormous profit. If the total cost of the motor vehicles is taken into account and also the actual sum that goes to the manufacturer or seller, it will be seen that it is only a small proportion that the car manufacturer gets. The rest goes to others and other motor trade agencies and a good portion of these agencies are situated in our own country and they make good profit out of it. It is also a source of revenue to the Government. I suggest that there should have been a lower scale for the taxes that have been imposed. The amendment proposed by Mr. Orchard was reasonable. Twenty-five per cent could have been reduced and the Government could have stiffened the methods of collection and thereby they would not have lost much. On the other hand the Government have not been very considerate in this regard. Now, Sir, the question remains as to whether there was any necessity for such great hurry in the matter of this legislation and also whether the members of the Legislative Assembly could not have been given more than six or seven hours for passing into law such an important and far-reaching measure as this Motor Traffic Control Bill. As for myself I have always been in favour of more time being given. There has been hasty legislation and this will lead the Government into trouble. We have had too many legislation during the short period of about eight months. We no doubt have important and necessary problems and questions and want the Government to resort to expedition. In the matter of legislation more and more time, deliberation and more and more opportunities are required and should be given. That there should be such hurry and hustling is neither fair to the Government nor fair to those who are entrusted with the representative character and duty of being members of the Assembly.

6 p.m. "With these remarks I welcome the motion that the Bill be passed into law. I do hope that a lot of good will arise out of this measure, provided it is worked in the spirit in which it is conceived."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, I rise only to thank the last few speakers who have very fairly given answers to some of the observations made by some previous speakers with regard to some issues, e.g., that this Bill has taken away the power from the local bodies which they were hitherto exercising and therefore it is not a good

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measured. The hon. Member Sir Pannirselvam laid stress, as far as I remember, more than once on that point and I am glad to see that the representative of the Indian Chamber of Commerce has come forward with a useful answer in defence of what the Government have done. In this subject, if not in any other, it has been stated rightly that centralized control is necessary. We cannot get centralized control without depriving the local bodies of some degree of power which they possessed or which we imagine they possessed. As a matter of fact, before this Bill was introduced, the power was exercised by two or three different authorities, each one not really reaping the full results of that power. The local body can pass certain rules and do certain things; the police can do certain other things; and until all the various comets meet together, we do not have the resultant done. After all this is not real power, but it is really mere delusion. It is in order to avoid the delusion and confusion, that centralization has been adopted as a policy. In regard to fast moving traffic or traffic which moves, not even from place to place, but from district to district, centralization is absolutely necessary. Everybody felt that this was long overdue and therefore the Government thought that it was good policy to give effect to it for the sake of those interested in this trade and in this social activity. Much confusion arises by mistaking quickness for hurry and hustle. It is easy to call anything done quickly as haste. I submit there has been no haste in this matter, but only quickness. It is possible that those who had propositions to move might feel that they would have been accepted if they had only time to din into others' ears what they had to say. But if we have not acceded to their request, it does not mean that we have been hasty. If propositions had not been kept waiting for disposal by them, it does not mean that we have proceeded with haste. Without offence to Members on the opposite side I may here refer to the practice obtaining in old taluk offices. In every taluk office no paper was thought to be ripe for disposal unless it remained there for six months. They look on paper as something like a vegetable product and think that fermentation should take place if it should become fit for eating. Saving of time ought to be really taken into account in these modern days, and especially when we deal with dangerous fast moving traffic, quickness should not be mistaken for hustling or haste. It is easy to say that notice was given just now. I submit that greater concessions have been extracted during the last few minutes, if I may say so, than could possibly be got by giving more time merely for fermentation, so to say, of the product, instead of really getting on with the business itself. Although Members have been generous in their minds in welcoming this measure, they have not been generous in their phraseology. I wish they had been generous in their expression. Too much reference has been made to this 'hustling.' Probably it is becoming a habit for the Opposition Members to complain of hustling. Sometimes they complain without reason. That is all I have to say. I do not think there has been hustling in this measure. On the contrary, there has been more indulgence shown to Members in regard to this measure.

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"Sir, too much complaint has been made about reservation of powers in the hands of the Government. I think it is a welcome reservation. It is because that they did not want to get through by sheer force of majority and by the hurry of the hour that some of the matters have been reserved for consideration in consultation with the various interests. What can we do here? We can only count votes. Any consideration of the rates that have to be enforced and as to particular rules that have to be created and rules that will have to be framed with regard to the composition of the various transport authorities—all these things cannot be done by mere votes. All these things cannot be done without consulting the various interests. Some of the interests may not have proportional votes in this House. It is therefore I submit the opposite of hustling, the opposite of haste that is involved in the reservation of some details of matters in regard to the executive working of this policy, that I claim for this measure. I submit therefore, that, generally speaking, Members on the opposite side have really no grievance. I would challenge the Opposition to show any traffic control measure in any civilized country which contains all the provisions in the Act itself. It is impossible in the very nature of things. Transport authorities cannot be defined in a day. It may be that some five months hence the definition may have to be altered. Supposing you put down here that according to the figures settled, the Members of a District Board shall be three in the transport authority, and supposing for some other entirely different reason we do not have a District Board in that place, what shall we do? Supposing we say that the transport authority should consist of the President of a District Board and supposing for other reasons we have three district boards made into one, what shall we do? The transport authority that has to be created must be composed of persons who will be able to deal with the interests concerned from time to time. Therefore it is that the executive has reserve powers to make rules in respect of these matters. Nothing is gained by putting everything into the Bill itself, in a legislative skeleton like this. It is essential in administrative and executive matters that power should be reserved by the executive. It is essential in police matters that reserve powers should be had by the executive. It is essential in day-to-day administration. In all civilized countries it will be found that in measures of this kind, more power is reserved for executive management and administration after due consultation with the interests concerned than what is put down in detail in the Bill itself. I submit that whatever may be said by eminent jurists with respect to reservation of powers in the hands of the executive, they do not apply to this country. If they were of the opinion that their authority should be applied in day-to-day administration and in regard to police and other departmental rules, I think some of those authors might very well withdraw their books and would not print them on such fine paper and make them popular books. If to-day any civilized administration is taken in consultation and asked, 'Will you put all motor regulation and rules in a piece of legislation, or will you reserve them for the executive authority?' I would submit, that you may not get an answer in the

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affirmative, to the former question. Therefore there is not much force in that observation for which alone you, Sir, Mr. Speaker, called me up to say a few words in answer with reference to the rule-making power. I am sorry to say that it was not wise for the hon. Member Sir Pannirselvam to say that we accepted Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari's amendment because there was orderly demonstration of taxis outside this Assembly Hall. Is it that this Assembly passes legislation of this sort on the strength of demonstrations of that kind? I challenge that if that position were right, we would withdraw the amendment in spite of the motor buses that are standing outside. It is because long before, as Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari rightly said, all the demonstrations took place I had a discussion with the Minister in charge and he had been considering the matter favourably and was inclined to do some good and he was thinking how best to do it that the Government decided to accept the amendment . . ."

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"As a matter of personal explanation, may I say that I was only referring to it to show that the demonstration of the motor-car owners might also have had some effect on the amendments moved in the House being accepted. But if that had not that effect but something else had produced that effect, I am thankful to the Government."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, after all, it is not right to make such references in opposing the Bill. Whatever the explanation might be, I do not think it is right to assume that what is done on the Government side or on the Opposition side is done, not with the best of considerations of matters of real interest and import, but with the idea of satisfying the bus-owners or something of that sort. Neither is it that anybody is being hustled into any piece of legislation by mere show or demonstration. Let me, as a democrat, say that demonstrations such as this have their own part to play. After all, such demonstrations are not wrong. If it is said that the demonstration that has been held by the taxi-owners has achieved the result of the amendments being accepted, but that the persuasive powers of the Opposition for a long time did not achieve that result, there is something wrong. On the one hand there are charges which are made on this Government that we are grabbing power, that we are autocratic and we do not care for anybody's wishes, and so it is that we are reserving the rule-making powers in the hands of the Government. It is also said we are out for subterfuges and that we do not care for public opinion. In the same breath it is said that we accepted the amendment because of the demonstration of taxi-drivers. (Laughter.) Sir, we are neither so autocratic nor so irresponsible to public opinion. It was made quite clear that the maximum should be put in the Bill. It was made quite clear that while there is practically no rise in regard to buses and the passenger-carrying motor vehicles in mufassal, there is a very steep rise if the maximum is taken into account with regard to the City. But as it was felt that this Bill should have one uniform schedule, it was thought that power

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should be reserved for Government to make the necessary changes in particular cases. There is 100 per cent increase straightway in the case of Madras. It was the intention of the Government to utilize this reserve power in a proper manner. It would have marred the Bill if a territorial classification were made with regard to the rates to be put down. That is a matter essentially for executive authority. The executive may very well consider that all buses running from Bangalore to Vellore make only one long distance journey and whereas a bus in Madras City makes 20 times the short distance journey. Government may have to consider all points of view. The total amount of journey, the rate of speed and all these things will have to be considered by the Government. Whether the journey is done in Madras or in another place, the total mileage and the amount of tax fixed will be the same. At the same time buses running in small mufassal places will have to be given special consideration. All these matters cannot be put in one uniform cast-iron frame and that is why these things were taken over for executive discrimination. I shall not dwell any more on that point. I do hope that whatever argumentative use was made by a reference to the demonstration by the taxi-owners, it was not really put forward as a serious argument to show that the Select Committee has had really no influence on this Bill, that the Opposition has had really no influence on this Bill, and that we really got terrified by the buses standing there. If really the Government were terrified, surely the whole Bill would have been shut out and there is no need to bring in a Bill at all. It is not right, I submit, for one who for the time being is, if not *de jure* but at least a *de facto* Leader of the Opposition sitting on the Opposite benches, to have made such a reference. I made reference to that because I thought it was not right for a person occupying that responsible position to have made that observation.

"I hope we shall forget all that and with that observation . . ."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I do not feel repentant at all."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"We seem to be meaning wholly different things. It may be that while still Sir Pannirselvam does not feel repentant, he may see some point in what I said that legislation should be presumed to be free (Rao Bahadur Sir A. T. Pannirselvam: 'Presumed to be free') and that it is a slur on the honour and privilege of the House to make any accusation to the contrary."

* THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only want that this opportunity should be availed of to disabuse the minds of those who are under the impression that there has been so much of haste and that there has not been much of consultation by the Government in the matter of rule-making. This Bill is one which consists of 12 clauses only and a reading of it will show that there is practically speaking nothing at all in it which is new. Except clause 1 which gives the title of the Bill, thereafter it is all to a very considerable extent, an adaptation of the various other enactments that have been

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referred to in the Bill. The Madras Local Boards Act, the District Municipalities Act, the Madras City Municipal Act, the Indian Motor Vehicles Act and the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, these are the various enactments referred to. It is only by way of repealing certain provisions of the Madras City Municipal Act, the Madras Local Boards Act and the Madras District Municipalities Act and taking away the powers of those bodies which have been conferred upon them by those provisions that clauses 5, 6 and 7 of this Bill have been incorporated. So far as the subsequent clauses are concerned, they deal only with powers which Government have always been having under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, to make rules for their proper application so far as this Presidency is concerned in the matter of motor vehicles transport. So, what is being done now is only an amplification of those rules by adding a bit more. Therefore, there is nothing new in this. So far as clause 9 is concerned, we have only added a few more definitions than what are contained in the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, and have also made provision for the distribution of the proceeds which the Government get out of this taxation. This is also a matter which has been already provided for in the existing Act. Then, as regards the schedules, they have also been taken from one enactment or other and put in here. As regards the figures, I do not think much time is required for any person to understand the increase or the decrease. Clauses 10, 11 and 12 are only residuary clauses which are found in all such enactments. It will thus be clear that there is absolutely nothing new in it.

"So far as the rule-making powers are concerned, it will be seen that they were there already under the Local Boards Act and under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act; and no new powers have been now taken. But only, the powers which were once with the local boards and which were always subject to the control of the Government, are now taken over by the Government themselves. These are the only features in this Bill and there is no justification for saying that this Bill is not at all understandable and that more time should have been given for its consideration. The amendments that were moved and accepted in the Select Committee were only verbal; and so far as the amendment of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar is concerned, the Hon. the Premier has already stated how and why it was accepted. Even without that amendment the Government have power to regulate the rates of taxation, but there was some doubt about it in the minds of certain hon. Members and it was only to clear that doubt that the amendment was accepted. It was also the opinion of the Legal Department of Government that even under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, the Government had power to fix different rates of taxation as regards municipal areas and various other places. So, it was only to clear that doubt that the amendment of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar was accepted. I thank hon. Members for their kind co-operation in regard to this measure."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law. The House then adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. the next day.

[2nd March 1938]

APPENDIX

[Vide Item III at page 113 supra]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Traffic Control Bill, 1938 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1938), has the honour to make the following report.

2. The Bill was published in English in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 22nd February 1938.

3. The Committee was appointed on the 1st March 1938. An instruction was given to the Committee that its report should be made available for consideration by the House on the 2nd March 1938.

4. The Committee met at 2-30 p.m. on the 1st March 1938 in the Assembly Buildings, Chepauk, for considering the Bill.

5. The Committee has subjected the Bill to a full and detailed scrutiny but has found it necessary to make very few changes therein.

6. In clause 9, it has added a definition of the term "Motor lorry". In sub-clause (v) of the same clause, it has made 4 (a) applicable to vehicles intended to carry not more than five persons, instead of four persons, so as to exclude the driver. In 4 (b), it has inserted express words intended to exclude the driver and the conductor, in calculating the persons intended to be carried by the vehicle.

7. A copy of the Bill as amended by the Committee is annexed. It is unnecessary to republish the Bill.

K. RAMAN MENON,
Chairman.

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[Note.—The changes made by the Select Committee are shown in clarendon type.]

L.A. BILL No. 4 OF 1938.

(As amended by the Select Committee.)

A Bill to provide for the control of traffic in public places in the Province of Madras.

WHEREAS it is expedient to enable the Provincial Government to make provision for the control of traffic in public places in the Province of Madras, and for that purpose further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, in its application to the Province of Madras, and the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Madras Act
IV of 1919.
Madras Act
V of 1920.
Madras Act
XIV of
1920.
VIII of
1914.
Madras Act
III of 1931.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Traffic Control Act, 1938. Short ti
extent
commen
ment.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

(3) This section shall come into force at once, and the rest of this Act shall come into force on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification, appoint.

2. In this Act, 'public place' means a road, street, way or other place, whether a thoroughfare or not, to which the public are granted access or over which they have a right to pass and includes—

(a) in the City of Madras, a public street as defined in clause (20) of section 3 of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919;

(b) in a municipality governed by the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, a public street as defined in clause (21) of section 3 of that Act; and

(c) in a local area governed by the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, a public road as defined in clause (18) of section 3 of that Act.

Madras Act
IV of 1919.

Madras Act
V of 1920.

Madras Act
XIV of
1920.

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Power of
Provincial
Government
to make
rules for the
control of
traffic.

3. The Provincial Government may, after previous publication, make rules to provide—

- (a) for the regulation of the use of any public place and the closing thereof or parts thereof; and
- (b) for the regulation of traffic in any public place or its reservation for particular kinds of traffic.

Penalty for
breach of
rules.

4. In making any rule under section 3, the Provincial Government may provide that a breach thereof shall be punishable—

- (a) with fine which may extend to fifty rupees and, in case of a continuing breach, with fine which may extend to fifteen rupees for every day during which the breach continues after conviction for the first breach; or
- (b) with fine which may extend to ten rupees for every day during which the breach continues after receipt of notice from an officer empowered in that behalf by the Provincial Government, to discontinue such breach.

Amendment
of Madras
Act IV of
1919.

5. In the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919—

- (i) sub-clauses (b) and (c) of clause (8) of section 349 shall be omitted and sub-clause (d) of that clause shall be relettered as sub-clause (b); and
- (ii) in clause (9) of the same section, after the words “ public or municipal places ”, the following words shall be added, namely:—
“ but not including the regulation of traffic therein, the reservation thereof for particular kinds of traffic, or the closing thereof or parts thereof to traffic.”

Amendment
of Madras
Act V of
1920.

6. In the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920—

- (i) section 174-A shall be omitted;
- (ii) in section 306, sub-clauses (b) and (c) of clause (8) shall be omitted and sub-clause (d) of that clause shall be relettered as sub-clause (b);

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(iii) in the same section, in clause (9), after the words “ public or municipal places ” the following words shall be added, namely:—

“ but not including the regulation of traffic therein, the reservation thereof for particular kinds of traffic, or the closing thereof or parts thereof to traffic.”; and

(iv) in Schedules VII and VIII, the entries relating to section 174-A shall be omitted.

7. In the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920—

Amendment
of Madras
Act XIV of
1920.

- (i) section 166 shall be omitted;
- (ii) in section 202, sub-clauses (a) and (b) of clause (5) shall be omitted and sub-clause (c) of that clause shall be renumbered as clause (5);
- (iii) in the same section, in clause (6), after the words “ places vested in a local board ”, the following words shall be added, namely:—
“ but not including the regulation of traffic therein, the reservation thereof for particular kinds of traffic, or the closing thereof or parts thereof to traffic.”; and
- (iv) in Schedules VIII and IX, the entries relating to section 166 shall be omitted.

8. The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, shall, in its application to the Province of Madras, be construed as if the rule-making power conferred by section 11 of that Act extended to the following matters, namely:—

Amendment
of Act VIII
of 1914 in
its applica-
tion to the
Province.

- “ (a) The prescription of the conditions subject to which, and the fees (if any) on payment of which, motor vehicles or any class of such vehicles may be used in public places, generally or in any particular public place.
- (b) The constitution for each district of a transport authority and the prescription of its powers and functions including, in particular, its powers and functions in regard to—
(i) the issue or the authorization of the issue of prescribed permits in respect of motor

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vehicles or any specified class of motor vehicles, for their use in all, or any, public places in the district;

- (ii) the determination of the areas in the district on the routes or public places situated in which, or of the routes or public places in the district on which, motor vehicles or any specified class of motor vehicles may be used; and
 - (iii) the restriction of the number of motor vehicles or of any specified class of motor vehicles to which permits may be issued in respect of such areas, routes or public places.
- (c) The constitution of a central transport authority for the Province and the prescription of its powers and functions including, in particular—
- (i) its powers and functions in regard to motor traffic extending over the jurisdiction of two or more of the transport authorities referred to in clause (b), and the exercise of the powers and functions of, and the control to be exercised over, such authorities in respect of such traffic; and
 - (ii) its appellate jurisdiction in respect of orders passed by the transport authorities referred to in clause (b).
- (d) The powers of the Provincial Government to control the central transport authority referred to in clause (c) and the prescription that the decisions and orders of such authority—
- (i) shall not be liable to be questioned in any Civil Court by suit or otherwise; and
 - (ii) shall be final except in so far as they may be set aside or revised by the Provincial Government.
- (e) The powers of the Provincial Government to control the transport authorities referred to in clause (b) and the prescription that the

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decisions and orders of such authorities shall not be liable to be questioned in any Civil Court by suit or otherwise.

- (f) The prescription of a limit of speed in respect of motor vehicles or any specified class of motor vehicles, generally or in any particular public place.
- (g) The empowering of any authority to limit by general or special order the speed at which motor vehicles or any specified class of motor vehicles may be driven, generally or in any particular public place."

9. In the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931—

- (i) in Section 2, the following shall be added at the end of clause (iii), namely:—

"and 'motor lorry' includes a goods vehicle, that is to say, a motor vehicle constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of goods or a motor vehicle not so constructed or adapted which is habitually used for the carriage of goods and not of passengers.

Explanation.—The expression 'goods' includes merchandise, wares, burden of any description and movable property other than personal luggage."

- (ii) in the same section, clause (viii) shall be renumbered as clause (viii-b) and the following shall be inserted as clause (viii-a), namely:—

"(viii-a) 'laden weight' in relation to a motor vehicle means, in case a permit is issued to the vehicle in pursuance of the rules made by the Provincial Government under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, the maximum laden weight specified in such permit, if no such permit is issued, the maximum laden weight specified in the registration certificate of the vehicle, and if

VIII of
1914.

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such weight is not specified in such certificate, the maximum laden weight of the vehicle determined in such manner as the licensing officer may deem fit.

'laden weight' in relation to a trailer means, in case a permit is issued to the vehicle to which the trailer is attached in pursuance of the rules made by the Provincial Government under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, the maximum laden weight specified in such permit in respect of the trailer, if no such permit is issued, the maximum laden weight specified in respect of the trailer in the registration certificate of the vehicle to which the trailer is attached, and if such weight is not specified in such certificate, the maximum laden weight of the trailer determined in such manner as the licensing officer may deem fit.';

(iii) for sub-section (1) of section 10, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) (a) From the proceeds of the tax collected under this Act every year, the following credits and payments shall be made in the order mentioned below:—

(i) *Firstly*, there shall be credited to the Provincial Government the expenses of collecting the tax.

(ii) *Secondly*, there shall be credited to the Provincial Government the cost incurred by them in exercising their administrative functions in regard to the control of motor vehicles in the Province.

(iii) *Thirdly*, there shall be credited to the Provincial Government a sum equivalent to the average annual income derived by them during the three years ending on the 31st day of March immediately preceding the commencement of the Madras Traffic Control Act,

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VIII of
1914.Madras Act
XIV of 1920.
Madras Act
V of 1920.

1938, from additional fees levied under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, on motor vehicles plying on Government roads in the Province.

(iv) *Fourthly*, there shall be paid to each district board and to each municipal council a sum equivalent to the average annual income derived by such board or council during the three years ending on the 31st day of March immediately preceding the commencement of the Madras Traffic Control Act, 1938, from fees on licences granted to motor vehicles under section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, or section 174-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, as the case may be.

(v) *Fifthly*, there shall be paid to each local body which at the commencement of this Act was levying tolls or vehicle tax on motor vehicles or both, a sum equivalent to the average annual income derived by such local body during the three years ending on the 31st day of March 1931, from such tolls or vehicle tax on motor vehicles, or both, as the case may be, and there shall also be credited to the Provincial Government a sum equivalent to their average annual income during the said three years from all tolls levied by them in the Province.

(b) The Provincial Government shall determine the sums which should be credited to themselves or paid to local bodies under sub-clauses (i) to (v) of clause (a), and their determination shall be final.”;

(iv) in sub-section (2) of the same section, for the expression “sub-section (1)”, the expression “sub-clause (v) of clause (a) of sub-section (1)” shall be substituted;

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(v) for sub-section (3) of the same section, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) If in any year the proceeds of the tax after deducting the sums referred to in sub-clauses (i) to (iv) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) fall short of the aggregate of the sums payable to local bodies under sub-clause (v) of the said clause (a) and the sum creditable to the Provincial Government under the same sub-clause, such proceeds shall be distributed among the local bodies and the Provincial Government proportionately to the sums determined under clause (b) of sub-section (1) as payable to each such local body and as creditable to the Provincial Government, under sub-clause (v) aforesaid, and the deficit shall be made good in the same proportion in the earliest subsequent year or years in which there may be a surplus.”;

(vi) for items 3 and 4 of Schedule II, the following items shall be substituted, namely:—

Classes of vehicles.	Maximum quarterly tax.			
	For vehicles fitted with pneumatic tyres.		For other vehicles.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
“ 3. Motor lorries—				
(a) Lorries not exceeding 20 cwt. in weight, laden	50	0 0	75	0 0
(b) Lorries exceeding 20 cwt. but not exceeding 30 cwt. in weight, laden	100	0 0	150	0 0
(c) Lorries exceeding 30 cwt. but not exceeding 45 cwt. in weight, laden	120	0 0	180	0 0
(d) Lorries exceeding 45 cwt. but not exceeding 60 cwt. in weight, laden	150	0 0	225	0 0
(e) Lorries exceeding 60 cwt. but not exceeding 85 cwt. in weight, laden	180	0 0	270	0 0
(f) Lorries exceeding 85 cwt. but not exceeding 110 cwt. in weight, laden	220	0 0	330	0 0
(g) Lorries exceeding 110 cwt. but not exceeding 150 cwt. in weight, laden	270	0 0	405	0 0
(h) Lorries exceeding 150 cwt. but not exceeding 180 cwt. in weight, laden	320	0 0	480	0 0
(i) Lorries exceeding 180 cwt. in weight, laden	350	0 0	525	0 0

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Classes of vehicles.	Maximum quarterly tax.			
	For vehicles fitted with pneumatic tyres.		For other vehicles.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
(j) Additional tax payable in respect of lorries used for drawing trailers—				
(i) for each trailer not exceeding 20 cwt. in weight, laden	20	0 0	30	0 0
(ii) for each trailer exceeding 20 cwt. but not exceeding 60 cwt. in weight, laden	75	0 0	112	8 0
(iii) for each trailer exceeding 60 cwt. in weight, laden	150	0 0	225	0 0
Provided that two or more lorries shall not be chargeable under this clause in respect of the same trailer.				
4. Motor vehicles plying for hire and used for the transport of passengers—				
(a) Vehicles licensed under the rules made by the Provincial Government under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914 to carry in all not more than five persons	80	0 0	120	0 0
(b) Vehicles licensed under the rules made by the Provincial Government under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, to carry more than five persons—for every person which the vehicle is so licensed to carry excluding the driver and the conductor	20	0 0	30	0 0

and

(vii) for items 3 and 4 of Schedule III, the following items shall be substituted, namely:—

Classes of vehicles.	Maximum tax for vehicles fitted with pneumatic tyres.		Maximum tax for other vehicles.	
	For a period not exceeding seven days.	For a period exceeding seven days but not exceeding thirty days.	For a period not exceeding seven days.	For a period exceeding seven days but not exceeding thirty days.
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1)	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
“ 3. Motor Lorries—				
(a) Lorries not exceeding 20 cwt. in weight, laden.	8	8 0	25	0 0
(b) Lorries exceeding 20 cwt. but not exceeding 30 cwt. in weight, laden.	16	12 0	50	0 0
(c) Lorries exceeding 30 cwt. but not exceeding 45 cwt. in weight, laden.	20	0 0	60	0 0
(d) Lorries exceeding 45 cwt. but not exceeding 60 cwt. in weight, laden.	25	0 0	75	0 0
(e) Lorries exceeding 60 cwt. but not exceeding 85 cwt. in weight, laden.	30	0 0	90	0 0
(f) Lorries exceeding 85 cwt. but not exceeding 110 cwt. in weight, laden.	36	12 0	110	0 0
(g) Lorries exceeding 110 cwt. but not exceeding 150 cwt. in weight, laden.	45	0 0	135	0 0
(h) Lorries exceeding 150 cwt. but not exceeding 180 cwt. in weight, laden.	53	3 0	160	0 0
(i) Lorries exceeding 180 cwt. in weight, laden.	58	8 0	175	0 0

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Classes of vehicles.	Maximum tax for vehicles fitted with pneumatic tyres.		Maximum tax for other vehicles.	
	For a period not exceeding seven days.	For a period exceeding seven days but not exceeding thirty days.	For a period not exceeding seven days.	For a period exceeding seven days but not exceeding thirty days.
(1)	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
(j) Additional tax payable in respect of lorries used for drawing trailers—				
(i) for each trailer not exceeding 20 cwt. in weight, laden.	3 8 0	10 0 0	5 0 0	15 0 0
(ii) for each trailer exceeding 20 cwt. but not exceeding 60 cwt. weight, laden.	12 8 0	37 8 0	18 12 0	56 4 0
(iii) for each trailer exceeding 60 cwt. in weight, laden.	25 0 0	75 0 0	37 8 0	112 8 0
Provided that two or more lorries shall not be chargeable under this clause in respect of the same trailer.				
4. Motor vehicles plying for hire and used for the transport of passengers—				
(a) Vehicles licensed under the rules made under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, to carry in all not more than four persons.	13 8 0	40 0 0	20 0 0	60 0 0
(b) Vehicles licensed under the rules made under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, to carry more than four persons— for every person which the vehicle is so licensed to carry.	3 8 0	10 0 0	5 0 0	15 0 0

Existing by-laws to continue.

10. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, all by-laws relating to any of the matters mentioned in section 3 of this Act which have been made under the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, or the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and are in force at the commencement of this Act shall continue to be valid, but any such by-law may be cancelled or altered by a rule made under section 3 aforesaid.

11. The Madras Government Roads Traffic Control Act, 1931, is hereby repealed.

12. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act or of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, or the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, as amended by this Act, the Provincial Government, as occasion may require, may, by order, do anything which appears to them to be necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

Repeal of Madras Act V of 1931.

Power to remove difficulties.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 3rd March 1938.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

* 232 Q. [Postponed.]

Forest grievances of the ryots of the Jalandhra estate.

* 233 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any detailed report from the Estate Collector, Vizianagram, was received by the Government about the administration of Forest Laws in Jalandhra estate, now under the Court of Wards;

(b) whether that report will be placed on the table for information;

(c) if not, whether the report admits the fact that the tenants were enjoying free grazing rights from time immemorial and that only this year after the Court of Wards assumed administration these rights have been interfered with;

(d) the number of prosecutions filed since the date of enforcing these forest laws in respect of grazing, the sentence or compounding fees collected in each case and the compounding fees collected by the estate out of court;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the representations made by the ryots to the Forest Superintendent of the estate about the corrupt practices prevailing and demanding transfer of the Forest Ranger and a thorough enquiry about their grievances; and

(f) whether, in view of the long established rights that were enjoyed by the tenants, the Government will consider the desirability of granting free grazing rights in the estate and order the withdrawal of pending prosecutions against them?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—“(a) to (d) & (f) The Government are awaiting the report called for with reference to unstarred question No. 10 asked by the hon. Member at the meeting of the Assembly on 31st August 1937.

“(e) The Government have no information and have called for a report.”

Vide page 174 infra.

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MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" May I know who is responsible for the delay, whether it is the Estate Collector or the Court of Wards? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I am not able to understand what is meant by delay. "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The supplementary question was about the delay. "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I request the hon. Member to repeat the question? "

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" May I know, Sir, who is responsible for the delay? Is it the Estate Collector or the Court of Wards? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I have submitted that we are awaiting the report and there is no question of any delay here. "

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I know how many more months they would take to forward the information? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" It is not a question of months. They will take just the time required to collect the information. The question is a fairly long one seeking information on a number of details. "

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I know whether any reminders were sent to the Board of Revenue? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" The hon. Member may presume that such reminders are sent in due course. "

Action taken by the Government on the resolutions of the Jalandhra Estate Ryots' Conference of 1937.

* 234 Q.—P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the proceedings of the Jalandhra Estate Ryots' Conference held on the 16th August 1937 were received by the Government; and

(b) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take on these resolutions passed at the said Conference?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) A copy of the proceedings of the Conference held on 14th August 1937 was received.

" (b) The proceedings were transferred to the Court of Wards for disposal. "

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know what the proceedings are about? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" The hon. Member has not perhaps followed the question. The proceedings are of the Jalandhra Estate Ryots' Conference referred to in the original question. "

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MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" May I know what action was taken in the matter? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" Those who sent the proceedings to the Government might have received some order from the Court of Wards. "

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" No orders have yet been received; will the Government therefore see that some action is taken on those resolutions? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" If no order has been received, it means that the Court of Wards is still considering the matter. "

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—" How many more months will the Court of Wards take to obtain the required information to answer this question? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" Since much information is asked for, the Court of Wards may take as much time as is necessary. "

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to consider the resolutions of conferences and committees and take steps upon them? "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" If resolutions are forwarded to the Government, it is only right that the Government should take such steps as are necessary. "

Supply of electricity to Calicut and other places in Malabar from Pykara.

* 235 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what the result of the survey for supplying electricity for Calicut and other places in Malabar from Pykara by Meppadi-Vayitri route was;

(b) whether the Government have investigated the feasibility of conveying power by Nilambur-Manjeri route or Palghat-Shoranur route; if not, why not; and

(c) whether the Government have at any time made investigations for Hydro-electric schemes at Vayitri or Mannarghaut; if so, what the result was; and if not, whether they will consider the desirability of making such investigations?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a) The construction of a transmission line from Pykara to Meppadi branching north to Manantoddy, Tellicherry and Cannanore and south to Calicut is considered feasible.

" (b) No, because the route referred to in the answer to clause (a) is considered to be feasible.

" (c) Two independent hydro-electric schemes for Malabar, namely, the Thalipuzha scheme near Vayitri and the Cholatipuzha scheme were investigated and found to be not economical. "

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MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" May I know whether it is merely the shortness of the line from Meppadi to Tellicherry through Manantoddy or considerations of future economic benefit that have made the Government adopt the line they have taken up?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" If the hon. Member looks at the map, he will find that the lines suggested by the hon. Member are not shorter than the proposed line; and they are therefore not economical lines; even from a geographical point of view the Pykara-Meppadi line is preferable to any of the other two lines suggested by the hon. Member."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" I have just looked into the map and also know the topography of the place very well and that is why I have put down the question."

MR. SPEAKER:—" What is the question? Perhaps the hon. Member is merely making a statement."

The Gundlakamma River Project.

* 236 Q.—MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage the *Gundlakamma river project* (Guntur district) now is;

(b) whether it will be included in this year's budget;

(c) whether the reservoir will be constructed at *Tangirala* or *Jammalamadaga*;

(d) what the area in acres that the *Gundlakamma scheme* is likely to irrigate is; and

(e) whether it is a fact that *Tangirala* is on a much higher level than *Jammalamadaga* and that a reservoir at the former place will irrigate more villages and more directly than a reservoir constructed at *Jammalamadaga*?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a) Gaugings of the river at *Tangirala* and *Jammalamadaga* are being conducted and the results are expected to be available by the end of 1937-38. The Agricultural department is examining the nature of the soil. The result of this examination is also awaited.

" (b) The answer is in the negative.

" (c) The proposal is to construct the reservoir at *Tangirala*.

" (d) It is estimated that under a dry scheme about 74,000 acres in the second crop season every year and 16,000 acres in the first crop season once in two years can be irrigated. Under a wet scheme it is estimated that the area irrigated will be about 20,000 acres. The question whether the scheme will be a dry or wet one will be decided only after the results of the investigation are known.

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" (e) The proposal is to construct the reservoir at *Tangirala* with an anicut at *Jammalamadaga* lower down the river. The supply from the reservoir will be let down the river to be picked up by a channel system at the anicut at the latter place."

* 237 Q. [Postponed.]

Primary education of boys and girls of school-going age in the Presidency.

* 238 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) the percentage of boys and girls of the school-going age that were reading in primary schools during last year; and

(b) whether there is any scheme laid down by the Government to provide for the increasing percentage in coming years?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) The information asked for is not available. The hon. Member is, however, referred to statement 31 on page 38 of Part I of Volume II of the report on Public Instruction for 1935-36 which gives figures of boys and girls in elementary schools classified according to age.

" (b) Yes. The new policy in regard to elementary education as laid down in the Press Communiqué published on pages 653-655 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 8th December 1936, is specially designed to this end."

Proposal to start a factory for the manufacture of bone-meal and other artificial manures.

* 239 Q.—MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state whether the Government propose to start any factory for the manufacture of bone-meal and other artificial manures for the use of the agriculturists of this Presidency?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" The question of starting a factory for the production of artificial manure, especially Calcium Nitrate at Mettur, is under investigation by the Director of Industries. The feasibility of restarting experiments by means of the bone disintegrating unit by which the bone resources of the Province can be pooled and bone-meal made available to the local agriculturists is under examination by the Directors of Industries and Agriculture."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether bone is being sent from this place to Pondicherry and sent back from there to Madras and whether we pay any extra charges therefor?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Yes, Sir. It has come to my notice that bone sent from here is received back here after payment of some extra charges."

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MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR:—“ May I know whether the Government intend giving financial help to any private agency engaged in this business? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ No such application has come to the Government so far.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“ May I know whether it could not be manufactured locally without sending it to Pondicherry and getting it back thereafter after the payment of duties? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ It is not done by the Government but by private agencies.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know whether private firms will be given encouragement so as to help local manufacture? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ If there is a request, the Government will consider the question.”

*Removal of the toddy shop in Dharapadavedu village,
Gudiyattam taluk.*

* 240 Q.—MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any mahazar from the residents of Dharapadavedu village in Gudiyattam taluk, requesting the removal of the local toddy shop to some other place was received by him; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for the removal of the said toddy shop to a less objectionable locality?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ (a) Yes.

“ (b) The petition was transferred to the Board of Revenue for disposal. The location of toddy shops is decided by the Collector after obtaining the advice of the local excise advisory committee.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know, Sir, whether petitions sent from other quarters also would be considered like that? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Certainly all petitions that come to Government would receive consideration.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know whether Government would consider them if complaints are made from all quarters of the Presidency? ”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ I do not think that that question arises now.”

Quantity of silk produced in Kollegal taluk of the Coimbatore district.

* 241 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the quantity of silk produced in Kollegal taluk of the Coimbatore district?

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THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ On account of the various means adopted by the silk reelers of Kollegal taluk for the disposal of their silk and the reluctance of the reelers and merchants to reveal the volume of their business or the addresses of the customers the total quantity of silk produced in the Kollegal taluk cannot be ascertained with any degree of accuracy. The quantity of raw silk exported through the out-agency of Kollegal which is the only source of accurate information, during the last three years is furnished below:—

	LB.
1934-35	138,999
1935-36	127,979
1936-37	137,241 "

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“ May I know whether there is any further scope of improving production? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ I am sorry I cannot answer that question off-hand. If my hon. Friend puts down another question I shall try to answer it.”

Representation for the formation of a Provincial Harijan Uplift Advisory Board.

* 242 Q.—MR. G. VENKANNA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the formation of a Provincial Harijan Uplift Advisory Board for the co-ordination of Harijan work in the Presidency; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, when the Government received the representation?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“ (b) A representation on the subject was received in August 1937.”

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know whether the Government propose to form provincial boards or district boards? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ Both questions are under the immediate consideration of the Government.”

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know how long the Government will take to consider this question? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ Not very long, Sir.”

[3rd March 1938]

Protest against holding the half-yearly inspection of buses in Malabar at Calicut, the headquarters of the Inspector of Motor Vehicles.

* 243 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Motor Vehicles, Malabar, used to order the bus-owners at the time of half-yearly inspection of buses, to produce their buses at his headquarters at Calicut; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will consider the desirability of instructing the Inspector of Motor Vehicles, Malabar, to issue monthly tour programmes mentioning the places he may be visiting and when and thus prevent considerable inconvenience and loss to the bus-owners and the travelling public?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) The question does not arise.”

Alleged minimum limit for the levy of fines for offences under the Motor Vehicles Act, in the Nellore district.

* 244 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Nellore has circularized to the subordinate magistrates under his jurisdiction that in all cases under Motor Vehicles Act an offender should be fined to a minimum of rupees fifty?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“A circular was issued by the District Magistrate, Nellore, to the effect that the punishments which some sub-magistrates were awarding to lorry-owners and drivers who were convicted for plying lorries without the prescribed licences, were not at all deterrent and that a fine of Rs. 50 in each case was considered to be appropriate. It was left to the discretion of the sub-magistrates to impose lesser fines if the circumstances warranted such a course.”

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister under what law or authority has the District Magistrate derived these powers of subordinate legislation?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“It is not a power of subordinate legislation. Under section 17 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Criminal Rules of Practice, the District Magistrate can issue instructions to subordinate magistrates.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether the District Magistrate can prescribe the amount of fine to be levied in particular cases?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“He cannot and he has not done it in this case.”

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Prosecution against M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Sambasiva Chettiyar, Chairman, Municipal Council, Conjeeveram, for not returning the municipal records, after his term of office ceased.

* 245 Q.—MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether in 1932 the Government ordered a prosecution against Rao Bahadur C. Sambasiva Chettiyar, Chairman, Municipal Council, Conjeeveram, for not returning the municipal records to the municipal office after his term of chairmanship was over, in spite of repeated requests and reminders; and

(b) whether an enquiry was held in connexion with the same on 25th June 1936 and, if so, what the outcome of the enquiry was?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) No enquiry was held in connexion with prosecution; but the Personal Assistant to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards conducted an enquiry on 25th June 1936 on the alleged missing of records; no action was taken as it was reported that no accurate information was available of the specific records missing.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“May I know whether the list of missing records was not submitted to the Inspector of Local Boards?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There was no accurate information for the holding of an enquiry.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say whether enquiries were made from a number of people about this?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It may be, but it relates to the missing of records in May 1936.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“May I know whether the Inspector of Municipal Councils submitted any report of the enquiry and, if so, whether he will be pleased to place the report on the table of the House?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I shall try and see.”

Levy of tax on agricultural incomes by the Panchayat Board of Madhavaram, West Godavari district.

* 246 Q.—MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Panchayat Board of Madhavaram in the West Godavari district is levying tax on agricultural incomes?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The panchayat board was levying profession tax on agricultural income. The board has been asked to discontinue the levy of the tax on such income.”

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MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of ordering a refund of the amounts already collected? "

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" No."

Admissibility of travelling allowance to village officials attending the jamabandi at the taluk headquarters.

* 247 Q.—**MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:** Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that subscriptions are generally raised in our Province by the village munsifs and karnams from the pattadars in villages for meeting the expenses of jamabandi at the headquarters;

(b) if so, how the Government propose to put an end to such a practice; and

(c) whether the village officials will be paid their daily batta and travelling allowances when attending to the jamabandi duty at the headquarters of the taluk?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) The Government are not aware that the facts are as stated.

" (b) The question does not arise.

" (c) A jamabandi allowance of Rs. 2 is now paid only to one village menial of a ryotwari village who accompanies the karnam and headman to the taluk headquarters in connexion with jamabandi, provided that the village does not lie within a radius of five miles of the taluk headquarters. No batta or travelling allowance is paid to village headmen and karnams for attending jamabandi."

Extension of the flood bank of the Bahuda river, Ichchapur taluk.

* 248 Q.—**MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:** Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the report said to have been called for in answer to clause (a) of unstarred Question No. 12 answered on 31st August 1937 with regard to the extension of the flood bank of the Bahuda river, Ichchapur taluk, has been received and what action the Government propose to take thereon?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" The report has been received and the Government have included a provision of Rs. 10,000 for the work in the next year's budget."

Fall in the number of aided elementary schools in the Nellore district.

* 249 Q.—**MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:** Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) what the number of aided elementary schools in the Nellore district during the year 1936-37 was;

(b) what the number of the same during the year 1937-38 is;

(c) what the reasons are for the fall, if any;

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(d) whether there is any rule in force according to which all elementary schools whose average attendance is less than twenty should not be paid any grant;

(e) whether there is any rule in force that untrained teachers should not be paid any grant this year; and

(f) whether the Government have considered the question whether there is an adequate number of trained teachers for employment in the existing schools?

* **THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:**—" (a) one thousand two hundred and ninety.

" (b) Accurate figures are not yet available for the year 1937-38, but there has been a fall in numbers.

" (c) Owing to the closure of inefficient and uneconomic schools.

" (d) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (e) There is no such rule.

" (f) The question is engaging attention."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask whether the enforcement of the rule of minimum attendance will not result in the closing down of a large number of schools? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" It may, Sir, but I think in the interests of education it is necessary."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" Will not then many villages go without any school at all? "

* **THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:**—" If there is keenness for education, there will be attendance and schools will not then be closed."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know what measures the Government propose to take for the education of the children who will be sent out by the closing down of these schools? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" They will be able to attend the neighbouring schools if they wish to."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know whether the Government have enquired whether the distance which the children will have to go will not be more than half a mile from their homes? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" The Government have come to this conclusion after looking into every fact adduced by the hon. Member."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that even in England untrained teachers are being allowed to teach in schools? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I am not aware of the practice that obtains in England."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that a number of applicants for admission to the training schools are refused admission for want of accommodation? "

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The accommodation available is distributed among the applicants and those who, in the opinion of the District Educational Officer, will benefit by such training are always given preference."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I ask what steps the Government are going to take to see that all eligible applicants are admitted?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"That is a matter of money and until we find more money I am afraid we shall have to continue as at present."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will permit untrained teachers to teach in schools until he gets more money to have them trained?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"If the hon. Member had followed the answer given to the question already put, he would have found that there is no rule that untrained teachers should not be employed."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to find out and tell the House the number of children who have been sent out of schools on account of this policy?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am afraid, Sir, it is a matter of accounting and if the hon. Member chooses to put down a specific question, I shall try to get the information if it is available."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, how it will be uneconomic to give grants to schools having only twenty students, if a system is followed whereby grants will be given according to the number of students that attend?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"For the simple reason that Government have found after investigation that single teacher schools do not come up to our expectations in the matter of removal of illiteracy. If there are only twenty pupils in four standards and only one teacher is employed, I am sure that the hon. Member will agree that it is not possible to impart education on right lines."

Proposal to increase the percentage of Indian boys in St. Michael's European High School, Cannanore.

* 250. Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Headmaster of St. Michael's European High School, Cannanore, has requested the Government to sanction an increase in the percentage of Indian boys in the school in view of the fact that European boys are lacking and therefore many Indian boys had to be shut out in order to keep up the proportion of one-third Indian boys as against two-thirds European boys; and

(b) what action the Government have taken on the same?

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The Government have amended the Code of Regulations for European schools to the effect that in cases of special difficulty, the Inspector of European Schools may permit the admission of non-Europeans in European schools to the limit of 40 per cent of the strength of the school provided that no further admission should be made as vacancies occur till the sanctioned percentage of 33-1/3 is reached."

Payment of compounding fees to forest panchayats.

* 251. Q.—MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that only a small portion of the respective compounding fees is now given to each of the forest panchayats in this Presidency?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"An annual grant is made to each Panchayat equal to one half of the compounding fees and one half of the fines collected in respect of forest offences reported by the panchayat and relating to the area of which it is in charge."

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of transferring the entire compounding fees to the respective panchayats in view of the financial stringency of these bodies?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"No Sir."

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"May I request you, Mr. Speaker, to allow the Hon. Minister to answer question No. 237?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Has the hon. Member been deputed by Mr. Laljan to put the question?"

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"No, Sir, I am not."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member who gave notice of the question must have taken care to depute some other hon. Member to put the question if he happens to be absent. Otherwise the answer will be printed in the proceedings and there is no obligation on the part of the Hon. Minister to give an oral answer."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, the question casts a slur on one of the officers of Government who is being attacked. I should like to answer it now so that the matter may be cleared."

MR. SPEAKER:—"In that event, the Hon. Minister should have asked for the permission of the Chair to answer the question when it was called and when it was known that Mr. Laljan was absent and that he had not deputed any other hon. Member to put the question on his behalf. If the Hon. Minister had wanted to answer the question in the public interest, he could have answered it then and there with the permission of the Chair."

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I ask for permission now, Sir, to answer the question in the public interest."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes."

Disciplinary action against the religious instructor in the Government Muhammadan Training School, Guntur, for taking part in party politics.

* 237 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to State—

(a) whether it is a fact that the religious instructor employed in the Government Muhammadan Training School, Guntur, presided at the Congress Muslim mass contact meeting held on 2nd November 1937 at Guntur;

(b) whether according to Government Servants' Conduct Rules Government servants are prohibited from taking part in party politics; and

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, what disciplinary action the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, has taken against the teacher concerned?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (c) The question does not arise."

Strength, composition, etc., of the police force employed for traffic control in the Presidency.

* 232 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the total strength of the police force employed for traffic control in each of the towns and cities in the Presidency;

(b) how many of them are sergeants and how many of them are of the lower ranks;

(c) the race or community to which each of the sergeants and constables belongs respectively; and

(d) the scale of pay drawn by each of the officers or constables that control traffic points in the cities and towns of the Presidency?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (a), (b) & (d) The Government have called for the information.

" (c) It is only in Madras City and in Madura and Trichinopoly towns that the traffic branch has been separately organized; and even there officers and men in that branch are often transferred to the Crime or Law and Order Branches and vice versa. In other towns there is no separately organized Traffic Branch. Consequently it is not possible, even were it desirable, to gather and furnish information regarding the race or community of the Police officers employed only on traffic control."

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

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1938-39—cont.

* MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget before us is on the whole one on which the Hon. the Premier may be congratulated, possessing as it does the supreme excellence of showing a surplus without the imposition of fresh taxation. So far as the coming year is concerned we have little to grumble about. But I would invite attention to the fact that two main factors have contributed to render this surplus budget possible. The first is the windfall of about Rs. 21 lakhs from income-tax under the Niemeyer Award . . ."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Sir, I just want to say that it is dangerous to use the terminology of windfall for revenue which is ours and which should be ours for all time."

MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"When I used the word windfall I meant that the particular amount involved was a windfall. I did not mean that the award itself was a windfall. The amount involved is Rs. 20.55 lakhs. Under the Niemeyer award the Provinces are entitled to certain sums of money which to some extent depend on railway receipts. The revenues of the State railways have been steadily falling within the past three months and if this fall continues the amount that we shall receive next year will be nothing like 20.55 lakhs. (An hon. Member: "It may be more.") Sir, I said 'and if this fall continues.' I do not understand how the hon. Member can say that a fall will produce more. If the fall continues, the amount that we will receive will be nothing like Rs. 20.55 lakhs but a far lower figure. That is why I said that this year it is a windfall. We cannot bank on receiving it in its fullness next year.

"The second main cause for the surplus is the most extraordinary feature in the budget. It is the large total of receipts from excise revenue. The situation here is Gilbertian. An hon. Member yesterday referred to the motor-tax as the goose that lays the golden eggs. I think many people will hold that the excise revenue is entitled to this appellation. Now, the Government have openly declared their intention to kill this goose, limb by limb, and have started with the district of Salem. We were told some six months back that on account of prohibition during the last six months of 1937-38, we had to lose Rs. 13 lakhs of excise revenue. And what do we find to-day? This budget shows that instead of losing Rs. 13 lakhs, we have got Rs. 15½ lakhs more than we budgeted for in receipts under Excise. This excise goose instead of losing its vitality is laying larger golden eggs than ever. So that, after all, this is a surplus budget largely because the collections under Excise instead of falling, have actually risen. The dear old bird has kissed the hands that smote it and has borne the Government on its back to a triumphant finale. The position is not without an element of humour.

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"But I would venture to point out that a time must arrive when the excise revenue will begin to fall, as more districts come under prohibition. I see two districts classed as dry in the land revenue accounts are going to be dry in another sense in the second half-year of 1938-39—I refer to Chittoor and Cuddapah. With all this extension of prohibition, the budgeted estimate of receipts under Excise in 1938-39 is Rs. 388.93 lakhs as against Rs. 387.06 lakhs in 1937-38. So that, the old goose that had been laying the golden eggs has proved a veritable phoenix. But what is going to happen in 1939-40 and 1940-41 when other districts join Salem, Chittoor and Cuddapah? The province—and this is the important point—has not yet *begun to feel* the financial implications of prohibition. Of the Rs. 3.87 crores budgeted for in 1937-38 not a pie has been yet lost to the Government; on the other hand, the Government expect to be Rs. 1.75 lakhs better off from this source in March 1939. But when the Excise goose begins to lose its vitality and when the golden eggs grow smaller and fewer, there will come a time when fresh and onerous taxation must be resorted to in a feverish attempt to encompass what I say is impossible. For, I believe that it is really outside the capacity of this province to supply from fresh taxation the Rs. 3½ crores now received from country spirits and country fermented liquor alone. I say that this budget is a success and I ask permission to congratulate the Hon. the Prime Minister on his success; but I would also repeat that it is a success merely because it has been borne on the wings of a tax which the Government have set out to destroy."

* Mr. R. M. PALAT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to compare the budget figures for 1936-37 and the Budget figures for 1938-39. I am taking the year 1936-37 because by then, Orissa had been separated from this province, and we ought to have had normal figures then. Again, after that year, this year 1938-39 is the next normal year, because last year, we cannot say that the present Ministry was responsible for the whole Budget. Taking those figures, therefore, we see that the revenue in the year 1936-37 was Rs. 15.76 crores while the present estimated revenue in 1938-39 is Rs. 15.98 crores. So that, the Hon. Minister will have Rs. 22 lakhs more to spend and is in a better financial position than any of the previous Finance Ministers. Compared to the same year, he expects to get about Rs. 24 lakhs more from land-tax in spite of the remissions which he has programmed for. While he says that he has managed without any additional taxation, he has quietly ignored the increase in the registration fees and motor-taxes. From the first, he expects very nearly Rs. 7 lakhs and about Rs. 6 lakhs from the latter. As has been pointed out by Mr. Bower, we are undoubtedly lucky in getting Rs. 20 lakhs more from the Government of India this year."

"Turning now to the expenditure side, we find that Rs. 15.96 crores were budgeted for in 1936-37, while the estimate for 1938-39 is Rs. 15.98 crores. These figures show that all things taken together, in spite of the tall talk about reduction of expenditure, it has still to be thought of."

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"Then, Sir, one important asset of the Finance Minister is his knack for changes in the accounts. If we refer to the last paragraph at page 3 of his Budget speech, the Prime Minister makes no secret of it. He says he is ready to adopt such changes in account matters, such as with regard to commutation of pensions from year to year, according to the exigencies of the Budget. I have to advise him that without reference to the exigencies of the budget, all the items of revenue and expenditure must either go to Revenue or Capital accounts, according to a fixed principle. If that is ignored, any deficit could be converted into a surplus and any surplus could be converted into a deficit, and Members of the Legislature would not know where they stand. Last year, the Hon. Minister said that he would debit it to capital; but this year, he says he would debit it to Revenue and threatens that he will have to debit it to Capital again when he is short of funds. We see this in the last paragraph at page 3 of his Budget speech."

"Then, Sir, I think the present Ministry will be well-advised to experiment more cautiously with some of their schemes. The wisdom of this they have already learnt in the matter of prohibition. We do not see this time all the enthusiastic beginning that was made last year. The two districts that are to be tried in the coming year will not be tried till October 1938, and moreover, will not cost more than Rs. 16 lakhs loss in a full year as against the Rs. 26 lakhs loss in the one district tried last year. There is also an increase in the Police staff more than any reduction in the excise staff. Similarly, it would be well to proceed more cautiously with the new schemes of education which are bound to affect the welfare of millions of people in this Presidency; similarly, again, with regard to the indiscriminate release of prisoners which is fraught with danger; so also, with regard to the scheme of honorary medical officers, which is to be introduced very shortly in this province. Sir, although I am an opponent of prohibition and although the private reports we have had do not support the Government contention that prohibition has been a success in Salem, still, if the Government believe that it has been a success there, I wonder why they do not extend it to more districts. The reason why only two districts have been chosen is not a mystery. Again, it was said that it was an advantage to take contiguous districts; but then, why not start the contiguity from Salem itself? Why take two of the poorest districts in the Presidency? No information has been vouchsafed to us as to the means taken to find employment for those who have been thrown out of employment on account of the introduction of this prohibition scheme, whether they have been absorbed in the new scheme of production of sweet toddy and production of sugar from jaggery, or whether any new source of income has been discovered in the district to make up for the loss of income, or whether they are all starving."

"Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about the Wardha scheme which I understand is to be introduced in one school in every district. The essence of the scheme, as I understand it, is that every school

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should be self-supporting, by making the children produce sufficient articles which by their sale would support the teaching staff of that school. Even the industrial schools where the pupils are more or less grown up do not pay their way and do not support their teaching staff; therefore, I do not think it is possible for schools composed of infants to live purely on the proceeds of the sale of articles produced. I may assure the Government that if these teachers are to live on the proceeds of the sale of goods produced by infants, they will be reduced to a worse state than perhaps even the coolies in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur who are getting famine relief, in the shape of Government doles. There will also be a tendency on the part of the teachers to earn money by sweated child labour, because the teachers would naturally try to get as much work from the children as possible. Again, Sir, there are persons on the Government Benches here who have had teaching experience. If the Government really believe in this scheme, I would suggest that these persons who are really enthusiasts, should waive their allowance and pay as Members of the Legislature and should give a practical demonstration as to how this scheme would work, by taking charge of some of these schools to be started by the Hon. Minister for Education.

"Then, Sir, I do not want to say anything about the release of political prisoners; but it is certainly immoral to release prisoners who have been convicted for ordinary crimes by competent courts. The Government are arrogating to themselves the powers of a court of appeal, a court of appeal in which neither party is heard, and where the Ministers will possibly be harassed by interested persons pleading for particular prisoners being released. In view of this declared policy, however, I do not see why the number of Police officers should not be reduced and why a number of jails should not be abolished.

"I should like to utter a similar word of caution with regard to Capital schemes. The Prime Minister is jubilating over the idea that the money market is very easy and cheap money could be obtained for the mere asking. But I would warn him that facile credit obtained in season and out of season is likely to demoralize not only the Provincial Government but all local bodies who are willing to take whatever money comes to them. But all that will be a burden on posterity. This year Rs. 175 lakhs of money is being borrowed. As tax-payers, we would any day welcome borrowing rather than submit to further taxation. But the credit that has been built up by the previous Governments during a number of years will be slowly undermined.

"The Government has borrowed a crore last year and more this year and it is losing its qualms about borrowing and it would probably go on borrowing every year more and more till it would be impossible for it to repay either the capital or interest, and then it could pass an act writing off all these debts; and this would no doubt appeal to everyone except the investor.

"In the course of his speech the Hon. the Prime Minister has expressed disappointment at the slow manner in which capital programmes can be put through in the current year. I hope he will take

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wise counsel before encouraging extravagant capital schemes either by the Government or by the local bodies. We are yet far from having a detailed scheme for scaling down of debts which is itself a very controversial matter. The Hon. the Prime Minister has already made up his mind to give 50 lakhs to the debtors while at the same time he is deprecating the slowness of recovery of the loans already made. I presume by the way that this amount would be available for zamindari ryots as well. I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister will enlighten us on that point. I would seriously suggest that the proper channel through which agricultural loans should be disbursed should be the Land Mortgage Banks and I have not the least doubt that if disbursements are to be made through the Revenue Department, the recoveries are bound to be more disappointing than now.

"The partiality of the Prime Minister for Electric Schemes for which a sum of 97 lakhs is set apart, rather than to irrigation which has only 6.6 lakhs in spite of the repeated failures of the monsoons and crops from year to year that we hear of, is very disappointing and the absence of irrigation works, particularly in Malabar has been a sorrowful feature of the Provincial administration not only of the present Government but of the past Governments also. In fact besides the remission in assessment which in reality was initiated by the former Ministry, the district of Malabar gets absolutely nothing from this budget. Even the grazing concession is no good to us since there is very little Government forest, and grazing has been always free in private forests. I would suggest that the Government should extend this principle of free grazing throughout the Presidency and be at least as generous as the private owners of forests in Malabar.

"Another grievous omission in the Budget is the absence of any special attention given to the importance of marketing facilities in the country. Although the Hon. the Finance Minister has expressed his sympathy for the agriculturists and the masses, organizations of new markets and increase of transport facilities are very much wanting. They should be instituted with a view to improving the purchasing power of the agriculturist.

"I am glad to see that the Government is carrying out the policy laid down by the late Ministry in the manifesto to give to each village in the Presidency a pure drinking water-supply. I am surprised however at the smallness of the grant towards that improvement. The health of the people is more important than the teaching of Hindi, called by the Hon. the Prime Minister Hindustani as if the calling of a language by a wrong name would change the language, and more important than the building up of quarters for higher officials, especially police officers, which we see in the present budget.

"I see from the detailed Civil Works Budget that entirely new buildings are going to put up—some to be continued for revenue divisional officers and new ones for the higher police officers. At Kurnool, quarters for a District Superintendent of Police estimated to

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cost of 31,600 is to be commenced this year. No money has yet been spent on it. This is given on pages 42—43 as item 3 of the Detailed Civil Works Budget this year before us. Similarly in Coimbatore district an entirely new bungalow for an Assistant Superintendent of Police is to be commenced this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 23,200. That, Sir, is given on page 47 as item 58 in the Detailed Civil Works Budget. There are other buildings which have been commenced some-time ago and which are to be continued this year, as for instance the bungalow for the District Superintendent of Police at Mangalore. While it is difficult to get an X-Ray plant for many of the hospitals, the Cabinet do not hesitate to spend money lavishly in commencing new buildings for the higher police officers who had been living mostly in rented houses since the early days of the British occupation, and now when Indianization is the cry and when there is every possibility that Indians would be content with private buildings and when we see that many Indians refuse to occupy Government buildings as is the case with some of the buildings at Adyar, there is no reason whatever why these buildings should be continued and money spent on them. This money can be far better utilized in giving the poor villagers an uncontaminated water-supply or for famine relief.

“I have purposely not drawn the attention of the House to the building up of quarters for the lower grades, that is to say those in the lower ranks, of the police service, which is also given in this Detailed Civil Works Budget.

“Next I would like to say a few words as to salaries. After all this flourish what do we see? We see a plan which would take a number of years to develop. We see that Indian Officers, I refer to the future entrants, are severely dealt with while the European Services are left untouched, and this no way fulfils the Congress election pledges which started with a Viceroy on Rs. 500 a month. The Ministers themselves now get far more than Rs. 500. Call it pay or allowance. It makes no difference.

“With the passing of the Agriculturists Debt Relief Bill, the poor agriculturist will have to execute more documents, and the Government have stepped in by increasing the registration fee of such documents, and thereby further taxing the poor agriculturist. The Justice Ministry had considerably reduced the registration fee, and now the present Government is going back to the old days.

“Then, Sir, I regret the waste of money that is being involved in khadi-weaving. This is an attempt against all lessons of industrial history—this attempt to make handlooms and handspinning compete with machinery. This money could also have been much better utilized for purposes of improving the public health. Again the famine relief fund is not being fairly utilized. In the Ceded districts we have now to each man one anna and nine pies and to each woman one anna six pies. This is hardly sufficient to purchase a seer of cholam, the cheapest possible food, and a seer is hardly

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sufficient to stay the pangs of their hunger. Why should not the Government give them higher wages, instead of sweating them and putting up buildings for the Assistant Superintendents of Police?

“I would now say a word or two about the Ooty migration of officials. I see that certain departmental Secretaries will be allowed to have their usual exodus to the hills. I am at a loss to know the reasons that weighed with the Government in taking such a step. May I ask whether the reasons applicable in such cases are different from those that are applicable to the cases of those other Secretaries who are not allowed to do so. You should send either all of them or none of them. There is no reason why certain secretaries alone should be allowed to go while others are not.

“In conclusion I would like to say a few words in regard to a recent Government Order about the election by the local bar of Government pleaders and public prosecutors in the mufassal districts. Have the Government any idea of extending this principle of election to Madras? Shall we soon see the Advocate-General and the Judges of the Madras High Court similarly elected?”

* SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—“Sir, I would like to open my remarks on the Hon. the Premier's Budget statement by first congratulating him and the House on the improvement in his health which has allowed him to take up his onerous duties again and present this very lucid statement of the financial affairs of the Province to this Assembly. I also wish to congratulate him on being able to present a balanced Budget although I think he will be one of the first to admit that he has been fortunate in regard to the receipts from the Central Government and also to other sources of revenue proving more favourable than was perhaps expected.

“When I was recently in England during a debate in the House of Commons, Mr. Winston Churchill quoted his father as having said that it was the business of the opposition to oppose everything and propose nothing and turn out the Government. If, he added, by any combination of circumstances the opposition is occasionally forced to support Government, that support should invariably be given with a kick and not with a caress.

“I think that as far as these Benches are concerned, we can claim that so far in the manner in which we have given support to Government when we have happily been able to do so, we have certainly not followed that advice and our support has always been accompanied by a caress. I would go further and say that when we have had to oppose the Government we have always opposed with a caress. That is partly because we are not really an opposition in the full parliamentary sense of the word. We are here, as we have said before, to support the Government of the day whenever we can conscientiously do so. We are in the unfortunate position that if through any action of ours the Government was turned out we would not be able to provide an alternative Government and there are at present no signs of the

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creation of a single party to which we could give our unfailing support on all questions of policy. From that point of view I hope that such criticisms as I now put forward for the consideration of Government will be considered by the Premier as having been handed to him with a caress, and I do very sincerely hope that he will not look upon them as offered in any other spirit.

"As a Budget speech, pure and simple, we feel that the Premier's address last Tuesday was somewhat disappointing. In that address we hear much of revenue which has been given up, but we are told that we must wait to learn in what form and on whom additional taxation is to be levied in the Province, to balance further revenue which is to be given up and provide funds for those various beneficent projects so dear to the Premier's heart.

"I would ask him, that if he finds it necessary to introduce any Bills involving further taxation between now and the next Budget, he will give a much longer time for consideration of such Bills than he has allowed the Assembly on various other measures which have recently been presented to this House. We would request that such Bills are published in ample time before they are discussed on the floor of this House to allow us to consult our constituents, and also to allow us to give very full consideration to all the implications and repercussions that such additional taxation may involve. Is it too much to ask the Premier that Government will endeavour as far as possible in the future to establish a Budget convention that all proposed taxation Bills should be outlined in the Budget, so that the business and industrial interests of this Presidency will know where they are for the coming year and be able to regulate their commitments and policies accordingly?

"As far as the Premier has outlined the loan policy of Government it appears to us sound, and we enter into another financial year with the conviction that the financial stability and credit of the Province has been well-maintained. Loans for the promotion of sound economic and remunerative schemes will always continue to receive our full support. In the past we have not been supporters of a policy of purely capital expenditure being financed from current revenues, and we have no wish to see the balances of the Province built up for the benefit of posterity at the expense of the tax-payer of to-day.

"As regards the question of Prohibition, I think that the Collector of Salem's report at least demonstrates the very great enthusiasm with which the Government's policy is being carried out in that district by the services and the village committees.

"From information from other sources I feel that this enthusiasm has probably led them to claim a greater success for the policy than is actually the case. Quite possibly my opinion is biased on the other side, and the real state of affairs lies somewhere between. The fact that it was recently impossible to buy a bicycle in Madras as they had been sold to Salem, rather indicates that drink addicts are now taking

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healthy exercise to obtain their usual beverage. It is, however, still early to decide whether the policy is a success or not, and I certainly do not wish to take up the time of this House at this juncture with those arguments against Prohibition which I put forward last year.

"There are, however, one or two points on the working of Prohibition which we hope to bring up when the grant in question is under discussion.

"Much of the expenditure indicated in this Budget, particularly the proposals for the improvement of rural water-supply and other amenities in the villages have our very fullest sympathy, and we shall watch with considerable interest that the funds supplied by Government for these purposes are being wisely utilized and administered.

"We are very dubious of the success of the Wardah Educational scheme which Government proposes to try out, and we hope that too much expenditure will not be involved, until and unless Government are satisfied that education on the lines of this scheme is really a practical proposition. This does not mean we are opposed either to an extension of primary education or to the spread of vocational training on ordinary lines. In fact we would go further and welcome the diversion of some at least of the expenditure on secondary education to provide additional primary and vocational educational needs.

"While we, as I have already indicated, welcome all those schemes likely to ameliorate the conditions of the agriculturist, we trust that the provision for building and road works has not been cut down to an extent which will starve essential developments in those directions.

"The Premier's account of the successful development and his future plans under the headings of 'Electricity' and 'Irrigation' indicate a very satisfactory state of affairs under these two headings and we hope that in his next Budget he will be able to report equally satisfactory progress.

"Any further remarks and criticisms under various headings of the Budget we will reserve for the more detailed discussions which will follow when we consider the grants, although my friend, Mr. Langley, the representative of planting interests, will hope to have an opportunity during this general discussion to bring to the notice of the Government certain questions which particularly affect his constituency.

"Finally, Sir, generally speaking, we congratulate and confirm the Premier in his claim that he is building on a basis of financial rectitude, although as regards some of his policies we cannot accept that they are altogether sound."

* MR. KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present 4 p.m. speaks aloud and the future only whispers. Our prosperity depends not only on studying the situations we face to-day but in providing for the future. Few alone are destined to hear the whispers of the future. And our Premier must be congratulated on his capacity to hear them and the present Budget is the result. And the present Budget is the

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indicator of the future services the Congress Party is going to render to the Presidency in particular and to the country at large. Then, Sir, when the Congress took up office last July they had a legacy of fiscal policy that did or could do little to save people from running into penury and constant famine. We might have had surplus budgets or deficit budgets in the past; but they were only window-dressing ingenuities of public accountancy. Now the country taken as a whole has been suffering from a number of fundamental evils which the Congress Party is now trying to tackle. Previously the Secretary of State used to practically approve the budget that was presented in the provinces or in the Centre before 1919. Then from 1919 what is known as 'the fiscal autonomy convention' came into effect, and the Viceroy replaced the Secretary of State, but there was not much improvement, for the policy remained unchanged. Even under the present Government of India Act, under which we are said to have provincial autonomy, I think the position has not entirely improved. For the new constitution does away with the fiscal autonomy convention as to-day India cannot legislate on the basis of discrimination and against British interests. Out of the total income for the whole of India, 60 per cent goes to the centre and only 40 per cent can be touched by the provinces. Then out of this 40 per cent, we cannot legislate on the basis of discrimination, on defence and on foreign powers, particularly against Britain. Therefore even that is restricted. So even to-day we cannot plan at an effective regeneration of the country.

"Then we come to our present state of affairs. The present system of taxation exacts the utmost from the poorer sections of the population. The main direct tax, the land revenue is based not on the capacity of the people to pay, but on a regressive basis. A man who owns two acres, pays at the same rate as the man who owns two thousand acres. This is a great inequity existing in this country and it is necessary that our Government should tackle this problem at an early date. Sir, I was overjoyed when the Hon. the Premier said day before yesterday that the 'Government are alive to the necessity for finding more revenue and undertaking the unpleasant task of expanding existing sources of revenue or imposing new taxation, and the problem is being subjected to detailed examination along several lines.' I humbly suggest that progressive taxation should be the whisper for the future. The prices fell by 50 per cent, but the total land revenue remission including the increased quota in 1937-38 comes to only 10 per cent of that fall.

"While this is the case in the ryotwari areas, the fate of the zamindari areas is far worse. As a matter of fact while Government were granting remissions, the zamindars went on increasing their taxes, and rack-renting is rampant there to-day. As a matter of fact while in Bengal to-day the zamindari rental amounts to Rs. 17 crores only 1 crores of rupees are paid to Government by way of peshkash. In the Madras Presidency all the zamindars put together pay 49 lakhs of rupees to the Government, but they actually collect over two and

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a half crores of rupees as rentals. All this is middle man's commission and it should be abolished at an early date. The lancet will have to be applied there. Tax on the surplus agricultural income, death duties, etc., coupled with the reduction of rentals paid by ryots, will yield money to the State and help the ryots affected, including those in the zamindari areas. The whole of the income-tax goes to the centre, and under the Niemeyer Award we get 50 per cent at the end of twenty years. This pace must be accelerated and we must urge upon the Central Government to yield to the Provincial demands more and more, so that you may have more nation-building activities. It is one of our primary dues, and those dues must be increased as years go by.

"I also suggest a 'turnover' tax on all foreign goods sold in the presidency, and I would also like a tax on inherited wealth in this presidency.

"The present-day economic crisis which is dragging on wretchedly for years, never passing clean away, stabs with varying intensity this commodity or that, this area or another into sharper spasms of pain and panic. Freedom from the plague of upward booms and downward slumps can only be achieved by a planned economy. In this connection I must appreciate the attempt of the Hon. Revenue Minister towards a programme of rural revitalization. A system of controlled credit with the multi-purpose society at the base must be the co-operative ideal and such a system should be evolved, and I hope the Hon. Minister for Co-operation will soon take up this job. I also expect, Sir, that the fifty lakhs allotted in the budget towards the scaling down or the repayment of debt, under the Debt Bill and all similar payments would be disbursed through the multi-purpose co-operative societies. I think much success will be achieved in this line if this path is followed.

"Sir, famine is raging in the Ceded districts and it has become a chronic affair there. Unless we think of a permanent remedy, the lot of the people will be miserable. Government ought to be thanked for the prompt measures of relief and remission, and unless some permanent remedy is evolved, the prompt measures of relief afforded by the Hon. Revenue Minister during the last two months will be only but temporary. The Budget contains an allotment of Rs. 3,86,000 in all for relief works, but the details reveal that out of it, Rs. 3,54,000 go to communications, Rs. 7,000 only to irrigation. I wish the process is reversed under a clear plan; for I wish that the money thus spent will not go beyond creating certain roads, and will be used in digging certain tanks and repairing some canals. Therefore I appeal that some permanent relief be afforded to the Royala Seema.

"The subject of famine brings to my mind the subject of irrigation. The Hon. Premier has said that it is wrong to assume that the expenditure on these two classes of works, namely, Electricity and Irrigation, is exclusive. No one can dispute that statement. But, Sir, born in a place hemmed in by two mighty arms of the river Godavari, and enjoying the fruits of the famous Godavari Irrigation

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system, I have a clear partiality for Irrigation. (The Hon. the Premier: 'Hear, hear.') The scope for expansion of irrigation is great. The net area cropped in the Madras province is 37,539,000 acres, and of this, the irrigated area is only 7,302,000 acres, and this forms but 19.4 per cent of the total cropped area of the presidency. As compared with our province, it is 97.1 per cent in Sind, and 35.1 per cent in the Punjab. Therefore I think the pace of progress of irrigation works in our province must be accelerated. I am glad to hear the good news from the Hon. Premier about the Tungabhadra project, and I hope the arrangements that have to be made for it will be concluded soon. But I fear the Tungabhadra project will not solve the Royala Seema famine. I wish that small irrigation works are undertaken and that a scheme is evolved so that all these may be put on a productive basis.

4-15 p.m. "I have got a suggestion to make, Sir, that what are known as 'irrigation group schemes' should be brought into existence. I do not think that every small work in the Ceded districts will be able to yield the 4 per cent margin which is required for irrigation works to be productive. I wish some 8 per cent yielding schemes from the north and 2 per cent yielding schemes in the Ceded districts are clubbed together and the minimum of 4 per cent is got and both the schemes are worked with a capital outlay as soon as possible.

"Every one has congratulated the Hon. the Premier for the ways and means position as well as the capital and debt position being very well in this Presidency. If we raise a loan of some more crores of rupees and use it for productive purposes for irrigation or electricity and get a good return from them nobody can blame us, for the credit of this Province will never fail, whatever Mr. Palat might fear. I now come to the expenditure proper.

"As can be seen from the face of it, the budget is completely massminded. There is a land revenue reduction of 75 lakhs of rupees and this is Rs. 20 lakhs more than the figure in 1936-37. The grazing fees have been cut down to half and it is a boon to all those that live on the fringes of the forest areas.

"Prohibition is extended to two more districts and I am glad it has fallen to the lot of the Andhara Desa and I do hope that the extension to Chittoor and Cuddapah will prove a greater success than the experiment in Salem. I have certainly no doubt as regards the success of prohibition scheme as I said in my last budget speech and the sooner we get rid of this drink evil the better for our country. We ought to achieve this even at the sacrifice of some of the nation-building activities. The whisper of the future is more evident in the creation of what is called a 'special fund' like the famine fund for the rural development of water supply. And I think, this idea, if it develops will give fresh water to many areas in this Presidency which lack these facilities at present.

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"I am glad that the khadi grant is renewed, and that there is more provision for the Harijan grant.

"Then, Sir, before closing, I want to mention a few local grievances in my district.

"The first thing is that I want to draw the attention of the Hon. the Revenue Minister to the remission of water-rate in the Kistna and Godavari anicut systems. I need not remind him, Sir, that the Godavari anicut system returns a high figure of 20 per cent and the Kistna system yields a percentage of 18. As a matter of fact, in spite of such high returns, in the year 1931, the water-rate which was at Rs. 5 was raised to Rs. 6-4-0 and this increase of 25 per cent in the era of this great depression was a great burden to the tax payer. In the remission proposal, Sir, this year, only 8 annas out of the Rs. 6-4-0 has been remitted, while the other parts of the Presidency got a remission of 2 annas in the rupee even in the predepression assessment. We in the Kistna, Godavari and Guntur areas had suffered an enhancement and even this enhancement has not been withdrawn during the remission proposals. May I make an appeal to the Hon. Minister for Revenue to give this year a remission of at least Re. 1-4-0, though our districts may forego the general concessions afforded in other places in the Presidency, where in the irrigated areas a remission of 2 annas in the rupee on the pre-depression assessment is allowed.

"I have got another request to make of the same hon. Gentleman. That is about the Island Polavaram Project in my constituency. That project was opened in 1929 and it was estimated to irrigate an area of 17,500 acres and the water-rate was fixed as high as Rs. 10-8-0. After three years the cultivable area fell down and came to 7,000 acres. Then the Government found out the mistake and decreased the tax to Rs. 7-8-0. Even that the poor people there are unable to pay, the land being saline in nature. That is a far higher rate than the rate collected in the delta. Indeed the concession is only to help those people from whom at present a high rate is being collected. Leaving alone the question of general remission and concession, for which I argued, I would appeal on behalf of the poor people of the Island Polavaram to reduce this Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 6-4-0, i.e., the post-settlement rate that is in vogue in all the deltas of the area.

"Then, Sir, there is the Coringa Project which will bring under cultivation more than 13,000 acres. This project, Sir, was sanctioned as early as 1914 but the war intervened, and so it was abandoned at this stage. It is a productive project and will yield a good return to Government and I do hope that in the coming year the Hon. Minister for Public Works will touch upon this. Then there are the other small schemes, like the Peravaram High Level Channel Project, with rotative supply with Kanur, water supply schemes for Sankaraguptam Antervedi and Tadicon, and the construction of a few tidal locks and other projects. On these small schemes in contemplation, the investment will not be very much but they will give a very good yield of revenue

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to the Government, anything between 8 to 12 per cent. Along with that scheme which I have suggested before, I hope the Hon. the Minister for Public Works will undertake these things also. And before closing this portion of the business, I would like to suggest to the Government to undertake the Upper Godavari Project. If Rs. 75 lakhs is invested for constructing a dam along the Bison Hill, the Government will get a good deal of revenue. They can supply water earlier to the details of West Godavari and East Godavari and they can also supply water-in full for the second crop.

"Then, Sir, I plead for the man with the Hoe who was described by Mr. Markham, as being plundered, profaned and disinherited. We must win freedom for him. The President of the North-Western Frontier Province when presented with the National Flag at Haripura by the President of the Congress said that he would defend it to the last drop of his blood. We, on this side of the Frontier of India, Sir, place the utmost confidence in the capacity of the Congress and its representative Government and in doing our duty to the people will not flinch a moment.

'Faith is the bird that feels the light,
'When dawn is still dark.'

said Tagore.

I do hope that the masses and also our Opposition Members will have that faith in the Congress, its administration and its honourable representatives headed by the Hon. the Prime Minister. I once more congratulate, Sir, the Hon. the Premier on the excellent Budget that he has presented in this Presidency on behalf of the Congress Party of which he is Leader and I am glad that this Budget is another brilliant feather in our white cap."

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to offer my sincere congratulations to the Hon. the Finance Minister for the admirable Budget that he has been able to present to this Hon. House. The Budget bears . . ."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I request you, Sir, to ask the hon. Member to speak on directly to the phone, because I am not able to hear him?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members almost on every bench are talking while the hon. Member is addressing the House. That affects the acoustics of the House and it is not desirable that the hon. Members should be talking amongst themselves, when an hon. Member is addressing the House. Therefore hon. Members on both the wings of the House, both right and left, will observe perfect silence and allow the hon. Member addressing the House to be heard distinctly and clearly in every part of the House."

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"I suppose we are not prevented from appreciating."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"In doing so, the Parliamentary Secretary, should not diminish the acoustics of the House by talking frequently to members on other benches. (Laughter.)"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"I mean, Sir, without affecting the acoustics. (Laughter.)"

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"I was saying, Sir, that the Budget bears unmistakable signs of the Hon. Finance Minister's broad outlook, thorough grasp of the details of administration, wisdom and unusual foresight in assessing the present and the future needs of this Province. My first impression when the Hon. the Finance Minister finished his speech on the 1st March, was that he completely paralyzed the Opposition. (Hear, hear.) I have since gone through the speech and also the Budget Memorandum prepared by his able Secretary and I am still of the opinion that the Opposition has been disarmed. It is customary, Sir, during the general discussion of the Budget to make a few observations on the general aspects of the Budget reserving the detailed examination to a later stage by means of cut motions.

"Sir, the first impression that one gets on going through the Budget that has been so ably presented is, Sir, the total absence of any measure for fresh taxation. Sir, taxation is irksome and fresh taxation is no doubt still more irksome. It invites opposition. Sir, we are coming to a stage where instead of squarely facing the consequences of fresh taxation the Government of the day, are falling back upon the device of raising fresh loans in the open market. Sir, only last year, the Hon. the Finance Minister raised a loan of 1½ crores in the open market. We all know, Sir, the avidity with which the public took hold of the opportunity to subscribe to the loan and we know how within a very short time, the loan was substantially oversubscribed. Encouraged with that result, the Hon. the Finance Minister has come up before this Assembly with a proposal to raise a fresh loan in the open market for a slightly higher amount, viz., Rs. 1.75 crores. Sir, one is tempted to enquire whether, after all, Government are pursuing a very safe policy in committing the future generations and the future legislature to ever-increasing loan transactions. Sir, I would, no doubt, be told that these loans are not raised in order to run the day-to-day administration of the province. That is no doubt a fact. We find from the Budget that we propose to close the year with a clear credit balance of Rs. 12,000. But then, Sir, there are other liabilities and they have to be faced. For this purpose therefore a loan is sought to be raised. Sir, that loan, as described in the Budget Memorandum, is to meet the liabilities on account of loans and advances, public debt, deposits of local funds, judicial deposits and so on. Sir, my point is, is it after all desirable; are we sailing smoothly when we are faced with a large public debt? Already our public debt amounts to Rs. 15.28 crores and on this we have to pay as much as Rs. 87.67 lakhs annually in the shape of interest. This is a sufficiently big drain upon the resources

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of this province. In these circumstances, is it not worthwhile for us to consider whether we should pursue this policy of raising loans in the open market or whether it is not possible to face the situation squarely by having resort to fresh means of taxation by exploring fresh avenues of revenue so that we may be able to balance our Budget and we may be able to discharge our commitments without committing the future generation to huge loans which have a tendency to grow. We all know how, in the case of the agriculturists, the debts have increased, and how they have grown from year to year. Sir, there is a tendency for borrowers to borrow more freely when facilities for borrowing are available. The same might perhaps apply to Government. The tendency in future will be to continue to borrow and not to properly husband the resources available and obviate the necessity for going to the open market for loans.

"Sir, the next point that strikes me in connexion with this Budget is the question of land revenue policy which has not been defined yet. The Hon. the Finance Minister stated yesterday that land revenue question is a delicate one and that it is not possible to hurry up with it, that it requires very careful consideration and that it must be approached with considerable caution. I do admit all that; but then, what is the good of our postponing consideration of this matter? At some time or other the question will have to be settled. Sir, we have been told that the Land Revenue Enquiry Committee has submitted a report proposing substantial reduction in the current rates of assessment. But, unfortunately, the House has not been taken into confidence as to the nature and terms of the report of the Land Revenue Enquiry Committee. The report has been a sealed book to us. We were expecting that in this year's Budget at least some indications of the recommendations made by the Committee with a view to afford relief to the agriculturists would be found. But, unfortunately, we are told once more that it is not possible for the Government to take us into their confidence. We are where we were last year. All that is attempted is temporary relief to the suffering agriculturists. We all know as a matter of fact that the periodical re-settlements have kicked up the half-net-share and have imposed heavy burden on the ryots. What the ryots need is substantial reduction in the rates of assessment that they are asked to pay. If we, instead of reducing the rates offer them temporary relief in the shape of debt relief or remission, we will not be facing the problem of agricultural debt relief squarely at all. Our attempt in the direction of debt relief has so far been only to scale down the debts. But, what facilities have we provided for the indebted ryots to pay even the scaled down debts? No doubt there is a provision of Rs. 50 lakhs for giving relief to the agriculturists whose debts have been scaled down. But how far will that Rs. 50 lakhs go? What part of Rs. 200 crores of debt will this sum clear? Sir, what the ryots want is not temporary accommodation in the shape of loans. What the ryots tremendously needs is a permanent reduction in land revenue so that he might be in a position to meet his obligations.

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"Sir, the other sort of relief that is sought to be given is seasonal remission. This, at best, is only a palliative. Where the season is bad, where the ryots have lost their crops wholly or partially, seasonal remissions are granted.

"We find that out of a total revenue of Rs. 15.74 crores, land revenue alone is responsible for Rs. 7.15 crores. That means practically half the revenue brought into the coffers of Government, comes from the agricultural population. The other items of revenue, such as Excise, Forests and so on bring in only comparatively small amounts. Excise brings in Rs. 4 crores, Stamps bring in Rs. 1.95 lakhs, Forests known for rapidly diminishing returns bring in Rs. 48 lakhs, and the rest of the items are negligible. Sir, in a case where the ryots contribute half the total revenues of the Government, is it not incumbent on them to give these ryots permanent relief? Agriculturists form 75 per cent of the total population of this province. If this 75 per cent of the total population of this province stands in need of permanent relief from taxation, I wonder what prevents the Hon. the Prime Minister with his broad sympathies for the suffering ryot population, from finding ways and means for promptly affording them such relief? After all, Sir, as I submitted, out of Rs. 15.74 crores of revenue Rs. 7.15 crores come from land revenue. Let us take that as Rs. 7 crores and let us take the remission that is proposed to be granted as Rs. 70 lakhs. Rupees 70 lakhs distributed among a population which yields Rs. 7 crores of revenue means a relief of 10 per cent. In other words, this relief comes to one and a half anna in the rupee. Can we say with any comfort to ourselves that this 1½ annas in the rupee will go into the pockets of the ryots? They have to meet other charges, legitimate and otherwise, before they get this one and a half annas. This seasonal remission of 1½ annas in the rupee will not give any real relief to the poor ryots. They want and they have been asking for material reduction in the land revenue that they are asked to pay.

"The next point that has attracted my attention in the Budget is this: Very little attention has been paid to roads and communications. Sir, I particularly stress the necessity for opening up village communications. Though in the past these matters were receiving considerable attention at the hands of the former Government, we find in the present Budget that these matters have rather sunk into insignificance. I find that village communications will get only a lakh of rupees during the next year. Under the head '26, Grants-in-Aid, Grants to Local Bodies' 1.15 lakhs has been set apart in the Budget, for the improvement of village communications. Sir, out of this meagre sum of 1.15 lakhs, .15 lakh is taken as probable savings. I wonder why this system of taking with one hand, what the other hand has given? Anyway, the grant itself is very small being a lakh of rupees scattered over 25 districts. It needs hardly any contention on my part to point out that a lakh of rupees is not what the villagers just now need. Quite a number of villages are inaccessible particularly during the monsoon. As Members of this House representing electorates situated in rural parts we have found to our regret how great

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are the difficulties, the ryots have to undergo for want of communications. It is very difficult during the monsoon period for the ryots to have access to the main roads leading to the markets. Some provision has been made in the Budget for improving the important marketing roads. I say, Sir, a larger provision to make the village communications better and safer is necessary. By doing so, the village roads would be linked with the roads leading to the important markets and the ryots placed on a more satisfactory basis. This would enable them to take their produce to the markets without great difficulty and to secure medical relief and other amenities of life. Open out village communications and you open up a large vista of social progress and economic improvement. I need not labour that point further.

"The other point which has attracted my attention in connexion with this budget is rural sanitation. Rural sanitation has been left in the background. Thanks to the efforts of the Hon. Premier and the Finance Minister, rural water-supply has claimed adequate attention. A fund has been created with a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs to commence with, and a sum of 5 lakhs of rupees out of Rs. 15 lakhs is going to be set apart for the improvement of rural water-supply in the coming year. I should say that the Hon. the Finance Minister has earned the undying gratitude of the village folk for the liberal contribution that he has made for rural water-supply. The same liberality, Sir, should be shown with reference to rural sanitation and the working of rural dispensaries. It is a sight to see the rural dispensaries at work now. I dare say the Hon. the Finance Minister has seen some of the rural dispensaries at work in Salem. Salem rural dispensaries may perhaps be in good condition, because people there have taken to prohibition and do not resort to hospitals as they have not many ailments, having been freed from the drink evil. In Chingleput where people are living in poverty, rural dispensaries are kept in awful condition; dirty walls, dirtier towels, moth-eaten plasters and walls ridden with white ants are the order of the day. In order to improve rural dispensaries, a larger provision should have been made in the Budget.

"In this connexion I would draw the attention of the Hon. the Finance Minister and the Hon. Minister in charge of Public Health to the fact that leprosy relief has not received adequate attention on the part of the present Government. Lepers are freely going about the country. There is no place where one can stand or halt on the roadside without seeing lepers or without rubbing shoulders with them. That sort of condition has been put down in every civilized country, in any country responsible for the well-being of its population. The segregation of lepers, the establishment of leper colonies, and segregation camps and positive treatment of lepers in order to free them from the cause of leprosy and to make their lives happier are certainly necessary and it behoves the Government to pay larger attention to leper relief in future.

"In addition, I would like to say just a word or two with reference to the nation-building departments. Sir, one finds with

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regret that all the nation-building departments are left stationary. One has merely to turn to the figures in the budget to confirm my view. We find, Sir, that department after department is left stationary. We find the Agricultural department, the premier department which concerns the vital interests of the agricultural population is left stationary. Rs. 23.80 lakhs was the Budget for 1937-38, and Rs. 23.03 lakhs is the Budget for 1938-39; no progress. The provision for the Veterinary department was Rs. 11.17 lakhs for the year 1937-38 and it is Rs. 10.91 lakhs in 1938-39; no progress. Co-operative credit looms very large now before the public eye on account of the fact that we want organized agencies to replace the local sowcars to give relief to the agricultural population. This is also stationary. The provision was Rs. 14.34 lakhs for the year 1937-38 and it is Rs. 14.60 lakhs for 1938-39. Industries—Rs. 27.45 lakhs for 1937-38 and Rs. 27.17 lakhs in the Budget for 1938-39. Here I would like to say a word of congratulation to the Hon. Minister in charge of Industries. He has been very enthusiastic in promoting industries. He has taken every opportunity to say that cottage industries alone could save the ryot population from distress and penury. With all the will in the world, he has not, I find, raised his budget even by a little figure. This is the condition of the nation-building departments. One would have liked to see larger and increasing proportion of the budget allotment set apart for improving all the nation-building departments either from capital or from revenue, whatever the source might be. I do hope that my remarks would not be understood to detract from the excellence of the budget presented by the Hon. the Finance Minister. These observations have been made in order to bring home to him some of the crying needs that the electorate at the present moment feel. That does not mean any reflection on the budget which, by itself, is excellent and very satisfactory from all aspects of view."

* MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I wish to thank, at the very outset, the Hon. the Premier for the nice budget, a budget which has given justice to the people of my district in particular. The Hon. the Premier also belongs to that district of Salem. Some observations were made regarding the results of prohibition in the Salem district. I was surprised to hear from Sir William Wright that the information he got from another source was different from what is contained in the statement of the District Collector, Mr. Dixon. As a matter of fact I know that it is a correct statement of what an I.C.S. officer of his standard has actually seen. I may inform this House that that statement is not exaggerated; it is rather restricted. I had an opportunity of going with him to the villages. Without any exaggeration I may inform this House that prohibition has really been a grand success. It was doubted by so many of my colleagues here. It was really doubted whether it is going to solve the economic problem of the agriculturists. I may assure the House that it has done so. I say it from practical experience. I say it from things that I have seen myself. Take an ordinary ryot, or agriculturist, labourer or anybody. Prior to the introduction of prohibition, I know he used to tie a dry

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betel-leaf, two nuts and a piece of tobacco in one of the corners of his small torn towel on his shoulder. To-day the position of the ryot is different. He has got now at least two annas to tie in the corner of his cloth, along with a piece of tobacco, some nuts and a dry betel-leaf. A sum of two annas is a small thing to us; it is nothing to us; but it is an asset to the ordinary peasant. With this two annas, the ryot is richer than what he was. His two annas are better used than what we could with a sum of Rs. 2, 20 or 200. I have made this statement after what I have actually seen. If the District Collector who is in charge of this prohibition work is only relieved of his desk work, I am sure that the success of prohibition would be much more; more propaganda can be carried on and the small number of crimes that were reported from the Salem district will not be committed and the Sessions Judge of the district may be presented with a pair of white gloves. That will be the actual situation. I have accompanied the District Collector to some villages and I can say that he is interested particularly in the villagers; he wants to get into touch with the peasants and their problems for solution. There is no exaggeration at all in his statements. If arrangements could be made by which the District Collector would be relieved of his desk work and if he is free to tour all the villages, we would certainly have better results from the introduction of prohibition than what we had.

"The hon. Member, Mr. Palat, made the observation that the Government are employing more police on account of the introduction of prohibition. I say that it is a programme worthwhile trying even with punitive police. The introduction of prohibition is not an experiment now; it is now the avowed policy of the present Government and the present Government will carry on the programme of prohibition with all the opposition of my friend Mr. Palat.

"As regards the areas, it has been stated that they are not contiguous. I wish to say that they are contiguous now and they will be made more fittingly contiguous by the proposals in the next budget.

"As regards loans made available under the proposals in the budget for relieving the indebted people, my hon. Friend, Mr. Palat, doubted whether these loans were going to be available to the zamindari tenants or not. I wonder why he doubts it; zamindari tenants belong to our own community; they are our brethren. They are certainly entitled to the benefit which the state gives; I take it they will get the benefit. I do not think that any restriction should be made in this respect. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, suggested that the loans might be disbursed to the ryots through the land mortgage banks. Let loans be disbursed to only those people whose debts do not exceed Rs. 250; let loans be disbursed to small peasants who own only one or two acres of land; let their burdens be taken away; let that programme be adopted. I would request the Government to consider that suggestion.

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"As regards the people living in the forest areas, let me thank the Government for the great relief afforded to the tenants by reducing the grazing fees to half. I tell you I am not thanking the Government on my own behalf but on behalf of those people who depend on the forest area for grazing their cattle. I have seen the tenants living in the forest area and every one of them is highly grateful to the Government for this relief and on their behalf I thank the Government. As a matter of fact, I have received a telegraphic communication to-day to thank the Hon. Government for affording this particular relief. In respect of the difficulties experienced by the tenants living near the forest areas, I would like to make a small suggestion for the approval of the Government. The grazing permits or passes are now issued by the Forest department through their ranger, guard or watcher. I may be permitted, Sir, to state for the information of the Government what actually takes place in respect of the permits purchase. Sufficient number of permits are not at all purchased by the ryot and this is done with the knowledge of immediate forest watcher or the guard. The real difficulty is that these people do not know that the watcher's help is really a danger to them later. The thing is that there is no trouble with the higher authorities but it is only with the smaller officials. In the Police department you have got the constable's tyranny and in the Forest department the demon of the tenant or ryot is the forest watcher, guard and probably the forest ranger. It is not the higher officials that give trouble. It is certainly these lower officials that create trouble. All these guards and watchers make concessions and even induce the tenants to take permits and passes for a less number of cattle even though the tenant is willing to pay for all the cattle that he takes to the forest. If the tenant is made to purchase passes or permits for all the cattle that he takes to the forest, he will be rid of so many later grievances and so many charges before the magistrates would not be there. Everything will be all right. The real difficulty is that the tenant is prevented from purchasing passes for all the cattle because of the influence of these small officials of the Forest department, who are anxious to keep the cattle tenders and villagers under their grip to get their own remuneration from the tenant.

"Now, Sir, the suggestion that I want to make in regard to this matter is this. You have got everywhere in each village, the village karnam, the village munsif, the triune officer and the talaiyari. If any one of these officers is deputed to sell passes or permits for the cattle taken to forest for grazing, I think, he would be able to sell more passes and he would be able to collect more revenue for the Government. If all the cattle that are taken to the forest for grazing purposes are let under passes certainly the revenue will be much more than now; there is no doubt about it. My only complaint is that the number of passes are not properly given and the lower officers seem to be responsible for this. I have already had occasion to put questions in regard to these grievances. If the man who takes the cattle to the forest is allowed only to purchase the required number of passes through the village officers of respective villages he will be saved a lot of trouble.

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"Next, Sir, the man who is allowed to take his cattle to the forest is allowed only to take them to a particular range and where he is allowed to graze his cattle, water may not be available. If he is to take the cattle to another range where water is available he is charged. In the case of right of way given to take the cattle for water to the different range, we know, Sir, that by nature these dumb animals go this way and that way and try to graze in some places where they should not go. And if these cattle go to those places they are then charged for trespass. My suggestion is that passes should not be issued in respect of ranges where there is no water available for the cattle. The Government should issue circulars like that to the officials concerned.

"The remissions that have just been talked about very much are not very large. The remissions are very small. Of course they are only two annas and three annas for every rupee of rent. It is not a big thing to us; but it is a big thing to the tenant. But my view is that the charges which are collected on account of encroachment from these tenants are horrid. I know for 50 cents of encroachment a charge of Rs. 8 is made. There is the village munsif under whose very nose the cultivation goes on. He allows the tenant to go on cultivating at the first stage, second stage and third stage and he then charges Rs. 8 for cultivating the 50 cents. This is certainly a horrid state of affairs. Why did the village officer, the revenue inspector, the tahsildar, sleep over all these months? When the first encroachment was made why should not immediately the officers take note of such encroachment and prevent it then and there? We know the tenants of this Presidency are not quite cultured and educated; they cannot really understand the limitations under which they labour and they are unaware of the consequences. These people have to be relieved of such troubles. Of course the encroachments should be stopped, but let there not be such prohibitive charges in respect of such encroachments and let the concerned officers be made responsible for encroachment rather than levy prohibitive charges.

"In regard to district boards though I was elected on the 17th of last month, I have been connected with the district boards some time before and I have got experience."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is the hon. Member talking on the budget or about his experience of the district boards? (Laughter.) The general discussion should be on the budget as a whole or in respect of any principle involved in the budget and not the personal experience of Members in the district boards." (Renewed laughter.)

* MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"It is not on my experience of the district board, Sir, but on the question of policy of the Government in respect of local bodies."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"With regard to his conduct in the district board, the hon. Member may discuss it elsewhere." (Laughter.)

* MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"In respect of road maintenance, the Superintending Engineer is allowed to pass certain

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things. A certain amount of grant is given by the Local Government. The Superintending Engineer is asked to check these roads. He checks these roads and disallows a certain amount of grant and that grant is mostly not given by the Government. My suggestion is that this disallowance is really not good and that it should not be ordered without scrutiny. The Superintending Engineer without understanding the financial difficulties of the local boards recommends to the Government to withhold these grants, if the roads are not good. This officer inspects the roads once a year. This withholding of grants will make the roads still worse. The duty of the officer must be to see whether the local bodies spend the grant for the maintenance of the road. He never looks into that. And even if more money is spent by the local boards on the roads his remark is they are still bad. The difficulty is that the grant which is given by the Local Government is not adequate for the purpose. If the roads are not as they should be, it means there is something bad about the road and the soil under it and the grants must not as a matter of course be withheld and more grants should be given wherever it is desirable and wherever the roads are not good."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does not the hon. Member think it more appropriate to refer to these details when these items are discussed under grants? The general discussion must be confined to the budget as a whole or to any principle of finance involved therein. These details can be conveniently discussed when the items under various heads and sub-heads are taken up under grants."

* MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only submit that this is the principle that has been actually followed by the Government and that is why I have raised this question.

"In regard to the rural dispensaries I propose to raise some principle."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Details need not be gone into. Detailed discussions with regard to the items need not be gone into now. The principles underlying the budget proposals may be discussed."

* MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"As regards the rural dispensaries, the point has been very ably put by Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai. They are experiencing immense difficulty in the matter of purchasing medicines. With regard to the purchase of medicines for the rural dispensaries, we are compelled to buy medicines only from the military stores and when we indent for Rs. 100 worth of medicines the payment we make is Rs. 200. The charges are said to be excise duty and profit of 10 per cent from the non-subsidized dispensaries. The difficulty is that we are forced to purchase medicines only from the military stores. If we are allowed to buy in the local market it will be advantageous. It is said that pure medicines are not available from the local market. I suggest that the Government might select a few firms which sell pure medicines and allow us to purchase medicines from them. We will certainly get all the medicines from them. Here we would pay less money and we would

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buy more. Why should there be restrictions? I hope the Government will take steps to remove this difficulty and I am sure if this difficulty is removed, we will have more supplies of medicines and everything will be all right. I request the Government to give due consideration to the suggestions I have made."

* MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—"Sir, while congratulating the Government on its present budget on behalf of the House, I, who come from the Chittoor district, have to tender my humble and sincere thanks to the Government for the most beneficial programme which is sought to be introduced in our district in the course of this year.

5 p.m. "More than any other thing, the scheme for introducing prohibition in order to make our district dry is certainly very valuable to our district and it is really fortunate that our Prime Minister has been able to make a provision in the budget and it is a great advantage for us. Along with that I should also thank the Government for bringing forward a scheme for developing a profitable industry, viz., the bee industry. Our district is very favourable for the introduction of this industry. It is famous for large mango groves and there are really good major forests in several parts of the district; so several rural areas adjoining these forests will be benefited by the bee-keeping industry. I am glad to say that along with this advantage, it has also the general advantage of having a remission of half the grazing fees along with the rest of the districts in the Presidency. Sir, all this is a valuable benefit that any Government has rendered in so short a time.

"With regard to the other aspects of the budget, I wish to confine myself to one or two general aspects without going into detail. I wish to join my hon. Friend, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, in the cry for allotting more funds for village communications. There has been a lot of unnecessary apprehension that the providing of village communications will cost the Government a great deal for which they may not be able to find funds. I assure this House and also the Government that a study of this problem reveals to me that the Government without undertaking any financial responsibility to any serious extent and without resorting to any additional taxation proposals on a large scale, can easily formulate a scheme by which every village which has not been supplied with a road till now can be supplied with one hereafter. I do not wish to enter into the details of this scheme, because I do not want to embarrass the Government with any proposals of mine, but I would request the Government to undertake the investigation of this problem with the help of persons who have investigated into this matter. If they do so they will be able to evolve a scheme without straining the finances of the Government to a large extent.

"The next point that I wish to refer to is this: it seems to me that even Members belonging to the Congress Party will have to make a hardy annual in pressing our representations with regard to the separation of judicial from executive functions that are now vested in our magistrates. I am prepared to agree with our Premier that

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it is not a practical proposition at this stage. But I would point out that the one thing that has given rise to this cry and agitation for separation of judicial from executive functions is the way in which the subordinate magistracy is doing its work. It is really a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and the sooner the subordinate magistracy at least is reformed the better for efficient administration of justice."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it one of the principles involved in the budget? May I know from the hon. Member whether it is a principle involved in the budget?"

MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—"Yes, Sir. I am discussing the general features of the budget. It really comes under administrative charges."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"When the question of administrative charges is taken up, this may be discussed. This is a detail. It is not a principle which is covered in the budget proposals. It is a detail which may very well be commented upon when the proposals coming under that particular grant are taken up. I do not think that this is the proper occasion when the hon. Member can discuss that question."

MR. K. VARADACHARIAR:—"I wanted to merely point out that some steps should be taken to improve the subordinate magistracy and to see that justice is dealt with by persons who have had some legal training and knowledge of the work and even if this will entail some additional cost, it is worth while spending that amount.

"The next thing that I wish to refer to here is that there is some difficulty in actually giving the concessions which have now been granted in respect of grazing fees in forest areas. Apart from other difficulties, there is particularly one difficulty which is giving a good deal of trouble to people in my constituency, especially to those people whose villages are lying very near the forest area. They are suffering a lot at the hands of the subordinate ranks of the forest officials. People are taken to task for even a small trespass of their cows or buffaloes into the adjoining forest areas. Even if it is two feet that has been trespassed by these cows or buffaloes, the owners are punished severely. I hope the Government will take note of this and try to see that the limits of the villages are extended and that any the slightest trespass may not be considered as an offence coming under the Forest Act.

"I shall also refer to one other aspect in the budget and that is with regard to religious endowments for which I do not find any specific allocation in the budget. I have to repeat my request with regard to the administration of religious endowments, viz., that the sooner the Endowments Board is abolished the better for all religious institutions in this Presidency. The working of this Board has really tended to the victimisation of many religious institutions by reason of the fact that the members constituting the Board are always actuated by political bias. As a result of this, the institutions are really suffering largely at the hands of politicians. In my district one big

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trust has suffered on account of political interference in its management and it is likely to become extinct. It is on the brink of insolvency and it is going to disappear very soon.

"In respect of another big trust, viz., Tirupati Devasthanam, in spite of the fact that we have had able and excellent commissioners, they have not been able to control their subordinates. The subordinates have been made really subordinates, not of commissioners, but of some other superior authority. In that way the devasthanam has become demoralized. We have suffered all these years with this disadvantage and in spite of the fact that we have had able commissioners, they have not been able to do anything.

"I will close my remarks by saying that these religious institutions and endowments may be directly taken over under the control of the Revenue department of the Government and thus administered on the spot instead of victimising the institutions by the arrangements to which we have been accustomed so far."

* MR. N. RANGA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hon. Premier for having presented the budget in such an able manner this year. In congratulating the Hon. Premier, I submit that he has not departed from the time-honoured canons in the preparation of his budget. You know that so far as capital expenditure is concerned, it is not drawn from the current revenues and in fact the Hon. Premier wants to apply for a loan for incurring this capital expenditure. The second reason as to why I want to congratulate the Hon. Premier is for his having extended the prohibition scheme to Cuddapah district from next October. It might be that some hon. Members of this House have expressed great doubts about the success of the Prohibition Act but I should submit that whatever might be the motive and whatever might be the suspicions entertained by the hon. Members, the motive by which the Hon. the Premier has been actuated to introduce this scheme cannot be questioned at all and the results can be seen in a very short time. I am firmly of the opinion that the introduction of prohibition scheme in a district like Cuddapah would lessen the crime of that district to a great extent. I am sure that next year by this time, when we shall be speaking on the budget motion, I shall be able to support and the Hon. the Finance Minister also will be able to justify the anticipations made by hon. Members here to-day. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government has been in power only for a very short time and during that short time it has been in power, it has been able to impress upon the people that it has enunciated very large policies and that it is not also unmindful of the interests of the people. Times without number the representatives of the people in the previous Assemblies would have pressed upon the previous administrations about the need for the reduction of grazing fees. But it was a cry in the wilderness and this is the first time when we are able to see that a very substantial reduction has been made in the matter of grazing fees. It may appear to be very small but I should still say that it goes a long way in relieving the great difficulties under which the agriculturists have been suffering.

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Of course, Sir, if I were to say that some more things should be done with regard to the alleviation of these grievances, I should not be understood as criticising the conduct of the Hon. the Minister. These are purely matters of administration, but unfortunately, the administrative subordinates do not exercise their discretion properly and their point is always to increase the revenue and not to show their sympathy to the people by administering the Act in a broad vision. By way of illustration, I would submit only one thing. It is known to all that head-loads of grass are allowed to be carried free by these agriculturists and everyone knows that this grass can be used only for feeding purposes by these agriculturists. But then, the executive subordinates say that this grass is not being intended for feeding the cattle of the agriculturists but is intended for being sold by them. I submit that this is a distinction without a difference. Where a cooly is engaged beforehand to carry the grass from the forest or a cooly is carrying it on his own account and sells it to an agriculturist, it does not matter, because grass is not to be utilized for any industry so that much profit might be made out of it. But still the executive subordinates make it a point that unless the bona fides of an agriculturist is shown, he will be charged. Therefore I submit that side by side with the liberal concession granted by the Government, a number of executive instructions should follow so that the matter might be administered very sympathetically.

"There is another point I would like to mention in this connexion and that is about the cart-loads of grass which are generally taken by these agriculturists. It is well-known that the agriculturists take these cart-loads of grass because they come from long distances, but still the officers say that they should not carry cart-loads but only head-loads. If a man comes with a cart, he comes only for the purpose of taking it for his own purpose and not for the purpose of selling it, but still the executive subordinates would not allow such a sort of concession.

"I would also like to mention one or two more points with regard to these forest grievances. I know the present Government is in complete sympathy with the aspirations of the ryot; they want to increase the standard of his living and they want to reduce his poverty and mitigate the suffering which he is at present enduring. One of the greatest obstacles in the way of the ryot is his difficulty of procuring manure. Even here, if the forest authorities co-operate to a very great extent with the ryot, his position will be bettered and improved, but the difficulty is that these forest authorities do not co-operate and they put very many obstacles in his way. One of such obstacles is this. So far as the Ceded Districts are concerned, it is well-known that there is scanty rainfall there and nobody could say when rains would be coming and when the ryots could begin agricultural operations. The green leaf which has to be used as manure is not made available in almost all the villages where there are forests, but it is made available only in particular coupes which are situated at very long distances and it is very difficult to expect the ryot to get the green leaf manure in advance so that he might utilize it in case

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there is a supply of rain. Therefore, I submit that the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture should be pleased to consider that so far as this concession is concerned, it should be made available to the ryot at the earliest opportunity. I join hands with my hon. Friend, Mr. K. Varadachari in submitting to the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture, that a very great difficulty is being experienced by the villagers in villages which are situated in the middle of the forests. I do not understand how these villages have come to be situated in the middle of the forests. Either it is the mistake of the Revenue authorities or the mistake of the Forest department. Either way, people who reside therein must not be punished for no fault of their own. The moment they get out of their homes—and sometimes there are forest boundaries in the backyards of houses—they are liable to be punished because the authorities are not sympathetic. I submit in this connexion that the boundary of a forest should be removed to at least a distance of two miles from the villages concerned. No doubt there would be opposition to this from the Forest department and even as it is, I should say that some change should be made with regard to the policy of the Government in regard to this matter. So far as my district is concerned, the Collector is prepared to examine these cases individually. But there is one thing. When the opposition from the department comes, even the hands of the Collector will be tied. Therefore, I submit that the Minister for Agriculture should be pleased to issue instructions to the Collectors who are already investigating into this question in individual cases to view such cases with broad sympathy.

“The next point I would like to submit is with regard to the rural indebtedness of the ryot. Already so much has been done by the present Government by passing the Debt Relief Bill and it only awaits the sanction of His Excellency the Viceroy. I hope at no distant date it will be placed on the Statute Book. But, as has been observed by most hon. Members during the course of the debate on the Debt Relief Bill, one of the greatest and the most important causes for the indebtedness is not only the fact that the ryot has contracted debts but also the incidence of taxation being very high; and this has been admitted to a certain extent by the Hon. the Premier also. I know that this question has been under the consideration of the Government and if I were to say anything on this, it is not that they should hasten the solution of this question without satisfactory consideration, but I would like to mention this for another reason, namely, that in the matter of the distribution of the 75 lakhs, so far as the Cuddapah district is concerned, the ryots got the benefit only with regard to wet lands and not with regard to dry lands; the dry lands did not get the benefit of even a single pie. It may be there are valid reasons for distributing the grant in this particular manner. Of course it has been observed that the new settlement rates have not been introduced in the Cuddapah district and therefore that district has been deprived of this favour. But, I find from the budget that a similar concession in regard to land revenue is going to be made for

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the next year. Here, I wish to submit that the very same principles which actuated this Government in distributing the grant should not be followed next year also and that the dry areas also should get the same benefit as the wet areas, because I feel that so far as the dry areas are concerned, the taxation is very heavy and in particular parts of the district the assessment on dry lands comes to Rs. 4 per acre, which may be astounding to many hon. Members of this House.

“In regard to irrigation facilities, no doubt the Government have announced that these districts would be given special concession. It is true that irrigation facilities cannot be created on a very large scale in the Ceded districts. There is scanty rainfall in those districts; there are not very many big rivers there and even if there are rivers, only during the rainy season there is likely to be any water in them and that will be only for two or three months in the year, but during the other parts of the year, we do not get sufficient supply of water. Therefore, it is a very difficult problem as to how to improve the irrigation facilities in those districts. I submit therefore that it is all the greater reason that the small tanks, wherever they are available, should be improved in the matter of giving adequate supply of water in the districts. No doubt a step has been taken in the right direction by digging bore-wells. As has been indicated by the Hon. the Premier also, one well has been recently dug very near Cuddapah. But I submit that the policy of irrigation and the policy of supplying pure drinking-water should not be clubbed together. In the one case we have always to incur some expenditure if we are to get any return, but in the other case there is no return at all except the increase in the prosperity of the people. I submit that though these tube-wells may be dug in very large numbers, the prime consideration with the Government should be not whether any return can be got from these tube-wells, but whether they would be able to give sufficient supply of water for the people for drinking. I say that it is a step in the right direction for this reason also. So far as the black cotton soil is concerned, the construction of a well would cost up to Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 or even Rs. 10,000 whereas a tube-well can be dug even for a much smaller cost and the water-supply difficulty can be solved to a very great extent.

“Again, in regard to this irrigation facility, I would also like to submit one other thing. No doubt a particular standard has been fixed as the return; what I mean is that if a scheme yields a particular return, only then the Government is going to undertake that scheme. But so far as these dry areas are concerned, that rule cannot be insisted on, because there are very few opportunities for improving the facilities. Therefore, I submit in this connexion that Government should show some particular favour in this matter. The Hon. the Revenue Minister and the Hon. the Minister for Public Works also in the course of their tours some two or three months ago, visited the Badvel tank. That scheme has been under contemplation for the last 20 or 25 years, but for want of proper return that scheme was

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given up. I now request the Government to consider the necessity for taking up this scheme immediately and thus confer a very great boon on the people of the taluk.

"Now, Sir, with regard to education, I would like to submit one thing. The recent policy of the Government in closing down the uneconomic schools has come upon us as a surprise and it has worked a very great hardship in my district. In my district, there are after all only four high schools and three incomplete secondary schools and the Government propose that these three incomplete secondary schools should be closed as uneconomic. We, Sir, started in the race only very late; we opened these institutions very late and the Government now force us to close them. I hope that Government will show a preferential treatment in the matter of closing down these schools. The Cuddapah district is a large district and if these three schools are closed down, for about fifty miles there will be no school close at hand for those who are anxious to get education. I submit, therefore, that those three schools should not be closed but that preferential treatment should be given to the schools in the Ceded districts.

"I should be pardoned for making a reference to the administration that is being pursued. It is very often said that the test of the success of Government should be by the number of enactments that it had placed on the statute book; but I beg to differ from that view. I believe in keeping the administration pure. That ought to be the first and foremost and in fact the primary consideration that any Government ought to have. Judged by that standard, I submit that the purity of the administration is not being maintained in the same manner in which one would desire it to be. I am not blaming the Congress Government at all; it is an evil which has been inherited by the present Government. The tone of the administration could not be changed overnight. But still I submit that a lot will have to be done to improve the tone of the administration. It is no doubt true that the previous Government, partly due to the fact that they had no complete control and power over all the branches of the administration or because they did not have sufficient strength, could not follow a bold policy. But so far as the present Government is concerned, they need have no fears in that direction at all. I hope that wherever there is an occasion for rectifying abuses in the administration, the Government will not let that opportunity pass by. Had only the Congress been in power some seven or eight years ago and had they accepted office seven or eight years ago, the rot so characteristic of so many of the local bodies would not have set in much less spread. But the previous administrations were busy trying to keep themselves in power with the result that they could not rectify so many faults in the administration. But so far as the Congress Government is concerned, I hope that the scandals that have crept into the administration of local boards would be wiped out by them and that they would remedy them immediately. If these things are nipped in the bud, you will not have the need to take the powers

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from the hands of the local bodies step by step as you are doing at present. A stitch in time saves nine. If quick and immediate action is taken most of the abuses would be rectified. I am glad that the Hon. Minister in charge of Local Administration has been very efficient and that whenever any abuse or maladministration was brought to his notice, he has not been remiss and has been taking prompt action.

"There is yet only one point I wish to touch and that is with regard to the release of prisoners about which a dissentient note was struck by Mr. Palat. These persons have served very long sentences and there is no need to keep them in prison any longer unless it be that we want to be avenged, which I submit is not the policy of the jail administration. I would like also to add that death sentences should be abolished. Anybody who has got even a little experience in courts of law would see the wisdom of abolishing capital sentence. There are so many cases on the border line where death sentences have been given; but though the Congress ministry has been liberal to a certain extent in the beginning, later on they have tightened their hold and have not been using their powers in ordering the commutation of death sentence into one of transportation. There are various reasons as to why one advocates that course. This is not the place nor the occasion to go into them. I would only request the Hon. Minister for Courts and Prisons to more liberally exercise clemency in cases where death sentences are involved. It ought to be remembered that there are many cases where witnesses have come in abundance and sworn falsely and implicated innocent persons.

"In conclusion, I would like to thank the Premier for having extended the scheme of prohibition to the district of Cuddapah."

* MR. V. J. SAMU PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Hon. the Premier on his presenting not only an excellent budget but what I may call a very sympathetic budget. Whatever might have been said by one or two members of the Opposition, there is no doubt that the judicious way in which he has handled the finances of the province would mark him out as one of the sound financial administrators of the country. His is not a hesitant or a mere carrying on budget. Time was when that was the order of the day and budgets were framed without any regard to the needs of the vast bulk of the population of the province. Fortunately for the good of the country, the old order has changed giving place to a new one and to-day budgets are beginning to be given a practical orientation and are being framed in that spirit of sympathy which every statesman into whose hands the welfare of the teeming millions of this province is committed, must feel for the people entrusted to his care. To-day budgets contain no provisions for making an already too-heavy administration still more heavy but contain proposals which, to use the words of the Premier himself, reflect the wishes and aspirations of the vast body of the people of the province.

"Sir, this budget and the record of service already done by the Congress Government of the province for the last eight months will, I

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am sure, silence once for all the critics of the Congress party and convince them of its capacity and capability to successfully run the administration of the country. They will, I am sure, also realize that if the Congress declined to accept office last year it was not because they shirked to shoulder the responsibility of running the administration of the province, but because they felt an honest and sincere doubt as to the genuineness of the Provincial Autonomy said to have been conferred by the Government of India Act on the elected representatives of the people—doubts, Sir, which events that recently occurred in Bihar and United Provinces, have clearly proved to have been rightly and justly entertained.

“It is indeed creditable, Sir, that in the midst of the shadowy clouds referred to by the Hon. the Premier in his speech and in spite of the financial handicaps caused by a faithful adherence to the party's election pledges, that the Congress Ministry should have found it possible to propose measures which go a great way in easing, in ameliorating in every direction the condition of the poor and of the depressed and also to provide the ways and means to give practical effect to them. No branch of service which concerns directly or indirectly the welfare of the masses, has been lost sight of. Education, medical relief, public health, agriculture, etc., have come in for consideration and received increased provisions. Projects which will conduce greatly to the advantage and prosperity of the country have also been promised to be considered and taken up, for immediate execution. Above all, what is more important is that the Government have taken seriously the question of solving the most pressing of problems, namely, the supply of good and pure drinking-water for the people in the rural areas. With that end in view a fund is to be started and a sum is earmarked for that purpose. What more beneficial and necessary measures could have been thought of in a province where thousands of villages have been denied the benefit of pure drinking-water and in consequence have been subjected to all kinds of periodical epidemics and endemics? And yet, Sir, nothing had been done in the past to provide those villages with the necessity of life for the want of which they have been suffering all these years. It is, therefore, to the credit of the Congress Government that they should have taken on hand the question of village water-supply with all the seriousness it deserves and proposed to draw up a comprehensive scheme and initiated a programme with setting apart an earmarked sum of 15 lakhs of rupees. I am sure that at no distant future a definite programme will be drawn up by the Government to give practical effect to the scheme and thereby save life and prevent untold miseries which those in the villages suffer for want of pure drinking-water.

“It is gratifying to note that in the midst of all these difficulties the Government have not forgotten to promise to settle the longstanding question of the land revenue policy of the Government. The formulation of a new and workable policy is said to be under their anxious consideration and I am sure that ere long the Government would find it possible to reduce land taxation to such an extent that it will give permanent relief to the ryots who are groaning at present under this

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burden. In this connexion, Sir, I would request you to kindly permit me to press upon the attention of the Hon. the Finance Minister and also the Hon. the Minister for Revenue in particular the hard lot of the agriculturists who own lands within municipal limits. These people are subject to the same difficulties as people who own lands in rural areas but derive no extract income or advantage on account of the fact that they own lands in municipal areas. All the same they are subject to a double taxation—one set of taxes to the Government and another set of taxes which are at times even higher, to the municipality. That is the real state of things. One cannot understand what extra advantage an agriculturist gets, simply because his land is in a municipality. On the other hand, he is subject to greater disadvantages and difficulties than the agriculturist who has lands in a rural area. Besides the difficulties caused by freaks of nature and fluctuations of the market, he has to pay a higher cost for labour because labour in municipal areas is more costly than labour in rural areas, and also taxes for the plough and cart-bulls he owns. In addition to this disadvantage, he is asked to pay a double tax for the same land, a tax to the Government and an equal or a greater amount of tax to the municipality. There is no justification whatever for this state of things and, therefore, I appeal to the Government in all earnestness that they should, as a mere matter of justice, take up this question seriously into their consideration when they are going to revise their land revenue policy and redress this long-felt grievance of agriculturists who hold lands within municipal limits. With these few remarks I resume my seat.”

* Mr. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance has already been overwhelmed with congratulations from all sides of the House and so I do not propose now to congratulate him because he does not need the congratulations of a member of the Party which he has the honour to lead. But I rise now to thank him for having given the pride of place to the two districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah by extending prohibition to those districts. One of these districts I have adopted and the other is the place of my origin. A thrill of joy has gone round and round those districts and I come here now just to express the gratitude of the lakhs of people there to the Hon. Minister for having extended prohibition to those places. We all know, Sir, that when the Hon. the Premier introduced prohibition in his own native district of Salem he over-exerted himself to see that the policy of prohibition succeeded, because that being the first district success was very essential. Now Sir, I give an assurance to him that myself and other representatives of these two districts will strive our best to make this policy a success in our two districts.

“Sir, I would like to refer to one or two statements made by the leading members of the Opposition with regard to the borrowing policy of the Government. The hon. Member Mr. Palat stated that the Government ought not to launch on this borrowing policy indiscriminately simply because they were getting money at a cheap rate. The hon.

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Member Diwan Bahadur Appadurai Pillai stated that the Government ought not to borrow but should raise fresh taxes if they want to undertake capital works.

(At this stage Mr. K. Koti Reddi took the Chair.)

"I beg to submit, Sir, that these two policies are not good; they are not correct. According to well-established economic principles all capital expenditure should be met by borrowing, especially capital expenditure which is expected to be productive, because such capital works will benefit even generations yet unborn and therefore the present generation alone ought not to be burdened with heavy taxation. But I would at once concede that the Government ought not to borrow indiscriminately. Well, what is the financial position of the present Government? For what purpose have the Government launched on this policy of borrowing? Is the present Government in a position to borrow? Well, Sir, we know that the Madras Government is noted throughout India for its strong financial position. We find from the budget memorandum that between the years 1921-22 and 1936-37, the Government have re-paid debts to the extent of Rs. 653 lakhs and the total debt which then stood at Rs. 13 crores and more has now been reduced to about Rs. 7 crores. Now Sir, the present debt position of the Madras Government is this: there is a debt of about Rs. 828 lakhs on account of the pre-1921 irrigation debt and there is another debt of Rs. 7,00-21 lakhs borrowed for the Cauvery-Mettur Project and other objects. Altogether the total debt is Rs. 15,28-46 lakhs, for which in 1937-38 we were liable to pay Rs. 87 lakhs and odd per annum by way of interest and principal. According to the decentralization which took place in 1921 and also according to the consolidation of these debts the annual payment of Rs. 87 lakhs has now been reduced to Rs. 53 lakhs. This is what is stated at page 25 of the budget memorandum:—

'The immediate financial effect of the decentralisation of balances and the consolidation of debt is that the total payment under debt charges in 1937-38 in respect of borrowings prior to that year, will be about 53-37 lakhs, whereas it would have been 87-67 lakhs under the old arrangements.'

"All these borrowings were for productive purposes. This year the Government want to borrow Rs. 175 lakhs for productive purposes. This year the Government have got a programme of capital expenditure of Rs. 83½ lakhs for irrigation and electricity works and a capital expenditure of Rs. 38 lakhs for other objects. The Government are giving Rs. 50 lakhs for the relief of the indebtedness of the agriculturists, Rs. 7½ lakhs for house-building and Rs. 53 lakhs to the Madras Corporation and Rs. 6 lakhs to co-operative societies for Harijans. All this is remunerative expenditure and against the sum of Rs. 222 lakhs which they want for these purposes they are borrowing only Rs. 175 lakhs. The advances that are made, are interest-bearing advances and therefore there is nothing wrong in borrowing especially at a time when the Government can get cheap money. It is quite essential for the Government to borrow and launch on schemes of irrigation and electricity. On the other hand if we follow the dictum of Mr. Palat we will not be able to launch on capital expenditure for irrigation and electricity on an extensive and productive scale as we have been doing now.

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"Then Sir, when my hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao was speaking about so many irrigation projects in his district my mouth was watering. We have only one Tungabhadra Project and this has been hanging fire for a number of years. Even now we have not seen the end of it. Now we have been told that experiments have to be made for three more years before the scheme can be taken up. Even this project will not be enough for these poor districts which are notorious for their drought. Though this project may be of help to Bellary, Kurnool and a part of Cuddapah, it would not be of any use to Anantapur, Chittoor and other parts of the Ceded districts. The Hon. the Finance Minister has already stated that there is a scheme for bore-wells under the consideration of the Government. On account of the hilly and undulating nature of the country some portions of the Ceded districts cannot derive any benefit from big irrigation projects. We want only tanks, bore-wells and similar things to be constructed all over the district. First of all it is important that a survey of the under-ground water sources should be made, and then bore-wells should be sunk and water should be pumped by means of electricity. Then old tanks should be repaired and restored. The Government should launch upon a clear-cut programme like this and then only there will be salvation for some of our districts. Mention has been made in the budget speech of the accelerated programme of works, which have been going on for the last three years from the money given by the Central Government. For all these three years, this one and a half crores of rupees has been spent on the repair of tank-bunds. The previous Government did not attend to the restoration of the irrigation channels and other sources of irrigation. I pointed out this defect to the Hon. Mr. Souter who was then the Revenue Member. He made some changes in the manner of spending these grants for the accelerated programme, so that some portion of the grant might be spent for the restoration of irrigation channels also. Mere setting right the tank-bunds will not do. It is something like putting up a beautiful temple without an idol in it. What is required is the renovation of the irrigation sources which have been neglected for long years. I am referring to the irrigation sources that supply water to the tanks. According to the Board's Standing Orders the cultivators have to supply labour for the restoration of these irrigation sources. Because we could not get these labourers to do this work, the irrigation sources have been neglected with the result that tanks which were supplying water for a year or six months are not supplying water even for two months. So the first thing and the most important thing to do is to restore these irrigation channels.

"Then, Sir, I must thank the present Government, especially the lucky Hon. Minister for Public Health for providing very good amounts for the supply of drinking-water to the villagers. Such provision is being made as a matter of policy and is not made in any haphazard manner. The Government have created a fund for this purpose and Rs. 15 lakhs have been allotted to it; out of which they are spending about Rs. 5 lakhs this year. If anything more is found necessary, they can draw money from this source and this fund will continue to become

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bigger and bigger until it becomes sufficient for supplying drinking-water to all the villages in this province. Sir, this is a very great boon to rural population. Side by side with it, I would also very much like the Government to provide funds for rural communications. Sir, drinking-water and rural communications are like two eyes to the villager; it is something like food and drink to him. Without good rural communications, it is not possible to bring produce from the interior villages to the markets; it is only when there are good road facilities that there will be movement of produce. Nowadays, with motor lorries going even into interior villages and plying between important places and bringing produce from the villages to the markets, it is quite essential that there should be more rural communications connecting every remote village with the headquarter towns and market places. We are getting subventions from the Government of India from out of the petrol duty; we should fight with the Government of India to enable us to spend the amount so granted on whatever purpose we like, which we are not now able to do; because, Sir, the Government of India are now imposing certain conditions to the effect that the money should be spent only on bridges and trunk roads. This money, after all, is got in a way from our province too. The petrol duty which is collected by the Government of India is distributed to the various provinces according to the consumption capacity of the provinces. So, we are also to a certain extent masters of this amount, and that is why I say we should insist on the Government of India to give us power to spend the amount in whichever way we please and there should be no restrictions placed in the matter.

“Then, Sir, I must congratulate the Government on having reduced the grazing fees by half. The present rate is very high and we have been clamouring all these years for the complete removal of the grazing fees. The Government have been able to reduce it to half. Perhaps, if they were able to do it, they would have completely abolished it; probably on financial grounds and expenditure on remunerative enterprise, they have not been able to abolish the fees fully. But I would request the Government that when better times allow it, free grazing should be allowed.

“On the question of loans to agriculturists, after the passing of the Agriculturists' Relief Act, there was a fear in the minds of many that the creditors would press the debtors for the repayment of money, and it was stated that the Government had not made any arrangements for the repayment of the debts by granting loans to the debtors, which would ultimately result in the grip of the creditors being tightened over the debtors. It is, therefore, a welcome feature that the Government have been able to provide Rs. 50 lakhs for loans to the small agriculturists. I wish Government would fix a limit to the maximum borrowing power also, say about Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 so that the poor agriculturists might set the fullest benefit out of the provision of Rs. 50 lakhs. I would also warn the Government not to have any costly establishment for disbursing these loans. Already, we were told that in the previous regime, in connexion with the Agricultural Loans Act,

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in order to disburse a few lakhs, a big establishment was created and that much of the amount allotted was eaten away by the salaries of officers and others. I would therefore request the Government to see that the agency for the distribution of these loans is made as cheap as possible. I would commend the suggestion made by my hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, that the Government should utilize the services of co-operative societies for this purpose, and see that in this way every pie of the provisions reaches the cultivator expeditiously and fully.

“Then, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Ranga Reddi spoke about the education policy and about the closing down of the uneconomic schools. He said that this policy would work adversely and was not likely to have a good effect. I would like to say a few words in reply, on this policy. Sir, hitherto, there were a number of schools, elementary schools, with a very small number of boys taking advantage of their existence. There was a school for 2, 3 and even 5 boys and girls in a village and therefore it was practically a waste of money. When the Government took up the question of elementary education, they thought that schools with a strength of less than twenty might be abolished. They did not, however, want this idea to be put into execution immediately. Some of the district boards issued notices to the parents in some of the villages that if they did not send their children to the schools in their villages, the schools would be abolished. What was the result? The result was really magical. Immediately, the number of boys in the schools began to swell and there was a clamour for more and more teachers. At any rate, that has been my experience in my own district. And the result was that after all, it has not been possible to close down more than half a dozen schools at the most. And even while some of these schools were being closed down in some villages, some schools were being newly opened in other places. In that way, Sir, education did not suffer. At the same time, I should plead that the Government should not enforce the condition so far as the Ceded districts are concerned. In the matter of secondary education, Sir, it is notorious that the Ceded districts are very backward—and they are very poor—and so it will not be possible for the parents to send their children to distant schools for the purpose of secondary or higher education. Further, there is only one school for each taluk in our parts, and there are also cases where some taluks go without any schools at all. Let us not, therefore, abolish these schools in all places, just because they are uneconomic. Moreover, after the notices were issued, we find signs of improvement in these secondary schools. I therefore appeal to the Government not to apply the test of efficiency to the Ceded districts, as they do in the case of the more fortunate districts of the province. In the case of the Ceded districts, I should like the Government not only not to abolish the present schools, but to open more schools for the education of the children in the villages.

“Well, Sir, all the other points have already been touched by hon. Members who spoke before me. I shall conclude by congratulating the Hon. the Finance Member on this excellent budget that he has been able to present to this House. I hope this will be a model for other provinces to copy.”

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Mr. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I rise to say a few words on the budget, I am tempted to say that it is because I find that the Opposition does not evince a desire to offer any criticism thereon. I take it, Sir, to be a silent tribute that they pay to the excellence of the budget. So far as we from Chittoor are concerned, the one fact which gives us very great satisfaction is that Chittoor has been selected in the coming year for the introduction of prohibition. Sir, budget secrets are as much secrets to us on this side as to the opposite side, and we also came to know of this fact only in this House along with the Members of the Opposition. The Hon. the Premier has, therefore, a right to expect and know what we think of the budget as much as we owe a duty to tell him what we think of it. No doubt, Sir, praise will be more welcome from the other side; but at the same time we should not fail in our duty to give praise wherever and whenever it is due.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

"Sir, from what has been happening in Salem, prohibition is considered to be such a great boon and it is considered to have so much relieved the distress of the poor people in Salem, that all members of this House and the whole Presidency will be very glad if prohibition is introduced at the same time in all the districts of the province. But having regard to financial considerations, the Government have thought it necessary to select only two more districts this year, and it is a matter for supreme gratification and satisfaction to us that Chittoor and Cuddapah have been selected for this favour. We consider it a favour because we hope that what has happened in Salem would very soon happen in Chittoor and Cuddapah and that there would be a great relief of the distress of the toiling millions in these two districts.

"Now, Sir, as regards the budget, no doubt, all of us were afraid that this budget might not be very satisfactory, because it was thought, that with prohibition and many new demands on the Government exchequer, we might be faced with a deficit budget this year; but thanks to the extraordinary capacity of the Hon. the Finance Minister and the great economies effected in so many ways in our expenditure, and also to the windfall, as hon. Members call it—although it is not a windfall—all these things have contributed to make the budget a very satisfactory one. Luck is also a thing for which one should be thankful, and we generally congratulate the person who happens to be lucky. So even in that view, I submit that the Congress Government have to be thanked for the extraordinary way in which the budget has been framed and for its being a surplus budget.

"One outstanding feature of this budget is that provision has been made for rural water-supply. This provision which has been begun this year is likely to go on from year to year, and I am sure it will prove to be a lasting benefit to the rural population of this province and the only question is how that money is to be utilized for the welfare of the people for whom it is intended. I, for one, from my experience of

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local boards, can say, Sir, that it would be the greatest mistake to entrust this money to the Engineering department, be it Engineers of Government or Engineers of Local Boards. For instance, it costed this department Rs. 700 to dig a well for a Harijan colony. I, therefore, say that the best way in which this money can be utilized is to entrust it to the village panchayats wherever they exist. If village panchayats are not existing in a great many of the villages it is up to the Government to see that such panchayats are established in almost all the villages where this rural water system is going to be introduced, and entrust this money to their care. It is common knowledge that in the village, we can dig a well even for Rs. 100 instead of having it done by a costly establishment and with costly supervision and costly estimates. If we can give a free hand to the villagers, I am sure, they can very economically manage this fund so that for the same amount we can have a greater number of wells dug in a greater number of villages than we could otherwise do. Pumps and other accessories may not be necessary in all the villages. No doubt pumps and cisterns over deep tanks may be useful and may be properly installed in big villages or in big centres and towns. But in ordinary villages, pumps may not be very convenient, for if they get out of order an expert has to be called in to set them right. So, good draw wells will suffice for villages generally and I request the Government to adopt that policy.

"Next I would like to refer to the provision of 50 lakhs for the benefit of indebted agriculturists. Here I may appeal and pray that the Government will be mindful of the claims of the zamindari areas as much as of the Government areas. Anyone who follows the proceedings of this House day in and day out cannot but be impressed with the idea that the zamindari ryots are outside the pale of the general scheme of the Government administration. If it is a question of land revenue concession, he is out of it. If it is a question of taking up a big irrigation project involving lakhs and crores, he is out of the question. Even in the question of loans granted from Government money, he is out of it. I know of cases in my own district and in other districts where zamindari ryots are being neglected. The Government are very very reluctant to invest their money in zamindari areas. They have absolutely nothing to get out of all these measures. All these things forcibly bring out to our consciousness that the zamindari ryot is, so to say, a step-son of the Government. Perhaps it will be much better to define him as an illegitimate son. (Laughter.) The Government cannot openly acknowledge him. He cannot openly claim any benefit from the Government. What little is done for him is done only on the sly and even that, only after the claims of the ryotwari areas are met. He is placed in a very invidious position. Therefore, I submit that this anomalous and pitiable position of the zamindari tenant must be very soon corrected. He must be placed on the same level as the ryotwari tenant. He must have the same right to come and say that his land revenue system must be guided as the Government land revenue system is guided by resolutions passed by this House. He must also have the right to say that he must be protected and amenities provided for

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him as they are being done in the Government areas. The 50 lakhs provided in the budget for the sake of rural population should be equally distributed among all the ryots in this Presidency irrespective of the fact whether the ryot is in the zamindari area or the Government area. In fact, the ryot in the zamindari area has got a stronger case in his favour for greater money being spent to relieve him than his brethren in the Government area, because the burden of rent on him is much heavier and the Government would even be justified if a greater portion of the 50 lakhs is utilized in that manner. But the ryots in the zamindari areas would be very much satisfied if no invidious distinction is made between the zamindari ryots and the ryots in Government area and the money is distributed equally amongst them."

"As regards the veterinary services, I see that the budget proposes to appoint 12 touring assistants in the coming year. I do not want to make any general remarks about the administration of this department but would like to speak with special reference to my district and especially to my constituency. My constituency consists nearly of one thousand villages. For all these villages there is only one veterinary assistant stationed at Tiruttani. Some of the other villages are annexed perhaps to Tirupati or Chandragiri, but we can all very well understand how the veterinary needs of these villages would be attended to if there is only one assistant, stationed in the midst of all these villages. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that one more centre should be selected and provision made for another veterinary assistant. He may be stationed in Puttur and should be in charge of the Puttur area and attend to the veterinary needs in that area.

"I find from the demands for grants that the strength of the veterinary assistants is going to be increased. The number 45 in the existing year is proposed to be raised to 92. I do not know, if it means, that nearly 47 extra hands are going to be appointed on the permanent staff. I speak subject to correction, and if this is the idea—and I remember to have read in the administration report that the Government's intention was to appoint more and more veterinary assistants—may I press the claims of my constituency in this regard?

"I now come to the Forest department, and I pray I may be excused if I deal with this subject a little in extenso. What we find from the budget is that the expenditure on Forest department is stationary. The expenditure on this department is somewhere about 40 lakhs from year to year, whereas the income ranges from 44 to 45 lakhs. So much so, the net saving from this department ranges from 2 to 5 lakhs from year to year. That is to say that 90 per cent of the income from the Forest department is being spent away and what remains is only 10 per cent or even less than that. Supposing the same thing happens to the land revenue—if for collecting 5 crores suppose 4 lakhs are being spent—what would be the result? I respectfully submit that the expenditure involved upon the Forest department is out of all proportion to the income derived from this department.

"Another thing we find in the budget is the distribution of expenditure. 'General direction' itself takes away a lakh and fifty-five

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thousand and the pay of officers including pay of establishment, allowances and contingencies, all take away a sum of 25 lakhs and 31 thousand and odd. Out of 45 lakhs which is expected as income, about 25 lakhs and more is spent upon establishment. Including the excluded areas it comes to a total of about 28 lakhs. About 12 lakhs are spent in conservancy and other works including maintenance, repair and expenditure for extracting timber, etc. Thus the expenditure is accounted for under these two heads, the major head being establishment and the minor head being . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I suggest to the hon. Member that these details will be appropriate on a 'cut motion'? They do not relate to any principle involved in the Budget."

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"I am only stating all these to show that the Forest department is not contributing much to the proper income of the Province, and I respectfully urge on the Government to see that this department is overhauled, improved and put on a proper basis so that it may function as a really useful adjunct to the revenue yielding departments of the Government. It is only for that purpose I refer to these details.

"As regards the forest grievances there is much to be said, but I do not want to enumerate them in detail. I would only refer to a few facts from the Report of the Forest Committee, presided over by Mr. W. O. Horne, of which the late Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai was a member. That Committee was appointed to enquire how far the reserve forests have failed to meet the wants of the villagers and the question of the cause of the failure, if failure there has been, and the remedies which the Committee would suggest. After touring round a number of villages and after careful observations in the various districts, that Committee came to a unanimous opinion that these grievances are many and are severely felt. Dealing with the grievances themselves, the Committee say: 'The Committee have now to consider the other grievances which have been brought to their notice in the course of their enquiry. How deeply these grievances are felt was obvious to the Committee from the very beginning of their tour. Hundreds of ryots travelled over distances up to 50 or 60 miles and waited for days in the hope of obtaining a hearing. On the march and in camp, the Committee were waylaid by anxious ryots begging them to turn aside to see the particular difficulties under which they were labouring. It is true that if the Committee did visit the desired spot, it sometimes happened that the alleged grievance was found to be imaginary. But still it was very often real and the fact remains that unless there had been very deep feeling, the ryots would not have taken so much trouble to come in person in such large numbers and from such distances to state their difficulties.'

"The evidence before the Committee also shows that the Forest department is more unpopular than any department of the Government. Proceeding further, the Committee observe: 'The main grievances which were represented are connected either with the selection of

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reserves and the plans and rules for working them or with the methods adopted for carrying out the orders thus laid down. In nearly every district visited, complaints were made of the proximity of the reserves to the villages or to cultivation of tracts converted into reserves which contain nothing but black rocks and prickly-pear, of tortuous boundaries, of boundaries so aligned that it was impossible for the cultivator to reach his fields or to take his cattle to water without trespass, of access denied to temples; of rights of way so narrow that it was impossible to prevent animals from trespassing into the forest, of closure of reserves to grazing planned so badly that villagers were deprived of all grazing whatever, of areas closed to grazing so badly demarcated that the owner of cattle was unable to tell whether he was in the closed area or not, and of whole herds of cattle, sheep and goats given up on account of reservation. Bitter complaints were made of the impounding of whole herds of cattle which were being grazed on permits because one or two animals, young ones just born perhaps, were found in the herd without permit; of the impounding of cattle which were known to graze on permit, simply because the herd-boy had forgotten to bring the permit with him to the reserve, or was absent for a few minutes from the herd; of the impounding of cattle which merely stepped over the boundary into the reserve to rest; or of the impounding of whole herds of cattle travelling along a narrow right of way because one or two of the animals strayed over the border. It was complained that in almost every case, in addition to the impounding, an extra punishment in the shape of a compounding fee was imposed after an enquiry made only by a forest subordinate, and the fee thus levied was said to be so heavy as to result in the sale of herds of cattle.

"Further the Committee add: 'But after making every allowance for exaggeration and for untruth, the Committee are unanimously agreed that valid reasons do exist for the deep-seated dissatisfaction which prevails, and that most of the alleged grievances are very often true. Apart from some points of comparatively minor importance, which will be discussed later on, the chief real grievances are undoubtedly due to the insufficiently supervised contact of the minor forest subordinates with the rural population. It is the guard or the watcher who, as a rule, detects forest offences, impounds cattle, and checks permits. When prosecution is necessary it is on his evidence that the conviction of the accused depends. He is brought into daily contact with the villagers, and has therefore, unlimited opportunities for extortion. When it is considered that the average area of reserved forest which a forest guard on Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 a month has to protect, is as much as 16 square miles, that he is expected to prevent illicit grazing and illicit cutting over the whole of this area with no other assistance than that of a few watchers, temporary servants on Rs. 6 a month, in the face of a population which, so far from assisting him in the work of conservation, does all in its power to prevent him from doing his work and to prevent him from remaining honest, it is not surprising that forest guards, unless they are more than human, frequently give way to temptation and accept the bribes that are so freely offered to them. . . .'"

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member propose to read the whole report?" (Laughter.)

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"No, Sir." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the hon. Member tell the House the year of the report?"

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"1913." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"1913! And that report is being read now." (Laughter.)

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—"But those facts are as true to-day as they were in 1913. All I want to impress on the Government to-day by this quotation is that they should take early steps to redress the grievances of the people relating to the Forest department. In connexion with this matter, in 1921 the late Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu, ex-Minister, brought a resolution before the Legislative Council requesting Government to push back the limits of reserved forests beyond one mile from the portions inhabited by villagers, but that resolution has not been given effect to for some reason or other. So I would impress upon the Government the necessity of redressing this grievance.

"Coming now to electricity, no provision under capital has been made for its supply to the rural areas for agricultural purposes. No other social amenity can so improve materially the rural areas as electricity. After all electricity is a luxury in towns, and so if you really want to make electricity into a nation-building service, I respectfully submit that the Government must take the earliest opportunity to introduce it for agricultural purposes in rural areas. I am, therefore, anxious that Government should take up this question and survey those districts where the hydro-electric scheme is supplying power with a view to see where a real need is expressed by the villagers for the introduction of electricity for agricultural purposes. This is a matter which is beyond the scope of private enterprise. Agriculture is an uneconomical problem even to-day; and if you want to extend electricity in that field, unless Government take upon themselves this duty, it is not possible to expect any expansion from private enterprise. I therefore submit that Government should kindly see at least in the next budget that proper provision is made for the introduction of electricity to rural areas.

"As regards loans, Mr. Appadurai Pillai said that Government are following a policy of borrowing from year to year and wondered if it was wise for the Government to do so. I submit that any number of nation-building schemes are awaiting the attention of Government. If you want to do anything substantial to the country, you require large sums of money. For this, only two courses are open. Either you levy additional taxes, or borrow. It cannot be contended that this Government or any Government can undertake huge enterprises from its normal revenues. For, out of normal revenues, normal services are provided. There is no scope for the Government for levying additional

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taxation. So the only course open to them is to borrow. The financial position of the Government is perfectly sound. The assets exceed the liabilities by Rs. 12 crores. So I would impress upon the Government the necessity of floating more and more loans to give adequate relief to the rural areas as soon as possible."

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I speak because there is none else to speak." (Laughter.)

* Mr. SPEAKER:—There is no obligation on any Member to accommodate other Members. (Laughter.) I really congratulate the Members of the Right Wing, the Members of the Ministerialist Party on their having supplied the needs of the Opposition. If Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar really wants to speak he may speak now." (Laughter.)

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I have always been of the opinion that the Opposition has a right to speak first, and I have always been accommodating them in that respect; because their view needs greater respect than ours. That view I have always in my mind, and the result is that I had no opportunity to speak in the last budget meeting. Now there is an opportunity for me, and I wish to say a few words on the present budget.

"There is one point upon which I will lay stress. The Hon. Premier has said, 'We hope to function in power and responsibility carrying on as if staying for a century.' Quite true, for, the changes that we are making will last for a century; the foundations that we now lay will last for a very long time. And so it very much depends upon us, what turn we give to the course of events, because to-day we are at the helm of affairs, because to-day we are at the ship's rudder, and the policy that we now inculcate will last certainly for a century.

"The first policy we are adumbrating is the substitution of co-operation for competition. Now that we are in power, the ideal which we want to place before the country is that we expect co-operation from all parties, be they big or small, we expect co-operation from all people, be they rich or poor, high or low, we expect co-operation from all castes and creeds and from all sections of people. Every one is expected to act to his best ability and contribute his mite to the common good, and he is expected to do all that lies in his power to help in furthering the cause of the country. Up to this time we have been acting on the impression that competition is the ruling power in the land. But so far as Indian ideals are concerned we want distinctly to lay down that both in practice and in theory, we propose to act on the principle that we expect co-operation everywhere. Now so far as provincial autonomy is concerned, we take it that the power that the Act has now placed in our hands is not to be entirely guided from the centre, but it is to be delegated to the villages as well as to the districts so that real provincial autonomy may be a *fait accompli*. We want to train leaders in every village, we want every village to be reconstructed so that every

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one of the villagers must feel that it is as much his duty as that of anybody else to carry on the administration so far as the village is concerned. Every villager should be acquainted with every departmental activity of Government so that he may have the power to initiate in all matters of administration. For this purpose we want leaders for every village, we shall not be satisfied with a few leaders here and there, for when we have got leaders in each and every village, all the functions of Government now carried on in the centre will be distributed to the villages, so that ultimately there will be no departments, no Collectors' offices, no local boards, no district boards and no municipalities as now, and the entire local administration will be carried on by one body and the imperial administration will be guided by those who are in charge of the Central Government. Thus the village administration will be the unit of administration and on it will depend the stability of the whole country. Civilizations have come and civilizations have gone, but our system of administration has gone undisturbed; it has withstood the onslaughts of several invasions, one coming behind the other like the waves of the sea.

"Now, Sir, taking that point of view, I lay stress upon the fact that all our administration, all our Acts, all our Bills, which are introduced from time to time are intended for the purpose of introducing this village autonomy, which path we now see is bestrewn with difficulties. What else is the policy of Government behind the Debt Relief Bill, except it be to make the villager really take a part in the day to day administration of the land, so that he may have a voice in the shaping of the future destinies of the land? Again what about the Prohibition Bill? Does that not affect directly each and every village in the Presidency? Does that not bring home to every man and woman in the village that he or she has a part to play in the village administration? Therefore I say that each man in the village is entitled to give advice in the village administration. Every man in the village should be trained in village administration. If he is trained, he has a right to say that his voice should be heard. Every Act in this Legislature is passed to give the man in the village a right to have his say in the administration of his village. For example a man who has been chastened by the Prohibition Act will have a right to say, 'I shall be heard.' The same also applies with regard to every Act that has since been passed. All these Acts are intended to give the man a power so that he may be fitted with this power under the legislation. So, Sir, I wish therefore to draw the attention of the House to the fact that we all know our responsibilities. This is not all. There is still more to be done. That is the only important point on which I want to lay stress. There is the subject of the Hon. the Revenue Minister. This must also find its due place in the reconstruction of village life.

"Now, Sir, there is the Co-operative department. Under that administration, we know, Sir, there is the Land Mortgage Bank, the Co-operative Bank and the other banks connected with co-operation.

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All these things must go and the whole administration of a village should be co-ordinated and placed in charge of the village. Our experience of the Co-operative department for the last so many years has shown us that it is very very unsatisfactory and no Co-operative department with all its implications of what 'co-operation' means, can ever be satisfactory until the problem of land, labour and capital in the village is solved. There are so many in the village who are landless and so are leaving the village. Our policy must be that nobody should leave the villages and create a slum problem in the towns. I have always been anxious that the slum trouble in Madras should be solved at the earliest possible moment. The question of slum trouble is due to the fact that the village is not safeguarded by the wing of protection that ought to be extended to every villager so that he should not leave the village for want of land, labour or capital.

"The Debt Relief Bill, I dare say, will make the man, hereafter, improve his land and also make him the owner of the land in his village. If a person has an interest in the land he should not be driven out of it, and he should not run about the towns and the mills for the purpose of eking out his livelihood. It is rather immoral. The Eastern troubles can easily be solved if we solve the question of land, labour and capital. If a man has plenty of capital let him put it in the village bank, which can be got for other purposes by others. If he has got plenty of money, let him invest it in the village. If a man has got plenty of land, other people who have no land must be made to cultivate and take an interest in it so that no one may leave the village. If a man has nothing other than labour to contribute, he should also be made to contribute, as labour may find more place in the village so that this bug bear of the modern politician can be easily solved. In our village system, the landed, the landless, the capitalist and the labourer all must meet together and must provide for the administration of the village so that no one should be allowed to leave the village and create problems elsewhere. There is no use tackling other problems, before tackling the problem of the village. No one should be allowed to leave the village. Every one must be made to take an interest in the village. The Co-operative department will be the best way by which each one in the village is made to contribute his labour, his capital, his land so that the village will be a unit and that system of administration will be a success everywhere. In other words, we hope to create new villages, new land, new capital, so that the village administration can be worked satisfactorily and start new village communities so that we may have an ideal village community, where business could be readily and properly carried on. Therefore I suggest, Sir, that the village system must be revived and a new orientation should be given to it so that all things are co-ordinated there. There must be a creative department, there must be an executive department. I suggest that the executive power also should be delegated to some people in the villages. Probably for some time the Tahsildar, the Deputy Collector or the Collector may be put in charge of the executive side of the administration as well as the

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protective side and the creative side, so that they can be co-ordinated and our people will be taught to recreate the village and start on a new life. Therefore, all these are mere steps leading to the great consummation which we have in view, namely, to revive the village with all its powers of economy, with all the ability and skill we possessed in the past and make it suitable to modern conditions, so that every discovery, every invention, will be harnessed to the village life. Therefore, I strongly lay stress upon this fact that as soon as possible a Village Bill will be introduced for the purpose of making the villager a self-contained unit and also to train him in the art of administration. They must be set on their feet. They must be taught to govern, if necessary; Village Assemblies might be held. If this is done all the difficulties connected with the estates will be solved. We cannot make a distinction between tenants in estates and those in ryotwari areas. Very many people have been urging, why not make the tenants in estates similar to those in ryotwari areas? But one whether he is a person living in an estate or a ryotwari area has a right to live in the village so that things that are administered in the villages from headquarters of the district must be delegated to the area where first hand knowledge is available. It is only then that the false statements made in courts of law by interested people will disappear. Much of the falsehood that is uttered about the villager is due to the fact that the villager is not allowed to have his own say in the administration. Every business connected with village administration must be open to criticism by the public. Every department that we have now got must be made to co-ordinate their work in the villages and each department must be instructed to train the villager in the respective spheres, so that all departments which are at present for purposes of exploitation should hereafter function for the regeneration of the village. Then, new life will spring up in the village and will give the villager a status of his own, without giving opportunities to intermediaries for exploiting as at present under different names and different colours. There is no use saying, 'here is a village who has a right to get food', but he must also exercise that right. Then he will be a more potent factor so far as the village is concerned. He will know exactly what he wants. I submit that many of the evils and ills from which the nation is suffering have their origin in the village and once you reconstruct the village, our trade, our prosperity, our manufactures, handloom industry and everything would prosper. Sir Thomas Munro observed in 1815 that the manufacturing skill, the capacity for administration, and education given in every village were marvellous. The village system has been destroyed by the previous administration. Though it is now more than a century we should now rebuild the structure and attain the millenium. Therefore, Sir, I earnestly pray that the next step in the administration should be the introduction of a Bill which will have the effect of reinvigorating the village which has disintegrated."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I take it that there are no other members to speak. The Hon. the Finance Minister will now reply."

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* **MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR**:—"Mr. Speaker, there are two more days for general discussion. Some members on this side were under the impression that they could take their chance later on. Is that impression wrong, Sir?"

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"Absolutely wrong. Members must be in their places during the hours of the sittings of the House and the Legislature is entitled to the service of every member during its sittings. Members must be always careful to attend and take their chance to deliver their speeches. Three days have been allotted for the benefit of the members so that the full time may be availed of by them, and if members do not avail themselves of the time, the House cannot be asked to sit waiting on the off chance of a member speaking or not. If members do not speak, the Finance Minister will have to reply and the discussion will have to be closed. How can the House be adjourned at 7 o'clock when there is still one hour more? The Congress members have been very generous to supply the needs of the Opposition these two hours. Supposing there was no member of the Opposition to speak even at 5 o'clock, is the House to sit continuously from day to day without any business? So it is only on the distinct understanding that there would be members to speak, that three days have been allotted. If there are no members to speak, the Finance Member will have to reply and the discussion will have to close. If he so chooses the Finance Minister may reply."

HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I take it, Sir, that after the explanation of the position that you have given, if any member of the Opposition . . ."

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"I may also add that no member has intimated to me that he would speak at a later stage. Even that has not been done and as such, I have only to call upon the Hon. the Finance Minister to reply."

* **MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR**:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a matter of fact, I have made enquiries of certain hon. Members . . ."

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"The hon. Member's enquiries are irrelevant. Those gentlemen have not intimated to the Chair. The Hon. the Finance Minister will now reply."

HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I was on the point, Sir, that if after your explanation of the position, any Opposition Member wishes to speak now, it need not appear as if, having been called, I must proceed."

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"If Opposition Members want to speak, they will be permitted to speak."

* **MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR**:—"If permitted, I would like to speak, Sir."

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"Yes. The hon. Member may make his speech."

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* **MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR**:—"Mr. Speaker, I should be failing in my duty if I did not join in the chorus of congratulations that were showered on the Government and on the Premier by the people from the Opposition and add to it the congratulations of the community which I represent on his presenting such an able Budget. Sir, it is not only an able Budget, it is a prudent Budget. I use the word 'prudent' advisedly, because prudence is a very good thing; prudence is a wise thing, but it will not always be a correct thing. As a matter of fact, a surplus Budget like this leads one to think that it could have been a little different; that it could have contained a few other ameliorative measures, a few more ameliorative measures than the ones outlined in the Budget speech of the Premier. Sir, I was imagining as to why it was that only a small sum of 17 or 18 lakhs is going to be spent on ameliorative measures while there is a surplus Budget. My feeling is that the Finance Minister must be absolved of all blame. Of course as the head of the Cabinet he will be willing to take the responsibility. It is generally said that Finance Ministers are always tight-fisted and will allot money only if they are pressed. I can understand the difficulties of the Ministers. They have set before themselves a very heavy programme. The Government have been very busy all along. There has been a lot of legislation and there are a lot of other things to think about. All the same I think the Ministers in charge of departments connected with social service have singularly neglected their opportunities of getting money from the Finance Minister. There is my Hon. Friend the Minister for Education. He said the other day that his hands were full with work connected with elementary education and that he could not tackle the problem of adult education or secondary education, presumably for want of money. It is up to him to ask for more money. Then, Sir, there is my hon. Friend Mr. Giri. He is not present in the House. He might have thought of measures for improving the commercial and industrial conditions of this province. He might have thought of schemes for starting new industries aided by the State. He has been speaking of evolutionary socialism. I think he might have justifiably talked of State socialism. This morning there was mention made of the manure industry and so on in which the State can take prominent part. The State could subscribe half the capital of such enterprises and keep the control and direction thereof in its hands. It could provide a Government director. In these directions the Hon. Minister could have moved and asked for more money. If he had asked for more funds, the Finance Minister would have found ways and means of providing him with the money."

"Similarly the Hon. Minister for Rural Development does not seem to have thought of measures for rural development. There is no doubt the provision in the Budget for drinking water-supply. That is about all. He has evidently not been active himself."

"Then there is my Hon. Friend the Minister for Public Works. He has been singularly badly treated in this Budget. The moneys

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given to him in former years have been taken away. He has evidently not put up a bold fight. I have no right to question what happened in the Cabinet. But the Budget shows that the Cabinet members have not been thinking of getting more money from the Finance Minister and putting up a fight for it. It is perhaps just like this: I was very nearly losing my right to speak by default. They have lost their right by default. A prudent Budget has been brought forward and the Hon. the Finance Minister has had no pressure brought to bear on him or incentive to think of fresh measures of taxation to be spent on ameliorative measures. That I think is the keynote of this Budget primarily. But, as I said, it is just a matter of guess, pure and simple guessing, because I am not aware of the facts.

"Next, Sir, I will deal with the various items dealt with by the Hon. the Premier in his Budget speech seriatim. First, I may refer to the rural water-supply scheme. Sir, it is no doubt a good thing. Quite a number of speakers on the floor of this House to-day have praised him for it. But there is one thing with regard to which the Government have to guard against. They have to see that the moneys allotted are usefully spent, spent by people who are enthusiastic and by people who know what they are about. Recently I read of a report of a meeting held under the auspices of the Collector of Bellary who had to spend 1.08 lakhs on rural water-supply in his district. If anybody reads that report—the newspaper report may be correct or may not be correct—the position would appear to be very tragic. The Collector, pointing out the difficulties with regard to water-supply, it seems, said: 'We have no electric power to take out water from deep wells. We cannot use pumps as the villagers are illiterate and ruin mechanical pumps and there is always difficulty in getting water in black cotton soil.' Then, the Health Officer, who usually gets about 10 hours lectures in the course of a few months' training on health work addressing the gathering, said: 'The Collector is a wise man. We will leave things to his discretion.' Little else, practically, was said there. There is this allotment of 1.08 lakhs put in their hands, I do not know for what purpose. Sir, the Hon. the Premier said that the district Collectors will be in charge of rural water-supply. In the minds of people who read reports like the one I quoted just now, this will cause some misgivings. Without an expert to direct policy is, I do not think these sums will be usefully spent. I think former Governments have made some attempts in this direction and we know the results. I think there is necessity for caution. You can find funds, but that is not all that you have got to do. You have got also to see that the follies like those of the Collector of Bellary are not repeated.

"Sir, I was speaking about a really dynamic Budget. Possibly the Hon. the Premier was then chuckling within himself, 'Oh, this man is speaking a lot about it now. He will sing a different tune

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next year when I bring in taxation measures.' That may be so. But as a businessman I say that my community is not really afraid of taxation, provided it is not discriminatory and inequitable. If the businessmen are convinced that the money to be realized will be put to good use so as ultimately to raise the standard of living of the people, they would not be afraid. It will be doing good to themselves. They will not be scared by it though legislative measures which have been passed in the recent past might probably give some room for alarm. Provided taxation is reasonable, its incidence is properly looked into and arranged and it is going to give benefit to the people of the country and ultimately make them happy, the businessmen who depend upon the happiness of other people would not object and my community would not feel worried. I will here endorse what has been said by the member for the European Chamber of Commerce. I do not want to be told a whole year ahead what fresh measures of taxation the Government are going to propose. But it is worthwhile for the Government to take the House into their confidence sufficiently early and outline the schemes of taxation, if any, which they are going to bring in next year.

"I next come to the question of the economy measures adopted by the Government. The first thing is salary reduction. A lot has been talked about salary reduction in the last Budget. Some of us have been very emphatic in our condemnation of salary reduction. And yet, what is happening? Rs. 41,000 is saved this year. This sum of Rs. 41,000 measured by the reaction of the services, by the discontent in the departments, is perhaps worth Rs. 41 lakhs. It is not that I contend that the salaries that are paid are not high. It is not that I contend that the Government have no right to reduce the salaries. But the manner in which it has been done is to my mind unsatisfactory. This question has been dealt with by a few people sitting down together taking up the shears and pruning off the salaries by a particular percentage without any consideration whether particular services have to be paid somewhat higher salaries. I am not talking about the maximum but about the minimum. If you fix the salary of a munsif at Rs. 150 a number of lawyers will be willing to accept the job; but, on the other hand, if you fix the salary of a sanitary engineer at Rs. 250, you cannot get the right man. This man undergoes a five years' training in the Engineering College and after some training abroad probably, applies for the post. If you offer only Rs. 250 to such men, properly qualified men will not be forthcoming. I think there has been no proper thought given to this question of reduction of salaries. After all, Sir, what is the saving? It is Rs. 41,000. Sir, we are told that the people concerned are content and that they are accepting the cut without a demur. We, however learn that there is discontent. It seems people complain that they do not get any more money by promotion and that they are simply marking time. That is the common impression that I have gathered in my talks with various people. I say that the amount gained by salary cuts is not worth having. Rupees 41,000 is not worth much, I mean as a saving in a Budget

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involving over 16 crores. I am afraid the Government are not getting a saving in proportion to the discontent occasioned by the cut. They are losing Rs. 41,00,000 worth of goodwill while they are gaining Rs. 41,000 in cash. Even now it is not too late to retrace this step. The Government might appoint a committee to revise salaries for all Government servants. They may probably cut down the salaries in cases where they are too high and proper people are available and raise the minimum in the case of such services where it has got to be raised.

"The next question I want to dwell upon is the one relating to the honorary medical service. I am afraid the Hon. Minister concerned is not here to reply to the remarks which I have to make in regard to the way in which this reform is being carried out. Perhaps it is enough if his Parliamentary Secretary is present. Sir, I am an enthusiast about the honorary medical service. But what has been done? What is it that is proposed to be done? It is very easy for the Hon. the Premier to be complacent about this matter. His speech seems to show that he has not much confidence in this scheme. There has been agitation, no doubt, from the vested interests, that the honorary system is wrong. But I think the Minister himself has introduced this system only very half-heartedly. His appointment of two I.M.S. officers to posts to which the Government could have appointed senior provincial medical service officers shows that he is not willing to break away from the old tradition. Now, more I.M.S. officers are coming in. I am told that one I.M.S. officer is tossed about between the Surgeon-General and the Secretariat without finding a proper billet and the Hon. Minister has not set his face against it. I believe the Public Health Minister of Bombay, the Hon. Dr. Gilder, has taken a strong stand against fresh dumping of I.M.S. officers. Why should not the Madras Minister do likewise?

"Here, you want to try this honorary system which you hope to complete in the course of 20 years. Why don't you start more hospitals? Why don't you send your stipendiary men to new hospitals? With a little more money for this department you can open more dispensaries and put the stipendiary officers in charge of these. It is not by the filling up of two assistant surgeons' posts in one or two provincial towns with honorary men that you are going to succeed in making the honorary system a success. This shows that the Hon. Minister himself has no faith in this scheme. I think measures half done are better not be done at all. I think it is better that we go back to the old system if this is what we are going to get out of the honorary system.

"Then, Sir, there is the question of the release of convicts. I do not really look at it from the point of view of my hon. Friend, Mr. Palat. I do not say that these people should not be released. Sir, many of them have been released and evidently there is a feeling in the mind of the authorities that the sentences have been either too severe or frivolous, that people have been convicted to six months' rigorous

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imprisonment by the magistrates who evidently have not exercised their minds properly and have not considered the question whether a fine would not have been sufficient. Sir, if there is this feeling, then it is a case for reforming the Criminal Law. I find under the Government of India Act for appointing a Law Commission, you need not wait for an all-India measure. You need not wait for Sir N. N. Sircar to move in the matter. The local Government can set up a Law Commission. They can reform the Criminal Law if they want. It is as old as Lord Macaulay and there is a case for reform. If you want to release the convicts, if you feel that the Criminal Law is not adequate, there is a case for examination of the provisions of the Criminal Law and there is a case for appointing a Law Commission.

"Sir, the next ameliorative measure referred to is the Sale of Cloth Act. I said at the time the legislation was put through that this was not a good measure. Look at the report that has been given to us. At that time I pointed out that it was not a regulatory measure, that it was not a measure for producing revenue. Look at the reduced number of licences that have been applied for and taken. The operation of the Act shows that the Government themselves are not as enthusiastic as they were when they introduced the Bill, when we spent some time over it and when the Government spent more time over it. It is one of those infructuous pieces of legislation passed through in the Legislature. I think the less said about it, the better. An income of Rs. 1 lakh is ultimately expected from it, which is rather optimistic. Considering the amount of labour spent, considering the administration charges that are going to be involved in collecting it, the return is negligible and the less said about the Sale of Cloth Bill, the better it is for all concerned.

"There is another point, with regard to broadcasting. The Hon. the Premier makes mention about the benefits of broadcasting. I think a certain amount of Rs. 14,000 has been allocated for the purpose in the Budget. But I should like to know if the Local Government really propose to leave it entirely in the hands of the Central Government as they might be paying a few thousand rupees. The House may remember what happened at Haripura, where they refused Congress speeches to be broadcast through the all-India Radio transmitting stations. Are this Government going to place themselves at the mercy of the all-India Radio in this matter? Are they not going to open their own transmitting stations? The Government of India cannot refuse permission to the Local Government to have their own transmitting stations under the Government of India Act. When we have instances of refusal when an important organization wanted to have its speeches broadcast, is it not a warning to the Local Government to run this show themselves without the help of the Government of India? I would commend this point to the attention of the Hon. the Finance Minister.

"As regards ameliorative measures for the depressed classes, there is one sentence in the speech of the Hon. the Premier which has to be

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taken notice of, that moneys lent out to them in some cases become irrecoverable. The same remarks might apply to the amount that is going to be spent on agricultural loans. That is a warning, I hope, the Government will take note of. Rupees 50 lakhs have been allotted under this heading. The amount actually allotted this year in this Budget might be a little less. They say that a sum of about Rs. 12 lakhs allotted in the last year's budget has not been spent. Only an additional sum of Rs. 38 lakhs is granted by the Government in the coming year. I hope care will be exercised in spending this amount.

"With regard to prohibition, I am very happy to see that it is a success in Salem. I was not one of those who opposed prohibition on proalcoholic grounds; my feeling was one of scepticism with regard to its enforcement and I am glad that it has achieved a certain amount of success; I have got reports myself that people are happy. Whether there is illicit distillation or whether sweet toddy after it becomes semi-fermented is drunk, people do not have to spend money as they used to. The women and children are said to be more happy, they are more contented. The only question that has to be considered is whether the Government can afford to forego the revenue; this is, after all, the primary factor which our Government should look into. I wish them Godspeed in their venture in the two new districts.

"I shall not presume on the indulgence you have shown me in allowing me to speak, as I shall have opportunities of speaking on certain items in regard to the Budget when the cut motions come. I shall finish by once again congratulating the Hon. the Premier upon having produced a prudent Budget and we shall look forward to his next Budget which promises, if this speech is treated as an indication of what is to come, that it is going to be dynamic one."

* MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"Sir, I wish to join the chorus of congratulations to the Hon. the Premier on the excellent Budget that he has presented to this hon. House; I have great pleasure in offering him congratulations on behalf of the Muslim League Party to which I have the honour to belong. As has already been stated by one of the previous speakers, the Budget has one distinguishing feature about it and that is its mass-minded character. We have got proposals in it for the betterment of the rural folk; we have a scheme for water-supply to rural areas. We also find that the Ministry has allotted a definite amount towards land revenue remissions. But until the whole system of land revenue is properly revised, this piecemeal benefit cannot at all be properly utilized by the people at large. Then we find from the speech of the Hon. the Premier that the Prohibition Act is going to be extended to Cuddapah and Chittoor. I have to congratulate the people of those two districts on their good luck. But I must say that the people of the other districts including the backward Ceded districts are rather disappointed. When the Budget for the current year was presented, I pressed the needs of my district, namely, Kurnool district, and requested the Hon. the Premier to have some consideration for the conditions that prevail there. It was our hope that Kurnool will find a place in the programme this year; but

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unfortunately we do not find it there. I hope that it will certainly find a place when the Budget for the next year is prepared by the Premier. One hopeful thing is that he has selected Chittoor and Cuddapah because they lie on the borders of Salem. We hope that Kurnool which lies on the borders of Cuddapah district will certainly find a place next year.

"We are disappointed about the progress that we are making about the Tungabhadra Project. We have been told that three years would be taken up for negotiations. I am afraid that this delay will mean a great hardship to the people of Rayalaseema districts. As we know, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bellary and Anantapur are famine-stricken areas. It has become a normal course of things for these districts to suffer from famine every year. Until and unless a definite policy for famine relief is taken up, I am afraid the lot of these districts will never improve. So, the best thing in this direction is to take up the Tungabhadra Project at once and carry it through as early as possible. I think that it is not necessary that the Government should take such a long period of three years for carrying on negotiations with the Nizam's Government; matters can be hurried through and the Tungabhadra Project can be brought at once into a definite shape. From a perusal of the Budget speech made by the Hon. the Premier, we find there is absolutely no mention of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bellary or Anantapur, these backward districts, so far as the productive schemes are concerned. It is unfortunate that these districts should not receive the consideration which they deserve.

"We find from the Budget speech that at present the Government are investigating the question of further taxation and we hope that the Government will not launch upon any scheme of new taxes without giving full and adequate notice to the representatives of the people. During the last few months we have seen that very many Bills have been passed with short notice and in a big hurry. The question of new taxation is an important one on which the opinion of this House has to be taken. Members of this House should, therefore, be given adequate notice and more time to consider such measures.

"There is one other matter on which I wish to speak and it is about the poor funds that have been allotted for roads and village communications. No doubt, the hands of the Ministry are full with other important matters. But that is no reason why sufficient funds should not be allotted for the urgent needs also. Speaking of my own district, I must say that there are certain villages to which there is absolutely no access. It is very difficult for people to move about from one village to another, even though they may be 15 or 20 miles apart. I might point out one specific case. There is a village called Ardhavedu which is just 20 miles from Cumbum. It is very difficult for people to go from Cumbum to that place; for there is absolutely no road worth the name. A cart-track goes through tank-bunds and sometimes through hills. The people of that place have been complaining about this difficulty from time to time. I represented the matter to the

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District Collector and to the President of the District Board; but they say they do not have sufficient funds to launch upon the construction of a road to this village in my district.

"Coming to a few other points referred to by Diwan Bahadur Appadurai Pillai, I must lay some stress on the need for improving rural dispensaries. Even in the case of certain municipalities we find that the medical relief given is not proper and adequate. In this connexion may I point out, sufficient support and sufficient encouragement should be given to the Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine? I think it is high time that these two systems are encouraged.

"Regarding education, the whole thing seems to be in the melting pot. We do not know where we are. At one time we hear reports that the Wardha scheme would be introduced in one or two districts; we hear also that the Government have committed themselves to this scheme and that it will be introduced everywhere. There have been discussions and debates over this question and people with large experience in this particular field have expressed their opinions. The Government should carefully consider all these opinions before they actually launch upon the scheme and put it in operation. As has been pointed out by very many educationists, this scheme is defective in very many respects. Education is sought to be made self-supporting. It would be a great folly to think of introducing the Wardha scheme only because it comes from a very eminent personality. We have no doubt our admiration for him but this should not tempt us to accept anything and everything that may come from him without consulting public opinion. There is one other point I wish to speak about; it is the closure of uneconomic schools. This measure should not be carried through in all the districts at one stretch. There are certain districts which are very backward in education. What applies to Tanjore and Trichinopoly may not apply in the same manner to districts like Kurnool and Cuddapah. So, regard should be had to the backward condition in which some of the districts are placed. Before we apply this scheme to these districts, we must examine and see if this can be justifiably done. I trust that these points will be considered by the Hon. Ministers concerned and that proper attention will be paid to them."

7-15 p.m. * THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I think that one of the results of a good Budget is a dull debate and a quick conclusion of the general discussion. I therefore do not think that we have done badly. I think that facts and events prove more than mere statements. The fact that we have concluded this general discussion even before a five-hour sitting is concluded and that on the very first day itself is a more convincing proof of the fact that we have not done ill with our estimates than any amount of congratulations that came from one's own side of the House or even the caressing congratulations that came from the opposite side—sometimes that caressing had a bite in it. I do not think that any Budget could have been received better than this year's estimates in Madras have

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been received. And it is worth repeating, Sir, that the history of the debate is more abundant proof of the claim that I make than anything said by any Member in the House. I think this is a record for all Budgets and I think it is a record for Provincial Administration; it is a record for the Congress's venture in the difficult art of Government in respect of which, according to some people and according to some Members even now here, we are not experts but only Ministers. I am sorry that the exponent of the expert government is not here. But I think he entirely misunderstands the place of experts in the administration of a country. It is a most dangerous thing to hand over the administration to an expert; it is the wisest thing to keep an expert nearby; it is the wisest thing to tie up the expert's hands and keep only his mouth open, so that he may be able to advise what is good but he may not put his hands into the purse and he may not open the treasury.

"Sir, if the general remarks that fell from well-intentioned critics are summarized, they come to this. Have more ameliorative measures, do not forget any particular district, let more and more ameliorative measures be undertaken and let every district have them, extend prohibition to all districts more quickly than you are doing, reduce land revenue more than you have done and give plenty of notice for fresh taxation. Let me tell you, Sir, that it is difficult to collate all these good and pleasant advices. We are to have more and more ameliorative measures and that quickly and reduce land revenue, which according to the very clear exposition of one of the earlier speakers in the debate is very nearly half the revenue that stands to our credit; but yet we should also extend prohibition quickly and on a larger scale and not merely pretend to add two districts. At the same time we should not undertake fresh taxation; we should not undertake even a proposal for fresh taxation without giving plenty of notice, so that if you undertake any taxation which the Member for Commerce might permit as being wise, those who hold stocks may keep them over till the crisis might arise—thereby plenty of notice may come in in a handy way to the Commercial community. I tell you, Sir, this is impossible for Congress Ministries. I know that the old Government might do wonders, that the older order of things might probably make all such things possible. But it is not possible for us; we cannot disobey the laws of nature. If we have to spend we have to raise money, if we should raise money we must raise taxes. If we have to spend quickly, we must raise taxes quickly; if we have to spend without notice we must raise taxes also without notice. It is impossible to do things other than according to the laws of nature, which include the laws of mathematics, though some Members who spoke in another House would ask us even not to speak about mathematics.

"Reference was made by some to general matters like prohibition and we were told it was a goose that laid golden eggs and it looks as if we killed it carelessly; but I did not hear the Member very well. I was only thinking it was a good goose, but I did not consider the

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egg was real gold. It was only an optical illusion. All that glitters is not gold even if the goose laid it. Prohibition tries to find the real gold and I think the report from which I have read an extract seems not to have satisfied all Members; and it seems to me to contain some words about what is gold and what is not gold. And the hope was expressed, if I heard the Member aright, that the goose we killed might rise up from the ashes again when we find our revenues shrinking. Sir, perhaps the phoenix might rise. But I do hope that I shall not live as long as that to see the phoenix rise. We are not going to have that goose again whether it wears the plumage of a phoenix, whether it wears the plumage of a parrot or even that of a nightingale singing songs for the wet interests. I do not think that there is any chance hereafter to re-establish it in this land. It is as well that all gentlemen interested in it take notice of it once for all. It is as impossible perhaps as it is to replace the Congress Ministries. It is a hard thing, it was admitted, to replace us; there is no alternative; it looks as if it is to go from the frying pan into the fire and there is no better alternative. If this is admitted, let me give notice once for all that there is no chance for bringing it up and I hope there will be no more demand for long notice for people to wind up their business, change their habits and readjust their affairs; we must get along on the distinct understanding that the Indian climate is not good for that stuff.

"Sir, much was said by way of expert financial criticism by the hon. Member who was wrongly called the hon. ex-Minister, Mr. Palat. We should not think of the previous histories of a person when we are dealing with things in a new light. It was stated that the commutation of pensions was a contradictory policy in our programme. You once put it down for capital; now you put it back for revenue and admit that this is a proper charge on revenue and not a capital head; you put it again for capital this time. This is very bad, very dangerous and very improper. I submit, Sir, that even in finance there are some things in the margin as in all things in the world; and it is difficult to draw a line and say that a pensioner can ask for capitalization of his pension and claim from the year's revenues to be paid for that capitalized value of his pension until his death; and it is wrong at the same time for the tax-payer to capitalize his liability and to raise a loan and to pay back through a scheme of sinking fund principal and interest spread over a number of years. It is entirely understandable that the liability for commutation of pensions should be treated as a capital head; and it was so treated by the Government of India; it was only the Government of Madras, the Finance Department, that was pointing out the other view that should be taken in this matter. It is only recently and after our last year's Budget that the Government of India have accepted the principle that even liability on a capital head, if it is recurring, may be properly debited to revenue. It is allowable on revenue. In its nature it is capital but it is allowable and wise to debit it to revenue and that is exactly what we have done; following that procedure we debit it to capital; when we see that

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we can pay it from revenue we so pay it. That is how we are dealing with the marginal problems. This is the highest financial rectitude that is possible and that can be applied to the case; and it is wrong for Mr. Palat to say that we have done anything improper or outside financial rectitude in regard to this subject.

"Then he said, 'Be cautious, do not have bold programmes, do not have hasty programmes.' He gave us advice; perhaps just the opposite of the Commercial Representative's advice. The Representative for Commerce wants dynamics, Mr. Palat wants caution and care. It is difficult when Members from the same side from the somewhat independent benches give contradictory advice in this manner. But I forget that they are a group entirely independent of one another and they are entitled to give contradictory advice and that we are entitled to take that advice. But the best way is to collate those contradictory advices from independent Members and to follow the path of the golden mean; we must be dynamic, we should be cautious also; cautiously dynamic and dynamically cautious. (Laughter.) It is not safe to put our hands in the pocket of your breeches and say I am cautious; that is a virtue by itself; nor is it safe to spread one's hands out and fling them to the other side saying 'I am dynamic, look at me.' We shall not be deserving of the places that we are holding if we are to give up everything and do nothing else as Mr. Palat wants us to be. I claim, Sir, that our Budget is cautiously dynamic and only dynamically cautious. Wherever possible we are cautious; it is not caution for caution's sake, but caution so that we may progress. We may even sometimes take a step or two back in order that we may spring forward. The Member for Indian Chamber of Commerce twitted us with being less courageous than some other Ministers of some other provinces. He said 'You have not asked the I.M.S. people to go back to London. You are receiving them and finding posts for them. What is the good of this honorary medical scheme that you are boasting about? You must ask these gentlemen to go back.' I have no objection to ask them to go back; I shall give it in writing to the hon. Member for the Chamber of Commerce and ask him to execute it. (Laughter.) Until the Government of India Act is altered and until the temper and the character of the people of Britain is altered either by violence or by non-violence on our part, it is not possible. The Government of India Act cannot be altered merely by speeches made in the Assembly House. It is not possible to abolish the Government of India Act by a mere speech in the Assembly House. The Members of the Indian Medical Service are being sent from one place to another so that they may get experience, so that their temper may change. They must be reminded that there are equally efficient Indian medical men and that they are not wanted here. They must be reminded that the Government of India Act is an anachronism. They must be reminded that there is no want of medical men here and there is no room for them here. They have to be sent from one place to another on account of the letter and spirit of the Government of India Act. The I.M.S. men must come here and you must find berths for them according to law. We must go on working the Government

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of India Act even for the purpose of ending that Act. Let not anybody mistake that we are sitting in the Secretariat in order to issue orders which cannot be fitted into the scheme of the Government of India Act. If I get into a railway train in order to attend the meeting of the Railway Board where I want to have a resolution passed to the effect that these Railways should be abolished, I must travel by that train. I cannot get out of the running train because I want to wreck the railways altogether; if I did so I would be breaking my head and wrecking myself. So if I want to abolish the Government of India Act, I must travel by the law of the Government of India Act, and so long as we are here, we must work it, even if we want to wreck it at the end. Therefore it is no use saying that the Government of India Act is in a fine form and gives us freedom to do all these things. It pleases me even when I heard, 'Send them back; why should you not act as Dr. Gilder said in Bombay?' Sir, we are reading these things only from newspaper reports. I do not think for myself that what Dr. Gilder said can be worked on the other side of Raichur, or on behalf of the Congress Ministry of this Province. It is not as if we have not examined the frame-work of the Government of India Act and seen whether there are loop-holes for us and whether there are at least steps for us to get out of the train for a while. It is not as if we have not examined the constitution. I think we would be given the credit that we have tried everything.

"Sir, it was suggested that we do not make the full use of the possibilities that have been afforded to us. Here, for instance, it was said that we could abolish the system of exodus to the hills altogether. It was said, 'the Under Secretary is not very different from the Secretary; you are asking Secretaries to go; why do you allow them? Why don't you stop that also?' Sir, it is not easy to discuss administrative details on the floor of the House."

(At this stage the Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar stopped his speech for a while.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier may continue and finish his speech."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"If you will not mind, I may say I am very weak and I would prefer to speak to-morrow."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Then that will also give an opportunity to Opposition Members to speak, so that the Hon. Minister may be required to speak at the end. The reply given to-day is only a partial reply."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I can strain myself and finish now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I suggest that the Hon. the Finance Minister may stop his reply now and finish it to-morrow after other Members of the Opposition speak on the general discussion, because general discussion cannot be closed. So, another reply may have to be given at the end."

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* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I would leave the point of order to you, Sir, as to whether we can allow Opposition Members to speak after I have begun to reply. I do not stand in the way of Opposition Members being allowed to speak. However I would prefer to speak to-morrow."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. the next day.

III.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Notification appended to G.O. No. 528, Local Administration, dated 15th February 1938, amalgamating the District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 4th March 1938.

The House met in the Assembly Building, Chepauk, at three of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Payment of stipends to the students of the Gt'ls' Training School, Calicut.

* 252 Q.—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether the stipends granted to the students of the Girls' Training School, Calicut, are being paid regularly at fixed intervals;

(b) what the period of the interval at which such payments are made is; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to make such payments regularly every month?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) One month.

“(c) Stipends are normally paid regularly every month.”

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—“May I know, Sir, the interval that elapses in regard to the payment of these stipends?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“One month.”

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—“Will the Hon. the Minister enquire whether it is really one month, because I have received complaints about it?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“The answer has been given to the hon. Member after making an investigation through the Director of Public Instruction.”

Reconstitution of the selection committees for the various Government colleges in the Province.

* 253 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to reconstitute the selection committees for admission of students into the various Government colleges—science, arts and professional—in the Province of Madras; and

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(b) if so, whether the reconstitution of the said committees will be completed before the commencement of the next academic year 1938-39?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“(a) & (b) Selection committees for admission of students into Government colleges have been abolished. As such, the question of reconstitution of the committees does not arise.”

MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—“May I know on what basis the selection will be made hereafter?”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Government have issued instructions to the principals of colleges as to the method of selection, but selection will naturally rest in the discretion of the principal of the college concerned.”

Fisheries Research Station at Tanur.

* 254 Q.—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) when the Tanur Experimental (Fisheries) Station was altered into a Research Station;

(b) the items and the results of research carried on there;

(c) the approximate annual revenue received and expenditure incurred in relation to it;

(d) whether part of the station was being treated as commercial;

(e) if so, the net profit and loss during the past five years; and

(f) whether the Government proposed to continue the station from year to year experimentally, and if so, till when?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) The Tanur station from its inception has been both a research and an experimental station.

“(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the annual Administration Reports of the Fisheries Department which contain information on the points referred to in the question. Copies of the reports are available in the Assembly Library.

“(c) The receipts and expenditure during 1936-37 were Rs. 4,709 and Rs. 9,870, respectively.

“(d) The answer is in the negative.

“(e) The question does not arise.

“(f) Since 1932 the station is being continued from year to year and the present sanction expires on 31st March 1938. The question of retention of the station is under consideration.”

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The Madras Fisheries Service Rules and the amendments thereto.

* 255 Q.—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) when the Madras Fisheries Service Rules were first framed;

(b) how many times they were amended; and

(c) with what object the amendments were effected?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) In October 1929 and revised rules in 1934.

“(b) The old rules were amended on five occasions and the revised rules on three occasions.

“(c) It is not possible to explain in an answer the circumstances which necessitated the several amendments. If the hon. Member would like to have the information with reference to any particular amendment the Government will be glad to furnish it.”

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—“May I know, Sir, whether the amendments were not effected for the purpose of appointing the particular individuals concerned?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“No.”

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—“Do the persons employed in the department possess the necessary qualifications?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Yes.”

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—“May I know what the qualifications are?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Notice, Sir.”

Industries aided or managed by the Government.

* 256 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any industries in this province which are entirely managed by the Government or aided by it; and

(b) if so, what they are?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) & (b) There is no industry in the Province which is entirely managed by Government. The Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, which manufactures soap products on commercial lines, wholly belongs to them. There are several industries which have been aided by the Government. The following are some of them:—‘Silk weaving, paper manufacture, saw milling, cotton ginning, groundnut decorticating, match and pyrotechnic match manufacture, dyeing, silk reeling, tiles making,

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oil milling, toy manufacture, manufacture of edge tools and cutlery, sugar, coir, fountain pens manufacture, button manufacture, hand-spinning and khadi manufacture.' Besides these, the handloom and sericulture industries and small scale woollen industries are assisted from the grants-in-aid made by the Government of India."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know whether the Government have any intention of starting important industries on their own behalf?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"If finances permit."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Can it not be done by borrowing money as it is done in the case of so many other things?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"We are trying to give State aid to industries if persons are prepared to come forward. That is all that the Government can do at present."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know whether the Government is committed to the idea that except in the case of soap factories, they are not to start any other industry themselves?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"They have not committed themselves to any such principle."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know why, when in the case of the soap industry they are making a profit, they should not start other industries?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"This is a big question and it has to be considered only from time to time."

Libraries maintained by the co-operative societies.

* 257 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of co-operative societies that have libraries; and
- (b) whether the same are made available to the public?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (a) 141.

" (b) The libraries of 106 societies are open to the public, while those of the rest are open only to their members and employees."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I request the Hon. the Minister to see that the other libraries also are made available to the public?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I shall certainly consider the suggestion."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know, Sir, whether any grants are made by the Government for purchasing books, etc., for those libraries?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I think so, but I want notice to be quite correct about the answer to be given."

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Number of gun licences cancelled in the Malabar district after 23rd November 1937.

* 258 Q.—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state the number of licences for guns cancelled in the Malabar district since the date of the Press Communiqué, viz., 23rd November 1937, regarding the grant of licences?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The number of gun licences cancelled is reported to be one."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know the reason why the licence was cancelled?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I want notice."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I request the Hon. Minister to consider the necessity of drawing the attention of the magistrates to the rules laid down in the last Government Order?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The rules laid down in the last Government Order have been brought to the notice of the magistrates by the issuing of the Government Order itself."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"May I know whether licences for arms other than guns were cancelled?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I want notice, Sir."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is there any proposal with the Government for the amendment of the Arms Act and will all people in the country be allowed to use weapons such as guns, etc.?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Government have under consideration the earlier portion of the question. The latter portion of the question is not under the consideration of the Government."

Measures for increasing the efficiency and usefulness of the Honorary Presidency Magistrates and Bench Magistrates.

* 259 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) on what basis the Honorary Presidency Magistrates and Bench Magistrates are recruited; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take any steps to make these services more efficient and useful, and if so, what they are?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" (a) The following points are considered in selecting Honorary Presidency Magistrates and Bench Magistrates:—

Education.

Social standing.

Character.

Ability and proper representation of several communities.

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“(b) Government have recently issued instructions to the District magistrates that care should be taken in selecting honorary magistrates and that they and subdivisional magistrates in the course of their tours should make it a point of informing themselves personally of the status, character and other qualifications of those who are already filling these positions or are suitable for appointment thereto and take steps to have powers withdrawn from any now in office whom they find unsuitable for such posts.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Are these Honorary Presidency Magistrates and Bench Magistrates getting any honorarium from the Government?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“No Sir. They are purely and simply honorary.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIYAPPA CHETTIAR:—“Are the Government satisfied that all the qualifications referred to in the answer are strictly observed by district magistrates in recommending persons to fill such posts?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Government have been receiving complaints from various persons but so far Government have not been convinced of the truth or otherwise of those complaints.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIYAPPA CHETTIAR:—“Will the Government consider the desirability of reorganizing the system of honorary magistrates as they have done in other provinces?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Government have no information as regards what has been done in the other provinces. But this Government is contemplating the reorganization of the honorary magistrates.”

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIYAPPA CHETTIAR:—“Will the Government introduce a national element into the system?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Every Indian, so far as I know, is a nationalist.”

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—“May I know who is the authority on whose recommendation these appointments are made and who is the final authority for the appointment of these magistrates?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“So far as the recommendations are concerned, they are made by the district magistrates and the final authority is the Government.”

MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU:—“Is it true that Government have appointed several full-time salaried headmasters and teachers of schools to these places, and if so, are they satisfied that they can efficiently discharge the onerous duties of honorary magistrates without detriment to their own responsible duties?”

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THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“One instance has been brought to the notice of the Government and in that case the persons who were paying them were satisfied that they could devote their time for doing this honorary work.”

MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU:—“Is it the opinion of the Government that wherever these teachers have been appointed, independent non-officials were not available?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Perhaps the district magistrates thought that the persons whom they recommended were the best available in the locality.”

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know what is the minimum educational qualification that is required in the case of bench magistrates?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“It is not specified anywhere by Government Order.”

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that in recommending persons for the place of honorary magistrates, national interests are not considered by these district magistrates?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“I am not aware of any such thing.”

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to enquire whether national interests have been safeguarded till now in the matter of recruitment of honorary magistrates?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Every person, as I have already stated, represents the national interest of this country.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that the appointments of these magistrates have been abolished in the Congress Province of Bombay?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“I think I have read something like that in the papers.”

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“May I know whether the Government have any such proposal under consideration to remedy such things?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“No such proposal has been brought to the notice of the Government.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“Is there any proposal with the Government to nominate village officers to these posts?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“There is no such thing as far as I know.”

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—“Is there any restriction placed on Congressmen who had defied Government and joined the Non-Co-operation Movement and undergone imprisonment in the past?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“Not so far as I know.”

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MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“ May I know whether the Hon. Minister will see that persons who know something about the law are appointed as presidents, while there may be one or two other lay members?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“ The question will be considered.”

DR. MUHAMMAD ABDUS SALAM:—“ May I know whether, if all the conditions are satisfied, there will be a reappointment of the same person for the second time?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“ Ordinarily they are appointed if no better men are available.”

DR. MUHAMMAD ABDUS SALAM:—“ May I know what the Hon. Minister means by ‘ better men ’?”

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—“ Those who are more qualified, judged from the qualifications made mention of in answer to clause (a) of the question.”

Illegal collection of licence fees from cycle owners in the Panchayat Board area of the Wallajabad Panchayat Board by its President.

* 260 Q.—MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the President of the Panchayat Board, Wallajabad, collected licence fees from cycle owners without the sanction of the Inspector of Local Boards, and whether he subsequently got orders from the Government that such collection and subsequent inclusion of the names of those cycle owners in the electoral roll of the panchayat board was illegal;

(b) whether the President has refunded the licence fees illegally collected from cycle owners; and

(c) whether the Government ordered an enquiry regarding the above irregularities and what action has been or is proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ (a) The president of the Wallajabad Panchayat Board collected cycle tax from the owners of cycles for both the half years of 1936–37 on the strength of the Panchayat Board’s resolution No. 15, dated 30th September 1936, without the sanction of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards pointed out to the President, Panchayat Board, that the levy was illegal and that the tax already collected should therefore be refunded. The District Election Officer who prepared the electoral rolls of the panchayat refused to include the names of the assesseees to the cycle tax under reference as the levy was illegal.

“ (b) The Government understand that out of Rs. 24 collected the president has refunded to the parties all but annas eight on 1st October 1937.

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“ (c) The Government did not order any enquiry and they do not consider it necessary to take any further action in the matter.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“ May I ask, Sir, whether the District Panchayat Officer, Chingleput, made any enquiry about this?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ I would like to have notice of the question.”

Introduction of standard weights for weighing paddy.

* 261 Q.—MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no standard weights for weighing paddy; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the ryots are cheated by the traders as a result of this variation in weights in different parts of the same district?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ (a) No standard weights were prescribed.

“ (b) No complaints were so far received.”

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“ Will the Hon. Minister take steps to introduce standard weights in this Province as regards paddy and other agricultural produce?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ No, Sir.”

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“ May I know the reasons, Sir?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ If there is any complaint, the matter will be considered.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“ May I know whether there is any proposal with the Government to bring in legislation to constitute Market Committees in order to control weights and measures and prices of marketable goods?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ The Government have under consideration legislation for weights and measures but not for all the purposes the hon. Member made mention of.”

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“ Is the Hon. Minister aware that many complaints were taken to the Government during the previous Ministry and that some sort of legislation was under contemplation but that the matter was dropped at that stage?”

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Not so, Sir.”

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Proposal to erect a new distillery for the supply of liquor to the districts in the Northern Circars.

* 262 Q.—MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is the intention of Government to arrange for the supply of potable liquor to the four taluks in the Northern Circars previously supplied by a distillery now situated in the Province of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether tenders for the supply of such liquor have been called for;

(c) if so, whether all the existing distillers in Northern Circars have been asked to tender;

(d) if not, why not;

(e) in view of the policy of the Government as regards prohibition, whether the Government have considered the suitability of the districts in question for further experiments; and

(f) whether the Government propose to permit a new distillery to be erected for the supply of liquor to these districts?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) to (d) & (f) The Government approved the proposal of the Board of Revenue that the contract for the supply of arrack to the areas of the old Ganjam district retained in the Vizagapatam district of this Presidency after the formation of the Orissa Province, should be given for the year 1938–39 to one of the sugar factories in the Vizagapatam district and that tenders should be invited from them for this purpose. The successful tenderer will doubtless have to erect a new distillery unless he already owns one. The previous arrangement by which the supply was being made from distilleries situated outside the Madras Presidency was discontinued, as this Government were not in a position to exercise any control or supervision over such distilleries or over the manufacturing operations conducted in them and also as this Government have to pay a quarterly contribution to the Government of another Province towards the cost of supervision charges, although this Government could easily arrange for their own supply within the Province.

“(e) The question will be considered in due course.”

Extent of fish canning industry in the Province.

* 263 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the extent of fish canning industry in this Province?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“The private cannery at Chaliyam is the only concern in the Presidency in which fish canning industry is carried on at present. This cannery has been thoroughly remodelled and it is understood that a few hundreds of tins of fish were canned in the last season.”

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MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I know if any new methods are being adopted in this industry, Sir?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“I cannot say, Sir.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“May I know, Sir, whether canned fish are sent out to foreign countries?”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“I have not got the information. But if the hon. Member will put down another question, I will certainly answer it.”

Development of sericulture in the province.

* 264 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) what the amount spent by the Government is for the development of sericulture till the end of last year; and

(b) the nature of improvement effected?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) The amount spent by the Government on the development of sericulture for the years 1920–21 to 1936–37 is given below:—

Year.	Expenditure.					
	RS.					
1920–21	...	...	...	...	...	10,591
1921–22	...	...	...	...	...	11,619
1922–23	...	...	...	...	...	12,330
1923–24	...	...	...	...	...	12,300
1924–25	...	...	...	...	...	11,227
1925–26	...	...	...	...	...	12,051
1926–27	...	...	...	...	...	12,331
1927–28	...	...	...	...	...	16,608
1928–29	...	...	...	...	...	8,057
1929–30	...	...	...	...	...	10,257
1930–31	...	...	...	...	...	23,073
1931–32	...	...	...	...	...	26,637
1932–33	...	...	...	...	...	25,301
1933–34	...	...	...	...	...	27,360
1934–35	...	...	...	...	...	27,734
1935–36	...	...	...	...	...	38,555
1936–37	...	...	...	...	...	41,750
Total	...	...	...	...	...	3,27,781

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“(b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the annual administration reports of the Department of Industries which have been placed at the disposal of the Press and which give details of the improvement effected by the Sericultural section.”

MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—“ May I know how far the local production has replaced the foreign production? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ I want notice of the question.”

Provision of house-sites to people belonging to the scheduled castes.

* 265 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the policy of providing house-sites for scheduled caste people is being continued; and

(b) what the amount spent on the same last year is?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) & (b) Not only is the policy being continued but it has been further liberalized. The new system of aided acquisition was introduced in July 1936. In October 1937 it was modified allowing a deposit of 25 per cent of the portion of the cost to be borne by the applicants instead of 50 per cent. In 1936-37 a sum of Rs. 1,592-3-11 was spent in connexion with this scheme in the districts of West Godavari, Chingleput and Coimbatore.”

MR. J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI:—“ May I know how many acres of land were given last year? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ I am sorry I have not got the information here. I would suggest to the hon. Member to put down another question.”

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know how many persons were given lands? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ I am sorry; the information is not available. I would advise the hon. Member to put a separate question about that.”

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—“ Does the system of constructing and letting houses for labourers still continue? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ It is the policy of aided acquisition for the scheduled classes that is being continued.”

Loans outstanding from the industrial concerns defunct during 1936-37.

* 266 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the concerns that failed during 1936-37 out of those helped by the Government with loans under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act; and

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(b) the total amount still due to Government out of the loans granted under the said Act?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) No State-aided concern failed during the year 1936-37.

“(b) Out of the current loans amounting to Rs. 1,00,350 granted under the Act, a sum of Rs. 90,575-4-0 is outstanding.”

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“ Are there any applications pending disposal with the Government? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ There are two applications pending at present.”

Measures for the revitalization of the co-operative movement.

* 267 Q.—MR. KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the suggestion of the Reserve Bank of India to encourage the multiple purpose credit society in this Presidency;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the Co-operative Registrar's scheme of controlled credit recently issued; and

(c) which of the schemes referred to in (a) and (b) the Government have preferred and what steps the Government propose to take to revitalize the Co-operative movement?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) & (b) Yes. A multipurpose society formed at Alamuru has been recently registered under the Co-operative Societies Act.

“(c) Both the schemes are being tried. The steps taken to revitalize the movement are given in the annual Administration Reports of the Co-operative department to which the attention of the hon. Member is invited.”

MR. KALA VENKATA RAO:—“ Will the Government consider the desirability of using this multipurpose co-operative society as an agency for the distribution of the loans to agriculturists provided for in the Budget? ”

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“ It is a matter which will be certainly looked into.”

Proposal to open a central museum of all products of local industry at the headquarters of each district in the Province.

* 268 Q.—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to start and maintain a central museum of all products of local industry at the headquarters of each district in the Province of Madras; and

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(b) whether the North Arcot District Economic Conference which met under the presidency of the Collector on the 21st January 1938 sent any proposal underlying the principle mentioned in (a) above?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—“(a) The question is being examined by Government.

“(b) No definite proposal has yet been received from the Collector except what has appeared in the Press.”

Short notice question.

Dates of elections in superseded municipalities subsequently restored.

MR. SPEAKER:—“Mr. K. Varadachariar who has tabled a short notice question is not present in the House.”

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI rose.

MR. SPEAKER:—“Are you authorized to put the question on his behalf?”

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—“Yes, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The question may be answered. The hon. Member will read the question.”

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—“I have not got a copy of the question, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Have you got authority in writing from Mr. Varadachariar?”

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—“I have not got the written authority; but he told me about this last night when he left the place.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Hon. Members will hereafter receive authority in writing if they want to put questions on behalf of others who may be absent; and they must have a copy of the question in their own hands. The Hon. Minister will read the question now.”

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—“I have now got a copy, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Please read it.”

* 268-A. Q.—MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI (for Mr. K. Varadachariar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the notification directing the restoration of certain superseded municipalities issued recently contemplates election to take place during this month itself; and

(b) whether fresh orders fixing dates for the conduct of elections in these restored municipalities will be issued by the Government?

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THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) It has since been found that owing to unavoidable delay in the compilation of electoral rolls it will not be possible to hold elections to the municipalities under reference within 31st March 1938. Elections will therefore be held in the month of April 1938 on the dates which will be fixed in this behalf by the Election Authority, viz., the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.”

MR. K. SUBBA RAO:—“May I know for what other municipalities elections have been ordered, cancelling supersession?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Guntur, Hindupur, Chittoor and Wallajabad.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“May I know when the elections to the other municipalities are coming of?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Tentatively, they have fixed for 69 municipalities of the Presidency the date of nominations on the 18th April, and the elections will be held on the 30th April 1938, and the counting of votes will commence from the 2nd May 1938.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know, Sir, whether, when the dates were fixed, they did not realize what amount of time would be taken in the preparation of electoral rolls?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It was certainly taken into consideration; but unavoidable causes delayed the compilation of the rolls.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know what those unavoidable causes are?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I shall get them from the Superintendent, Government Press.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Was it due only to the delay in printing or was it due to anything else?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Certainly it was due to nothing but delay in printing.”

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—“May I ask whether the dates will not clash with the dates of elections to district boards?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No, Sir.”

MR. D. RAMALINGA MUDALIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, from the Hon. Minister for Local Administration when elections will be held for such of those district boards whose term expires on the 31st March of 1938?”

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“In May 1938.”

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II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1938-39—cont.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The general discussion of the Budget will continue. The Hon. the Premier will continue his speech."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Yesterday, Sir, you were pleased to ask me to reply to the debate because there was no one else really wanting to speak and it was thought that possibly there might be some misconception with regard to the situation. I do not know if I am now asked by you to continue and finish so that the general discussion may be taken to have finished with it or whether other hon. Members wish to apply to you for participating in the debate, so that I may reply later. It will not do for me to go on now and then have to reply again. If other hon. Members wish to speak and if you are pleased to permit them, I should like to reserve my reply altogether."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Chair has no information as to whether any hon. Member desires to speak at all."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM rose to speak.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member want to speak?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Yes, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Why was not the hon. Member present in the House yesterday?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I was not here at the time."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Why was not the hon. Member present here yesterday?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I am afraid, I cannot be called upon to give an explanation of my doings outside the Assembly."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am only asking him about what happened inside the House. The discussion was going on yesterday and the hon. Member was absent. How does he claim the right to speak now?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Shall we proceed to discuss the point?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I believe according to the notice given to us the general discussion of the Budget must go on for three days."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the hon. Member please read the rule?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Rule 126 (1) says:

'On a day or days to be appointed by the Governor exercising his individual judgment subsequent to the day on which the Budget is presented and for such time as the Governor exercising his individual judgment may

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allot for this purpose, the Assembly shall be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein, but no motion shall be moved at this stage, nor shall the Budget be submitted to the vote of the Assembly.'

"It is this rule which gives us the right. The time allotted by His Excellency the Governor acting in his individual judgment for the general discussion of the Budget is 3rd, 4th and 5th March 1938. This is one of the days so allotted by His Excellency and therefore I would submit that the Assembly is at liberty to discuss the Budget to-day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Supposing on the first day, after the lapse of two hours there are no Members desiring to speak in the House, what is to happen? Is not the Finance Minister bound to reply?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"It will depend very much on the circumstances. If you restrict yourself to the technical interpretation of the rules, it might be rather difficult. But, if circumstances are such as to indicate that there are other speakers who for reasons of their own are not able to be present on the first day, the more convenient procedure—I do not want to say the more correct procedure—would be to adjourn the House at that time to the next day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Chair wanted to know the circumstances which prevented the Hon. Member from being present here yesterday and participating in the discussion. The hon. Member has refused to give an answer."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"It is not a question of refusing. I believe you can understand the difficult situation which might arise if you ask individual Members to explain their own personal and private conduct, a matter in which this House has no concern."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is public conduct. The presence of the Members in the House is public conduct; equally their absence also is public conduct. If the hon. Member claims to exercise a right under rule 126, he should explain the circumstances under which he claims to exercise that right now when the discussion is over and when he had been absent while the discussion was going on and there was plenty of time for hon. Members participating in it."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I think we will be placed in an awkward position if we are asked to explain individual acts of ours, and they are made public property."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member wants a relaxation of the rule and asks for re-opening the discussion after the Hon. the Finance Minister has started replying, he should explain to the House of which he is a Member and the House also is entitled to know why he claims the indulgence of the House for re-opening the discussion."

(At this stage the Hon. the Premier rose to speak.)

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will have to reply before the Hon. the Premier comes to his rescue."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I do not claim any indulgence nor do I want anybody to come to my rescue if I cannot stand on my own legs in claiming my full right."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has no right. If it is a question of right, supposing the hon. Member is not present at the time of the discussion and the discussion closes after one hour, can the hon. Member come here the next day and say that he has got a right to discuss the budget because three days had been allotted for the purpose? The hon. Member will please explain the position even technically."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Even technically speaking, I understand that rule 126 gives us the right. Rightly or wrongly the discussion has been adjourned to to-day and I want to . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"How can the hon. Member expect that the discussion would be adjourned to to-day if there had been no Members rising up to speak yesterday?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"It would be putting a hypothetical question to ask what would have happened if the debate had closed yesterday. But the fact remains that the discussion has been adjourned to to-day. So instead of raising the first point . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member claim the right of interrupting the reply of the Hon. the Finance Minister in order to have his say on the general discussion of the budget?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I do not claim the right to interrupt the Hon. the Finance Minister. He is in the middle of his speech and he is entitled to precedence over other hon. Members. But on a technical interpretation of the rules, as I understand them, I would submit that I do not think that the fact that Hon. the Premier has begun his reply to the discussion which has gone on so far would, provided we are within the time allotted by His Excellency the Governor for the discussion of the budget, preclude any other hon. Member from claiming a right to speak. That would not of course mean that any non-official Member will have a final say in the matter; that right will always vest in the Minister of the Government. But that would only mean that the Hon. the Premier or whosoever it is who is speaking on behalf of the Government will have a right to speak more than once. That, as I understand it, is the rule. If you choose to differ from me you may give a ruling."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not a question of the Chair differing from the hon. Member. He may argue the point. I have not given a definite ruling on the point. The question is still under discussion. The hon. Member may advance his arguments patiently."

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RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"There is no question of advancing arguments. There is rule 126 before us."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Supposing the hon. Member is absent from the House to-day and the Hon. the Premier finishes his reply by 5 o'clock to-day. Suppose the House meets to transact some other business to-morrow, if another hon. Member comes here to-morrow and wants to speak on the budget, should he be permitted to do so?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Technically speaking, as I understand the rule, he should be. That is my interpretation of it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member think that the interpretation will be reasonable? Supposing the general discussion of the budget is closed to-day and we meet to transact some other business to-morrow, if an hon. Member who is absent from the House to-day comes down here to-morrow and wants to speak on the budget as a whole, should he be permitted to do so?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"There is no question of reason or unreason when we are talking of technical interpretations. We are unfortunately bound by the actual wording of the rule."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What is the wording?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"It might be that you differ from me but the wording of the rule is this:

(1) On a day or days to be appointed by the Governor . . . the Assembly shall be at liberty to discuss the budget . . .

(2) The Finance Minister shall have a general right of reply at the end of the discussion."

"If the Finance Minister replies even at an early stage of the discussion to the debate that has so far proceeded, it would not mean that the Finance Minister has exhausted his right of reply."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Suppose the discussion had closed yesterday as there were no Members wishing to speak on the budget, and the Finance Minister also had finished his reply yesterday. Will the hon. Member or any other hon. Member who was absent yesterday be in order in claiming a right to speak on the budget as a whole to-day? Supposing we close the general discussion of the budget to-day and some hon. Members who are absent from the House to-day turn up to-morrow, have they also got a right to discuss the budget again to-morrow?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"As the rule stands, I think they will have the right."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Then the hon. Member is thoroughly wrong."

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RAO, BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"If the Speaker differs from any hon. Member . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does any other hon. Member wish to speak on the point?"

* MR. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—"Sir, I am afraid I am one of those Members who must throw themselves on the indulgence of the House as I also wish to speak in this debate, although I absented myself last night in order to escape from the intolerable tedium of the debate. I have already discussed the matter with the Leader of my Group and I think he will bear me out when I say that I claim no right whatsoever in the matter. I wish to throw myself on the indulgence of yourself and of the Hon. the Leader of the House as to whether in due course I may be permitted to make my remarks on the budget. (Cheers.) On the general proposition that if there are no further speakers, the Finance Minister has a right to reply after which it will not be possible for anybody else to claim any right in the matter, I am and I think the Leader of my Group also is in full agreement. I therefore, as I say, do not claim that I should speak as a right but purely by way of your permission with the indulgence of the House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members of the Opposition will be permitted to speak. That is the correct attitude which hon. Members should take up. Mr. Langley will now speak."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid that rule 126 (2) is really binding on the House. The Hon. the Premier had already started winding up the discussion yesterday on an invitation from you to reply to the debate. If he does not continue his speech now and some other hon. Member is allowed to speak, I think the Hon. the Premier would have exhausted his right of winding up the debate and the debate should be considered to have been closed. This is really not a matter of indulgence but a matter of rule. Members who are aware of parliamentary practice and I think the Hon. the Minister for Education who is conversant with parliamentary practice will bear me out when I say that when once the Chancellor of the Exchequer is asked to reply to the budget debate and he has spoken, the budget debate is at an end. I do not think it is really a matter for indulgence, but one which has to be governed by strict rules. The House is bound by the rules and I hope that you will not misunderstand me if I say that the Chair also is equally bound by the rule."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member speaks of parliamentary practice which is broken by hon. Members times without number. (Laughter.) Hon. Members of the Opposition were accommodated yesterday by the relaxation of the discipline of the Congress Party with the result that most of the speeches on the general discussion of the budget were delivered by hon. Members on the right so as to prolong the debate till the end of the day. Therefore parliamentary practice

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was not observed because the Ministerialist Part was accommodating on all matters including questions, adjournment motions and supplementary questions. The needs of the Opposition were being generously met by the Members on the right wing and so there is no question of parliamentary practice. This House is having a practice of its own." (Laughter.)

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"I have raised a point of order and I request you to give a ruling whether rule 126 (2) does or does not apply and whether we can proceed with the discussion to-day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Apart from parliamentary practice, is itn't it?"

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Yes, Sir."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"While it may suit us all, Sir, that you should give these indulgences, I think we should not however proceed with a confused understanding of the situation. Regarding your remark that the House has not been strictly abiding by the conventions and practice of the Parliament at London which they should with advantage do—that was I believe, the implication of your remarks—we need not imagine that we have broken them so much as to deserve a rebuke from you."

"I think, Sir, that you have, most of all, helped in maintaining those traditions; and however much the conditions of this country might make those conventions inapplicable, on the whole, I think this House has been very creditably following the parliamentary conventions of Westminster. And where we really differ, it should be only under your instruction and guidance (laughter); and we may take it, Sir, that we are all quite willing to be corrected and brought back into line with the Mother of Parliaments, should you at any time think it necessary to do so." 3-45 p.m.

"Then, as regards the particular point under discussion, I think it is better that we understand it clearly, as that question may arise again hereafter. It is true, Sir, that the Government presents the Budget and the Governor in his individual judgment puts down the dates for general discussion, among other things. The claim is that the allotment of days in that programme gives, so to say, a right to every Member to come up on any of the days so allotted for general discussion, that the House should sit and hear him and that the Speaker should permit him to do so. It may even come to this: that every hour also out of the allotted days should be available to him for the exercise of his right and that a gentleman who goes away, say, at 5 o'clock, can come back at 6 o'clock and say: 'Where is the House? I must have it; this day was allotted and the time is there, and it is mine.' I do not think we can apply a rule to the day, if we cannot apply that rule to the hour. Therefore, we must consider it in a more reasonable way. The time that is allotted is the time that is allowed to the

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Speaker for regulating the proceedings. It is the maximum. It is not possible for the House to go outside it; but the normal procedure of the control of discussion is in the hands of the Speaker and must be governed by a general and universal practice, viz., that if at any point of time during these three days settled, there is no discussion claimed and there is nobody in the House or in the lobbies who can be brought back by the Whips to participate in the debate, the debate must be taken to have closed; that is the only reasonable and convenient way in which discussion could possibly be taken up. Otherwise, it would lead to the most anomalous situations and the claim can easily be made that at any part of the day between 3 and 8 p.m. that we have fixed, a Member can come and claim the right to speak. So that, even as we must sit each day though there is nobody to speak, we must sit every hour, though there is nobody to speak. It would be a most unreasonable way of interpreting the rules. Therefore, Sir, the rule as understood by Mr. Langley and as explained by you, Sir, would seem to be the correct understanding with which we should disperse. It was argued as a point of order—and that is the reason why I am taking up your time on the present occasion—that I should continue to reply and that Members should again begin to debate and that I should reply again. That would be a most inconvenient way of proceeding with the business.

“Another point was raised as a point of order, that I should finish and no Member should be allowed to speak. There was difference in interpretation with reference to this matter, and some amount of confusion might have arisen. It is obvious that Members would consider it unfair if they were prevented from being allowed to participate in the debate on a strict interpretation of the rules, however reasonable it might be. So, it is for you, Sir, to permit any Member who really claims the right—not a right exactly but only an indulgence—to speak. But I should not be asked to reply in parts but to reply once for all. That is all I have to say, Sir, on this matter.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Does any other Member want to speak on the point? (After a pause.) A point of order has been raised by Mr. Krishnamachariar. Evidently, he wants a ruling on the point of order.”

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—“Yes, Sir.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Section 84 of the Government of India Act provides for rules being made by the Governor for securing the timely completion of financial business. It is under clause (b) of the proviso to sub-section (1) of that section that these rules have been made. That does not preclude rules being made by the House on the same point; because, under sub-section (1) ‘a Chamber of a Provincial Legislature may make rules for regulating, subject to the provisions of the Government of India Act, their procedure and the conduct of their business.’ The Provincial Legislature has got full rights of making regulations

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and rules for the whole of the adjetival law, irrespective of any rules made by the Governor. The Governor also can make rules, and it is only when there is a conflict between the rules made by the Legislature and the rules made by the Governor that the proviso at the end of sub-section (1) of section 84 comes into operation. And that is, ‘if and in so far as any rule so made by the Governor is inconsistent with any rule made by a Chamber, the rule made by the Governor shall prevail.’ This House has got the plenary powers of rule-making; and the timely completion of financial business does not necessarily imply the fixing of the very details which have been hitherto fixed under the system of dyarchy which previously obtained. These are only the previous rules subject to certain modifications and adaptations that have been made provisionally by the Governor to suit the convenience of the House. This House will have to make the full procedural law hereafter, and at that time, the time-table with regard to financial business also may be laid down by this House. Until then, the time-table fixed by the Governor holds good, and that time-table simply gives the number of days for the general discussion. It does not mean that the full time should be occupied. Supposing the discussion is finished within two hours, the House may close the discussion and adjourn once for all for the voting of Demands for Grants; and no Member of this House can come on the third day or the second day and claim the right of addressing an empty House—which does not even sit—and a House which has even adjourned. Even supposing the House sits for the second day or the third day, no Member shall have the right to come and address it when the Finance Minister has finished his reply. Fortunately, in the present case, the Finance Minister’s reply was not finished last night. The question is whether this House which regulates the procedure, has not got the right to say that the debate shall stop there and whether this House cannot permit the other Members to speak. I hold that it is an enlargement of the rights of the House, as conceived before, and that is not precluded by any rule of procedure. At any time this House can say that a particular Member who wants to close the discussion may stop and the exigencies of the situation may require that other Members should be allowed to speak in order to throw more light. So, the Finance Minister may stop his speech at that particular stage and other Members may be allowed. As Mr. Langley has put it, it may not be a strict, and technically correct interpretation; it may be an indulgence which the Chair gives on behalf of the House. The House has got the plenary powers and the Chair always as representing the House and as the custodian of the rights of the House, interprets the rules of the House. As such, this enlargement of the rights of the House to allow Members even in the course of the reply of the Finance Minister—which may be stopped temporarily for the moment—does not mean that the rules are broken. It may not be strictly in pursuance of parliamentary practice, as the hon. Member Mr. Krishnamachariar has put it; but exigencies of the situation may require elasticity of procedure. As such, I rule that hon. Members who were absent yesterday by some mistake or misconception or under the impression that the

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proceedings might go on with the help of other Members in the House, will be permitted to speak, and that the Finance Minister may reply at the end."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, one difficulty may arise . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The ruling of the Chair has been given on the matter." (Laughter.)

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I am not saying anything about the ruling. I just wanted to say that some of the speakers hereafter may treat the reply of the Finance Minister as a part reply and refer to it in their speeches. That is the difficulty I wish to point out."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The whole thing may be taken as his Budget speech. That is an advantage which the hon. Members of the Opposition have scored over the right wing, because the right wing helped them to continue the discussion to-day."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not at all grudge any such advantage being taken, Sir." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The general discussion on the Budget will now proceed."

* MR. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for permitting me to speak on this occasion; at the same time, I offer my humble apologies to the Hon. the Finance Minister for interrupting him in the course of his remarks. For, although I did not hear him yesterday, I think I was in extremely good or perhaps bad company, because at least for two hours before I left the House there was not a single Member on the front Opposition benches. However, I won't labour that point further."

"I must turn now to the Budget. My leader, Sir William Wright, has already expressed our general views on the Budget; and it is only my intention to make a few brief observations on points which especially affect my own constituency which is the planting constituency of the Madras Presidency. Sir, the Budget is, in the opinion of experts such as the late Walter Bugehot, a good budget, because he claimed that a good budget should always be a little humdrum, and that, I think, can well describe the present Budget. Now, although we had almost expected that the Prime Minister would chastise us with scorpions or at the least with whips, we are agreeably surprised that we are not chastised at present with anything; and I hope that the admirable revenues of this province may long continue to keep the rod from our shoulders."

"Now in the first place on behalf of my own constituency I have to thank the Hon. the Finance Minister for being good enough to make provision in his Budget for the usual contribution to the funds of the United Planters' Association of a sum of Rs. 21,000. It, I may remind the House, used to be Rs. 28,000 but it was in the year 1931 cut down

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owing to financial exigencies to Rs. 21,000 at which figure it has remained ever since. We should have preferred the higher figure but we are grateful for this small mercy shown to us."

"This particular grant to the United Planters' Association is often, I think, misunderstood, and it is quite possible that it may be misunderstood on this occasion also, and I therefore venture to anticipate any remarks which might be offered in that regard later on or possibly under a 'cut motion'. This particular grant is only a small fraction of what the United Planters' Association spends on scientific research. It is devoted to research in connexion with tea and research in connexion with coffee, and as far as the coffee is concerned, I may say that this contribution, even the whole of it, only represents a very small amount compared with the considerable sum that is being devoted annually by the Mysore Government towards extensive research in connexion with coffee."

"As I said, the United Planters' Association themselves contribute a very much larger sum than that amount, from their own funds, and it is our intention to find ways and means by which the amount now subscribed may be increased. I would also emphasize that this scientific research in connexion with tea and coffee like all other research, when anything valuable is discovered, is open to and for the benefit of everybody whether they are members of the United Planters' Association or not. I think the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture will bear me out when I say that quite a large number of Indian planters, particularly in the Nilgiris do not contribute at present—although in due course we hope they will in large numbers join the United Planters' Association—towards this scientific research but they receive the full value of it just the same as the largest group of companies who happen to subscribe on a very large scale. That I say is but right and proper in connexion with scientific research."

"But it has been said by Samuel Smiles that God helps those who help themselves, and as I indicated, it is our intention, if possible to increase the expenditure on scientific research. We shall not claim any further sum from Government, although we hope they will be good enough to continue their present contribution. But we shall venture—in fact we have already entered into negotiations to that effect—to ask the Government to be good enough to help us in the matter of assisting our industries to tax themselves in order to provide the necessary funds for scientific research. It is only reasonable that such research should be paid for in proper proportion by everybody who is getting benefit from it, and we therefore desire that some means may be found for financing it, preferably by means, if possible, of a cess to be added to the land revenue when it is collected, both on tea and on coffee and possibly later on on rubber as well. That cess should be collected as I said by the same agency of the Government that collects the land revenue. This burden will not come down on the general taxpayer. It will be paid entirely by the industry as a whole, and the amounts so collected will be administered in the interests of the industry

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itself, if necessary with the help of a Committee with suitable representatives from the Government. As I said, we have entered into negotiations on this matter with the Government and I believe the Hon. the Finance Minister is not unsympathetic and that in due course when proper proposals are put forward, the Government may be pleased to assist us in the manner I have indicated.

"Now the next matter which is of supreme importance to all planters in this Presidency—in fact it is a subject on which great stress has been laid from many quarters—is undoubtedly the question of labour, and I am afraid it may be necessary in due course to discuss this matter at fuller length under a 'cut motion.' But at the present moment, as I have already done in several places outside this House, I should like to testify on the floor of this House, to the very sympathetic attitude which the present Government has displayed in connexion with labour matters in what are called the plantations in Southern India, and more particularly perhaps in the Anamalais, where we had the pleasure of having in our midst both the Hon. the Ministers, the Minister for Agriculture and subsequently the Minister for Labour himself and I feel confident that they must have been satisfied with what they saw there, as they expressed nothing but appreciation and sympathy—and more particularly the Hon. the Minister for Labour—in connexion with our labour problems.

"But at the same time I am afraid I must just slightly cloud these observations, because while the Ministry itself have been most kind and sympathetic, I am afraid I cannot altogether say the same thing in respect of some of their supporters. I am aware, of course, that the whole of labour in the Presidency is at present in a very disturbed state. I am afraid we need not go outside the City of Madras in order to find that. Well, it would be impertinence on my part to attempt to lecture the Hon. the Premier in connexion with this matter or any other, for he knows the art of politics much better than I do. But it is a truism—and a truism which must present itself to the present Government of Madras—that no Government can possibly govern satisfactorily unless its power to maintain law and order is properly enforced. To let that go, would inevitably, as Lord Lothian has remarked recently, lead to damaging the prestige of the Government very seriously, and consequently the desire to maintain order whenever there is a disturbed condition in labour matters, must, I feel sure, be ever present in the mind of the Government itself, and particularly of the Hon. the Premier. But as I have remarked, outside this House and even perhaps closer, there are elements, very disturbing elements who, although, they act and speak as being members of the predominant party in the Presidency, do not, I feel convinced, do so with the approval of the Government. Whether they do so or not, the fact remains that there is a most insidious propaganda going on which is not only causing greatly damaging to the Government itself, unless the Government controls matters in a very firm way.

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"I will just take one instance in one particular planting district with which I am concerned. This is the district which has been visited by the Hon. the Minister for Labour and, I am sure, he had found the conditions there comparing most favourably—in fact more than favourably with those obtaining in other planting districts and particularly with the conditions in other agricultural districts of the Province. We had a most wonderful speech on this subject in this House from the Parliamentary Secretary Mr. N. S. Varadachari not long ago. In spite of that, every week on shandy days agitators are going from the low country up to that particular district and are attempting to stir up labour in every possible way they can, and they are in effect nullifying the extraordinary good effect which the visit of the Hon. the Minister for Labour had upon the labour of that district and I feel it most regrettable that such a state of things should continue. I venture to commend this most seriously to the Government of the day, with the hope that they may be able to exercise some control over those who profess themselves to be their followers and who are carrying on this, as I have remarked, extremely insidious movement and propaganda.

"I now turn to the other matter which has been the subject of considerable discussion and which must be very much in the mind of the Hon. the Minister for Labour in connexion with plantation matters, and that is the question of general improvement of the conditions and welfare of workers. Well, I know he has very high views on these matters, and I know that he is of opinion that while conditions are tolerably good he would like to see them still better. With that general proposition we all agree. We are only too anxious to raise the general standard of the people of this country, because the higher the standard of the common population the more will they be spending and the larger the quantity of products they produce and consume and in due course we might be in the happy condition of being able to be dependent on this country, so far as the problem of consumption is concerned, instead of shipping our produce overseas with all the risks attaching to markets that lie far away, over which we have very little control and which are subject to changing tariff barriers and such other difficulties which we are not faced with here.

"As regards this matter I sincerely hope that the Hon. the Minister for Labour will act with due caution. We employ a very large number of labourers, and to give just one instance of what a small increase may mean, I shall take the case of an ordinary one thousand acres unit. In that plantation area, supposing you were to increase the pay of the labourer by even one anna—no doubt that does not seem to be much, yet that one anna increase in the daily wages of the labourer in an estate of one thousand acres, would mean an addition to estate costs of somewhere between 20 and 25 thousand rupees per annum. That would have the effect of wiping out the average profit that such an estate can expect to make and if capital cannot find reasonable remuneration it would simply fly elsewhere, and if capital disappears, labour would disappear and there would be unemployment. That is therefore another matter which I wish to commend to the consideration of the

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Hon. Minister for Labour when he is considering those ameliorative measures which he rightly feels it his duty to bring into effect, in which so far as we can we wish to assist him.

"I was very glad to see in the budget references by the Premier to rural water-supply. That is a matter of intense interest and close concern to my constituency, and I may claim in the matter of improvement of rural water-supply and also in such matters as anti-malarial and anti-hookworm measures—all which tend to improve the health of the labour and rise the standard of efficiency of the workers in this country, we have been pioneers. For one of the first things that anybody running an estate must do is to ensure proper water-supply for the estate and take proper measures to safeguard the health of labour; for, as I said these are all matters which tend improve the efficiency of labour. In fact when the late John D. Rockefeller, who amassed a huge wealth by the sale of kerosene oil, endowed his foundation to combat Tropical diseases, he did so for his own benefit as a commercial magnate. For his wealth largely depended on raising the efficiency of labour which in turn led to increased wages and increased purchasing power. In the same way, we on our plantations do our utmost to increase the efficiency of labour by adopting those measures which also happen to react to the benefit of the people themselves. I say we are pioneers in this respect, and so we welcome the measures the Hon. Premier is going to bring about with regard to increased water-supply in the rural areas of the Madras Presidency. I can only hope that this will be followed up by anti-malarial and anti-hookworm measures. Anyway I regard the provision of water-supply as by far the most important proposal put forward in the budget. I therefore venture to congratulate the Hon. Premier on the considerable provision of funds he has made for rural water-supply, and I am perfectly certain he will not be satisfied with this, but that he will insist that the contributions under this head should be increased in future budgets. In fact, that is so important an item that as Sir William Wright put it yesterday we have no hesitation in accepting the principle, and that such measures suitable measures for being financed by loans instead of from current revenue. Because we are certain, and here we are in full agreement with the Government, that the money so spent will be got back in due course, if not directly at least indirectly.

"I now turn finally to a subject which is ever present before planters, and that is the question of roads. And here I must say, I view with considerable dismay what the Hon. Premier said when he unfolded the budget. The whole implication of the important paragraph on this subject on page 9 of the budget speech seems to indicate that he intends to reduce expenditure on road works down to the very minimum. It is absolutely certain to my mind that this is an extremely short-sighted policy. For to put aside a comparatively small sum of money for repairs to roads now would mean the saving of thousands and thousands

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of rupees a few years hence. In fact it is one of the fundamental principles in connexion with a major work of this nature, or machinery, or any plant, for that matter, of any description, that once you allow it to get into disrepair, it will cost you afterwards enormous sums to put it right. Whereas if you put all such works in proper order as occasion arises by increasing small expenditure, then you will not have to incur any sort of major expenditure later on. So I fear if this policy is continued all the roads in the Presidency will deteriorate at an alarming rate and with repercussions in several ways, which despite all attempts, it would be impossible to restore satisfactorily. We find in connexion with the question of land revenue it is generally the reply of Government that it is difficult to grant any particular relief to the agriculturists as far as actual cess is concerned, and that the agriculturists must find means of improving their marketing facilities and to that end Government are prepared to assist by appointing marketing officers and so forth. To this end I claim it is for the Government to provide agriculturists with roads and other means of communications for carrying their produce to the most convenient market. I am not suggesting that roads should be opened only to the ports. I only suggest that roads should be opened or improved so as to provide easy access to the railways. In short I hold that the general system of communications must be maintained in good condition for the proper marketing of produce, and here I speak for all agriculturists, and not alone for my own constituency. I would once again press this point of view upon the Hon. Premier with the hope that he will adopt a rather more liberal policy in connexion with roads than appears to be the case, judging from his remarks in this particular budget.

Sir, I have no other observations to make except to reiterate, what my leader said, how happy we are to see the Hon. Premier back here restored in health, and I can only express the hope that his next and successive budgets, which I hope he will introduce for many years to come, may prove as satisfactory as that which we are now discussing." (Cheers.)

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speech introducing the budget with its reference to the 'haunting ghost of the old dyarchy refusing to disappear from its old haunts and attachments and casting a pale shadow over the autonomy of the representatives of the people' and to the necessity for that 'evil spirit being exercised' and the nightmare of federation and the melodramatic suggestion of an ever-impending resignation, the learned and scholarly discourse on prohibition and its merits and the too oft-repeated reference to the 'health, welfare and prosperity of the people, whom we have the honour to serve,' seem to me, Sir, to be better fitted to the Congress House than the Assembly Building at Chepauk. But with the Premier delivering even a matter-of-fact, business speech as a budget speech, a propagandist touch was perhaps inevitable. But that is by the way.

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“Turning now to the budget, it is no doubt a surplus budget, a surplus over which I think the province can well congratulate itself, a surplus, however, for which no credit is due to the Ministry. The surplus, as hon. Members will notice is made up mainly of two items, for one of which the Ministry is by no means responsible and the increase in the other is in spite of the Ministerial activities. I refer to what was, I consider, rightly described by the representative of the Anglo-Indian community to be the windfall of the income-tax contribution from the Government of India. I say it is a windfall in the sense that it was unexpected, that for bringing it about we are not responsible and that it comes from a source beyond our control. The increase under the other head, i.e., ‘Excise’ is in spite of the activities of the Ministry. I must, however, point out that the first source of income, namely, ‘Income-tax’ is a very uncertain source at least for the next five years. About the other source, it is certain to be progressively diminished year after year till it is completely wiped out. Anyhow the fact remains that these two sources give a surplus. So far so good. But with this surplus and an unexpected saving in Expenditure both under Revenue and Capital, we notice this curious feature, that while we open this year with a free cash balance of 125.75 lakhs, we shall be closing the year with a balance of only 109.88 lakhs, a shrinkage of about 16 lakhs, a fact over which, I think, we ought to pause and ponder. However, these two items, namely, Income-tax and excess income under Excise, help to keep us buoyed up for the time being, and we are thankful.

“I will now turn to that portion of the Budget for which we can really hold the Ministry responsible. And what is it we find? First, the question of land revenue, our main source of revenue. Sir, we were led to believe when the Congress Ministry accepted office that we were going to be relieved to a considerable extent from this huge and intolerable burden of heavy land taxation which sits on the agriculturists. We find however that we stand exactly where we stood on the date on which the Congress came into office. On that date, it had been already decided that there should be a remission of Rs. 73.15 lakhs and that is exactly the same amount that we are going to allow this year again and mark the word ‘concession.’ Even in the next year it is going to be a mere temporary concession and not a reduction of a permanent character. The old assessment still stands to be revived or reimposed in future if necessary. So we stand where we were and we are assured that ‘the policy of land revenue is’ in the time-honoured language, ‘under the anxious consideration of the Government.’ Their policy is still in the incubatory stage and how long the incubation process is going to take God alone knows and when the process comes to an end, it might after all turn out to be addled egg.

“Next, Sir, as regards new taxation, we are again kept under suspense. New sources of taxation are under the very anxious and deep consideration of Government. What shape the new taxes are going to take, how they are going to be distributed and on whom they are going to

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fall, we are left absolutely in the dark. I can only endorse the hope expressed by the Hon. Leader of the European Group yesterday that when new taxation is to be imposed and legislative measures for the purpose are introduced in this House, we will not be hustled. True. Sir, we were treated the other day to a discourse on the difference between ‘quickness’ and ‘haste’ a difference not easily perceptible. (Hear, hear.)

“Just one word, Sir, about the increased registration fees, which came into force on the 1st January 1938. I said, Sir, that the weight on the agriculturist stands as it exactly stood on the day on which the Ministry assumed office. I must perhaps slightly amend that statement. The position, if anything, has worsened. After all, the major portion of the registration fee in an agricultural province like ours is going to fall on the agriculturist. While with one hand you appear to give 73.15 lakhs, you are taking away with the other an amount varying between 4 to 5 lakhs. I would submit, Sir, that this is really worsening the position of the agriculturist. Why do we do it? Because, we have the example of Bombay and Bengal. Well, Sir, when it is a question of debt relief, when it is a question of prohibition. Madras is the province for others to follow, but if it comes to the imposition of taxation, well, we are to follow Bengal and Bombay.

“The next method by which the Government hope to balance the budget is by the reduction of the salary of Government officials. With reference to that, Sir, I should just like the Hon. the Prime Minister to give us information on one point. In introducing the last budget, Sir, he said, ‘We cannot reduce the salary of the existing incumbents and officials without obtaining the sanction of the Secretary of State for India for which we propose to apply.’ Sir, no further information has been furnished to us as to whether the Secretary of State’s sanction has been applied for, and if so, with what result. I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister would be able to furnish information on that point.

“There is just one other point on which I should also like to have information from the Hon. the Prime Minister. In reducing the salary of the various Government services, I think, a distinction should be made between the services in other departments and those in the Judicial Department. For, in the interests of efficient administration of justice, it seems to me, Sir, that this should be placed specially under the protection of the High Court and outside the ordinary purview of the Government. I should like to know in regard to the proposal to reduce the salary of Judicial officers, whether the Chief Justice of the High Court was consulted and, if so, whether his recommendations were accepted. The High Court and its Chief Justice are specially responsible for the proper administration of justice in the province and any interference with that department over their heads would be dangerous. Well, as regards the reduced scale, Sir, no fresh argument can be advanced against any sudden and drastic reduction of the salaries of officials. All that can be said has been urged times out of number and

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we shall probably have the same replies. The Hon. the Prime Minister will tell us as before that it is not the amount of income that a person derives that safeguards the rectitude and propriety of his conduct. But I can only say human beings are not angels. They are not free from ambition. They have got their own demands on their earnings. It would be the duty of any Government to see to it that these public servants are kept above temptation. And, if you are going to reduce the scale inordinately I am afraid that you would be shaking the very foundations of the administration with disastrous consequences. To clearly understand the implications of your new proposal, let us take the specific case, say, of a District Munsif, who is on the eve of being promoted as a Sub-Judge. Under the present scale he is now getting a salary of Rs. 600. If, say, three months from now, he is promoted as a Sub-Judge, he exercises his jurisdiction which becomes extended and his responsibility will be greater. What is it that you are going to pay him? You convert his present pay of Rs. 600 to Rs. 560 salary *plus* a personal pay of Rs. 40 and there he would stand for all time to come. It may be all right to be very optimistic and to have belief in our countrymen and their character, etc. But I submit that even our countrymen must not be allowed to get disgruntled. They must be kept above temptation; their anticipations should not be thwarted altogether and all of a sudden like this.

“ The next item under which the Government propose to make more money is the honorary medical system. Well, Sir, I believe that it is ill-advised to make this very dangerous experiment. We have heard rumours and stories about the practice which is obtaining even now, even among paid medical officers who are allowed to run private ‘ Nursing Homes ’ and things like that. There have been complaints about proper treatment not being meted out to deserving patients. People who are supposed to be getting free treatment have very often to pay people in the hospitals and if you are going to abolish all these paid medical officers and employ in their places honorary medical men with a pittance of allowance which you call an honorarium, I am afraid that you will ultimately be depriving the general public of the medical aid which they are entitled to expect at the hands of the Government. While I am on medical officers, I might refer to one other fact. If I remember rightly, I believe a Government Order was recently issued that the appointments of medical officers are not hereafter going to be made on the principle of communal representation. If I also remember rightly, just a few months back, the Hon. the Premier gave this House an assurance that the principle of communal representation in the matter of appointments to services was not going to be affected. How would this principle of the communal representation being not applicable to medical services, be consistent with the statement of the Hon. the Prime Minister that the principle followed in the past was not going to be disturbed. Would I be far wrong if I presume that this is just an indication of the cloven foot which we feared from the moment the Congress came into office? Sir, again, these medical men are going to be appointed

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not on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission which has been specially constituted to see that the services are all free from political influences. These medical officers, I find, are going to be appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the Surgeon-General. Sir, under the Government of India Act, the police are outside the purview of the Public Service Commission and now the Medical Department is going to be taken out of it. If you go on at this rate, there will be no need for the existence of the Public Service Commission at all. What will become of the principle of appointment to public services being free from all political influences?

“ Next, Sir, for the sake of economy you are going to free from the jails an unlimited number of prisoners. We have been seeing reports of what is already happening and we find that the District Magistrates in the districts or the Chief Presidency Magistrate in Madras is present at the jail gates preaching a homily for five minutes and then these prisoners are being sent away from the jails—a homily as to how they should behave in the future. Do you really think that this is an experiment which, merely for the sake of economy, we ought to indulge in? Is it not a dangerous principle to release from jails persons who have been sentenced to definite periods of imprisonment and kept in jails, from the point of view of the protection of the rest of society if not for anything else? This is, Sir, I submit, a shortsighted policy to bring about economy.

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“ Then there is the exodus to Ootacamund. It is expected that by stopping this a saving of half a lakh of rupees is going to be effected. On this question I wish to say nothing more than this, that at the end of three months we should see what remains of this half a lakh after meeting the cost of the innumerable trips and visits to the various parts of the province by the ten Ministers and the ten Parliamentary Secretaries. I do not say that they ought not to go on these visits. I am only pointing out that the so-called saving on account of the stopping of the exodus is, in the language of the Hon. the Premier, a delusion.

“ Next, Sir, I come to the expected income of one lakh of rupees under the Sale of Cloth Act. Even when the Act was passed, it was stated that it was not primarily intended as a taxation measure. Now, if it was not so intended, what was it for? It is said that it was for the encouragement and production of handloom cloth. Sir, there is no one in this House who does not want to encourage handloom products. They deserve encouragement. They require encouragement. But, at the same time, I would say that mill products also deserve encouragement. We must remember that ours is essentially an agricultural province and that we have made very little advance in industrial development. We have a considerable headway to make industrially. When the world all around us is rapidly arming and industrializing, how are we, if we are going to be an autonomous country, to arm ourselves similarly if our industries do not keep pace with the progress made all around us? Sir, this tax on mill-made cloth is not going to afford

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any encouragement to the handloom product. Our action in this respect is very much like this: There are two boys, one of them forward and intelligent and the other a bit backward. We want to give encouragement to the backward boy and so we pat him on the back and then we catch hold of the forward boy and give him a slap on the face, or a rap on the knuckles. Will it not while encouraging the backward boy, positively discourage the forward boy? This measure will have practically that discouraging effect on the mill industry, while it affords no encouragement to the handloom products. This is merely a gesture of dissatisfaction on your part with the mill product. That seems to me a very bad policy to adopt. I think the mill product should be encouraged as much as the handloom product. Sir, there is room in the country for both of them to thrive side by side. There are people who use both kinds of cloth.

“Turning next to education, Sir, we are going to have economy effected by abolishing the uneconomical schools. How are you going to find out which school is uneconomical? You take a map, you draw up squares and you say that there should be a school here or no school there. Is it correct to say that there should be no school at a place if a particular number on the rolls which you prescribe is not there? Do you think that a proposal like that is practicable particularly with regard to elementary schools? I am speaking with some knowledge of geography of the deltaic areas. In deltaic areas we find a revenue village which consists of half a dozen hamlets each one of them separated from the other by well over a mile and a half, with broad channels and unbridged rivers in between them. If we are to have one school only for all these hamlets on the ground that the number of boys attending the schools is small, we will be putting these children below 12 to the greatest possible inconvenience. For the sake of economy if you close down a number of schools, just as you are letting out prisoners from jails, you will be denying the education to our children.

“Sir, under the head ‘ameliorative measures for scheduled castes,’ I am happy to find increased provision. But I am afraid when we come to the actuals we may find that the increase is not very much more than what was spent in the previous years. We have made a provision of 11.24 lakhs of expenditure, but the actual figures for 1936-37 are Rs. 8.98 lakhs. As the Hon. the Premier has pointed out in another place, it is seldom indeed that the provision that we make for any item is wholly utilized. I would be happy if the whole of the sum allotted for the uplift of the depressed classes is utilized this year.

“Coming now to prohibition, Sir, a confirmed anti-prohibitionist that I am, it would be no matter for surprise if I am rather sceptical about the success that will attend this scheme. At the same time, I might state, Sir, that the period during which we have made this experiment is far too short for any one to come to any conclusion. While I may not agree with the conclusion arrived at by the Premier that the

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scheme has been a complete success in Salem, I am equally not prepared to accept the other theory that it has proved a failure. The time has been far too short to come to any one conclusion. But I would like to point out that as we go on, the difficulties attendant on enforcing prohibition will increase. When you first introduce it, you generally find enthusiastic young men coming forward to work for it; but, as time goes on, enthusiasm is bound to evaporate and the supervision exercised by both official and non-official agencies is bound to slacken. Simultaneously the activities of the law-breakers, the boot-leggers and illicit distillers will increase and they will get time to organize themselves. After all, human nature being avaricious, when money could be made easily, there will be a strong incentive to illegal methods. When I point out these possibilities, Sir, it should not be inferred that I do not wish the experiment to be a success. Though I am an anti-prohibitionist and am against the introduction of compulsion in this matter, I shall be happy to see that excessive drink is stopped. I do not, however, agree with the Kumararaja of Chettinad in thinking that all drink, even a moderate drink, is evil. I might also state, Sir, that if this experiment proves a success no one would be happier than myself. It is certainly right to take away the temptation to drink from those who cannot afford it. But my only fear is that it may not be a success. I hope that my fears will prove unfounded. If the Hon. the Premier really succeeds in effectively eradicating the evil from this land there is no greater service that he can do to the country.

“Turning to schemes of new expenditure, I wish to say just a word about one thing alone and that is the teaching of Hindustani in 125 schools for which provision is made in the budget. Sir, the Congress people have been giving it out from various platforms that this Government is not merely a responsible Government, but also a responsive Government. Talking about responsiveness, I might in passing state, Sir, that till this minute I have not been able to understand what it was that so terribly upset the Hon. the Premier the night before last when I referred to the Government having responded to the demonstration outside. Nobody ever said that the demonstration was improper or illegitimate. I certainly admit that the demonstration was got up for a very proper purpose and for the redressal of a very legitimate grievance. Assuming that the Government response to the amendment of my hon. Friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar, was not really affected by the demonstration, and that the decision had been arrived at even in advance of the demonstration, where was the offence implied in the statement that the Government were responsive, unless it be that the contact which the Hon. the Premier has had for the last eight months with the bureaucracy has influenced him rather than his influencing the bureaucracy to such an extent that he thought that it was a slur on him if it were to be said that he has responded to public demonstration?”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I am sorry to have to interrupt the hon. Member, Sir. He is referring to a subject which was touched upon in connexion with a bill which was disposed

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of the other day and some shadow of relevancy is pitched upon it for bringing it up again. It would be a pity if I allow it to go in without an explanation from me. He seems to be urging there was nothing wrong in his having referred to the demonstration having produced the necessary preparedness for accepting the amendment. He says in that connexion that as Premier I have got spoiled by a certain amount of contact with the bureaucracy. I submit that these remarks are hardly necessary for the debate. The hon. Member should be the first to understand, having held responsible posts in the Executive, that the responsiveness to demonstration is wholly different from becoming bureaucratic. I wish therefore as a personal explanation to point out that he need not pursue that topic unless he proposes to say something very useful to the debate on this subject."

5 p.m. RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I referred to it only because there may be occasions hereafter to refer to the responsiveness of the Government to public agitation. I shall immediately refer to the irresponsiveness of the Government on the question of Hindustani. Am I to understand that the Government have not realized the feeling in the country in the Tamil Nad about the introduction of Hindustani, how no Tamilian is going to allow his mother-tongue to be strangled by the proposal to make Hindustani compulsory at an early stage for the I, II and III Form boys who are already encumbered with an over-burdened syllabus, who have to learn Tamil and English? All the same you are going to impose the condition of learning Hindustani and to make it compulsory. It would be bad enough if you state that the subject would form a part of the syllabus for being taught. That does not seem to be the idea; you seem to introduce the teaching of the subject in 125 schools, and to compel the boys to learn this third additional language. Why is it? Does the Hon. the Premier realize the feeling in the country about it? Why this irresponsiveness? Is it because the Congress Committees have not passed resolutions about it? Is it because people outside the Congress have passed the resolutions? Even Congressmen in meetings outside this House have been saying that this should not be allowed to go on in this country. I am not able to see the point in the compulsion of learning Hindustani, unless it be you want to have one national language for the whole country with a population of 350 millions spread over the area of this country. As I had an occasion to say in another place, that is absolutely impossible. How are you going to impose this language and to make it compulsory for the boys of the I, II and III Forms? We have had the experience of boys relapsing into illiteracy even after a schooling of two or three years. You are going to teach Hindustani for a few hours in a week. Are you going to impart real knowledge in this language? What will be the proportion of people who are going to take advantage of it? It will be perhaps 1 per cent of the population of our province. What can be the object, unless it be that you want to get hold of the opportunity and to impose it during the period when you are in power? It seems to be that the imposition of Hindustani on the people will be an autocracy of the worst type.

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"Next, Sir, there is the provision for the development of hand-spinning and hand-weaving. You propose to distribute the money on the certificate to be given by the All-India Spinners' Association, which is, I believe, a subsidiary body to the Congress. Is it intended to encourage the village industries? Then why speak of hand-weaving and hand-spinning alone? That is not the only industry which you can find in the country. If you are really honest about encouraging the village industries which would serve as a supplementary source of income to the ryot, it ought to be different kinds of industries suited to the various parts of the province. Each area has got its own peculiar situation and peculiar circumstances. The Government should aim at helping such industries as are suited to the people, if you really intend to benefit the people. On the other hand you want uniformity throughout the whole province in hand-spinning and hand-weaving. You have allotted a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs for this purpose.

"Then there is the provision of Rs. 50 lakhs for the relief of and to accommodate people whose debts are going to be scaled down under the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act. If it is really intended to benefit the people, it seems to me that Rs. 50 lakhs is a drop in the ocean. The debt that has to be covered in this province is to the tune of Rs. 200 crores. Rs. 50 lakhs forms just 25 per cent or 4 annas for every hundred rupees. If you are really earnest about it and if that is your principal object, this sum is quite inadequate. Perhaps you merely want to add one more item for parading from the platform that you have done this for the indebted agriculturist. If you intend to give substantial relief, I submit that the amount ought to be many times this sum of Rs. 50 lakhs. These 50 lakhs of rupees are not going to afford any real relief to the people.

"As regards the ameliorative measures you seek to provide for, we are particularly thankful to the extent to which you have made provision. It seems to me that not one of the ameliorative measures which you propose, is new. There is nothing novel. There was so much talk about the Congress orientation of the budget; we heard it at the time of the last budget; we hear it now also. Nothing has been done which had not been already thought of by previous Governments. The previous Governments also had been spending money on rural water supply. We are thankful for the provision made in the current year's budget—Rs. 1.50 lakhs. What can you really do with this amount? What has been the progress? Eight or ten wells in each district for 18 districts, altogether about 180 wells for the whole province. I do not say that you can dig wells everywhere with a stroke of the pen. I am only referring to it to show that this budget is more or less a humdrum budget; you have made provision for various things in the same manner as it has been done in the past; there is nothing in it on which you can really congratulate yourselves.

"In conclusion let us try, if possible, to peep through the smoke-screen of the very clever speech of the Hon. the Premier and visualize the future as it would be after the year 1938-39. Well, with decreasing

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sources of revenue, with an uncertain contribution from income-tax, with the Excise revenue diminished, with the incubus of the land revenue sitting heavy on the agriculturists, with the Damocles' sword of fresh taxation yet hanging over people, with the children going uneducated because of the abolition of your uneconomic schools, with the sick people being ill-served by reason of the introduction of the honorary medical service in the name of economy again, with an ill-paid, disgruntled and dissatisfied group of civil servants in consequence of your reducing their salaries unreasonably to look after the whole administration, with the agriculturists' usual source of credit choked off by reason of your Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act with the mere mockery of affording relief by a provision of just Rs. 50 lakhs to cover a debt of Rs. 200 crores, with all these things as our future, I would submit that there is nothing over which we can congratulate the Ministry."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, I wish to join the chorus of congratulations that were showered on the Hon. Premier over the lucid budget that he has presented this year. Beyond the fact that the budget has been presented in a lucid manner and that the Hon. the Premier has endeavoured his utmost to try and see how the budget can be balanced with a small surplus, I am afraid the budget does not stand the acid test of how far he has endeavoured to give permanent relief to the poor in this province. I am afraid even the Premier of a responsible Government has adopted the policy that has been pursued in the past. The Finance Members in the past had only one thing before them and that was to see how best to collect cent per cent of the revenues, without any reference to the economic or uneconomic condition of the tax-payer, whether the tax-payer was able to meet the demand that was made on him by the Government. They did not take into consideration the fact that the condition of the agriculturist was becoming worse and worse day after day, when they prepared the budget. Even the Hon. Premier of a responsible Government does not seem to have taken into account the condition of the people from whom the tax is sought to be collected. The Hon. Premier is responsible to this House as every other Minister who leads the party in this House as a democratic party and they have not taken into account the condition of the people in this province whether they are in a condition to pay the taxes or not. If they had done that, they would have come forward with a Bill to regularize the land revenue policy of this province. There has been a demand from the people and it is a legitimate one, asking the Government to come forward with a Bill on the subject of land revenue and to pass it. They elected a progressive party in such large numbers and they expected that that party's first act would be to try and regularize the system of land revenue of this province. During the last six or seven months, instead of going straight to the solution of that problem, the Government has been trying to tinker with it.

5-15 P.M. "We have seen the passing of the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Bill in this House, which has not yet become an Act. I do not know what the fate of that Bill will be and what exactly the future is going to be.

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and what vicissitudes might come about in case the Act is turned down. Sir, we have seen, as I said, the passing of a measure which perhaps was expected to give relief to the agriculturists, the people who pay more than half of the revenues of the province. In spite of the fact we have agreed to the main principles of the Bill, it is a forlorn hope that we should expect that the Bill will become law, and would give relief to the agriculturist. His position as the backbone of the province will certainly not be improved by this Bill. I would like to ask on this occasion, Sir, what other measures the Government are contemplating with a view to give relief to this class of people? I hear that instead of giving relief to this class of people it is generally stated that there is going to be a measure brought in this House which will add to the burden of the agriculturist tax-payer in this province. I understand, Sir, that the Government is contemplating a measure which is called the Agricultural Income-tax Bill. I do not know how far the Government is going to proceed with that measure, whether the Act will be passed in the House, whether it will be of good help to the agriculturist or whether it is going to be an additional burden on him. We know, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier in his budget statement has told us that a good deal is being done for affording relief to the agriculturist by way of remission, by way of cutting down the grazing fees and by some other means and by also providing half a crore of rupees to help the agriculturists by way of loans. These are certainly very favourable things so far as the agriculturist is concerned; but the burden of the agriculturist is so vast that these small reliefs will not go a long way to help him so far as his primary needs are concerned. I therefore hope, Sir, that this Government will soon come forward with a measure which will regularize the land revenue in this province.

"The Hon. the Premier in his statement also said that the Government is going to borrow another sum of money, more than what they borrowed last year, this year and that is about 175 lakhs of rupees. Of course it is true that this amount that they are going to raise by way of loans is not going to be spent so far as the current needs are concerned and that this amount is going to be set apart towards more capital expenditure. All the same, Sir, I am afraid that the Government should not add to the burden of the tax-payer more and more, year after year by raising loans every year. They raised a loan of 150 lakhs of rupees last year and they intend raising a loan of 175 lakhs of rupees this year. I do not know whether the Government will be right, whether this is sound finance, whether it is right, although we may be very much in need of money and whether it is sound to add to the burden of the tax-payer year after year. I think the new debt is a heavy sum and it is not a burden on the party in power because the party might be in power to-day and might not be in power to-morrow, but the burden remains on the tax-payer and he has to reap the results of what the present Government does. Therefore it is not right for any party to force a burden on the tax-payer in this manner.

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"I am glad, Sir, with regard to the question of salaries that the Hon. the Premier has not touched the salaries of the existing incumbents, although he intended to do that originally. I am glad that he changed his mind and the cut on the salaries will not affect the present incumbents but will only affect new entrants and those who are to be promoted. (Interruption by an hon. Member), I understand of course. I do not stand to be corrected. I understand the whole thing correctly. I know that certain classes of the present incumbents will be affected but they are certainly those who will be promoted from one grade to another. I do not think the hon. Member is right if he thinks that the present incumbents include those people who will be affected by promotion to other grades. The Hon. the Premier ought to have made the thing clearer than what it is to-day. There are some difficulties raised on account of the scrappy manner in which the communiqué has been issued. I hope therefore the Government will look into the matter and make it clear that the cut in the salaries of the new grades will affect those who are promoted from one grade to another.

"Well, Sir, we have been making complaints to the Government of the past that the administration was top-heavy. Well, I think the same might still be repeated now, namely that the administration is top-heavy. No doubt some burden has been taken away in the shape of cutting the salaries of the new entrants. This is certainly a step in the right direction. But the Hon. the Premier has not yet acceded to the demand of the people when he said that he was not prepared to reduce the number of supernumerary posts in the service of the Government. There are many posts in the Government departments which can be easily abolished without any detriment to the administration. In answer to such a demand the Premier said that that was unnecessary because he was suggesting reduced salaries for the servants of the Government and that under such circumstances it would be unnecessary for the Government to remove or abolish any of these posts; and I think, if I remember right, he also said that that will go to a certain extent to solve the problem of unemployment. Sir, that is what I believe the Hon. the Premier said. If these are the reasons for refusing to look into the matter of abolishing certain supernumerary posts maintained in the departments of the Government, I am afraid, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier has not yet examined the question thoroughly."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It is rather undesirable and it will lead to confusion when the hon. Member has said that he consulted me in the matter of certain posts and that I was unwilling to do away with unnecessary appointments because I was cutting down the salaries of some other people. If there are unnecessary appointments and if I am convinced of that, I am always prepared to do away with them. What I then said was that there was no such appointment according to my information. Reduction in the salaries does not compensate for maintaining useless posts; but I join issue on the statement that there are such posts. Though it might mean the same thing, the hon. Member's speech will lead to the confusion that I have definitely adopted the policy of keeping unnecessary posts."

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MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am glad that the matter has been made clear. I am glad that the Hon. the Premier's mind is open and that he is certainly prepared to pay attention to any suggestion that will be made by any Member either from the Opposition or from his own party to let him know that there are a number of posts which are supernumerary and which can easily be abolished. I am glad to know further that if once he is convinced he is prepared to abolish those posts. That is all that I want the Hon. the Premier to do. I say this, Sir, because we must reduce the expenditure of this administration; I say it is top-heavy and the tax-payer has been asked to maintain this top-heavy administration, because in the past the point of view of the Finance Ministers and the Government used to be that expenditure came first and then came the question of how best to collect the revenue to meet the expenditure. That was the policy that was pursued by the Finance Ministers of the past and that was the policy that was responsible for burdening the tax-payer with more and more taxes. I hope that there will be a change in the policy of the present Government and that expenditure would not come first. The revenues should come first and then the question of expenditure. In order to meet the expenditure of the administration the Government should not ask the tax-payer to pay. Therefore I hope, Sir, that the policy of the Government will undergo a change and that the Government will meet the expenditure from the amount of revenue that the Government is able to collect without burdening the tax-payer more.

"Sir, in this connexion, although it might appear to be paradoxical, I might add a word of complaint, that the Hon. the Premier has not in any way, whatsoever, either by suggestion or otherwise, tackled the question of unemployment in this province, which is becoming very acute and intense and might become very very difficult for the people to bear any longer. We have been asking the Governments in the past which were as my hon. Friends have been saying, irresponsible and irresponsible, to tackle this question and the reply that was given by them was that they were not prepared to tackle, because it was a vast problem and it was not also within the jurisdiction of the Government of this province to tackle the problem of unemployment. It did not matter to them how many people were unemployed, how many educated people and how many skilled and unskilled labourers were starving and this problem did not seem to them to be a matter of importance. But, might I ask the present Government, whether they can say the same thing now? I hope they cannot. And, when they cannot say the same thing, why not they make a beginning by at any rate collecting statistics of the unemployed in this province and spending some initial amount on the matter, so that they can build upon it and see whether they cannot find ways and means of tackling the problem in a practical manner.

"Sir, the Hon. the Premier when he introduced the last Budget some six months ago, made a provision of two lakhs for spinning. I thought that it was going to be managed by the Government department

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itself, but from the communiqué issued subsequently, it was found that it was going to be handed over to the All-India Spinners' Association. I do not know exactly in what manner it is going to be managed by them. Whether it is going to be merely an advisory body or whether they are going to hand over the entire amount to that body, I am not able to say. All the same, my fear is that the All-India Spinners' Association is going to have a very big hand in the administration of this large sum of money. I have known the administration of the All-India Spinners' Association and the way in which they have been functioning at any rate in the Tamil Nadu during the last 10 or 15 years. I do not know whether they would be helping all the communities or are going to neglect or ignore the interests of certain communities which have been very useful so far as spinning is concerned. I do hope that when the amount is going to be administered by the All-India Spinners' Association, they will certainly take into account this fact, that this money belongs to the people and when it is especially given by the Government of the province as such, it must be made useful to all the classes of the community concerned.

"The Hon. the Premier has stated in his Budget statement that a good deal has been done to afford amenities to the people of this province by way of a planned policy for rural water-supply. They have also, as I have already stated, reduced the grazing fees. They are also going to extend prohibition to two more districts after the 1st of October next. I agree with the Hon. the Premier and the Collector of Salem that the prohibition scheme has succeeded very well in the Salem district and that it is time it should be extended to other districts in the province as well. I am glad that the districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah have been included in this year's budget for the extension of the scheme from October next, because on the last occasion I pleaded for the Ceded districts and I am therefore glad that one of the districts in that area has been included. I hope in the next year, the other districts in that area will also be included in the scheme. I am not one of those who cavil at or are opposed to the prohibition scheme. But I am wholeheartedly in favour of the introduction of prohibition in this province. But, might I ask, while we are introducing prohibition in one district and propose to extend it to other districts in the coming years, is it not moral, is it not just and is it not right that we should also have some control over consumption in the other districts? What is happening now is, that while there is prohibition in one district, consumption is increasing in the other districts. When the Government believe in the evil of drink and that it should be stopped, should they not also try and see that consumption should be controlled in other districts where there is no prohibition instead of allowing things to go on as merrily as they have been going on all these years? There is also this question to be considered, namely that there is the increase in revenue from excise in the other districts on account of increased consumption. Should they not have some control and should they not tighten their hold over the Excise

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Licensing Board and should they not remove the toddy shops from objectionable places? But, nothing of the kind is being done by the department and yet we have this practical policy of prohibition having been introduced in one district and being introduced in the other districts in the subsequent years?

"Another point, Sir. Government are aware that our province is not as healthy as it should be and that the health of the province is becoming worse and worse. In regard to malaria, although the Government have done something to tackle the problem, yet malaria is spreading throughout the province in the same way as before and I am afraid that the disease is assuming an epidemic form and unless the problem is tackled in a proper manner, I am afraid the health of the people of the province will become worse. Previously plague never used to be so very prevalent. I understand that it is now assuming more or less an epidemic form in places like Ootacamund and Coonoor. Therefore, I suggest that the health administration of the province will have to take more severe and active measures in order to prevent its spreading from district to district.

"So far as the educational policy of the Government is concerned, I daresay hon. Members of this House are by this time aware that the Hon. Minister in charge of education is pursuing a very uneconomic policy in endeavouring to close down what are termed to be uneconomic schools. I know that there is much wastage in education and I know that more money is being spent on uneconomic schools. But it will certainly be a 'penny-wise and pound-foolish' policy if, by closing down the schools, you deprive the children of all communities from getting the education that they have been receiving, however meagre it may be. Though, I may have other opportunities of speaking on this question at the time of the voting of demands for grants, here I would like only to say that the policy of the Government so far as Muslim education is concerned, is undergoing a change for the worse. I need not detail here how it is undergoing a change for the worse and how Muslim education is suffering and will suffer, but shall take the opportunity later on at the time of the voting of demands for grants. If the present policy is to be continued I fear a day will come when Muslim education will practically become nil. The Hon. the Minister for Education when answering questions in regard to adult education stated that his hands were full and that he could not give any time for the consideration of a proposition for the introduction of adult education however important it might be. The Hon. Minister evidently is not here. I wish he were here for I want to tell him that the replies that he gave to questions were certainly not satisfactory and the manner in which he gave his replies was far from satisfactory; he probably feels that so far as education is concerned—he appears to be very much annoyed—Hon. Members of this House have no right to ask questions of him. Sir, the department of education is an important one and the question has to be dealt with in a very careful and sympathetic manner . . ."

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* **MR. SPEAKER:**—"Does the hon. Member think that the manner of answering questions by Ministers could be appropriately referred to in a Budget speech?"

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am prepared to bow to your ruling Sir."

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—"I hope the hon. Member will not continue in that strain any further."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I bow to your ruling and I humbly bow to your ruling and would certainly not go against your ruling at any time. So, I stop there."

"Sir, I was speaking about adult education. Adult education is very, very necessary and I do not think that the Government can give up consideration of such an important question as adult education. It is a demand that has been made by our people for a very long number of years. Governments of the past have not been paying any heed to that question. I hope at least the responsible Government of the day will introduce adult education in the province in the same manner as they are trying to introduce the Wardha Scheme of education in one district and that they would introduce adult education at least in one district or some area like the Ceded districts or in any of the backward areas. Or they can even introduce it in the City itself to start with to show that they are prepared to accede to the wishes of the people. I have nothing more to say except to thank you, Sir, for the kind indulgence that you have shown me so long. With this I resume my seat."

* **MR. H. S. HUSSAIN:**—"Mr. Speaker, the Budget is too good to be criticized. Unfortunately the Congress Premier has not left any scope for us the Members of the opposition to say anything against it. As a matter of fact, I for my part would have very much liked to criticize the Budget in all its aspects; but however much I may wish to criticize it and however much I may try to find loop holes somewhere, I confess that I have not been able to find any room for criticism. I do not want to praise the Hon. the Premier for the sake of mere formality which is usually observed on occasions like this in the legislature. But figures speak for themselves and I hope it is not necessary for us to congratulate the Premier and shower encomiums on him. The Budget presented to us bears eloquent testimony to his sincerity and honesty of purpose."

"Though there is nothing in the Budget to criticize, I would like to take this opportunity of sounding a note of warning in regard to the Government's policy of borrowing. Wise borrowing when occasions demand it, is good and quite essential; but borrowing, more often than not, like the drinking habit, has a tendency to persist and in course of time it may even become chronic. That is my fear and so I submit that in the matter of borrowing the Government should see that it does not become chronic. For otherwise I feel that at some future date it

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may become necessary to have some other kind of prohibition to eradicate this evil also. What is true in the case of individuals so far as borrowing is concerned, will be true in the case of States and Governments also. We see how the canker of debt has been eating into the vitals of the agriculturists and how the Government have been forced to stop it. That is why to-day I sound a note of warning against the policy of borrowing."

"There are two features of the Budget which have impressed me most. One of them is the boons of the Budget and the other the economies effected and shown in the Budget. The boons are the grazing fee concession, loan of 50 lakhs of rupees to agriculturist debtors, the repetition of the land revenue concession to the same extent as in the last fasli and the starting of a fund for a comprehensive scheme of water-supply with an initial contribution of 15 lakhs. These boons, though inadequate, are quite good in themselves and I am sure that they will be received throughout the country with great joy. These boons, I hope, are only an earnest of what is going to come next in its full measure. With regard to the provision for the loan of 50 lakhs of rupees to the agriculturists debtors, I feel that this loan will not be adequate and will not go a long way in providing the relief to the debtors. The Government will have to get ready with other credit schemes to enable the debtors to pay off the scaled down debts with all convenient speed; for otherwise the effect of the wholesome measure, which I fervently hope would be put into operation without further delay, will be lost. With regard to land revenue concession which is going to be repeated in the coming year, I have only to say this much. The repetition of the concession that was granted in the last year will not alone be sufficient and I am afraid, if it is going to be repeated year after year, it will not satisfy the longstanding demand of the people. The Government may for various reasons find it difficult at this stage of their finances to give substantial relief in this matter. But I hope that when the position improves they will grant a substantial reduction in land revenue. I may tell the Government that people will not be satisfied with repetitions of this concession year after year. Only the other day, the Hon. Minister for Revenue was pleased in answer to a question to state that the principle on which the land revenue policy of the Government was based was that 50 per cent of the net produce was the share of the State. Whatever might be the principle the fact remains that it is too heavy a burden for the agriculturists of a poor country like ours to bear. Be it noted that the basic industry of our province is agriculture and all efforts ought to be made to make it prosperous. The policy that the Government have set before themselves can be seen from their election manifesto and that is that the land tax ought to be reduced by 25 per cent at least. Combined with a substantial reduction of land revenue, the Agriculturist Relief Act that will shortly be put in operation will be the greatest and in fact the only way of granting relief to the agriculturists and I hope thereby the condition of this basic industry will be improved."

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“ There is also a negative boon and that is that the Government have no immediate intention of imposing any fresh taxation. It has been made quite clear in the Budget speech of the Hon. Premier that the unpleasant task of imposing fresh taxation is the subject of a critical examination and that it will take some time. So we expect that though not in the immediate future at least in the near future some more burden will be imposed on the people of this province. I would request the Hon. the Premier before imposing fresh burdens that he may be pleased to remove or at least considerably lighten as far as possible the existing burdens.

“ The other features of the Budget as I said before are the economies by way of salary reduction, stoppage of exodus to the hills, the introduction of the system of Honorary Medical Officers and the release of prisoners. I am sure that in the long run the Government will get a substantial saving on these accounts.

“ Coming to the question of education, I want to stress even at the risk of repetition the demand of the Muslims for a special provision with regard to their education. We have been stressing in season and even out of season that the Mussalmans who form a great community, an important community, a major community among the minority communities, stand in need of special treatment with regard to their education. It is a well-known fact that the Muslims are poor and are becoming poorer.

(At this stage Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai took the chair.)

“ Therefore it is quite necessary that their interests, especially their educational needs should be given special consideration. I need not remind the House that the minority communities including the important minority community of Muslims form the component parts of the machinery of the great Indian nation. It is but right that every component part should be kept in a sound condition and it is, therefore, necessary that they should be developed on proper lines and strengthened. Therefore I want to stress on the floor of this House the necessity for separate schools for Muslims and concessions in the matter of fees. It would be but doing bare justice to this community if the Government are pleased to consider the special demands of this community and continue the separate schools and grant fee concession until such time when it may be thought that special concessions are no longer necessary. It is quite essential that this community which forms an important part of the whole nation should be made stronger.

“ Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word about the budget surplus. Sir, I am not enamoured of budget surpluses. I may at once say that a well-balanced budget leaving perhaps a small surplus is the budget that is required. Every pie that is taken from the people must be returned to the people in the shape of services or other benefits. It is not at all a good policy and no Government which calls itself a popular Government

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will ever think of saving and hoarding money. A budget disclosing a large surplus does not deserve any praise at all. If this is the criterion of a good budget, the present budget is more or less like it.

“ Sir, the Hon. the Premier has presented a very good budget and he has conferred some boons on the people of this province. He has also at the same time adopted measures of economy. While the Government is conferring boons on one side, and at the same time it is borrowing money on the other side and also losing large slices of its revenue on account of the introduction of prohibition in one district and its extension to two other districts, it may appear, but I hope it is not so, that the candle is being burnt at both ends. I only hope that the present Government under the able guidance of the Hon. the Premier will always be on the alert and take care to see that the candle is not burnt at both ends but only at one end.”

* DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—“ In offering a few remarks on the good budget presented to us for the year, I have to thank the Premier at the very outset for the very generous way he in which has dealt with the famine stricken areas in Ceded districts. The word Rayala Seema has appeared in the Budget Speech quite a good number of times which shows that some care and attention is bestowed on these unfortunate people living in Rayala Seema who are constantly subjected to famine and pestilence.

“ To eradicate famine and root out epidemics such as cholera and other waterborne diseases the people of Rayala Seema require a comprehensive Scheme of water-supply both for irrigation and drinking purposes.

“ The present Government has studied the needs of the Ceded districts and provided a few lakhs of rupees in the budget for starting famine works in the districts of Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool. I humbly submit Sir, that this sort of relief to a few labouring class people is no relief at all. There are thousands of ryots who are owning large tracts of land but are drowned in debt on account of these recurrent famines year after year. The ryotwari population with a certain amount of social status are not coming forward to work at the famine works but are famishing away in unknown quarters for want of proper food and clothing. I appeal on behalf of these unfortunate men and women Sir, who are almost starving in spite of their large landed property to start permanent protective works throughout the Ceded districts. Furnishing a few lakhs of rupees every year in the Budget will not solve the problem of famine relief in the Ceded districts. Instead of spending these few lakhs every year on some road works to give temporary relief to the starving labourers, it is highly advisable that the amount is directed towards some minor irrigation works to groups of villages. Our districts are not wanting in tanks and reservoirs for storing water at such seasons of the year when the monsoon is favourable to them. The only regrettable defect in all these tanks is that either the source of water-supply is cut off for want of minor repairs periodically or the tank beds have become very shallow.

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"I would urge on the Government to direct the funds amounting to 75 lakhs allotted again this year to give relief to the agriculturists by way of land revenue remission to undertake some minor works of irrigation to groups of villages in the Ceded Districts. I humbly submit that these land revenue remissions do not reach the agriculturists at all. I know from personal experience that they are lost somewhere and I should like to suggest that next year these remissions amounting to Rs. 75 lakhs should be utilized on some minor irrigation works.

"Except the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal Project which had been undertaken some 40 or 50 years back no other useful irrigation project of importance has been taken up by the Government, though there were recurrent famines in the districts. The Thippayya Palem Project in Kurnool district is nearing completion and I don't know exactly how far it would meet the irrigation needs of the people of Markapur taluk. The Siddhapuram tank in Kurnool district under which the former Government had spent a considerable sum did not serve any useful purpose to the agriculturist as the tank is almost dry during the major part of the year.

"I would request the Hon. Minister for Public Works on behalf of the famine-stricken people of Cuddapah and Kurnool districts that the following minor irrigation projects be undertaken to ward off famine:—

The much talked of Velgode project should be revived in Kurnool district on a smaller scale and the large number of tanks lying along the foot of the Nalaemalai hills in Kurnool district should be supplied with water by spending a few thousands of rupees every year in repairing these channels of water-supply.

The Mutialapad tank in Kurnool district is a big tank capable of irrigating a few thousands of acres of land, but it is now able to irrigate hardly two to three hundred acres of land, because the channel coming from the hills is diverted elsewhere. A few thousand rupees will be sufficient to repair these neglected sources of water-supply and make large tracts of land extending over many villages richly fruitful to the agriculturists. As it is at present the ryot is paying a high water-rate to the Government, though he is not enjoying a drop of water from the tank.

Thirdly, there is another tank in Cuddapah district, viz., Paramboti cheruvu in Badvel taluk, which needs urgent repairs. A small rivulet of Sagileru runs through the broken bund of this tank; and I would urge on the Government to undertake such minor irrigation projects which will be highly beneficial to the remote villages in the district. A memorial signed by a number of villagers has been submitted to the Minister for Public Works and I hope he would do his best for these villages of Etukullapadu, Ambavaram, Mallaipalle, Chenchayyagarupalle and Eddulayapalle (Badvel taluk), Cuddapah district,

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by constructing a small bund of 1 furlong length between the two hillocks.

"Coming to the question of prohibition, we are glad, Sir, that our neighbouring districts of Cuddapah and Chittoor are taken up this year for the operation of the Prohibition Act. It would have been a wiser policy to have introduced prohibition, in Kurnool district instead of Chittoor as these two districts of Kurnool and Cuddapah are similar in their mode of living, manners and customs and even in the matter of committing crime. The reports of the Excise department would clearly show that there were more illicit distillation cases recorded in Kurnool and Cuddapah districts in the past years.

"The Jammalamadugu taluk is almost jutting into Kurnool district and I am afraid the people in the villages bordering on the Kurnool district can easily walk over into the other villages to have their usual drink of toddy or arrack; or carry out their operations of illicit distillation in the villages of Kurnool district.

"Before prohibition was introduced in Salem district, the people were thoroughly prepared to accept the scheme of prohibition. I am afraid the scheme may not work successfully in Cuddapah district. (An hon. Member: why not?) Because there has been very little propaganda work carried on in this district.

"On behalf of the Indian-Christian community in the central districts, I assure you, Sir, that the Indian church will stand by and help the popular Ministry in introducing prohibition throughout the districts in our area. The Dornakal Diocesan Council of 300 strong representing nearly two lakhs of Christians, met the other day at Bezvada in the first week of January and unanimously passed a resolution upholding the action of the Government in introducing prohibition in the Madras Presidency and promised hearty support for the enforcement of the Act throughout their diocese. In this connexion, Sir, I may say that the Christian church in Dornakal diocese has done more than any other organization in putting down this evil by vigorous propaganda against the drink evil.

"With regard to education, the closing down of some of the mission elementary schools in the districts of Kurnool and Cuddapah is causing great inconvenience to the Christians and poor Depressed Class people. I think, I am not exaggerating matters when I say that the missions have catered to a great extent, not only to the educational needs of urban areas but largely to the rural population, mainly the Christian and Depressed Class people.

"There are some instances, Sir, where the mission schools which were run for 40 to 60 years were closed down as 'uneconomic.' Those schools served all communities in the villages faithfully in the past and now they are put down as back numbers, because there are not sufficient number of pupils to warrant their continuance. I would request

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the Government, Sir, to reconsider their decision and pass orders for the continuance of these schools which have done and are still doing yeoman service to the educational needs of the community.

"Finally I am glad, Sir, the Congress Government has reduced by half the present rates of grazing fees in forests throughout the Presidency to redeem their election pledges. The whole agricultural population will be grateful to the present Ministry for this privilege extended to them so graciously even at the expense of losing a large portion of their forest revenue. But I would like to point out to Government that there is an invidious distinction made in charging grazing fees at a higher rate of one rupee per animal in the case of the Sugalis, Lambadis and other hill-tribes while the ordinary ryot is charged only half of it in the Kurnool district. I would request and pray to the Government to kindly consider the desirability of charging uniform grazing fees for all people alike whether they are hill-tribes or residents of ryotwari villages."

* MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Budget has received the general approval of even the Opposition members who are ever critical of Congress policies and Congress activities, it is not for me, a member of the party in power, to expatiate on the excellence of the Budget. It is essentially a Budget for the masses, and there lies its excellence.

"As regards prohibition, it was believed that Malabar would be selected this year. The Hon. the Premier's tour and speeches engendered that hope. The natural protection against smuggling afforded by the sea on the West and the Ghats on the East, ought to have been made a ground for selecting Malabar. More than one-third of the population are Mussalmans. A large number among the Hindus are also free from the vice of drink. An atmosphere for prohibition already exists in that district. We hope our turn will be at least next year.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Appadurai Pillai objected to prohibition this year also on financial grounds. May I ask him one question? Suppose we can make money for building temples and churches by robbing our neighbours or going on war with them, will he justify the method for the erection of temples and churches? So also, the collection of excise revenue, by robbing the poor for the purpose of education and other important nation-building activities, cannot be justified. If a thing is bad, it has to be put an end to as quickly as possible.

"With respect to the subject of revenue, the people of our district are pleased with the remissions and are able to understand that no permanent reduction is possible without a closer investigation which may involve delay. The complaint is with respect to waste lands converted into garden lands. Suppose I plant a few coconut trees this year and put up a fence round the plot. After three years, it is assessed to permanent revenue. The Government do not wait to collect revenue until the trees become fruit-bearing. Hence the incentive to plant coconut trees and other fruit-bearing trees is becoming diminished.

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"We, though of Malabar, suffer on account of irregular monsoons that we have been having in recent years. With respect to agricultural operations, I think it is highly necessary that an investigation into the minor schemes that are possible in the taluks of Walluvanad, Ernad and Palghat should be attempted. They are the main paddy-producing taluks of the district. In this connexion, I may be permitted to state that when I approached the District Collector to give us the aid and advice of his revenue subordinates at a proposed Irrigation Conference, the District Collector replied that the rules prohibited assistance being rendered to me and the people at such a conference. This is curious. I do not know if the revenue officers exist for the people or the people for the revenue officers.

"As regards rural water-supply, I find only eighteen districts are selected. I apprehend that Malabar may not be one among them. I want the Hon. the Premier and the other Ministers to believe me when I state that there are villages in the district where there used to be large scarcity of water during two or three months in a year. I request that a list of such villages, though few, might be prepared and the benefits of the scheme might be extended to those villages also. The soil of the district is extremely porous and is not capable of retaining rain water throughout the year.

"Sir, great injustice has been done by the introduction of the photostat system of registration in our district. The system is not as cheap as it is imagined to be. Much of foreign materials has to be used. The question regarding the capital outlay incurred up to date asked on the floor of this House still remains unanswered. A Government Order was passed that the permanent and the acting clerks thrown out of employment would be absorbed into Government service soon. The authorities have not yet carried out the Government Order. I request the Hon. the Revenue Minister to do justice in the matter and to abolish the photostat system when the experimental stage is over.

"As regards the Pykara Scheme, its benefits have not yet been made available to the West Coast excepting Palghat town, though the scheme has seen its way to remoter districts. Pykara is on the ghats just over Malabar. There was a Wynaad scheme investigated by the Government a few years ago. That investigation might be further pursued and then perhaps the question of power to the West Coast—Malabar and South Kanara—may be more easily solved.

"Again, the administration of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board is a scandal in our district and perhaps in the presidency in general. The Board is only intent upon the collection of its dues for the payment of the salaries of the members of the Board and the staff. The whole administration has to be made a part of the general administration.

"Sir, the Calicut hospital requires the urgent attention of the Hon. Minister for Public Health. The present building was considered by both His Excellency the Governor and the Hon. Minister himself when

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he visited Calicut, as unsuitable. The district authorities have made representations regarding it, and I have received a communication to-day of a resolution passed at the Medical Council recently. This is a matter in which some enthusiasm was shown even by the inert Interim Ministry; and it behoves the Congress Ministry to do the needful in the matter immediately—this year itself, if possible.

“Sir, I have nothing more to say.”

* MR. G. KRISHNAMURTHI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, no apology is required if I rise to speak a few words from the labour point of view about the Budget, especially after the Member representing plantation employers was given the special indulgence to pour forth his wrath against Trade Union Labour. I shall deal with Mr. Langley a little later.

“Coming now to the Budget, I will be dishonest if I do not state that there is nothing in the Budget which can be called satisfactory from the point of view of labour. I want to mention in the first place that provision for factory inspection has been reduced, although there is a crying need for increased expenditure under this head.

“There is no mention of any possibility of the introduction of any social insurance scheme in the year of grace 1938-39 under our popular Government.

“I may state, Sir, that the Bombay Government in their instructions to the Textile Enquiry Committee outlined the possibility of State provision for sickness and old age benefits which would entail a contribution of about four weeks' pay by the worker, by the Government and by the employer, for each worker in the industrial undertakings of that province.

“I want this Government to concentrate their special attention on the provision of alternative employment to the toddy-tappers and others thrown out of employment on account of Governmental measures such as prohibition. I know one of the cheap arguments trotted out is that workers employed in socially undesirable occupations have no claim for public support. Sir, if this argument is stretched and if some of our philosophers come to influence our State policies, the existence of Government would be considered an evil and all those who depend for employment on State would forfeit public sympathy.

“Instead of concentrating on remission of land revenue, I venture to suggest that the Government would be well advised in starting collective farms on sound and scientific lines for the benefit of the unemployed, by the Agricultural department.

“In regard to land transport, I would beg of this Government to forestall the Bombay Government in not merely accepting the principle of nationalization of motor transport, but enforcing it in practice, so that the maximum revenue may be made available to the province for developmental schemes of rural uplift.

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“Sir, in French India, lending of money on jewellery is the sole monopoly of the Government, and I am sure that if this Government adopt this source of revenue, the present starvation Budget need not be put before the province.

“I make these remarks in a spirit of constructive criticism. I know that our Premier is the most intelligent personage in this province and if only he is persuaded to catch an idea nothing on earth will deter him from executing the same.

“I will now deal with Mr. Langley. In his speech Mr. Langley referred to the Trade Union workers as agitators. In his speech before the Planters' Association he referred to the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour as an agitator. The Cabinet Members have all been referred to as agitators and political criminals. It is easy to turn round and say that Mr. Langley and others belonging to his class and his ilk are downright exploiters and parasites on society and blood-suckers. But I am not going to reply in that cheap and provocative strain. He presented a rosy picture of the conditions of labour in the plantation industry. The wearer alone knows where the shoe pinches. Will Mr. Langley as a planter accept the wages paid to the average plantation worker? Would he accept the premediæval conditions of service prevalent in the plantation industry? He, as a planter objected to the raising of the wages of the plantation worker, and lectured about the disappearance of capital by the grant of one anna increment for every worker. Let Mr. Langley understand that the world is not going to learn economics and business management from such poor employers. When legislation to reduce the hours of employment from 16 to 12 was brought in the Mother of Parliaments in Great Britain, the capitalists and employers of labour in Lancashire told the representatives in the Parliament that the 16th hour of work by the industrial worker would alone go to the making of profits. In spite of such plausible arguments adduced against reduction of the hours of work, legislation to reduce hours of work has been going on apace in various civilized countries. The argument of Mr. Langley will share the same fate as the arguments of bigotted and reactionary employers of Lancashire. Old beliefs and ideas take time to die; and I wish Mr. Langley will live long enough to see that his pet ideas of labour and their treatment die.

“Last but not the least I would ask the Government before it gives any contribution to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, to enquire whether the affairs over there are properly managed, and Asia's Nobel Prize-Winner in Physical Science has been fairly treated.

“I hope the next Budget would be a better performance, and in view of the judicial officer's enquiry at Chirala, I do not want to criticise now as to whether the police methods of dealing with labour problems would be conducive to the best interests of the province.”

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* DR. N. LAKSHMI DEVI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to express my opinion about the Budget which has been presented to this House by the Hon. the Prime Minister. I should say that the Hon. the Prime Minister has taken every care to present such an excellent Budget. The Budget before us shows that great care has been taken to see that it is well intended for the people of this province. The Congress Government known as the popular Government is progressing in full determination to carry out its election pledges to its electorate. This feature is being clearly shown in the Budget proposals. Well, Sir, the Congress Government has been only in power for a short time; that is to say, for eight months since it took up office. Within such a short time, the feeling that prevails in the country is pleasant and satisfactory. The Government meets to legislate measures to better the conditions of the masses but not to increase and impose fresh taxes and make top-heavy administration heavier still which was the practice of the previous Government. On account of the utter poverty in the country and due to various other adverse conditions the Government is not able to collect the annual revenue. But with all that the Hon. the Premier has taken a bold step to make provision in his Budget for the improvement of the masses. This clearly shows that 'where there is a will there is a way.' That is the policy of the present Government, and I hope that the same will be continued to be the feature for every year when the Congress Government presents the Budget.

"Coming to the Budget proposals that are allotted, Sir, I welcome them. Coming as I do from a famine-stricken area, I say, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier has shown every consideration and has set apart a large portion of the sum to relieve the people. I am afraid that unless the Famine Code is revised, we cannot undertake measures by which the conditions of the people in those parts would be made better.

"As far as the conditions that are prevailing in the famine-stricken areas, are concerned I would say a few words with regard to the proposal laid down for the supply of fodder to cattle. As far as fodder is concerned, I am afraid, Sir, that it is not a satisfactory one. As far as my knowledge goes, the hill-grass that has been supplied to the cattle is not at all useful because the cattle are not accustomed to such grass. It may be sufficient to meet the demands, but in long run, it is injurious to the health of the cattle that are fed by this hill-grass. Sometimes, the cattle contract disease and die. Therefore my earnest desire is that the Government which has allotted a large sum for the famine-stricken area will consider this aspect of the question and see that proper fodder is supplied to the cattle. I would suggest that where fodder is not available it should be brought from other places, by train at concession rates and transported to the required area.

"I see from the Budget proposals that the Hon. the Premier has made provision for the encouragement of handloom industry. Now is the time when a portion of that money can be utilized in the famine-stricken area. I know that a large number of people there are engaged

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in this industry, and by helping people in that area, Government would be helping those whose occupation is spinning and weaving, and reviving the hand-spinning and hand-weaving industry. I request the Hon. Minister for Labour and Industry to take up this proposal.

"I now come to the water-supply. This is a welcome proposal. Sir, it is the primary duty of every Government to see that the people of the province get the necessities of life and particularly see that people do not suffer for want of drinking water. The Congress which is in full power has pledged itself to the people to provide all amenities and accordingly it is taking many ameliorative measures. Protected water-supply is one of them. In my district, bore-well system had been formerly tried and it has proved a failure. Now I would propose to the Government that they should see that the money that they propose to spend in this direction of providing a good water-supply is usefully spent and that every pie of it is strictly spent towards the needs of the people. I would suggest, Sir, that the existing wells may be improved and facilities provided for other sources of water-supply and money spent on them. Another thing I would like to suggest is that it is really worth while to spend a thousand or more to dig a well wherever possible and make it a protective one so that people in the village might use it.

"This leads me on to the difficult evil that is present in our country in regard to social disabilities. On account of this evil we have got so many difficulties. The Scheduled Caste people are not given a chance to be benefited by these amenities. Particularly in the villages where there is water scarcity and where there is only one protected well, they are not allowed to touch the well and draw water from it. On account of this they are suffering. These inconveniences will not be prevented unless and until the social disabilities under which they are suffering are eradicated. But we need not wait till such a time comes. Meanwhile, I urge upon the Government to provide separate wells for the Scheduled Caste people, so that they might use them.

"Now, Sir, I wish to say a few words with regard to prohibition. I am glad that two of the Ceded districts have been included in the prohibition area in the coming year, and I am sure it will be a great success there. Next year I hope the Hon. the Premier will include the other two districts, namely, Anantapur and Bellary. (Opposition cheers.) So that we may take this opportunity and make them also dry. (Voices from the Opposition Benches: 'Very dry' and renewed cheers.)

"I know that hon. Members from the Opposition Benches are very much afraid of the introduction of Hindi. I don't see any reason why they should anticipate such a fear now. When English was first introduced in the schools we never thought that our mother tongue will suffer. At that time we felt that English was the universal language and that therefore we should adopt it, and we have done so. Now the same thing applies to Hindi. Very soon the whole of India

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is going to have one Government and in that case a common language will be necessary. That purpose can very well be served by adopting Hindi as the universal common language. This is the policy underlying the principle of introducing Hindi, and I therefore feel that there need be no fear that by this introduction of Hindi, our mother tongue will die.

"In conclusion, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to express my observations."

* **MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to join the chorus of praise that has been bestowed on the Hon. the Premier and I wish to add my own. I tender my congratulations to the Hon. the Premier for having presented a surplus budget. I am also glad that the estimates proposed in the Budget meet with the agreement of the whole House, and I also agree with the hon. the Member from Malappuram division who said that the budget is one that is meant for the masses. I wish to qualify this statement and say that this budget is meant more for the 'haves' than the 'have nots.' Only last week I have been asked very pertinently by one of the labourers who had been attending a public meeting of the Congress, 'What have you been doing and what do you propose to do for us, the labourers?' He told me that the Debt Relief Bill which is intended to relieve the peasantry who are indebted, does not benefit the agricultural labourers who are being left out. Notes of warning have been sounded to the Hon. the Finance Minister about his borrowing policy. I agree it is a very sound financial policy in individual cases not to borrow. But is it always a sound financial policy not to borrow for developmental and other schemes?"

"I say borrowing for remunerative purposes and borrowing which may encumber the posterity, who in future are really to be the beneficiaries of the developmental works from the borrowings of to-day is sound financial policy. Further I beg to make it clear that this budget so far as it goes shows sound financial policy. Then if the budget is judged in terms of human relations, the question may be raised how far the budget promises to improve the economic condition of the country and how far it brings relief to the hungry stomachs of the people. If it does not go to the extent, as we have desired, to satisfy the hunger of the masses, however well it may be balanced, and however large the surpluses may be, all the same, I should say, the budget or the financial policy of the Government is not quite sound. I should say the Hon. the Finance Minister has been very halting in his economic measures to reduce the cost of administration in all that we have been expecting him to do. We thought he would apply the axe at least in the Provincial services in the Secretariat, where he can lay his hands quite easily. He has done nothing at all; he has not touched the salaries of the present incumbents; he has reduced the scales of salaries of future incumbents alone; even there I am inclined to think he has not come up to the standard laid down by the Congress,

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as exemplified by himself and his colleagues of the Cabinet in their salaries. For, the Congress has laid down that the maximum salary drawn by any officer under the Government shall not exceed Rs. 500. Even in the Finance Minister's own department, the Assistant Finance Secretaries are drawing more than Rs. 500. Besides reduction of salaries of the Provincial services men in the Secretariat, I should think that if the Hon. the Prime Minister appealed to the heads of all departments to help him in economising the administration—the Police, the Forest and the Public Works departments particularly—much savings could have been brought about. Again, if he had taken the trouble to ask those in service aged 50 years and more to retire from services he would not only have effected economy in the cost of administration but would also have solved to some extent at least the unemployment problem. The younger people who are the educated unemployed may be given posts by retiring those people who have attained the age of fifty and more. In solving the unemployment problem I would also suggest that the Hon. the Revenue Minister will consider the question of easy improvement of waste lands by declaring those waste lands which have been newly brought under cultivation not to be taxed until the fruits of labour come to hand. At present when a piece of waste land is brought under cultivation, at once comes the Collector with his demand for land-tax, even before the crops are ready for reaping. Such a thing ought not to be done. Government should wait for some time so that the person who brings the waste land under cultivation may be able to do so without further burden until his labour reach the stage when he is able to get back some return for the money he has invested in it. If only the Hon. the Revenue Minister will make up his mind to make all waste lands available for the unemployed to cultivate without demanding any tax from them till the lands begin to give some return for their labours, I think much of the present unemployment can be solved. Now, as matters stand at present, if anybody occupies a piece of waste land and puts up a fence round it, he has to pay tax for that plot of land, whether he receives any fruits from it or not. In my own district, in Ernad taluk, about two hundred and odd thousand acres of cultivable land are available for improvement. Malabar has a tendency, I should say, to increase population enormously. In certain parts the population has increased to such an extent as to bring it to the tune of 1,500 per square mile. And this happens in the rural areas and not in towns.

"Further, in the solution of unemployment, in the improvement of the country and more especially in the development of the rural parts. Government should adumbrate a much bolder scheme of development. There is a scheme of road and bridge construction called the Vipan scheme, which I understand, is to be financed entirely from the Government of India Road Fund. The Provincial Government may get only a much smaller amount than may be required annually, but they may raise a loan and repay it from their annual subvention from the

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Central Government so that they may launch boldly the scheme of road and bridge construction and complete it quickly.

"Coming to this question of road development, I should say, my own district of Malabar needs most urgent help, because it is a case of a number of rivers cutting the country criss-cross. I am glad the present budget provides for the construction of two or three bridges, over the Korapuzha and the Moorat rivers in North Malabar, and across the Bharatapuzha in South Malabar. The Bharatapuzha bridge is an important link connecting the communication of Cochin Harbour with Malabar. Formerly the Madras Government and at present the Government of India jointly with the Governments of Cochin and Travancore have been spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on the improvements to the Cochin Harbour, and I can confidently say that if the Cochin Harbour is fully developed it is going to be one of the most important stations in the whole of India. With the improvements to be effected in the Cochin Harbour we feel highly doubtful whether Malabar would be able to benefit by it, as it ought to be. From its present position the Cochin Harbour is situated in the centre of Kerala. At present the railway line connecting Cochin with Malabar runs to Shoranur at the east end and comes at a tangent to Madras. Malabar as we know is rich in vegetation and hilly for the most part, and in the coastal regions alone we have the strip of land that may be called plains, very narrow and densely populated. And these plains are absolutely cut off from the Cochin Harbour for want of proper and direct means of communication. The proposed bridge over the Bharatapuzha river and the road contemplated to Chowghat with the proposed Chettuva bridge contained in Vypan's scheme provides a direct connexion to and opens up the country up to the boundary of Cochin. If only this Government will persuade the Governments of Cochin and Travancore to construct bridges over Periyar at Cranganore and Alwaye, then the whole of Malabar will be opened up to the Cochin Harbour by direct communication by road. And this road communication can subsequently be used for improved transport facility and made highly remunerative by providing tramways either by the Local Government or the District Board of Malabar. And this latter enterprise also can be facilitated by bringing in power from the Pykara scheme.

"Coming now to the Pykara scheme, it has been the general complaint in my district, Sir, that though that scheme has been worked out within sight of Malabar, it has not been extended to our district, even though the scheme owes its origin to the forests and mountains of Malabar. This scheme provides power to the district of Madura and even other districts farther off north; but Malabar is denied the benefit, even though it lies very very close to Pykara. I do not know why in reply to an interpellation yesterday the Hon. Minister for Public Works said that the bringing in of power from Pykara to Malabar by Meppadi-Vayitri route is not considered feasible, nor why any hydro-electric schemes either Vayitri or Mannaghaut is worked. I do not know why the

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Hon. Minister prefers the route from Pykara to Meppadi branching north to Manantody, Tellicherry and Cannanore and then only south to Calicut. I submit that it is not the shortest route that is to be considered in a matter like this. Gudalur lies only about 70 miles from Calicut, and a line this way will facilitate the lighting up of a number of villages and small towns and a number of people will be benefited by giving them scope to adopt lift irrigation. The conditions of Malabar are peculiar; even though there is water near at hand, there is no scope to utilize it. You have only to dig the earth a few feet to get water, and yet it is not possible to utilize it for irrigation purposes. So if you extend the Pykara hydro-electric system to Malabar, it will help the people very much. And I would say intensive cultivation is the barest necessity for the large population of Malabar. Further for the development of rural industry also electricity is necessary.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

"Besides these important roads connecting Cochin Harbour with Malabar and the construction of bridges with the aid of Central Government funds, I should appeal to Government to make early and generous provision for the improvement of rural communication in my own division. I understand, Sir, there is a proposal now for constructing a bridge at Parakadavu for connecting the Special Police Camp at Koichena with Chalari side of Ernad taluk. The same purpose may be served at a lesser cost if the district board proposal is carried out connecting the Panampuzha bridge with Munniyur by road as recommended in Vipan's scheme. This has got another advantage of opening up a number of villages also. I would also ask for a road connecting Kundoti with Tirurangadi, and Kundoti with Vazhakkad, which places are all marketing centres. Whenever the people clamour for roads, the district board turns round and says 'there is no fund'. If the Provincial Government could take charge of other roads for making them more useful for motor traffic, if the Provincial Government could spend large amounts of money for making the roads more comfortable for motorists, I ask, then, whether they could not take up some of these important village roads connecting marketing centres and opening up a number of rural areas, thus facilitating transportation of agricultural commodities.

"Coming to transport facilities for agricultural commodities, I would like to suggest to the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to pay a little more heed to the necessities of the agriculturists of Malabar. Ginger, Sir, is a peculiar commodity for Malabar and my constituency especially. Pests attacking them have become chronic and cries from the ginger cultivators have not been attended to for long now. There are agricultural demonstrators in our taluks as well and veterinary doctors are going round villages. I want to tell the Minister for Agriculture that the benefits derived by the people at large from these people, I say the Agricultural Demonstrators as well as the Veterinary doctors, are precious little. I want the Hon. Minister for Agriculture

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to issue instructions to these people to move more frequently and more closely with peasants rather than sit in taluk headquarters and write diaries.

"To the agriculturist, co-operative societies are supposed to be a boon, but Sir, I would tell the Minister for Industries that in my constituency especially, people, at the period of boom, when ginger price was going very high, have borrowed lavishly and at very high rates of interest. You may be surprised to hear that these agriculturists are paying very high rates of interest to the co-operative societies. I say they are paying to the tune of 12 per cent even. If you add penalties to it, it may go even to 15 or 18 or even 24 per cent. The Debt Relief Bill has not given them any relief in this connexion. May I request the Hon. the Minister for Industries to do some thing to mitigate the distress of these agriculturists by some executive measure now? Further, Sir, about the credit facilities for agriculturists, I am sorry to say that Land Mortgage Banks are denied for the time being to my constituency. I do not want to speak more on this at the present time. But, I hope the matter will be attended to immediately and that the grievances of my people will be redressed handsomely. When speaking on the question of agriculture I want to bring in one particular section of agricultural industry in Malabar. That is the plantations. Sir, I suggested various methods of reducing the cost of administration now. I would also suggest now that taxation must be regulated in such a manner that the burden of taxation might be removed from the heads of the poor agriculturists whose holdings do not go beyond 1 to 5 acres of land. Many of the poor agriculturists feel to-day that they would be happy if the Government would take over the land from them and pay them something annually or monthly for their barest maintenance. But the question of taxation is a very important problem and it cannot be tackled so easily or so lightly. I do not want to go into the details of taxation or into the question of solving this problem of the burden of taxation on the agriculturists. But one thing I may be permitted to suggest, and that is that Government should pursue a policy by which agricultural produce of the ryots beyond certain quantities should only be taxed and that the agriculturists who are so poor and cannot bear the burden of taxation should be relieved of it. I put forth this plea on the ground that agriculture is considered as an industry and as such why should it be discriminated from any other industry or any other avocation. Commerce and industry when brought under income-tax are given certain margin for not only the existence of those who are engaged in them, but certain comforts also. As at present, I believe a member of an industrial or commercial avocation is taxed only if his income goes beyond Rs. 2,000. May I ask whether at least 300 or 500 rupees a year could not be allowed as a margin for all poor agriculturists. If Rs. 300 is allowed it gives only Rs. 25 for an agriculturist a month to maintain his wife and five or six children and in some cases a widowed mother and with some sisters too. I should think that Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 or even Rs. 50 a month

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would not be a very large amount for an agriculturist. Then again I put the question to the Government that if what I learn is true that the plantations in the forest areas of Malabar and other parts of the province, of tea, rubber, coffee, orange, etc., are taxed only lower than even paddy fields or garden lands, why this discrimination should be allowed to go on? If plantations could give fat dividends to the planters, I do not know why the poor peasants should be burdened with heavy taxation and these rich people who are living luxuriously on the income from the plantation should be let alone. When the cry of labour comes up, when red flags and red posters go about demonstrating, the people only know of the industrial labour. There is a section of labour in the forest regions of our Presidency who are uncared for and unknown to the people who sit here. I am glad the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture had an occasion very recently to visit the plantations and I also know the Minister for Labour and Industries had also been to some other plantations in Malabar. But I do not know how far they have been able to see through the real conditions of labour in the plantations. The Hon. Mr. Giri was taken round in the car of Mr. MacEwen, Collector of Malabar. I do not know how far the Hon. Minister was free to move about among the labourers and to know about their grievances. If the reports from the newspapers are to be relied upon, I should think, the Hon. Minister, Mr. Muniswami Pillai also could have had no better chance of knowing the bitter conditions of labour in plantations. I want the Hon. Ministers of this Congress Government to eschew these ceremonial visits and take to closer study of the real conditions of people in their charge."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members of the right wing are expected to speak in reply to observations made by those on the left wing; but the position is exactly topsy-turvy here. (Laughter.) The hon. Member is making an original comment which has to be replied to by the Ministers. He may go on with his speech."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—"I am speaking, Sir, in reply to certain points they have raised. (Laughter.) I began my speech saying that the Opposition is mighty glad with the Budget presented. I wanted to tell the House, Sir, that we feel that the Budget of the Hon. the Finance Minister must have gone further."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member must kindly understand that the members of the right wing are expected to answer the points raised by those on the left wing so as to keep the debate lively. But, if he wants to comment upon the Budget and criticise the Government as a member of this House, he is at liberty to do so. (Hear, hear.)"

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—"I am sorry, Sir, I have to say that I am not misusing my liberty. I am only making suggestions which must be considered by the Hon. Ministers. I want to tell them that the country is on the tip toe of expectation. I want to tell the Hon. Ministers, although they are warned against borrowing, although the Opposition is much satisfied with the Budget and about

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the financial proposals of the Hon. the Finance Minister, that this is not a Budget expected by this side of the House." (Laughter.)

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"He is technically within his rights in doing so."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—"Then, coming to education, Sir, there is the proposal, which is agitating the minds of the public, on closing down all uneconomic schools. I beg to assure the Hon. Minister for Education that I will be the last to ask the Government to keep up uneconomic schools and waste the public finances, but at the same time, I want him to consider this point of view also, that simply because a certain school is uneconomic, i.e., by merely counting the heads of students attending the school, it should not be closed. I want the local boards to be instructed that wherever the attendance in schools are found to be uneconomical, the people of the locality must be warned sufficiently early, that the school is not showing sufficient attendance, and then only if conditions are not improved within a reasonable period, it should be closed. We, Sir, stand for free and compulsory primary education. We, Sir, stand for instituting all-round education, to make the people literate and closing down schools, whether economic or uneconomic will be taken by the layman as the Congress Ministry going against its pledges. Therefore, I want the Education Minister to be cautious in carrying out his policy of closing down uneconomic schools."

* Mr. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the present Budget so ably prepared and placed before the House by the Hon. the Premier."

"Sir, in considering the Budget, we have to keep in view certain fundamental principles. We should see in what order the funds have been allotted for the various activities of Government. If we look at it from that point of view, we would unhesitatingly come to the conclusion that the Budget has been very wisely prepared without having recourse to additional taxation. This Budget may be called the poor man's Budget as enough funds have been provided for rural uplift, expansion of village industries and so on. Prohibition has been extended to two more districts; grazing fees have been reduced by 50 per cent; and separate funds have been allotted for drinking water-supply. Just as a good housewife spends economically and caters to all the needs and tastes of the whole family, the Hon. the Premier has wisely and sympathetically attended to the needs of the masses."

"In this connexion, Sir, I want to say one word about the remarks made by Sir Pannirselvam regarding the preference given by the Hon. the Premier to khadi and other rural industries. This has been discussed time and again in this House. I therefore wish only to say to-day that this is the only industry which puts a few coppers into the hands of villagers and supplements their meagre earnings. I appeal to the Hon. the Premier to spend the moneys that have been allotted under the various heads in such a way that every pie of these moneys goes

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for the benefit of the poor man. These measures will enrich the poor man and make him happy and prosperous. Our country will by this means attain its former greatness. With these few words I resume my seat."

* Mr. K. SUBBA RAO:—

"సభాపతి! చక్కని చమత్కారమగు లోటుపాటులేని సరియైన జమాఖర్చు పట్టికను యీ సభకు సమర్పించినందుకు ఆర్థిక మంత్రిగారు చెప్పిన ఉత్సాహముతో రాయలసీమను పలుమారులు యీ సభాస్థలిని సందర్శించినందుకు వారికి వందనము యిచ్చుచున్నాను. రాయలసీమ వాస్తవ్యుల పరిస్థితులగురించి 4, 5 వోట్ల వారు విన్నవించినారు. డ్రామ పరిస్థితులగురించి, నీటి పారుదలగురించి చెప్పినప్పుడు, రాయలసీమ అనగా యేమో చెప్పుమని చాలామంది సభ్యులు ప్రశ్న వేసినారు. ఆర్థికసభ్యులు ప్రభుత్వంలో తమ ప్రశస్తిని సమయంలో యీ పదము ప్రయోగించుటకు యిది మొదటిసారి. రాయలసీమ అనగా, ఒకానొకనాడు అనేకమందికి అన్న దానం చేసి యీ దిశం తినుటకు తిండిలేక, కట్టుటకు గుడ్డలేక అవస్థపడుచు యీ ప్రభుత్వమునకు ఋణపడివున్న సీమ. ఈ కృతక చదివినప్పుడు యీ మదరాసు ప్రభుత్వంలో యీ భూభాగము యెంత పెద్దవిరుగుగా ఉన్నది తెలుసుకోగలరు. 1914 నుండి యీనాటివరకు ప్రభుత్వమువారు కోటి రూపాయలు రెమిడను famine గురించి యీ సీమలో ఖర్చుపెట్టినారు. ఇంత మొత్తము గవర్నమెంటు రాబడినుండి ఖర్చుపెట్టుటకు యెంత విరుగుగావున్నదో పూరించిన చాలా కష్టముగా నుండును. అయితే యీ సీమ యీ దుర్భర స్థితికి వచ్చుటకు కారణమేమో వారు ఆలోచించవలెనని ప్రార్థన చేయుచున్నాను. ఈ సామాన్య వర్ష సందర్భమున నేను యెక్కవగా యీ విషయమునుగూర్చి చెప్పనుగాని, యింత దీనావస్థ, దగ్గిరవాళ్లకు యీ సీమ వచ్చుటకు కారణము చక్కగ ప్రభుత్వవర్గములో ప్రాంతములయొక్క పరిస్థితులను విచారణచేసి, ఆలోచించి, దానికి తగిన సదుపాయములు చేయుటకు పూనుకొనే సభ్యులు లేరే. యీ రాయలసీమ మొట్టమొదట దండకారణ్యమైన ప్రాంతము. దీనికి విద్యారణ్యులు జీవప్రదములగు యేర్పాటుచేసి, చక్కని పరిస్థితులుచేసి యీ మదరాసు కోస్తాలో యెక్కడా లేనటువంటి చెరువులు కట్టించి అన్ని సదుపాయములు కల్పించినారు. ఇన్ని సంవత్సరములకు మరల విద్యారణ్యులవలె యీ మంత్రిగారు యీ సీమనుగురించి చెప్పుటకు పూనుకొన్నప్పుడు నేను చాలా సంతోషించినాను. ఈ ప్రాంతములో మొట్టమొదట విజయ నగర రాజుల ఆధికారములో చక్కని సదుపాయములు యేర్పడినవి. నీటి పారుదలకు గొప్ప చెరువులు మదరాసు కోస్తాలో లేనటువంటి యేర్పాటుచేసి కావలసిన నీరు నేకరించి పంపింపటకు యేర్పాటుచేసినారు. ఆ విజయనగర సామ్రాజ్యము అంతరించిన తరువాత మైసూరు రాజ్యమునకు యీ భూమి అధీనము అయినది. ఆతరువాత కర్ణాటకయుద్ధముల తరువాత నైజాముకు స్వాధీనమైనది. తరువాత బ్రిటిషువారికి cede చేయబడినది. అందుకు Ceded districts పేరు వచ్చినది. ఒక్క ప్రభుత్వము దీనిపైని సరిగా ఆలోచన చేయనందున యీ పరిస్థితి దీనికి వచ్చినది. ఆతరువాత బ్రిటిషు ప్రభుత్వము మనకు వచ్చినతరువాత మైసూరు ప్రాంతమునకు యీ ప్రాంతమునకు కలిగినటువంటి కట్టుబాట్లు తొలగించిన దానివలన యీ దుర్భరస్థితి దుఃఖస్థితి యీ జిల్లాలకు యేర్పడినదని నేను చెప్పగలను. 1892 వ సం॥ ఫిబ్రవరి 18 వ తారీఖున మైసూరు ప్రభుత్వమువారికిని బ్రిటిషు ప్రభుత్వమువారికిని agreement కు వదిలి అందులో యీ ప్రాంతములకు వచ్చే నీటి సదుపాయములకు అడ్డుచేయకూడదని చక్కగా వ్రాసినారు. కాని అనాటినుండి 1933 వ సంవత్సరం నెవ్వరినీ 4, 5 తారీఖుల వరకును వారు యెంతవరకు అడ్డుకునినారో ఆలోచన చేయలేదు. వచ్చే నీటి సదుపాయములకు

[Mr. K. Subba Rao]

[4th March 1938]

అభ్యుదయమునకును పనిచేయుచున్నది. ఇంకా విషయము యిక్కడ చెప్పవలసియున్నది. రెమిషన్ విషయములో ప్రతి సంవత్సరము ఆనేక లక్షల రూపాయలు యీ ప్రాంతములకు యిచ్చుచున్నారు. సామాన్యంగా యీ రెమిషన్ రక్కలబట్టిదూస్తే నేను మొదట చెప్పినట్లు 20 సంవత్సరములకు కోటి రూపాయలు రెమిషన్ యీ గవర్నమెంటువారు ఆ ప్రాంతములకు యిచ్చినారు. ఇన్ని సంవత్సరములు యీ రెమిషన్ యివ్వడం కాకావున్నది. వీరిని యీ దుర్భర స్థితినుంచి తప్పించుటకు మంత్రివర్గము వారు ఆలోచనచేయవలసిన ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను. ముఖ్యముగా మౌలికసౌకర్యములను, నీటి సదుపాయములు కలుగజేయుట, తరువాత చిన్నచిన్న కుటీర పరిశ్రమలు యేర్పాటుచేయుట వీ ముఖ్యమార్గములు. Famine గరించి పోయిన సంవత్సరము 16 లక్షల రూపాయలు ఖర్చు పెట్టినారు. అందులో 7 లక్షలు Administration charges కింద పోయినవి. నేను ప్రభుత్వమువారిని ప్రార్థనచేయడం యేమనగా, యీదిగల ఒకవిధముగా అసీమను అభివృద్ధిచేయ వలసినదే వీ కోట్ల రూపాయలు వీ రూపాయల వడ్డీతో లీసుకొని 5 సంవత్సరముల కార్యక్రమముచేస్తే, యీ ప్రభుత్వమునకు బరువులేకందా చేయగలరని చెప్పగలను. మంత్రివర్గమువారు దీనిని గమనించవలసిన ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను. 5 కోట్ల రక్కలపై వడ్డీ 15 లక్షలు. ఆ 15 లక్షలు famine కింద ప్రతి సంవత్సరము యీ జిల్లాలలో ఖర్చుపెట్టుచున్నారు. కనుక మంత్రివర్గమువారు పరిశ్రమలను అభివృద్ధిచేయుటకు యీ ప్రాంతములో యెక్కువ పనిచేయవలసివున్నది. బొబ్బిలి రాజాగారి మంత్రివర్గమున్నప్పుడు ఒక పెద్ద mill పెట్టవలసిన Provincial Economic Council వారు ప్రయత్నించారు. కుటీర పరిశ్రమలయందు అభివృద్ధి గలిగిన మంత్రివర్గమువారు వచ్చేవరకు ఆపని జరుగలేదు. ఇప్పుడు అవకాశం కలిగింది. ఇప్పుడైనా కుటీర పరిశ్రమలకు కంకణము కట్టుకొన్న కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వమువారు పూనుకొంటే యెక్కువ పనిచేయగలరని గట్టిగా చెప్పగలను. ఇప్పుడు ప్రయత్న పడి ఒక కోటి రూపాయలు కుటీర పరిశ్రమలకింద ఆ ప్రాంతములో ఖర్చుపెడితే, ఉపయోగమున్నది. వారు ప్రయత్నముచేస్తే, కాంగ్రెసు కంకణము కట్టుకొన్న కుటీర పరిశ్రమల వద్దటి చక్కగా అమలులో వుండునని యీ సభయందు మంత్రివర్గమువారికి చెప్పుచున్నాను. నీటి పారుదల సౌకర్యములు కనీసము వారు యిప్పుడు పూడిపోయిన చెరువులను చక్కపరచుట మొట్టమొదటి పని. ఈ Budget దూస్తే Minor irrigation works కు యిన్ని సంవత్సరములకంటే తక్కువ మొత్తం యేర్పాటు చేసినారు. రాయల సీమలో నిజంగా నీటి పారుదల సౌకర్యములు చేయవలసిన పెద్ద వ్యవహారం మొదలుపెట్టి వున్నది. 1926 వ సంవత్సరములో మద్రాసు ప్రభుత్వమువారు అప్పటి మంత్రివర్గమువారు ఆలోచన చేసి, ఒక Irrigation Committee యేర్పాటు చేసినారు. ఆ Irrigation Committee లో తుంగభద్ర Project తోపాటు ఆనేక చిన్న Project లతో యీ ప్రాంతమంతయు సస్య శ్యామలము చేయుటకు వసతులున్నవని సిఫారసు చేసినారు. కాని తుంగభద్ర వచ్చేవరకు ఆపుడల చేయవలసిన పద్ధతి లేదు. గవర్నమెంటువారు యేమీ చేయకుండా వున్నారు. తుంగభద్ర రావచ్చును. లేక రాకపోవచ్చును కాని చిన్న చిన్న నీటిపారుదల సౌకర్యములు యీ నాటినుంచి చక్కగా యేర్పాటుచేయవలసిన ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను. రెండవ విషయము—ముఖ్యముగా వారు bore wells గురించి చెప్పినారు. Electricity విషయము లేదు. ప్రభుత్వమువారు కొన్నాళ్ళకిందట Ceded districts లో thermal station పెట్టుటకు స్థిర సంకల్పం చేసుకొన్నారు. మద్రాసు గవర్నమెంటులో యెందుకు అది పోయినదో తెలియదు. దానికి బదులు చిన్న Bore wells system పెట్టవలసిన దూకుచున్నారు. కాని యేదైనా సరే experiment చేస్తున్నాము అంటున్నారు. తగిన వసతులు

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చిన్న చిన్న నీటి పారుదలకుమాదా వున్నవి. అసంతృప్తితో వెన్నా, పావగి, కర్నూలు జిల్లాలలో పొంది యింకా కొన్ని నదలు యెక్కువెక్కువ కలవో experiment గా కాకుండా, పెంటనే కావుల యేర్పాటుచేసి, నీరు సప్లయ చేయవలసిన వసతులు చేయవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను. ఇంకా విషయము. ఆంధ్ర దేశం మొత్తమునకు చెందినది broadcasting వున్నది. తిరుచినాపల్లిను, నైదామిలోను పెట్టబోతున్న యేర్పాటు చేస్తున్నారు. తెలుగు దేశంలో యెక్కువలేదు. తెలుగు దేశంలో broadcasting పెట్టించి తన సామాన్యమునకు తగిన ప్రపంచ జ్ఞానము అన్ని విషయాలూ యేర్పాటు చేయవలసిన. రెండవది అంతవరకు యిప్పుడు తిరుచినాపల్లి, నైదామి broadcast లో కనీసము సగము తెలుగు broadcast యేర్పాటు చేయవలసిన వారిని కోరుచున్నాను. ఇంకా విషయము. Prohibition: క్రిందికి రాయలసీమలో రెండు జిల్లాలు లీసుకొంటున్నారు. యింకా మూడు జిల్లాలు వచ్చే సంవత్సరం లీసుకొంటారు అనుకొంటాను. మూడు జిల్లాలు నిజమైన కార్యక్రమముచేయుటకు తగినవా అని మంత్రిలు వచ్చిచూచినారు. గవర్నమెంటువారు యిచ్చే ఆదా, అదాకానీ మాలి ఆంధ్రామాదా కల్లు అంగళ్లకు యిస్తువున్నారు. ఆ దుకాణములు లీసివేయవలసిన. అన్ని ప్రాంతములలో నీరు ఖర్చు పెట్టే 15 లక్షలరూపాయల కల్లు అంగళ్లు పోగాల్సి యేర్పాటు చేయవలసిన. మిగిలిన మూడు జిల్లాలకుమాదా జాగ్రతగా Prohibition area క్రింద లీసుకొని రావలసిన ప్రార్థన చేస్తున్నాను. 75 లక్షలు remission యిస్తువున్నారు. నేను ఆ ప్రాంతములో సంచారం చేసినప్పుడు నీటి సౌకర్యములు కలుగజేస్తూ remission యివ్వకుండావంటే మంచిదా అంటే, 75 లక్షల రూపాయలు నీటి సౌకర్యములకు ఖర్చు పెట్టమన్నారు. గవర్నమెంటువారు 75 లక్షలు remission యివ్వటంకంటే దీనిని నీటి పారుదల సౌకర్యములకు ఖర్చుపెడితే, ప్రజలకు ఉపయోగం యెక్కువ. గవర్నమెంటు వరులందరికీగూ యెక్కువ ప్రయోగముగా నుండునని చెప్పుచున్నాను.

* Mr. E. KANNAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Harijan representatives I wish to express my gratitude to the Hon. the Prime Minister and the Government for the allotment they have made for the welfare of the Harijan classes. In the course of the discussion of the Poona Pact and at the conferences that followed it, along with other leaders of the Hindu community, the Hon. the Prime Minister gave us the assurance that when the nationalist party came to power, the question of the amelioration of the depressed classes would receive their anxious and very immediate attention. I am glad that the Hon. the Prime Minister has been true to his promises and he has not only exhibited his sympathy by public utterances but by practical measures. As Prime Minister of the Madras Government, he has given effect to his promises. We are very much satisfied with the token of sympathy on the part of the Government and I am sure that, in the hands of the Congress, the fate of the depressed classes is very safe. When Government have given us Rs. 2½ lakhs and more I wish to draw their attention to certain features connected with the way in which the money allotted for this minority community is spent. I find from the Budget speech of the Hon. the Finance Minister that the money is going to be spent through the Labour Department. I have to say that for the last several years in this Presidency, the allotment for the depressed classes has been spent in a most unsatisfactory manner. If the money is going to be spent in the name of the depressed classes, as it is being

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done in Malabar, I think it will be a criminal waste of public funds. Times without number the representatives of the depressed classes have complained to the Government that the Labour Department is conducting its operations in a most unsatisfactory manner. Opening of schools in places where they are not wanted and in the teeth of the opposition of the Harijans themselves, maintaining hostels in a manner not conducive to the good of the community and sinking of wells where they are not wanted, have been the familiar features of the Labour Department for the last several years. I appeal to the Government and particularly to the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject, to look into these things soon and see that the money is not wasted. I am very sorry to see that separate schools for depressed classes are being still continued. As the Labour Commissioner says, where the opposition from the caste Hindus is very great, the opening of separate schools is justified. But I cannot understand why separate schools are opened and maintained in localities where there is no caste Hindu opposition and in localities where there are very many schools where the children of the depressed classes can be educated. I need not tell the House that from the point of view of the particular problem of the depressed classes, the existence of separate schools seems to be outrageous and from the point of view of national solidarity, it is scandalous. I think the Government would be good enough to do away with these separate schools as early as possible and to allow the children of the depressed classes to mingle with the children of the other communities to enable them to have the spirit of national unity.

"I am a little bit constrained to refer to the question of legislation against anti-touchability; Travancore Government have shown us the way; Indore has followed it and I do not know why the Provincial Governments should hesitate in the matter. From the utterances of the various Ministers, we are led to understand that there are certain difficulties which they cannot ignore for the time being. We, members of the depressed classes, certainly appreciate their difficulties and if there are difficulties for the Government for passing the anti-touchability legislation, we will certainly wait. But one cannot understand whether there should be any reasonable difficulty for Government to move in this matter. But the Madras Government particularly under the Congress influence have always given the lead to other provinces in many matters; and in this matter I think the Madras Government will not wait to follow other provinces, but will lead them.

"Sir, with regard to the question of prohibition, when the Hon. the Prime Minister brought forward his Bill last time, some Members of the Opposition were expressing some misgivings about the success of the scheme. We are now glad to find that none of those gentlemen has turned out to be a prophet; the Prohibition scheme is a success and it will be a success so long as everybody takes it in the proper spirit. I emphasise this point because among the various ameliorative measures for the depressed classes, there is nothing more effective and more beneficial than the Scheme of Prohibition. I am glad that in

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spite of the financial limitations and in spite of other difficulties confronting them, the Government have taken up the question of the amelioration of the depressed classes in right earnest, and I hope that with the co-operation of the House, the question will be pushed forward with all the energy and earnestness we can command so that these people also may come in line with the rest of the people in this country."

* Mr. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to thank the Hon. Premier and the other Members of the Government—especially the Hon. Mr. Muniswami Pillai and his Secretary, Mr. Varadachariyar—on behalf of North Arcot for the proposed reduction of grazing fees by 50 per cent. Members from East Godavari, Kistna, Tanjore and other deltaic areas will not be able to appreciate the benefit that will be conferred by such reduction on the ryot population that live near the forest areas, in North Arcot, Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah and other districts. The Congress Party will surely become a more popular party in these areas. Prohibition will make, at least the Excise contractors, the enemies of the Congress. The Agricultural Debt Relief Bill may alienate the money-lender; cuts in salaries may make some Government officials lose their sympathy for the Congress. Prohibition will give relief to a minority of the ryot population in the districts in which it has been introduced because the majority of the ryots are not addicted to drink. But the removal of forest grievances like the reduction of grazing fees and the reduction of land revenue will give great relief to one and all of the ryots. Permanent reduction of land revenue is long overdue. There are several other grievances connected with land revenue and irrigation questions. Several hon. Members have stated that the irrigation charges are very heavy. The Collectors and other officers demand contribution from the ayacutdars for repairs to minor irrigation and other irrigation sources without taking into consideration whether there was any neglect on the part of the ryot in doing kudimaramat work. There are several pin-pricks like this from which the ryots are suffering, things like faslijasti, thirvajasti, getting permission for utilizing water from one ayacut to another ayacut. These must be solved. No provision has been made for starting a factory for the manufacture of artificial manure like bone-meal by the Government and supplying it to the ryots after examining the soil. Next to the condition of the soil and facilities for irrigation, manure is most essential to agriculture. The soil that is being exhausted on account of repeated cultivation by the ryot for want of any other occupation, has to be recouped. Manure leaves must therefore be supplied to the ryot wherever they are available at a reasonable cost, from the adjacent reserved forests. I hope the Government will pay attention to these matters at their earliest convenience.

"Then, Sir, I wish to refer to the hydro-electric lines running from one end of the country to the other, something like the Ganges water which flows from its source up to Haridwar but not being useful for those who live on the banks for irrigation purposes. Because there is no provision made for the supply of electricity at a cheap rate for

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agricultural purposes by constructing transformers or sub-stations wherever convenient. These things must be attended to and electricity must be made available to the people at cheap rates for agricultural purposes. Then, Sir, some of the hon. Members made some distinction between the bigger ryot and the smaller ryot. There are two systems in this Presidency, the zamindari system and the ryotwari system and I cannot understand why any discrimination should be made between the bigger landholders and the smaller landholders. From my experience in my district, I know that the bigger landholders are suffering indeed more than the smaller landholders. Therefore, Sir, when the question of taxation is taken into consideration I hope the bigger landholders will not be singled out for more taxation. Once more, Sir, I thank the Hon. the Premier and the Members of the Government for the sound Budget they have been able to produce and for the other concessions they have given."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I suppose there are no more speakers."

KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"There are, Sir."

* MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Sir, finding no speakers and thinking that the same thing that happened last night may happen to-night also, I get up to say a few words. So far as the Budget goes, it is very commendable. Certain of our friends made criticisms about the Budget and this, I suppose, is because they have not studied the Budget well and I may be pardoned for saying that."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—"I want to explain. If certain suggestions were made, it did not mean that we took away our support for the Budget."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may explain why that observation was necessary. The hon. Member may kindly speak through the phone, if he is very particular about his observations being heard by all."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Nothing more can be done by the Congress Government than what it has done in this Budget. This Budget gives a remission of about Rs. 75 lakhs. This goes to the benefit of the poor as well as the rich ryot. There is of course no question that the small persons alone holding small areas are benefited altogether. I think it is a matter of detail. With regard to water-supply a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs has been set apart for work in rural areas in that direction. Out of this amount Rs. 5 lakhs will be spent within the Budget year. And as regards loans to small agriculturists, a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been set apart. And as regards the grazing fees, they have been reduced to half and everybody is satisfied with it. For the Harijans ample provision has been made by setting apart a decent sum. That is appreciated very much."

"My friend, Mr. Krishnamurthi, said that nothing has been done for labour. I am afraid he is entirely under a mistaken impression."

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The greatest thing that has been done for the labourer is the introduction of prohibition. Not only in the Salem district has prohibition been introduced, but now it is going to be extended to two more districts and this prohibition in fullness of time will be extended to all the other districts of the province. (Interruption by an hon. Member.) My hon. Friend is right. This prohibition helps the labourer most. This not only helps the industrial labourer but also the other kinds of labourers as well. So far as this Budget goes, nothing more can be desired."

"Now, as regards borrowing funds, one or two of the hon. Members of the Opposition took objection. I do not know whether they have appreciated the point of view of the Government. If we spend money on irrigation, electricity or some other enterprise even by borrowing, it will do immense good to the country and it will not in any way affect this Budget. The money that will be borrowed this year is to the extent of Rs. 175 lakhs. The money that will be invested in remunerative enterprises is to the extent of 222 lakhs which is much in excess of the loan the Government propose floating. So it means we are investing more money in remunerative enterprises than we are borrowing. That means that we are adopting the same system which is prevailing in every country and which every wise Government ought to adopt."

"And now, speaking about the remarks of Mr. Langley I suppose Mr. Krishnamurthi has given a reply; but I am afraid it is rather sharp. Mr. Langley and his group of men want cheap labour; and they say that the labourers must be free from disease and they should keep themselves very fit for their work. They do not want to pay more wages. They want that their dividend should go higher and higher and they have no sympathy for the labourer."

MR. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—"I may assure my friend that we would pay labour as much as we possibly can, consistent with reasonable profits to us."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"I am glad that my hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, is willing to pay more to the labourers if he gets good profits. Even the previous Governments sided with the capitalists; that was the attitude. And the other remarks made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, were with regard to the agitators, those who wanted to help the labourers. They are not merely agitators. If the labourers cannot help themselves there must be some persons to help them. My friend Mr. Langley has got great experience and he knows what is happening in other countries. He must take these things into consideration. India cannot be an exception to the general order or even with reference to the general rule. We should see how other people are helping the labourers. We cannot any longer say that the labourer is born to serve only the other persons, and he must be satisfied with the fodder that he is given. The conditions have changed. Even Mr. Langley and his group must recognize the point of view of the labourer. They have got very good experience and they can help us; they are only

[Mr. K. V. R. Swami]

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careful about their affairs. They want peaceful labour, peaceful conditions and no taxes, and the Premier is advised to look to these things. They want roads for rural areas; how can that help the labourer? Has he got any motor car or has he got any commodity to be taken to the market? What he wants is food first. That is the most important question. Mr. Langley should think of the conditions of the rural areas and he should help those who are interested in labour.

"Our European friends are living in this country and they are making money on account of their investments here and they should have some sympathy for this country. If that view had been taken, Mr. Langley would have advised the Hon. the Premier, as others did, to improve the industries of the country and to make this country self-sufficient and in that way my friends can help. As regards the Budget they are not in favour of certain things. They want two things; one is to continue the sale of drinks; that is the first thing they want. The other thing is that they do not want agitation; they do not want that labourers should be told what their needs are and how their conditions can be bettered. That, I beg to say, ought not to be the attitude of these people, because we know what has happened in Russia and what is now happening elsewhere. So I request my hon. Friend and his group of men to take a liberal view of the matter and also to help this country.

"I would also, Sir, like to suggest a few things, because it has been a habit of mine always. I am always thinking of the industrial development of the country. I am sorry that much has not been given to industry. That is not the fault of the Hon. the Premier; but I think it is because my young energetic and very capable friend, the Hon. Mr. V. V. Giri, the Minister, has been a little slack. (Laughter.) My friend has multifarious duties and I think my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnamurthi and his party have been giving him very much trouble. (Laughter.) I am sure that the Minister could manage all the labour strikes in the whole of India, but he could not manage the strikes here easily because they do not listen to his advice. We must have confidence in our own people; we have seen what he has done for labour. My friend Mr. Krishnamurthi asks him, 'Why should you not do all those things for labour that have been done in England?' In this Province of Madras conditions are different. So far as Bombay is concerned it is in no way inferior to Manchester and the conditions prevailing in Bombay are exactly similar to those in Manchester. My hon. Friend Mr. Krishnamurthi is thinking that the Hon. the Premier is not very attentive to labour problems. We are not sharing the views of our hon. Friend. Mr. Krishnamurthi wants that everything should be done now and at once for the labour. But I say the Legislature after some time will help the labourers."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The House is now adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. to-morrow."

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 5th March 1938.

The House met in the Assembly Building, Chepauk, at three of the clock, MR. SPEAKER (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Protest against the alleged proposal of Government to invest the village munsif of Bellupada (Ichapuram) with the powers of a village court.

* 269 Q.—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any petition was received by Government about the high-handed interference of the village munsif of Bellupada (Ichapuram) in the panchayat board elections;

(b) whether the Government are aware that he, along with some others, was responsible for beating Congress volunteers when they were going through the bazaar in a peaceful procession;

(c) whether the Government are aware that he had intimidated and threatened voters not to vote for the Congress candidates openly in several wards, taking advantage of his position as a village munsif and bench magistrate;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to confer on him the powers of a village court at present;

(e) whether the Government would consider it desirable to entrust the powers of a village court to an individual who is a partisan and who had always identified himself with one party or the other during elections; and

(f) what action the Government have taken or propose to take against the said village munsif and whether the Government at least propose to hold an open enquiry as was demanded by the petitioners?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) In September 1937, the Government received a petition, dated 27th August 1937, containing certain allegations against the headman of Bellupada village regarding his interference in the panchayat board elections. The petition was transferred to the Board of Revenue for disposal.

" (b) & (c) The Government are not aware that the facts are as stated.

[5th March 1938]

"(d) The Government have no information.

"(e) Does not arise.

"(f) No action on the part of Government is necessary as the local Revenue Officers are competent to deal with the matter."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"Is the Government aware that the Tahsildar Magistrate and the Collector had lodged the original petition in the first instance without making any enquiries into the matter, and that only after the Revenue Board reference was received the subject was taken up for enquiry?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"I think they have only done well to enquire into the matter when it was referred to them."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"If I heard the Parliamentary Secretary correctly, I think the answer given to (d) was 'The Government have no information.' But the question is 'whether it is a fact that the Government propose to confer on him the powers of a village court at present.' I think the answer may not be quite suitable to the question."

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"There seems to be some terminological inexactitude."

Assignment of assessed unoccupied land for cultivation.

* 270 Q.—MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what the total area of occupied and unoccupied Government assessed cultivable land in Makalanayakanahalli hamlet in Ramayanahalli village, Harur taluk, is;

(b) what the extent of occupied Government assessed land is;

(c) whether the unoccupied Government assessed land is available for assignment for cultivation;

(d) if not, why not;

(e) whether the unoccupied Government assessed land was converted into panchayat forest;

(f) if so, when;

(g) whether the assessed unoccupied land was available for assignment before 1902 Revenue Settlement;

(h) whether any representation was made by the people of Ramayanahalli and adjoining villages in respect of the assignment of the unoccupied land; and

(i) what the policy of the Government is in respect of the assignment of assessed unoccupied land in general?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—" (a) to (h) The Government have no information.

"(i) The Government are considering the question."

[5th March 1938]

Location of channels from the Palar and its tributaries in the North Arcot district.

* 271 Q.—MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of river channels from the Palar river and its tributaries in the district of North Arcot; and

(b) whether there is any record to locate the head of such river channels or the exact place where they take their source on the river beds?

MR. K. R. KARANT (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. Yakub Hasan:—" (a) The particulars are given below:—

River channels (including channels fed by irrigation systems) in charge of the Public Works Department.	47
River channels in charge of the Revenue Department.	193

Total ...	240
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"(b) The location of the head and the exact place of the source of the river channels in charge of the Public Works Department is indicated in the map attached to the list of minor works, Public Works Department, for the district and in the Tank Restoration Scheme memoirs and group maps of the minor basins concerned. Similar information in regard to channels in charge of the Revenue Department is not available in a majority of cases. In a few cases where the information is available in the "Water—Mamool nama," the places mentioned cannot now be identified owing to constant changes in the bed of the river during floods."

Uneconomical primary schools in the Province.

* 272 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) how many primary schools in this province are declared to be uneconomical;

(b) what the average strength of each is;

(c) the number of teachers that are employed in those schools which are proposed to be abolished; and

(d) the average pay of each teacher during last year?

MR. C. J. VARKEY (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—" (a) Recommendations were made to the District Educational Councils in regard to 206 uneconomic board schools and 627 uneconomic schools under private management.

"(b) Approximately 16.

"(c) The schools were all single-teacher schools.

"(d) The Government have no information."

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MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I know how the Government is concerned in regard to the schools under private managements? "

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—" Though they are managed by private agencies, Government are financing them to a certain extent."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" Is it by way of paying at so much per boy? "

MR. C. J. VARKEY:—" No, it is by the usual method of allotting grants."

Official dress for Government servants.

* 273 Q.—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that when the touring Veterinary Assistant Surgeon appeared in his national costume before Mr. Venkataratnam Chetti, G.M.V.C., the District Veterinary Officer at Calicut, at the end of October 1937, he was asked to get back and dress in the proper way; and

(b) if so, why he was asked to do so in spite of the Government communiqué regarding dress of Government servants?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) & (b) The Government understand that the allegation is not true."

Cases of illicit distillation in the Salem district since the introduction of prohibition in the district.

* 274 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases of illicit distillation reported since prohibition was started in Salem district on 1st October 1937;

(b) the number of cases compounded, if any; and

(c) the number of cases prosecuted up till now?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (a) 54 up to 9th February 1938.

" (b) The cases are not compoundable.

" (c) 49 up to 9th February 1938."

Silk cloth produced by the factories working in this Province.

* 275 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the total production of silk cloth by the factories working in this province;

(b) the value of such production; and

(c) whether the same is consumed in the province or exported to foreign countries?

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THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (a) & (b) No figures of quantity or value are available.

" (c) Most of it seems to be consumed locally, though a certain amount of export takes place to Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and the Punjab. Details of exports to foreign countries by sea from this province for the year 1934-35 and 1935-36 are furnished below:—

	1934-35.	1935-36.
	RS.	RS.
Goods of silk mixed with other materials.	31,153	68,544
Piece goods	95,292	36,246
Total ..	1,26,445	1,04,790"

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" Is it possible to get figures with regard to the other articles? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" The department will consider the question."

Names, qualifications and scales of pay of the several secretaries to district boards in the province.

* 276 Q.—MR. H. S. HUSSAIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) how many district boards in the province have got secretaries;

(b) what the respective names, qualifications and scales of pay of these secretaries are; and

(c) whether any distinction is made in the scales of pay of these secretaries, and if so, why?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) All the district boards in the province have got secretaries.

" (b) A statement^a as on 18th February 1938 is laid on the table of the House.

" (c) Varying scales of pay have been fixed for secretaries of district boards with reference to the size and importance of district boards or the qualifications, merit and ability of the incumbents of the posts."

MR. T. S. CHOKKALINGAM PILLAI:—" Will the Government consider the desirability of abolishing the grade of Rs. 250—25/2—400 in the case of secretaries of district boards since they are now executive officers, and the scale is too much? "

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It is under the consideration of the Government."

[5th March 1938]

Alleged maladministration of the Madurantakam Panchayat Board.

* 277 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the audit report of the year 1936 of the Madurantakam Panchayat Board shows that the state of affairs of the board is very bad; and

(b) if so, why no action was taken by the Government till now on that report?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) The Government have no information.

“(b) The duty of dealing with the audit reports of panchayat boards has been entrusted to presidents of district boards.”

Grants made to village panchayats by the District Economic Councils.

* 278 Q.—MR. N. RANGA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) what were the conditions imposed by Government for drawing the grant made to village panchayats by the District Economic Council;

(b) whether any order was issued to the panchayats that contribution should not be made from the panchayat funds for drawing the grant and if so, on what date;

(c) whether panchayats executed the works by contributing from the panchayat funds and if so, the number of such panchayats; and

(d) whether the Inspector of Local Boards has objected to the same?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“(a) The only condition imposed by Government in regard to the disbursement of the Government of India grant by District Economic Councils was that the rural area to be benefited should contribute a third of the cost of the schemes financed from the grant.

“(b) No such orders have been issued. On the other hand, Collectors have been permitted to accept contributions from panchayats in cases where all attempts to obtain contributions from villagers have definitely failed.

“(c) Yes. In the Cuddapah district, for example, six works have been executed with a contribution of one-third of the cost of the works from the panchayat funds. The Government have no information about other districts.

“(d) The answer is in the negative.”

[5th March 1938]

Reinstatement of the village officers dismissed on account of their participation in the non-co-operation and civil disobedience movements.

* 279 Q.—MR. KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government were pleased to pass any orders as regards the restoration of the village officers dismissed in the non-co-operation and civil disobedience movements; and

(b) if so, whether the Hon. Minister will place the list of persons so restored on the table of the House?

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The cases of 27 village officers have been disposed of. Seventeen have been ordered to be restored to their posts. The rest were found to be not cases wherein restoration could be ordered with good reason. Other cases are being examined in due course.

“(b) Orders are being intimated from time to time as and when they are passed. The list will be placed on the table as soon as it is got ready printed.”

MR. KALA VENKATA RAO:—“May I request the Hon. the Revenue Minister to read the list of the seventeen names of those restored?”

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“The names are . . .”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Cannot the Government lay the list on the table? It is a long list of names and so it may be placed on the table.”

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“Sir, it will be done before this evening.”

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“May I know, Sir, whether there are any revenue inspectors who have been dismissed in the non-co-operation movement under similar circumstances and have applied for restoration?”

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“It does not arise out of this question.”

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether there are still some more petitions pending disposal in respect of the various cases and appeals connected therewith?”

THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—“As I have already stated, there are some more petitions and they could not be disposed of because the reports called for have not arrived yet.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“As regards the Short Notice question (No. 280) of Mr. Hussain, the Hon. the Minister wants ordinary notice and it will be answered in due course.”

[5th March 1938]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Education of the backward community in certain taluks of the Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts.

150 Q.—MR. P. PEDDA PADALU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) how many high schools, higher elementary schools and elementary schools there are in Srungavarapukota taluk and Gudem taluk, Vizagapatam district, and Yellavaram taluk, East Godavari district, for the backward community;

(b) if there are high schools and higher elementary schools, in what places they are situated; and

(c) the number of educated people in those areas and the number of such educated people that are without employment?

A.—(a) & (b)—There is a middle school at Srungavarapukota (plains) under the management of the District Board, Vizagapatam. It is not, however, specially intended for the backward communities. There are no higher elementary schools in any of the three areas referred to in the question. There are 89 lower elementary schools, 9 in Srungavarapukota taluk (8 in the plains and 1 in the agency tracts), 42 in the Gudem and 38 in the Yellavaram taluks. The eight elementary schools in the plains portion of the Srungavarapukota taluk are intended for the backward communities. The other schools in the Srungavarapukota and Gudem taluks are intended for the aboriginal and hill tribes. The schools in the Yellavaram taluk generally serve all communities and the mission schools which are 13 in number are intended for the depressed classes.

(c) The Government have no information.

Expenditure on account of the stay at Ootacamund of the Commissioners of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board during the summer of 1937.

151 Q.—MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that all or any of the Commissioners of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board were camping at Ootacamund for the summer recess of 1937, and if so, how long;

(b) whether the Commissioners transacted any official business at Ootacamund; and

(c) what the total expenditure involved on account of this summer exodus of the Commissioners is?

[5th March 1938]

A.—(a) Four Commissioners stayed at Ootacamund between 9th May 1937 and 22nd June 1937 under orders of Government. The President of the Board stayed in Ootacamund from 10th May 1937 to 21st May 1937 in his capacity as Commissioner in charge of the Nilgiri district.

(b) Yes.

(c) The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 236-3-6—Rs. 94-6-6 on account of the transmission of files, and the balance Rs. 141-13-0 on account of the travelling allowance and daily allowance of the clerks and peons who accompanied the Commissioners to the hills.

Measures for the preservation of the Pallava gopuram and the thousand-pillared mantapam of Sri Ekambareswaraswami temple at Conjeeveram.

152 Q.—MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that cracks have appeared in the Pallava gopuram of Sri Ekambareswaraswami temple at Conjeeveram;

(b) whether it is a fact that 300 pillars have fallen away in the thousand-pillared mantapam of Sri Ekambareswaraswami temple;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that both the Pallava gopuram and thousand-pillared mantapam are ancient monuments; and

(d) whether the Government took any steps to preserve the same; and if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) & (d) The gopuram and the mantapam are not Central Protected Ancient monuments, nor are they included in the list of historical monuments. Their preservation by the Government does not, therefore, arise. The question whether this should be declared a protected monument will be considered.

Insufficiency of accommodation for the Muhammadan High School, Guntur.

153 Q.—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(a) whether the accommodation for four classes out of eight is insufficient for the Muhammadan High School, Guntur, at the rate of 11 square feet per pupil as required by rules;

(b) whether ordinary classes are being located in the laboratory and manual training shed for want of accommodation; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Education department to provide the required accommodation for the school?

[5th March 1938]

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes; two classes.

(c) Proposals for constructing additional class-rooms have been under consideration for some time past, but it has not been possible to undertake the work for financial reasons. The question of erecting a temporary shed is now under consideration.

Payment of travelling allowance to certain elementary school teachers transferred by the Labour department in the South Kanara district.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the teachers have been transferred by the Labour department in South Kanara on the recommendation of the Deputy Inspector of Schools;

(b) the number of elementary school teachers transferred from one place to another place last month, and the grounds on which they were transferred;

(c) the number of transfers effected;

(d) whether the teachers concerned were given travelling allowance; and

(e) what was the total amount paid as travelling allowance?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Two teachers were transferred on administrative grounds

(c) Two.

(d) & (e) The travelling allowance due comes to approximately Rs. 13-8-0 but has not yet been paid.

District Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors serving in this Province.

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

(a) the number of District Labour Officers serving in the Madras Presidency;

(b) the number of Non-Brahmans, Indian Christians, Muslims, Brahmans and Depressed Classes among them;

(c) the number of Labour Inspectors serving in the Madras Presidency; and

(d) their starting scale of pay?

A.—(a) Fourteen.

(b) Five Non-Brahmans, four Indian Christians, four Muslims and one Brahman.

(c) Nineteen.

(d) Rs. 30.

[5th March 1938]

Education of prisoners in jails.

156 Q.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) the percentage of prisoners who were regularly given education last year;

(b) the agency employed—whether paid teachers or educated men among the prisoners; and

(c) the cost incurred on the education of prisoners last year including the books and stationery purchased for them?

A.—(a) 25.10 per cent.

(b) Paid teachers were employed in all the jails except the Wellesley Sanatorium Jail, Bellary. Educated prisoners were also employed as teachers in six jails.

(c) Rs. 16,922-4-11.

Continuance in office of the Chairman of the Udamalpet Municipal Council after his absence from three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Council.

157 Q.—MR. S. KRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the present Chairman, Mr. U. S. Sivasubramania Goundar, absented himself from three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Udamalpet Municipal Council towards the end of the year 1935, and whether he has continued unauthorized as Chairman in contravention of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 50 of the District Municipalities Act and the other provisions therein;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what action the Government propose to take against him for continuing illegally and unauthorizedly as such; and

(c) whether any action is contemplated by the Government in view of the resolution of the Council on the 28th August 1937, condemning the action of the Chairman, in not answering the interpellations of certain Congress Councillors, and adjourning the House as a pretext for the same?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Alleged Maladministration of the Udamalpet Municipality.

158 Q.—MR. S. KRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether any petition signed by five Municipal Councillors of Udamalpet Municipality has been received by the Government; and

[5th March 1938]

(b) what action the Government propose to take to rectify the defects in the administration of the municipality by the Chairman and the Commissioner?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have received a petition, dated 28th January 1938, signed by four Municipal Councillors of Udumalpet which is under consideration.

Grant of City allowance to the non-pensionable Government servants transferred to the City from the mufassal.

159 Q.—MR. P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(a) whether non-pensionable Government servants in the Jail Department who are transferred to the City from the mufassal on account of exigencies of service are allowed to draw the City allowance; and

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, what the number is of such employees in receipt of the allowance, and if the answer be in the negative—

(i) what the number is of such persons who are not drawing the allowance; and

(ii) whether the Government will consider the need for granting the allowance in such cases?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) (i) The number of such persons who are not getting the allowance is three.

(ii) The question will be considered.

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

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1938-39—cont.

* MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“ Sir, yesterday, I was speaking on the question of labour. With regard to that, so far as this province is concerned, most of the labourers are agricultural labourers. There are no fixed wages paid to them in all localities but they are paid according to the occasion and the question adjusts itself between supply and demand.

“ With regard to the criticism about prohibition, it was said that though prohibition has been completely introduced in one district and though it is going to be extended to two other districts soon, the excise revenue is going up. It is of course true that revenue is going up but it is certainly due to some other causes. It is not true to say that revenue is going up because there is prohibition in one district. Some hon. Members seem to be under a misapprehension that on account of the introduction of the scheme of prohibition in one district, the people of the other districts are resorting to drink more extensively.

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“ The Excise revenue in 1920-21 was Rs. 5,45,00,000 and in 1929-30 it was Rs. 5,92,00,000. From that time forward it went down bit by bit. In 1930-31 it was Rs. 5,28,00,000; in 1931-32, Rupees 4,28,00,000; in 1932-33 it was Rs. 4,31,00,000; in 1933-34 it was Rs. 4,29,00,000; in 1934-35 it went down to Rs. 4,24,00,000; in 1935-36 the revenue was Rs. 4,11,00,000. In 1936-37, the revenue further went down to Rs. 4,00,00,000. Of course during the previous year a portion of this Presidency was transferred to Orissa. But in 1937-38 it showed a slight increase and went up to Rs. 4,03,00,000. It would thus be seen that the Excise revenue was the highest in 1928-29. It went down gradually from that year on account of the depression. The prices were going down and the depression began in full swing. As there was a rise in prices there was also a rise in Excise revenue. The reason is not as stated. It is not as if people in other districts are drinking more intensively and on account of that the revenue has gone up.

“ Much has been made about the crushing of the motor industry by taxing motor vehicles. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, submitted, all the traffic was being carried by bullock carts. In the villages the only occupation other than agriculture—if not the only one, at least one of the major means—is carrying agricultural produce for hire. They are now being deprived of that now and it is but just that the tax should be levied on motor lorries and some portion of it must go to the benefit of the village. It is not right that we should burden an already overburdened person, namely, the agriculturist.

“ Sir, it has been said that it is unwise to release persons from jail before their term was over; for it would be construed that the Government were sitting in judgment over the verdicts of courts and thereby the sanctity of their findings would be violated. The hon. Member representing the Indian Chamber of Commerce said that it was done only with a view to save some money. The only reason is that a person ought not to be kept in prison for very very long when he is convicted for certain offences. It is not as if the Government are revising the judgment or sitting in appeal over the findings of the courts. The release is ordered under certain conditions. Hon. Members know that in some countries a person undergoing a sentence is sometimes allowed to live with his family for a month or two. It is being done so that he may not lose contact with his family. Such a system does not obtain in this country. The Government are only releasing persons who are convicted for the first time and such persons who were convicted for offences which will not be repeated even if they were released before the expiry of their sentences.

“ It is said that enough money has not been provided even for paying”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Does the hon. Member want to cover the whole field and reply to each Member? This is the last day of the general discussion and the Hon. the Premier will be giving an exhaustive reply.”

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MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"I am only trying to reply to some of the points. I will not be taking much time except to refer to certain points."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will conclude his observations soon."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"My hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, referred to the question of unemployment among the educated men and others. It is true that this matter is to be attended to; but it will take some time before the figures are gathered and it will perhaps be done in a way suggested by some hon. Members."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"And it may not be attended to. Is the hon. Member speaking on behalf of the Government when he says that it will be attended to?"

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"The Hon. the Premier is aware of all these things; and I feel confident that he would do something as he sees the necessity for it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I do not think it is open to the hon. Member to give an assurance on behalf of the Government."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"I am only expressing my hope. I have no right to give any assurance on behalf of the Government."

"It is said that the revenue from the Sale of Cloth Act is very low. But we have not received the complete figures. If they are calculated, I think that we would be getting Rs. 1,75,000. My hon. friend representing the Indian Chamber of Commerce has only taken into account the figures as they stand to-day; he has not looked into the figures that may ultimately be reached. If all the economic measures that are taken by the Government were taken into account, I am sure we would ultimately get about Rs. 38,75,000. We get so much on account of the introduction of the honorary system of medical service, conditional release of prisoners and things like that. So far as the budget goes, there is every attempt made by the Government to save money."

"The only other question I want to refer to is the question of the Andhra Province. This is a subject, I am afraid, which . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does not relate to the budget."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"None of the previous speakers touched on it. It is a very very important subject and it has been agitating the minds of the Andhras and they feel that it has been delayed rather too long. Two or three resolutions were passed in the old Legislative Council but they were not given effect to situated as things were at that time. Now that the Congress has taken the reins of Government in this province I hope it will be done as early as possible. This is a matter on which there are no two opinions so far as the Andhras are concerned. The area of the Andhra districts comes to 88,000 square miles and we have . . ."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"The details need not be gone into."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"And we have got a sufficient population there for a separate province. The services that the Andhra area gets are much smaller in proportion to the revenue it contributes to the exchequer of the province. Under these circumstances, it is expected that the Government in power would introduce this subject and carry it through the House without any delay whatsoever."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Mr. Speaker, my predecessors have already covered most of the ground that is relevantly connected with the appreciation of the budget. Therefore, Sir, I do not think much is left for me in that direction."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Then the hon. Member's speech would be short and sweet."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I would only confine myself to a cursory examination of some of the principles involved in budget and finance and also I beg to be allowed to make a few remarks on the policy that has been adumbrated by the Hon. Finance Minister. I must invite the attention of the Hon. Premier to the fact that if the budget memorandum is looked into, it would be seen that during the last 16 years, there have been surpluses in 11 years and deficits in 5 years. As a result of the surplus the Government were enabled to liquidate debts which they owed to the extent of 5½ crores of rupees. Three crores of rupees were used for paying off debts to the Government of India. During the last 16 years, pre-1921 debts and also subsequent debts incurred for the Mettur Dam and the Pykara Project Scheme have been liquidated to the extent stated already. Taking that on an average about thirty lakhs of rupees were annually paid off for debts, one would have expected that this year also, a like provision would have been made for the re-payment of pre-autonomy debt. No such provision has been made for this purpose. On the contrary nearly 3½ crores have been added to the debt of this province during the last two years. How do our liabilities compare with our assets? With a debt of nearly 15 or 16 crores, we have only a net asset of about 12 or 13 crores. I would submit for the Hon. Premier's consideration whether this is sound finance. There have been more debts than assets. In the circumstances, I would have very much liked that the annual payment of thirty lakhs was made towards our debts."

"Sir, coming to the augmentation of the revenues of this province, I must state that this budget does not contain any new scheme, any new idea as to how exactly the Government is going to increase its resources in spite of the large commitments that it has already undertaken and expects to undertake in the future."

"Taking for instance land revenue the budget does not show any means by which it is sought to be increased. No new lands have been brought under cultivation and the extent of cultivated lands remains . . ."

P.M.

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in the same old position. There is no possibility of the resources of Government increasing under the head of Land Revenue. On the other hand, under the head of Court-fees and Stamps there is a possibility of the resources of the province being reduced. This budget shows that there will be a still larger decline in that direction. I do not know what the Government are going to do to place this source of revenue on a steady and sound basis. Perhaps the Government may say that their policy is to reduce litigation. But how far that Utopian theory can be put into practice successfully is a matter of opinion. I do not think it will be possible to prevent people from resorting to litigation. As long as there is a tendency in human beings to be dishonest, to encroach on other's rights and to be covetous, as long as the sense of right and wrong is not properly developed in them, it will not be possible for the Government to prevent the citizens from resorting to courts of law and paying court-fees. The Government should have come forward with a proposal to prevent leakage in court-fees and stamps. Of course, they have appointed some officers for the purpose but it has not proved very effective and only the fringe of the problem has been touched. The Government should appoint a special officer experienced in this matter in order to revise the entire Court Fees Act in the light of the suggestions that have been made here and by the commissions appointed by the Government. Unless and until a special officer is appointed for the purpose there is no meaning in working on the theory of preventing litigation by means of propaganda.

"With regard to forests and industrial resources of the country I must say that they have been left untouched.

"With due deference to the Hon. the Minister for Industries I must say that he has only been dealing with strikes and other internecine quarrels between capitalists and labourers. But so far as the industrial development of the province is concerned there has been no new orientation in the budget, and no policy foreshadowed in it, apart from Rs. 18,000 subscribed to the Kollegal Silk Company. The resources of the country are enormous but they have not been exploited in the least. In particular, in the mining branch of the industry nothing has been done. With regard to the manufacture of articles which could be manufactured easily from the raw materials available here, nothing seems to have been done. If all the seven autonomous provincial governments under the Congress could combine they could establish the biggest factory in the world to manufacture motor cars and other steel articles. I do not think there are any impediments to prevent a project like this. One Tata Iron and Steel Company is carrying on with bounties from the Central Government. It is covering a good portion of the field. Nothing will be impossible if the seven Congress Governments put forward an all-India scheme as I have suggested. That will prevent the export of a lot of raw material to other countries and relieve unemployment in this country. Many tons of scrap iron are shipped to Japan for the purpose of manufacturing munitions of war. I do not see why the Government

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should not wake up and approach the Imperial Government and ask them to levy a heavy duty on the export of scrap iron which we require for our own factories. Such factories ought to be started by Government themselves and also by private bodies with the help of Government support. Private enterprise will, of course, be shy unless the Government set an example. What a single Government may not be able to do all the seven Governments combined may be able to achieve. I will request the Hon. Minister for Industries to see that a heavy duty is imposed on raw materials which we require and which are exported out of India.

"With regard to increase of revenue only one source seems to have been tapped. I refer to registration fees. Long ago it was laid down by the Government of India that registration fees ought not to be made a source of revenue to the Government, and that they must be levied only at such rates as would enable them to meet the cost of the staff appointed for the purpose. An increase of 5 lakhs of rupees from registration fees is expected during the next year. This is an iniquitous impost upon the poor parties who go to transact business in registration offices. People who sell or mortgage their properties resort to registration offices and instead of reducing the fees payable by them the Government are asking them to pay double the fees for the same services. What is the justification for this increase? The same service is being given even now and parties have to wait for 5, 10 or 20 hours as the case may be to have their documents registered. There is also a legal issue involved in this. The Government can reduce or increase the registration fees by executive action. That is very pernicious from the point of view of the citizens. If the Government want to increase registration fees, they ought to come before the Legislature and get its approval for the increase. No taxation should be imposed by mere executive fiat. This tax of 5 lakhs of rupees that is sought to be derived from the people is certainly a very unjust imposition.

"There are two very big schemes undertaken by the Government which would mean loss of revenue. One is prohibition and the other is the reduction of grazing fees. The loss in the one case will be about 3 lakhs and in the other case about 11 or 12 lakhs. There will be a total loss of about 14 to 15 lakhs next year. What has the Government done to counterbalance this loss of revenue? I find nothing in the budget. I see only small flea bites here and there. The net result of these financial adjustments for the next year will be a loss to Government of about Rs. 1,12,300. There is no saving and no further income has been shown in the budget. The ultimate loss calculated on the next year's basis will be about Rs. 18,97,300. If roughly about 19 lakhs are to be given up, some provision should have been made by the Government to make up this loss of revenue. I fail to see why the Government is so bankrupt in the matter of enhancing its resources to make up the loss of revenue. After taking credit for the additional revenue expected under certain schemes the

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net loss to the Government is Rs. 11 lakhs recurring against a non-recurring additional revenue of Rs. 50,000. Just consider what it means to have a recurring loss of 11 lakhs as against an additional revenue of Rs. 50,000. I leave it to the hon. Members of the House and the Hon. Ministers to say whether it is sound finance or unsound finance.

"The net expenditure on revenue account for new schemes in 1938-39 is roughly Rs. 4 lakhs. The non-recurring expenditure on that account is Rs. 13½ lakhs. The ultimate recurring cost is Rs. 5 lakhs and the non-recurring cost is about Rs. 34,10,200. Thus we have a net expenditure on revenue account of Rs. 11 lakhs yielding only Rs. 50,000. I leave it to hon. Members of this House to consider whether this is really a sound system of finance.

"There are one or two good features in the budget but I do not think that the present treasury bench can take credit for them. During the pre-autonomy period there has been a good amount of decentralization of the balances held by the Government of India. There was also the policy of consolidation of debts. A very good principle has been worked out in favour of this Province. As a result of the decentralization I have just mentioned a good deal of the debt due by this Government was wiped out and only a small balance has been left. The pre-autonomy debt which was mainly for the purpose of the Mettur and Pykara Projects was again consolidated into a single debt payable at a reduced rate of interest. The position to-day is that a debt of seven crores is to be repaid by the Government by means of equated payments of 39 lakhs a year for 45 years. If there had been an augmentation of the revenues of the Government and a further substantial reduction in expenditure we could have made larger provisions for the liquidation of the debts earlier.

"With regard to the new loan floated by the Government I fail to see whether any amount has been provided for the sinking fund. The Government borrowed 1½ crores for the current year and they are borrowing 1¾ crores for the next year. A small provision has been made for the payment of interest. But how are they going to make repayments of the loans? Are these loans going to be repayable or not repayable? Are they going to be an eternal burden on the provincial revenues? It behoves the Hon. the Premier to say what provision he has made for the payment of interest and for the sinking fund. I do not know why that has not been disclosed in the budget.

"One notable feature of the existing position is the proportion between the expenditure on the primary functions of the Government and the expenditure on the development services. Before the introduction of provincial autonomy this proportion had remained more or less steady. But a Government which works for the prosperity of the nation ought to show a great variation in the proportion. 41.2 per cent of the total amount was spent on the primary functions of the Government, 50.2 per cent on the development services and the

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balance was intended for charges common to both. This has been the steady proportion kept up. The test of a good budget is to be found in the way in which this proportion is worked in the reverse direction. I submit, Sir, that 20 per cent for the primary functions of the Government and 80 per cent for the development services would be a very good proportion. The present budget is not very encouraging from the point of view of the nation's prosperity.

"Sir, the famine relief fund has reached the maximum of Rs. 60 lakhs. But the way in which famine relief works are carried out has not changed. The present autonomous government is going on in the same way as the old autocratic or bureaucratic government. We have heard complaints time and again that only the form has changed but the spirit has been the same. It is indeed a good thing that the Government have constituted this famine relief fund although the Government of India Act has not insisted upon it. But what is the use of having accumulated a fund like this when three or four districts suffer from famine every year? We have been going on in the same spirit in which we have been going in the days of our predecessors. The entire Famine Code must be changed so as to take the changed circumstances into consideration. The other day an hon. Member complained that for working 10 to 12 hours in a pit 10 feet deep and in a hard soil the labourers were paid one anna or one anna and a half. Is that the way in which famine relief is to be carried on? I have it to the hon. Members on the Treasury Benches to say whether this is the best way in which the famine relief fund can be administered.

"With regard to hydro-electric schemes, it is a good thing that a depreciation fund and a reserve fund have been constituted. Certainly any commercial undertaking should have these funds. They should have been constituted earlier. But I want to urge, Sir, that these funds should not be allowed to accumulate at the cost of the consumer. The consumer ought to be given relief by reductions in the cost per unit of electricity for industrial and agricultural purposes. The Hon. Minister ought to make the benefit available to the general consumer also.

"I now come to the land revenue policy of the Government. It has been said time and again that they are considering and considering. This has been an age-long question. There are no two opinions on it, unless the Congress Government are going to change their views now. There is nothing new in it. The Government have not stated definitely how they are going to reduce the burden on the land in ryotwari areas so that agriculture may be really profitable from the point of view of the cultivator. They have simply stated that they have taken the Report of the Marjoribanks Committee as the starting point and that they are considering schemes and schemes. The mere abandonment of resettlement operations does not give any relief and that is not the only relief that was sought for by the ryots. These

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resettlement operations must be put on a statutory basis. No doubt the ryots are happy for the time being because the resettlement operations have ceased to exist. But to-morrow again, if not this Government, some other Government without the consent of the House might recommence resettlement operations. Unless and until these resettlement operations are abolished once for all or are put on a legal and statutory basis, there will be no salvation for the poor cultivator. Remissions are no doubt given. The Congress Government have no doubt increased the remissions from about Rs. 50 lakhs to about Rs. 75 lakhs. But mere grants of remissions at the fancy of the Government will not help the poor agriculturists. The agriculturist must feel sure that he is once for all going to pay only so much at a reduced rate and nothing more for his land. Then only he will have a genuine feeling of relief. If the grant of remissions is again made to depend on the sweet will and fancy of the Government of the day, I do not think it will be a sound proposition. The rates of assessment on dry lands and the water charges are a bug-bear of the agriculturists. These rates are increased at every resettlement. Every 30 years these rates are increased with the result that in the course of 60 to 90 years the rates are doubled or trebled. The whole thing becomes a mill-stone round the necks of these poor agriculturists. On these dry lands a dry assessment and a water-rate are charged for the first crop. If a second crop is grown on the same land, dry assessment and water-rate are charged again a second time for the second crop. No doubt the rates charged for the second time are half the dry assessment and half the water-rate which were charged for the first crop. But there is great injustice and inequity in it. The land remains the same and the cultivator has paid the dry assessment once. He of course takes water for the second crop and he is made to pay the water-rate. But why should he again pay half the dry assessment for the second time? That is the real crux of these resettlement operations. That is the way in which injustice is done to the poor agriculturists. Considering all these things, if the suggestions made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Reforms long ago had been carried out it would have been certainly in the interests of these ryots. The previous Government on two occasions, once when Sir Mahomed Habibulla was Revenue Member and another time when Sir Norman Marjoribanks was Revenue Member, brought forward two bills with a view to place the resettlement rules on a statutory basis. I do not know whether this Government also after an examination of the old records is contemplating to place the resettlement rules alone on a statutory basis. If that is so, Sir, I respectfully submit that it will not serve the purpose. We want the very principle of land taxation to be placed on a statutory basis. The fundamental basis of land-tax must be altered and placed on a legal and statutory footing. I ask, Sir, what is it that the Government are going to do for the ryotwari landholders when they have already appointed a committee to go into the question of

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zamindari landholders and tenants. Is the position of ryotwari landholders better than the position of zamindari tenants? When the committee was appointed to enquire into the working of the Estates Land Act, another committee should have been appointed simultaneously to enquire into the conditions of ryotwari landholders. But the Government have done nothing of the kind. There is no justification for leaving the ryotwari landholders in the same old position. It is high time that the Government appointed a committee to go into the question of ryotwari landholders and the system of taxation in ryotwari areas.

"With regard to the question of fresh taxation the Hon. the Premier has said that the question is under examination 'by no unskilful hands.' I want to ask, Sir, whether this House should not know what is the method adopted by the Government for the purpose. If the Government are conducting an enquiry what is the means by which they are conducting the enquiry, what is the method and the procedure of their enquiry? Is it after all going to be merely an enquiry by A, B, or C or probably by some I.C.S. officer in whom the Hon. Minister might have absolute confidence? I submit, Sir, that for formulating new taxation proposals that is not the proper policy to be adopted."

"If any such measure is intended, the people's representatives ^{4 p.m.} ought to be taken into confidence and asked to say what will be the sources and what methods are to be adopted in taxing the resources. Instead of that we are now merely told that examination is going on and all that sort of thing. It does not carry us further. We, the elected representatives of this House would like to know what is the procedure adopted by the Hon. the Prime Minister. What is the method that he is going to follow in this matter of examination and enquiry into the question of the expansion of the resources of Government with a view to tapping them for any new taxation."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has already taken 35 minutes. His is the longest speech."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I have got a few more words to say and I will be done. I submit I may be given a few minutes more. For the purpose of raising fresh taxation a method was foreshadowed even by the Dyarchic Government. I remember the then Finance Member, Sir G. T. H. Bracken, proposed that he would institute an enquiry into the question of raising new taxation and the various resources to be tapped therefor. Those proposals I think were put forward some four years ago. Have the present Government looked into the records of those proposals? If so, what is the decision arrived at? Let the Hon. the Finance Minister take this House into confidence and say what is the stage that has been reached in regard to this matter of examination of these new resources for fresh taxation. I don't think I ask for very much. After all these are things which any representative Government, any democratic Government ought to feel and put before the House."

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"There are several economy measures that have been liberally referred to by the Hon. the Prime Minister. I submit in all humility that these economy measures put forward by the Hon. the Premier are not sufficient, are not adequate and some of them are not really useful. The salary reduction has been looming large. I am glad to see that the Government did not carry out its original intentions of effecting the reduction in the case of every incumbent who holds a post here. All the same, to some extent there has been room for grievance. The present Members who expected for long years to get promoted to higher posts, ought not to be affected. The salary reduction proposed applies not only to those who are new entrants but also the promotees. I cannot conceive how promotees are classified as new entrants who enter services under the new conditions and rules laid down. It is a misnomer to call promotees as new entrants. Those who have rendered service long ago and who did not bargain as to the question of reduction of their salaries, it is a misnomer, I once again say, to call them new entrants; and according to the interpretation I now give, these promotees should be treated on a different footing altogether. I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister will look into this matter. There is no use of our bawling out all the time when the Hon. the Premier is engaged otherwise. I will wait till the Hon. the Prime Minister attends to what I am saying."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member must know the rule that 'No member, except a Government Member or the Leader of the Opposition, or a Member moving a "No Confidence" motion against the Ministers or a Minister shall speak for more than 30 minutes.' He has been allowed to go on, though he has exceeded that time limit, and he now wants to claim recess also because the Hon. the Finance Minister is engaged otherwise. That shall not be allowed."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I may respectfully submit, Sir, that I am not here to have any recess. I wished to know . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Why then should the hon. Member sit down? We have been giving only the best attention to his speech. It is not proper for him to wait and sit down."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"What I want to submit is that when we are talking, making suggestions and criticisms, the Hon. Ministers are holding a conference in this House. Is it not fair that the House should hear them?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may know that the Hon. the Finance Minister is preparing notes for replying; and is he not to consult his colleagues for that purpose, because the hon. Member himself has traversed the whole field of administration?"

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I accept your explanation on behalf of the Hon. the Premier."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"I can give no explanation on behalf of the Hon. the Premier! (Cheers.) I hold no brief for the Government. It is not proper that the hon. Member should make such remarks."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I did not mean any disrespect to any person. All that I wanted to say is that when I was referring . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has had the utmost hearing by the House, by the Chair and by the Hon. the Finance Minister. He will kindly finish his speech because he has already taken 40 minutes."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It is also due to me, Sir, to be permitted to say that I am speaking just the truth when I say I am giving my earnest attention to every one, and let them not imagine that when I am not looking at them, my ears are not attending to what they are saying." (Laughter.)

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I am thankful to you, Sir, and the Hon. the Premier. I was speaking about economy measures. I will now rush through the other provisions." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member wants to 'rush through.' He has already taken about an hour. I think the time of the House is very valuable."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I have submitted that the scales of salaries that are newly introduced ought not to be made applicable to the new entrants in so far as they are promotees. I would also like to know whether the Hon. the Premier has taken into consideration the question of abolishing a number of intermediary posts with a view to effecting retrenchment. There has been a cry all through that the Board of Revenue should be abolished. I submit that an independent Committee should be appointed to examine the question as to whether the Board of Revenue ought to be abolished or not. Again there is the establishment of Police department under the autonomous Government. There is still the reserve force. There is the armed force and there is the Presidency armed force and the district armed force. I do not see the necessity for all these armed forces and reserved police. For very good reasons the other provinces have adopted this very principle and they have abolished several of these special and so-called services which are intended to be requisitioned in times of disorder and danger to peace and tranquillity. The Dyarchic Government was justified in keeping these forces to put down the Congress. But there is no reason now why these should be continued except it be that no attention has been paid to the matter. There are four Deputy Inspectors-General of Police. They are merely intermediaries between the District Superintendents of Police and the Inspector-General of

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Police. These posts, I say, should be abolished. In the United Provinces, and in the Central Provinces they have abolished some two or three such posts. Why then these small things should not be done here? It is these small things that will bring a very large revenue.

"There are certain highly paid officials doing small services. The salaries of listed posts have not been touched. The Provincial Government, I seriously contend, have got the power with reference to these listed posts. I speak subject to correction, the Government has not applied to the Secretary of State for increasing the listed posts, for if the number is to be increased, several provincial men could be appointed.

"I now come to the honorary medical service. This system is pernicious. It is not conducive to the interests of the general citizen who seeks medical aid."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is simply repeating what has already been dealt at length."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Then I leave it. (Laughter.) The Government are pursuing a policy of releasing prisoners in large numbers. I submit that release of prisoners alone will show a very small saving. At the same time Government should abolish some two or three jails. When prisoners are released, what are these jails for? There is a jail in Madura. There is a first-class jail, in Cuddalore and another in Tinnevely. Between these two places why should there be another jail in Madura? Government could very well abolish such jails and then a considerable saving could be effected.

"With regard to education policy, I wish to say a few words, because I am interested in that and I am keen in the matter of educational affairs and educational policy in many directions. I am sorry to see that the Hon. the Minister for Education is not here. But it does not matter. The educational policy of the Government is bankrupt. Apart from the progress so far made, what are the Government's schemes for liquidation of illiteracy and what are its schemes for adult education? There is connected with this educational policy the question of broadcasting. I see that Government are going to install broadcasting stations and provide receiving sets for the villages. I say that this is not going to serve any useful purpose. Even after two or three days they have been set up, they will become boring and no villager will resort to them. (Laughter.) Instead of wasting money in buying these sets—and now in India these sets are being manufactured—other useful means of spending the same could be found. I think this was the scheme of Mr. Lloyd George. He had many schemes on hand when he was the Prime Minister of England. Whenever there was agitation to relieve unemployment he said 'We will put forth new schemes.' Several of his schemes turned to be nothing, and this broadcasting was one of them. Probably those radios which had been manufactured in England have been now dumped into India. (Laughter.) My respectful suggestion to the Hon. the Minister in charge is 'give up this scheme.' The poor villagers are

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suffering for want of food and clothing. Instead of supplying them their needs, you are going to give them entertainment and music! The immediate need is the liquidation of illiteracy. Appoint the unemployed graduates in this Presidency—there are thousands of graduates unemployed in our Presidency who are willing to serve even for Rs. 30 a month—send them in battalions of ten thousands or even 50 thousands to villages, as has been done in the United Provinces for the purpose of liquidation of illiteracy. Instead of doing that, if money is spent in purchasing radio sets, I warn the Government that it is a colossal waste.

"I now refer to Muslim education. I am anxious that the Government should put up a special scheme for the education of the Muslim community and place it on the same footing as that of the European community. The policy in regard to education of a backward community must be definitely understood and definitely safeguarded. Of course there are separate schools for the Muslim community. But I am not one of those who believe in separate schools. On the other hand separate schools have worked to the detriment of the Muslim community. I want mixed schools on certain conditions, and these conditions are very simple and they are recommended by the 'ad hoc' Committee and the Muslim Education Committee appointed under the Dyarchic Government. I therefore invite the attention of the Hon. the Premier to the reports of these two committees and request him to give effect to them. I believe in joint study. I believe in people of different communities coming together, rubbing shoulders with each other, understanding each other's religion, social customs and manners. I therefore request the Hon. the Premier to look into the recommendations of the committee, provide joint schools and see that they are given effect to, in due course, if he can.

"Then, Sir, with regard to rural water-supply scheme. This scheme has no doubt been brought forward before by previous Governments. And it is a great thing that the Hon. the Premier has provided as much as 15 lakhs. But may I respectfully ask him why it has been spread over a period of ten years? Sir, drinking water is the barest and every day necessity of every being in this world both animate and inanimate. That being so, does the Hon. the Premier expect all of us to wait for ten years before we can get drinking water? (Laughter.) Does he expect the whole Presidency to go on without drinking water for ten years? (Laughter.) Sir, I submit this is a matter which cannot brook delay. It should be limited to a very short and more reasonable period, say, two or three years. It is not necessary to start the year with a huge figure, spend only a fraction of that sum during the course of the year and then say at the end of the year we have a surplus of so many lakhs under this head and we are going to constitute it as a water-supply fund and all that. Do Government seriously think they can spend the whole sum of ten lakhs this year? Sir, I know what happens in the case of loans to agriculturists. The sum of 18 lakhs in the budget seems to have been saved

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out of the funds earmarked as loans to agriculturists. It is not saving at all. It is mere money not utilized by the agriculturists. It only shows that proper opportunities were not afforded to the agriculturists to utilize that amount. So it is more a censure on Government and not a saving to be jubilant over. Is it conceivable that a Government which allows such a large sum to be unexpended would be efficient? Sir, I shall reserve my further remarks on this head when the Public Accounts Committee Report comes to be taken into consideration, for then is the time to show what amount was allotted, what amount was spent, why the balance, if any, could not be spent, and how far there was over-budgeting and so on. So, so far as expenditure is concerned it is too early for me to say anything now. Any amount that has been placed for rural water-supply, any amount that has been placed for relieving rural indebtedness and for rural development ought to be spent within that year. Why, the Public Works Department are able to spend it, and similarly why not Government in this sphere also do the same? If only Government put the proper man with the proper money for each purpose, there cannot be any lapse at all at the close of the financial year.

"Then, coming to the Agricultural department, agriculture has remained in the same position all along for the last several years. The department is a huge department. Several demonstration farms have been started, and several demonstrators are working them. But has there anything been done to spread the results of the research carried on in the farms among the agriculturists? How many people go to the farm to take advice? How many demonstrators go to the people from place to place informing the people what seeds to adopt, how to take care of seedlings when to transplant them, how to cultivate lands and so on? I have known Government officers approaching demonstrators for the purpose of purchasing good seeds, but the poor agriculturist is not able to get them. So unless and until the Department of Agriculture carry out in actual practice the results of their experiments, it is worth while abolishing the whole department altogether. That is my humble opinion. Perhaps I may be mistaken. Then what is the policy that is followed in the Agriculture department. I wish I reserve my further remarks on this head to the time of voting of grants. (Laughter.)

"I would therefore close with one thing, and that with your indulgence, Sir. (Laughter.) Sir, the allotment of non-official days has been placed now entirely in the hands of the Hon. the Leader of the House. Only one day has been allotted for this in the whole of this year, and there is a lot of non-official work pending. Every time when meetings are held, they are held just immediately after the non-official day, or they close just before the non-official day. The very object with which the power of the Governor in this behalf was wrested from him has been frustrated by the Leader of the House. And even when the House meets on a Wednesday the work of non-official business is suspended under the Standing Orders."

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THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I venture to submit this is not a debate on the budget. This point really does not arise. As far as I am able to understand the rule, it says, any policy underlying the budget can be discussed. Under the old order of things, there was no responsibility for the House for the whole policy of the Government. It was allowed as a matter of compromise between 'democracy' and 'autocracy', when any matter of Government was allowed during budget debate. But in the present arrangements, the rules are specific, the sections are specific."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I am sorry, even a reference to it . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not a reference. You want to make a speech on it? (Laughter.) You have already taken up 57 minutes."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Only five minutes, Sir. (Laughter.) This is my last point, and even in that it is not fair for the Leader of the House to say that this is not a matter . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member proceeds to speak on that point, I rule that he is absolutely out of order. I invite the attention of the hon. Member to the Financial Business Rules. The rule relating to the budget says, 'the Assembly shall be at liberty to discuss the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein.' This is not a principle involved in the budget. I rule the hon. Member may speak on his last point, or resume his seat."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, proceeding to the housing of the two chambers of this Legislature, no reasons for giving up the scheme of building a new structure have been adduced. We are still in the dark why it has been given up. All that we know is that Government are paying a sum of Rs. 1,500 as rent to the University of Madras, and from newspaper reports we see that the Assembly is to be housed in the Council Chamber. If only Government will consider the amount of convenience they are denying the legislators by abandoning the scheme of erecting a new house altogether they will not do that. After all 10 lakhs is not a big figure. Twenty lakhs may be a luxury. Knowing as I do the Council Chamber for the last fifteen years, I know its limitations. The Hon. the Premier has been there only for a short time. It is not a building where one can carry on his business with ease and comfort. It is necessary that the two houses should be housed in one and the same building. We know how difficult it is for us to be going up and down to Fort St. George and back too often, and that this impedes transaction of business. Therefore I submit a Parliament House should be constructed soon. After all it is no waste of money."

"There is another thing, Sir (laughter), and that is, there has been an increasing dominance of some of the services over the affairs of the country. I submit the members of the Congress as representing the Congress autonomous Government ought to dominate the services, and not that they should be dominated by them. Greater regard and respect should be paid by the I.C.S. to the Indians. It may be that

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these Services are recruited by the Secretary of State. All the same, it should be the policy of the Government to see that these Services are brought within the Provincial Autonomous Government. I fear the Members of the Treasury Bench are not asserting themselves against the Services that be. I submit the Services ought to really feel that they are subordinate to the Government of the day, and not asserting themselves. I may be wrong. I may be wounding the feelings of the Premier, or any other Member of Government when I say this. I apologize, if I have done so. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"No question of 'may be.' He is wrong."

* KUMARARAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming as I do at the close of the debate, I shall try my very best to avoid details, and particularly so, after the eloquent speech of my friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, who has covered most of the important points that should be covered in this debate. Sir, the Hon. the Premier, in introducing the budget has referred to the clouds that darkened the political horizon in two provinces of India. He also saw in those clouds that haunting ghost of old Diarchy. But I will not go into the details of that controversy, as it has terminated very happily and as we are now under a very good atmosphere both in and around us. But my object in referring to the constitutional crisis at the very outset of my speech is to give public expression to the profound satisfaction with which the news of the settlement was received in all quarters. Sir, the restraint and goodwill that prevailed on either side on this occasion is, a matter of great gratification to all, and I should think marks a great step forward in the constitutional progress of our country. I hope very confidently that approached in a similar manner the path of Federation will be found not strewn with thorns, and hence I am unable to share the apprehensions of the Hon. the Leader of the House with regard to the future of responsible Government in this country.

"Sir, coming now to the Budget, to me as a financier and businessman, the most appealing feature is the great concern which the Hon. Gentleman in charge of the Finances of this Country has shown to maintaining the financial strength and stability of the province. When I was speaking on the last occasion when the previous budget was introduced, I dealt elaborately with this aspect of the question saying that 'the financial credit, the greatest asset of our province, should be the anxious care of any Government.' I shall not detain the House on that point. I am glad to see the Hon. Gentleman, the Finance Minister recognizes that 'budgeting in any province should rest solidly on the foundation of maintaining a complete equilibrium between Revenue and Expenditure that would satisfy an exacting critic.' If this should be the motto, Sir, as it has been hitherto of the present Government, for the future also, no body will be more delighted

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than myself. I can assure on behalf of the Opposition and the public that what we expect of the Government is caution, which they have adopted so far in the financial field, with regard to the administration and finances of this province. I am very glad, Sir, that this policy has been adopted to some extent even in their expectations of the future; I see that the Hon. the Finance Minister saying that he does not reckon income-tax dividend which he has received this year and for the next year from the Government of India, to be a recurring factor for all time to come, and he has also rightly debited back commutation charges to revenue. Sir, I shall not refer in detail to the various ameliorative schemes for which money has been provided except to say that I am glad. They have continued the essential services which were taken care of by the previous Government. They have also tried to put some more money for water-supply schemes and for the redemption of the small peasantry and for the work of the Harijans and also for certain other institutions. I will mention the name of one institution only. Though the amount is small, the institution is big enough to be mentioned here, I mean the Pachiappa's College. I am glad the Hon. the Premier has recognized that the proposal to re-house the Pachiappa's College in a new and suitable locality can no longer be justly opposed or delayed.

"Sir, with regard to water-supply, reference has been made yesterday. I wish only to say that it is a very nice idea of the Government not to insist on contribution from the villagers as well as from the district boards. My own feeling is, Sir, that it will depend much on the working. We wish the Government gave us more details with regard to the working of the scheme. I expect the Hon. the Minister in charge of water-supply to let the House know when the Public Health Department is taking up more details about the scheme than he has given. If he does so, probably, that will allay the apprehensions of some Members.

"Sir, I have now come to the parting of the ways. The most important item of revenue comes from land and the Land Revenue policy has always had a big share of the debate in this House. But it is rather disappointing to know from the Hon. the Premier that we could know nothing from him about the Land Revenue policy on this occasion. He admits the importance of the subject but we only heard him say that he cannot be expected to say anything at all at present. Sir, what was expected of Provincial Autonomy was that the first subject which would be tackled was that relating to Land Revenue. But every thing is vague. We hear only one pleasant remark from the Treasury Bench and that is with regard to Sir Norman Marjoribank's Committee. I am happy to know that the services of the committee have been acknowledged now and recognised even though in a small measure. I have no doubt as the Hon. the Prime Minister has said, that the report and the conclusions of the committee will be a very good starting point for the future. I do not

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 think, it should be beyond the wisdom of any Government to give out a welcome and acceptable policy with regard to the Land Revenue system.

"Sir, I was sorry to note that the operation of the Agricultural Loans Act was suspended even for a short period. I wish they did not stop it and lent all the money that they intended to lend. I am glad that they have now made a provision of Rs. 50 lakhs. I am disappointed to note that there is nothing said about the machinery that they are going to set up. Unless a proper machinery is set up all the help that is sought to be rendered will not be adequate. The machinery should be a simple one so that agriculturists would find no difficulty in getting relief through this Act.

"Sir, with regard to major irrigation schemes I should like to make a small reference. It is with regard to the Tungabhadra and Bhavani projects. The Prime Minister has given us an idea of the preliminary discussions and the negotiations that are going on with regard to these projects but nothing more is known. Sir, mere words and endless discussions will not go any further. I will only urge the Government to go forward with the schemes and come to decisions. I realize that the transactions and negotiations with neighbouring States would be delicate. I do not mean that they should be hustled. At the same time one feels that there should not be any delay in the matter.

"Sir, the budget as usual and as was probably expected contains a few lakhs for the hand-spinning and hand-weaving. My objection to this, Sir, is not based on politics. We are not told with what result the two lakhs have been spent this year. Another objection which could have been easily removed by the Government has not been removed. It was pointed out during the last debate 'Why should this money be entrusted to a political association?' The Congress Party, though a political party, now happening to be in office can certainly entrust it. . . . (Interruption) I hear from the Hon. the Prime Minister that the All-India Spinners' Association is not a political body. I stand corrected. Though I certainly am satisfied personally with the assurance given me, I must also inform the Hon. the Premier and this House that the general feeling among the public or some section of the public is that the All-India Spinners' Association is a sectional association or an association which has its leanings towards a political party, and that is the Congress Party which is in office and they are the Government. I do not think Government should find any difficulty in getting these two lakhs distributed through the numerous Co-operative Societies which are under their control. Have Government no confidence in their own co-operative societies? If they have no confidence and if they find any difficulty in distributing this money, the House is entitled to know that difficulty or that lack of confidence in those societies.

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"In this connexion, I should like to say a word with regard to the licence fee levied on a certain section of the cloth dealers. It was said that it was for the regulation of the trade of cloth dealers with a view to encourage the use and production of handloom products. But now, I suppose, one is able to find the emphasis is more on the revenue side of the measure, though it was not intended to be a taxation measure.

"Sir, let me have a word about the economy measures. I should whole-heartedly give my support to the Government in all their measures for economy and at the same time, I say that I am not one of those who share the view that economy and cuts will not affect the efficiency. I am for all economy and cut, but with some discrimination. My only point is that the economy and cut in the scales of pay is being adopted by the Government without discrimination between services and services. What I am at is that there are certain services in this country which have been kept up at a very high level of efficiency. I may say that it is not myself alone, but a large section of the intelligent public of the country, that share the view that I put forward now before the House. The services, especially the members of the judiciary who are discharging their duties efficiently will also become discontented. I would urge upon the Government to reconsider at least the cut in salary of the judiciary. One other matter with regard to the salary cuts. I would like to refer to the position of the promotees. These unfortunate people though not new entrants have been in service expecting higher salaries on their promotion. If they are to be promoted, they should have been honest, faithful and diligent in their work. If they satisfy all these conditions, I would ask the Premier, 'Should they be denied all the privileges that will accrue to them on promotion.' I should venture to suggest that the case of promotees is very hard and they deserve separate consideration, whichever Government is in office.

"The most important point is with regard to the policy of prohibition which the Government are pursuing. Mr. Dixon's report no doubt will gladden one's heart, but there are many who do not share to the full extent the opinion expressed by Mr. Dixon. There are several people who are of the view that in Salem the scheme has not been as much a success as it is advertised to be. I should have expected the Hon. the Premier who is such a protagonist of the Prohibition Scheme to have come out with more details to this House and explained to us in what manner the scheme has worked in Salem. Probably he has reserved it for his reply. Sir, he has been very very careful in that paragraph of his relating to prohibition. He has quoted Mr. Dixon completely all right and so far as his opinion is concerned, he has also stated very carefully that 'so far, there is not concrete and reliable evidence to show that the drinking classes (in Salem) have saved money as a result of Prohibition.' I am very glad that he has had the courage to make this statement on the floor of this House. One of the objects, at any rate an important object, has not been achieved. I do not think

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that my memory fails when I say that the Hon. the Prime Minister said when introducing the Prohibition Bill that they (the Government) may lose $\frac{1}{2}$ of a crore in Salem under the Excise head, but it will enrich the poor people by four times that money. I believe, that, as yet, the expectations have not come true. Probably they may come true in the future. I wish him good luck, if it will come true in the future. But in spite of the loss in revenue due to the loss in excise duty in Salem and the two new districts the total excise revenue is still high. I should think that the present Government is more lucky than the previous Governments with regard to finances. But this cannot be an unalterable position for all time to come. Therefore, it is, Sir, that we want to warn the Government—I would say though not warn, we want to show our anxiety—that the finances of this Province should not be imperilled by these wild schemes being carried quickly. It is therefore that we urge that there should be caution with regard to the areas to be included for prohibition.

“In this connexion, I believe that a mild hint has been thrown with regard to new taxation. Even on the last occasion, I said that the success of the loan raised by the Madras Government was mainly due to the fact that the Madras Government were not rushing through hasty taxation measures in trying to balance their budget. I assure the House that it was that, that was responsible for the success of the last loan. I believe the present balanced budget of the Government, as it is not coupled with new taxation will go a great way to assure the investing public with regard to the new loan. I have no doubt that the new loan will also be a success, if there is not going to be any announcement of new taxation, before the new loan is floated. Sir, with regard to the loan policy, some hon. Members have expressed their doubts. I am not one who would express any doubt with regard to the loan policy. I am one who thinks, that normally, consistent with the financial condition of a province, loans can be raised. But I should say, Sir, that the machinery of public confidence is a very very delicate machinery which will be affected too quickly and it would stop once it is affected. It is on account of that reason that I urge upon the Government to pause and pause before they embark upon taxation measures. It has been admitted by the Congress party, times without number, that the limit of taxation has been reached and that the country cannot bear any more taxes. I can assure the Government that there is no section of the public in this country who can afford to pay more taxes. That also must be taken into consideration. Some people seem to think, Sir, that the middle classes and the well-to-do classes can afford to pay more taxes; but I may point out to the Government on behalf of them that the middle and well-to-do classes are no better than the poor people in this country to-day and that they cannot bear fresh taxation. Sir, fresh taxation will have very vicious results. Retrenchment will be effected by all on whom fresh taxes are levied and the poor will be hit. Therefore I urge upon the Government, in the general financial interest of the province in which we are all

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equally interested, not to embark upon fresh taxation. I wish to associate myself with the Government in their concern for the financial stability of the province. It is in that feeling that I urge upon them that any measure of taxation should not be rushed through in the present situation. Also I see no necessity for fresh taxation.

“Next, Sir, I should like to refer to one important matter and that is the educational policy of this Government, relating to the teaching of Hindi in our schools. On this matter, I am fully conscious of the fact that the few words that I speak will be drowned in this House because the Congress party is pledged to support the Congress policy with regard to the introduction compulsorily of Hindi. And yet, if I speak about it, it is because mine is not a lonely voice. It is the voice of millions of people of this province. (Voices: ‘Question.’) I can answer questions beautifully, but I do not want to waste the time of the House. (Laughter.) I can assure hon. Members that the objection to the compulsory introduction of Hindi is absolutely genuine. It is not a political objection. This objection is not born of party faction. It is not the objection of the Justice party or any other party. It is not at all based on politics. It is an objection founded on the grievances of the people. People feel genuinely that the curriculum of studies is already overloaded and that it is not possible for the young boys to be burdened with this addition. They have no objection to Hindi being made an optional subject instead of a compulsory subject.

“Now, Sir, I wish to join with the Hon. the Premier and tender thanks to Mr. Jones and the Finance Department of the Madras Government and also join with him in the tribute which he has paid to the efficient arrangements that were made by the Reserve Bank of India for floating the loan for the Madras Government and in the tribute which he has paid to the investing public of this country.”

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“Mr. Speaker, I am highly obliged on the whole to the Members on the opposite side for their very moderate chastisement in some matters and for what I may claim to be approval of the larger policies. I am obliged to the courtesy also that has been throughout shown by the Members who have been criticizing the proposals in dealing with me personally. What embarrassed me more, Sir, was the congratulation from Members on the side of the Government itself. I value congratulations greatly; but sometimes, Sir, they are too embarrassing when they come from quarters which, on the face of things, are interested in supporting the Government.

“The standards of criticism of the main Opposition Benches will have to be referred to by me, and I hope I shall not be misunderstood in any part of my remarks. Sir, I am not speaking of the Leader of the Opposition at all; he was not guilty of what I am going to say. Sir Pannir Selvam should certainly be classed with the main opposition

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forces. Mr. Bower representing the Anglo-Indian community who led the debate, appeared to employ a curious test with reference to this Budget: 'It is good, but it is not good on account of you.' That is the offence. 'It is a windfall you have taken advantage of. What if the Budget is good? It is nothing worth mentioning.' Sir, it was not to get personal compliments that I presented these estimates. It was not to exhibit ability or experience in this direction, which I say is nil, that I presented these estimates. I have only attempted to do the best that I can. And if it is even accidentally good, Sir, I am delighted. I therefore submit that even if this Budget happens to be good, it is all that we are here to give expression to, as far as the House is concerned, and that is enough joy so far as I am concerned. Whose credit is it? Nobody's credit. It is the credit of the province and it is the joy of the province if the Budget is good; at least for a year it shall be the joy of the province.

"Then, Sir, another class of criticism came, not from the main Opposition groups, but mostly from Members on the Government side of the House. It was detailed criticism. Yes, if the general scheme of the Budget is good, certainly, criticism can be only of details and, therefore, if the Opposition did not do that part of the work as you, Sir, observed, Members in support of the Government did their duty by bringing up the details before the House. I shall presently come back to this subject. I am not making fun of my side as will be seen presently. The congratulations to which I referred and which, I said, embarrassed me because they may be suspected to be born of loyalty to one's own side, did not come entirely from that quarter. I must therefore, thank the Members of the Muslim and the European groups for a certain amount of approval and congratulation that was offered by them. My first duty is to thank them. As regards the criticism that came from the Congress side, I wish to make a lesson of it if I may.

"Sir Pannir Selvam, I thought on a former occasion, expressed a great desire to have a party as docile as my own. I think many others were committing the same mistake as Sir Pannir Selvam was doing. They thought that ours is a party so thoroughly combined in unity not only of purpose but even of method and that such fine solid discipline was almost objectionably good. (Laughter.) They thought it is a delightful and easy party to lead. What a lucky man this Prime Minister is? Very many people besides Sir Pannir Selvam might have thought so. I am glad, therefore, Sir, that an actual demonstration has been made of the error of this opinion. But that is not my joy. I am glad it has been demonstrated that there is some truth in the claim of the Congress that it is not a party, but a reflection of the national composition of opinion as well as of people. The Congress is a true reflection, and that is its glory, of the nation. Some men try to belittle that claim and make out that it is only a party. Here there was yesterday a perfect demonstration of the fact that the

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Congress refuses to become a party and will claim always and will try always to be reflecting the national will which may be different from section to section; but it would not give up that proud privilege of being a reflection of the nation however temporarily it may enjoy office as a Government, because it is a disciplined party. The claims not only of territorial divisions, the claims of interests, the claims of trades, the claims of various classes of people and, if the theory of the materialist explanation of politics is correct, even the claims of castes, are represented fully in the Congress. No communal party is as such necessary, Sir, because the Congress is there to take care even of particular communities. If only everybody will see the truth of my claim on behalf of the party to which I belong and will help and render the Congress completely reflective of the nation in many respects, I think it will be seen that what I say is not merely a theory, but an actual fact and that is the proud privilege of the Congress. As long as the fight is between nationalism and foreign control, this particular feature of the Congress may not be perceived.

"But when the Congress is seen to stand for all communities and 5 p.m. for all interests, for all trades and for all strata of society, it should also be recognized that it stands for one more important principle, that it stands for the unity of all communities and classes which cannot be seen in any other organization. That is the difference which might confuse certain groups sometimes. If, yesterday, Members of the Government Benches began putting forward various detailed criticisms of the Budget somewhat to the merriment of certain Members sitting opposite, I was laughing in a different spirit and considering in my own mind that everything has a lesson and perhaps this demonstration of the peculiar characteristics of the Congress group will be of permanent value, of more permanent value than merely the carrying of the Budget successfully through this Assembly. I do hope however, Sir, that nobody will imagine that this is a sign of declining discipline. Let me warn Members opposite that this demonstration has nothing to do with the discipline of the party, and that they must be prepared for solid voting at all times when the party system is at work. When there is no detailed criticism on the other side, we will furnish that detailed criticism for the benefit of the House. . ."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"On a matter of explanation, Sir, you stated that there should be no detailed discussion of the budget at the time of its general discussion."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I accept the explanation, Sir, as very valuable. There must really be difference between detailed criticism of the Budget and the details of the Budget itself: detailed criticism, for instance, there was, though not on particular heads. But I need not labour the point further. There have been criticisms, general as well as detailed. But I claim that the Budget is, on the whole, good and there should naturally be detailed criticism. But let me make a personal statement that, on a debate on cuts, surely

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my party cannot be expected to vote with the Opposition. The Government Benches cannot join when the cut motions are moved by way of detailed criticism; therefore perhaps, the Members of my party were willing during the general discussion to give their help to the Opposition in this connexion, because they cannot do so later on. But these are details of parliamentary arrangement.

“ That apart, let me come to the next point. There was one thing which is worthy of special mention. There was great detailed criticism that a certain district did not have enough, that a certain trade or interest did not have enough. One hon. Member for Labour actually stated that this Budget did not satisfy the general expectations of the Labour party of the Congress. In that connexion he referred to Mr. Langley. It is my duty, Sir, to point out that the criticism was accompanied by language which might have been avoided—blood-suckers, parasites, etc. Perhaps gentlemen who were there have heard them so often that they might not mind hearing these phrases once again; but that is hardly necessary. I should like to say that those who have experience of the hunger and starvation of the labouring classes have nothing to choose between one type of blood-suckers and another type of blood-suckers. I say, Sir, if there is any big Indian farmer, any big Indian planter, any big Indian factory owner, providing welfare, good wages, nice treatment, charitable treatment, humane treatment to Labour, then it is time that we on our side might be permitted to indulge in language of that kind when dealing with a particular body of employers. When you are actually dealing with and going through the experience of hunger and starvation prevailing throughout the country, you lose even the taste for swadeshi, even the taste for the claim that money remains in the country; that is enough and it does not matter to whom it goes. It is difficult to be satisfied with such theories. But when one actually deals with the position of Labour in general, we should have an appreciation of the whole picture and not make the work of the Congress more difficult than it is, in trying to execute the desire of the people as a whole during the necessarily short tenure that the Congress—this national organization—can command with regard to its office as Government. There are interests of all kinds which the Government has to deal with. If you touch cloth, all the retailers, all the whole-sellers, all of them join and say ‘don’t tax cloth, tax anything else.’ If you touch the interests of the banks and the money-lenders, not only they, all the lawyers, all the dependents on these various interests combine together; if you touch salaries, not only the new entrants, all the promotees or would-be promotees but also all the persons interested in the would-be promotees, even the creditors of these promotees will combine against the proposal; if you touch drink—not touch in the other sense—if you touch the drinking interests, not only those who drink but those who are interested in their drinking, the newspapers, the companies, the associations, all of them combine to make very serious propaganda against the measure even in the most courteous style—let nobody imagine that I am deluded by courtesy; even in the most courteous style, in season and out of season propaganda

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is carried on against the drink policy of this Government. Touch tobacco; let the Congress Government only try to tax tobacco, you will see no trouble in Chirala; manufacturers, labourers, retailers, sellers, agriculturists even, everybody will combine to work against the Government. Government is not easy and therefore if the Budget does not satisfy everybody, I would beg of Members either on that side or on this side, to consider the matter a little more deeply and say whether we have not done well or whether we have done ill on the whole and under the circumstances. Even claiming all these difficulties to be the case, I claim that this Budget is good.

“ What did the Rayalaseema representatives ask? Just consider it for a moment; I think more than one representative stated, had the courage to state, ‘you are giving land revenue remissions; it is a bit, it is a trifle for each pattadar; it makes Rs. 75 lakhs on the whole; don’t waste it like that; spend these Rs. 75 lakhs on Rayalaseema in improving the irrigational facilities of Rayalaseema; don’t distribute these concessions throughout the presidency in this manner and fritter it away like that; let land revenue be collected as it was; but spend these Rs. 75 lakhs on Rayalaseema for improvement of irrigation and you will have better return.’ Mind you, not the land revenue remission of those particular districts, but the land revenue remission of the whole province comes to Rs. 75 lakhs’ and so on. They state ‘stop the concessions throughout and give irrigation facilities’; not a bad claim, if only the whole House and the whole country would accept it. (An hon. Member:—Yes, do so.) I have no objection to it personally. But this illustrates the process of co-operation involved in the poor man’s Budget. If you do not want new taxes, if you want the poor man to be attended to, we will have to combine in a different way, not district after district, interest after interest, class after class, coming up and each putting forward its own claim, but by putting our heads together and then finding if really we cannot achieve something even within our very many limitations. It is possible but I dare not do it, when Member after Member says, ‘your water-supply scheme is not enough, your medical scheme is not enough, your hygiene scheme is not enough, you have not spent enough over industries; you have not added enough to education; you have done nothing at all.’ They say ‘reduce land revenue; it is not enough—these Rs. 75 lakhs; reduce it once for all, reduce it more liberally.’ Member after Member rises and most contradictorily asks us to increase our expenditure and to reduce land revenue, the only revenue that we have, if we exclude Excise. That is a mistake. The European group say, ‘you should not give up Excise revenue; who asked you to? That was the golden goose that we started with.’ I must say that I enjoyed that speech very greatly coming from first speaker, the hon. Member for Anglo-Indians, who called the drink revenue the golden goose. Sir, let me ask him one question. I have an evil reputation for parables and stories; the method of parables was not invented by me; people who have read the Bible know the use of parables in the

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art of persuasion, in the art of interpretation and understanding of one another. Let us take the goose story; which is the goose that lays the golden egg, let us see for a moment? The worker in the country is the goose that lays golden eggs, and you are ripping open his belly and you give him drink, to take gold immediately from the worker and not allow him to lay his egg one by one, day after day; the worker makes the wealth of the country and instead of allowing him to make the wealth of the country, you want to take the golden eggs out of his belly straightaway and once for all; so you give him drink, to give you income, which is valuable and which you want for expenditure; the worker is the goose and that goose you want to rip open and take the golden egg straightaway.

5-15 P.M. "I did not hear Mr. Bower's speech properly. It was very good when I read it in the papers. It was a very nice speech. I think, Sir, that my story is the proper story and not the story that the Member for the Anglo-Indian community gave. Let me make an appeal to him specially. He referred to windfalls and said that I should not claim credit for this Budget on account of that great windfall. I do not claim credit for anything except that I have not been foolish with a windfall, that I have not been wicked with a windfall. What have previous windfalls done to us? This present windfall under the Neimeyer Award, it is not a windfall by any means, it is only the restoration of stolen property. The income of this province from the upper classes and the better off people who pay income-tax—is that money not ours? Is not the money they pay, ours? Is it to be called a windfall, if I get it back? And is the drink money the only proper and natural revenue of this province? Is the land revenue which comes with the hot tears of the farmer, the only legitimate revenue of this province and not the income-tax? Sir, I say it is wrong and I say it is even dangerous and also injurious to the future of this province and its financial stability to refer to the Neimeyer Award income as a windfall."

MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"As a matter of personal explanation, I wish to make it clear that I did not say the award itself was a windfall, but the amount that award produced in that particular Budget and I also stated that the amount of money to be paid to the provinces under that Award depended partly on the Railway receipts and inasmuch as the Railway receipts will be falling during the next year there may not be so much as the Budget took into consideration. To that extent alone I said it was a windfall; that is all."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am sorry, Sir, that I had to put the hon. Member to this trouble. (Laughter.) A wind that blows regularly and which can be taken account of by the meteorologist and comes to us systematically and scientifically is a wind and not a windfall. (Laughter.) The income-tax is not merely a wind; it should also blow as regularly as the Indian monsoon which works like clockwork."

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"The hon. Member is right in saying that the wicked condition which has been attached by the Constitution to the monsoon dropping its water upon us is a thing on which we cannot depend when the Railway finances may not be so stable, and that therefore we should not budget on that basis. But, Sir, why should I be warned by the hon. Member for the Anglo-Indian Constituency? Have I not stated even before the debate began that this payment will be subject to adjustments in the accounts and that the same process will be repeated in each subsequent year of the five-year period during which the distributable amount depends upon the Central Government's receipts from Income-tax and Railway contribution? Within that period income-tax cannot be regarded as an assured source of revenue for the provinces. I said so even when I introduced the Budget; so there is not much of caution to be given to me, but merely an argument against the credit which possibly might be given to me for the Budget. That is all the defence that I can put forward for dwelling on this subject. But I was going to say, Sir, that is not a windfall. Prohibition is a windfall for the community which my hon. Friend represents. ('Hear, hear.') If Mr. Bower will only co-operate with us freely, if he will put his whole heart and the energy he has into this business, then I assure him that there will be a better windfall for the community which he represents than any windfall which we claim for budgeting for one, two or five years. I want him not to make fun of Prohibition, not to call it a goose laying golden eggs and all that rubbish."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"I think it is not technically allowable."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I take it that Mr. Bower does not misunderstand me and I refer to the golden goose as rubbish."

MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"As a matter of personal explanation, I say, if I introduced the story of the golden goose, it was not with the intention of making fun of the Hon. the Premier at all. It was merely as a point."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Not fun of the Premier but fun of Prohibition."

MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—"I merely meant to say that inasmuch as we have not begun to feel the financial effects of Prohibition, we should have to look at it as opening a way for a very onerous succession of fresh taxes in the future."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"That is right; that is the very point, Sir. That is to say, I appeal to the hon. Member not to frighten people about the new taxes, when I am trying to impose Prohibition on his people. I want him to realize that I am giving every Anglo-Indian home a goose that will lay golden eggs and he need not be afraid of taxes. That is my appeal; he may not agree with my view. But my appeal is that I want him not to make

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Prohibition either a matter of ridicule or a matter of fright, or a matter of financial impossibility. I want him to co-operate with me, whether he will or not it is for him to decide. But I do say that this Prohibition will be good to all communities in the land, will do good to some of those who are suffering under the evils and the temptation of drink, which is placed before their workshops, near their houses, near their dinner tables and near everywhere, wherever they may go. I claim, therefore, the co-operation of the hon. Members particularly of those communities, whose interest it is, whose lasting interest it will be, to put this temptation away from near by.

"Sir, talking of parables, let me go to another parable. More than one Member, I think, just more than one, just two Members tried to make out that the Hon. the Minister for Labour had not pressed his case and that the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture had not pressed his case, for a greater share and that they had not grabbed enough and that the Finance Minister was not responsible and, therefore, they told these various Ministers to try each one to grab as much as he can and make the Budget better in that way. The story that I refer to is another story from the same source as the golden goose. There were three bulls grazing in a forest and they never kept apart from one another. They remained together always whenever the lion that was watching over them looked on to attack. The lion could have swallowed goats, could have swallowed asses and donkeys and so on; but it could not separate these three bulls. These three bulls were a mighty combination always and so the lion persuaded these three bulls to separate a little and graze apart and then the rest of the story we know. (Laughter.) The various Ministers have been asked to graze apart from one another. They are asked to graze separately a little bit and not so much together. We cannot be led into this separate grazing business; we must graze together. We cannot graze apart. We do graze separately and sleep separately when we are in our safe homes; but when we graze outside we have to be together. We know the lions are near about. (Laughter.) May our compactness ever be the despair of everyone on the other side of the table. (Laughter.) But, Sir, it was not merely the other side of the table; I find Mr. Swami just now sitting on the other side of the table. (Laughter.) Take up this idea of asking the Ministerial bulls to graze apart, or asking the Hon. Mr. Giri to graze a little apart. If the departments fight and districts fight and Ministers fight, we know what the consequences will be. I want all Members of this House to realize that we are working not under a system of self-government borrowed from America or France; but we are working a system of self-government borrowed from England, which, without the party system, will fail. It is not possible to work it in that way. If we had an irremovable executive operating for a definite period of time as in America or, say, in France, it is possible for districts to fight with one another, for interests to fight with one another and yet for self-government to go on. But under the Parliamentary System of Government of the English

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pattern, the party government is inextricably mixed up with self-government for good or for evil. It is not that I admire it at all and, therefore, it should not be thought of as an error on the part of the Ministerialist side if they work together as a party in spite of difference of opinion. And, therefore, Sir, it is I say that in spite of every difference of opinion, whether expressed or unexpressed, votes will go up and hands will go up according to the order of the party. Otherwise this system of government that has been forced on us by history and by the Government of India Act on the English pattern cannot work.

"But, from that, Sir, let me proceed at once to what the hon. Member for Labour said. And I think the hon. Member for Muslims from the West Coast also expressed great dissatisfaction with this budget. It is not a budget for much praise as regards Labour; it is not a budget which is Congress in character. If I remember right and if I heard him right, Mr. Abdur Rahman said so. Sir, it is all right; but let me explain why it is not a labour budget, why our Legislature has not been tackling labour legislative programmes and why it has not paid adequate attention to labour. Let me give a word of explanation. We have not been allowed by Labour itself to do that. Is it right to keep the Hon. the Minister for Labour on his legs, not standing, but running about from place to place? Is it right to keep him fully engaged in this manner and is it right at the same time to expect him to use his brains, his time and his energy for legislation? It is not possible. We must also try to restrain ourselves, if we want lasting benefits. There has been a certain confusion as to which should be done and which should not be done. By and by we will be able to clear all this confusion and we will be able to deal with this subject. But, let me sound a note of warning, Sir, on this occasion. There are certain medicines which are good for external application and others which are required to treat one's ills internally. An ointment is very good for external application, but it is not good to drink as an internal tonic. There are methods and sanctions which can be applied externally but which cannot be applied against one another.

"I say this particularly because, unless we understand this distinction between methods external and methods internal, it is not possible for the Congress Government to function to the satisfaction of all—the Socialists or Labour Leaders or the other particular interests that are concerned and that have built up high hopes on the Congress. If the hopes are justified—and the hopes are perfectly sound—I do not deny the responsibility, but, Sir, we must be given the opportunity and the time to fulfill those expectations. 5-30 p.m.

"Then, Sir, a comment, more or less general, was, 'You have not spent enough on the nation-building programmes. It is all very well. The budget is very good, but you have not spent enough on what are called nation-building programmes.' I want hon. Members to know that I do not grudge comparison with other provinces. Oftentimes the slogan has been raised here that, 'this has been done in Bombay, this has been done in Bihar, this has been done in United Provinces,

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and why have you not done it?' Once for all, let me tell these friends who put forward these arguments that I am in somewhat more intimate touch with my Colleagues in other provinces than the persons who make these claims on behalf of other provinces. We are not good at putting forward mere ideas as accomplished facts; we are not good at putting up measures in the public print, but I do want my friends who very rightly want our province to lead in all matters to remember, that different things cannot be compared, but similar things only can be compared. A mere plan of another province cannot be compared with an achievement in this province; a mere aim in another province cannot be compared with an actual accomplished fact in this province. Let me now ask people to remember that no province has done better than we have done in regard to these nation-building programmes. If I also added up all the nation-building items in the Budget and gave only the sum-total to the Associated Press, it is not difficult for me to show one crore, but even more. You must remember, Sir, that we can misread news very easily and you must not, therefore, allow yourself, I submit, Sir, to imagine that our province is doing ill. It is a bad complex, it is a wrong complex, we must get rid of it as early as possible. Let me therefore help in the getting rid of this complex. Our population, Sir, may be classed along with the population of Bengal, and the United Provinces; these are all from 47 to 50 millions. The population of Bombay is less, i.e., 20 millions; but in revenue, Bombay, Madras, Bengal and United Provinces all range from 14 to 16 crores. Now, we are fairly even. Let me tell hon. Members, Sir, that in Education, the Bengal Budget is 137 lakhs, the Madras Budget is 262 lakhs normally, but this year, it is plus 3 lakhs. On Medical Relief, the Bengal Budget is 54, Bombay Budget 43, United Provinces 35 and the Madras Budget is 97 lakhs and this year it is 98 lakhs; not less, but one lakh more. Of course, it is difficult to progress as you go on and you cannot heap the burden on the tax-payer on a liberal scale year after year. Remember, it is not a burden that the Finance Minister bears, but it is a burden that the tax-payer has to bear.

"On Public Health, Bengal spends 34 lakhs; Bombay 32 lakhs; United Provinces 24 lakhs and Madras 34 lakhs, and 39 lakhs this year, i.e., 5 lakhs more.

"And then, Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operation and Industries, things to which all people refer while talking on nation-building. As the House must be aware, criticism was offered that all these agricultural demonstrators, these veterinary inspectors and all these so-called officers are running about here and there doing nothing; the thing is nothing really for the poor man; the nation is not built, but mere demonstrations go on. Views may differ, but yet these are important nation-building services. We spend 76 lakhs on Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operation and Industries. In regard to Agriculture, Bengal spends 12 lakhs, Madras 23 lakhs; for Veterinary, Bengal 5 lakhs, Madras 11 lakhs, and for Co-operation, Bengal 14 lakhs, Bombay

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7 lakhs, United Provinces 6 lakhs and Madras 14 lakhs—15 lakhs this year. In regard to Industries, Bengal spends 17 lakhs, Bombay 9 lakhs, United Provinces 18 lakhs and Madras 27 lakhs, not a bad record for our province.

"Then, Sir, why should we have this constant feeling that we are always behind and doing nothing? Sir, let me remind hon. Members that when the camel is loaded heavily, the last straw may break its back. But every year it is not the same. There may be an increase, but people should not estimate the services rendered merely by the flush of the year. It is not the last straw alone that would feed the cattle, but the entire bundle of straw and, therefore, do not count by mere last straws, but take all the nation-building departments as a whole, Education, Medical Relief, Public Health, Veterinary, Agriculture, Co-operation, Industries, and Scheduled Classes, all together. It is good, Sir, that I mention that Bengal spends 274 lakhs, Bombay 271 lakhs, United Provinces 336 lakhs, Madras 482 lakhs, i.e., for last year and 490 lakhs this year.

"Now, Sir, I do not think that figures count only when they are quoted against me, and figures are nothing when I quote them in defence. These figures are not mere figures. They are, on the one hand, the taxes that we, with great difficulty and with sorrow, extract out of those who are unwilling and unable to pay, and at the same time, these represent some return to the poorer people in the country. Let us not imagine that we do a wonderful and creditable thing by taking more and spending more in these departments. You may ultimately give much less than what you take and, therefore, it is that even a Congress Government will have to hesitate to spend on these nation-building departments liberally if it can be done only by ripping open the belly of the goose that lays the golden eggs, namely the worker, the agriculturist in the land, the peasant.

"I think, Sir, it was Mr. Krishnamurthi that remarked, 'This Prime Minister is a very clever man and if only he sets his mind on a thing he can accomplish it; his attention must be drawn to it, that is all; he will achieve anything but he should only make up his mind.' Sir, it was the most embarrassing compliment that I ever got in my life. I want him to have a little more faith in my judgment and to make a little less estimate of my capacity. I want him to have more faith in my judgment, let me repeat it, and have less faith in my cleverness. If I have not rushed with certain things, he should remember that it was for very sound reasons; because he admits I am a clever man and because he admits I am a good man, I hope he will have that faith in my judgment and put off his criticism.

"Talking, Sir, about the manner in which we have used our opportunities, take the previous opportunity that this province had once upon a time—the Meston Award. That was also an award, just as the Niemeyer Award, which brought a certain round sum in. The Meston Award brought in not a few lakhs, but a few crores. How was it used?

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I may not be entitled to much credit for making the present estimates that I presented to the House; no credit may be due to me, but I can at least claim that I have not spoiled the chances. I claim that if we had ruled over the destinies of this province at the time of the Meston Award, I could have got prohibition then without making so many people angry as I do now, because it was possible to introduce prohibition straightaway then. And it was not necessary for me to have incurred the wrath of many interests; it was not necessary for me to incur even the wrath of the big mirasidars of certain districts who, perhaps, think, though they have not told me explicitly in so many words, 'why should he now take up the question of prohibition; why not reduce land revenue instead of taking to his fad of prohibition?'. It might not have been necessary for me to have incurred the displeasure of this kind if, for instance, the Meston Award had come in now. So many lakhs saved by way of contribution to the Central Government were wasted. How was that money used?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"I am asking for information, Sir. On previous occasions, whenever references were made to previous administrations, we were called to order. Will you permit us to reply at a later stage when the Demands are taken up, to the criticisms made by the present Ministry about previous administrations."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it a point of order?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"I am only asking for information whether on future occasions when the Demands are taken up, we would be given an opportunity of justifying the action of the previous administration."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Do you want an assurance?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"In the past, I was pulled up when I was making such references."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"When a point of order is specifically raised at any time, a ruling will be given."

MR. KALA VENKATA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Gentleman represents the previous administration here?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Whatever it is, the Chair will give a ruling only when a point of order is specifically raised. Nothing will be said in advance."

5-45 p.m. THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I have been entirely misunderstood. It is not to criticize the previous administration at all but to claim that, because it is possible to waste the windfall I am entitled to credit for not having done so. I say it was possible to waste the Niemeyer Award. It was possible to say, 'Let me not reduce salaries; let me not do this or that and incur the displeasure of so many people.' I have avoided that mistake and I claim

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that credit for the estimates that have been placed before the House. The windfall may be well-used or ill-used. It is creditable if it is well used. That is the proposition that I have put forward. It is creditable that the windfall has been properly used and I claim it. Let me explain. Is there any more straightforward way of using this Award than by saying 'Let the sum of 12 lakhs which was borrowed for the commutation of pensions be written back to revenue?' I say it was right and I am surprised at Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed still not being able to see the financial rectitude in it which he must have seen with all his experience. He was absent during a part of the debate and that may perhaps be responsible for this. I do say that the commutation of pensions is a marginal affair which is rightly debited to capital when necessary and written back to revenue when possible. I say that when the pensioner is given the right to capitalize his monthly pension, the State is entitled to capitalize that liability into a capital head and when the State has got the funds to write it back to revenue it is bound to write it back to revenue and that is the marginal rectitude on either side that I wish to stand upon. I say that I am entitled any year to refuse to give commutation of pensions or to borrow for the purpose of giving commutations and I am also entitled to ask the House to vote on a capital head for it. But I am bound when I get a windfall like this to explain to the House how I have got this money and, perhaps like an honest and good accountant, use part of this money immediately to repay back that from capital head to revenue and that is what has been done. I say, Sir, that is a good and proper use of the windfall."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I understood the Premier to say that to provide for commutation from revenue account was not good finance. Now he says that it is possible."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"There is absolutely no difficulty about understanding my position. I think that sometimes fixed ideas make it difficult for one to follow what the other has to say."

"Let me explain, Sir, what good use this windfall has been put to. If we do not use it, it would lapse into a mere balance and what will happen? Lapsing into balances, it could be used for unremunerative capital purposes. Let me explain for those who are not acquainted with the practice of budget-making that it is proper to borrow for capital expenditure only for remunerative purposes. At any rate that is the law that I have put forward in regard to financial propriety and I should not ask the House to permit me to borrow for unremunerative purposes; unremunerative capital expenditure will have to be met from the balances we hold. If I had not properly made use of this windfall within this year, it would go into the balances and it could be used for unremunerative capital expenditure. I could build a house with it; I could build the Parliament House; I could build residences for the Ministers with it and I could undertake other

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unremunerative civil works for which I could not borrow. It would be a handy sum for meeting this demand and a handsome sum too. We did not do so. We have earmarked 15 lakhs of rupees for starting a fund for rural water-supply. Is it not a wise way, is it not a proper way of using the windfall? May I not claim credit for that? I submit, Sir, that we are fallible and may make mistakes. But if we have not made mistakes, that is all. I think in these difficult days the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister can claim that as credit. We do not wish to commit mistakes and if Members opposite will help us not to commit mistakes, it is a credit and we do not want anything more. We have paid towards the depreciation fund of our electrical undertakings a year in advance of what we normally were expected to do. We have started paying into the depreciation and reserve fund in the fifth year itself, that is, a year in advance of what we were normally expected to do. Is it not a wise thing? Is it not a proper thing? I could easily have made a sensational use of that money. I could have used it for more sensational purposes than to pay in a depreciation fund which will not satisfy anybody or any constituency unless it is a constituency that is well acquainted with commercial undertakings and with profit and loss. Members like my hon. Friend representing the Indian Chamber can well congratulate me on being so wise and having set apart funds towards the depreciation fund a year even in advance of what we were bound to do.

"Then, Sir, the loan policy of the Government came in for a good deal of criticism. I am sorry to see that there is nervousness about the loan policy in certain quarters of this House. They seem to imagine that it is a very dangerous thing that we are doing. They keep on saying, 'Borrowing being bad as you yourself have said on previous occasions even for private individuals, how could it be good for the State?' 'It is a dangerous thing, do it cautiously' said one hon. Member. 'Do you make a habit of it' said another hon. Member. 'Use it carefully' said the Member for the Chamber of Commerce. He was right. We must borrow. He did not deny that. Only we must use the money carefully. That is correct criticism. I can claim that we have always used and we still propose to use the money carefully because I say that every pie of this borrowed money is to go to finance definite remunerative schemes. It will not be used for financing any unremunerative schemes whatsoever. Is that not a careful use of the money? If a scheme is passed by our Finance Department as remunerative, it is passed with great care and almost with stingy and over-stingy precautions. I say that borrowed money will be used most carefully and according to the estimates as put before the House. Mr. Palat said that it was very dangerous and wanted us to take advice. Sir, we have taken advice before borrowing. It is not as if I sit somewhere and start off borrowing on the principle that we may borrow when we have no money. It is not so. It is only done after very careful consideration and consultation. We take the advice of those who are best entitled to give advice as experts and then only we decide it. Let not the House think that the borrowing policy of

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the Government is merely the whim and fancy of the Finance Minister or anybody else. Very good advice has been taken and it has not been done in haste. Then, Sir, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, Mr. Hussain and even the old and experienced Hameed Khan expressed an amount of nervousness about this bad habit of borrowing. They said that it was a dangerous thing. Let me say just a word by way of explanation. But I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition has given his token of approval for that policy. He has not at any rate suggested that it was a dangerous policy. Of course, he would watch and see that it is properly used. What is this borrowing? We are not in a socialist society; we are in a capitalist society; we are in the grip of capitalistic organization. Now, people are allowed to make money. In this scheme of things what is the justification for the savings of money? What is the justification for people putting their money by? The only justification is that those moneys will be available for use as capital for the State and for the people. When we want big schemes started for the benefit of posterity, money must be found and it is unjust to expect one generation to give by way of taxation the capital that is necessary for starting a remunerative scheme for the benefit of posterity. It is unfair to ask tax-payers to pay and it would be wrong to ask tax-payers to pay it. Therefore, the capital retained in the hands of the people in the present economic organization must be tapped and can be justifiably tapped in order that we might build remunerative schemes for posterity, for the future. Therefore, it is that the State borrows by which means the money saved by individuals comes into a hotchpot, not for nothing, but for a fixed return by way of interest on guilt-edged securities, for being utilized as capital to be invested on remunerative schemes for the benefit of the people who pay taxes and who previously contributed towards this capital by taxation or by work or otherwise. Therefore, borrowing is necessary for any patriotic nationalistic Government. Let it not be mixed up and confused with private borrowings and frighten away people. On the contrary you should be frightened if we allow money to remain in private pockets without being taken over for the benefit of the State, of course with some interest. We must borrow and we should borrow. Those who hold such capital are not afraid of lending and we are not coercing them to give money to us. We offer the assets of our province; we offer the condition of our province to be examined and investigated; we offer the past and the future to be examined by experts. 'We hold so much' we say, 'if you like you may give us' and we take only the lowest tender and we do not take from those who demand higher rates of interest, and then after all this, if money flows into our borrowing programme, who can object? Therefore, I submit that we ought not to be afraid of our programme of borrowing. On the contrary, we should press for such borrowing and I have shown it is a prudent and careful programme which will bring in money from people who are capable of examining the credit of our province and lending only when they are satisfied. Therefore, Sir, all the criticisms and apprehensions that were expressed in respect of the loan policy are

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wrong and have no basis whatsoever. If I heard Sir Pannir Selvam aright, I think that he referred to the free balances of one year and another and said, 'This is dangerous; you had so much of free balances last year and it is only less this year; you are going into a very bad system of finance.' I may say, Sir, that we should not allow free balances to accumulate unnecessarily; it is a bad way and means Minister who allows unnecessary free balances to remain over in that way; and therefore it is I submit that nobody should be misled by apprehensions of that kind being expressed.

"Then, Sir, Sir Pannir Selvam referred to the land revenue remissions. He said, 'we did it before . . .'"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"I did not say that, Sir. I said, we are exactly where we were on the day you took charge."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not think, Sir, it is a distinction with a difference. However, there is no matter here for explanation at all either on his part or on mine. It is a matter of fact that I am dealing with, viz., that the land revenue remissions were declared no doubt by the previous Government at Rs. 75 lakhs. I wonder why they did not declare it at Rs. 150 lakhs. It is a different thing to give the remissions and to square the budget and not to incur the opprobrium of having not done this thing or that thing and that necessary thing or this necessary thing and all that. That is the difference between giving the Rs. 75 lakhs remission and doing all that we do and declaring it at Rs. 75 lakhs and making it difficult for us to make it even Rs. 73 lakhs, if necessary. That is the difference from actually dealing with facts. I claim that we gave Rs. 75 lakhs last year. I challenge any one to say 'no' or that anybody else gave it; I say we gave it and we give it again this year. Therefore it is not a failure; it is not a no-progress programme. We cannot be going on giving more and more remission until we get to the bottom of it. Sir, we have been presented with Provincial Autonomy, with Land Revenue and Excise. There is a story in the Upanishads where the son complained about his father's sacrifice merely consisting of gifts of toothless old cattle and barren cows. The son said, 'What is the good of your performing this yagna where you give toothless cows that have finished all their grazing and can no longer graze or eat grass, which are barren and can no longer bear calves or give milk? Give me away in sacrifice, I am dear to you, that is the way to make a sacrifice.' A fine old story, with a different moral altogether. I am reminded of that story. Sir, when I think of our own case, this Provincial Autonomy has been given to us with two old toothless barren cows—the land revenue and the excise revenue. The original Sanskrit is very beautiful; it says the cows have finished all their eating; they are *nirindriya*; they cannot bear hereafter. That is land revenue. Not only can it not bear hereafter, but it is going on the march the other way about. As for the excise revenue, it is finished, toothless and barren, both together. Well, these two cows are here

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and Mr. Pannir Selvam says, 'Why don't you remit more, why don't you observe a better policy about land revenue, why don't you spend more and bring up more satisfactory estimates?'

"Dr. Samuel—I must congratulate him, Sir, on his fine speech, because representing a particular community, he advanced not a single argument for communal claims, but only arguments for all the communities including his own. He spoke for many districts together, because he represents that community for all those districts. He spoke for all the Ceded districts, but I was waiting till the very end to see whether he would not say, before sitting down, 'do this for the Christian community.' He did not. Remarkable self-restraint. Not that if he had done so, it would be wrong; but I say he set an example to communal groups (Hear, Hear). I must therefore be permitted, Sir, to congratulate an hon. Member who makes his maiden speech in that manner."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Only on that account."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not think, Sir, if Dr. Samuel is here, he will take these interruptions to mean anything or to lead to anything. He will take my congratulations in the spirit in which they are offered. It has become so rare in our country to hear such a speech; at least for that reason, I must feel happy about it. I do not want him not to make references to his community or to the interests of his community; otherwise, under the scheme by which he is returned for that community, he would not be doing his work unless he brings the particular demands of his community before this House. It is right for him to do so; it is proper for him to do so; but it is a matter for joy that on the first occasion when he rose, he does not launch off in that way; but thinking of the enlightened members of his own community, he is confident that if only he tries, he can convince members of his own community that this is the line that should be taken rather than the all-pleasing line of placing particular interests of particular communities before the House. He has the courage and the faith in his own capacity to deal with his community in that way. He knows his community. I say and I know that the Christian community will not find fault with him for not making those claims. I know that Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan is not in the same fortunate position. (Laughter.)

"Now, Sir, let me plunge into Muslim education straightaway, though it is not in the order of my notes. Sir, if I were asked: 'What will you do?', more than anything else, I would say, 'if I could, I would spend money like water on Muslim education.' Why? Because I have the conviction that it is only Muslim education that will solve communalism (Applause). The more we spend on the education of communities that have got this communal complex, the better it will be. I claim it is the only final solution. For it is not by giving this job or that job, by doing this or that temporary alleviation, but by building up the foundation for nationalism, which is education, that we

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can solve the problem. Therefore, I do not at all differ from the suggestion made; I accept the suggestion that we should spend more and more for Muslim education, that we should spend money, if we could, like water—I say again—because it is the best nation-building programme that could possibly be launched upon by the House. But let nobody imagine that this is an unlimited programme. It is limited, it is restricted by the resources that we have. But I wish to give the assurance at this opportunity that if any proper good suggestion is made for the extension of Muslim education, it will receive from this Government all the consideration that is due on the background of what I have now stated. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'Free from any sting?') Absolutely no sting; it should not be understood to be a sting. It may be taken to be a sting so long as that complex continues to some extent (Applause); it is not a sting of this party, nor of any other vicious insect, but it is the sting of, say, the surgeon's injection needle, if you like. (An hon. Member: 'Love.') It is love also; true love is patient. But let me not speak in parables. Let me explain. This is not my statement. I have been advised definitely—I may say on behalf of my party—by the whole of the Congress. The whole of the Congress will be behind us if we spend money like water or as much as we have, for Muslim education, for the education of any particular class that stands in need of it, because, in the case of any class that stands in need particularly of education, we must set the equilibrium right first before we go further. There is no doubt about this proposition, and there is no sting about it whatsoever. I say it is necessary for the nation-building that we are out to see before our lifetime, if possible.

"Sir, I might just leave that subject there and deal with the scheduled classes for a moment. There was a demand for education and more ameliorative works. There is a demand which is always present before us, whether it is stated or not. I am here again tempted to point out that this province has got the credit of saying and claiming that it spends Rs. 11 lakhs—Rs. 10 lakhs last year and this year it is Rs. 11 lakhs in round figures. This item has to its credit Rs. 10 to Rs. 11 lakhs, whereas—and members may not believe me when I say it—the amount that is spent in Bombay is Rs. 1 lakh and in the United Provinces Rs. 1 lakh, and no figures are available in the budgets of the other provinces. It is practically nothing in those other provinces. It is not credit that I claim; it is not as if we are not alive to the needs of the scheduled classes. I beg to submit here, let there be no mistake, it is not a thing initiated by this Ministry; it is an old programme. I am always ready to render my obligations; my party would find fault with me if I did not do so. Because the previous Government started this, it should not be understood that we have no credit for it. I think, Sir, that the ultimate credit for all these schemes for the amelioration of the scheduled classes, goes to the national programme which is represented by members on this side. A nation grows all round together.

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It is impossible for a nation to concentrate on political advance, without thinking of social advance, social reform and the removal of disabilities of large classes of people. So, it is an axiom. I admit it is a necessary incident of progress with the Congress and the national leaders who guided the Congress long before our period. We are responsible for this realization of the duties of the State towards the scheduled classes as they are now called. They started many years ago, I do not deny, but, Sir, at no time has the programme been so vividly kept continually burnished and kept before the country as during the present time, and it is right that we should therefore remember it on this occasion when we speak about budgets. The amount has not fallen, but we have added about a lakh more to this expenditure.

"Coming, then, to measures—merely speaking of rupees, annas and pies won't do—the whole of the prohibition programme is a programme that will benefit all unfortunate classes who stand in need of help. It was stated, Sir, by the Leader of the Opposition, 'You started saying about prohibition that it will put money into the pockets of the people, four times the money that the Government spend; but you have admitted in your statement made now after three months' experience, "not much evidence yet of money having been saved by those who were formerly drinking".' Sir, it is because I did not wish to keep back anything, that the whole of it is put before the House. I did not wish to keep back anything because I have the responsibility of taking this prohibition from district to district, and it would not do to live on stories. We have to take all sides of the matter. But what exactly is the position? A little confusion has arisen there, which I wish to remove. Money has not been saved. Why? Because the people who were drinking were starving themselves before, did not buy cloth which they should buy, did not eat what they should eat. I would ask the Opposition to read the report again and to read my speech and admission again. I say more money has been put in food, more money has been spent to get better and more food, to get more clothes, but as yet, we have not seen that money has remained over in cash by way of savings, and we hope for it. Sir, a period of three months is not enough. If we want water here and if the Red Hills must fill up and reach a certain height before we can get the water along the pipe here, we cannot say, 'it has been raining, why is not the water coming here?' It has to fill up there before it comes here. So also in the peasant's home, in the homes of the drinking classes, to a certain extent, money cannot be saved from the very beginning. But what does that prove? It proves that it would have been wicked to keep the toddy shops open under those conditions. Of course, I could have said that money has been saved; but hon. Members would have at once turned round and said: 'Therefore, it was not true that they were starving themselves before. Money was not saved, and drink is not a positive evil. Money should come either as excise revenue or you should leave the money into their pockets and they should misuse it.' I say it is right and it is good that money

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has not been saved so far. It is impossible. If we were right in our estimates before, we would have to wait a good while before money could be saved in that manner. But money is really saved—not money exactly, but the men have been saved by more money going into food, more money going into clothes and by less crime and in every other manner. And I do hope to show to hon. Members—I have that faith in this programme—that by and by money will be saved. Sir, let us wait for a day when we will float a loan when one can lend sums like Rs. 5 towards it and we may get a few investors from the countryside also. It is not impossible if only we proceed all together.

“In that connexion, Sir William Wright said, ‘I am not quite sure that we have got all the sides, my friend.’ Nor am I quite sure. But that does not matter; I am getting all sides right enough. But nobody need be sure. Sir William Wright said—I only heard him, I did not read his speech—he seemed to make a joke saying—‘it looks as if the people are having only a healthy exercise along the roads; they are marching across the frontier and drinking at long distances instead of drinking in their own places.’ Well, if it should be so, let it be so. I admit it is only a district prohibition. I admit there is a border all round; I admit that a man can walk three miles or five miles, especially if he does not drink every day. I think it is good for him that he walks, even if he should drink at the other end. I think that other people also should walk, and if it be so, let it be so. But it is not a tragedy for the whole district; it is a tragedy of the border; so, let us unite to make that border less and less. Let us see that there is no drink at the end of the walk. If Sir William Wright will help me, we shall do it. I am not an admirer of this healthy exercise for the sake of the drink; but it is better than drink tumbling into many houses. If it should be taken only after a long and bitter walk and if the effects were to wear away by the return journey, I say, so far so good for the family and for the men also. But we are doing our best, Sir, to reduce this margin.

“Here I come to Mr. Palat who seems to have forgotten his geography. Let me say that Chittoor is contiguous to Salem and Cuddapah is contiguous to Chittoor. But if the suggestion is, ‘Why don’t you take a district much more contiguous to Salem like Coimbatore or North Arcot?’, then he is right. But one is not permitted always to try mere contiguity experiments; there are other things also to be taken into account, and therefore contiguity along with other matters should be taken together. We have tried to get a larger area with the minimum margin and with a plan to make even a lesser margin later on. That is the explanation with reference to the geographical objection that was raised by Mr. Palat.

“Again, Mr. Palat referred to some waste in buildings. He pointed out a place here or a place there where some police official had been given a house, according to the Part II Schemes, which was a great sin. If the Part II Schemes are examined, it will be seen that only very necessary cases have been sanctioned and that too most grudgingly

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after the most careful examination in respect of buildings of that kind. Instead of appreciating our fight against the old order of things, Mr. Palat has chosen to point out a plausible case here or there. I want hon. Members to study that list and see what we have done.

“Somebody else remarked, very improperly I think, if I may be permitted to say so, that the Government and the Ministers are being dominated by the Services. Instead of taking responsibility for that statement, the Member seemed even to say that it was said by the people generally. It is as improper towards the Ministry as it is towards the Services. It is most improper either way. It is untrue; it is not my plan to dominate over people; but it is not our plan either to be dominated over by anybody else who has no right to so dominate. I think that the Services will resent such a remark that they have been disloyal to the law, disloyal to the people under whom they are serving. It is a very serious charge, and I wish the hon. Member had not let himself go in that manner. My temperament automatically resents it and that is why I take the liberty of dwelling on it. I wish sometimes that I had been more patient with people who interfered with me; but my fault is not what Mr. Basheer Ahmed imagines it is. Let me tell him once for all that there is no such thing as the Services dominating over the Government and that he should not allow himself to speak in that manner hereafter.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I accept the statement of the Hon. the Premier, but I thought, Sir, I was in duty bound to give expression to what was being felt in some quarters that there was an inferiority complex prevailing on the Treasury Benches. That is all.”

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—“I am very sorry, Sir, that the hon. Member, coming forward to admit my statement of fact, repeats the mistake again. (Laughter.) It is not the way to find fault with the Ministry, if one wishes to find fault with it. There are other ways of criticising the Ministry than this. I want the utmost use to be made of the intelligence and the capacity of Members of the Opposition or anybody else to find fault with us; but I do not want them to make improper accusations of this kind, improper both to us and to the Services with whom I am dealing as a satyagrahi should deal. Let hon. Members know that I am not a satyagrahi only in the Congress; I am using the weapons of non-violence not outside the Government only, but even inside the Government. It is a method with which the Government, representing as it does the Congress, is bound up in all matters. I am dealing with Mr. Basheer Ahmed in the same spirit, and I want him to know that I am dealing with every member of the Service in the same manner. Surely, the hon. Member here should know that if I could speak to him thus here, I should not be afraid of members in the Services with whom I have no connexion, to whom I am not attached in any way. Why should the Ministry have the inferiority complex? Is there any reason why they should be very happy in the present position and unhappy in

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the other position? Absolutely wrong. I could have passed on, Sir, immediately to other subjects had not the hon. Member again, with a fixed idea in his mind, come forward to repeat the story, instead of doing his duty by contradicting such a story when he heard it elsewhere and not repeating it here."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I have done it."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Thank you. Talking of the Services naturally takes us to the question of salaries. Sir Pannir Selvam asked: 'At the time of the last Budget, you said you would ask the Secretary of State to permit the reduction of salaries of existing incumbents of posts; we want to know what orders have been passed by the Secretary of State and what you have done' and so forth. I must explain, therefore, the position. It is true that last time, when I introduced the Budget, I said so and I had intended to follow that course. The legal position is this: it is not as some Members have understood it. That is why it is necessary for me to say something now. It is not true to say that we have to ask the Secretary of State for permission to reduce the salaries of present incumbents of posts all round. We claim, according to the law as it stands, that this Government have the right to reduce the salaries even of present incumbents of posts if they had been appointed after 1922. It is not right to say that every man who has been appointed before 1937 has a right to ask for the sanction of the Secretary of State before we can reduce his salary. That is not the law as we understand it. The law as understood by this Government even before we took office is that the only limitation is with respect to officers appointed before the year 1922. The Government of India and the Secretary of State have not yet decided it; the Government of India took a different view of the matter.

"But apart from that legal position which I do not wish to concede on behalf of the Government, as put forward by some Members, it may become necessary later on to use our full powers. So it is, I claim, our right to reduce the salaries according to the interpretation of the law as it stands. But it was not on that question that we did not do it; let me tell Sir Pannir Selvam and other Members who wanted the information, we did not apply to the Secretary of State for sanction. Here also let me say that I acted on the same principles to which I referred a minute ago. I want to proceed as a satyagrahi would proceed. I did not find that atmosphere that I had hoped for. I say it was a concession that I made deliberately and let me claim on behalf of the Ministry that I represent, that it is not a question of the Secretary of State having turned it down or anything like that. We stopped it ourselves. We did not ourselves apply. The position however is this: Hon. Members say, 'why then the cut to the promotees also?' Some hon. Members urged that the promotees should be saved, and some other points were urged in connexion with salaries. It was stated, 'You must make distinctions between various kinds of posts.' I think the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Member for the Indian

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Chamber of Commerce urged, 'You should not bring the steam-roller cut on all, but you should distinguish between Services and Services.' Sir Pannir Selvam and the Leader of the Opposition said that judicial posts should not be touched. 'Should this agency be touched, they may become corrupt. The duties to be fulfilled by them may not be fulfilled properly. You may reduce other people's salaries.' But I think Mr. Krishnamachari said . . ."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIR SELVAM:—"As a matter of personal explanation, Sir, I did not say that you might reduce other people's salaries. I only stated that so far as the Judicial department is concerned, it stood on a different footing and so you should not interfere with their salaries without the consent of the Chief Justice of the High Court. That does not mean that I said that you can interfere with other people's salaries."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not claim that interpretation. But I am referring to the objections. Sir Pannir Selvam said, 'get the Chief Justice's approval, because he alone has the right to reduce the salaries of his subordinates and so he has the right to be consulted.' Mr. Krishnamachari said 'I wonder why you don't lower the salaries of the munsifs; on the reduced salaries you can get men with excellent equipment and character for these posts.' Probably one of them is right to a certain extent. We can get excellent men, and yet there may be dangers. But, Sir, I may give this information to the House in this matter; if only I had the right to make distinctions between posts and posts and if I had said 'I will cut down for this post so much and for that post so much' and if I put forward a scheme to that effect, sympathetic Members sitting on the Opposition side will kindly try to visualize how much of opposition that proposal would have raised; what kind of opposition would have been raised on each head; how many letters would have appeared in the press on each particular post—they are now appearing with respect to promotees and new entrants and that is all—and on each post we find difference of opinion, different considerations, different interests, and I wonder if those who recommend that procedure imagine that we can get through in the matter of reduction of salaries by going along those lines. After all, I want this to be allowed, not merely because of its convenience but on the more substantial ground, and I say that we are right because of this: Is it only the judiciary that dispenses justice? It is an entirely wrong understanding of the scheme of life in this country. The Revenue Officer has more to deal out justice than the judiciary, more occasions when he can do injustice. The police constable has occasions to render justice or injustice. Every official, every limb of the administration, has the opportunity to do justice or injustice in this land of ours, and therefore, it will not do to say that it is no use reducing the salaries of the judges but you may perhaps try with respect to others. It is entirely a misappreciation of the relevant proportion of honesty in this country. Every one has to

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be honest, every official has to be honest if our country is to be prosperous and happy, and we do hope that we shall have that condition which we have not got now.

"But, Sir, I do not think that this question of corruption has anything to do with the reduction that we are proposing. If a man can be honest on Rs. 200 to-day, he can be honest on Rs. 250 tomorrow. It is not true, nor right, nor necessary to imagine that because he hoped to make Rs. 300 but he makes only Rs. 250, he proceeds to take bribes. This is wrong. I want the hon. Members to have faith in the nation and the intelligentsia of the country who are equipped for accepting these posts of responsibility. I believe that members of the services will be honest in spite of this or any other cut. I believe that there is a point at which the arithmetical proposition, that the more you pay the more the man would be honest, must stop. There is a point at which a man will become dishonest. With regard to salaries that we touch, that is those above Rs. 100, there is no relevancy for the talk about corruption. As for the Chief Justice's opinion that was asked about, does Sir Pannir Selvam think that I can or should or may give these various opinions received from various departmental heads? Can I disintegrate the Government machine in that manner? Can I publish opinions received from various departmental heads and other responsible persons whom we consulted; and can I allow people to compare and contrast and infer? It is not possible for me to do so. But if at any time it becomes necessary and becomes proper, all the documents that can be published will be published. But I may generally tell you, Sir, that reduction of salaries was not generally approved of by the Services or the heads of the Services. I may say so straightaway. But it does not mean that they disapproved of that. They were consulted because of their experience and they have got a right to advise the Government and we have had the advantage of considering all those suggestions, and as a result of comparing and contrasting them with our own policy in the matter, what has been done has been done. But there is nothing more to be said about it and let us hope that it will not dislocate the reputation that the Services in our Province possess."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"What about the listed posts?"

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The hon. Member is wrong in imagining that we can cut them down. I think that is all that I need say at the present moment. But if the hon. Member tells me and proves that I can cut them down, I give him my promise that I shall do so."

"Then, as regards the prison release. It came in for some remarks. I think Sir Pannir Selvam said that it is a dangerous policy to let off criminals like this. Mr. Palat said it is an arrogation of judicial powers to release them like this. But Mr. Krishnamachari had his usual solution for the business. 'Appoint a Law Commission,' he

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said, 'we want an expert to do this thing, you should not do this. Appoint law commissioners and let them examine the law and decide the matter. You have no right to trifle with the law as it stands and tinker with it and release prisoners like this. You must allow the law to work out. Either you must change the law or you must allow it to function until it is changed'."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"As a matter of personal explanation, Sir, I would like to state that I did not object to the release of prisoners, but what I stated was only a corollary to the Government of India Act."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"As regards the law commissioners, I do not object to the matter being examined by law commissioners, especially, if the law commissioners ask for no salaries during the interval. (Laughter.) Otherwise I am inclined to get on with the law as it stands."

"But coming to the point of release of prisoners, I am grateful to Mr. Krishnamachari for admitting and approving of our policy with regard to the conditional release of prisoners. That is what I wish to tell Mr. Palat if he were here. It is not an arrogation of judicial functions at all. It is not even the exercise of mercy which the executive government has the right to exercise. It is a criminological policy. If a man has been kept in prison for a long time, say, five years—hon. Members opposite may calculate five years only from the days but some of us here know what five years mean actually (Ministerial cheers)—six years, eight years, or ten years, and if he has not changed and if our object is not vengeance but reformation, we must give such prisoners a chance. This policy of releasing prisoners after they have suffered adequate periods of their sentences, this release of prisoners on condition of good behaviour, is not a discovery of this Government. It is a well-known policy towards criminals and prisoners in modern countries. It is not a dangerous policy, Sir, and I think all sections of the House should welcome it. The cases are examined; dangerous types are kept out; it is only non-dangerous types that are taken; we do not sit in judgment over the original cases; it is the non-dangerous types that are given the benefit of a conditional release on good behaviour, and if they go bad again, unfortunately they come back to prison. Therefore, hon. Members need not be frightened by the references made about this dangerous policy pursued as between one set of criminals and another set of criminals."

"Then Sir, reference was made by Mr. Palat, I think, to the policy of public prosecutors being chosen in a different way. I do not know if he approved of it or disapproved of it. He seemed to advocate the appointment of Advocate-General by this method. That was what I heard him say. In regard to the appointment of public prosecutors, what we have recommended is that only those who command the confidence of the bar with whom they work, and those who command the confidence of the party who engages them as public prosecutors, namely, Government, will hereafter be appointed. Thus two confidences

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are necessary for good working, one, the confidence of the client, namely, the Government, and two, the confidence of those with whom and among whom the public prosecutors have to work. If this system fails to work properly, we have no objection to withdraw it.

"But, Sir, will it be done for the Advocate-Generalship, it was asked. We had not got a chance in this. The present Advocate-General was appointed before we came in."

(At this stage Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan said something without rising from his seat, apparently audible to the Hon. Premier and those very near him.)

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not know; I am not anxious to shake him off, nor am I anxious to shake off anybody else. It is necessary to consider that question only when it arises. But for the present, I want to assure hon. Members that this is, as far as I think, a better policy than what has been hitherto followed."

(Again Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan was heard to say something without rising from his seat.)

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Will the hon. Member kindly not interrupt me in this way? It is rather too late to receive interruptions without being heard by the Speaker. I welcome interruptions, as sometimes they are helpful to the debate. But this is not a convenient time to interrupt.

"As regards another great point made against the budget and against the administration incidentally, namely, the enhancement of registration fees, I should have been surprised if hon. Members opposite had not taken advantage of it. It is the one thing that one can see on which to criticise Government, and if the Opposition had not done so, then they are not fit to occupy the Opposition benches. Sir, no doubt, registration fee has been enhanced. But what I wish to point out in this connexion is this. No enhancement has taken place in respect of documents below two hundred rupees. It is well that every one knows the case properly so that there may not be any room for any point of attack against the administration under this head. At the risk of repetition I say, we have not enhanced any fees for documents below two hundred rupees."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"There is no registration fee for documents below two hundred rupees." (Laughter from the Opposition Benches.)

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I would welcome such interruptions; but we cannot get along in this way, as there is hardly time before us."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members will allow the reply to go on without any interruption."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"As I said, documents for two hundred rupees and below are saved from this enhancement. Above two hundred rupees, what is the situation? As

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I said, this enhancement is a matter on which the Opposition could base their criticism. Of course opposition for opposition's sake is not all right. A just Opposition should be helpful in a case of this kind and not be merely finding fault, because the facts of the case are these. For documents above two hundred rupees, the fee in Bombay is three rupees, and the fee in Madras as now enhanced is two rupees. For documents below five hundred rupees the fee is four and eight rupees respectively in Bombay and Bengal, but three rupees in Madras as enhanced. In Bombay the fee is six rupees for seven hundred and fifty rupees, and in Madras it is four rupees as enhanced. In Madras for documents of one thousand rupees the fee is five rupees and for documents of five thousand rupees the fee is fifteen rupees, though in Bombay it stands respectively at six rupees and eighteen rupees; thus in both cases it is above the amount of fee levied here even after enhancement. Therefore, is it just to say that this Ministry has enhanced the registration fee? Is it just to say, 'what a great burden has been heaped on the people?' Let hon. Members compare the rates here with rates obtaining in Bengal and Bombay. If only they will do that, they will find that the fees that now stand are well below those prevailing in those provinces. But, Sir, what is the justification, asks Mr. Basheer Ahmed, because it helps him to say so. The justification is this. In Madras we have 611 sub-registrars, whereas in Bengal they have only 387, and in Bombay 243. Sir, six hundred and eleven sub-registrars to serve, as against three hundred and eighty-seven in Bengal and two hundred and forty-three in Bombay! And the rates now prevailing still well below the rates of those provinces, no enhancement at all! Is this a great point for a just Opposition to lay its finger on? Sir, I leave it at that.

"If the Opposition want Government to run this department as a commercial department, if the Opposition want Government to run this department as a self-supporting department and not getting anything extra, I ask, what shall we do with those departments which bring in no revenue at all, what shall we do with those departments of expenditure pure and simple; and who is to pay for them? I claim this is not the Postal department, this is not the Railway department to be self-sufficient and self-supporting. I am prepared to run all departments of Government as commercial departments if only hon. Members will show me how to run them so, and if only hon. Members are prepared to bear the burden of running those departments of expenditure pure and simple.

"Then, Sir, reference was made to Hindustani, and it gave an occasion to Sir Pannirselvam to say that we are not responsive to public agitation, we are not responsive to public demonstrations and agitations. I claim, Sir, this agitation against Hindustani is the result of, or rather I attribute it particularly to two friends of mine, good friends also, one cursed with the prejudice of anti-Aryanism and the other cursed with the feeling of anti-Congress. It has nothing to

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do with the school curriculum as far as I see. That is what I claim, and I do not think they admit it. I claim the agitation is entirely due to the energy of my friend, Mr. Ramaswami Naicker and the wrong prejudice of another friend of mine. It is not a real agitation; it is not an educational agitation; it is an agitation entirely based on grounds other than educational.

"Of course, the argument is that Hindustani would be too great a burden. It is on the assumption that it will not be so, that we proceed. We are convinced that Hindustani would not be too a great burden for the first, second and third form boys, and therefore we have introduced it. If the Ministry is convinced, if the Government is convinced, that it would be a burden, we would not do so. And even if it proves too great a burden, it is not due to the language burden; but it is due to other causes, which we must tackle. It is not true, as some people imagine, Sir, that it is a fad; it is not owing to a liking or a partiality for that language it is introduced. It is also necessary for me to say this, for it is true; my friends who oppose Hindustani do not know how much I dislike that language myself; they do not know how much inferior to Tamil, it is, knowing Tamil as I do, it being my mother-tongue. Yet I admit the importance of Hindustani, yet I admit the need for Hindustani. It is not because I am fond of Hindustani that this Ministry is forced to introduce it in the school curriculum. Tamil is a much better language, though other Members may not agree. I say it is born not out of any fad or partiality in my mind when I say I think Hindustani is inferior to Tamil."

(At this stage Mr. Hameed Khan said something without rising from his seat, apparently audible only to the Hon. the Premier and others near him.)

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I am sorry to hurt Mr. Hameed Khan's feelings, it being his mother-tongue. But he must admit, he must have the same consideration to my feelings also. (Laughter.) It is necessary that facts must be faced. It is the one language of Hindus and Muslims of all-India and it is the language of the majority of Indians, be they Muslims or Hindus. For dialects of Hindustani are the mother-tongues of the majority of Indians, Hindu or Muslim. Therefore we must face these facts. It is possible some may say, 'why do you bother about all-India? Let us bother ourselves about our own province.' I ask, then why bother about all-India Federation? We claim to be an integral part of India. And that is also the claim of those who are opposed to our aspirations to some extent. It is claimed that not only the province of India but the States of India also should be united with you and that you should carry the burden of all Indian States on your back if you should have a Government of your own. Well, under these circumstances, and with this background, how can you say, 'I do not care what language is spoken by what majority.' I want Tamil, and therefore let our boys learn Tamil.' That argument is not good. I know Hindustani is

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necessary for our boys. I do not think that we, Members, responsible for Government in this country, do not love our boys, or do not know the boys of our province. If we see that this is a bad thing for our boys, or anything else which is bad for that matter, we shall be in a hurry to give it up. But we know we would be unfair to our boys if we do not give them this Hindustani. They do not complain. I have seen them in groups, I have seen them not only now but on many an occasion, and the bright eyes and the beaming intelligence come before my mind's eye even now so clearly that I think those boys told me in so many words, 'Hindustani will be no burden to us; we shall master it, despite all the pessimism of those who speak against it.' I have no doubt in my mind that Hindustani will not be a big burden for our boys as English has not been and as any other subject has not been. Then that takes me, Sir, immediately to the Wardha Scheme.

"'It is a famine coolie business,' said Mr. Palat, 'Bright idea that! You are going to sweat child labour.' Yes. And he followed it up by saying 'Government members had better start schools and try' and so on and so on. But Sir William Wright also said, 'Do not be hasty with that scheme, be cautious.' All right. I will only talk a word. I will not take the time of the House much on the subject. The policy should be understood. What is the Wardha Scheme? That is understood in a word. It is that culture, literacy and education, should be built round an occupation instead of round a printed book. Round a printed book we are now giving culture, literacy and education. What the Wardha Scheme wants to do is to build this literacy, to build this education and to build this culture round a good, sound and useful occupation which the child must also learn. This is all the Wardha Scheme. It is also a part of the hope in that scheme that this is a cheaper way of running education than building education and literacy round a printed book. (Interruption.) It is bound to be cheaper. It does not mean that we may succeed in making it cheaper at the very outset. Many things which are started will not be as cheap as they really should be when you are to change from one system to another. I am quite certain that if gentlemen in Madras who own and maintain a motor car were asked to buy a coach and horse and maintain them, they do not know to maintain the horse cheaply these days and they will spend more on the coach and horse than they would on a motor car, if they buy one. Manners have changed, experiences have changed, and people have got used to a certain line of conduct that they won't save if they exchange even a bullock cart for a motor car; but that difficulty is transitional. It may be that to build education round an occupation may, for the time being, prove more costly than to build education round a printed book, but when you look ahead, it is bound to be cheaper than building the national education round a scheme of mere book education. That is all that I wish to say about it, Sir.

"The exodus was the point of some attack again by Sir Pannirselvam. He said, 'What you save by half a lakh by stopping the

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Ootacamund move you spend otherwise now, by Ministers moving about all over the Province.' If he had not offered that argument, and if any one else had offered it, I need not waste the time of the House on this subject. But, Sir, he was responsible to know, he had the opportunities to know the difference. Moving all over the Province gives opportunities which moving to Ootacamund does not give. But even as a matter of fact, Sir, the six Ministers who functioned before our time for $3\frac{1}{2}$ months . . . (Interruption.) I am sorry, Sir, that Sir Pannirselvam referred to the subject, otherwise I should not have even thought about a comparison that I wish to make; but how can I allow the statement made as against the present Ministers' 'wickedness' in moving about the Province, when he referred to that? I must say exactly what the Ministers are responsible for, for we are now holding office. They have moved about for $6\frac{1}{2}$ months—not six, but ten of them, the whole gang (Laughter)—ten of them have moved for $6\frac{1}{2}$ months round the country and have spent Rs. 20,000 odd. Six Ministers only functioning before us, moved about for $3\frac{1}{2}$ months, not $6\frac{1}{2}$ months, and spent Rs. 28,000 and more. (Hear, hear.) Rs. 28,000 against Rs. 20,000 is not a very great difference that we should be proud of. But let me help gentlemen who call for a cheer to realize that $3\frac{1}{2}$ months multiplied by six Ministers, when compared with $6\frac{1}{2}$ months multiplied by ten Ministers, gives a difference of ratio, which would permit us to spend, to be on a par with our predecessors, Rs. 86,500. If I had spent Rs. 86,500 on this account, I would have done bare justice to my predecessors and kept company with them; but we have done it within Rs. 20,000. I have got one more factor. I think we have moved over greater lengths than they did. (Laughter.) We have not multiplied the amount with the distance that we have covered and if we did that you will get a figure too large to be fully realized by hon. Members, for after a certain limit we do not think concretely in figures; but the difference came out of the method of travelling also. Sir, with all this, is it right to contrast this useful journeying round the whole area of the country, for which we are responsible, where we have to come into contact with people and deal with situations, and to understand the position from time to time, is it good to contrast this with the saving we have, for the first time, made in regard to the move of the whole of the Government to Ootacamund? Nearly Rs. 40,000 is saved there. Contrast it with the Rs. 20,000 we have spent in going round, obviously uselessly—because we hold different views as regards the Government. Sir, that is not right. It was not right or wise for Sir Pannirselvam to have put things in that manner and it has led me to make this contrast; because I have a certain conscience about it, still, I made it. I think that we had spent too much even now, I think we could spend less. I wish we could travel second-class, but not merely to cut the whole compartment into a berth and all that. But, I am the biggest sinner of all. If you will permit a personal statement, I am the only sick man among my colleagues. I sometimes feel that I am the only man who spends a little more than others. All others are spending barely the

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minimum. Nobody should imagine that our Ministers are extravagant in going round the country. These subjects, Sir, may, on occasions like this receive a wide publicity and when a statement like that is made by Sir Pannirselvam, much mischief, I fear, may be created and that is the only justification for my making this contrast.

"I do not think, Sir, that I should deal with other matters of comparatively smaller importance except that I should make a few remarks with reference to the labour situation to which Mr. Langley made reference. I shall not thank him for the congratulations and compliments he paid us. He is known for that courtesy and it is not a matter that I should take to our own credit. It is to the point with reference to the labour situation to which he referred that I am coming now. He said, Sir, that the situation was getting dangerous and that if the Ministers are doing their best, some of the Ministers' followers, —'followers' within inverted commas—, were not considerate and careful and were making matters difficult. I think, Sir, I am entitled to say on this occasion and it is right that I should say, that this is needless alarm. I should think, Mr. Langley takes an unnecessarily alarmist view of the situation with regard to labour. I do not think there is any need or cause for this. I also wish to add that as I understand the situation, not only with regard to rural labour or plantation labour, but with regard to all kinds of labour including industrial labour, it is the non-recognition of the unions of labourers that causes all the difficulties. If only employers and managements of business or industrial enterprises could agree with me that the recognition of labour unions and occasional consultations with the representatives of labour unions would lead to peace and harmony, I think that we shall have solved many of the difficulties and this province will get on very well. The recognition of the labour unions is the key, I think, to harmony and peace.

"They do not know the genius of our people. If only we meet, we become friends. We do not meet and we exaggerate the angularities of one another. If labour unions are treated as I suggest, Sir, on this occasion, I do not think, Mr. Langley and his friends or leaders of industrial enterprises in this province will have any occasion to confront difficulties. It will be the greatest service which employers would render to this Government to whom they give the credit of good intentions. If only employers will recognize the need for meeting the representatives of labour unions constantly and without any difficulty or prejudice, it will help us so greatly that we can do much more towards industrial peace than we have been able to do up till now.

"As regards Government, Sir, it may be taken for granted by both sides, if we may call them sides, that Government will not take sides in any matter of this kind, or in any dispute. And therefore, it should be possible for the advice of Government on the issues in any particular case to be received by both sides with the respect and the attention with which the advice of Government should be received.

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"If therefore, Mr. Langley, leaders of labour and industrial enterprises, employers and managements will all do, each a very little bit, I do not think that the Government, as it is constituted now, will find much difficulty in seeing that peace rules over industrial enterprises and over plantations of this province. I do not think that any alarmist view need be taken of the situation. My own personal view is that this so-called bargaining—individual bargaining and collective bargaining—is equally crude; we know individual bargaining; we know the village lady who goes to the seller of brass vessels or *kal-chettis* on the pial and says, 'you want one rupee; I shall pay 10 annas'; the lady has to walk half a furlong the other side and she must close up the door; the seller must come back, knock at the door again and say 'take for 14 annas'; 'no, 12 annas.' That is individual bargaining, a very crude business. Our modern trading instincts rebel against that kind of bargaining; somehow or other I think that collective bargaining also is of the same kind; collective bargaining is supposed to be very good, very right and very modern. I think, Sir, that this is also very crude. Neither individual bargaining nor collective bargaining is the best way of dealing with business. But the history of British trade union labour has given us certain fixed notions and we have to get along with collective bargaining for the present, if not, for all time.

"I must say that this is my own opinion; I must save my Colleague, the Hon. Minister for Labour, from any concern or part with this notion of mine, because I think he must pay more consideration than I need, towards the British heritage of collective bargaining and British trade unionism. But my personal remarks are relevant for this reason only: Here is no ground for anybody being alarmed and we ought to be able to devise ways and means not only for temporary make-shifts but towards ever-permanent peace in our country, in our province. If we put our heads together, we can avoid misfortunes and suffering, disturbance, dislocation and things of that kind.

"Sir, I have taken far too much time, but, I hope I have not taken time uselessly. On the whole, Sir, I claim again that the Budget is a wise one; the estimates are good and the House had better accept them. I thank you, Sir, for the indulgence shown to me to take up so much time of the House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Voting on Demands for Grants will begin on the 14th instant. The House will now adjourn and meet again on the 14th at 3 p.m."

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 276 asked by Mr. H. S. Hussain, at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 5th March 1938, page 311 supra.]

Name of District Board. (1)	Name of Secretary. (2)	Qualifications. (3)	Scale of pay. (4)
Anantapur ..	B. Krishnaswami Rao ..	B.A. and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
North Arcot ..	G. Punyakoti Mudaliyar ..	Matriculation and Account and Revenue tests.	125—10/2—175.
Cuddalore ..	A. Alagappa Mudaliyar ..	S.S.L.C. and Account, Revenue and Translation tests.	175—15/2—250.
Villupuram ..	N. Sivaprakasa Mudaliyar ..	Part II in B.A. and Account test.	125—10/2—175.
Bellary ..	A. Nanjundayya ..	S.S.L.C. and Revenue, Account, Translation and Criminal Judicial tests.	125—10/2—175.
Chingleput ..	B. Ranganadham Nayudu ..	S.S.L.C. and Account, Revenue and Criminal Judicial tests.	125—10/2—175.
Chittoor ..	C. Shanmughavelu Mudaliyar ..	S.S.L.C. and Account test, Typewriting (Intermediate).	125—10/2—175.
Coimbatore ..	R. David ..	B.A. and Account, Revenue, Criminal, Judicial and Translation tests.	175—15/2—250.
Erode ..	R. Narayanaswami Ayyar ..	Matriculation and Account, Revenue and Translation tests.	125—10/2—175.
Ouddapah ..	A. Raghava Reddi (on other duty as Commissioner).	B.A., Account and Revenue tests.	175—15/2—250.
	D. Ramachandra Reddi (Officiating).	B.A., B.L. ..	175—15/2—250.
Chicacole ..	Y. Govindarao Nayudu ..	S.S.L.C. and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
Cocanada ..	P. Venkatarayudu ..	F.A. with English and Telugu branches of old B.A. Examination and Account, Revenue and Translation tests.	125—10/2—175.
Rajahmundry ..	Vacant ..	(Will be filled by the President, District Board, shortly.)	125—10/2—175.
Ellore ..	K. Subba Raju ..	B.A. and Account tests.	125—10/2—175.
Narasapur ..	S. Subba Rao (on probation).	B.A., B.Ed.	125—10/2—175.
Guntur ..	G. Balaramiah ..	Exempted from qualifications under the old rules.	125—10/2—175.
Ongole ..	J. Ramakotayya Choudhary ..	B.A. and Account test.	125—10/2—175.
South Kanara ..	M. Sunder Rao ..	B.A., L.T., Account and Revenue tests.	125—10/2—175.
Kistna ..	V. Lakshmiipathi ..	B.A. B.Ed. and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
Bezwada ..	D. Sriramulu Nayudu ..	Government Middle School Examination and Account test.	125—10/2—175.
Kurnool ..	G. Parameswaran Pillai ..	B.A. and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
Madura ..	C. Vedachalam Pillai ..	B.A., B.L., Account, Revenue, Criminal and Translation tests.	250—25/2—400.
Malabar ..	K. P. Sankunni ..	B.A. and Account test ..	175—15/2—250.
North Nellore ..	G. Rajendra Rao (on other duty as Commissioner).	M.A. and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
	N. Mangapathi Nayudu (officiating).	B.A., B.L. ..	125—10/2—175.
South Nellore ..	K. Ramachandra Rao ..	Matriculation and Account and Translation tests.	125—10/2—175.
The Nilgiris ..	K. Viswanathan Nayar ..	B.A., passed S.A.S. Examination ..	175—15/2—250.
North Ramnad ..	M. P. Alexander (on probation).	M.A., B.L. ..	125—10/2—175.
South Ramnad ..	S. N. Panchanadha Ayyar ..	S.S.L.C. and Account, Revenue and Translation tests.	125—10/2—175.
Salem ..	M. S. Thayappa Pillai ..	B.A. and Account test ..	250—25/2—400.
Dharmapuri ..	M. Dattathriya ..	S.S.L.C. and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
East Tanjore ..	T. P. Murugesam Pillai ..	Matriculation and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
West Tanjore ..	L. Marghasahayam Pillai ..	B.A. and Account, Revenue and Criminal Judicial tests.	125—10/2—175.
North Tinnevely ..	T. S. Krishna Ayyar (on leave).	B.A. and Account, Revenue and Criminal Judicial tests.	125—10/2—175.
	S. Sivakolundu Mudaliyar (officiating).	B.A. and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
South Tinnevely ..	B. Sankaranarayana Pillai (temporary).	Matriculation and Account test ..	125—10/2—175.
Trichinopoly ..	M. M. Krishnaswami Pillai ..	B.A., B.L. and Account test ..	250—25/2—400.
Vizagapatam ..	K. Sanyasi Raju (on other duty as Commissioner).	B.A., B.L. ..	175—15/2—250.
	K. Ranga Raju (officiating).	B.A., B.L. ..	175—15/2—250.
Bobbili ..	Ramaswami Nayudu (on probation).	M.A. (Hon.) ..	175—15/2—250.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 279 asked by Mr. Kala Venkata Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 5th March 1938, page 313 supra.]

Serial number.	Name of district.	Name of taluk.	Name of village.	Nature of office held prior to removal or dismissal.	Name of village officer.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Vizagapatam ..	Patapatnam ..	Thungatampara village.	Headman ..	Prava Yagneswara Sastri.
2	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Karnam ..	Nagalakonda Venkata-chalam.
3	West Godavari.	Kovvur ..	Viravilli ..	Deputy Kar-nam.	Naraharsetti Suri-prasada Rao.
4	Kistna ..	Gannavaram ..	Kesaripalli ..	Assistant Kar-nam.	Bommakanti Nageswara Rao.
5	Do. ..	Gudivada ..	Angalur ..	Acting headman.	T. Pattabhi Ramayya.
6	Do. ..	Kalkalur ..	Kondur ..	Do. ..	Konduri Narayana Rao.
7	Guntur ..	Tenali ..	Pedakondur ..	Headman ..	Putambaka Sri Ramulu.
8	Do. ..	Do. ..	Ediapalli ..	Do. ..	Chava Chittayya.
9	Nellore ..	Kovur ..	Rebala ..	Registered minor headman.	M. Veeraraghava Reddi.
10	Do. ..	Do. ..	Pedaputtedu ..	Deputy Karnam.	P. Subrahmanya Acharlu.
11	Tanjore ..	Tiruturaipundi ..	Venganagar ..	Headman ..	Siva Nataraja Tevar.
12	Do. ..	Mayavaram ..	Asimolitevan ..	Do. ..	B. Nagalingam Pillai.
13	Do. ..	Shiyali ..	Olayamputtur ..	Karnam ..	Arunachala Mudaliyar.
14	Do. ..	Papanasam ..	Semmangudi ..	Headman ..	M. Subrahmanya Vairayar.
15	Trichinopoly ..	Perambalur ..	Naranamangalam.	Do. ..	Ganapathi Reddiyar.
16	Coimbatore ..	Udamalpet ..	Mannupatti ..	Do. ..	Velappan Nayakan.
17	South Kanara.	Kasaragod ..	Padre ..	Do. ..	Vishnu Kadamba-lithaya.

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