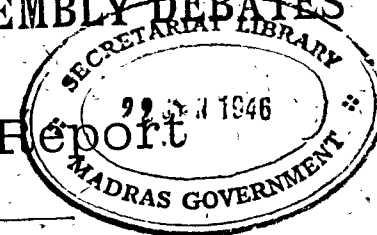


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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report



Volume IV, 1944

(1st to 13th November 1944)

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

President:

The Honourable Sir ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

Deputy President:

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen:

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Mr. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

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Secretary:

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Assistants of the Secretary:

Mr. M. N. KAUL, Barrister-at-Law.

Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal:

Captain Haji Sardar NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions:

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A. (Chairman).

Nawabzada MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, M.L.A.

Mr. GOVIND V. DESHMUKH, M.L.A.

Mr. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.



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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

VOLUME IV—1944

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 1st November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Twenty-First Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Section 63-D(2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim, K.C.S.I.) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN:

The Honourable Sir Abraham Jeremy Raisman, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. (Finance Member);

The Honourable Sir Robert Francis Mudie, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., O.B.E. (Home Member);

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Rustomji Dalal (Member for Planning and Development);

Mr. Darab P. Sethna, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Dr. Vijayendra Kasturi Ranga Varadaraja Rao, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Mr. Wilfred Harold Shoobert, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Mr. Dattatraya Shridhar Joshi, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES IN INDIA

1. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if the Railway Board is determined to get locomotives built in India? If so, have any contracts been given to any of the mechanical and engineering firms?

(b) Is it a fact that Tatas at Jamshedpur are ready to undertake the manufacture of locomotives? If so, have negotiations been made with Tatas or with any other firm?

(c) Is it a fact that tenders for building locomotives in India have been called for for the Railways? If so, from which firms and on what terms? If not, do Government propose to call for the same?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, it has been decided to develop the Kanchrapara Shops of the Bengal and Assam Railway for the manufacture of locomotives as soon as possible after the war and the preliminary work is in hand. In addition arrangements are being made to provide at the East Indian Railway Shops at Singhbhum additional machinery for the manufacture of 100 boilers per year as a war measure and of 50 locomotives and 50 boilers as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

[1st Nov. 1944]

(b) No. Messrs. Tatas are not yet ready to undertake the manufacture of locomotives but have expressed a desire to take it up as a post-war development. With regard to the second part of the question, negotiations with Messrs. Tatas have not yet been finalised.

(c) No. With regard to the second part the question does not arise. Government do not propose to call for tenders.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if the parts which were required for the building of locomotives in India are now available?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certain repair parts are manufactured in India and certain other parts have to be imported.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member why a beginning has not been made now and contracts given? Why must we wait till after the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that certain parts are being made in India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It is not a question of parts. I am asking if certain parts are available here and whether the other raw materials are also here. Why not give the contracts now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the Honourable Member does not understand the situation. The manufacture of locomotives is a very highly specialised work. All the raw materials are not available nor is the technical experience nor the machinery. It is a very big undertaking to set up a locomotive workshop.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have not some locomotives been built in Ajmere? Why have not very many more been built?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The locomotive workshops at Ajmere are principally engaged in erecting imported locomotives at the moment, although a certain amount of work is taking place on the construction of other locomotives.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

PROMOTIONS TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

2. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of subordinate service employees promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service permanently, temporarily or in an officiating capacity on the North Western Railway from the 1st January, 1944, to the 30th September, 1944?

(b) What are their names, substantive pay and posts held in subordinate service before promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service?

(c) What is the criterion for promotion from the subordinate to the Lower Gazetted Service posts on Railways? If no such criterion has been laid down, do Government propose to fix some such criterion of a minimum of 10 to 15 years' service, and substantive pay of Rs. 350 to Rs. 400? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that members of certain so-called minority communities drawing comparatively low rates of pay and with short service are being promoted out of turn? If so, why?

(e) What are the reasons for promotion of each of the persons referred to in (b) above in preference to their seniors?

(f) Is it a fact that two posts of Junior Assistants Commercial were created in the North Western Railway Headquarters Office in January last? If so, what are the reasons for appointment to one of these posts of a member of the minority community out of turn?

(g) Is it a fact that there is no well-defined policy in regard to maintenance of approved lists of subordinates fit for Lower Gazetted Services? If the reply be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay a copy of the approved list for North Western Railway on the table of the House? If not, has the same been communicated to the Railway Board by the North Western Railway Administration?

(h) Is it a fact that no formal selection is made nor any interview given to the candidates for promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service? If so, why are

the rules for selection contained in the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I violated in this respect?

(i) Is it proposed to have proper selection boards for making promotion to Lower Gazetted Service, and to circulate results? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of subordinate employees promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service during the period from 1st January, 1944, to 30th September, 1944, is as follows:—

Permanent	1
Provisionally Permanent	2
Officiating	60

(b) I lay a statement on the table giving the required information in respect of those promoted in a permanent or provisionally permanent capacity. As regards the others, they were in many cases appointed to officiate against short term vacancies, on the termination of which they reverted to their substantive posts.

(c) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (e) of Mr. H. M. Abdullah's Starred Question No. 1650 asked on the 12th April, 1939. As regards the second portion of part (c), the matter is already under consideration by the Railway Board. The last portion does not arise.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative; the latter part does not arise.

(f) One temporary post of Junior Assistant, Commercial, was created and the term of another temporary post was extended in January last. These posts were filled by promoting the men considered most suitable with due regard to the exigencies of the service.

(g) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (b) of his Starred Question No. 176 asked on the 4th August, 1943. On the N. W. Railway, approved lists are maintained except in the case of the smaller cadres. No such lists are received in the Railway Board's office.

(h) There is no uniformity on Railways in the matter of interview, but definite selection is carried out by all Administrations. It is presumed that the rules referred to in the latter part are those contained in Appendix II-A of State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, which are applicable to promotion to non-gazetted posts only.

(i) Does not arise in view of the reply to parts (c) and (e) above.

Statement showing names and service particulars of subordinates promoted to lower gazetted service in permanent or provisionally permanent capacity on the North Western Railway during the period from 1st January, 1944 to 30th September, 1944

Name	Designation as subordinate	Rate of pay as subordinate	Capacity in which promoted to Lower Gazetted Service
1. Mr. C. E. Mathieson	Foreman, Signal Shops.	675	Permanent.
2. Mr. G. W. Blagdon	Permanent Way Inspector.	650	Provisionally permanent.
3. Mr. L. D. Keswani	Inspector of Works	300	Provisionally permanent.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the communal question was considered while giving these promotions? I have asked a question whether the promotions are being given according to the communal basis or whether they are given according to selection.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Promotions are not made on a communal basis.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I also know if the lower subordinates that have been promoted are all Hindus or all Muhammedans?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not a copy of the list.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member kindly see that the selections are made through the Public Service Commissions—I mean the Regional Public Service Commissions at the headquarters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not propose to change the present arrangement.

UNSATISFACTORY OPERATION OF DEARNESS RELIEF IN KIND ON RAILWAYS

3. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that dearness relief in kind is not properly given to all the employees, as some of them in some localities are deprived of some commodities at cheap rates owing to lack of them at the shops serving those localities? If so, is it proposed to give cash relief to that much extent as would be due to the employees owing to cheap rates? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway circularized the revised rate of sugar at six annas a seer and two chataks, with effect from 1st April, 1944? Is it also a fact that on the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway sugar continued to be sold to Railway staff at six annas a seer only till the 5th May, 1944, or thereabouts? If so, what relief has been given or is proposed to be given to employees adversely affected for non-observance of the General Manager's orders?

(c) Who was responsible for this, and what action has been taken or proposed to be taken against him or them? If none, why?

(d) Is it a fact that employees on the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway have been asked to purchase even rotten stuff offered by the Railway or which has deteriorated owing to the inefficiency of handling such commodities? If so, why?

(e) Is it a fact that the value of coupons purchased from Railway to get various commodities and for which the relative commodities could not be supplied is not being refunded for about six months and in some cases has not at all been refunded owing to intricate process for sanctioning refunds or excessive work in Accounts Offices and papers being mislaid? If so, what action is proposed to be taken to grant refund on the spot if the required commodity is not available or is not purchased? If none, why?

(f) Is it a fact that rice is supplied at cheap rates on some stations of the North Western Railway, while controlled prices are charged at others, and on some stations no rice is supplied to the Railwaymen at all? If so, what is the reason for this discrimination?

(g) Is there a general demand from Railway employees for dearness relief in cash instead of part of it being given by sale of commodities by Railways at cheap rates? If so, do Government propose to accede to the demand? If not, why not?

(h) Is it a fact that a Sub-Committee of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways was charged with the task of deciding the point whether dearness relief be given entirely in cash or also in kind? If so, what are the main features of its findings? Were any employees or their unions called to give evidence before the Committee? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. Relief in kind is properly and equitably given in so far as the procurement position permits. It is not proposed to give cash relief when stocks fail.

(b) No. The General Manager's orders were that the revised price and scale of sugar would take effect from 1st April 1944, provided sufficient supplies were placed at the disposal of the Divisional Superintendents by the Civil authorities. On the Delhi Division sufficient supplies were not made available to introduce the revised price and scale until the month of May. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(c) In view of the reply to (b), this question does not arise.

(d) This is not correct.

(e) No. In some instances, however, there has been a certain amount of delay in refunding the value of unexchanged coupons for the following reasons:

(i) the late submission by the employees of claims for refund;

(ii) the coupons presented being defaced and damaged and their numbers being indecipherable; and

(iii) because sometimes difficulties arise in verifying that the coupons presented for refund are not forged documents.

(f) As rice is not the staple food of employees on the N. W. Railway this commodity has not been a stock item in the N. W. Railway grainshops in the past. It has, however, recently been introduced as a stock item at concessional rates and arrangements are in hand for stocking this commodity at all shops.

(g) There is no general demand for relief in cash only, though some workers have expressed a preference for this method. Government consider that relief partly in cash and partly in kind is in the best interests not only of the workers themselves but of the country as a whole, having regard to present prices and procurement difficulties.

(h) The Standing Finance Committee for Railways in the exercise of its functions relating to Railway budget estimates appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the various issues arising out of the expenditure on measures of relief in kind. One of the conclusions ultimately formed by the Committee after considering the views of the Sub-Committee was that relief in kind is preferable to relief in cash. This examination was conducted by the Committee in the normal course of its business and there was no need or occasion for calling any evidence.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there have been any representations from the employees to the effect that they were not getting commodities of good quality and whether they have been asking for cash relief? May I also know whether this question has been recently considered by any body, any committee or any officers, and, if so, when was it last considered?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question is considered from week to week and almost from day to day.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member not yet satisfied that their complaints are true?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am perfectly satisfied that on the whole the supplies are reasonably satisfactory having regard to the difficulties of the supply position today.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In view of the fact that there have been complaints that the goods supplied to them are mixed with dirt etc, is it the Honourable Member's view that nothing should be done in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already replied to the Honourable Member that our enquiries show that the supplies made to the railway employees are of a satisfactory nature.

EXTENSIONS TO SUPERANNUATED POST MASTERS AND CLERKS IN THE SIND POSTAL CIRCLE

4. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state how many Post Masters and clerks in the Sind Circle, Posts and Telegraphs Department, have been given extensions of service after their superannuation period and for how many years?

(b) What were the reasons for such extensions?

(c) Were protests raised by subordinates next to the persons whom the extensions were given? If so, how were they met with?

(d) Do Government propose to revise the cases of such extensions to do justice to those who would ordinarily be promoted to such places? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Eight Postmasters and six clerks have been retained in service beyond the age of 55 years for periods ranging from 1 to 4 years.

(b) Under the rules, ministerial servants should ordinarily be retained in service up to the age of 60 years provided they continue to be efficient.

(e) Yes. Several officials have recently protested and the matter is under examination by the Head of the Circle.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to (c).

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know how many subordinates and how many officers in the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been given extension beyond the age of sixty?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: I must have notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it so difficult for the Honourable Member to say that there are sixty or fifty-five persons?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: Not a single official so far as I am aware, has been given such an extension.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it the case in the subordinate ranks as well?

PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF KARACHI PORT TRUST FOR CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY AND CHEATING

5. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware that certain employees of the Karachi Port Trust were prosecuted by the Karachi-C. I. D. Police on charges of criminal conspiracy and cheating the Karachi Port Trust in January, 1939?

(b) Is it a fact that after a long and protracted trial the employees of the Karachi Port Trust and also some of the partners of a firm of contractors, who were jointly prosecuted with them, were acquitted of all the charges by the Chief Court in 1941?

(c) Is it a fact that the employees of the Karachi Port Trust had been acquitted by the Chief Court of Sind, that the Karachi Port Trust decided to hold a departmental enquiry against them on the same charges and on the same evidence recorded in the criminal case, and that the proceedings of such a departmental enquiry were instituted thereafter some time in January, 1942?

(d) Is it a fact that these employees of the Karachi Port Trust, who were originally suspended in 1939, continue to remain suspended till the present day, and that no decision has yet been taken?

(e) Has any application or reference been received by this Government either from the Karachi Port Trust or from any of the employees concerned in this connection? If so, what has been the result thereof?

(f) Are Government prepared to enquire into the matter as to why these employees are still under suspension, and why no decision has yet been taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, one was acquitted by the special magistrate Karachi and the other accused were acquitted on appeal by the Chief Court of Sind.

(c) Yes, the Port Trust decided to hold a departmental enquiry in November 1941.

(d) Yes, except that the suspension order against one of the employees who was acquitted in the lower court was cancelled. He has since died.

(e) Two applications were received and these were passed on to the Chairman, Karachi Port Trust, for disposal.

(f) Yes, Government are enquiring into the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How long have they remained under suspension and will they be paid their salaries for the period of suspension?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The facts are correctly stated in the question.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member whether any Department is entitled to hold an enquiry after a case had been referred for judicial prosecution and the party concerned had been acquitted by the courts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Port Trust are an independent body and they decided to hold a departmental enquiry, which arose out of certain remarks in the judgment of the special magistrate.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask if the Karachi Port Trust was justified in pursuing this further inquiry after the judicial pronouncement had been obtained from competent judges?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think so, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if that rule or order of the Port Trust has got any consent of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What rule?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member said that according to the rules and orders the Port Trust can make an inquiry even though a man has passed through the court and has got a judgment. I am asking whether the Government has sanctioned or countenanced this authority of the Port Trust.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a regular practice.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Next question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then I rise to a point of order, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the point of order?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The answer was not understood by me.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The point has been perfectly cleared up and we must go on to the next question. Next question.

TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

6. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to make a statement about the conditions under which the administration of the Bengal Assam Railway has been transferred to the American Government?

(b) What are the arrangements about the distribution of profit?

(c) Who will pay the interest charges?

(d) Has this arrangement been made under lend and lease system?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The administration of the Bengal and Assam Railway has not been transferred to the American Government. On certain sections of that Railway, train running is in charge of, and being performed by American Transportation Units with the assistance of the B. & A. Railway Transportation staff. All other functions of the Railway are under the direct control of the General Manager.

(b), (c) and (d). No question of distribution of profits or interest charges arises. The financial and commercial arrangements of the B. & A. Railway remain unaltered. The services of the American Transportation Units are being given free of charge.

DETERMINATION OF CONTRACT OF BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

7. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state when the Government is likely to determine the contract of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) What amount has been fixed for the purchase of this Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The contract with the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company was determined on 30th September 1944 by negotiation.

(b) £3,600,000.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member tell the amount which the Government of India paid and the amount which they would have paid had it been acquired in 1950?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot give the latter figure without notice; but the amount actually paid was £3,600,000.

PURCHASE OF LOCOMOTIVES.

8. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many locomotives has the Government of India bought in the year 1944, and how many of these have already arrived in India?

(b) In what manner have these locomotives been distributed among the first class Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) Orders have been placed for 255 B.G. and 377 M.G. locomotives against the programme for 1944-45.

(ii) Deliveries against these contracts up to 30th September, 1944, total 48 B.G. and 174 M.G.

(b) The distribution of these locomotives amongst Railways is arranged to suit the traffic conditions existing at the time of delivery.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know at what price and from which countries these orders have been placed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot quote the price, because these locomotives are on lease-lend or mutual aid. They come from the United States or Canada.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that they come on lend lease i.e. free from the United States, yet the Indian Government have to pay the full price?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; that is not a fact; but the Railways pay for the locomotives and charge them to their capital or depreciation accounts.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Are these engines working like the famous XB engines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are excellent engines and are giving excellent results.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question was whether the locomotives come from the United States to the United Kingdom under lease lend, but that the Indian railways system is made to pay the full price of it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is an inter-departmental arrangement. The Government of India receives them on lease lend and mutual aid.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do you pay in full and the United Kingdom gets the materials free from the United States on lend lease?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not correct.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Railway Board has actually paid the amount?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Railway Department will be debited as a matter of accounting.

Sardar Sant Singh: Does the Railway Board know what amount is debited to the Government of India on this account?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know what is the amount?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; I have not got the information with me now.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Railway Board actually paid the amount or will it be settled when lease lend arrangement is adjusted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already answered that.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: When these engines are received, may I know if there is any possibility in the increase of the number of railway trains run?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: These are goods locomotives, and they will certainly help in enabling the railways to carry more goods.

ARTICLES RECEIVED FROM MIDDLE EAST FOR DISPOSAL IN INDIA

9. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please mention the approximate value of the articles received from Middle East for disposal in this country?

(b) What arrangements have the Government made for the sale of these articles?

(c) Will the Government advertise the details of these articles for the benefit of the consumers?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to items of salvage from the Mid-East theatre of war imported into India. Both quantities and classes of such goods vary considerably from time to time according to actual conditions in the war theatre, this country's own requirements, and the shipping position. Complete figures of quantities and values of such imports are not available.

Such items as packing cases, containers, cartridge cases are in large quantities directly re-usable, after reconditioning where necessary, by the Defence Services and Ordnance Factories. In addition substantial quantities of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap, used rubber tyres and tubes, cloth rags are imported from time to time as available and required.

(b) All material received from the Middle East, other than that consigned direct to users is received in Port Salvage Depots where it is inspected and sorted. Whatever can be reutilised by the Defence Services is so utilised by them, the balance being reported to the Director-General of Disposals, who in his turn endeavours to reutilise as much as possible by issues to departments or persons engaged on essential production. The material that cannot be used by either of these methods is sold by public auction, advertised tender or private treaty.

(c) Adequate publicity and notice of these sales has been and is given through the usual channels of advertisements in newspapers and distribution of handbills.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if there is any list of these articles and if so from which offices can it be seen?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It may be seen from the various Deputy Directors of Disposals who are at the various ports—Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi, etc.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member send me a copy of the handbills or notifications that have been issued.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I will try to collect a few samples and send them to my Honourable Colleague.

CITIZENSHIP IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF SINDWORK MERCHANTS

10. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Has the attention of the Foreign Secretary been drawn to a contribution in the *Sind Observer*, Karachi, dated the 12th September 1944 regarding citizenship under a quota system in the United States of America as regards Sindwork merchants? If so, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to see that their citizenship is recognized?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes' and to the second 'that the Agent General for India has continued to represent to the State Department the question of the grant of citizenship rights to Indians in the United States of America. The Sindwork Merchants will presumably be eligible on the same terms as other Indians if and when the present restrictions are removed'.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether any representations made have been specifically made with regard to these Indian silk merchants from Sind?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No; no single class or group of Indians has been singled out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has any reply come from there as to who have been given that citizenship and who are proposed to be given?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The matter is being discussed in general terms; there are three bills before the American Congress. As it stood towards the close of the last session, the matter was described by me in a speech in the other House which was given some notice in the press. I do not think I can go into very much detail in reply to this question.

TRAVEL IN FIRST CLASS LADIES' COMPARTMENT ON GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS BY TWO EUROPEAN ARMY OFFICERS

11. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please make inquiries to ascertain—

(i) whether on the 28th July 1944 in the 'Ladies' first class compartment (2828c) of the Grand Trunk Express proceeding from Nagpur to Delhi two European Army Officers were found travelling and that there were two European lady passengers in the same compartment along with them;

(ii) if at Itarsi, the guard who took charge of the train, asked these officers to come out of that compartment and told them that they could not travel in the Ladies compartment;

(iii) if the Army Officers insisted on travelling in this compartment and the European ladies backed up their insistence, and that even after their senior Army Officer was called a good deal of discussion took place with the guard;

(iv) if the guard insisted on their getting out of the compartment with a warning that the train would not start unless they got out of the compartment; and

(v) if the train which was already late by about two hours, was detained at Itarsi for about half an hour before they got out?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to reward the guard of the train for discharging his duty properly, in spite of the obstinate attitude of all the Army Officers, if the facts mentioned in (i) to (v) are true?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) Yes. This was noticed at Itarsi.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I am informed that there was some discussion even after the R.T.O. had arrived on the scene.

(iv) Yes. The Guard of the train explained to the Army Officers concerned that the rules did not permit him to allow male passengers to travel in ladies compartments.

(v) No. The train arrived at Itarsi 35 minutes late and left 40 minutes late, the detention of 5 minutes at Itarsi being due to this incident.

(b) The Guard of the train only discharged his duty and the question of a reward does not arise.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is it not the regular procedure when a person does his duty very satisfactorily under adverse circumstances to give him a reward?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Railway officers are doing their duty all the time; we cannot reward them all.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Officers or soldiers who discharge their duty under adverse circumstances, do they not get any reward or title or extension or increment in salary?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, not that I am aware of.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, in view of the fact that these disturbances are taking place on practically all the Railways, whether the Honourable Member will let us know what arrangements have been made to dispose of these matters on the spot? Is the R.T.O. working on all the railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; at a great many places on the Railways where that is the case, the matter is disposed of on the spot, as on this occasion.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that the R.T.O's and M.P.'s are not to be found at many places—even in big stations—so that if there are any European passengers who are as persistent and impertinent as they were here to get into ladies compartments, nothing can be done in the matter.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not: action is taken by railway servants as in this case.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: As this thing happens frequently, will the Honourable Member consider a procedure to publish these rules which prohibit military officers from travelling in ladies compartments as well as not to encroach on berths reserved by passengers, through the military department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So far as I am aware, the military authorities have informed their officers of the rules.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the officers left the compartment after this incident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: May I know if the guard was not guilty of obstructing the war effort?

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: In view of the fact that some *tongawala* was prosecuted for carrying some soldiers to prostitutes houses, is it not possible that the guard was guilty in the same way of having these soldiers in the same compartment as the ladies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not. Accommodation was found for the officers elsewhere.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I know whether the Honourable Member proposes to punish this guard for his obstinacy?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not.

EFFORTS FOR REMOVAL OF DISABILITIES AFFECTING INDIANS IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

12. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state if the Government of India made any efforts after February, 1944, to get the disabilities and restrictions affecting Indians in the United States of America removed? What is the view of the Government of the United States of America about this matter?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes' and to the second part 'that the Government of the United States of America are giving the matter their sympathetic and active attention'.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am asking what progress has been made—not merely that progress has been made. For over two years the same answer has been given to me: I want to know if any definite progress has been made in our efforts after the month of February 1944.

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer was yes, that efforts are being made.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I should like to know the nature of the definite efforts that have been made after February 1944.

Sir Olaf Caroe: The nature of the efforts has been that the Agent General has kept the matter prominently before the United States authorities concerned. One result has been that one of the Bills has come before the committee of the American Congress concerned.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is it because of the efforts of the Agent General or of the American authorities themselves that this matter has come to the forefront?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I think that is quite an unjustifiable inference. The Agent General continues to represent the matter. It is also well known that opinion in India generally is very strongly in favour and the Honourable Member's questions and other questions giving publicity to the matter all have their effect no doubt.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know why the representations of this Government have not received the same consideration as the representations of the Chinese Government have received?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I do not think that is so: I would deny that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was the subject discussed between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt at Quebec?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I have no information.

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR SENIOR POSTS OF DRAFTSMEN IN THE CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE

13. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the technical qualifications required for the posts of Chief and Assistant Chief Draftsmen in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office, and whether these posts are held by duly qualified persons? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the Chief Mechanical Engineer has protested on the employment of non-technical persons as draftsmen specially on senior posts? If so, how was the same disposed of?

(c) Who is in charge of personnel matters in the headquarters Office, and do the Principal Officers and their Deputies exercise effective control on the

staff in their respective executive office sections in the matter of promotion and selection? If so, how? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member has not mentioned the particular Railway to which the question refers.

ADOPTION OF AMERICAN SYSTEM OF RUNNING ENGINES FOR LONG DISTANCES

14. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the Railway Board has recently adopted the American system of running an engine for a long distance and changing the drivers at intervals?

(b) Does the Honourable Member realise that Railway engines just like motor cars and horses have got their own temperament and persons using them continuously understand the defects and remedies?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the engines can be run indiscriminately by any driver if these are new and of standard type?

(d) Will the Honourable Member examine the question that old engines, which have already completed their normal age and have developed certain defects, cannot be driven indiscriminately by any driver?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that engines frequently stop for a long time at different places on account of the drivers not understanding the machinery, thus causing great inconvenience to passengers?

(f) Will the Honourable Member pay the damages to all the passengers for missing their engagements on account of this defective way of running engines?

(g) Has the Railway Board adopted this principle on the opinion of a single individual or the Board has this principle examined by any Committee of experts? Who were the members of the Expert Committee?

(h) Is it not a fact that the life of an engine is shortened by long runs without rest? If not, has the Honourable Member had an opportunity to get the matter attested by an Expert Committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) This system of running has been in force in varying degrees on Indian Railways for many years past.

(b) Government is unable to accept the suggestion that locomotives are as temperamental as horses but agrees that persons continually employed on locomotives gain an appreciation of their individual peculiarities.

(c) Experience of even new and standardised locomotives is required by any driver for efficient operation.

(d) The age and design of a locomotive does not preclude its use under 'POOLED' system or for extended runs.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The 'POOLED' system is of general application throughout the world and is accepted as efficient by Locomotive Engineers and Operating Superintendents if proper attention is paid to maintenance.

(h) No, not necessarily.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member ever run his motor car and does he know that cars have got their temperament and that machines have got peculiarities of their own known only to their drivers and not to others?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I have already given an answer to that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that every machinery, including a motor car, has its own peculiarities known only to the driver when it becomes old?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I have said so.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If he agrees, is it not a fact that locomotives have their own peculiarities, especially old locomotives, and only those who are constantly running them can understand them and not everybody and that is the reason for delay on the East Indian Railway.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member appeared to be arguing.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am putting a question: Is it not a fact that this peculiarity applies to locomotive engines in the same manner as other machinery?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that there is a variation in engines: I do not admit that it is an ordinary cause of delays.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not advantageous that persons who know the peculiarities should run them and not change them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; one thing has to be balanced against another; and on balance this pooled system is found to be efficient.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This system was devised at a time when the engines were new.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really arguing. The question has been answered.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I asked him whether this method is applicable to new engines only and not in the case of old engines.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered that in reply to part (d) of the question.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE COAL COMMISSIONER

15. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the terms of appointment of the present Coal Commissioner, and place on the table a copy of any agreement or contract that may have been made in this connection?

(b) Was the selection of the present Coal Commissioner made with the direct or indirect assistance of His Majesty's Government, and was he at any time subsequent to his appointment expected or allowed to maintain any contact with any authority or organisation in the United Kingdom interested in questions affecting fuel?

(c) Has the present Coal Commissioner enjoyed the privilege of direct access to His Excellency the Governor-General in an official capacity at any time?

(d) To which different Departments of the Government of India has the Coal Commissioner been attached successively so far for purposes of administrative control, and for what periods was he so attached to each department, and what circumstances led to a change in the controlling department in each case?

(e) Was the Coal Commissioner granted any leave since his appointment? If so, for what period and on what terms, and what arrangements were made for carrying on his duties during his absence on leave?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Mr. Young has been appointed Coal Commissioner with the Government of India for a period of one year with effect from the afternoon of 27th December, 1943, on a salary of £5,000 per annum. He was given a free air passage from the United Kingdom to India and will be given a free air passage back to the United Kingdom on the termination of his appointment. His leave and travelling allowance are governed by the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules. He was also granted an initial outfit allowance of £75. No agreement or contract has been executed by Mr. Young.

(b) The selection of Mr. Young was made by the Secretary of State for India on behalf of the Government of India.

The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(c) The Coal Commissioner has not been, and is not, entitled to see His Excellency the Governor General when he wishes. But His Excellency the Governor General, who is naturally concerned with the coal situation, required the Coal Commissioner to see him at frequent intervals immediately after his appointment.

(d) The Coal Commissioner has been attached to the following Departments of the Government from time to time:

Name of Department	Period
(1) War Transport Department	27-12-43—5-4-44
(2) Labour Department	6-4-44—31-5-44
(3) Supply Department	1-6-44 onwards.

It is not very easy to define the circumstances which led to a change in the controlling Department in each case, because so many factors had to be taken into account.

From the very beginning several departments of the Government of India were vitally concerned with the production, distribution and consumption of coal. The production of coal, the conditions of employment of colliery labour, the safety of mines and of the labour employed therein and their welfare were primarily the responsibility of Honourable Colleague in the Labour Department. The distribution of coal and its transport was the responsibility of the War Transport Department, while the Railway Board were interested both as being large producers of coal and the largest consumer. When the Coal Commissioner was appointed, it was recognised that it was desirable that he should be responsible for all his functions to one Department only. As coal distribution had up to then been the most important problem, he was, to begin with, placed under the administrative control of the War Transport Department, being responsible to the Labour Department for the production side. But at the time he was appointed and thereafter, production fell heavily and the question of stepping up production by import of labour, machinery and stores became the most acute problem. Towards the middle of April, therefore, he was placed under the administrative control of the Labour Department. The question of placing him under one department for all his functions was meanwhile under consideration in the light of the reports which the Coal Commissioner had been asked to furnish. On a full consideration of these reports, it was decided that the most appropriate department to control his main activities would be the Supply Department. This was accordingly done, leaving the Labour Department with the responsibility for recruitment of labour, the terms and conditions of its employment in coal mines and also their welfare and safety.

(e) The Coal Commissioner was granted leave on medical certificate for 28 days with effect from 15th September, 1944. During his absence on leave the two Deputy Coal Commissioners were asked to deal direct with the Secretariat of the Supply Department.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (a) of the question, may I know whether it is intended to extend the term of office of this officer, when it comes to an end?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am unable to answer that question at present.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member has given us an idea about the terms on which this officer has been appointed. Is it a fact that this officer had also to be compensated for loss of business in the United Kingdom, apart from the other terms to which the Honourable Member has referred?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The terms are as I have detailed them in my answer and I am not aware of any other terms for which the Government of India are responsible.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (c) of the question, the Honourable Member has said that shortly after his appointment, the Coal Commissioner had to see the Governor General frequently, due to the importance of the matters. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the practice was initiated with the approval of the department concerned or was it done over the head of the Honourable Member dealing with this officer?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand that it was done with the fullest knowledge and approval of the Member concerned. It was His Excellency's desire that he should meet the Coal Commissioner and it was not a privilege granted to the Coal Commissioner to meet His Excellency.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the Coal Commissioner obtain the formal leave of the Honourable Member on every occasion that he went to see the Governor General?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: He went as the Governor General required him to go and see him. It is understood that this arrangement was arrived at with the full approval of the Member concerned.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the Coal Commissioner keep the Honourable Member informed regularly about his interviews and also about the subject matter of the discussions that took place between him and the Governor General?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I presume so. I was not the Member in charge at the time.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out from the records as to whether this procedure was followed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are not matters of records.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (d), the Honourable Member has given us a few factors that were responsible for the changing over of the control from one department to another at short intervals. Is it a fact that the Coal Commissioner's own personal likes and dislikes were one of the factors determining this change over from one department to another?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the power to say that a factory or any class of industry in this country must close down, because no coal will be available, is given to the Coal Controller or is retained by the Honourable Member himself?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is not given to the Coal Controller.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Every time a factory is asked to close down, such as the steel rolling mills, may I know whether the sanction and permission of the Member is taken when this direction is given?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It depends upon the nature of the factory. In the case of the steel rolling mills, the Supply Member was responsible. In the case of others, if they have to close down, the department which is responsible for running them gives the direction.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member promise to look into the question as to how many industries are penalised, when it is in the power of the Government to permit them to have some coal to carry on? I want an assurance from the Honourable Member on this point. It is a very serious matter both for businessmen and the labour concerned. Will the Honourable Member personally look into this and see how many factories have closed down and whether something cannot be done to restart them?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is the constant care of myself and some of my colleagues who form a committee of the Council for this purpose.

Sardar Sant Singh: With regard to part (d) of the question, is it a fact that a report was called for by the Governor General and this Commissioner was unable to furnish that report and one of the Indian Members of his own department had to write the report and take over the charge of the coal department?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the report had been called from the Coal Controller, he must have sent the

report. He might have had the help of some member who had known something about it in the earlier stages.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the coal policy of the Government of India affects the interests of the workers both working in mines and in factories, which suffer on account of the shortage of coal, will the Government of India appoint labour representatives on the advisory committee which they have formed for the production and distribution of coal?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I submit that does not arise on this question.

HIGHER GRADE OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE COAL COMMISSIONER'S ORGANISATION

16. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the number of officers drawing a monthly salary (i) between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, and (ii) above Rs. 1,000, employed in the Coal Commissioner's organisation, and how many of them in each category are Indians?

(b) What was the process of selection of these officers? When were they selected and by whom in the first instance?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the names, the previous qualifications and experience and the emoluments of the officers mentioned in (a) above, and their present duties, adding the name of any private firm to which any of them may have belonged before their present appointment, and indicating the emoluments which each officer mentioned in (a) above enjoyed in his immediately previous employment?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) (i) 32 of whom 19 are Indians.

(a) (ii) 29, including the Coal Commissioner. Of these six are Indians.

(b) Most of these officers were transferred to Supply Department from War Transport and Railway Departments. Officers recruited since the transfer of the office of the Coal Commissioner to the Supply Department have been selected in accordance with the principles followed by the Supply Department in the recruitment of officers and have been approved by me.

(c) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

REVIEW OF THE COAL COMMISSIONER'S ADMINISTRATION

17. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a comprehensive statement reviewing the administration of the Coal Commissioner since 1st June, 1944, in respect of the control of production and distribution of coal in British India and indicating particularly the improvement in the production of coal of different grades, month by month, or for such other periods for which statistics may be available?

(b) What is the nature of organisation which has been set up for assisting the Coal Commissioner in regard to production and distribution of coal respectively and what are the duties and powers of the various officers belonging to the organisation?

(c) What is the target fixed for the production of coal of different grades and on what principle has this target been divided, if at all, for each colliery undertaking and to what extent have the individual collieries so far achieved or are likely to achieve the target?

(d) What different encouragements of a financial character have been granted or promised for speeding up production of coal?

(e) What further facilities by way of provision of machinery and other equipment or cheap food for labour have already been granted to the collieries, or are under contemplation?

(f) To what extent has the labour position improved in the different mining areas; and if the position has not improved up to expectation, what further steps are contemplated for the purpose of effecting the minimum necessary improvement in this matter?

(g) Are the different Indian States concerned expected to co-operate with the Government by the adoption of control measures on lines similar to those in operation in British India? Is any liaison expected to be maintained between these Indian States and the Government's Control organisation?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). The Coal Commissioner is responsible for implementing the policy of Government in regard to the production and distribution of coal. He is assisted in the discharge of his duties by two Deputy Coal Commissioners.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) is the head of the State Railway Coal Department, which has been transferred to the control of the Supply Department. He is also responsible for the planning and execution of new projects and for the procurement of colliery stores required for the efficient working of Railway and privately-owned collieries. The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) has a staff of seven junior officers at headquarters.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) is responsible:

(i) for estimating requirements and for allocation of coal;

(ii) for the grading and inspection of coal; and

(iii) for fuel economy measures and other miscellaneous matters connected with these responsibilities.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) is also the Transport Advisory Officer of the Railway Board. He is assisted by a Joint Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) and by nine junior officers at headquarters.

There are also seven Regional Coal Controllers who are the chief executive officers of the Coal Commissioner in the coalfields. They are stationed in the coalfields of Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Baluchistan, Assam and Central Provinces. The duties of the Regional Coal Controllers, briefly, are:

(i) To report to the Coal Commissioner, for procurement action, essential requirements of stores for the collieries in their areas;

(ii) To bring to the notice of the Coal Commissioner problems such as shortages of labour and transportation difficulties which are hampering production and to suggest measures to improve production;

(iii) To control the stacking of coal by collieries and distribute wagons in accordance with the general orders of the Coal Commissioner; and

(iv) To control the grading, sampling and inspection staff under the direction of the Coal Commissioner.

The total quantity of coal raised throughout India during the four months, June to September, 1944, during which this organisation has been developed, was, in fact, slightly lower than the output in the corresponding period of last year. It is not in the public interest to publish figures of actual raisings or the distribution between different grades. Government have not so far exercised any control over production. The coal shortage has been so acute that any coal that could possibly be produced has had to be used. The system of distribution will be described in answer to the Honourable Member's next question.

The office of the Coal Commissioner was transferred to the Department of Supply with effect from the 1st of June, and these four months have really been a period of organisation. They are ordinarily among the most difficult months of the year for coal raisings. Every effort has been concentrated on maintaining production during this difficult period—and in fact average production during the four months June-September has fallen less in comparison with the first five months of the year than in the corresponding period of 1943 and the earlier deterioration has been arrested to some extent. The main object has, however, inevitably been to set up the organisation necessary for the planned use of facilities for production when labour conditions recover after the harvest period. In particular, every thing possible has been done to expedite supplies of imported mechanical equipment, without which in the existing labour condition a substantial improvement in output cannot be hoped for.

(c) No target for the production of coal of different grades has yet been fixed. As I have already said, there is a general shortage of coal and we are anxious to get all the coal that can be produced. The position in respect of the production of superior coal is particularly difficult and, whatever the overall target, we can only aim at producing the maximum possible proportion of the better qualities of coal. As far as individual collieries are concerned, however, targets have been fixed after taking into account such factors as the capacity of the mine, previous raisings and particular individual difficulties for the purpose of operating the production Bonus Scheme, details of which are given in the answer to part (d) of this question.

(d) (i) A special depreciation at the rate of 50 per cent. per annum is allowed on coal-mining machinery for purposes of income-tax and excess profits tax. This special depreciation is allowed on all items, not being replacements, necessary for maintaining or increasing coal production and will be admissible for a period of two years from the date of bringing the items concerned into use.

(ii) Government have also agreed to advance loans to the colliery owners for capital expenditure up to the limit of the amount at their credit in the compulsory deposit under the Excess Profits Tax Act at the rate of interest paid by Government on such deposits.

(iii) In order to encourage production special bonus which will not be eligible to excess profits tax will be paid to collieries in respect of production in excess of the target figures fixed as already described. These targets will remain effective until March 31st, 1946, except for new undertakings or where for special reasons they need to be reduced. The bonus will be payable at intervals of six months on the basis of each half year's raisings at a rate calculated as follows:

(a) In respect of excess coal not exceeding 10 per cent. of the target figure: 10 per cent. of the price of the excess;

(b) In respect of excess coal exceeding 10 per cent. but not exceeding 20 per cent. of the target figure: 20 per cent. of the price of such excess; and

(c) In respect of excess coal exceeding 20 per cent. of the target figure: 25 per cent. of the price of such excess.

(e) *Machinery*: The requirements of collieries of all categories of mining stores and equipment in short supply are reported to the Coal Commissioner who gives all possible assistance regarding import or indigenous supply. A special officer has been appointed to progress all the outstanding commercial orders in the United Kingdom, and current demands for specialised mining equipment on behalf of both State and private collieries are now bulked and placed through Government channels in addition to such equipment which will be purchased by collieries themselves. Government have acquired special mechanical equipment for the development of open cast mining which will be available for use in State and private collieries on special terms.

Food: A plan was introduced in the coalfields in April last, under which each nine-worker is entitled to draw a basic standard ration on payment of controlled prices and also gets a ration of *dal* of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the basic ration at the concession rate of six seers to the rupee. In addition, a manual worker gets free, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of rice for each attendance, and each worker is granted by the owner of the mine for each day he attends work a sum of two annas, if he is a worker without dependents, three annas if he is a worker with one adult dependent or child or children and five annas if he is a worker with an adult dependent and a child or children.

(f) Labour attendance which had considerably deteriorated during 1943 has remained fairly steady in 1944. Since one of the principal factors affecting the supply of labour to collieries was the recruitment of labour for the Government of India works in the colliery areas, Government issued instructions stopping further recruitment of labour from the colliery areas for such works and also to discharge such local labour as soon as possible. In

addition Government has arranged for the importation of unskilled labour from outside, principally from Gorakhpur in the United Provinces. There are already about 30,000 Gorakhpur labourers in the coalfields, and it is proposed to raise this figure to 40,000 before the end of this year.

Government has also under consideration a scheme under which licences will be required for labour recruitment from the colliery areas for works outside such areas.

(g) Yes.

Sir Henry Richardson: Is the Honourable Member aware that the continued shortage to which he refers in the output of coal is very largely due to the inordinate delay by the military authorities in releasing from the army the staff which is required to replace casualties in the coal mines which are very urgently required?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I must confess that that fact has not so far been brought to my notice.

Sir Henry Richardson: Does the Honourable Member know that some of these casualties have been recommended for replacement by the Coal Commissioner himself?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It has not come to my notice, but I will look into the matter.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Government of India give bonuses to the mine-owners, will they also give bonus to the miners for the production which they give?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is a matter which is to be considered in consultation with my Honourable Colleague, the Labour Member, but I can assure my Honourable friend that colliery owners will indeed be very glad if the output is so increased by the worker as to entitle him to receive bonus on the output.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member expects the miner to give production first and then get bonus or is he willing to give bonus first and then see whether the production is increased or not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: In some of the mines—I am not sure if it is the case in all mines—colliery owners have already got a scheme of bonus for increased production, but all my information goes to show that the production now per miner is very much less than it used to be a year or two back.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is the Honourable Member aware that the production in coal mines suffers on account of the bad labour conditions that exist in Indian mines?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a shortage of tubs for men and women who go down and sometimes remain there the whole night waiting for tubs, with the result that they do not get even the ration of rice free?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am aware that there is still a shortage of tubs and we are considering to make that good as rapidly as possible. I am not aware and I would be completely surprised if it was a fact that any women labourers are underground in the mines during the nights. That is my information and I shall certainly be surprised if it turns out to be correct. I am not aware also that the loading by the miners is less on account of the shortage of tubs. In fact, the complaint everywhere is that there is not as much loading by the miners as it used to be about 18 months back.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Member find out if there are women labourers who work underground at night?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the Honourable Lady has got fairly authentic or reliable information that that is so, I will certainly make inquiries.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: I have got that information that it is being done.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That there are women labourers underground during the nights?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: My information is that women labourers do work underground during the night at some mines. Occasionally they come up in the morning, without earning anything as they do not get tubs and they complain that in these circumstances, the free allowance of $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of rice is also not given to them.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the Honourable Lady will kindly furnish me with the names of mines where such complaints were made, I shall certainly follow up the matter.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Thank you. I shall certainly do so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When the Coal Control was established, the Government gave us to understand that the normal trade channels would be used as far as possible. May I ask the Honourable Member if he will stop the practice of elimination of normal trade channels which the Coal Controller is now adopting?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: According to my information, the usual trade channels are being availed of as far as possible. Quite recently, I do admit a complaint was made to me at Bombay that in some cases, with reference to some Indian State Railways, the trade channels were being eliminated and that direct contacts were being made between the State Railways and the collieries at the instance of the Coal Controller. I said I would examine that question. This is the information I have had on the subject. I will try to find out whether the circumstances have justified a change in the accepted policy of the Government to use the usual trade channels, as far as possible.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

SYSTEM OF DISTRIBUTION OF COAL UNDER COAL CONTROL SCHEME

18. ***Mr. K. G. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a comprehensive statement explaining in detail the system of distribution of coal under the Coal Control Scheme and indicating particularly—

(i) the adjustments that may have been made between the requirements of consumption within the country and those outside the shores of India;

(ii) the principles on which allocation has been made between different classes of consumers in the country including different categories of industries;

(iii) the prices that have been fixed by Government of different grades of coal in different mining areas and the principles that have governed the prices fixed;

(iv) the complaints, if any, that may have been received from any consuming interest in the country regarding the system of distribution of coal, the quotas and quantities of supply, quality or price, and the action taken on such complaints; and

(v) any financial liability of Government involved in the operation of the distribution scheme in any of its aspects?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: By the middle of every month Government of India receive, from the Coal Commissioner, an estimate of the coal which is likely to be available for despatch from all the important coalfields throughout the country in the following month. He also sends proposals for the allocation of coal to the different groups of consumers. This is largely done with reference to the allocations in the previous months, and after taking into account the seasonal or urgent requirements that are anticipated. Proposed allocations are discussed at a Committee of Secretaries of all departments interested in the allocation of coal during the ensuing month. The recommendations of the Secretaries' Committee are submitted to the W. R. C. C. for their information and orders.

Thereafter, the allocation is communicated to the Coal Commissioner as well as to the various Departments of Government who, in their turn, either themselves inform the Coal Commissioner the subsequent allocation of coal to the different units of each industry or in some cases ask the industry itself to send to the Coal Commissioner its recommendation for distribution to the component units of the industry. The Coal Commissioner accordingly issues programmes on the collieries for the ensuing month and arranges that the coal reaches the parties for whom it is intended. Weekly reports of despatches in bulk to different industries are reported to the Department of Supply, and a check on the distribution is, therefore, constantly maintained. The different Departments of the Government keep in constant touch with the industries which are their concern, and in a fairly large number of cases the industries do not hesitate to approach the Coal Commissioner direct. All such requests are carefully considered. With reference to the specific queries made by the Honourable Member—

(i) Apart from the bunkering coal India's existing coal position no longer admits of any exports being made. Exports of Indian coal have accordingly ceased for some time. Coal required for bunkering is about 4 per cent. of the monthly output. All other coal is consumed in the country.

(ii) Rations were first fixed in October 1943 for each industry on the basis of actual supplies made during the 12 months period from August 1942 to July 1943, and with reference to the essentiality of each industry and the total amount of coal estimated to be available for despatch. Allocations continue to be fixed monthly on the same basis. I have already described the actual distribution procedure.

(iii) A copy of Government of India Department of Supply Notification No. 953, dated 14th July 1944 together with a copy of the subsequent amendment is laid on the table of the House.

In respect of Bengal and Bihar Coal, the prices are broadly based on quality. The prices for Baluchistan and Punjab Coal were based on the prices then current in these provinces. For C. P. Coal the prices fixed were the same as for Grade II Coal from the Jharia field. These prices have since been revised in the case of certain collieries in C. P., which could not get a fair margin of profit under the prices originally fixed. Prices for Assam Coal were based on the recommendation of the local authorities.

(iv) No specific complaints have been received from any consumers regarding the present system of coal distribution or about the prices fixed for coal. There have been some complaints about inadequate quotas or supplies. These are dealt with in consultation with the authority responsible for looking after the coal requirements of the consumer concerned.

Complaints have also been received regarding the quality of coal. The supply of inferior coal during recent months has been due to inadequate raisings and the consequent serious depletion of coal stocks in the coal fields. The position should be rectified with the improvement of raisings.

(v) No financial liability rests on Government in respect of supplies to non Government consumers. For coal purchased by the Supply Department for stacking or for supply to Government Departments and semi-Government bodies, the liability rests on Government.

Department of Supply, Notification No. 953, New Delhi, the 14th July 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (1) of Clause 4 of the Colliery Control Order, 1944, and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Supply, No. 640, dated the 31st May 1944, as subsequently amended, the Central Government is pleased to fix as follows the prices at which coal may be sold by colliery owners :—

I. All Collieries in the Provinces of Bengal and Bihar.

(a) Coal.

Grade of coal	Price		
	Large coal and slack	Run of mine	Rubble and Smithy nuts.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Selected Grade A	13 0 0	12 8 0	13 4 0
Selected Grade B	12 0 0	11 8 0	12 4 0
Grade I	11 2 0	10 10 0	11 6 0
Grade II	10 12 0	10 4 0	11 0 0
Grade III-A	10 6 0	9 14 0	10 10 0
Grade III-B	10 0 0	9 8 0	10 4 0

NOTE.—For the purposes of the above table the grade of any coal will be determined as follows :—

Coal from Seams of the Raniganj Series.

If the ash and moisture content thereof—

- (i) does not exceed 17.5 per cent. Selected Grade A.
 (ii) exceeds 17.5 per cent. ; but does not exceed 19 per cent. Selected Grade B.
 (iii) exceeds 19 per cent. ; but does not exceed 24 per cent. Grade I.

Coal from any other Seams.

If the ash content thereof—

- (i) does not exceed 15 per cent. Selected Grade A.
 (ii) exceeds 15 per cent. ; but does not exceed 17 per cent. Selected Grade B.
 (iii) exceeds 17 per cent. ; but does not exceed 20 per cent. Grade I.
 (iv) exceeds 20 per cent. ; but does not exceed 24 per cent. Grade II.
 (v) exceeds 24 per cent. ; but does not exceed 28 per cent. Grade III-A.
 (vi) exceeds 28 per cent. ; but does not exceed 35 per cent. Grade III-B.

Mineral having an ash content in excess of 35 per cent. shall not be vendible as coal.

(b) Coke.

Grade of Coke	Price
	Rs. A. P.
Soft Coke—not exceeding 45 per cent. ash content	19 0 0
Hard Coke—from Bye-product ovens if the ash content does not exceed 22 per cent.	30 0 0
Hard Coke—from Bye-product ovens if the ash content exceeds 22 per cent. ; but does not exceed 30 per cent.	24 0 0
Hard Coke—from Beehive or country ovens— if the ash content does not exceed 22 per cent. if the ash content exceeds 22 per cent. ; but does not exceed 30 per cent.	33 0 0 27 0 0
Coke Breeze.	4 0 0

NOTE 1.—The prices given under (a) and (b) are for delivery free on rail at, or at the loading point nearest to, the colliery, or free on tramway at the colliery, or free on road vehicle at the colliery.

2. The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton on any one day for delivery by road.

II. Collieries in Baluchistan.

Area in which colliery situated	Lease holder of colliery	No. of Lease	Price for		Station at which prices apply
			Slack coal	Large coal	
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Quetta	R. S. Tikamdas	58	29 12 0	..	Quetta.
Do.	Do.	59	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Do.	126	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Mr. Sorabji	128	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Mr. Wilayat Hussain	73	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Do.	77	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Do.	92	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Do.	98	29 12 0	..	"
Mach	All leases	..	24 8 0	26 8 0	Mach.
Sharigh	R. S. Tikamdas	61	18 4 0	20 4 0	Sharigh.
Do.	Do.	56	19 4 0	21 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	103	24 4 0	26 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	154	18 12 0	20 12 0	"
Do.	Mr. Nanak Chand Chooni	116	20 4 0	22 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	145	17 12 0	19 12 0	"
Do.	Mr. Wilayat Hussain	150	20 4 0	22 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	152	19 12 0	21 12 0	"
Do.	Minck Colliery	76	20 4 0	22 4 0	"
Do.	Mr. F. B. Patel	94	22 4 0	24 4 0	"
Do.	Mr. Paind Khan	137	23 4 0	25 4 0	"
Do.	Mr. K. A. Marker	138	24 4 0	26 4 0	"
Khost	Associated Cement Co.	104	18 12 0	20 12 0	Khost.
Do.	Do.	105	19 4 0	21 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	153	20 12 0	22 12 0	"
Do.	Mr. Ram Narain Satyapal	162	20 12 0	22 12 0	"
Zardalu	R. S. Tikamdas	133	18 12 0	20 12 0	Zardalu.
Do.	Mr. K. A. Marker	134	17 12 0	19 12 0	"
Do.	Mr. Jalad Khan	135	19 4 0	21 4 0	"
Spezand	All leases	..	26 4 0	28 4 0	Spezand.

NOTE.—The prices given above are for delivery at the stations named.

III. All Collieries in the Punjab.

Grade of coal	Price
	Rs. A. P.
Slack	20 0 0
Run-of-mine	20 0 0
Large coal	22 0 0

NOTE.—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at the colliery or free on road vehicle at the colliery, except that in the case of coal from Mackerwal Company's collieries the prices are for delivery f.o.r. Trag. Station.

IV. All Collieries in the Central Provinces and Berar and in Orissa.

Grade of coal	Price
	Rs. A. P.
Large coal and slack coal	10 12 0
Run-of-mine	10 4 0
Rubble and smithy nuts	11 0 0

NOTE 1.—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at, or at the loading point nearest to, the colliery, or free on tramway at the colliery, or free on road vehicle at the colliery.
 2. The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton on any one day for delivery by road.

V. Collieries in Assam.

Name of colliery	Grade of coal or coke	Price
		Rs. A. P.
The Assam Railways and Trading Co.	Run-of-mine	20 0 0
Ltd.'s Margherita Collieries	Dust Coal	20 0 0
Do.	Hand picked coal	30 0 0
Do.	Hard coke	75 0 0
Nazira Coal Co. Ltd.'s Borgon Colliery	Run-of-mine	30 0 0
Dilli Colliery Company's Dilli Colliery	Run-of-mine	25 0 0
Cherra-Chattack Ropeway Co.'s Cherra-punji Colliery.	Run-of mine	22 0 0

NOTE.—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at the colliery, except that the price in the case of the Dilli Colliery Company's coal is free on road vehicle at the colliery and the price in the case of the Cherra-Chattack Ropeway Company's coal is free on ropeway at the colliery.

Explanations.—1. The prices given in the above tables are—

(a) per ton of 2,240 lbs.;
(b) exclusive of Stowing Excise duty, Rescue Station Excise duty, Soft Coke Cess Excise duty, and any other additional Excise duty, cess or impost which the Central Government may hereafter declare to be payable by consumers of coal, but are inclusive of all other cesses or imposts; and

(c) Exclusive of middleman's Commission.

2. When delivery is free on rail, the weight charged for shall be the weight ascertained at a railway weighbridge, and when delivery is free on tramway or road vehicle the weight shall be ascertained in such manner as may be prescribed by the Coal Commissioner.

A. A. WAUGH, Secy.

*Government of India Department of Supply (Main Secretariat), Notification
No. 1521, New Delhi, the 19th October 1944.*

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Colliery Control Order, 1944, and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Supply No. 953, dated the 14th July 1944, in so far as it relates to the Collieries in the Central Provinces specified below, the Central Government is pleased to fix as follows, the prices at which coal produced in the said collieries may be sold by colliery owners:

Name of colliery and name of Proprietor	Grade of coal	Price Rs. A. P.
1. Kolhia Hirdagarh Co., Ltd., Kolhia collieries		
2. M/s Budhoolal Jagannath, Proprietors, South Panara Colliery.		
3. M/s C. P. Syndicate Ltd., Receivers Junnordeo No. 2 Colliery.	Large coal	
R. S. Mathuraprasad Motilal & Co., Proprietors, Jamai-Datla colliery.	slack coal and dust coal.	12 12 0
5. M/s Jasraj Deoraj, Proprietors, Sangham Collieries	Run-of-mine	12 4 0
6. M/s H. N. Ojha & Co. Ltd., Palachouri Colliery		
7. R.S., P.S. Sial & Co., Proprietors, Ghogri Colliery	Rubble and Smithy nuts	13 0 0
8. Mishrilal Meghraj & Co. Ambara Colliery.		
9. Walji Bhimji & Sons Proprietors, Ghogri-Barkuhi Colliery.		
10. Kishenchand & Co. Dhao Colliery.		
11. K. S. M. Hassonji & Sons, Proprietors, East Barkhul Colliery.		
12. M/s J. A. Trivedi Brothers, West Barkhui Colliery		
13. M/s Karamchand Thaper & Co., Proprietors, Rawanwar Khas Colliery.		
14. Nandlal Esq., Narsinghpur Road, Chhindwara, Proprietor, Haran Chatta Colliery.		
15. M/s Newton Chickli Collieries Limited, Proprietors, Eklehra Colliery.		
16. Sree Mohakali Coal Mines Ltd., Proprietors, Amritlal Ojha & Co. Ltd.		
17. M/s Shivax C. Cambata & Co. Ltd., Proprietors, Rakikol Collieries.	Large coal, slack coal and dust coal.	13 12 0
18. M/s C. P. Syndicate Ltd., Proprietors, Kalichhapar Collieries.		
19. M/s Kanhan Valley Coal Co. Ltd., Damua Collieries.	Run-of-mine	13 4 0
20. M/s Budhoolal Jagannath, Proprietors, East Nandora Collieries.	Rubble and Smithy nuts	14 0 0
21. I. T. Warde Esq., Proprietor, Ghorawari-kalan Collieries.		
22. M/s The Hirdagarh Collieries Ltd., Hirdagarh.		

NOTE.—(1) The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at, or at the loading point nearest to the colliery or free on road vehicle at the colliery.

(2) The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton on any one day for delivery by road.

(3) The prices given above are

(a) per ton of 2,240 lbs.

(b) exclusive of Stowing Excise duty, Rescue Station Excise duty, Soft Coke Cess Excise duty, and any other additional Excise duty, cess or impost which the Central Government may hereafter declare to be payable by consumers of coal, but are inclusive of all other cesses or imposts;

(c) exclusive of middleman's commission, and

(d) inclusive of all tramway charges.

4. When delivery is free on rail, the weight charged for shall be the weight ascertained at a railway weighbridge and when delivery is free on road vehicle the weight shall be ascertained in such manner as may be prescribed by the coal Commissioner.

Sd. ILLEGIBLE

for A. A. WAUGH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

STEPS TO CONTROL MINING OPERATIONS AS REGARDS A COLLIERY UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES OR COAL CONTROL SCHEME

19. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to indicate the steps, if any, that may have been taken to control mining operations with reference to any individual colliery under the Defence of India Rules or under the Coal Control Scheme with the object of either expanding or restricting its activities?

(b) Was any action taken at any time with the object of stopping the despatch of coal from any colliery? If so, in how many cases, and in what circumstances was such action taken?

(c) Was any coal stacked in individual collieries as a result of any action taken under the authority of Government? If so, during what periods and for what reasons, and to which grades did such coal belong?

(d) How much coal was at any time stacked on Government account and in what circumstances, and what payments were made therefor? Was any complaint received in connection with such stacking in any case, and, if so, to what effect?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a), (b) and (c). Government have not so far exercised the powers to regulate mining operations in any particular case under the Defence of India Rules.

A scheme for the stacking of coal by about 92 collieries in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields was introduced in March 1944. As the production of coal in these two fields was expected to exceed the tonnage available for despatch by rail from day to day, and Government's intention was that the amount of coal, after meeting colliery requirements, should be put into stock, without reducing the rate of output either for want of wagons to clear the mechanical screens or because of the diversion of labour to stocking. Those collieries were allowed to make despatches of coal only when wagons became available after meeting the demands of the other collieries in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields. Soft coke and coal of the following grades viz. Run-of-mine, Slack and Steam were stacked.

(d) It was estimated that about 3,65,600 tons would be put into stock. The figures of the actual amount of payments made are not available, but Government orders provide for advance payments up to 90 per cent. of the value of the coal stacked, and the balance of 10 per cent. on despatch of coal by the collieries. No complaints have so far been received with regard to the Stacking orders from any individual colliery, though when the Scheme was first introduced, the Indian Mining Association and the Indian Mining Federation objected to the whole scheme. The Indian Colliery Owners' Association have, however, raised the question of minimum royalty and commission to the royalty receivers in connection with the Stacking Scheme. This is under consideration.

REQUESTING GOVERNMENTS OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND UNITED KINGDOM TO RELEASE TRANSPORT MACHINES TO CIVIL AVIATION COMPANIES IN INDIA

20. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if he has seen the statement which recently appeared in *Austral News* published monthly from the office of the Australian Government Trade Commissioner in India, that the Australian Government have authorised the importation now, during the war, of transport aeroplanes, that Australian National Airways have decided to purchase Douglas and Lockheed aircraft for operation on Australian civil air routes, and that pending their delivery, a number of Douglas C-47s will be released to the company from the United States of America for immediate operation;

(b) if he is aware that civil aviation companies in India are unable to obtain transport machines or spare parts from either the United Kingdom or the United States of America, and are, therefore either operating their services with great difficulty or seriously curtailing them; and

(c) if, in view of the importance, both to the war effort and to the development of civil aviation in India after the war, of maintaining adequate civil air transport services in India, and, in view of the willingness of the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom to release air transport machines to the Australian National Airways company for immediate operation on civil air routes in Australia, the Government of India will urgently request those Governments to arrange for the release of suitable air transport machines to companies operating civil air routes in India?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have constantly in mind the difficulties which the air transport companies in India experience in maintaining their operations due to lack of spare parts and other supplies but the fact is that both Tatas and Indian National Airways have been employed to operate Government aircraft on air services essential to the war effort and the total operations now carried out by each company are larger than before the war.

(c) Government have not relaxed efforts to obtain suitable transport aircraft to employ these companies in support of the war effort to the utmost of their capacity, subject to the prior demands of military operations. They are continuing these efforts.

Government are glad to take the opportunity of paying a tribute to the assistance to the war effort given both by Tata Air Lines and by Indian National Airways since the beginning of the war.

ORDERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES FOR HOLDING POSTAL UNION MEETINGS ONLY ON SUNDAYS AND POSTAL HOLIDAYS

21. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the postal employees were allowed to hold the meetings of their Union any day in the week outside the working hours of the office?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that recently orders have been issued in the United Provinces that postal workers can hold the meetings only on Sundays and postal holidays?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, have the Government considered the great inconvenience to the postal employees caused by the new rule who have got to postpone all their private work for the few holidays of this department and can easily dispose of the short work of the Union on working days even?

(d) Have the Government considered the advisability of changing the new rule and resorting to the old practice? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Postal employees can hold the meetings of their Union when and where they like so long as it does not interfere with their duties.

(b) Yes, but those orders only apply to meetings held on the premises of Post or Telegraph offices.

(c) Government are not aware of any inconvenience caused to Postal employees by the restriction imposed. It is open to them to hold such meetings on week days at a place other than the P. & T. office premises.

(d) There are no rules but the orders imposing the restriction were issued because on week days the premises of a Post or Telegraph office cannot be conveniently spared and also because it has been found that the meetings were not always conducted in an orderly manner. Government do not propose to interfere with the orders of the Postmaster-General.

WRONG ENTRIES MADE IN REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS OF LINEMEN BY SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER, TELEGRAPHS, LAHORE SUB-DIVISION

22. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state with reference to parts (b) and (c) of starred question

No. 760 put on the 3rd April, 1944 and the replies thereof regarding forging of Register of qualifications of Linemen by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Lahore Sub-Division, declaring literate Muslim Linemen as illiterate and illiterate Hindu Linemen as literate—

(a) the action taken against the said Sub-Divisional Officer;

(b) the result of action, if any, taken against the said Sub-Divisional Officer;

(c) the extent and nature of punishment, if any, inflicted on the said officer for such a deliberate and daring forgery?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The matter is still under investigation. It has, however, been found that the inaccuracies applied equally to Muslims and Hindus.

OFFICERS OF CLASS I, ETC., GRANTED EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS AND METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENTS

23. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please lay on the table with reference to incomplete replies of starred question No. 761 put on the 3rd April, 1944, a complete statement as required by starred question No. 761 of 3rd April, 1944?

(b) What steps has he taken to make good the differences in the representation of Muslim services in the department referred in the said question?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) A complete statement is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The question does not arise so far as vacancies filled by departmental promotions are concerned as the Government orders about reservations on a communal basis do not apply to such vacancies. As regards vacancies filled by direct recruitment, the communal orders have been strictly followed. The short recruitment of Muslims in the grades of Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators, to which direct recruitment is made, was due to the dearth of qualified candidates of that community. The rules for recruitment have since been suitably modified with a view to securing, as far as possible, the due representation of Muslims and other minority communities in these grades.

As regards telegraphists, there is an overall short recruitment of 12 Muslims in 1943 due to the required number of candidates of that community not appearing at the examination in the Bengal and Assam and Sind and Baluchistan Circles. The rules already permitted the Department to go down the list in order to secure the full quota of candidates under any communal head but the shortage occurred despite this fact. The system of recruitment by means of a competitive examination has since been suspended and recruitment is now made direct from the open market.

As regards the apparent shortage of Muslims in the four gazetted posts filled by direct appointment in 1943 in the P. & T. Department [*vide* statement No. 3 in reply to part (c) of the Starred Question No. 761 dated the 3rd April 1944], this is due to the fact that the direct appointments made were those of a probationer recruited to the Telegraph Engineering Service, Class I, against an unreserved vacancy and of three probationers recruited to the Postal Superintendents' Service, Class II, against two unreserved vacancies and a vacancy reserved for other minority communities.

Similarly, the shortage of Muslims in the Meteorological Department is due to the very small number of qualified members of that community being available. Special efforts, *viz.*, lowering of minimum educational qualifications, grant of higher initial pay, wide advertisement through Newspapers and Universities, etc. have been made to attract more Muslim candidates into the Meteorological Service and I am glad to say there has been some improvement in the position during 1944.

	1942.				1943.			
	Total Recruitment No. of Muslim.		Total Recruitment No. of Muslim.		Total Recruitment No. of Muslim.		Total Recruitment No. of Muslim.	
	Deptl.	Outside.	Deptl.	Outside.	Deptl.	Outside.	Deptl.	Outside.
Telegraphists.	34	123	5	57	115	455	15	102
Telegraph Masters	60	..	..	..	54	..	1	..
Engineering Supervisors	4	47	..	4	70	210	7	42
Wireless Operators	..	24	..	1	2	120	2	22

NOTE.—There is no direct recruitment to the grade of Telegraph Masters and Communal reservation rules do not apply to posts filled by promotion.

RECRUITMENT OF INSPECTORS UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

24. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the recruitment of Inspectors under Post and Telegraph is open to outsiders; if not, why not?

(b) Is direct recruitment allowed in Post and Telegraph services of subordinate and superior ranks? If so, why the same principle does not apply to the recruitment of Inspectors?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) No, as in the interests of efficiency it is essential that Inspectors in the Posts and Telegraphs Department should have practical experience of the work of Postmasters and possess a detailed working knowledge of the departmental rules and procedure.

(b) Direct recruitment is made in certain subordinate and superior services of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. In view of the reply given to part (a) of the question, the latter part does not arise.

RECRUITMENT IN TEMPORARY GAZETTED POSTS UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS AND METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENTS

25. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state the number of persons recruited in temporary gazetted vacancies in 1942, 1943 and January to July 1944 under (1) Post and Telegraph Department and (2) Meteorological Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I lay a statement on the table giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

Statement showing the No. of persons recruited in temporary gazetted vacancies in 1942, 1943 and January to July 1944 under the Posts and Telegraphs and the Indian Meteorological Departments.

Posts and Telegraphs Department.	
1942.....	21.
1943.....	12.
1944.....(January—July).....	7.
Indian Meteorological Department.	
1942.....	32.
1943.....	27.
1944.....(January—July).....	19.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM TELEGRAPH MASTERS AND WIRELESS OPERATORS.

26. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state, with reference to replies of starred question No. 761 (b), why—

(a) out of 60 appointments in 1942 and 54 appointments in 1943—altogether 114 appointments of Telegraph Masters—only one appointment was given to Muslims; and

(b) out of 24 direct appointments of Wireless Operators in 1942 only one went to Muslims?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the number of telegraphists selected for promotion to the grade of Telegraph Masters in 1942 and 1943 and not to the actual number of appointments

made in that grade in those years. Only one Muslim telegraphist was selected because no other Muslim telegraphist was eligible for selection under the rules.

(b) This recruitment was made from amongst the applicants who had already received training in private institutions and were competent as Wireless Operators. To the advertisement inviting applications from such qualified persons, the response from Muslim candidates was poor. Only two Muslim candidates submitted applications and both were selected for the prescribed signalling test. One of them failed in the test but the other did not appear. In view of the paucity of Muslims, another advertisement calling for applications from only Muslim candidates was published. Application from only one Muslim was received and he was recruited. The shortage of Muslims in this recruitment of 24 candidates was due to the lack of response from the members of this community.

APPOINTMENT OF POST-WAR PLANNING OFFICER UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

27. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Post-War Planning Officer has been appointed under the Posts and Telegraphs Department; if so, his salary and qualifications;

(b) whether the post was advertised; if so, in what papers;

(c) the total number of applications received and the number of Muslim applications, if any, received;

(d) what other officers have been or are contemplated to be appointed under the Planning Officer; if so, their number, salary and qualifications; and

(e) whether any scheme of the post-war planning or reconstruction has been sanctioned by the Assembly or the Standing Finance Committee; if so, when, and what are the details?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) An Assistant Deputy Director-General of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate has been temporarily appointed as Post-War Planning Officer on his own pay of Rs. 875 per month. He is a Superintendent of Post Offices of 17 years' service in the Department and is a graduate in Arts and Law.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No other officer has been or is proposed to be appointed at present.

(e) No. The second part of the question does not arise.

INADEQUATE WAGES AND SALARIES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

28 Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that wages and salaries in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are inadequate as compared with the wages and salaries of comparable posts in the Industries and other Railways under State management?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government understand that there is little difference between the wages paid to labour in local industries and on the O. & T. Railway. The scales of pay for certain subordinate and inferior categories on contiguous State-managed Railways are higher than those obtaining on the O. & T. Railway.

IMPORTING OF STAFF FROM OTHER RAILWAYS TO SUPERIOR POSTS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

29. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether as a result of the policy being followed by the Railway Board, namely importing staff from other Railways to superior posts in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, the old employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are deprived from getting promotions and increments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I presume that by the term "superior posts" the Honourable Member is referring to gazetted posts. Government have not adopted any policy of importing staff from other railways to the

Oudh & Tirhut Railway. Some inter-railway transfers have to be made occasionally in the interests of the administration, as a result of which promotions are sometimes retarded or accelerated.

FOOD GRAIN DEPARTMENT OF OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

30. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Food Grain Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has not submitted proper accounts for an amount of Rs. 5,50,000?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what action have the Government taken to secure proper accounts?

(c) Do the Railway Board propose to set up an enquiry into the affairs of the Food Grains Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is not a fact.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PREPONDERANCE OF MUSLIMS IN ACME ESTABLISHMENT SECTION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

1. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 22 given on the 30th July, 1943, to the effect that the Railway Board considered it desirable that no particular community should be handicapped by the preponderance of any one community in the establishment offices of railways, will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that some time ago, when the strength of the Acme Establishment Section in the North Western Railway Headquarters Office was four, it was represented by all communities, namely Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the present strength of this Section is eight of which seven posts are held by Muslims and one by a Hindu, if so, why;

(c) Whether it is a fact that transfers of members of certain communities have been made from the Acme Establishment Section of the North Western Railway Headquarters Office, if so, why; and

(d) Whether it is a fact that the Acme Establishment Section deals with most important personnel matters and important service records, approved lists, etc., are also maintained in this section; whether it is proposed to allow reasonable representation to every community in this Section; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). The reply is in the negative.

(d) The work referred to is assigned to this section and it is important, but so is the work of Clerks in certain other sections of the Establishment Branch. The posting of staff to the various sections is done with regard to the interests of work and not by communities, the direction concerning the avoidance of a preponderance of any one community is applicable to the Branch as a whole and not to the various sections and sub-sections of the Branch.

ELIGIBILITY OF GOODS MARKERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FOR TRAINING IN COMMERCIAL COURSE AT WALTON SCHOOL.

2. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Goods Markers on the North Western Railway are eligible for training in commercial course at the Walton School? If so, how many of them were sent since the 1st April, 1943, and to which communities did they belong?

(b) Is their service as Goods Markers considered as continuous for promotion in Commercial group posts, on passing through the Walton's School? If not, why not?

(c) What stipend in cash or by way of free food and other concessions are allowed to Commercial Group Students, and are Goods Markers under training as such also entitled to them? If not, why not?

(d) If the reply to the last portion of (c) above be in the negative, is the period of Goods Markers' deputation on training at the Walton's School considered as on duty? If not, why not?

(e) Which other classes of staff on deputation for training at the Walton's School do not have the period of such deputation treated as on duty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, subject to their satisfying the conditions prescribed for admission to such training. Eleven Hindu and one Sikh Goods Markers were sent for training at the Walton Training School since 1st April, 1943.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; the second part does not arise.

(c) Commercial Group students are paid a stipend of Rs. 18 per mensem from which a sum of Rs. 12-8-0 is deducted on account of messing charges. Goods Markers while under training are not entitled to any stipend, which is paid only to apprentices.

(d) The period spent by Goods Markers in training at the Walton Training School is treated as leave due and not as on duty. This aspect of the question is being reconsidered by the Railway Administration.

(e) None.

DISMISSALS ETC. IN LAHORE, RAWALPINDI AND DELHI DIVISIONS OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

3. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees (i) removed from service, and (ii) dismissed, in the Lahore, Rawalpindi and Delhi Divisions of the North Western Railway during the half year ending the 31st March, 1944; and

(b) how many of them appealed, and how many were re-instated in each of the three Divisions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table giving such of the required information as is readily available in respect of subordinate staff only. Information regarding inferior staff is not readily available and I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

Statement showing subordinate staff removed from service or dismissed, etc., during the half year ending 31st March 1944 in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Delhi Divisions of the North Western Railway.

Division.	Removed from Service.			Dismissed from service		
	No. of subordinates removed from service	No. of staff who appealed against their removal from service,	No. of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal	No. of subordinates dismissed from service	No. of staff who appealed against their dismissal	No. of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal
Lahore	6	1				
Rawalpindi	16	4		1	1	
Delhi	36	20	7	1		

CERTAIN MEASURES FOR MAINTENANCE OF DISCIPLINE ON RAILWAYS

4. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether penalty of 'censure' is recognized on Railways as a measure of maintaining discipline? If so, is the employee called upon to explain his conduct for which it is proposed to censure him, and is there any provision for appeal? If not, why not?

(b) Where is the entry of 'Censure' recorded, whether on the personal file of the employee, in a separate register or Marks Card?

(c) Is it a fact that on certain Railways a system of "good conduct marks" has been introduced to deal with cases of indiscipline and it is recommended that instead of censuring an employee, marks should be debited? Has this recommendation the effect of abrogation of 'Censure'?

(d) Does the 'Good Conduct Marks' system provide for—

(i) obtaining an explanation;

(ii) appeal; and

(iii) the maximum number of marks that can be debited at a time?

(e) If the reply to all or any portion of (d) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor, and what steps are proposed to be taken to remedy these defects? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, there is no provision for obtaining and explanation as the penalty is of a minor character, but the right of appeal exists.

(b) This is a matter of detailed administration on which Government have no information. Provision for the entry of punishments in the Service Records of employees exists in Chapter XIX of the State Railway General Code.

(c) The good conduct marks system is designed to replace fines, cautions and warnings imposed on the subordinate staff and may also be applied instead of imposing the penalty of censure; but it does not connote the abrogation of this penalty.

(d) (i) and (ii). The existing rules do not provide specifically for obtaining an explanation or for an appeal but the question of making such provision is under consideration.

(d) (iii) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (c) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's Unstarred Question No. 18 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd September 1942.

(e) Opportunity for furnishing an explanation and submitting an appeal is given when a heavier punishment is called for on a prescribed number of marks being reached, but as I have stated, the question is being further considered.

PENALTY OF RELEGATION TO JUNIOR SERVICE FOR GUARDS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

5. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Guards on the North Western Railway run on Conductor, Mail and passenger links in order of their seniority, the junior most Guards running on Goods service?

(b) Are permanent Conductor, Mail or Passenger guards relegated to run on passenger or goods service, respectively, as a measure of penalty?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, is such a course authorized by the State Railway Establishment Code issued by the Governor General in Council? If so, will the Honourable Member please refer to the specific provision thereof? If no such provision exists, under what rule is such a penalty inflicted on employees?

(d) Is it a fact that an employee so relegated to lower link of running service is subjected to a reduction in his wages by reduced mileage allowance?

(e) If the reply to (d) above be in the affirmative, is such a course covered by the provisions of rule 1702(3) of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume 1 in regard to stoppage or reduction of mileage allowance? If not, how is then the penalty referred to in (a) above classed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, with due regard to suitability and the exigencies of the service.

(b) and (c). Transfers are made as occasion demands, and there is nothing in the rules to restrict such action being taken.

(d) There may sometimes be a reduction of running allowance actually earned but there is none in the rate of his basic pay or rate of running allowance.

(e) Yes because there is no question of a fine in such cases.

OMISSION OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION FIGURES FROM NARRATIVE REPORT ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

6. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that figures of (i) employees medically examined on each Division of the North Western Railway, and (ii) those who failed in their class of employment etc., were included in the Narrative Report of the Railway during the years 1938-39 and 1939-40;

(b) whether it is a fact that this information was entirely omitted from the report for the year 1941-42; if so, why;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Narrative Report for the year 1942-43, published in March last, gives information only in regard to the number of (i) candidates, and (ii) employees whose physical fitness and vision examinations were carried out; if so, why figures of failures to pass in the same or lower grade of appointment were not included as before; and

(d) whether it is proposed to issue instructions to the North Western Railway to adopt a uniform policy of giving the number of candidates and employees medically examined and the number of failures permanent or otherwise; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The information was omitted from the Annual Report for the year 1941-42, as the whole Report was cut down due to the imperative necessity to economise paper.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The inclusion of the information referred to in the second part was not considered essential.

(d) No. Because of the reasons mentioned in my reply to part (b) above. I may, however, inform the Honourable Member that when the need for economy in paper is over, the question of insertion of the information now omitted from the Annual Report of the North Western Railway will be considered.

SUPPLY OF RATIONS AT CONCESSION RATES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES RESIDING ELSEWHERE.

7. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the concession of cheap rations on Indian Railways is allowed to an employee for his family members if they reside at a place other than the station of the employee's employment? If not, why not?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, how is the supply arranged?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Discretion is left to the Railway Administrations in this respect, though ordinarily an employee's family must be living with and solely dependent on the employee to qualify for grain shop concessions.

(b) By the issue of separate family ration cards.

SUPPLY OF ONIONS AND POTATOES AT CHEAP RATES TO NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

8. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the employees on the North Western Railway are being supplied with onions and potatoes at cheap rates? If so, is the supply confined to some selected centres or is it given on all stations on the North Western Railway?

(b) If the supply is confined to some selected centres, why are other stations deprived of the concession? What steps do Government propose to take to make the concession of cheap supplies universal? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes—at 19. centes.

(b) The supply is being extended to other centres as soon as procurement arrangements can be completed. The latter part does not arise.

COLLECTION OF PILGRIMAGE TAX BY RAILWAYS AT CERTAIN STATIONS.

9. **Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to lay before the House a statement showing the yearly collection of pilgrimage tax by the Railways in the last three years, in Gola Gokarannath, Soron, Laharmandighat, Muttra, Benares, Ajodhya and Allahabad, on all the Railway lines operating on these stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

SECTION 42 OF INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AND DEFENCE OF INDIA RULE 34.

10. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that since 1939 Section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, has been made subject to Rule 34 of the Defence of India Act Rules? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. I am unable to see any connection between section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, and rule 34 of the Defence of India Rules.

COMMUNICATION OF ORDERS REGARDING MOVEMENTS OF COMMODITIES TO RAILWAY STAFF.

11. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that orders under the Defence of India Act Rules issued either by the Central Government or by the Provincial Governments or by a subordinate authority to them regarding movements of commodities by rails are communicated to the Railway Staff at stations through the Railway Administrations? If not, what channel is prescribed for such communications? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Orders issued under Rule 81(2) (a) of the Defence of India Rules affecting the movement or transport of commodities are in the ordinary course communicated direct to Railway staff at stations and not necessarily through the head of the Railway Administration concerned, as the Rule does not specify any particular channel of communication. On the other hand orders under Rule 85A are, in accordance with the specific provision of the Rule to this effect, issued to the heads of the Railway Administration concerned, who convey them to the station staff concerned through the normal channels of established procedure.

QUANTITY OF WHEAT, ETC. TRANSPORTED OVER CERTAIN SECTIONS OF RAILWAYS

12. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the quantity of wheat, sugar, gur and other foodstuffs, respectively, transported by rail during the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and to date of 1944, separately, from each station on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway to stations on the East Indian and North Western Railways via Delhi Shahdara and via Saharanpur, respectively;

(b) the quantity of wheat, sugar, gur and other foodstuffs, respectively, transported by rail during the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and to date of 1944, separately, from each station on the section between Delhi and Ambala of the North Western Railway to stations in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and in Bengal, respectively; and

(c) the reasons for the decrease or increase, if any, in the traffic of those commodities from those stations during those periods?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not available and its collection will entail an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results to be obtained.

RESTRICTION ON MOVEMENT OF SODA ASH AND SAJJI IMPOSED BY REGIONAL CONTROLLER OF PRIORITIES, LAHORE

13. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that movement by rail of Soda Ash and Sajji

(Fuller's Earth) has been restricted by the Regional Controller of Priorities, Lahore?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a fact that the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Lahore, has imposed a distance restriction of 200 miles on Fuller's Earth from all stations on the North Western Railway.

No similar restriction has been placed on movements of Soda Ash.

COMMODITIES RESTRICTED BY CONTROLLERS OF PRIORITIES FOR MOVEMENT BY RAILWAY.

14. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please lay on the table a statement of commodities restricted by the Controllers of Priorities for movement by rail, together with the justification of their movements by road?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Many of the restrictions imposed are for short periods only depending upon the operating situation, and any list prepared on the basis of present restrictions would be of little value. The preparation of a statement of all restrictions that have been imposed would involve an expenditure of time and labour which I do not consider to be justified.

Restrictions on movement of goods are imposed to eliminate unnecessary and wasteful movements as well as to divert goods to roads, rivers or the sea. Short distance restrictions on movements by rail have been imposed in many cases where such movements can be adequately made by road transport.

ROLLING STOCK OF RAILWAYS.

15. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table a statement of the Rolling Stock of each Railway as it stood on the 21st October, 1944, showing *inter alia*—

(i) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, in use on that date for War traffic;

(ii) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, in use on that date for civil traffic;

(iii) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, under repairs on that date; and

(iv) the total number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, belonging to those railways on that date?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available and it is not considered that the effort necessary to obtain it will be justified by the results.

PROHIBITION AGAINST PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY OVER PUBLIC.

16. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that a Provincial Government is prohibited under section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, from receiving any preference over the general public? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to section 42A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. This section prohibits a railway administration from giving any undue or unreasonable preference to any person or railway administration or to any description of traffic, or subject any person or railway administration or any particular description of traffic to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever.

INCOMPETENCY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

17. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that a Provincial Government has no control over the working (both transport and commercial) of the staff and the administration of Federal Railways, and they are not permitted to issue any order (general or special) to any or all Federal Railways direct except through the Central Government? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is correct that Provincial Governments have no control over the working of the staff and the administration

of Federal Railways and are, therefore, not empowered to issue any orders to such Railways on matters affecting such control.

BENEFIT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN OLD AND REVISED SCALES OF PAY

18. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if he is aware that the order sanctioning 10 per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of the existing scale of dearness allowance is of no benefit to non-gazetted staff on the revised (1934) scales of pay and also to staff whose pay is below Rs. 40? What is the fact and extent of benefit to an employee of the same class in the old and revised scales, separately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The benefit to an employee on the old or revised scales of pay is identical, viz. 10 per cent of his pay subject to certain minima, for those drawing up to and more than Rs. 40 a month respectively. I may add that there are many employees on the revised scales of pay in the latter category. The dearness allowance rate for all staff drawing up to Rs. 40 a month remains the same as before the order referred to was issued, but it must be remembered that they along with others are receiving additional benefits through the Railway Grain Shops.

PROSECUTIONS OF RAILWAY STAFF UNDER SECTIONS 353 AND 332, I. P. C. BY RAILWAY POLICE, AMBALA.

19. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay a statement of the staff prosecuted by the Government Railway Police, Ambala on the North Western Railway under Sections 353 and 332 of the Indian Penal Code during 1944 to date, and state *inter alia* the result of the departmental enquiries held before the permission to arrest those staff was given by the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway? If no enquiries were conducted, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So far as information is readily available, there has been only one recent case, which took place in August, 1944, in which a Railway employee was arrested by the Government Railway Police, Ambala. He was immediately released on bail. No permission was asked for from the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway, and no enquiry was made by him.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 46 asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 9th November, 1943

INDIAN SEAMEN ENGAGED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM REGISTERED SHIPS, ETC.

Part (a). Number of Indian seamen engaged on U. K. registered ships plying on		
(i) the coastal trade of India		6,004
(ii) the overseas trade of India		1,53,607
Part (b). Number of Indian seamen engaged on ships of other members of the United Nations.		
Nationality of ships.		Number of Indian seamen
1. Norwegian		2,866
2. Dutch		2,225
3. Danish		46
4. Russian		11
5. Panamanian		466
6. Greek		179
7. Yugoslav		22
8. American		3
9. French		6
10. Hong Kong		18
11. Egyptian		10
12. Shanghai		4
13. Polish		259
Total		6,115

Part (c). Number of Indian seamen engaged on ships on the Indian register
 N.B.—The figures represent the total number of engagements of Indian seamen, irrespective of the fact that the same seamen may have been engaged more than once.

13,750

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 9th November, 1943

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES IN BENGAL AT CONCESSION RATES

(a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 5th November, 1943, to unstarred question No. 6, addressed to the Honourable the Food Member.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 28, asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 12th November, 1943

RULES FOR OCCUPATION OF RAILWAY QUARTERS AND BUNGALOWS BY SUBORDINATE STAFF ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

The staff are governed by State Railway Rules which require that rent should be so assessed that there is a return of not less than 4 per cent. of the capital cost of buildings excluding the cost of land. Reassessment of rent under the rules, however, required time but is expected to be completed before the end of 1944. Rent is, in the meantime, recovered as previously assessed under the Companies' rules on a basis of 4½ per cent of the capital cost of buildings and 11 per cent. on the cost of internal electric wiring and electric fittings.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 132, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the 13th November, 1943

DEATHS IN BENGAL

Year	No. of deaths in the months of		
	August	September	October
1943	151,126	171,755	236,574

Information promised in reply to parts (d), (e) and (f) of Starred Question No. 258, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 17th November, 1943

OPERATIONS OF THE "GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

(d) An enquiry was made from the Government of Bengal who have intimated that in certain areas some cultivators disposed of their cattle and in some cases their agricultural implements for their maintenance. With a view to rehabilitating the cultivators, the Provincial Government have advanced loans to enable them to purchase cattle and are making arrangements with the neighbouring provinces for facilities for the import of cattle to Bengal. The Provincial Government have also under consideration a scheme for the supply of iron and steel necessary for manufacturing and supplying agricultural implements to the Agriculturists.

(e) and (f). Yes. As a result of the distress some cultivators sold their lands to maintain themselves and their families. The transactions took place mainly in 1943. Full details are not available. The Provincial Government propose to undertake an enquiry to get an idea of the extent such transfers in the areas most affected. They have promulgated an Ordinance to enable the transferees to get back their lands and are undertaking legislation in the matter.

Information promised in reply to parts (d) and (e) of Starred Question No. 1, asked by Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, on the 7th February, 1944

QUININE POSITION

Imports of quinine salts into British India

1942-43.....	40,298 lbs.
1943-44 (first seven months).....	1,604 lbs.
Later information not available.	

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 13, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 7th February, 1944

STARVATION DEATHS IN BENGAL

(a) A comparative statement giving districtwise figures of total mortality during the year 1943 and the average for five years ending 1942, is placed on the table of the house. The excess in the second half of 1943, can be attributed to the abnormal conditions prevailing at that time.

Statement showing Total deaths in the districts of Bengal during the year 1943 (January—June and July—December) as compared with the corresponding average for five years (1938-42.)

	January—June			July—December		
	Average (1938-42)	1943	Difference	Average (1938-42)	1943	Difference
1. Burdwan	18,619	15,558	-3,061	20,649	31,909	+11,260
2. Birbhum	12,216	10,060	-2,156	13,003	30,429	+17,426
3. Bankura	12,689	10,830	-1,859	14,205	29,340	+15,135
4. Midnapur	27,511	27,128	-383	29,345	62,738	+33,393
5. Hooghly	11,285	9,010	-2,275	12,544	18,485	+5,941
6. Howrah	10,369	10,197	-172	9,851	24,477	+14,626
7. 24 Parganas	24,479	23,297	-1,182	25,021	63,883	+38,862
8. Calcutta	18,716	13,420	-5,296	15,684	38,848	+23,164
9. Nadia	19,242	19,386	+144	23,341	58,293	+34,952
10. Murshidabad	15,123	14,816	-307	17,992	50,257	+32,265
11. Jessore	19,651	18,251	-1,400	23,485	32,167	+8,682
12. Khulna	14,066	17,573	+3,507	18,052	26,153	+8,101
13. Rajshahi	18,012	18,994	+982	20,042	35,747	+15,705
14. Dinajpur	20,076	18,264	-1,812	18,947	23,261	+4,314
15. Jalpaiguri	13,491	14,230	+739	15,384	24,062	+8,678
16. Darjeeling	5,250	4,961	-289	5,265	6,297	+1,032
17. Rangpur	31,530	35,881	+4,351	40,267	75,687	+35,420
18. Bogra	10,979	11,162	+184	14,034	22,230	+8,205
19. Pabna	19,587	16,488	-3,099	21,739	37,171	+15,432
20. Malda	8,207	4,928	-3,279	7,520	11,239	+3,719
21. Dacca	37,705	35,307	-2,398	41,226	113,616	+72,390
22. Mymensingh	54,870	59,587	+4,717	68,311	120,893	+52,582
23. Faridpur	30,434	26,794	-3,640	35,824	73,328	+37,504
24. Bakarganj	33,597	36,930	+3,333	34,145	62,260	+28,115
25. Chittagong	23,687	32,759	+9,072	23,528	71,567	+48,039
26. Noakhali	17,421	23,793	+6,372	19,552	48,637	+29,085
27. Tippera	32,048	39,821	+7,773	37,097	111,340	+74,243
Total	558,850	569,426	+10,576	626,053	1,304,323	+678,270

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 33, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, on the 9th February, 1944

OVERSEAS BUSINESS SECURED BY NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY THROUGH CERTAIN AGENCIES

- (a) The value of overseas business secured by the North Western Railway through the under-noted Agencies during 1942-43 is indicated against each—
- (i) Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons (8 offices) ... Rs. 2,62,907.
- (ii) Messrs. Cox & Kings (2 offices) ... Rs. 30,990.
- (iii) Messrs. Vensimal Bassarmal & Brothers (2 offices) ... Rs. 1,558.
- Records for 1940-41 and 1941-42 have since been destroyed and it is, therefore, not possible to give the required information for these years.
- (b) and (c). Investigations have revealed that certain Tourist Agencies have been charging the higher rate of commission on traffic which was not genuine overseas traffic, and the matter has been taken up with them. Steps are also being taken to revise the instructions on the subject to prevent a recurrence.

Information promised in reply to Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee's Supplementary Question to Starred Question No. 79, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 10th February, 1944.

STOCKS RELEASED FROM ARMY RESERVES FOR CIVILIANS IN BENGAL

In 1942, it was arranged to import certain quantities of wheat from Australia specifically for the Defence Services. That has now been changed and imports are arranged on the basis of the all India supply position which takes account of both Civil and Defence demands.

Information promised in reply to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 115, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the 16th February, 1944

PRICES AT WHICH WHEAT IS PURCHASED IN THE PUNJAB AND SOLD IN BENGAL

Action taken on the report of the Braund-Cooke Committee has been outlined in a resolution published in the Gazette of India, dated the 29th July, 1944. A copy of the resolution is placed on the table of the House.

Government of India, Department of Food, Resolution No. F. 10 (1)-Secy./43, New Delhi, the 26th July, 1944

A Committee of Inquiry consisting of (1) the Honourable Mr. Justice H. B. L. Braund, Bar-at-Law, Regional Commissioner (Food) Eastern Region, and (2) Mr. A. L. Cooke, Chief Cost Accounts Officer, Supply Finance Department, was appointed by the Government of India by their Resolution No. F. 10 (1)-Secy./43, of the 2nd November, 1943, with the following terms of reference:—

(I) To enquire:—

(a) Whether the profit accruing to the flour mills from the production and sale at the ex-mill statutory prices of wheat products made from wheat purchased from the Government of Bengal is reasonable, having regard to such variations in output and other conditions as may from time to time arise and, if not, what adjustment ought to be made so as to secure a reasonable rate of profit in the interest of the Public and all parties concerned.

(b) Whether the profit accruing to retailers in the sale at the statutory retail prices of wheat products purchased from the mills is reasonable.

(II) To make recommendations as to the proportions in which atta, flour and bran should be produced by the mills in Calcutta out of wheat bought from Government, and the respective prices at which they should be sold to the public.

The Committee submitted its report on the 30th December, 1943, and made the following recommendations:—

(i) For a period of 12 months from the 1st January, 1944, the Bengal Government should [subject to (ii) below] sell wheat to its millers at Rs. 10-7-0 a maund.

(ii) The sale price recommended should be reviewed again at the expiration of three or six months from January, 1944, in order that any adjustments necessary might be made, having regard both to the experience of the intervening period and to any further profits or losses on the part of the Bengal Government prior to the 1st of January, 1944, which might then be assessable.

(iii) A grinding charge of 0-8-0 a maund should be allowed. On the assumption of 80 per cent. employment of full milling capacity, this should yield a profit return to the Mills of 0-2-0 a maund. In addition, the millers should be allowed an additional Rs. 7-4-0 per 100 maunds for contingencies and by way of a further profit. On this basis the net yield to the mills, subject to the Managing Agent's commission and taxation, should be on the basis of approximately a nett 10 per cent. upon the capital estimated to be employed by them in their milling operations.

(iv) The profits previously allowed to retailers of Rs. 2 a maund were excessive. A uniform allowance for both flour and atta to retailers of Re. 1 a maund to cover provision of paper bags and all other costs, charges and expenses, including any commission payable to the Calcutta Flour Dealers Association should be sufficient.

(v) The following proportion of extraction for each 100 maunds of wheat supplied to mills should be adopted:—

- (a) Flour—20 maunds.
(b) Atta—69 maunds.
(c) Bran—10 maunds.

The selling price of wheat of Rs. 10-7-0 a maund recommended by the Committee took into account a sum of 109 lakh of rupees which the Committee on the material before it considered to be the minimum nett surplus, at the date of the Committee's report, in the hands of the Bengal Government as a result of its past transactions in wheat, this sum being calculated as follows:—

	Rs. in lakhs.
(a) Profit as at 31st August 1943 on wheat already announced by the Bengal Government	33.44
(b) Profit on wheat products up to 31st August 1943 already announced by the Bengal Government	6.32
(c) Credit of As. 11 per md. on 11.73 lakhs mds. Punjab wheat supplied under the 'Pool Scheme'	8.06
(d) Profit on 25,856 tons Australian Wheat imported at Rs. 7-5-0 per maund and sold at Rs. 12-12-0 per maund	38.26
(e) Profit on 21,144 tons Australian Wheat imported at Rs. 7-5-0 per maund which will be sold at Rs. 10-7-0 per maund	18.00
(f) Profit on 7,901 tons Flour imported at Rs. 8-4-0 and sold at Rs. 19 per maund, less cost of freight to districts of Bengal at annas 12 per maund	21.30
(g) Profit on Wheat Products received from other provinces from 1st September 1943 to 20th November 1943	10.00
(h) Profit on wheat products received from other provinces in December	3.75
Total Profit	139.13
(i) Loss on 23,336 tons U. P. Wheat Purchased at Rs. 16-10-0 per maund and sold at Rs. 12-12-0 per maund	24.42
Less Handling charges and General expenses	114.71
Less Handling charges and General expenses	5.71
Nett Surplus	109.00

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the *Gazette of India* for general information.

Secretary to the Government of India.

AMERICAN ORDER FOR HESSIAN OF JUNE, 1943

Prices of Jute raw and Jute Manufacture at Calcutta at the end of each month

Mill Quality Firsts per 400 lbs. bale (Jute raw)

as per A. M. Mair & Co.'s quotation list.

Jute Manufactures
40" / 8 Oz. B. Twills
per 100 yds. per 100 bags
as per Perman & Hynd's quotation
list

1943—		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
June	.	90	0	0	20	2	0	65	8	0
July	.	88	0	0	20	6	0	64	0	0
August	.	76	0	0	20	14	0	65	6	0
September	.	80	0	0	21	2	0	67	0	0
October	.	75	0	0	21	10	0	67	12	0
November	.	79	0	0	21	2	0	66	8	0
December	.	76	0	0	21	2	0	67	2	0
1944—										
January	.	84	0	0	21	8	0	67	0	0
February	.	84	0	0	21	10	0	67	12	0
March	.	38	0	0	21	10	0	67	12	0
April	.	84	0	0	22	2	0	66	12	0
May	.	86	0	0	22	2	0	66	12	0

Statement showing prices of certain food grains in some of the important Jute growing areas in Bengal, Month 'by Month, (Quotations Relate to the latest date in the months, for which quotations are available)
(Prices per standard maund)

(Prices per standard maund)

[illegible]

(c) ~~Charm~~ quality.

(F)—Fine quality.

Week ending 6th May 1944.
Week ending 18th August 1944.

•Average prices of medium variety of rice,

Week ending 9th October 1943.

Week ending 13th November 1943.

Week ending 9th February 1944.
Week ending 6th November 1943.

week ending 6th November 1979,

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 150, 151 and 152 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 21st February, 1944.

RECRUITMENT OF LOWEST GRADE READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

No. 150 (a). Yes.

(b) Yes. A statement is placed on the table.

(c) A. Calcutta Press.

(i) Nil.

(ii) Nil.

(iii) Nil.

B. New Delhi Press.

(i) 67.

(ii) Nil.

(iii) Nil.

C. Simla Press.

(i) 5.

(ii) 3.

(iii) Nil.

Statement showing the names and details of the candidates who qualified as readers in the Government of India Presses in the 1936 examination.

Press	Name	Post held at the time they qualified	Whether permanent officiating or temporary
Calcutta		No one came out successful (14 men appeared in the test)	
New Delhi	Mr. Z. A. Qureshi	Copyholder	Permanent.
	Mr. Sukhdev Singh	"	Permanent.
	Mr. R. C. Lawrence	"	Officiating.
	Mr. K. B. Lal	"	Permanent.
	Mr. L. C. Jain	"	Permanent.
	Mr. Thakur Singh Rihal.	"	Permanent.
	Mr. Keshri Pershad	"	Permanent.
	Mr. B. K. Dey	"	Temporary.
Simla	Mr. V. J. Frederick	"	Temporary.
	Mr. S. S. Joshi	"	Officiating.
	Mr. Abdul Qadeer Baidnu	"	Officiating.

RECRUITMENT OF LOWEST GRADE READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

No. 151.—The three vacancies of readers in the Government of India Press, Simla, mentioned in the reply to Part C (ii) of question No. 150 were filled by the transfer of a reader on the temporary establishment who qualified at the 1936 examination and by the promotion of two permanent copyholders who had qualified at the 1934 examination. One of them was continuously officiating as a junior reader since 9th March, 1936. The vacancy in the temporary establishment caused by the transfer of one reader to the permanent establishment was filled by a copyholder who qualified in the 1936 examination. The two copyholders, who qualified in the 1934 examination were appointed to the permanent posts of readers in 1936 on the assumption that the instructions issued in September, 1935, did not operate to the disadvantage of men who qualified earlier.

RECRUITMENT OF LOWEST GRADE READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

No. 152.—The appointment of two copyholders who qualified in 1934 will be looked into and suitable action taken under the rules.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 51, 52, 54 and 55, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 21st February, 1944.

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR SANITATION OF LAND BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA, AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD

No. 51.—The land in question is private property and the owners are responsible for its sanitation.

POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO SHAHDARA NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE.

No. 52.—The preparation of the electoral roll is in progress and the dates for the election will be fixed shortly.

IRREGULARITIES REPORTED UNDER PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT AGAINST EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 54.—(a) The nature of irregularities reported by the Inspector under the payment of Wages Act, 1936, against East Indian Railway since 1938, is indicated below:—

(1) Non-display of the List of Acts and Omissions in modern Indian languages mostly.—[Rule 12 of the Payment of Wages (Federal Railways) Rules, 1938].

(2) Non-display of the notices showing the dates of payments.—[Rule 8 of the P. W. (Federal Railways) Rules, 1938].

(3) Delay in the payment of wages (allowances, increments and leave salary).—[Section 5(1) of the P. W. Act, 1936].

(4) Delay in the payment of wages on termination of service.—[Section 5(2) of the P. W. Act, 1936].

(5) Failure to maintain the Registers of Fines and of deductions for Damage or Loss in the prescribed forms.—[Rule 3(1) and 4 of P. W. (F. R.) Rules].

(6) Failure to enter the relevant clauses of sub-section 2 of section 7 of the Act against certain items of deductions.—[Rule 5(b) of the P. W. (F. R.) Rules, 1938].

(7) Recovery of fines (a) without giving an opportunity to show cause or (b) after the expiry of 60 days from the date of the act or omission.—[Section 8(3) and (6) of the P. W. Act, 1936].

(8) Deductions in contravention of Section 7(2) (c) of the P. W. Act, 1936.

All these irregularities were brought to the notice of the Railway Administration who rectified them and took steps to avoid their recurrence.

(b) The same irregularities were not repeated though some irregularities of a similar nature were detected in subsequent years.

NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES TO WORKERS BY LOADING CONTRACTOR AT DELHI-SHAHDARA RAILWAY STATION

No. 55.—(a)-(b).—No complaint has so far been received for non-payment of wages of employees engaged by the ex-loading and unloading contractor, Ch. Raghunath Singh and Bros., on Delhi-Shahdara Railway Station on the North Western Railway.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 187 and 188 asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 23rd February, 1944.

LAND ACQUIRED BY MILITARY IN ASSAM FOR AERODROMES, ETC.

No. 187.—(a), (b) and (c). It is regretted that this information cannot be given in the interests of security.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes, but many of them prefer to work on military projects in their own neighbourhood.

LAND ACQUIRED BY MILITARY IN BENGAL FOR AERODROMES, ETC.

No. 188. (a), (b) and (c). It is regretted that this information cannot be given in the interests of security.

(d) and (e). People evicted were paid compensation liberally, and the owners of huts were paid replacement costs of huts in addition to the cost of temporary shelters.

(f) The Government of India are informed by the Provincial Government that it was not correct to say that an acute state of famine still prevailed in February 1944. There has been no indiscriminate acquisition of agricultural lands. Only lands actually required for defence purposes have been acquired and all possible steps have been taken to avoid hardship to the people.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 197 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 24th February, 1944.

DISCONTINUANCE OF TRAVELLING VAN PORTERS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(b) The following statement shows the number of known thefts committed by (i) railway van porters and (ii) contractors' labour, on Road Van trains, on the Karachi Division, during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943:—

Year	Thefts committed by Railway van porters		Thefts committed by contractors' labour	
	Number of thefts	Number of persons involved	Number of thefts	Number of persons involved
1941	1	1	5	16
1942	2	7	4	8
1943				

Note.—In the reply given to part (c) of the question in the Assembly on the 24th February 1944, it was through inadvertence, stated that 7 Railway van porters had been challaned for thefts during 1943. The correct position is that 7 other railway staff had been so challaned, viz., 1 Guard, 2 Van Stores, 2 Watchmen, 1 Shunting Porter and 1 Check Porter.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 211, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Das on the 24th February, 1944.

**-APPRENTICE MECHANICS RECRUITED COMMUNITY-WISE IN BENGAL AND ASSAM
RAILWAY**

- (a) 22; 8 Hindus of whom one is a non-Bengali, 6 Muslims and 8 Anglo-Indians.
 (b) No; the passing of the examination conducted by the Board of Apprenticeship Training is not at present obligatory on any one.
 (c) The standards now adopted are not lower than those prescribed by Government.

Information promised in reply to part (d) of Unstarred Question No. 68 asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi, on the 24th February, 1944.

NON-PAYMENT OF EXTRA DUTY ALLOWANCE TO BOMBAY CIRCLE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE STAFF.

- (d) In certain R. M. S. Divisions of six postal circles, other than Bombay, extra duty allowance was wrongly paid to R. M. S., officials for the period of rest curtailed as a result of their transfer from one set to another during the period July 1941 to July 1942.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 74, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 25th February, 1944.

LAND REQUISITIONED BY GOVERNMENT NEAR SHAHDARA RAILWAY STATION

- (a) The land was requisitioned under the Chief Commissioner's notification No. F. 14 (121)/43-L.S.G., dated the 20th July 1943, published in Part II-A of the Gazette, of India, dated the 24th July 1943.
- (b) The land measures 2974 square yards and is situated along both sides of the Shahdara approach road bounded by Government land on the one side and private land on the other.
- (c) The names of the former owners are reported to be Jai Narain, Bharat Singh, Jagmohan, Ram Saran, Imtiaz Ahmad Khan, Abdul Rehman and others.
- (d) and (e) The trees on both sides of the road were planted by Government.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 268 asked by Mr. H. M. Abdullah on the 28th February, 1944.

FOOD INSPECTORS, ETC., ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

- (a) to (e).- The attached statements give the required information. It is regretted that the number of Food Inspectors was given as 5, whereas it is 6.

[illegible]

No. of posts of inferior staff sanctioned in connection with the food organisation on Divisions.

Office	Strength		Community					Filled by	Remarks
	Total	Actuals	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Indian Christian	Promotion		
Supdt. Mechanical Work-shops.	3	3	..	3	..	..	..	3	
D. S. Office Rawalpindi .	55	55	18	35	2	..	..	55	
D. S. Office Ferozepore .	43	43	14	26	3	..	1	42	
D. S. Office, Lahore .	90	90	27	55	8	..	1	89	
D. S. Office, Delhi .	107	81	67	13	..	1	..	81	26 vacancies.
D. S. Office, Karachi .	134	109	39	70	..	..	..	109	25 vacancies.
D. S. Office Multan .	67	67	14	44	9	..	..	67	
Accounts Offices .	3	3	3	..	..	..	1	2	
District Controller of Stores, Moghalpura.	172	172	66	99	7	..	22	150	
D. S. Office, Quetta .	38	38	11	25	1	1	..	38	
Headquarters Office .	5	5	1	3	1	..	..	5	
Total	717	666	260	373	31	2	25	641	51 vacancies.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 354 asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, on the 13th March, 1944.

FOOD INSPECTORS, ETC., APPOINTED IN KARACHI AND MULTAN DIVISIONS.

It is regretted that it was wrongly stated that no Food Inspector has been appointed on the Karachi Division. There is one Food Inspector on that Division and one on the Multan Division. One Assistant Food Inspector has been appointed on each of the Karachi and Multan Divisions. The Food Inspector on the Multan Division is a Sikh; the other Food Inspector and both the Assistant Food Inspectors are Hindus.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 357, 358, 359 and 360 asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman on the 13th March, 1944.

MUSLIM APPLICANTS FOR POSTS IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 357.—(a) 429; one as Clerk grade 65—85, 2 as Head Clerk and Accountant grade 100—120, 1 as Wardkeeper grade 65—120, 6 as Clerks grade 30—60.

(b) Applicants who did not fulfil the conditions specified in the advertisement were rejected. Out of 57 Muslims called for interview only 24 presented themselves.

(c) No, but the General Manager is competent to act as he did.

MUSLIM APPLICANTS FOR POSTS IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 358.—(a) Government are informed that as Muslims obtained 47 per cent. of the direct recruitment made to posts in the Stores Department in 1943-44, no deficiencies exist.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

STAFF APPOINTED IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY IN THE SCALE OF RS. 30—3—45—5—60.

No. 359.—3 Hindus.

PROBATIONARY ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS AND SIGNALLERS APPOINTED ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 360

Category	Community	Total No. appointed without advertising		No. appointed relaxing the age-bar		No. appointed relaxing the educational qualifications	
		1942-43	1943-44	1942-43	1943-44	1942-43	1943-44
Probationer Assistant Station Masters.	Hindus	108	75	2*	..	..	1*
	Muslims	16	3	..	..	..	..
Signallers	Hindus	50	34	1*	..	..	4*
	Muslims	5	2	1*	..	..	..

* Figures in column 3 includes those in columns 4 & 5.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 361, 362, 364 and 365, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani on the 13th March, 1944.

PROMOTIONS TO CLERICAL GRADE 'D' IN THE OFFICE OF CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 361. (a) Yes.

(b) Four and nine respectively.

CERTAIN CLERICAL VACANCIES FILLED IN THE CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 362 (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated.

(b) The number of vacancies which arose are :—

Year	Section	No. of vacancies
1942-43	General	3
	Indent	1
Total		4
1943-44	Budget	2
	Rolling Stock	2
	Damage	1
	Emergency	1
	Indent	3
Total		9

The reply to the second part is 'nil'.

VACANCIES FILLED IN THE LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 364. (a)

No. of vacancies in Lower Gazetted Service including temporary posts created		Filled by persons of the following communities				
Year		Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	European	Anglo-Indian
Open line						
1942-43	30	16	3	1	1	9
1943-44	38	19	4	..	3	12
Construction						
1943-44	11	11	2	..	..	1

(b) No.

VACANCIES IN INTERMEDIATE GRADES IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 365.		
1942-43	Vacancies	38
	Posts created	25
1943-44	Vacancies	26
	Posts created	83

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 366, 367 and 368 asked by Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddiquee, on 13th March, 1944.

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 366. (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No; promotions are made on the basis of seniority and suitability.

(d) Yes, because communal quotas do not apply in promotion.

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 367. (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated.

(b) No replies are usually given to unsuccessful applicants, as they are aware of the result when the appointments are made.

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 368. (a) Government are informed that the General Manager did not hold any particular Clerks as being responsible for the irregularities which occurred.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 370, 371, 372, 373 and 374 asked by Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury on the 13th March, 1944.

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 370. Yes.

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 371. (a) Government are informed that only one Muslim employee applied for the post and the Executive Officer merely indicated that his name might be put forward to the Divisional Superintendent.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 372. Government are satisfied that the case concerned was dealt with in a proper manner.

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 373. Government are informed that there are no unauthorized entries in the Service History of the employee concerned.

NON-EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN POSTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OFFICE OF HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 374. (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated.

(b) Two as far as can be ascertained.

(c) Muslim graduates who had passed the Leave Rules Examination were available.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 380 asked by Mr. H. M. Abdullah, on the 13th March, 1944.

APPOINTMENT OF RAILWAY WATCH AND WARD SUB-INSPECTOR, DELHI

(a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; as regards the second part, although it was the turn for the appointment of a Muslim Head Watchman, Government are unable to state whether the particular person referred to would have been chosen.

(c) Government understand that the Railway is already considering this aspect.

Information promised in reply to Sardar Sant Singh's Supplementary Question to Starred Question No. 430, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, on the 15th March, 1944.

DISSATISFACTION OVER REQUISITIONING OF PRIVATE HOUSES

No house in this town has been specifically requisitioned for the employees of an Indian State.

2. Two small previously requisitioned houses have however been handed over to two Rulers in exchange for their own much larger palaces which they had very generously placed rent-free at the disposal of the Government of India. Staff Officers of Rulers have occasionally been housed in previously requisitioned accommodation when it was necessary for them to be in Delhi with their Rules, e.g., for a meeting of the Chamber of Princes.

3. Hon'ble Members are doubtless aware that several Rulers have generously placed their own palaces in Delhi at the disposal of the Government of India and it is but proper that Government should endeavour to provide them, if possible, with alternative accommodation where necessary.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 433, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 15th March 1944.

GOVERNMENT COUNSEL AT COURTS MARTIAL

Of 43 officers serving in the Judge Advocate General's Department in India 8 are regular officers who have specialized for many years in military law, but hold no civil legal qualifications or university law degrees.

Of the remaining 35, 11 are barristers and 24 are solicitors. Of these, 16 hold university law degrees as follows:—

Law Degrees	Barristers	Solicitors
M. A., LL. B. (Cantab.)	..	2
M. A. LL. B. (Glasgow)	..	2
B. A. LL. B. (Cantab.)	1	2
B. C. L. (Oxon)	1	1
B. A. (Law) (Oxon)	1	2
B. A. (Law) (Glasgow)	..	1
B. A. (Law) (Dublin)	1	..
LL. B. (London).	1	1

The remaining 8 officers out of the 51 mentioned in the main answer are serving abroad. No details regarding their qualifications are readily available.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 460, asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, on the 16th March, 1944

CONTROLLER OF COAL ACTING AS PURCHASING AGENT FOR INDUSTRIES

(b) In order to make an equitable distribution of coal despatched in full rakes and half rakes, Coal Trade Associations (which include representatives of middlemen) were asked to draw up programmes of standard rakes spread over a number of collieries situated in the same pilot section. These programmes were utilised by the Controller of Coal Distribution to give immediate assistance to industrial centres such as Ahmedabad, Baroda, and Sholapur. These arrangements were made with the full approval of the coal trade and consumers and were not intended to dislocate normal trade channels. The second part of the question does not arise.

(c) Yes. This action was taken at the request of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and with the approval of Government.

Information promised in reply to parts (d) and (e) of Starred Question No. 464, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, on the 16th March, 1944

EXPANSION OF THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

(d) The total number of Muslims in all categories under (b) is 159 and under (c) 103. Figures under each category cannot be supplied due to security reasons.

(e) The statement below gives the information required :—

Cadre.	No. of persons promoted from lower ranks.	Minimum period after which promoted.	No. of Muslims promoted from lower ranks.	Minimum period after which promoted.
Superintending Meteorologist	4	13 years	Nil.	
Meteorologist	15	4 "	1	19 years
Assistant Meteorologist	28	10 "	2	12 "
Professional Assistant	21	2½ months	2	2½ months
Meteorological Assistant	52	9 "	10	2½ years
Senior Observer and Observer	140	2 "	33	1½ years

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 504, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 17th March, 1944

BIHARIS AS ASSISTANT GEOLOGISTS

Assistant Geologist—One.
Higher capacity—None.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 520, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 20th March, 1944.

BIHARIS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

- (a) There are eight Commissioners of whom five are Indians;
(b) The figures are :—
Eight in the Punjab, North West Frontier and Delhi Provinces,
Eight in the United Provinces, Central Provinces and Berar,
Nine in Bengal and Assam,
Seven in Madras,
Twelve in Bombay, Sind, British Baluchistan and Ajmer-Merwara, and
Five in Bihar and Orissa;
Out of the five Assistant Commissioners in Bihar and Orissa two are Biharis.
(c) There are 406 Income-tax Officers, grades I and II, of whom 15 are Biharis, the latter being employed in Bihar and Orissa against the sanctioned strength of 26 officers for that Province.
(d) One hundred and thirtytwo.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 561 and 562, asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman, on the 21st March, 1944.

MUSLIMS IN BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

- No. 561.—(a) 228 of whom 43 are Muslims.
(b) The total number of persons recruited during 1942 and 1943 was 35 and 57 respectively. The vacancies were advertised.
(c) The total number of applications received from Muslims was 78 out of whom 61 were called for interview; only 40 of the latter appeared for interview and 25 were selected.
(d) The Selection Boards were constituted in accordance with the rules, and no vacancies which should have been filled by direct recruitment were filled in any other way.

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

- No. 562.—(a) 154, all temporary; composed of 78 Hindus, 72 Muslims, 1 Scheduled Caste, 2 Anglo Indians and 1 O. M. C.
(b) Normal methods of recruitment were followed: 7 persons were taken from the same Department and one was transferred from another Department; the rest were recruited direct.
(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. In the recruitment conducted specially for the Stores Department 57 Muslims were called for interview of whom 24 presented themselves; 10 of these were selected for appointment.
(d) For the special recruitment to the Stores Department, there was a total 1,440 applications, of which 429 were from Muslims.
(e) The Boards were constituted according to the rules and there was one Muslim Officer on them.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 147 and 148, asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi, on the 21st March, 1944.

DISBURSEMENT OF FINES FUND ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY
No. 147.—There is no Fines Fund on the O. & T. Railway. There is, however, a Staff Benefit Fund. Disbursements from the Fund are not made on a communal basis. Grants

are made from this Fund for Institutes and in 1943-44 the grants made amounted to Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 6,000 approximately to European and Indian Institutes respectively.

POSTING OF UN-PAID PROBATIONERS AS GUARDS, ETC., ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

No. 148.—(b) The Substitutes were upto now being paid upto Rs. 15 per month. The Railway have now issued instructions that they should be paid at the minimum of the grade in which they work.

Information promised in reply to Un-Starred Questions Nos. 153 and 155, asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 22nd March, 1944

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF SHAHDARA-DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

No. 153.—Statement of total income and expenditure of the Municipal Committee, Shahdara, Delhi, for the years 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43 under the various major heads.

INCOME

Head of Account	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. General Departments	47,796	48,614	57,248
2. Education			
3. Medical			
4. Public Health	2,669	2,922	2,806
5. Water Supply	2,027	2,085	2,125
6. Veterinary Department			
7. Municipal Works			5
8. Suspense Accounts	1,118	3,111	2,163
Total Income	53,610	56,732	64,362
Opening balance	16,449	27,324	32,508
Grand Total	70,059	84,056	96,860
Total Expenditure	42,735	51,548	72,112
Closing balance	27,324	32,508	24,748

EXPENDITURE

Head of Account	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. General Departments	12,233	14,303	22,786
2. Education	1,620	1,620	1,665
3. Medical	1,811	2,125	1,481
4. Public Health	15,158	16,608	22,025
5. Water Supply	6,052	6,882	12,544
6. Veterinary Department	800	992	833
7. Municipal Works	4,050	3,434	7,491
8. Suspense Account	880	4,126	2,169
9. Reserve for unforeseen charges	131	1,458	1,118
Grand Total	42,735	51,548	72,112

DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING ELECTED ELEMENT IN SHAHDARA-DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

- (a) Yes.
(b) and (c). Hitherto the Committee has consisted entirely of nominated members. It is now proposed to divide the town into four wards each returning one elected member. As the elected element is being introduced for the first time in this Committee, it is not considered necessary to make any change in the proposed number of elected and nominated members.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 608, 609 and 610, asked by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, on the 24th March, 1944.

PAY, ETC., OF SUB-POSTMASTERS.

- No. 608.—(c) No.
(d) Does not arise.
(e) 48 candidates below the age of 25 years joined the Department as extra departmental agents working as sub-postmasters during the period 1930-33, of whom 28 are still continuing.

MEMORIAL OF SUB-POSTMASTERS IN U. P. FOR INCREASE OF ALLOWANCE

- No. 609.—(a) Yes.
 (b) Yes, but the figures regarding the increase in expenditure as stated by the Honourable Member are not correct.
 (c) Yes.

CONVERSION OF AN EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL SUB-POST OFFICE INTO A BRANCH POST OFFICE

No. 610.—(b) The information is given in the statement below :—

Name of office.	Hours of work.			Cost			Income		
	Before conversion	After conversion		Before conversion	After conversion		Before conversion	After conversion	
	H. M. S.	H. M. S.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
Sunderbagh	4 22 0.	6 52 0		44 0 0	99 0 0		262 5 0	705 5 5	
Advocate	3 35 30	6 25 30		30 0 0	80 0 0		99 12 0	339 1 0	
Hamdam	3 27 0	5 8 30		30 0 0	85 0 0		84 10 8	201 11 7	
Victoriaganj	3 15 30	5 40 0		42 0 0	97 0 0		95 4 0	235 15 0	

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 616, asked by Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait, on the 24th March, 1944

SELECTION FOR POST OF ASSISTANT COAL SUPERINTENDENT IN STATE RAILWAY COAL DEPARTMENT

As regards the second part of part (a), Government understand that there was only one Muslim applicant who did not however, possess the experience required.

Information promised in reply to parts (c), (e) and (f) of Starred Question No. 631, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 27th March, 1944

KEEPING OF MILCH CATTLE IN ORTHODOX QUARTERS

- (c) The New Delhi Municipal Committee report the figures as nine.
 (e) In present conditions the maintenance of the milk supply as well as the supply of other commodities presents problems which will continue to cause anxiety to the local authorities for some time to come, but the Honourable Member may rest assured that they are doing their best to cope with a difficult situation.
 (f) So far as milk supply is concerned no distinctions are drawn between one class of the population and another.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 635, asked by Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh, Bhutto, on the 27th March, 1944

BUYING AND SELLING OF LAND BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(a) The operations of the Delhi Improvement Trust are conducted under and regulated by the United Provinces Town Improvement Act 1919 as extended to the Delhi Province. These operations include the acquisition of land and its re-sale after developments, and the sale price of the developed plots is naturally higher in most cases than the acquisition price.

(b) and (c). It is not correct that the Delhi Improvement Trust acts in the manner mentioned.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 647, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 27th March, 1944

HIGH-HANDEDNESS OF LANDLORDS IN DELHI.

- (a) Yes.
 (b) Allegations made in the article against the Police are not true. The Police have strict instructions to be extremely careful in dealing with any case which appears to be registered by a landlord for the purpose of putting pressure on a tenant.
 (c) Complaints are reported to have been received by the local authorities that excessive rents are being demanded by landlords in all parts of the town.
 (d) In view of the reply to part (b), this does not arise.
 (e) There are administrative difficulties in the extension of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order 1939 to areas in Old Delhi but Government have other measures under consideration.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 193, asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 28th March, 1944.

PROSECUTION OF OFFICERS OF SHRI GOPAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DELHI

- (a) Yes.
 (b) Yes.
 (c) The persons arrested were either office-bearers of the Chamber or persons who were found to be actually engaged in the objectionable transactions.
 (d) No.
 (e) Certain representations were received but the law had been set in motion and it was not considered necessary to interfere.
 (f) Yes.
 (g) The High Court held that Rule 94-C was not applicable and that view is not contested. The opposite opinion must therefore be regarded as mistaken.
 (h) The interest shown by the officers in this case was official and not personal.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 690, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon on behalf of Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, on the 29th March 1944.

WIRELESS LICENCE ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

(b) Three Programme Assistants have been promoted to the post of Station Director, one in a permanent and the other two in an officiating capacity, and nine Programme Assistants have been promoted as Assistant Station Directors in an officiating capacity.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 695, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 29th March, 1944.

SUNDAY AND OTHER HOLIDAY ALLOWANCES PAID TO ANGLO-INDIAN AND EUROPEAN GUARDS ON OLD EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SECTION.

Yes, in respect of staff recruited before 1st September 1930. The rule permitting this is one which was in force under the E. I. Railway Company and continued unaltered till 1st September 1930.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 214, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 29th March, 1944.

CASES OF FRAUD, ETC., AGAINST EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SERVANTS

(a) According to the information contained in registers maintained by the Accounts Office, there were 15 cases of frauds, etc., including one which was detected in 1942 and remained under investigation upto March 1944.

(b) 11 cases were detected by the Executive; 3 by the Accounts Department and 1 by Audit Department. Out of these, one case, involving an amount of Rs. 3,022-11-0, is under trial in court; in one, involving an amount of Rs. 6,000, the person concerned was discharged; in 7 cases of losses of stores the total amount involved was Rs. 1,176-11-0, which was written off; in one case the amount involved (Rs. 3-13-0) was paid by the employee concerned, who was transferred to another station; 5 cases involving Rs. 9,574-9-6 remain to be finally disposed of. In one of these, involving Rs. 8,000 some staff at fault have already been dismissed from service and in another involving Rs. 1,412, which is still pending, the amount embezzled has been made good.

(c) Please refer to item (b) above.

(d) 7 cases were enquired into departmentally; 6 by the Railway Watch and Ward staff; one by Police and one by Railway Watch and Ward Staff and Police together.

(e) In one case only, it was found necessary to obtain legal opinion which was to the effect that the matter should be dealt with departmentally.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 223, asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 30th March 1944.

CASES OF INFRINGEMENT OF HOURS OF WORK FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY FACTORIES ACT.

First part of the question :—Statement showing the number of cases of infringement of the Hours of Employment Regulations detected and reported during the years 1931-32 to 1943-44, is enclosed.

Second part of the question :—The irregularities noticed were reported to the respective Railway Administrations and action was taken by them to rectify the same.

Statement showing the number of cases of infringement of the Hours of Work detected and reported during the years 1931-32 to 1943-44

Year	Railway	Working outside Rostered Hours		Working during periodic Rest		Grand Total
		Occasion-ally 3	Habi-tually 4	Occasion-ally 5	Habi-tually 6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1931-32	N. W. E. I.	38 5	12	34 8	5	102
1932-33	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P.	11 3 17 7	5 5 1	13 6	1 4	73
1933-34	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P.	10 14 5 4	13 14 14 4	24 11 2	4 11 9 8	147
1934-35	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P.	19 26 5 4	21 22 12 10	38 36 8 5	8 17 21 10	262
1935-36	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M.	34 22 2 9 30 10	27 32 9 8 24 12	37 36 3 5 8 1	16 22 7 5 8 7	374
1936-37	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M.	23 16 1 2 38 20	19 5 4 3 11 17	12 10 2 1 8 14	14 10 10 3 2 12	247
1937-38	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M. B. & N. W.	43 30 7 10 22 34 8	55 49 5 4 32 63 14	34 18 5 10 15 18 26	21 11 5 7 18 35 24	624
1938-39	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M. B. & N. W.	11 11 21 40 30 30 2	46 49 17 20 35 13 8	50 25 12 24 10 3 6	15 15 7 21 35 4 4	564
1939-40	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M. B. & N. W.	59 62 9 24 17 22	12 80 10 23 43 53	2 23 1 13 28	65 119 14 39 128 25 3	674
1940-41	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M. B. & N. W. A. & B. B. N. R. & K. S. I.	17 56 4 42 26 2 2 4 7	22 23 17 25 30 2 1 9	28 11 16 17 14 12 3 5 9 4	70 48 40 48 130 18 19 4 29 15	860

Year	Railway	Working outside Rostered Hours		Working during periodic Rest		Grand Total
		Occasion-ally 3	Habi-tually 4	Occasion-ally 5	Habi-tually 6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1941-42	N. W. E. I. E. B. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M. B. & N. W. A. & B. B. N. R. & K. S. I. B. & A.	27 18 28 50 46 33 2 4 17 4 3 3	33 38 28 15 68 38 1 19 27 2 6 20	15 28 6 24 44 11 2 5 9 13 10 5	7 39 19 13 55 11 3 9 13 9 6 29	887
1942-43	N. W. E. I. B. & A. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M. B. & N. W. B. N. R. & K. S. I. O. & T.	27 27 14 26 75 39 16 25 5 3 4	43 20 22 21 74 22 13 27 6 9 8	37 9 25 21 18 3 3 6 2	26 22 41 26 48 15 2 22 3 1	885
1943-44	N. W. E. I. B. & A. G. I. P. B. B. & C. I. M. & S. M. O. & T. B. N. S. I.	37 29 13 21 24 26 21 7 1	37 28 15 16 31 20 26 16 4	22 14 12 24 15 9 16 10 2	49 17 12 21 21 1 19 9 2	647

Number of irregularities from the 1st April 1931 to the 31st March 1944-6,346.

Sd. Illegible.
Cancellation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour, Calcutta.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 733, asked by Mr. K. S. Gupta, on the 31st March, 1944.

PRIVATE BOATS COMMANDERED IN CERTAIN PROVINCES.

Assam :-

(a) No boats were taken away.

(d) and (g). Do not arise.

Orissa :-

(a) 5,391.

(d) Rs. 3,05,196-15-9.

(g) No boats were destroyed and all have been returned to their owners.

Madras :-

(a) and (d). 22 boats were requisitioned, out of which 5 have since been returned to their owners. Compensation of Rs. 4,850 has been paid for 4 boats and the amount to be paid for the remaining 13 boats is still under correspondence. In addition, 109 boats were purchased for approximately Rs. 4½ lakhs.

(g) This has not arisen, in view of the small number of boats involved.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 740, asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman, on the 3rd April, 1944

RECRUITMENT ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY IN OFFICERS' GRADE.

(b) The reply is in the negative to both parts.

[1st Nov. 1944]

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 741, 742 and 745 asked by Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, on the 3rd April, 1944.

SENIORITY OF CERTAIN GUARDS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.
No. 741.—(b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to Grade I and Grade II Guards when he mentions Grade A and Grade B. The ten Grade II Guards who were interviewed between November, 1943 and March, 1944, originally occupied places below No. 47 on the seniority list, but on the revision of the list have places above the original No. 47.

MEMORIAL OF 'B' CLASS GUARDS OF HOWRAH DIVISION FOR FIXATION OF PAY, ETC.
No. 742.—(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

SENIOR 'B' CLASS GUARDS IN HOWRAH DIVISION.

No. 745.—Guards, Grade II, are declared unfit for promotion to Grade I only by a competent authority and Government are informed that there has been no departure from this on the Howrah Division.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 746, 747, 748 and 750, asked by Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 3rd April, 1944.

RECRUITMENT OF INFERIOR STAFF IN ENGINEERING AND MECHANICAL DEPARTMENTS OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 746.—(a) and (b). Railway Administrations are not required to maintain communal percentages for the recruitment of inferior staff and labourers separately by Departments such percentages applying to inferior services as a whole on each Railway. A statement is attached giving the numbers of inferior staff communitywise recruited to the Engineering and Mechanical Departments during the period for the E. B. zone; figures for the A. B. zone not being readily available. From this, it will be observed that while the percentages prescribed after that date, this was on account of the peculiar conditions on the Railway during the present emergency.

Statement showing the number of inferior staff including Labourers, recruited in the Engineering and Mechanical Departments of the E. B. Railway during the years 1940-41 and on the E. B. Zone of the B. & A. Railway from 1942 to the end of March 1944.

		Engineering.											
		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944*			
		Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary		
Hindus (other than Scheduled Castes.)	22	861	10	766	30	525	20	1,389	4	713	..		
Muslims	14	527	30	646	8	181	22	1,029	7	882	..		
Scheduled Castes	44	1,016	53	1,273	50	11,14	32	1,255	7	432	..		
Indian Christians	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Anglo Indians	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total	80	2,405	93	2,685	88	1,820	74	3,690	18	2,031	..		
Percentage of Muslims	17.5%	22%	32.3%	24%	9.1%	10%	29.7%	28.0%	30.0%	43.0%	..		

		Mechanical.											
		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944*			
		Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary		
Hindus (other than Scheduled Castes.)	38	127	41	291	89	304	92	339	17	97	..		
Muslims	37	56	22	88	27	130	26	175	..	39	..		
Scheduled Castes	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	5	..	..	..		
Indian Christians	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Anglo Indians	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total	77	183	63	379	116	437	118	519	17	136	..		
Percentage of Muslims	48.0%	30.5%	35.0%	23.2%	23.3%	29.7%	22.0%	33.7%	NH.	28.7%	..		

Percentage of Muslims for the whole period

Percentage prescribed prior to 1st April 1943 29.7%
Percentage prescribed from 1st April 1943 onwards 45.0%

*Figures relate to 3 months ending March, 1944.

NON-POSTING OF MUSLIMS IN E. I. (B) SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL BRANCH, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 747.—(b) 7 Muslims have worked in the Section during the period 1939-1943.

CLERICAL STAFF IN PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 748.—According to the information readily available, 33 Hindus, 6 Muslims and 3 Anglo-Indians have been promoted as Inspectors and 22 Hindus, 1 Muslim, 5 Anglo-Indians, 1 Sikh and one Indian Christian have been appointed to Lower Gazetted Service.

STAFF ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 750.—(a) It has been ascertained that information is not readily available and Government cannot undertake to collect the details under present circumstances.

(b) No.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 759, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, on the 3rd April, 1944.

REORGANIZATION OF WHARF AND YARD STAFF.

- (a) Government are informed that the matter is under consideration.
(b) One memorial was submitted in 1931 and another has also recently been submitted by the staff.
(c) Yes.
(d) The matter is under consideration and it is not possible to anticipate the decision.
(e) Yes.
(f) There has been an increase of work; the reference to 2 lacs is not understood.
(g) The extra staff required to deal with the increased work have been provided; no other arrangements appear to be necessary.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 779, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 4th April, 1944.

GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER THE SURVEYOR GENERAL.

(a), (b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

- (d) Yes.
(e) and (f). Direct recruitment to gazetted officers' posts in the Survey of India is made by competitive examination held by the Federal Public Service Commission and from volunteers from among regular army officers (Royal Engineers and Indian Engineers), but very few Sikhs apply for such posts except through army channels.

Statement showing the number of gazetted officers, etc., employed in the Survey of India.

	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
1. Gazetted Officers	48	16	2	62	128
2. Extra Asst. Supdts., Asst. Supdts. and Supdts.	43	15	2	46	106
3. Head Assts. (not Head Clerks), Assts. and Junior Assts.	21	2	..	1	24

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 259, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 4th April, 1944.

FIXING OF RATES OF FARES FOR VEHICLES BETWEEN DELHI AND SHAHDARA-DELHI.

The rates of tonga fares between Delhi City and Shahdara town were fixed by the Delhi Municipal Committee. No rates have been fixed for buses as the fares charged by the Management are considered reasonable. The Shahdara Municipality was not consulted in the matter as its consent was not necessary.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 264, and 265, asked by Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, on the 4th April, 1944.

SANITATION OF LAND BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA-DELHI AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD.

No. 264.—It is understood that no such statement was made.
The land in question is reported to be the property of Mr. Sukhbir Saran. Whenever the municipal authorities have had cause to complain of the condition of this land, they have issued notices under section 115 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911. The last such notice was issued on the 19th February 1944.

[1st Nov. 1944]

EXPENDITURE ON SANITATION IN SHAHDARA-DELHI.

No. 265.—A sum of Rs. 24,015 was spent by the Municipal Committee, Shahdara, on improvements and sanitation of the town during the year 1943-44.

Owing, however, to the financial stringency resulting from the payment of dearness allowance to its staff, the committee was unable to incur any expenditure on large scale improvements during the year 1943-44.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 789, 790, 792, 795, 796 and 797, asked by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, on the 5th April, 1944.

TRANSFERS OF CANTONMENT EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

No. 789.—(d) Rs. 14,827-5-9.

INTRODUCTION OF LOW SCALES OF PAY FOR EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN CANTONMENT BOARDS.

No. 790.—In February 1938, in order to remove certain anomalies then existing, and to check the increase in the rising costs of establishments of Cantonment Boards in the then Northern Command, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief decided that all Cantonment Fund servants in this Command should be placed on uniform rates of pay according to the constitution of each Cantonment as fixed by Section 13(1) of the Cantonments Act, 1924. These grades of pay were not considered low and are generally in force now. They were fixed by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Command in accordance with his powers of financial control over Cantonment Boards, as laid down in rules 5 and 10 of the Cantonment Fund Servants Rules, 1937, and in rules 45, 46 and 47 of the Cantonment Account Code, 1924. Cantonment Boards are allowed reasonable discretion in the matter of their staff subject to the provisions of the Cantonments Act and the rules framed thereunder. The scales of pay fixed in 1938 have served as a guide rather than as a hard and fast rule, individual cases being considered on their merits.

REORGANISATION OF CANTONMENT SERVICE.

No. 792.—(a) Present cost to Government—

(1) On account of pay and allowances of Military Estates Officers (full share)	Rs.
(2) On account of pay and allowances of Executive Officers (half share)	2,58,660 p. a.
	1,21,200 "
Total	3,79,860 "

Cost to Government, if Mr. Deshmukh's Resolution was adopted—

(i) On account of pay and allowances of Military Estates Officers (half share), i.e., 1/2 of (1) above	1,29,330 "
(ii) On account of pay and allowances of Executive Officers at the rates of pay proposed by Mr. Deshmukh (half share)	1,77,380 "
Total	3,06,720 "
Saving to Government=3,79,860 Minus 3,06,720	73,140 "

Effect on Cantonment Funds—

Cost at present borne by Cantonment Boards—

Pay and allowances of Executive Officers at the existing rates (half share)

Cost to Cantonment Boards if Mr. Deshmukh's Resolution was adopted.

1,21,200 "
3,06,720 "

or Rs. 1,85,520 (3,06,720 minus 1,21,200) in excess of present cost. A considerable portion of this sum would have to be borne by Government in the form of grants-in-aid to maintain financial equilibrium of the Cantonments concerned.

(These figures are only approximate.)

CANTONMENTS IN INDIA.

No. 795.—(a) Eighty one.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Fifty-four.

(e) Nine, including the Kirkee and Drigh Road Cantonments, where this work is carried out by the Military Estates Overseers of the Poona and Karachi Cantonments, in a part time capacity.

(f) Six, excluding Secunderabad where the Executive Officer cum Military Estates Officer is paid from local funds. There are Dehra Dun cum Clements Town cum Landour, Karachi cum Manora, Kohat, Quetta, and Wellington Cantonments.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

The Military Estates Overseers in these Cantonments assist the Military Estates Officer; they only carry on certain outdoor duties under his directions.

(g) Eight, viz., Agra, Allahabad, Ambala, Jubbulpore, Lahore, Lucknow, Peshawar and Poona. This excludes Deolali where the Overseer's work is at present done in a part-time capacity by the staff of the Military Estates Officer.

(h) Twenty-one, including a Forester for Landour. There is only one grade that of Rs. 40—2—60.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AS AGENTS OF MILITARY ESTATES OFFICERS

No. 796.—(a) Executive Officers were appointed agents of M.E.Os. under executive orders.

(b) The functions of these agents are to watch that no encroachments are made on Government lands and to collect rents from leased lands in their respective cantonments on behalf of Military Estates Officers.

The reasons for the appointment of agents were that the previous system under which lands in cantonments were managed by low paid Military Estates Overseers with no personal supervision, other than occasional visits, by M.E.Os., was found to be unsatisfactory.

(c) Yes. The new system did not however break down as stated by the Hon'ble Member. The lands in question are still under the management of M.E.Os. Government, at present, do not consider it desirable to amalgamate, except in special circumstances, the posts of M.E.Os. and Executive Officers.

(d) and (e). The information asked for is as follows:—

Name of Cantonment	Actual income from lands under the management of M. E. Os. as credited to Central Revenues for 1942-43	Actual income from lands under the management of Cantt. Boards for 1942-43	Rent from class 'C' lands as realised by the Central Govt. for 1942-43
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Allahabad	13,754 0 0	14,477 0 0	614 12 0
Lucknow	7,688 12 1	4,913 4 2	39 14 0
Dehra Dun	8,424 7 0	Nil	22 9 0
Meerut	9,185 9 0	13,156 2 4	347 6 0
Agra	36,752 13 0	5,205 14 8	Nil
Barrackpore	3,053 8 10	967 4 0	581 0 0
Rawalpindi	6,187 0 0	9,040 0 0	800 0 0
Peshawar	14,450 0 0	7,705 5 0	53 0 0
Kohat	1,678 4 0	127 10 0	400 0 0
Lahore	10,602 0 0	2,138 8 0	216 0 0
Ambala	20,590 0 0	3,719 5 9	33 0 0
Karachi	7,320 0 0	Nil	211 0 0
Quetta	12,339 0 0	Nil	116 0 0
Jubbulpore	11,663 11 3	1,224 3 0	66 0 0
Wellington	6,227 7 2	6,024 3 9	33 0 0
Deolali	1,784 12 0	10,485 15 0	61 0 0
*Secunderabad	*Receipts from lands in the Secunderabad and Aurangabad Cantonments are not credited to the Central Revenues but are disposed of in accordance with rule 16 of the Secunderabad and Aurangabad Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1930.		
*Aurangabad			
Poona	13,073 4 0	3,163 0 0	20 8 0
Kirkee	4,683 7 0	11,334 8 6	168 0 0
Nasirabad	7,666 3 9	7,122 7 3	136 11 0
Bareilly	6,133 10 9	10,971 4 0	1,124 9 0
Saugor	11,725 9 0	925 3 6	4 1 0
St. Thomas' Mount	13,241 0 5	220 6 9	18 10 0

(f) Yes, it is a fact, except that the General Land Register and the Land Revenue Register are maintained by Military Estates Officers and not by their Agents. The Agents only perform certain military estates duties and are subordinate to M.E.Os., who are responsible for the entire administration of lands (outside bazar areas) in cantonments in their respective circles.

The answer to the question in the concluding sentence is in the negative.

INCOME OF CERTAIN CANTONMENT FUNDS AND KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN
CANTONMENTS DEPARTMENT

No. 797.—(a).

Cantonment	Actual income for 1941-42	Actual income for 1942-43	Estimated income for 1943-44
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Secunderabad	14,31,403	12,47,524	11,71,820
Quetta	4,15,918	4,99,358	3,79,462
Peshawar	3,54,552	4,69,257	3,14,427
Lahore	2,49,758	2,64,080	2,54,117
Ambala	3,75,082	3,95,586	3,91,189
Cawnpore	2,09,990	2,39,872	2,07,001
Rawalpindi	5,78,349	7,07,893	5,79,100
Poona	6,00,933	5,54,695	5,00,606
Meerut	3,35,698	3,94,101	3,29,977
Lucknow	1,82,117	1,94,433	1,97,253
Agra	2,02,360	2,21,197	2,17,948
Mhow	3,12,585	3,81,285	3,47,218

(b)

Name of Officer	Rank	Length of service in the Cantonments Deptt. (on 1-4-44)		Monthly salary (on 1-4-44)
		Years	Months	Rs.
1. H. F. Jeffreys	Lt.-Col.	21	4	1,950
2. J. C. Cairn-Duff	"	21	2	1,950
3. C. M. James	"	17	9	1,900
4. J. E. Cobett, O.B.E.	"	15	1	1,900
5. J. E. Read	"	14	11	1,850
6. W. E. Merrill	Major	14	8	1,635
7. M. Hurford-Jones	Lt.-Col.	14	4	1,850
8. A. K. McGonigal	Major	13	0	1,635

(c) Agra, Bannu, Bareilly, Cawnpore, Chakrata, Delhi, Deolali, Ferozepore, Jhelum, Jubbulpore, Jullundur, Karachi, Kohat, Lahore, Meerut, Mhow, Murree, Murree Gali, Nasirabad, Nowshera, Peshawar, Poona, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Roorkee, Secunderabad and Sialkot.

Income and expenditure of Cantonments fluctuate from year to year, and the calculations on which the above information is based are on the present year's financial position only.

(d) Cantonments in which the post of Asstt. Secretary exists

Name of the present incumbent	Salary and allowances per mensem
1. Ambala Mr. Panna Lal Malhotra	Rs. 215 in the scale of Rs. 200—5—250
2. Rawalpindi Sardar Sahib Mana Singh	Salary Rs. 300 Personal allowance Rs. 100 Conveyance allowance Rs. 60
3. Quetta *Major A. E. Davies	Scale of pay—375—20—475. Conveyance allowance Rs. 50

*Major A. E. Davies was called up for military service in 1940, and holds a lien on this appointment. Rai Sahib Mohan Lal, Sewage Works Manager, has been appointed to officiate in the post, in addition to his own duties.
In these three Cantonments, the post of Assistant Secretary was created under rule 4 of the Cantonment Fund Servants' Rules, 1937.

Name of Officer	Monthly emoluments Rs.	Age (on 1-4-44)		Period of re-employment
		Years	Months	
1. Lt.-Col. W. R. James, O.B.E., M. C.	1,950	57	7	One year.
2. Lt.-Col. H. B. Graveston	1,950	55	6	One year.†
3. Lt.-Col. W. H. L. J. Welman	1,950	55	10	One year.†

† These two officers have since been granted a year's further extension. Extensions are granted only when they are essential in the public interest.

- (f) President, Cantonment Board, Secunderabad, paid from Defence Services Estimates Rs. 1,900
Executive Officer, Secunderabad Cantonment, paid from the Cantonment Fund Rs. 800
- (g) Three—(1) Lt.-Col. S. A. Bowden, (2) Major J. R. K. Wallace, M.C. and (3) Major R. G. Triggs.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 805, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Das, on the 5th April, 1944.

AUCTION OF EXCISE CONTRACTS IN DELHI

(a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(iii) No. Including the still head duty which has been sharply raised, the revenue this year is likely to exceed last year's figure by at least Rs. 2,48,000.

(b) No. The supply of liquor available being far short of the public demand the licensees are in a position to charge prices much in excess of the fixed maxima. In an auction the licence fees would have been forced up to such a level that it would have been impossible for the licensees to pay them without resort to malpractices and if in these circumstances the traditional system of auctioning the contracts had been adhered to the authorities would have laid themselves open to the charge of conniving at and profiting from contravention of the law. It has therefore been found necessary to abandon the auction system for the present.

DEATH OF MR. ABDUR RASHEED CHOUDHURY

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, it is with very great regret that I have to refer to the death of an Honourable Member of this House, Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury, which event took place some weeks ago. Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury represented the Muslim constituency of Assam in this Assembly since 1937. He was a fearless critic of all measures which did not appeal to him. He was a charming personality and anybody who came in contact with him inside or outside this House had nothing but esteem, regard and affection for him. This House is much the poorer by his death and I would request you to convey our personal sense of loss to the bereaved family and I would also request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family who may be there and assure them that their grief is shared equally by this House.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to associate myself with what fell from the Honourable the Leader of the House, for we feel as much as any other Honourable Member of this House the absence of the charming presence of Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. I am one of those who have been associated with him in this House for a period of over six years, apart from our absence during the interval. He was one of those men of sterling independence and it was impossible that any question will be viewed by him except from the point of view of genuine public interest of the country at large. He was one of those men who always devoted a good deal of energy and enthusiasm and a considerable amount of study to the question on which he was speaking before the House. He often found, that by reason of his extreme independence, he found himself giving expression to views which might or might not be in accord with those expressed by the other side of the House. He was one of those stalwarts whose presence we would always miss, because I recollect he held his own against odds from whatever it came. More than that, he was a person who recognised no barrier of caste, creed or colour in the recognition of the vital interests of this country. A man of rare ability, a man of thorough independence, a man of rare industry, a man of complete accommodation with charming manners, it is difficult to find the like of him in this House and difficult to replace him. I join with the sentiments that fell from the Honourable the Leader of the House and I associate myself with the message of sympathy which has been asked to be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I join with my two Honourable colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. I am sure this House will miss his presence very much. He was always very

[Nawabzada-Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan]

active in studying the questions that came up for discussion before this House. His sense of duty to the House and to the people outside and to his constituency was indeed remarkable. I remember during the last Budget session, when the Japanese had invaded India and Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury's home was not very far from the Japanese army of invasion, in spite of all worries and anxieties, he stuck to his post in this House and voted on the popular side, thus representing his constituency truly and faithfully. Every Honourable Member of this House will mourn his loss and I request you to convey our sympathies and condolences also to the bereaved family.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I associate myself with the tribute paid to the memory of the late Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. As has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury discharged his duties in this House with considerable ability and independence and he took a keen interest in the questions coming up before the House. It will be my duty to convey to the members of the bereaved family the resolution of condolence adopted by this House.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Adjournment Motions Nos. 1 and 2: Mr. Jamnadas Mehta does not want to move them. No. 3 in the name of Sardar Sant Singh.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): I have given an amended motion which is No. 11, which I want to move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This motion No. 3 has been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that it is to the detriment of public interest.

FAILURE TO SUPPLY ADEQUATE PETROL TO THE KARACHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon has given notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of the War and Transport Department and its Agency at Karachi to supply adequate petrol to the Karachi Municipal Corporation for removal of city refuse as reported in the issue of the *Sind Observer* dated the 15th August, 1944, and thus endangering the city with outbreak of epidemics.

I understand that petrol supply is the concern of the Sind Provincial Government and not that of the Government of India.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): I submit the Provincial Government has got no hand in it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): That is not correct.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I have received a letter from the Provincial Government which says that the matter definitely rests with the Central Government who have got their central organisation over there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I submit the matter is entirely a question between the Provincial Government acting through the Provincial Motor Transport Controller and the local body. The Provincial Government has complete discretion in the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Central Government has nothing to do with the distribution of petrol direct to the Corporation.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: If the Honourable Member for War Transport will give me an assurance that the Provincial Government has got full authority in this matter, I will not pursue the matter here.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have just answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On the facts stated by the Honourable Member for War Transport, the motion is disallowed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motions Nos. 5 and 6 have been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that they cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has withdrawn notice of motions in his name.

FAILURE TO ASSURE TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF THE U. K. C. C. WITH THE TERMINATION OF THE WAR.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then Mr. Chattopadhyaya wants to discuss "the lack of policy of the Government of India in the face of grave danger created by the introduction of the U.K.C.C. into India and in the Government of India's failure to assure the Indian public by a communiqué to the effect that the services of the U.K.C.C. would terminate simultaneously with the termination of the war".

This question was discussed before and nothing new has cropped up since the last Session. It is therefore out of order.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION FOR PUBLICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MAHATMA GANDHI AND H. E. THE VICEROY.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta wants to discuss the refusal of the Government of India of permission for publication of the entire correspondence that passed between Mahatma Gandhi and His Excellency the Viceroy since the former's incarceration in August 1942.

Has not the entire correspondence been published with the exception of one letter?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I understand it has only been recently published after I gave notice of this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then this motion cannot be moved.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION DESCRIBING MR. PHILLIPS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, AS *persona non-grata*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then Sardar Sant Singh wants to raise the question of "the communication of the Secretary to the Government of India for External Affairs describing Mr. Phillips, a Personal Representative of President Roosevelt as *persona non-grata* for advocating the cause of freedom of India".

This has been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next four motions stand in the name of Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta and all relate to the subject of food. As there is to be a debate on this subject tomorrow, they cannot be discussed.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Sir, the subject of my motion has nothing to do with the general food situation of the country but with a specific case of wastage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It cannot be in order because the whole position will be open to discussion tomorrow.

Prof. N. G. Ranga being absent, his motions cannot be taken up.

DISMISSAL OF SARDAR SHAUKAT HAYAT KHAN, A MINISTER IN THE PUNJAB.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan wants to move the adjournment of the House to discuss "the failure of the Governor General to exercise general control and issue necessary directions in the matter of the misuse by the Governor of the Punjab of the power conferred upon him under section 51 of the Government of India Act, 1935, inasmuch as he used that power against an individual Minister and dismissed from ministership Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan without furnishing the particulars of allegations or charges against him and did not allow him any

[Mr. President.]

opportunity to give his explanation or defence before dismissal, which is the inherent right of every citizen according to the rules of natural justice, thereby casting grave reflection on the honour of Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan and has, in spite of repeated demands, declined to disclose the full facts."

How is this Assembly entitled to discuss a matter of this kind?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, section 54(1) of the Government of India Act reads:

"In so far as the Governor of a province is by or under this Act required to act in his discretion or to exercise his individual judgment, he shall be under the general control of, and comply with such particular directions, if any, as may from time to time be given to him by the Governor General in his discretion."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Did the Governor General give any direction in this case?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then this section does not apply.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: It does, because my point is that failure to take action is an action in itself, and I am sure the legal luminaries here will agree with me that when under a provision of the Act the Governor General had power to give directions where such powers are used by Governors under his control, and if he has not taken any action he has really failed in his duty. Now according to our rule 12 read with rule 23 we can move an adjournment motion or a Resolution with regard to any action of the Governor General provided he gives his consent. I applied through the Secretary of the Assembly to the Governor General to accord his consent to the moving of this motion. I have received a reply that while reserving discretion to exercise his powers of disallowance in respect of the motion His Excellency the Governor General does not consider his affirmative consent to be required to the moving of the same. So from this it appears that the Governor General has no objection to this motion being moved, as far as the question of consent is concerned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has reserved his power.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He has reserved his power of disallowing the motion and now it is for you to decide whether his consent is necessary or not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member's contention is correct it would mean that this Assembly is entitled to review the administration of every province in which the Governor of the province has exercised his discretion in any manner.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, that is my contention; that all these powers that are enjoyed by Governors and used in their discretion and are under the control of the Governor General can be discussed on the floor of this House if the Governor General has no objection to that matter being discussed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then it means that this Assembly can call up on the Governor General to exercise his power of supervision or control over the discretion of Governors of provinces in any case it likes.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There is no question of this Assembly forcing the Governor General to take action.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If you are criticising the Governor General for not taking action, it follows that you want him to take certain action.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: As I have submitted before, failure to take action is action in itself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Not in all cases. I do not know why the Honourable Member says that.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, if you see somebody committing a crime and you do not take any action, you are guilty of abetment. Therefore failure to take action is action in itself, and my submission is that legally it is really an action if you fail to take action under the powers which are conferred upon you. Otherwise it would mean that the general control which has been given under the Government of India Act to Governor General is really meaningless.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It would be nullifying the provincial autonomy altogether.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There is no question of provincial autonomy. It is not the action of the Government of that province which we want to discuss.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Governor is an important part of the Provincial Government under the Act.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The distinction has been made in the Government of India Act between actions by the Governor in his discretion; or in his judgment, and action by the Governor acting with his Ministers. As far as the actions of the Governor acting with his Ministers are concerned, I submit, all those matters are really for the Provincial Governors and for the Provincial Legislatures to take up, but where any special power is given and that power is under the control of the Governor General, I submit that that is a matter which concerns the Centre and can be taken up in the Central Assembly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the contention of the Honourable Member were correct, it would mean that in any case in which the Governor of a province has acted in his discretion, this Assembly would be entitled to call upon the Governor General to review and, if necessary, reverse the action taken by the Governor and pass some other orders instead. The entire scheme of the Act of 1935 is to concede autonomy to the provinces within certain limits. The Government of a province includes the Governor and the Act has chosen, rightly or wrongly, to give the Governor of every province powers to pass orders in certain cases in his discretion. It is quite true that the Governor General has the power to deal with such cases in his own discretion, but in this case he has not so acted. And, therefore, if this motion of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan be accepted it would come to this: that this Assembly should call upon the Governor General in any such case to exercise his discretion in any way the Assembly thinks it should be exercised. I must say that this motion cuts right across the whole scheme of the Act of 1935 and is therefore out of order.

FAILURE TO APPLY IN TIME FOR HELP FOR INDIA TO THE U.N.R.R.A.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next notice is from Mr. K. S. Gupta. He has given notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the Assembly for discussing a matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the failure of the Government of India to apply for help in time to the U.N.R.R.A. though India has been admitted as a nation entitled to receive relief from U.N.R.R.A."

The Honourable Member has said that application was not made in time, what is meant by that?

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Time was fixed for applications to be received and application was not made in time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What time was fixed for any such applications to be received?

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Grants are to be made by the end of the financial year—April. The Government of India did not apply though they were entitled to do so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In your notice of motion you have said 'it was not made in time', now you say it was not made at all.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Yes, Sir. It has not been made as yet.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): I think my Honourable friend has got entirely the wrong facts. The House will remember that at the last Session a resolution was carried in which an amendment on the lines of a similar amendment sponsored by the American Congress, more or less substantially on the same lines, was approved by this House and it was suggested that we should try to include that in the constitution of U.N.R.R.A. I think it is well known, except in the case of those who have not been in touch with daily papers, that that Resolution has been agreed to by the U.N.R.R.A. only about a month or two ago. Therefore, we could not have possibly applied till that amendment was incorporated as a part of the U.N.R.R.A. constitution. All our difficulties happened in 1943 when there were difficult conditions in Bengal. I think it is well known that this year the Bengal Government has been able to purchase surplus grains to the extent of 700,000 tons and we would look ridiculous if we were now to apply on behalf of Bengal for more foodgrains. I think we could not then apply under the U.N.R.R.A. constitution and there was no time limit and it is only now, about a month ago, that any area affected by famine and pestilence, if of importance to the military.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will probably tell us why application for help was not made during the last famine.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: At that time we could not apply under the rules. I made it clear and that was why an amendment was moved and was agreed to.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In view of the facts stated by the Honourable Member for Civil Supplies, I hold that this motion is not in order.

FAILURE TO MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT DESTRUCTION OF A.I.C.C. RECORDS AT ALLAHABAD.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next notice is from Sardar Mangal Singh. He wishes to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to make proper arrangements to prevent the destruction of A.I.C.C. records by white ants at Allahabad".

I think notice of a similar motion was received in the last Session and was ruled out of order.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): It was not moved last time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It was and I hold that this motion is not in order.

MISUSE OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT ORGANISATION BY MALIK KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA, LEADER OF THE PUNJAB BRANCH

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next adjournment motion stands in the name of Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan. He wishes to move for the adjournment of the business of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of the Governor General in Council to prevent and stop the misuse of the National War Front Organization by the Provincial Leader of the Punjab Branch, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, who has been utilizing the National War Front Organization for propaganda in favour of and collection of funds for a political party—"the Zamindara League"—thereby creating a great deal of hostility amongst a large section of people against the National War Front.

I have heard of the National War Front. Is it a Department of the Government of India?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): The question raised there is with respect to something which has been done by the National War Front Organization in the Punjab through its leader, the Provincial leader of the Punjab Branch. So far as the Branch is concerned it is not under the control of the Centre at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But is not the Punjab organization under the control of the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, of the Leader. But the organization as such is not under us except for a limited purpose. Schemes are prepared by the Provincial organisation and submitted to us for approval and those schemes must refer to war efforts or to matters connected with the war directly or indirectly. If those schemes are approved by us then we place certain funds in their hands to implement those schemes. This question of the Zamindara League has nothing to do with us.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing the organisation is utilised for some purpose other than what it was intended for?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is a matter entirely for the Provincial Government. It has nothing to do with us. The moment it is not utilised for the specific purpose intended, the funds placed in their hands will be withdrawn on the recommendation of the Auditor General. Apart from that, I understand that no funds were collected for the Zamindara League on any of these occasions.

Several Honourable Members: They were.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There was no propaganda by anybody at these meetings. It is true some of the organisers presented an address to the leader who happens to be the Premier and he received it as Premier of the Province. So we have nothing to do with it. We would not tolerate anything which is not connected with any scheme approved by us. That point has been made clear to all the National War Front leaders. Nothing has been done there which should not have been done by a leader of the National War Front. He is the Premier and in that capacity he has certainly received addresses and replied to those addresses in his capacity as Premier.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the nature of the misuse you complain of?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The meetings are held by the National War Front and Malik Khizar Hayat Khan who happens to be the leader of the National War Front goes to these meetings and makes political speeches running down all those parties who happen to be opposed to him politically. His speeches have nothing to do with the activities of the National War Front. Money is also collected—and that is a question of merit—but if you permit me I have a number of newspaper cuttings by which I can prove to the hilt that money has been collected in the name of the National War Front and by the people who are officials of the National War Front. All these purses have been presented at the meetings of the National War Front to Malik Khizar Hayat Khan for propagating political views of his party. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, has tried to wriggle out of it by suggesting that the provincial organization is quite separate from the Central organization. I am not quite sure if he was really serious when he was making that contention. It is an all-India organization under the control of the Central Government and I would refer him to the speech he made very recently at the Publicity Advisory Committee which was held here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You need not go into all that. I want to know your allegations.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My allegations are here and if you will permit me I have cuttings.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I simply want to know your case.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My case is that meetings are held by the National War Front and under the National War Front at which

speeches are made by the Provincial leader criticising the political activities of those parties that do not see eye to eye with him.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Your contention is that the organization is being utilised for purposes other than those intended?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That is the point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As objection has been taken, will those Members who are for leave being granted rise in their places? (On a count more than 25 Members stood up.)

As not less than 25 members have stood up, leave to move the adjournment motion is granted.

The motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock or earlier, if the business of the House is finished.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, information has been received that the following Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1944, have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act, as continued by section 317 of the Government of India Act, 1935:

1. The Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.
2. The Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Act, 1944.
3. The Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Amendment Act, 1944.
4. The Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944.
5. The Indian Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 1944.
6. The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 1944.
7. The Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1944.
8. The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1944.
9. The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1944.
10. The Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944.
11. The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1944.
12. The Delhi Muslim Wakfs (Amendment) Act, 1944.
13. The Protective Duties Continuation Act, 1944.
14. The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1944.

AMENDMENT TO THE INSURANCE RULES

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of a further amendment to the Insurance Rules 1939, published in Notification No. 597-I(6)/43, dated the 3rd June, 1944, under Sub-section (3) of Section 114 of the Insurance Act 1938.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOTIFICATION

INSURANCE

New Delhi, the 3rd June 1944

No. 597-I(6)/43.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938 (IV of 1938), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Insurance Rules, 1939, the same having been previously published as required by sub-section (1) of the said section, namely:—

For rules 3 and 4 of the said Rules the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

"3. Any person signing as actuary under the Act shall be a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, London, or a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland; PROVIDED that where application is made to the Superintendent of Insurance and it is shown to his satisfaction that the employment of an Associate of such Institute of Actuaries or of such Faculty of Actuaries, or of any other person having actuarial knowledge for any specified purpose is expedient in order to enable an insurer or a provident society to carry out any of his or its obligations under the Act, the Superintendent of Insurance may grant the application and permit such person to sign as actuary for the specified purpose, subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Superintendent of Insurance thinks fit to impose."

S. R. ZAMAN, Joint Secy.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACT

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of Notifications No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March, 1944 and 17th July, 1944, under Section 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, -1914.

Copy of Notification (Agriculture) No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March 1944.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 4A and 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (II of 1914) the Central Government is pleased to prohibit, with effect from the 1st May 1944, the transport from the Province of Madras to any other Province of any of the articles specified in the First Schedule hereto annexed (being articles which are likely, to carry the destructive insect known as *Icerya Purchasi* and thereby cause infection to crops)—

- (a) by letter or sample post, or by air; or
- (b) by road, except by such routes as may be specified by the Government of such other Province; or
- (c) by rail or inland steam vessel, unless the consignment is accompanied by a certificate in the form set out in the Second Schedule hereto annexed and signed by the Entomologist to Government, Madras, Coimbatore, or such other officer as the Director of Agriculture, Madras, may authorise in this behalf.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

Articles to which this notification applies

1. The following plants (but not the fruits thereof) namely *Sophora glauca*, Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Black Wattle (*Acacia decurrens* and *Acacia mollissima*), Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), *Ulex europaeus*, Potato creeper (*Solanum Jasminoides*, *Solanum Seaforthianum* and other climbing *Solanums*), all citrus species including all types of orange, lime, lemon, pomeloe and grape-fruit plant, apples (all *pyrus* species), all *Eucalyptus* species including *Eucalyptus spectabilis* and *Eucalyptus glauca*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, *Hypericum mysorens*, *Dodonea/Banaddedu*, (Telugu) *Aliar* (*Dodonea viscosa*), *Berberis tinctoria*, Rose (Rose species), *Gaultheria fragrantissima*, Raspberry, country pears, *Bougainvillea*, *Verbena*, *Magnolia*, Pepper, Tea *Casuarina*.

2. The following plant materials, namely:—Buds, Cuttings, Scions, Grafts, bulbs, leaves (but not manufactured tea), seedlings, tubers, and rhizomes, of the plants specified in clause 1.

3. Any articles used in packing or wrapping up any of the plants or plant materials mentioned above.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

Form of Certificate

This is to certify that the living plants/plant materials included in the consignment of which particulars are given below were thoroughly examined on.....(date) by..... (name and designation of official) a duly authorised official of the.....(name of the Department) and that the consignment including the packing covered by this certificate has been adequately treated and fumigated with hydrocyanic acid gas immediately prior to inspection and made free from Living *Icerya Purchasi*.

Date of examination and fumigation

Particulars of consignment

No. and description of packages

Distinguishing marks

Description of living plants or plant materials

Exported by

Name and address of the consignee

Signature of certifying authority.

Designation.

The above certificate should be signed by the Entomologist to Government, Madras, Coimbatore, or such other officer as may be authorised by the Director of Agriculture, Madras, in this behalf.

Copy of Notification (Agriculture) No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 17th July 1944.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4A of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (II of 1914), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March, 1944, namely:—

For clause (a) of the said notification, the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(a) by letter, sample or parcel post, or by air or sea or"

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE NET EARNINGS OF NEW RAILWAY LINES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of statement showing the net earnings for the financial year 1942-43 of new Railway lines opened on and after the 1st April, 1936.

Statement showing net earnings during the financial year 1942-43 of new Railway lines opened on and after the 1st April 1936

(NOTE:—Only such lines as are entirely open and have been working for a full year are included).

Serial No.	Name of project	Working Railway	Gauge	Mileage	Date of opening	Net income creditable to the project for 1942-43	Percentage return of income (column 6 on capital outlay)		Estimated percentage return of income on capital outlay some years after opening as estimated originally
							1941-42	1942-43	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Khadro-Nawabshah	Jodhpur	Metre	30.72	20-11-1939	2,10,378	12.80 (b)	13.27	0.87 (a)

(a) This is the figure arrived at in the 'final location survey'. The earlier estimates produced before the Standing Finance Committee showed a probable return of 0.5 per cent only.

(b) Revised.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, AUDIT REPORTS, ETC.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy* each of the following Reports and Accounts in accordance with section 169 of the Government of India Act, 1935:

1. Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1942-43 and Audit Report 1944.
2. Commercial Appendix to above.
3. Finance Accounts 1942-43, and Audit Report 1944.
4. Appropriation Accounts (Railways) 1942-43, Parts I and II.
5. Capital statements, Balance sheets etc., of State Railways 1942-43.
6. Balance sheets of Railway collieries and statements of all-in costs of coal 1942-43.
7. Railway Audit Report 1944.
8. Appropriation Accounts (Defence-Services) 1942-43.
9. Commercial Appendix to above.
10. Audit Report, Defence Services 1944.
11. Appropriation Accounts (P. & T.) 1942-43 and the Audit Report, 1943.
12. Petty corrections and first list of correction to Appropriation Accounts (Civil).
13. Corrections to Commercial Appendix (Civil).
14. Corrections to Appropriation Accounts (Railways) Parts I and II.
15. Corrections to Railway Audit Report.
16. Corrections to Appropriation Accounts (P. & T.).

OBJECTS ON WHICH THE AVIATION SHARE OF THE PETROL TAX FUND WAS EXPENDED

Mr. W. H. Shoober (Secretary, Posts and Air Department). Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the objects on which the Aviation share of the Petrol Tax Fund was expended during 1943-44.

Objects	Expenditure Rs.
<i>Clubs</i>	
Grants-in-aid to Flying Clubs in India	95,511
Financial Assistance to Indian Gliding Association	11,955
<i>Training</i>	
Training of a member of the staff of the Civil Aviation Directorate in certain subjects pertaining to Aircraft Inspection	226-

* Not included in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House—Ed. of D.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Objects	Expenditure Rs.
<i>Experimental</i>	
<i>Aircraft</i>	
Construction and operation of the Wind Tunnel at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for carrying out certain tests on aircraft	35,509
<i>Miscellaneous items</i>	156
Transferred to the Grant for development of Civil Aviation. (Civil Aviation Works)	5,00,000
Grand Total	6,43,357

AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES RULES.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following Notifications in accordance with section 133 (3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939:

1. Delhi Notification No. F. 12 (36)/44-General dated the 28th August, 1944.
2. Coorg Notification No. 113, dated the 8th May, 1944.
3. Baluchistan Notification No. 244/35-40/M.V., dated the 21st February, 1942.
4. Baluchistan Notification No. 2441/18-41/M.V. dated the 17th November, 1943.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 28th August 1944

No. F. 12 (36)/44-General.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 21 and 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939, read with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Communications No. R. 60, dated the 28th June 1939, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is pleased to make the following rules, the same having been previously published with his notification No. F. 12(36)/44-General, dated the 5th July 1944.

Rules.

1. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules 1940 no fee shall be charged for the issue or alteration of certificates of registration relating to motor vehicles which are the property of the High Commissioner for Australia in India or any of his secretaries.
2. If the High Commissioner for Australia in India or any of his secretaries have paid or shall hereafter pay a fee for the issue or renewal of a licence to drive a motor vehicle or for undergoing a test of competency to drive, the fee shall on his application be refunded to him.

A. V. ASKWITH,
Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG NOTIFICATION

No. 113, dated Mercara, the 8th May 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (IV of 1939) and the notification of the Government of India, Department of Communications, No. R. 60, dated the 28th June 1939, the Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following amendments, to the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, issued with his notification No. R.F. 43/121-39, dated the 26th March, 1940:—

Amendments

1. For Rule 50(c) of the said Rules, the following shall be substituted, viz.:—
"50(c) The holder of a permit shall cause Part B thereof, or the Temporary Permit as the case may be, to be carried on the vehicle. It shall be produced by the driver for inspection on demand made at any reasonable time by any authorised person."
2. In Part B of the Form P.St.S. appended to the said rules for the words "summary to be exhibited on each vehicle" the words "summary to be carried on each vehicle" shall be substituted.
3. In Part B of Forms P.Co.P. & Co.S. appended to the said rules for the words "summary to be exhibited on the vehicle" the words "summary to be carried on the vehicle" shall be substituted.
4. In Part B of Form P.Pr.C. appended to the said rules for the words "summary to be exhibited on each vehicle" the words "summary to be carried on each vehicle" shall be substituted.

K. CHENGAPPA,
Chief Commissioner.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR BRITISH BALUCHISTAN NOTIFICATION

Quetta, the 21st February 1942

No. 244/35-40/M.V.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68(2) (ZA) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (VI of 1939) the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following addendum shall be made to the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published in the Notification No. 347/M.V., dated the 1st April, 1940 printed at pages 841 to 962 of the Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated the 27th April, 1940 :—

Addendum.

In Rule 4.17 add the following as Clause 'C'.

"That—if and when required, mails will be carried at such rates as may be fixed by the Provincial Transport Authority in consultation with the Postal Authorities concerned."

By order of

Secretary to the Agent to the Governor General and Chief
Commissioner in Baluchistan (Police Department).

CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR BRITISH BALUCHISTAN NOTIFICATION

Quetta, the 17th November 1943

No. 2441/18-41/M.V.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 64 read with Section 68 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1939 (IV of 1939), the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made to the Notification No. 347/M.V., dated the 1st April 1940 printed at pages 841 to 962 of the Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated the 27th April 1940 :—

Amendments

After rule 5.60 of the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicle Rules, 1940, the following headings and rules shall be inserted, namely :—

Special Rules applicable to gas producers installed in motor vehicles

5.61. *Definition.*—For the purpose of rules 5.62 to 5.82, the term "producer" means the whole of the equipment necessary for the generation of producer gas and its utilization in the engine of a Motor Vehicle.

Regulations of the use of producers

5.62. (a) Every producer fitted to a Motor Vehicle on or after the 1st July, 1943, shall be of a Model approved by the Registering Authority. Every such producer shall exhibit in a conspicuous place on the generator a plate showing, in addition to the manufacturer's name and serial number, the mark as may be prescribed and assigned to the model by the Registering Authority.

(b) *Approval of model.*—Every manufacturer seeking approval for a producer model shall submit in duplicate to the Registering Authority, specifications and drawings (which should be blue prints or photostat copies) of the model he proposes to manufacture, together with a copy of the instructions for operating the producer. The thickness of the metal sheets used in the construction of the various parts of the producer shall be stated in the specifications. The manufacturer shall also give an undertaking in writing that he will submit a producer of that model to a board consisting of the Inspector of boilers, factories and electrical installation in Baluchistan, the S. O. M. E., Quetta Arsenal and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Quetta and also to produce a bus or lorry fitted with a producer of that model at such time and place and for such tests including a road test of not less than fifty miles continuous run as may be determined by the board. No modification shall be made by any one in an approved model except with the approval of the board. The board may subject the modification to such test as it thinks necessary before approving it.

5.63. *Specifications.—General.*—No producer model shall be approved unless it satisfies the provisions of these rules and every producer fitted on or after the 1st September 1943, shall be fitted in accordance with these rules.

5.64. *Material of construction.*—All materials used in the construction of the producer, except any component parts thereof that may be expressly excluded by the manufacturer in his guarantee, shall be suited to the load of the vehicle in which it may be installed and the temperature, chemical and other conditions under which it may be used and shall be such as will last under reasonable conditions of operation and maintenance for not less than two years.

5.65. *Design.—General.*—The producer shall be of simple design and construction and shall be capable of being installed in a vehicle in such manner as :—

(I) Not to interfere with the steering and road safety of the vehicle, or with the driver's range of vision including his view to the rear through the driving mirror or with any signals or signalling devices required under the provisions of the Act and these rules; and

(II) Not unduly to impair, the pay load space and the weight distribution of the vehicles.

5.66. *Weight.*—The weight of the producer shall be the minimum having regard to the requirements of strength, rigidity, resistance to high temperature and corrosion, and to the type of the vehicle to which it is to be fitted.

5.67. *Hopper capacity.*—The effective capacity of fuel hopper shall give the vehicle an operating distance of not less than 50 miles without recharging.

5.68. *Accessibility.*—The producer shall be designed with a view to accessibility and ease of maintenance, cleaning, charging and ash removal. Provision for drainage shall be made where necessary.

5.69. *Fitting.*—All installations connected with the producer shall be securely fixed. The installations shall not form a single inflexible unit but shall be connected with flexible couplings at appropriate points to relieve intermediate stresses.

5.70. (a) *Safety.*—The manufacturer shall take precautions in the manufacture of producers to ensure safety with special regard to risk from fire, gas poisoning and blow back of hot charcoal.

(b) All equipment and piping shall be free from gas or Air leaks.

Covers of the furnace and gas filters and cocks and packings shall be air tight. If a generator vent pipe is fitted, the pipe shall be connected directly to the furnace or shall branch from a pipe as near as possible to the furnace. If an escape funnel is provided for use during the air-blowing operations, the pipe shall exhaust above the roof level.

(c) Exposed surfaces at high temperatures shall be screened against accidental contact.

(d) The compartment containing the generator shall be lined with asbestos or other heat-resisting material not less than a quarter inch thick.

5.71. *Capacity of cleaners.*—The generator and the cleaning system shall be so designed that they will operate for not less than 40 miles without requiring attention or cleaning.

5.72. (a) *Piping.*—All piping shall be of substantial and gas tight construction and provided with such joints as are necessary for the effective maintenance and repair of the vehicle. Every joint or weld shall be strong.

(b) Pipe fittings shall be made of mild steel iron or copper sheet having a thickness not less than 18-BC (0.049 in.) or of 22 gauge G.I. piping and shall be of gas tight construction. Flanges for piping shall be constructed from metal plate of minimum thickness 1/4 in. Cooling piping for the tuyere shall be 3/8 in. internal diameter.

5.73. *Painting.*—All parts of a producer, except those exposed to high temperatures shall be suitably painted, and parts exposed to high temperatures shall be painted with a satisfactory heat resisting paint.

5.74. (a) *Lay-out.*—The whole of the producer shall be installed either outside or underneath the body of a vehicle. If the construction of the body of the vehicle is such that some part of the producer should be inside the body of the vehicle such part shall be covered so as to prevent any ill effect from gas leakage or inconvenience due to excessive heat.

(b) A public service vehicle may draw a trailer used solely for the carriage of gas containers supplying, or plant or materials producing gas for the propulsion of the engine of the drawing vehicle.

5.75. (a) *Location of generator.*—In the case of Stage Carriages the generator of the producer shall be located at the rear in such a position as to cause as little interference as possible with the weight distribution. In the case of a goods vehicle, the generator of the producer may be located either at the rear, as prescribed for Stage Carriages, or at the front. If the generator is located at the front, it shall be fitted beside the driver's seat, inside the driver's canopy in such a position as not to interfere with visibility or signalling.

(b) The generator may be stayed or strapped to the body to provide rigidity but shall be kept away from any part of the body by at least three inches.

5.76. *Location of fuel tank.*—If the generator of the producer is fitted at the front of the vehicle :—

(i) The generator shall be mounted in such a position that it shall be at a minimum distance of 2 feet from any petrol tank or piping, if the tank is located inside the body of the vehicle, it shall be effectively insulated, and

(ii) the filling spout and any other opening shall be located on the opposite side of the vehicle to the generator and not less than 4 feet away from the generator; and

(iii) where an auxiliary fuel tank with gravity feed is fitted the capacity of such tank shall not exceed one gallon and it shall be located in the front portion of the vehicle as far away from the generator as practicable.

5.77. *Dimensions.*—The overall dimensions of the vehicle with the producer installed, shall not exceed those permitted under the rules.

5.78. *Cleaners.—Installation.*—Cleaners using solid filter material shall be installed on the vehicle in such a manner as to allow efficient and convenient packing of the filter material.

5.79. *Clearance.*—The road clearance at the bottom of the furnace shall be not less than 12 inches when the vehicle is unladen with the hopper full.

5.80. (a) *Performance.—Starting test.*—The vehicle shall be capable of moving on gas alone in not more than thirty minutes from the commencement of the starting process. For the purpose of test, the engine and the producer shall be cold at the beginning of the process.

(b) *Speed.*—The vehicle shall be capable of maintaining the following speed, when running on gas alone, on level roads :—

(i) Stage Carriages, loaded—25 miles per hour.

(ii) Goods vehicle not being a heavy transport vehicle. Loaded—22 miles per hour.

5.81. (a) *Inspection.*—When a vehicle which has already been registered is fitted with a producer, it shall invariably be inspected and tested according to these rules before the alteration is recorded in the certificate of registration under section 32 of the Act.

(b) All public service and goods motor vehicles fitted with gas producers shall be liable to an inspection quarterly by the Motor Vehicle Sergeant including a road test of not less than 25 miles.

5.82. *General provisions.*—All producers including those fitted to vehicles before the 1st September 1943, shall be of such construction and so fitted as to provide adequate satisfactory protection against danger of damage or injury arising from fire, gas poisoning or contact with exposed surface at high temperature.

By order,

H. D. RUSHTON,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, in British Baluchistan.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the remainder of the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Member of the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterji, who has ceased to be a member of the Assembly."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the remainder of the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Member of the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterji, who has ceased to be a member of the Assembly."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):

Sir, I move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archæology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The Government Resolution, to implement which I am making this motion, is self-explanatory and no doubt Honourable Members saw it when it appeared recently in the Gazette: but as this marks a new departure I think the House will wish me to say a few words in amplification. In his report Sir Leonard Woolley was of the view that archæology could and should play a far more important part than it does in the life of the Indian people: and he went on to stress particularly the need for co-operation between the Archæological Survey and the Universities. From the point of view of the Survey the need is evident and urgent. The Survey relies on the Universities for its recruits and it must, in turn, be ready and able to provide the experience and facilities necessary for their training. On the other side, the Universities have much to gain from a link with the Survey in the sphere of field training for their archæological students and for advanced scholars of Indian history. Apart from the Universities, there are the Indian States which have organised archæological departments and there are the learned societies of India, upon whose sympathy and activity the Survey must depend in no small measure for popular understanding and support. We wish to have a link, therefore, between the Survey of India and these various bodies.

The composition of the Board reflects the nature of its functions. The official members include 9 senior members of the Department of Archæology and the 14 non-official members include 6 representatives of Indian Universities and 5 nominees of learned societies likely to be interested in archæology.

This Honourable House has repeatedly shown an interest in archæology for the services it can render in preserving India's architectural heritage and for the light it may throw on India's remote past: and it has therefore seemed to us right to invite the House to associate itself with the new Board.

I hope, Sir, I have said enough to convince the House that the principal object of this body will be to evoke interest in Archæology and connected subjects and to bring the department and the interested public into close and friendly relationship for the inter-change of views and advice on all matters of mutual concern.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archæology in India constituted by the Government of India."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): May I, Sir, make a remark more in the nature of an enquiry? I should like to know whether this Board will take early steps for the repatriation and restoration to India of a great many valuable archæological treasures belonging to this country, which have been looted in the past and are now lying in the public museums and private collections in the United Kingdom. I should also like to know, if these things could not be handed over to us, as they really belong to the people of this country, whether the sterling balances, which some English people do not desire to repay to this country, could not be used to make a legitimate purchase of these archæological treasures which have been taken away from here by force against the wish and sentiment of the people of this country and which are lying in the public museums and private collections in the United Kingdom. I am, Sir, only hoping that this Board will have the power to make such recommendations.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I am glad that after all the Government of India have realised the necessity of forming an Advisory Board of Archæology with, I take it, unfortunately, advisory functions only to help the Department, the activities of which have decreased very considerably of late years. We all agree that the archæological Department is one of the most important departments: it is one of the few civilising departments that are in the hands of the present Government of India. The department has been meted out a stepmotherly treatment by the Government of India and I am afraid that those who wish in this House to help the Government of India with reference to this Department have been mostly non-officials. In spite of the keenness of my friend, Mr. Tyson, in this subject, I do not think any well considered plans have been laid before this House either now or at any time. A desire has been expressed by the Department that its budget should be expanded and that new recruits should be obtained from those sources which have not been tapped, either in this country or outside. This conciliation measure has been brought now. I wish it had a more far-reaching effect than its present moderate size indicates. All the same, never too late either to repent or to take action. Half-hearted though the measure is, I would like to give my support to it. I was almost going to say that I wished to give my half-hearted support but I do not think that it would be a wise thing on this occasion to follow in the footsteps of the Government of India. However small and ineffective the proposal may be, I accord it my support.

From the speech that the Honourable Mr. Tyson delivered it appeared that the total strength of this Advisory Board would be 23. It would consist of nine members of the Department and 14 others, among whom, I take it, would be some non-officials. Some of them would be gentlemen associated with our Indian Universities. I do not know what their number would be. I thought Mr. Tyson mentioned five. I do not know whether five of these fourteen would be members associated with Indian Universities.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Six from the Universities.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: There are two notes of warning that I must sound before we vote on this motion. One is that the advisory functions of this Board should be clearly laid down by the Government of India and secondly that position should not be assigned to this Advisory Board which is enjoyed by or which is thrust upon the Assessors helping a sessions judge in a criminal sessions trial. There should be some definite plan behind this measure.

I am very glad that the Honourable Member in charge of this Department is here in this House, where it is very seldom that we hear his voice. It is still more rare to hear his voice raised in support of those measures which should be introduced with a view to strengthening and augmenting the

[Sir Syed Raza Ali.]

Archæological Department, if that department is to do any good to this country in the future. So, the first need is that there should be a well laid plan behind the proposal which has been disclosed this morning and moved by the Honourable Member.

The next question is still more important than the first. This is a large body of 23 on which it is proposed that this House should be represented in all by two members. I take it that these two would be in addition to 23 and if I am right in this, would they be.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There will be 36, of whom two will be from this House, we hope and one from another place.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: There would be a body of 23 and there will be three representatives of the Legislature, two from this House and one from the other. I must say at once that having regard to the importance of the subject, the number which it is proposed to assign to the Legislature is very inadequate indeed. I am very glad that the Government of India propose to associate members of the Universities with this Advisory Board but it is very important indeed that the Legislature, especially this House, should be strongly represented on this Advisory Board, if this Advisory Board is going to render any service of real value to the country. I do not propose to go into what has been done by the Archæological Department during the last five or six years. The history is a painful history and I do not propose to go into that. I believe the reasons are well known to this House. In spite of the vigilance exercised by the Honourable Member and the Secretary of the Department, this Department has been run along lines that are applicable, I am tempted to say, to a trade union. It is high time really that the Government of India looked into the Department and saw that this Department exercises the same civilising and humanizing influence that it exerts in every other country. Fortunately, there is a new Director General of Archæology, a gentleman whom I met some time ago and whose enthusiasm for the Department, I found, was unbounded. He has very large experience of archæology. Not only has he rendered valuable service in connection with the present war but he possesses very valuable knowledge of archæology. I hope the Government of India will encourage him to embark on new schemes which are useful to the department and they will expand the department. I wish him every success and I hope that he will throw himself heart and soul into the work of the department.

Before I finish my speech, I would impress on the Government of India not to insist on taking a vote today. It is a friendly advice. I am one of those who take some little interest in this department. I know most of the archæological buildings and centres of archæological interest, both in India and Burma. I have visited those places and I happen to know something about those places. This is my friendly suggestion to the Government of India. Let them be ready with a scheme, lay down the functions of this Advisory Board. Let them not insist on taking the vote today. Let this motion stand over and let it be tabled before this House after sometime in the current Session and let the Government of India formulate a carefully prepared scheme in which larger representation should be assigned to this Legislature. I would again say that the subject touches a matter which interests a number of members of this House and the other House as well, but I am speaking for this House now, who by reason of their past experience, training and opportunities for work, would be in a real position to help the Government of India with useful suggestions and advice.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, as one interested in this subject, I should like to say a few words on the present occasion. It cannot be denied by anybody that Archæology is one of the most important cultural subjects which interests the whole people of the country. Previous speakers have pointed out that the development of this subject has been neglected very badly during the last ten or twenty years. Now, the Government have come forward with a proposal to create an Advisory

Board. Let this be the starting point for a great development in the field of Archæology. If that is done, their past neglect would be excused.

As regards the representation of the Legislature on this Advisory Board, it has been suggested that the proposed representation is inadequate. I agree with this view, and I would request the Honourable Member in charge of this motion to expand the number to six for the Legislature,—four for this House and two for the other. If he does that, a great deal of the complaint will cease to exist.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I will say a word on this. I would like to be enlightened as to how many members there will be on this body. Is it a fact that there will be about six from the Universities and nine officials and only two from here and one from the Council of State? In that case, I submit that two is too little representation of this House and I suggest that the number from this House should be at least four.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Is it intended that the representatives from the Universities should be nominated by Government or that the Inter-Universities Board should elect the representatives? I suggest that it would be very much in the fitness of things that the representatives of the Universities are not nominated but elected by the individual Universities.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am very glad that the idea of a Board for this purpose has commended itself to the House. I am also glad to have the sincere if qualified support of my Honourable friend Sir Syed Raza Ali, whose interest in archæology—the cultural side of archæology—is well-known.

As questions have been raised here about the personnel of the Board, I had better say what it is. I thought that Honourable Members would have seen it in their copies of the Gazette. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department will be the Chairman. There will be nine senior members of the Archæological Survey,—the Director General himself, the Deputy Director General, the Epigraphist and six Circle Superintendents. That is what you might call the official element from the Government of India. Then we hope

to have four representatives of Indian States and we hope they will come at a very high level because unless this Board is of a high level, it will not be of any help. Then, we hope to have six nominees of the Inter-University Board and that answers the Reverend Dr. Chatterjee. These are the six representatives of Universities who will be of professorial rank and will be nominated by the Inter-University Board. There will be five nominees of learned societies and three representatives of the Central Legislature. In case there are any gaps to be filled up, we have retained the right to have eight nominated members by the Government of India. We are asking Universities, for example, to send us only members of professorial rank and it might well happen that some wellknown archæologist or historian did not happen in his own University to have professorial rank but was on his own merits a person whom we should very much desire to have on this Advisory Board; we have retained power to secure his membership by nomination.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: What is meant by the "professorial rank"? A Vice-Chancellor of a University might not come in that category.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We shall have to look into that. We meant University Professors. I suppose the Vice-Chancellor is above professorial rank. What we really want to get is people who are experts in the subjects concerned. If there were any difficulty about a Vice-Chancellor, we could get him as a nominated member.

I would ask this Honourable House not to press for an increase in the number of Members from the Legislature. The position is that the constitution of this Board has already been announced in a Government Notification and I have not the power on the floor of the House to accept any suggestion that it should be four instead of two. Let us not upset the plan of our Board. We are very anxious to get this Board set up and if the Board itself, when it

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

meets, gives advice as to its composition, we shall consider it. That is certainly one of the things that they can advise us about.

In answer to Mr. Manu Subedar, I should like to say that while the Board is not an executive body and will not therefore be able to bring back by its executive order the treasures to which he has referred, it can certainly make recommendations on any matter of the kind that it may wish.

As regards planning the business of the meetings of the Board, there is as yet no definite plan for their work. They have a very free hand as to what they will discuss and what they will recommend. The phraseology of the Resolution is:—

"It will be the function of the Board to advise on matters related to archaeology in India referred to it by the Government or by members of the Board and to make suggestions to Government on any such matters to which the Board considers the Government's attention should be drawn."

So, the members will have an initiative of their own if they so wish and they will have a very wide field. I would, therefore, ask the House to co-operate with us in getting this Board set up on the present basis. We think that we have tapped all the sources from which we are likely to get really useful advice for the purpose we have in view.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I would like to know which is the other way of getting the number of members of this House and the Council of State increased? We want to press for this increase because we were not consulted by the Government when the constitution of the Board was made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot make a second speech.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member if he has taken into consideration the fact that the importance of Bihar in the domain of archaeology requires some representation from the Bihar Government or from the elected members of the Bihar Assembly in order to have the representation of that province on this archaeological Board?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not dispute the importance of Bihar in the domain of archaeology, but we have not made any territorial allocation at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of a Member to the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterji, and of two Members for the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944, and that the elections, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday, the 7th November. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I introduce the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products.

THE INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

THE COFFEE MARKET EXPANSION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942, (*Second Amendment*).

THE INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, (*Second Amendment*).

THE DELHI JOINT WATER AND SEWAGE BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Honourable Members will recall that this Bill was circulated on a motion which I moved on 25th August 1943. The opinions since received have disclosed a general approval of the principles of the Bill. There has been a certain amount of concern at the fact that the carrying out of certain amendments and improvements in the law relating to the Central public debt will, for the first time, mean that the law regulating the public debt of the Centre will be different from the law regulating the public debt of the Provinces. But that fact flows from the constitutional position and that constitutional position is, I suggest, quite reasonable. The position under the constitution is that the Central Legislature has power to legislate for the public debt of the Central Government and the Provincial Legislatures have power to legislate regarding their own public debt. The only thing I can say with regard to that is that it is for us to go ahead with our own legislation and to hope that the Provincial Governments will in due course follow suit.

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

I will not detain the House with points of detail which I think can most conveniently be dealt with by the Select Committee. There is one feature of the Bill which I might perhaps mention and that is, what is known as the vesting order, namely, the right which it is proposed to confer on the Reserve Bank to make an order determining the person who shall so far as the Bank is concerned be deemed to be the person entitled to a security, where there are two or more rival claimants. Honourable Members will have noticed that this provision is so drafted that the interested parties will not suffer in case the determination made by the Bank as to the person entitled to the security should in the end prove to be incorrect. Before the Bank can under section 12 of the Bill make an order vesting the security in a particular person, it has to give notice in writing to each claimant stating the names of all the other claimants and the time when and the Officer of the Bank by whom the determination will be made. The result of such determination will also be notified to the parties concerned.

One other point, before I sit down: my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani drew attention to two or three detailed features of the Bill on the occasion when it was last before the House. In the course of circulation, some support has been expressed for the points which he put forward and I have no doubt that the Select Committee will take these points into consideration. Sir, I do not think I need take up any more time of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is a Bill which tries to enact and consolidate the law about Government securities. The Act of 1920 applies both to the centre and to the provinces and they want to separate the law as regards the centre. In this matter I have only a few observations to make. I wish the Honourable the Finance Member had circulated to us all the opinions which he says he has received. These opinions have not been circulated to us.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I understand they have been circulated. The previous motion was made only in August 1943 and after circulation the opinions must have been received fairly recently and circulated to Members of the House quite recently.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: As far as I remember—I am open to correction—we have not received the opinions. The proper time to circulate them is shortly before the Bills come up for discussion in the House. If they are circulated years or months ahead they do not serve any purpose. Therefore I request that copies may again be circulated to us, at least to those who may require them.

Coming to the details I will refer to clauses 9, 10 and 12. Clause 9 refers to summary procedure on death of holder of Government securities not exceeding five thousand rupees face value, and clause 10 deals with Government securities not exceeding five thousand rupees face value belonging to minor or insane person. What they seek to do under the summary procedure is that the bank straightaway comes to a decision as to the person to whom these securities should go. What he said about notice being given to actual claimants is not being followed here. And then in summary determination, by the bank,

of title to Government securities in cases of dispute they take evidence and they give notice under clause 12. I do not like that the bank should be made the final authority to determine the claims in cases of dispute. My own submission will be that even in cases of less than five thousand rupees,—which after all is a big sum according to the general standard of this country,—and as regards minors and insane persons where we have no people to look after their rights, the bank should never take upon itself the duty of determining the claims and making a summary order. I think that would be a real hardship upon the middle and the poorer classes.

Then I come to clause 24 which limits the time of limitation to six years, where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law for the time being in force. If there is a shorter period that period of limitation will hold good; otherwise it will be six years. So that, if there is a minor of two years whose father has died leaving some Government securities for the minor son, some one gets an order on his behalf and the minor's case goes by default. He is unable to represent the matter. According to the ordinary law he has got a different right. But today that right of the minor is curtailed and the period of limitation is six years from the date it is made final. This works hardship on the minors of this country. We know that people here, even educated people, are not well acquainted with the law, and the law of securities is surely not known to many people in this country; even among investors it is not known very well. In these circumstances I think the provisions of this Bill are too drastic, and I think the Bill requires amendments to this and other clauses. With these remarks I support the motion for sending the Bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on this occasion I feel very much the absence of our friend, Maulvi Abdul Rashid Chaudhury, to whom tributes were rightly paid this morning and who always studied almost all the Bills and more particularly Bills of this kind with care and thoroughness but who unfortunately was never put on by Government on any select committees. Sir, I generally agree with the remarks of Honourable the Finance Member just made. I think this is a very important Bill. In the first place certain powers are given to the Reserve Bank. We know that bank is guided by its Directors and things left to them are to be adjusted according to their directions. Here is a property right which Government desire to give to some extent to the Reserve Bank; and I ask what powers do Government keep for themselves to see whether the justice that is supposed to be done by the officers of the Reserve Bank is done correctly? They are to some extent taking away the powers even of the court. Why should they do that at this stage when people are freely buying Government paper to an extent that never happened before? Only last year nearly 240 crores of loans were subscribed, and it is now that we are told that these powers may be given to the Reserve Bank.

With regard to the notice that has to be given to claimants, we find that a letter is to be written by the Bank to each claimant of whom the Bank has knowledge. The Bank is supposed to know or has to find out—I do not know through what agency—who are the claimants. They would perhaps send a notice to the heirs of the deceased—by ordinary post not by registered letter—at the last station at which the owner of the loan was supposed to have been residing, or in the Circle in which the loan was issued. The most wonderful part of it is that it would be advertised in the Government Gazette. I assure you, Sir, that a majority of my Honourable friends here, and, if I may be permitted to say, a good number in the Treasury Benches, do not go through all the pages of the Government Gazette. Then it is to be printed in the English language when we know full well that a vast majority of the people of this country are ignorant and illiterate. Courts have often made remarks that many orders in the Defence of India Act are published in the Government Gazette in English with the result that poor people do not know anything about those. I urge that this is an important thing and due care and attention should

[Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee.]

be given to this point. When matters go before the Court, it will issue subpoenas, etc., and will see that the claimants appear before the Court.

Then, Sir, we find that the Reserve Bank may appoint any one of its officers to adjudicate the claim. What is to be status and qualifications of the officer it is not stated. He may be an officer put in position by the Board of Directors owing to certain circumstances and he may be even called a 'senior' officer, but there is no grade by which we can judge. Sir, in even small criminal cases—we have Inspector of Police, or Sub-Inspector of Police, or, as the Honourable the Finance Member would always like to say, Inspector of Excise or Inspector of Income-tax. But for this purpose the Bank may, in their sweet will, appoint any of their officers to adjudicate these claims. What do we find next? This officer will take such evidence as he may like or may take such either on oath or on an affidavit. And that is all that is provided. It is very essential, Sir, that when a claimant puts in his claim he should be put on oath, his evidence should be taken according to the provisions laid down in the Evidence Act. Nothing of that sort is provided. Even when the Bank wants a Magistrate or some other officer to take any evidence, he may do it as he likes—either just record the evidence, or, if he likes, put him on oath. But what is very important to note is, that procedure will remain when the other party is not there and yet the case will be decided on this evidence. It sounds something like a summary Court Martial on field. No provision whatsoever has been made to safeguard the interests of the claimant, or to safeguard the interests of a minor or a widow or insane.

Then, Sir, we find that a limit of six years has been laid down. After that the man can whistle! The fact about disposal may or may not be known to all the claimants. Of course, six months' notice is to be given, but how is he to know that it has been disposed of. I know—and I am very glad to see my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna here—that even with regard to litigation in court the litigation goes on for years together and many a time it so happens that all the parties do not know what is going on. People living in districts and in far off places will have much less chances to know whether an enquiry in Reserve Bank has taken place or is going on and that it is to be disposed of or has been disposed of within six months.

With regard to a minor or insane person, here again authority has been given to the Bank Officer to give it to a person whom he thinks fit, this is very serious. But, on the other hand, great care has been taken that if the matter was taken before the Court, the Reserve Bank will place those securities with the official trustee. If a case goes to the Court, when parties concerned are summoned and lawyers appear on behalf of the various parties, then in that case, in order not to be involved in the litigation, as they put it, the Reserve Bank will apply to the court and put the securities of the minor, insane, etc., with the Court official—known, I think, as the Court Receiver or Trustee or Administrator. But so long as there is no litigation, the officer of the Bank can appoint anybody and hand the securities over to him. Then, Sir, we find that if there is a *bona fide* claimant and if he is called upon to take the securities, what conditions have been imposed upon him:

"...the Bank may require the person in whose favour the order is to be made execute a bond with one or more sureties in such form as may be prescribed or to furnish security not exceeding twice the value of the subject-matter of the order."

If a poor man has got Rs. 3,000 left to him, he must find Rs. 6,000 in order to satisfy the Bank and get that money—i.e., twice the sum.

Coming to the clause regarding penalty. I do not know how my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, can treat any officer of the Reserve Bank—in whose appointment he has no voice whatsoever—as public officer. The penalty clause reads thus:

"Penalty.—(1) If any person, for the purpose of obtaining for himself or for any other person any title to a Government security, makes to any authority under this Act in any application made under this Act or in the course of any inquiry undertaken in pursuance of this Act any statement which is false and which he either knows to be false or does not believe to be true, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine or with both."

(2) No Court shall take cognisance of any offence under sub-section (1) except on the complaint of the Bank." Which means if I find that somebody has made a false claim I cannot proceed against him. The Bank must do that. Further if it chooses, the Bank may make any complaint and where a public officer makes a complaint, whatever the result, he is not responsible for the consequences.

We may be induced to give these powers to Government officials because we have power to bring their actions before the Legislature, but with regard to the officers of the Reserve Bank, I am sure the reply will be similar to what the War Transport Member said about the Port Trust being an independent body. Constitutionally Port Trust is an independent body. Still the Chairman is appointed by the Government, the funds are under Government control. If any such thing should happen with regard to any of the Security Duty Officers of Reserve Bank I wonder whether the President will be satisfied if the Honourable the Finance Member said that the matter had nothing to do with us. The Reserve Bank is an independent body: it is a shareholders' body, and the Directors are elected, but we know how their elections take place. Coteries are formed. Proxies are collected and if you scrutinise fairly, some Directors have made a monopoly of getting into that body. It is a fact that Government have not been able to put that right. They have tried to divide the votes but it is a fact as clear as daylight that coteries are formed. Thousands of rupees are spent, a lot of influence of every kind is used to get proxies and they can get in and they appoint, nominate and suggest officers, including even the Governor and the Deputy Governor.

In these circumstances I do feel that Government is not rendering a service to the large number of people who are now subscribing to the Government paper. My friend, the Honourable the Finance Member, could not have got the Rs. 240 crores only from the rich. The poor also have subscribed. He may have got expert opinion from Banks and Chambers of Commerce and the rich people. But Government is not all for those people.

I do admit that this Bill has been brought up with all good intention to help the commercial community and the large dealers but as it is, it is against the interests of the people and especially a large number of the poor people. Besides, the middle class people have not received sufficient protection. I can say that I did not receive any intimation about this Bill coming up today and if this Bill has been circularised for opinion and opinions have come in then they are very old and probably only from bankers, Chambers of Commerce and capitalists. When you want the poorer people to subscribe, surely much more is needed. Many people now know that investment in Government paper is good. They have come by this through friends and even by the advice of officials. It is for their interest that I do not see the point in all this haste of giving this power to the Reserve Bank. There is only one apparent reason—and that is that the Bank and the Secretary of State may not be taken to the Courts. At the moment, they are in fact being taken to the Court as necessary parties. I do not know whether the Bank and the Secretary of State are paid the cost from the other side ultimately because there is something like security there. The question of lawyers' cost and the privilege of obtaining such cost come before everything else and the mighty lawyers have made it quite clear that the cost must be taken first whether the parties become beggars or are starving. Of course, the only trouble would be that one of the officers of the Reserve Bank may have to go and ask some solicitor to help. To avoid this little trouble all this does not justify the introduction of this Bill. Neither does it justify to help the capitalists. Well-to-do people will immediately go to the Court and take letters of succession, probate, and obtain them. It is only poor who are slow and who require to be protected. I think the intention is to facilitate matters. As such I do appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to take that important point of view of the poor of giving them sufficient notice by Registered post and by advertisement in the vernacular papers in the districts and towns and furthermore to make it compulsory that the evidence should be taken on oath according to Evidence Act and that by a proper and fit person.

[Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee.]

Furthermore, in all the Acts we pass, the rules and regulations are placed before the House. I should like to know whether the rules that are to be framed by the Reserve Bank or the Governor or the Directors will be placed before the Government for sanction, and if so, will those regulations be placed before this House for information and will this House be given an opportunity

to bring their views to the notice of the Government. I am afraid, 3 P.M. Sir, constituted as the Reserve Bank is, probably it will not be possible to make such a provision. If that is so, Sir, I say that no power should be given to the Reserve Bank, howsoever great it may be, howsoever great the people who are its Directors may be. You have got to consider that the rights of the individual cannot be entrusted so lightly to anybody but to a proper officer of the Government whose conduct can be looked into by the highest judiciary and also by this Legislature.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, when at first I heard that this bill was going to come up for discussion, I felt that a man like me would have very little interest in it but as I listened to this discussion I found that even that class of people whose interest I have been trying specially to make my own are also interested in it and their interests are likely to be jeopardised if these two sections, Sec. 9 and 10, were to be passed as they are here. If, as my friend, Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee, said only rich people, very rich people, are involved and are interested in this matter, they may be expected possibly to know their own business, lodge their claims within the particular prescribed period of six months, get their claims registered properly and thus safeguard their interests. But as it is now, whether we like it or not, millions and millions of peasants in different provinces have become obliged to purchase these Government Bonds since the beginning of this war. We know under what obnoxious circumstances large numbers of these people have been obliged to purchase these bonds. I should not like to say that the peasants have "purchased" them. They were simply forced upon them. I know for a fact that even today things are going on in villages in different parts of the country which cannot bear description in this House. Government officials, from the highest down to the ordinary policeman are going about forcing peasants to purchase these bonds and if they do not, very often unpleasant results follow. There was one case within my own knowledge where the day after the peasant concerned refused to purchase these bonds he was visited by the police with an order to show cause why he should not be bound over for good conduct and our people had to carry on a strenuous agitation before the peasant concerned could be helped to get out of the clutches of the police. Such things happen in different parts of the country. It is under such circumstances that peasants are obliged to purchase these bonds. Even grain purchasing officers are going about the villages forcing peasants to sell their grain, even when they do not have enough for themselves and for their own family consumption. They insist that a particular percentage of the price that is likely to be paid for the grains must be accepted only in terms of Government Bonds. What is to happen to these people who, whether they like it or not, are forced to possess these Government Bonds. Are they expected to know the intricacies of this law, are they expected to know where and how they are to lodge their claims and make sure that they get their money? Is it seriously argued by the Honourable the Finance Member that our ordinary peasants are so capable of looking after their own interests as to be able to take advantage of this particular provision which provides only for summary procedure and which does not leave any room at all for the Evidence Act to come in or the ordinary law of the land to take its own course to protect the interests of these people. It may be that a peasant holds bonds worth one, two or three hundred rupees but that is a big sum for him. He certainly cannot afford to allow his claim on these small bonds to be dismissed summarily by the Reserve Bank of India. After

all what is this Reserve Bank of India. It is not a representative body of the people. This house anyhow has no control over it. Is it at least a quasi judicial body. Was this house given that assurance when it was constituted?—a quasi judicial body with powers to exercise its judicial functions. Is there any sort of control to see that the Reserve Bank exercises these quasi judicial functions in a really judicial manner? None at all. Under these circumstances, I think, it is inadvisable on the part of the Government that they should come forward with this sort of Bill proposing to give summary powers to the Reserve Bank of India, especially when they, of their own accord, have been forcing millions and millions of peasants to become holders of Government bonds. Therefore, Sir, I very strongly oppose these two sections and I trust that the Honourable the Finance Member will see the force of our arguments and try to make the necessary amendments so that it would be possible for the holders of these Government bonds to get proper justice if and when any of them were to die and leave his minors or others to claim the benefit from these bonds.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): A glance at this Bill and its perusal does not make clear to me certain points, which I would like to mention and which I trust the Select Committee will take into account in finally shaping this Bill.

There was a practice for many years, a very salutary practice, which Government interiered with some years ago, viz., that when a holder of a Government security wanted to have a new certificate issued, such a new certificate was issued. It was presumed by these holders that in future it was a clean document unaffected by any error in the transfer by the previous holders and the cancelled document need not involve any loss to him. This very salutary protection to the holders of Government securities was interfered with and scaled down, with the result (and the Government, I maintain, acted against their own interests in this) that small holders of Government securities, who had invested in Government bonds the small savings which they had made, had not thought of any question being raised with regard to the previous holders and the validity of the transfers made to them. This was an absolute necessity and I urge that this also is a necessity now. I understand that in certain loans new issues are preferred by the public, because of this that a new issue is a clean document and there will be no question of flaws in any transfers or as to their validity. As I said, this is a facility which the public enjoyed. It is possible that Government occasionally may have had losses on account of some isolated cases arising. The Government's contention was "we cannot pay the same money twice over" but here was a *bonafide* holder who, in response to your own appeals, to save and put in Government paper, purchased this Government paper. He belongs to a class which deserves protection. He belongs to a class which can least scrutinise one of the old instruments or promissory notes on which there are a dozen endorsements. He is not in a position to go into the validity of each of these endorsements. Such a man must be saved and I say that even if it costs something to the Government, it is in their own interest to provide facilities by which such a holder can get a clean and a new certificate and no liability with regard to the past endorsements. What machinery Government should then set up in order to safeguard themselves against fraud or genuine legal difficulties in previous transfers, it is for the Government themselves to devise and I should like to know as a matter of information from the Honourable the Finance Member whether in this Bill the power intended to be given to the Reserve Bank covers this particular point also.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. Deputy President, as my friend, Mr. Ranga, said "Who is this bank?" Has it got any representation from the people who purchase war bonds of ten rupees or twenty rupees or fifty rupees or hundred rupees? No. The rich

[Mr. G. Rangish Naidu.]

people are represented in the Bank—the directors are rich people: the Governor is a rich man. But the man who takes small war bonds, the agriculturist and the poor traders are not represented at all. I have seen in the country, if you go to the villages and see, how the agriculturists and the petty people are forced to purchase these war bonds. These poor people represent 95 per cent. of the persons purchasing war bonds: only 5 per cent. are rich and they are ruling over this Bank and over the destinies of the remaining 95 per cent. who are still continuing to take these bonds. The rich people are not bothered and worried to purchase these bonds. For instance, I may say that when I was here last November my son was asked to purchase these war bonds. He does not hold any property: he is a medical man working in a village, helping villagers where there is no medical aid; he was asked to contribute money and he said "It is impossible; I am not a holder of any property; I am a petty doctor and have been helping the poor people in this village. How can I contribute money to war bond? If I am pressed to buy them, my father is there in the Central Assembly and you please write to him. If he asks me to pay money, I will be prepared to pay, however I can manage". Then they told him "Mr. Ramchandra Naidu, if you do not buy war bonds, we do not care; but do not spoil others who are buying: do not do any propaganda against us". Such is the case in the country and such are the people who hold these securities and who must be helped. These two sections in the Bill must be eliminated; and unless they are entirely removed there will be no salvation for the people who are paying money against these security bonds.

Mr. D. P. Sethna (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I crave your indulgence as I am addressing this august Assembly for the first time. Before I proceed to speak on the provisions of the Bill which have been impugned by some of the previous speakers, may I make a brief personal reference? It was in February 1942, when I was appointed to report on this Bill that I went to Calcutta and saw Sir James Taylor and Mr. Deshmukh, as he then was, and had discussions with them. I went to the office of the Central Debt section and had an insight into the way in which the securities were renewed; after the Central Debt section came to Bombay, I went and worked at the Reserve Bank Office for weeks and weeks, going through files of cases which had given trouble in the past to the Reserve Bank and the Controller of the Currency in administering the public debt. I had various long discussions with Sir James Taylor on the subject, and it is a matter of great regret to me, as I am sure it must be to the Members of this House, that Sir James Taylor is not with us today to hear the discussion on a Bill which was so near to his heart and to which he had contributed so much.

As to the provisions of the Bill which have been impugned by some of the previous speakers, sections 9 and 10 relate to the summary adjudication by the Reserve Bank in case of holders of securities not exceeding five thousand rupees in value, and in cases of minors and lunatics, I am astonished that the criticism should have been made, when sections 19 and 20 of the Indian Securities Act, 1920, which is the law of the land, expressly deal with these contingencies in a similar manner.

The other criticism which has been levelled against the provisions of this Bill is that the Bill is intended for the protection of the rich people. Nothing of the kind. It is primarily intended for the protection of the poor people who have not the means to enforce their legal rights and who have been deprived of their securities and the interest on their securities for years and years under vague notices and stop orders which have not been followed upon. The result has been, as I have seen from the files which I have gone through, that the original holders have died, their children have died, and it is after ten or fifteen years when the High Court or the Privy Council has decided the case that the securities have again come into the hands of the rightful person. It was in order to provide for cases like these

that Sir James Taylor had it in mind that the Reserve Bank should have the power, in the same way as the revenue courts now have, of summarily deciding as between the rival claimants to Government securities to whom the security belongs, leaving it to the aggrieved party to go to the court if he is so advised. I am surprised that section 12 has been pointed out to this House without referring to sections 19 and 20 which are in the Bill and which provide that no recognition by the Reserve Bank of a person as the holder of a Government security, and no order made by the Bank under this Act shall deprive any person of his right to go to the court. As the Finance Member has pointed out, when he introduced the Bill today and asked for its reference to the Select Committee, the decision of the Reserve Bank is hedged round with various safeguards and if you will please refer to sections 12, 13, 14 and 16, you will see that section 12 provides that if the Bank is of opinion that a doubt exists as to the title to a Government security, it may proceed to determine the person who shall for the purposes of the Bank be deemed to be the person entitled thereto. It presupposes that a claim has been made to the Reserve Bank by X or Y against Z or A and that he is entitled to the bond and not somebody else. It is on this that the Reserve Bank gives notice to all the persons concerned to appear before it. The Bank shall give notice in writing to each claimant of whom it has knowledge, and the Bank shall give notice in writing to each claimant of the result of the determination so made and it is only on the expiry of six months from the issue of the last notice that the Bank may make an order vesting in the person, found by the Bank to be entitled to the security, the security and any unpaid interest thereon. After this any party who is disgruntled or who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Reserve Bank has got a perfect right to go to a court of law and to apply that he is the holder of the security and not somebody else. A further provision has been made in order that the security may not remain for years and years with the Reserve Bank earning no interest. The Bank has the right to give the security to the Official Trustee of the Province so that the Court dealing with the case could direct that the interest on the security could, for the time being when the suit is pending, be utilised in favour of the party whom the court would consider to be *prima facie* entitled to the security.

As to Mr. Lalljee's point about the service of the notices, that is a matter which the Select Committee will certainly consider. This, however, will not entail any real difficulty because the notice will only be given to those persons who have written to the Bank and who *prima facie* would seem to be concerned with the security.

As to the officer of the Reserve Bank who is to adjudicate on the matter, that also is a matter for the Select Committee to consider. If the honourable gentlemen had cared to read the opinions which have been circulated they would have seen that the opinions disclose a wide approval to the principles underlying the Bill. (An Honourable Member: They have not been circulated). I am told that they have been circulated after 1943. It was in August, 1943, that the Finance Member introduced the Bill and I am told that the opinions which have been received, Nos. 1 to 14, 22 and 23, have been circulated. If they have not been read by the Members, it is their own look-out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Come with us to the jail and you will know.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: As I have stated, the whole object of the vesting order is to protect the poor holder of Government securities and not the rich banks. It is they who will be benefited by a summary adjudication by the Reserve Bank of matters with which the Bank is not concerned at all, as between claimants A and B.

As regards sections 26 and 27, it has been rightly provided that if the Bank feels that it has been cheated by any party it should apply to the Criminal Court for the prosecution of the offender.

[Mr. D. P. Sethna.]

Another point made by Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee is that before the Bank adjudicates in the matter, the Bank may require the execution of a bond with one or two sureties to be held at the disposal of the Bank, for an amount twice the value of the security. Surely, Sir, that is merely signing the bond and not furnishing the security. Even if a man has Rs. 3,000, as Mr. Hooseinbhoy has said, he can surely give a bond for six thousand.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Will the Bank accept that?

Mr. D. P. Sethna: The man has to show that he is worth six thousand or whatever the amount may be.

The most surprising part of the criticism was that the Bank decides the matter and that there is no appeal. I submit once again that that criticism has proceeded from not reading the Bill carefully apart from the opinions. Section 19 points out the legal effect of orders made by the Bank. I would draw attention to the words "subject only to a personal liability to the rightful owner of the security for money had and received on his account."

As to the criticism of Mr. Manu Subedar and his reference to the Privy Council judgment, the Privy Council judgment is in favour of Government and the Act does not make any change in the situation. As I understand, the Government is not prepared to give up the indemnity which is implied according to the Privy Council judgment.

If you look at the opinions received, they show a wide approval of the principles of the Bill. There are criticisms as to details which it is the province of the Select Committee to go into and the Select Committee, I would assure this House, will carefully consider every point that has been raised in the opinions received.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The last speaker has traversed most of the points which were raised in the course of the debate and I do not think that there is much that I can add to that.

As my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna, just now pointed out in his very competent maiden speech, this is not a matter of hasty or ill-considered action on the part of the Government. It is a measure which has been under very long and careful consideration in consultation with the Bank and on which competent legal opinion has been availed of. There is no desire on the part of the Government to make any drastic or unnecessary changes in the law but I am sure my Honourable friend, Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee, will recognise that if you leave things as they are, you are not really serving the interests which he claims to be anxious to protect. The present position is favourable to the indefinite continuance of disputes in regard to Government securities. That means either that the interest is not paid out at all or that it may be paid out to the person who at the moment is most skilful in mobilizing legal assistance. The object of this Bill is to secure a prompt and reasonable adjustment of these matters pending their final settlement by the competent courts. There is nothing here to oust the courts of law. No right is being taken from anybody which he has at present. What is being done, as the last speaker has pointed out, is to assist the small man who cannot afford to go all the way to the High Court or the Privy Council, to assist him to get a ready decision by the Bank. After all it is the bank that has the administration of the public debt. It is the bank which has to pay the interest. As I said, the small man will now be able to go to the bank and tell his story. The bank arranges for a rapid decision of the point and enables him to draw his interest. If you do not provide this kind of remedy, then we think that you are actually weighting the scales in favour of the wealthier and the man with the greater legal advice.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: To whom do you entrust? That is the question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It has always been my bitter experience to find that when we proposed that Government officials should do a thing, there was the utmost suspicion and it was suggested that the only virtue and wisdom lay anywhere than in the minds and in the possession of Government officials. I am surprised to find it is now suggested that the only real

repository of justice and wisdom is a Government official. The reason why the Reserve Bank is mentioned is that the Reserve Bank is the machinery through which the public debt is administered. The Reserve Bank is the person who actually pays the interest.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: They are cashiers and there is a great difference between being cashiers and administrators.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Oh no; the Reserve Bank is more than a cashier. The point is this. Why should you create any further machinery in between your Public Debt Administrator and your courts? What you want to do is to provide a simple and summary adjudication or settlement of issues pending references to a court. You therefore provide that the organisation which is in daily contact with these matters, which has most experience, which is continually engaged in these things and which has, as a matter of fact, to make the payment, you provide that that organisation shall conduct a provisional inquiry into the matter and shall make a vesting order until such time as the matter may be threshed out in the courts. I do not see how that lends itself to any of the criticisms or suspicions to which Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee has given voice. But in any case, I understand it to be the feeling of the House that this Bill should go to the Select Committee. The principle of the Bill has been widely accepted and we can leave these matters to be discussed by the Select Committee who will, I have no doubt, do full justice to them.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

THE FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The provisions of the Bill fall into two parts and I think it will be desirable from the point of view of simplicity in the matter of presentation if I explained to the House the provisions of the Bill in two separate forms.

Part I of the Bill deals with compensatory holidays for the loss of compulsory holidays. Members will realise that in section 35 of the Factories Act it is obligatory upon the owner or manager of the factory to give one compulsory holiday to every adult worker in the factory. This provision which is contained in section 35 is subject to the provisions contained in sections 43 and 44. Sections 43 and 44 provide that the Inspector of Factories may permit exemptions being granted to the manager of the factory or factory owner from the obligations imposed by section 35. The view that is taken is this that when such exemptions should be granted, they ought to be compensated by other holidays, equivalent in number. Health and efficiency of the worker requires that he should have the requisite number of holidays which are prescribed by law. The Act, as it stands, makes no such provisions for compensatory holidays. Consequently, clause 2 of the Bill has been introduced for the purpose of removing this lacuna. It will now be open for the Provincial Governments to make rules subject to certain adjustments that wherever exemptions have been granted under section 35, compensatory holidays of the equivalent amount shall be granted to the workmen. This is the first part of the provisions of the Bill.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

Coming to the second part of the Bill, the provisions contained therein deal with the question of holidays with pay. It might be desirable at the outset to state to the House the origin of this part of the Bill. Many members of the House will recall that in 1936 the International Labour Conference passed a convention relating to the holidays with pay. The Government of India, which was represented at that International Labour Conference, was not prepared to accept the convention and to ratify it. A Government Resolution was moved in the Assembly on the 26th July, 1937, proposing the non-acceptance of the convention. The Resolution was carried. But while the Government did not find itself in a position to ratify the convention, the Member in charge of the Resolution said that the Government would explore and examine the possibilities of giving effect to the convention, if not wholly, at any rate, in part and undertook to have consultation with the Provincial Governments and all the Associations representing the employers and employees to find out to what extent there was a general agreement in the matter of this convention. Part II of the provisions which relate to holidays with pay are the result of this examination and exchange of views which have been going on over a considerable number of years.

Turning to the Bill itself, it will be seen that the Bill applies to factories and it applies not to all the factories, but to perennial factories only. The Bill undoubtedly is limited in its scope as compared to the provisions contained in the convention which was adopted in 1936. While it is limited, I think it is a beginning which should be welcome. With regard to the other provisions, I think it will be better if I divide my observations in four parts so as to cover separately the four points which legislation concerning holidays with pay must necessarily deal with.

1. Length of holiday. 2. Qualifying conditions for a right to a holiday. 3. Limiting conditions. 4. Pay during holiday. With regard to the first point, namely, length of a holiday, this is a matter which is dealt with in the new section 49-B which the Bill proposes to add to the Factories Act. According to this section, the total holiday is to be on seven consecutive days for a worker who has put in a continuous service for one year. It might be asked as to why we have taken seven days and not more. The reply to that is that in fixing this period of seven days, we have followed the provisions contained in the Geneva convention of 1936 which laid down six days as the limit of the holiday. To that we have added a seventh day which is a compulsory weekly rest granted to a worker under section 35 of the Factories Act. With regard to the question of qualifying conditions laying down as to when a worker will be entitled to claim a seven days holiday, the provisions contained in the Bill are as follows: As a matter of fact, there is really only one condition and that is that the worker must have put in a period of twelve months continuous service. There is no other condition. With regard to the question as to what is continuous service of twelve months, the Bill provides for what are called interruptions and declares that certain interruptions shall not invalidate the claim for holidays with pay. The interruptions which are mentioned in the Bill are interruptions arising out of sickness, accident, authorised leave, lock-out period and a strike period provided the strike is legal. There is also another provision in the Bill which relates to the same subject and that is the question of involuntary unemployment caused by the desire of the factory owner to close the factory. We have limited that to a period of 30 days. If the involuntary unemployment caused by the factory manager does not extend beyond 30 days, then that would not invalidate the claim of the worker for his right to holidays with pay. It might be necessary perhaps to mention why we have prescribed only 30 days. The explanation is this. Holidays with pay must necessarily take into account the ability of the manager or the factory owner to pay and the view that is taken in the Bill is that if the manager or the factory owner is obliged to close his factory for more than 30 days, then I think it is legitimate to presume that he has really not been prospering as well as he ought to and that he is, therefore, not in a position to pay the cost for holidays with pay. But if the involuntary period does not exceed 30 days,

then the presumption is that he is still able to bear the cost and should bear. The Bill also provides for limited condition with regard to holidays with pay and that limited condition relates to the question of accumulation of holidays. The Bill provides that a worker who has been qualified to earn his holidays may be entitled to accumulate holidays for two years and that is for a total period of 14 days.

Coming to the question of pay during holidays, there are several points to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. The first is that although the total period of the holiday is seven, only six are declared to be paid holidays. The seventh, as I said, is really a day of weekly rest provided under section 35. With regard to the seventh day, the Bill does not make it obligatory upon the employer to pay for it. But at the same time the Bill does not take away the right of the employee to demand payment, if as a result of his contract of service that holiday was due to him as a paid holiday. It is really left to be governed by the contract of service.

The third point is with regard to the payment to be made for these six holidays. The rule that we have adopted in the Bill is a rough, and I believe, an equitable rule and it is this: that a worker is to be paid at a rate equivalent to the average of his earnings during the three preceding months barring overtime. I believe that is an equitable principle. The Bill also provides that in order to enable a workman to take his holiday, some facilities should be given him in order to have some cash with him on the day on which he proposes to start on his holiday. Consequently provision is made in the Bill that half the dues which are to be paid to the workman going on holiday shall be paid to him at the start.

Another matter which is relevant to this, and is also important, is this. The Bill proposes to exempt certain factories from its operation if it is found that a factory has a system of holidays with pay which is substantially similar to the one provided in the Bill and about whose satisfactory character the Provincial Government is able to certify. The object underlying this clause is that if there is a voluntary arrangement between the employer and the worker whereby the worker is given the same privileges which we are providing in the law, the view taken by the Bill is that in so amicable an arrangement it is unnecessary for the law to enter.

Sir, these are the main provisions of the Bill. There are two other matters to which I should like to make a reference before I sit down. The first is the question of a discharge of a workman by the employer to prevent him from earning his holiday. The second question is the employer inducing a workman not to take his holiday although he has earned it. These are questions which I frankly admit are not being provided for in the Bill. Not that Government are not aware that such questions may arise, but the view of Government is that at the present stage, at any rate, there is no reason to suppose that such contingencies will arise. If experience shows that such cases do become usual it would be time then to amend the Act to stop their recurrence. For the moment the view I hold is that the provisions of the Bill are sufficient for the purposes which it has in view, namely, to grant holidays with pay to factory workers.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. C. C. Miller (Bengal: European): Sir, this Group supports the motion for Select Committee and the principle of holidays with pay. But there are two comments which I should like to make at this stage, following the lines of the Honourable Member, the first being on the question of the compensatory holiday. The present position under the Factories Act is that if a worker is ordered to work on a Sunday he is entitled to a compensatory holiday in the three days preceding or in the three days following that Sunday, except under the

[Mr. C. C. Miller.]

very exceptional circumstances which are conditioned by sections 43 and 44 of the Act. The effect of this amendment of the Act will be to say to the workman; "Well, you shall have your compensatory holiday, but when you will get that compensatory holiday is a matter of convenience. You will not get it necessarily at any particular time". And I venture to think that the Act as it stands is a much more realistic approach to this problem and that the amendment does not place any worker in a better position than he was before. And I suggest, therefore, that that part of the Bill might well be omitted.

I now turn to the more important question of holidays with pay. As I have said, we support the principle of holidays with pay but we do not support the principle of consecutive holidays with pay in every district throughout India. There may be parts of India in which consecutive holidays are appropriate for labour, but they are certainly not appropriate to all parts of India, and in particular to eastern India. The situation in eastern India is that our labour is very largely immigrant labour from other provinces and that labour remains very largely agricultural. It is a factor which goes right through Indian industrial life and it is a very big factor which cannot be overlooked. Now, regularly every year or two, labour seeks to return to its village for village work, village ceremonies and agricultural work; and that custom has grown up and is accepted both by the workers and by the employers. That is leave, and I would suggest that a differentiation should be drawn between leave and holidays. Now, again in eastern India there are a considerable number of holidays throughout the year, religious holidays for both communities, and it is very customary that on these holidays factories are closed down and labour has a day off. And, moreover, in my part of the world, there has grown a custom of paying labour for certain holidays. I should like to impress that on the Honourable Member because there are now a considerable number of holidays with pay, but they are not consecutive; they are staggered. In many cases these holidays exceed the number of six suggested in this Bill and in some cases substantially exceed them. Therefore if the Labour Department is going to insist on consecutive holidays, then you are putting your employer in a position where he must say to his workmen, "I am very sorry, but I must abandon my previous principle of giving you holidays with pay, because the Labour Department in its wisdom has decreed otherwise. So, instead of getting six or eight or even twelve holidays with pay staggered in a year you must in future have six consecutive holidays with pay. Moreover, most or all of these holidays which I have given have been unconditional, your six consecutive holidays are going to be conditional". In fact, the new deal which the Labour Department is proposing in these circumstances will be very much worse than the deal which labour has been getting in the past. And I do very earnestly request the Honourable Member to consider that where custom has established a certain practice which is in no way inferior to the practice which he is now seeking to institute and which is very often a far better practice both from the point of view of labour and of employers of labour, he will not introduce measures which upset it. Because, I am perfectly certain that if this system is introduced in certain parts of Bengal and as a necessary corollary the old system is withdrawn there will be a very considerable labour unrest and resentment at the innovation.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I, therefore, hope that staggered holidays and consecutive holidays will be treated on an equal basis in the Bill when it has passed through the hands of the Select Committee.

(It was Four of the Clock.)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MISUSE OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT ORGANIZATION BY MALIK KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA, LEADER OF THE PUNJAB BRANCH

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Governor

General in Council to prevent and stop the misuse of the National War Front organisation by the Provincial Leader of the Punjab Branch, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, who has been utilizing the National War Front Organization for propaganda in favour of and collection of funds for a political party—"the Zamindara League"—thereby creating a great deal of hostility amongst a large section of people against the National War Front.

Sir, there are three allegations which are made in this adjournment motion: firstly, that the National War Front organization is not being used for the purpose for which it was intended; secondly, that it is being utilized by the leader of the National War Front in the Punjab for political purposes of his own party; and, thirdly, that this has eliminated the sympathy and the support of a large section of people in the Punjab from the National War Front organisation.

Sir, this organization was inaugurated by the then Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, in March 1942. This organisation, according to him, was to be 'non-political and non-communal' in the sense that no propaganda in favour of any particular political party was to be done from the platform of the National War Front organisation, and all persons who were willing to strengthen the home front and help in the war effort, irrespective of caste or creed or their political views, were entitled to join this organisation. Sir, unfortunately, now that the war is coming to a close, there are not people wanting in this country who are making this organisation into a political party machine and those people are those who have the support and the blessings of the bureaucracy in this country. Sir, I submit that to prostitute this organisation for political purposes of a particular party, an organization which is financed and supported by public money, is a very great offence and I am sorry to relate that the Government of India have failed in their duty in stopping the misuse of this organisation.

Here I have a number of cuttings from the various newspapers of Punjab. I will not take the time of the House by reading out from newspaper reports at great length because there is very limited time at my disposal, but by giving some quotations from the speeches of Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana and others at the meetings of the National War Front, I think I will succeed in showing that the National War Front is being misused and is being used for purposes other than for which it was intended.

An Honourable Member: What about Bengal?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, in Montgomery, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan while addressing a big conference in the Cinema Hall said:

"When I told Mr. Jinnah that the only alternative to the changing of the label of the present Ministry would be the promulgation of the Governor's Rule under Section 93 in the Punjab because as a result of the change of label no stable ministry would be possible in the province, Mr. Jinnah was adamant and the League Leader while insisting upon the change of the label said that the promulgation of Section 93 would not matter. But as I feel that going back to the Governor's rule would not be good for the Punjab, nor for the Muslims or the minorities I did not agree with Mr. Jinnah."

The statements are absolutely false. But any how I will not take up the time of the House by arguing that. What I want to show is that from this platform political speeches against a party and in favour of a particular party or a particular group of people are being made. It may be said that this was held at a Cinema Hall; it does not say what this conference was. But, Sir, it is stated here "that the Conference over which the Premier presided had been organised by the District National War Front, Montgomery". Later on it says that "two addresses were presented to the Premier at this Conference". Further, it says "A purse of Rs. 50,000 was presented to the Premier for the Zamindara League on behalf of the district at this conference".

At this very conference of the National War Front, Sir Chottu Ram also spoke and he said:

"The door of the Zamindara League has been made more wide and any one who agreed with the aims and objects of the Zamindara League, even though not what he called a 'Taxali Zamindars' could become a member of the League."

While thanking for the sum of Rs. 50,000 for a party which had served the Zamindars, Sir Chhotu Ram said that he treated the amount only as a first instalment of Rs. three lakhs he expected from Montgomery, a rich district. On behalf of the Premier, he expressed

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan.]

his appreciation of the support which the M. L. As. from that district in general and the Muslim M. L. As. in particular had given to the Ministry."

This is one conference. There was another conference held at Gujrat where a purse of Rs. 65,000 was presented to the Premier and this conference was also held by the National War Front organisation. In the course of his speech at this conference he said:

"Despite my complete agreement with the Muslim League ideals I was not allowed to remain in the League. The responsibility for the present conflict and dissensions amongst Muslims lay not with me but with those who instigated the League High Command to take this action."

Again, at the meeting which was held at Ludhiana, a similar thing happened. Malik Khizar Hayat Khan presided over the National War Front conference. A purse was presented on behalf of the Zamindara League and "the Premier was complimented on having steered clear through recent difficulties, which had resulted 'in only a few young plants having been removed from the garden of the Unionist Party' of which the Premier was described as the gardener".

An Honourable Member: Is this money shared by the M.L.As.?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: At this conference, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan "while declaring that he was absolutely justified in refusing to accept what Mr. Jinnah wanted him to do, the Premier reiterated that the rule under Section 93 was the only alternative to the present Ministry in the Punjab". And here I would like to invite the attention of our new Honourable the Home Member, who has come fresh after administering a province under Section 93,—this is the view of the National War Front leader of the Punjab about this rule:

"And if that happened all their schemes for the betterment of the Province and of providing facilities to those who were to return from the theatres of the war would have been thrown overboard."

I do not know what my honourable friend, Sir Francis Mudie, thinks of such meetings.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): In the Punjab!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There was a conference at Lyallpur. This was under the National War Front. I can go on repeating *ad nauseam* all these speeches that the Honourable Minister has made. There are certain other things. This money for the Zamindara League is being collected in the name of the National War Front. Here I have a statement from Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Saheb, pleader, President, District Gujar Committee and General Secretary, Anjuman Zamindaran, Ludhiana. This is published in the *Zamindar* of Lahore of the 14th October:

"Jo Raqmen in ke samne pesh ki jati hain woh bechare afsar kis tareh public se wasul karte hain? Is ko chande ke lafz se zahir karna apne ap ko dhoka dena hai. Humare zile men aise waqeat aksar hote hain keh intiqal arazi ki manzoori ke liye Zamindara League ko Chandah ada karne ki qaid lagai di gai hai aur is tareh se ropayah ikattha kar ke Waziri-i-Azam Saheb ko Sath hazar ki theli de kar khush kiya gaya."

Now, Sir, here is another gentleman, Mr. Abdul Ghani, B.A., from Jullundur who also makes these allegations.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): What does all that mean?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: It means that all the money that is being collected is being collected by force from the people by the permanent officials of the Government and all this money is presented in the name of the Zamindara League at the meetings of the National War Front to the Premier of the Punjab who happens to be the leader of the Provincial National War Front.

There is another gentleman here who says the same thing and he makes a definite allegation that this money is being collected in the name of the National War Front. Here is a cutting from the leading article of a Urdu paper of Delhi *Tegh*. It says:

"Is ropae ki farahami Zamindara League ke nam per nahin balkah Hokumat-i-Hind ke National War Front ke ar men ki ja rahi hai. National War Front ke jalse munafiq hote hain aur apne asrat aur Hokumat ke dabao se jabran logon se ropayah wasul kiya ja raha hai."

I have so many newspaper cuttings and so many statements from various respectable persons that if I were to relate them it would take hours.

The Muslim League of Sheikhupura passed a resolution condemning the methods of the officials of the district adopted of extorting contributions from the zamindars of the district for the funds of the Zemindara League and saying that the drama of the Zemindara League—that is being staged in the name of the National War Front would be sure to demoralize the people of the province. What happens? Those who have rendered valuable services to the National War Front if they do not agree to the misuse of the National War Front by the Premier or the leader of the Provincial War Front of Punjab are turned out of the organisation. Here is a case

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Khan Bahadur Nazir Ahmad Khan was dismissed from the leadership of the District War Front, Montgomery. In a press statement he said:

"If Malik Khizr Hayat can continue as Provincial Leader of the National War Front in the presence of his pronouncement, why should a district leader professing the same faith be dealt with otherwise. I shall continue to perform the duty even after my removal from the leadership of the National War Front. But I am also of the opinion that the present methods of the Unionists are no less Fascist in outlook, there being no scope for the expression of even honest opinion."

It is really not possible within fifteen minutes to say much more but I think I have succeeded in showing that the platform of the National War Front is being misused, money is being collected by force from the people and in the name of the National War Front, and is presented to the Premier, who is the leader of the National War Front, at the meetings that are arranged and held under the auspices of and by the National War Front of the Punjab.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved: "That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): Mr. President, I have a few observations to make before the House. First of all, I must congratulate the National War Front movement that it has won a great supporter in the person of the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League. This is an achievement for which the National War Front in this country deserves to be congratulated, because if I correctly heard the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party he said that he wanted to eradicate corruption from the ranks of the National War Front movement and that he wanted to bring it on a proper level so that people may not turn against that movement.

Well, Sir, that shows that the Honourable Nawabzada Saheb has after all become a great well-wisher of this movement. This was not the attitude of the Muslim League a few years ago when the National War Front movement was struggling to gain a foothold among the people. If I remember correctly, the Nawab of Mamdot, who is the President of the Muslim League in the Punjab, was offered the leadership of the National War Front of his district and he refused it. It was something *infra dig* for him and I hope that this motion of adjournment is outcome of sincere wish to improve National War Front movement.

Here I will say that the position of the Punjab in this respect is a peculiar one. For one thing the Legislature of the Province passed a resolution giving the fullest support to the war effort of the Allies. So, in that respect, we can say that the Punjab is at war with the Axis Powers because its Legislature wanted it to be so. Now, what is the Premier of the Punjab? He is a servant of the people and a servant of the Legislature and he has to carry out the orders given by the people of his province through the channel of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. Furthermore, I would say that the present leader of the National War Front movement also happens to be the Premier of the Punjab. Well, he is Premier because he enjoys the confidence of his people. They put him there and by God's grace he is going to remain there so long as he enjoys that

[Mr. M. Ghiasuddin.]

confidence, and, therefore, he has to do propaganda work for that purpose. Sir, I was sorry to hear Nawabzada Saheb impute motives to a public man who, at least, is of the same eminence as Nawabzada Saheb himself. Now it is not very difficult to impute motives to anybody, especially if the person happens to hold more than one office. For instance, one can say that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan holds two offices. He was a judge not so long ago over Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and he condemned him. Now he holds another office, that is, he is a member of this House and I will be the last person to impute any motives to anybody. I am sure the Nawabzada when he comes here with this motion of adjournment, he has only one thing in his heart and that is that public money should not be wasted and that the National War Front movement should not be corrupted. But if there was any uncharitable person he might impute motives to the Nawabzada Saheb, by saying that he had already condemned Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana outside the House and so he wishes to condemn him inside the House also. That is what a less charitable person would say. I would not dream of thinking any such uncharitable thought. But I would say this that our public life in this country will go to dogs if public men of great eminence started imputing motives to each other.

What is it that actually happens? As I said before, the Honourable the leader of the National War Front movement in the Punjab happens to hold more than one post: he is the leader of the National War Front and he is also the Premier of the Punjab. He may be the President of many other bodies. What happens is that he goes on tour when naturally those bodies of which he is the President or Chairman, etc., all come to him and present him with addresses and so on. So, what he does really is that at the meetings of the Zamindara League he does his propaganda for the National War Front. I am not holding any brief for him but I think that such propaganda can be done at the meeting of the Zamindara League.

The Nawabzada Saheb also quoted extracts from various newspapers but he did not think fit to mention their names. All I can say is that most of the newspapers speak in favour of their own parties. If the selfsame act were done by a member of their own party it is something very honourable but when done by another person belonging to an opposite school of thought, it becomes something reprehensible.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: It was the *Tribune* of Lahore from which I quoted and it is by no means the friend of the Muslim League.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Neither it is a friend of the Unionist Party.

The Nawabzada quoted from a gentleman who was very recently removed from the leadership of the National War Front movement. Now, that gentleman says that he was removed, because he obstructed Major Khizar Hayat Khan from carrying on his party propaganda from that front, but I am sure Major Khizar Hayat Khan has another story to tell. They say that that gentleman was removed, because he was not taking sufficient interest in the work and therefore his removal was considered necessary. So, if an honourable member of this House is to come forward with statements of those people who have been removed from a certain organisation and quote them, I would request other Honourable Members of this House to attach very little importance to such statements.

On the positive side I would say what the National War Front movement has done in the Punjab. It is something of which any province in this country can be proud. Nay, it is more than that. I think it is something for which any Allied country can take pride. Half the recruits of the Indian Army have been supplied from this province, and these men came forward to serve their country because of the appeal of men like Lt. Col. Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and his predecessor, Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. Punjab has taken a lead in procuring recruits. Therefore, I would say that if any province or provincial leader has shown results, it is the province of the Punjab and the provincial leader of the Punjab who deserves every commendation of this House.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan. I would refrain from going into details but shall speak freely and clearly.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, has already explained every thing that is going in the National War Front in the Punjab and I quite agree with him. I am a district leader of the National War Front in the Rohtak District and I have attended several meetings of the movement in the Ambala Division. The Nawabzada is wrong when he says that the money is collected in the name of the National War Front. We the Zamindars collect the money and present the money at our meetings to the Honourable the Premier of the Punjab and the National War Front organisation is quite free from any outside influence. The National War Front organisation is interested in helping the soldiers who are fighting outside India, in the Grow More Food Campaign and generally to help the war effort in every way. In Rohtak I presented an address and the Zamindara League presented their address and a sum of Rs. 6,000 to the Honourable the Premier. What was wrong in it? This is a quarrel between the Unionist Party and the Muslim League and the same quarrel is being fought here. Our National War Front Leader, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, is a very popular leader. We are all helping him. He is a great leader. We have every confidence in his leadership and he is doing every thing. He is not misusing any money. The big zamindars collect the money and they are supporting the Unionist Government. With these words, I again strongly oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): I have no desire to keep the House very long on this issue. I only just want to reply to my Honourable friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, who has tried to give a wrong interpretation to the subject of the motion. Mr. Ghiasuddin has introduced the story of Punjab Assembly's attitude towards war efforts and Punjab Premier's duties in that capacity. We have no quarrel with that. We do not want to hear it. The point brought out by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party is that the National War Front is a Central Government organisation the expenses of which are being paid by the taxpayers of the whole country, and it cannot be used for any purpose other than that for which it was brought into being. No question arises, as Mr. Ghiasuddin probably wanted to imply, whether we did give sanction for the setting up of National War Front organisation or not. We merely want to impress on this House that the organisation as it stands should not have been used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it has been made to exist, and our claim is, and the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party has made the case very clear, that the Premier of the Punjab is utilising this organisation for purposes foreign to its purpose. I would impress on this House that in every organisation there should be some code of morality about the activities, and the Premier of the Punjab, though he may be the leader of the National War Front, cannot and should not have done what he is alleged to have been doing. Even if Mr. Churchill has an organisation of a National War Front in England, he is not expected to utilise that for the benefit of the Conservative Party in England: if he does so, he will be condemned by all the people there. So, I would like to impress upon my friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, that he should not try to interpret this adjournment motion in the way he did. The position is clear: we want only to impress on this House and through you, Sir, on the Government that the purpose of the National War Front is not being served in the Punjab and the taxpayers' money is being spent on activities other than what was originally intended, and on subjects which can never serve the purpose of the National War Front. This is the point which I want to bring out and nothing more. With these words, I support the motion.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, my friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, has returned after a long tour of Europe, and

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America and we expected a speech of the kind from him; he said he did not want to be uncharitable to my friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party and I do not want to be uncharitable to my friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin and say that he was influenced in his speech by the vote of censure which was passed on the Government because they deputed Mr. Ghiasuddin to represent India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go into all that.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am saying that I hope he will not take me to be uncharitable for saying this. He comes and says that the National War Front was looking forward for help to the people for a long time and they could not find any supporters, and he said that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan speaks today in this strain that he has become a supporter of the National War Front. But may I ask him—though the memory of the people is not very strong—sometimes but I hope he will not forget that stalwarts like Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, who never said that he did not belong to the Muslim League—was he not a member of the National War Front? What is Mr. Ghiasuddin compared to Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not indulge in such comparisons.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Khizar Hayat Khan was not a member of the Zamindara League up to the time of few months back; he was a member of the Muslim League even up to a few months ago, and still he says that he sticks to the ideals of the Muslim League and that he was still helping it. Many members of the Muslim League were helping the National War Front. So I think Mr. Ghiasuddin cannot side-track the issue by saying this and throwing dust in this manner on the issue before the House. The issue before the House is only one, and it is this, that the National War Front organisation which is financed by the Government of India is being utilised by a leader, however eminent he may be, for the benefit of his own political party. A meeting is convened in the name of the National War Front, under the protection of the permanent officials who are the paid servants of the Government because they can come to help the National War Front organisation, and at this meeting, which is thus convened, speeches are made, under the protection of the officials, by a gentleman who dare not make that speech if the officials left the meeting. My friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, may say anything he likes, but I challenge that let Khizar Hayat Khan and Mr. Ghiasuddin come and make that speech in the Chandni Chowk or in any other place in the Punjab, even in Shahpur district, a speech of the kind he made there, if he is not protected by the official block there, and I will be glad to see that his clothes remain on him in the same clean condition in which he happened to go there; if those clothes will be covered by cowdung all over, I suppose it will be because rotten eggs cannot be found in the villages easily.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must remember that the gentleman is not here to answer any attacks on him.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Mr. Ghiasuddin introduced his personality, though I did not like it. We wanted the debate to be confined to the matter before the House; but he introduced the subject and threw dust on the Muslim League and on our Deputy Leader by saying that there was only one champion who wants to fight against the Nazis, and that everybody else is not wanting to fight against the Nazis. These implications are absolutely wrong, because every one of us wants to fight against Nazism; we have declared that openly on the floor of this House many times and this implication was the most unjust that could be made: it was only meant to influence and bias the vote on this issue. The issue is clear, whether this organisation is being prostituted by the men in authority. He happens to be a man who enjoys two positions—one as the premier; of course he is quite at liberty to form a party of his own in any manner he likes: we have no objection to that. But he cannot use his position as the leader of the National War Front in which he enjoys my confidence and the confidence of many others also—he cannot use that position

and that money for the purposes of bolstering up his own party, where I am not interested. That is the position before this House and I hope that the House will calmly and quietly see this and I think my friend, Mr. Nauman, has put it very rightly that even my friends, my English friends in this House, who know the constitution very well, will not allow in their own country—that even Mr. Churchill cannot make use of the National War Front for the purpose of the betterment of the Conservative Party. He cannot. It is an unheard-of thing in the politics of any democratic country. You cannot run one institution in one name and utilise it for other purposes. If you are using this organisation for only National War Front work, we have no objection. The Muslim Leaguers were not opposed to the National War Front. Thousands of Muslim Leaguers have joined the National War Front. They not only subscribed but gave recruits also. If the meeting was convened for the purpose of the war front, it must be confined to that one purpose alone. You cannot make propaganda there for another organisation which you want to start. That should be condemned. We want to know why the Government of India have not stopped this. Either they have been keeping quiet deliberately or they do not know. I cannot say that they do not know, because the papers have been printing this and the Government is expected to know everything that is happening in the country.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: A telegram was sent to them about this.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Government has got no excuse to say that they do not know. If they say that, they condemn themselves. They know everything that is happening in the country and it is the duty of the Government to know. If they knew this and they deliberately kept quiet, then it means that they are deliberately encouraging this. If this is happening deliberately with the help of the Government, then what does the Government deserve. Will they themselves tell me?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): I will.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If the Government deliberately encouraged this organisation of the National War Front to be utilised for the purpose of political propaganda of a political party and for the purpose of collection of funds in the same meeting, then don't they deserve the censure of this House? If that is true, they do deserve censure. If my friend says it is not true; that is a different thing. My friend can convince me that it is not true. But if it is true, then my friend will certainly admit that he deserves the censure of this House.

My friend the Nawabzada has shown that these facts have appeared in the Press and they have been given out in the whole of the Punjab. It does not matter what my friend the Nawabzada has said in some place in a semi-judicial capacity. It should not be said on that account that this condemnation should not be taken notice of. Here is a paper which has been quoted, which has been criticising the Muslim League from day to day, which has no sympathy with the Muslim League and which is not very friendly to the Muslim League and this paper comes from Lahore. If these things were wrongly printed in the paper, then it was the duty of a man like Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, who is the Premier of the Punjab and who has the machinery behind him, to contradict it and say this is all rubbish and something untrue has been published. If the National War Front meeting and the Zamindara League meetings had been held in different places with an interval of two hours and there were no officials present in the Zamindara League meeting, we could understand it but that has not been done and no contradiction has been made. If the facts that have been mentioned are true, then for the sake of public morality, for the sake of keeping the politics of the country clean, it is necessary that the permanent officials should not take part in politics one way or the other. Otherwise you will have in the political sphere the condition of things that you find in municipalities and district boards. One party comes into power.

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It turns out all the permanent officials who are not friendly to it. It brings in new officials. Then another party comes into power. They turn out those officials and appoint others. The result will be that there will be no security for the permanent officials and there will be no public morality in the country and the whole thing will turn into chaos.

If you are following the example of political institutions in England, then it is necessary to enforce the same principles of public morality that you find in English institutions. If the working of these institutions is found to be defective, then it is the duty of every one of us to rise to the occasion and condemn it. Unless you condemn it, this practice will continue and public morality will be allowed to degenerate by the action or the inaction of the Government. If three addresses were presented in the same meeting because the man happens to work in three different capacities, it does not mean that he can act in three different ways in the same place at the same time. I think this is not right. If the Premier is holding a National War Front meeting he must hold it at one time and one place and if a meeting is held for other purposes, it must be held after some lapse of time. If he wants to get an address from the Municipal Committee or the District Board, it must be separate from the National War Front meeting. If a third meeting is held for the purpose of collecting funds for making propaganda for the Zamindara League, it should be held at least two or three hours later on, in which no permanent official should be allowed to come in. If this had been going on, nobody would object.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I support the motion moved by my Honourable friend Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): I had no mind to speak on this motion but as the debate proceeded I saw that some points ought to be made clear.

In the first instance, in my opinion, I do not think that the Governor-General in Council has much to do with this National Front matter. (*An Honourable Member:* "No.") I am told that the Governor-General has got connection with its administration and the Governor-General in Council has not. I want this point to be made clear. This is a constitutional point.

So far as the misapplication or misuse of the National War Front is concerned, I am at one with the Muslim League. I am prepared to support their contention that there should be no misuse or misapplication of the National War Front money or platform. One thing which strikes me is that the Muslim League Party has no soft corner for the Premier of the Punjab. If it is a fact and if the Premier of the Punjab belongs to the Unionist Party and wields influence in his capacity as Leader of the National War Front and uses that influence in favour of the Unionist Party and if the Muslim League Party want to hound him out from every sphere, then that position does not sound logical to our ears. They might have had differences with the Unionist Party and they might not be liking the ways of the Prime Minister of the Punjab because he has differed from them. But, then, the Prime Minister of the Punjab might have his own point of view of the administration. And so far as this aspect is concerned, I think the House must think over the question dispassionately. They should not take the side of the Muslim League because the Muslim League has got a quarrel with the Prime Minister of the Punjab or the Unionist Party in the Punjab. I think my friends of the Muslim League will also be charitable and just in this regard because it will be unjust if it once enters into their mind that so-and-so has differed from the Muslim League and therefore he must pay the penalty and he must be hounded out from every platform and everywhere and even the Central Assembly must be utilised to inflict some punishment upon him. So, looking from that point of view, I felt an urge that I should make it clear that we should not be a party, if this be the lurking intention on the part of the Muslim League Party, namely, to inflict some

punishment on the Prime Minister because he belongs to the Unionist Party or because he had the audacity to differ from Mr. Jinnah or had a quarrel with Mr. Jinnah. If that be their attitude, then they must not expect any help from this House. So far as the misuse of the National War Front is concerned, I felt that no case has been made out against the Prime Minister and so far as the misuse of the platform is concerned, I have got my own suspicion. They say that the man could not have separated his personality while he was acting as the Prime Minister or acting as the Leader of the Unionist Party or acting as the Leader of the National War Front and therefore he might have gained some influence and he might have helped the cause of the Unionist Party in the Punjab. If that be the fault, then that also falls to the ground. It is from that point of view that I want the Muslim League Party to throw more light as to how there has been the misapplication of the National War Front money or the misuse of the National War Front platform.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I have just come from the Punjab and I have been touring in that province. I went to Khanewal where there was a mass meeting of about 15,000 people. Then, I went to Ludhiana where there was a meeting of 20,000 people. Their united verdict was that Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, in view of the attitude that he has taken up in politics, is a renegade and he has betrayed his community.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: that is not the question before the House.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Well, Sir, it has been declared from the house-tops of the Unionist Ministry, and Sir Chotu Ram is one of them, that they will crush the life out of the Muslim League Party.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All that does not arise. Honourable Member must not go into Punjab politics.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: The National War Front is the common property of the people of India; everybody can stand on that platform. The money that is collected there is not intended for the purpose of the Zamindara League. Rs. 20 lakhs have already been collected and they say they will raise up to 50 lakhs in order to give support to their party, although they know that the real power that stands behind them are the voters by millions who will have nothing to do with them.

My friend, Mr. Ghasiuddin, gave a certificate to Malik Khizar Hayat Khan from America. May I tell him that the Mussalmans of the Punjab, which is looked upon as the sword arm of the Empire, are no whit less anxious for the successful prosecution of the war than Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and Mr. Ghasiuddin himself are? Even Mr. Gandhi, who is at daggers drawn with the Britishers, has pointed out that he is a pro-Britisher so far as the achievement of the great object is concerned, and that object is to have nothing to do with Fascism or Nazism and to defeat Germany and Japan. Anybody who puts a spoke in this wheel or who places an obstacle in the achievement of this end, is an enemy of the country. The National War Front was intended to be used for raising money and for collecting men and material for the successful prosecution of the war. But in the Punjab this money is being collected for a purpose for which it was never intended, namely, the strengthening of the Unionist Party. Even the material is collected for the purpose of helping the Zamindara League. The Zamindara League is a rival political institution and Malik Khizar Hayat Khan by using its platform, in the name of the National War Front is doing harm to the cause of the war.

Our opponents say that the Mussalmans are against the war and against taking the part in the successful prosecution of the war. There is nothing more untrue than this. We declare here on the floor of the House that we want the success of the Britishers as against Germany and Japan. Our differences with the British Government are in the nature of a home affair. We do not want America or Russia to help us in solving our problems because we are able to help ourselves. Our differences will go on. If after the war is over the promise that the Britishers have made to us of extending to us the right of self-determination is not fulfilled, then we will carry on our fight

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against them in this country but we will never look to America or any other country to help us. With these words I support the motion moved by Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan. I trust the Government will open its eyes and see how things are going on merrily in the Punjab.

Captain Thakur Singh (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I do not want to take up the time of the House. All that I wish to say is that I quite agree with my friends Sardar Dalpat Singh and Mr. Ghiasuddin.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I may assure the House that I restrained myself very much from entering into this fight which, I may say, is not gracefully done. There are motives expressed against each other and they have even suggested that these things are done out of personal spite. I had thought that I should not enter into this discussion and leave the matter to be decided in the manner they liked the best. On the one side, I see a party representing the Premier of the Punjab and on the other side I see some Members, especially the Mover of the motion, siding the Muslim League. Indeed, I never wanted to enter into this debate from that angle

because in deciding this matter, it should be done solely on merits, and not because one party has a spite that it should have brought the motion and another party that may be in the wrong should come forward and say it is in the right. My object in rising to take part in the discussion is to place before the House certain issues which arise in this case. The first issue is whether this House has constitutionally got the power to go into this debate and the second issue is whether on merits, it is proved that defalcation took place.

An Honourable Member: Is it defalcation?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I meant the use of money for some other purpose. What is the constitutional position involved?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have allowed this motion to be discussed.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I bow to your ruling and I want that the same ruling should hold good for all times. I myself brought to the notice of the House one or two cases of a similar nature and the ruling on those occasions was different. My point is this, the motion wants to censure. Censure whom? Not the Governor General in Council, but the Governor General, because section 54 that has been quoted

An Honourable Member: This motion has nothing to do with that section. (Interruptions.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am a disinterested speaker and I hope I will be allowed to have my say without these interruptions. It was said that the Governor General failed in not exercising

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order, this motion has nothing to do with that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not the contention that the Governor General did not use his discretion?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion refers to the Government of India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If the motion is against the Government of India, then the Governor General as part of the Government of India comes in.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not bring in the Governor General. This motion does not concern him.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My submission is that if this is a motion against the Government of India and it is in respect of National War Front, of which they have jurisdiction, then it is all right. I understood it the other way. I understood that it was the Governor General's discretion that was being questioned and therefore I was arguing that this House has no jurisdiction.

Coming to the merits, I wish to say only a few words. Certain extracts from newspapers have been read to support the doings of the Premier. On the other hand it was urged that those newspapers were being published by

persons who were interested. I should like to know one thing. Has it been proved up to this time that the money that was actually collected as earmarked for the National War Front was being utilised for the Zamindara League?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the allegation at all.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I say that should be the allegation and then only on proper proof could the Premier of the Punjab be made responsible.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That has not been alleged by anybody.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The misuse of National War Front money is alleged in this way: that at the time when the Premier addresses as the Leader of the National War Front, he realises some money. At the same time, there is another meeting of the Zamindara League and money is taken for both the organisations. Because the two meetings take place close upon one another, it may be argued that it leads to some suspicion that the money collected for the National War Front was being utilised for the Zamindara League. I submit that that suspicion alone is not enough to censure the Government and I do hope this motion will not be pursued any further.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, I will be very brief in my reply. The Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party started by saying that there were three points raised in this Motion for Adjournment. The first was that the National War Front was not doing its legitimate business; secondly, that the National War Front was being misused for a certain purpose and thirdly, that this action has created hostility amongst a large section of the people. Now, Sir, as regards the first, that the National War Front is not doing its legitimate work, I do not find one word of it in the Adjournment Motion itself. Then we come to the misuse. I submit it is purely a question of fact. I will deal with that later. As regards the allegation that it has created hostility amongst a large section, I do not see much evidence of that from the Punjab Members of this House, at any rate. Therefore the main point to be considered is this: whether the National War Front Organisation has been misused for the purpose of propaganda in favour of or for collection of funds for a political party, namely, the Zamindara League. Sir, when I came to know of an allegation of this kind sometime ago, about a couple of months ago, I got into touch with the Provincial Leader and I got his assurance at that time there was no such misuse at all, and having been satisfied on that point, no further action was taken or could be taken. Sir, there has been a certain amount of, call it squabble, call it controversy, call it by any name you like, but undoubtedly there has been a violent difference of opinion between the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, the Premier, who is also the National War Front Leader and the Muslim League Party in the Punjab. Therefore, I beg of the House to consider this question from an absolutely disinterested point of view. I have got a categorical denial of this allegation from the Government of the Punjab and also from the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana and I feel happy that in this House that denial has been supported by at least three Punjab Members of this House, one of them being the District Leader himself present at certain meetings and he has given us what I submit convincing reasons for supposing that the National War Front organisation was not being misused at all. Unless and until this House has got some more clear and more cogent evidence before it, I feel confident that this Motion for Adjournment will not be accepted. The National War Front, I have been assured, has nothing to do with the Unionist party or the Zamindara League, and no funds of the National War Front have been used for the Zamindara League and no funds of the Zamindara League or the Unionist Party have been used for the National War Front organisation. The practice has been long before the present Premier came to office, since the time of Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, that when the premier used to go about the province various addresses used to be presented to him by public bodies, for instance, the local bodies or the Khalsa Defence League or the Soldiers' Board and so on.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Were any addresses presented on behalf of any political party?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: If there was any political party, addresses must have been presented; and if there was none, no address was presented. But it is well known that under the auspices of the National War Front organisation no purses were received by him as leader of the National War Front. The fact is that a National War Front meeting was held, addresses were presented to him by the different leaders of the different subdivisions or districts if held in the divisional headquarters, and then after that was over his reply was given. Another address was then presented to him on behalf of the District League or the Khalsa League or the Defence League, or, for the matter of that, the Zamindara League; and after one meeting was over the other meeting was held, and so on. But it is not correct to say that any National War Front platform was utilised for the purpose of collecting any funds for the Zamindara League or for promoting its interests. In fact I am assured that no funds are actually collected in the meetings of the National War Front at all.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I did not say that.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I say that, and it is for the House to consider the effect of my submission, that no funds were collected at any meeting of the National War Front either for the Zamindara League or any other League; nothing was done which would in any way show the connection of the two. But it is true that the Premier happens to be the provincial Leader also and therefore an address must be presented to him as such on behalf of the National War Front. But I do not see how it can be suggested for a moment that the National War Front organisation was being utilised for purposes of propaganda in favour of or for the collection of funds for the Zamindara League. Certain quotations have been cited by my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League party. I could also come with hundreds of quotations of that kind from paper supporting a different organisation. There is such a controversy going on between the different sections of the people there that I think the House would be well advised not to attach the slightest importance to these quotations. Quotations from the *Zamindar*, I say with great respect to my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader and also to the owner of that paper when he comes to support this motion, cannot be of much value as there are other people who know the position of that particular paper. It is a party paper and as such is bound to support that party and the party will support it. I have no doubt that the language which has been used here by my Honourable friend Maulana Zafar Ali Khan might have been used in some of the articles there; but that will not in any way influence the Members of this House to accept this motion.

Now, it is true that the Unionist Party is entirely for war efforts; and the Zamindara League also is entirely for war efforts.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Sir, on a point of personal explanation.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not giving way, the time at my disposal is short.

The National War Front is of course cent per cent for war efforts but there are other things in the Zamindara League and the other Leagues which do not find a place in the National War Front organisation. And therefore it has been pointed out to me on the authority of the Punjab Government that some people who were members of the National War Front left it and went over to the Zamindara League. That shows that the two bodies are absolutely separate and one has nothing to do with the other except that the aims and objects, so far as the war efforts go, are the same. But there are so many other things which you find in the other organisations which are not covered by the National War Front. I submit, Sir, that the fact that addresses from different organisations were presented to him at a meeting where an address was presented to him as Leader of the National War Front will not in any way militate against his acting as Premier so far as the other organisations are concerned. I therefore submit to the House that the House will take a dispassionate view of this

matter and not be influenced by the party troubles that have unfortunately arisen in that province, and I do submit that the House will answer this motion by rejecting it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-official): Sir, I have listened to the debate very attentively. The Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party had made a statement that at a meeting called under the auspices of the National War Front the Premier of the Punjab made a speech, of which some quotations were given. This speech has been characterised, in my judgment very rightly, as a partisan speech and not a speech which should be made from the platform of the National War Front. The Honourable the Leader of the House seemed to me to admit that several meetings were held at the same place one after another for different purposes,—first a meeting under the auspices of the National War Front was held and when it finished its work another meeting was held at the same place under the auspices of some other organisation; and when that was over a third meeting was held under the auspices of a third organisation. I feel that at the best every Member of the Legislature will admit that this is a procedure of questionable wisdom. To hold meetings under the auspices of three organisations consecutively at the same place one after another is surely in my judgment a step of questionable wisdom. I am sure the Leader of the House will admit it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: He does not.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He ought to. I say that if the Government of India want to keep the National War Front a non-party organisation they should avoid occasions of this kind. If meetings are held at the same place consecutively under the auspices of three or four organisations for different purposes, there is bound to be a misunderstanding in the mind of the public.

There is also another mistake on the part of the National War Front, namely, to appoint as its leaders people who have to take part in partisan controversies and partisan politics. If the Government of India want the National War Front to be considered a national organisation and not a party organisation, then again to appoint party leaders as leaders of National War Front is a policy of questionable wisdom.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The Government of India do not appoint provincial leaders.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If they do not appoint them they are in any case responsible for the whole of the National War Front and the Government of India should see that when leaders are appointed for the National War Front they are not drawn from the classes of people who are bound to take part in partisan politics. I therefore feel, Sir, that the effect on my mind of this discussion is that the Government of India is not taking sufficient care to see that the National War Front is kept as a non-partisan body and I would suggest to the Government to change this policy. At least let them be more careful and see that the National War Front is not tainted with partisanship.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): I have listened to the debate with great interest and with a great deal of attention. There is no doubt that the occasion has been taken by the supporters as well as opponents of this motion to plead their loyalty to a particular individual or condemn his actions. To my mind the motion did not relate to the issue of this sort. The issue is pregnant with a greater evil than probably has been realised by most of the speakers in this House. The issue is this: whether such contributions which I term as 'forced levies' under different names—and one of those 'forced levies' was the contributions to the War Purposes Fund which was stopped by the orders of the Government of India some times back—will end in maintaining peace in the country? Before I proceed further I may remind my Honourable friends that in the last war, as it is being done in this war, forced levies were made. The result was that as soon as the Defence Rules were withdrawn or relaxed and the country reverted to normal times after the Armistice, there burst out unprecedented violence in the country which resulted in the imposition of Martial Law and so many brutal slaughters and massacres in the

[Sardar Sant Singh.] Punjab. May I remind the Government of India that though under the Defence of India Rules we are becoming

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): We have not got anything to do with the Defence of India Rules in this matter.

Sardar Sant Singh: I only wish to say

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not go into the application of the Defence of India Rules. I know it is a favourite subject of the Honourable Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: It is, Sir, but I am only pressing this point that these collections for the Zamindara Fund and their presentation to the Premier of the Province on a National War Front platform is merely a camouflage. The real object is something different and it forebodes dire consequences for the future. Sir, I am conscious of the fact that the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party has raised this motion because of the rebuff Muslim League received from the Unionist Party. I have great respect for my Honourable friend's abilities. But the fact remains that he did not raise similar motions, with regard to Bengal when Mr. Fazlul Huque was made to resign forcibly, he did not raise the question when in the North-West Frontier Province the Ministry was changed. Either when similar undemocratic actions were taken in Assam and in Sind. I wish his constitutional conscience should have been touched. There is, therefore, no doubt that motive behind this motion is of a questionable value. Yet the fact remains that the motion on its merit is a sound one. The Government of India should do well to turn their attention to the merits of the motion. Sir, I may relate one case which happened recently and which the press has not published. In the town of Gojra, about 30 miles from Lyallpur, a similar meeting was convened where people were asked to make contributions. The conduct of the conveners exasperated one man to such a degree that he became mad over this 'forcible levy', and made a murderous assault upon the organiser of the meeting. He was pursued by the Police and was shot dead. The reason that led to such unfortunate results was that his father was asked to contribute Rs. 100 to one of such funds. His old father did not have that much as his whole capital. The humiliation of his father upset the youngman leading to tragic consequences. This has happened recently. May I ask whether the Government of India will not rise to the occasion and stop these forced levies. There are so many contributions to be made and so many funds are made—Zamindara Fund, Saving Schemes and War loans—that it has become hard for the people to live.

The second point, to which my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin has drawn attention, requires serious consideration, and that is the utilization of the civil services for the purposes of party propaganda and for the collection of funds. This is being done every day and probably in every province. There is no dearth of it in the Punjab. Meetings are organised, the headmen of villages are required to bring people to these meetings and to contribute forcibly. I do not think the National War Front was intended for that purpose. The object of the National War Front was to keep up the morale of the civil population during the war and to help in the war effort. It is very doubtful whether war effort is helped by such conduct of civil servants. The Leader of the House may say that he has received a clear denial. It may be true that he received a complete denial; but the fact remains that all the facts stated by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party are correct word for word. These things are done, we know it, we see it; we are witnessing it daily. For the purpose of debate you may say anything to win this point or lose that point—that is not the question. The question is that the country is passing through terrible times. If people are silent, it is because of the Defence of India Rules. Therefore don't you judge the silence of people, the want of people being vocal by the fact that there is no such complaint in the country. Press cannot publish such incidents; people cannot speak about them; they are bearing it all quietly. But I am afraid that when this suppression ends there will be a ter-

rible reaction to the disadvantage of any established Government. I give this warning to the Government before it is too late.

Some Honourable Members: Question may be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur-Rahim): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—50.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.	Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.	Mehta, Mr. Jammadas M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Miller, Mr. C. C.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.	Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.	Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.	Sir A. Ramaswami.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Piars Lal Kureel, Mr.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.	Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.	Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.	Richardson, Sir Henry.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.	Sethna, Mr. D. P.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.	Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.	Muhammad.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.	Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.	Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Spence, Sir George.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.	Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
James, Sir F. E.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.	Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Joshi, Mr. D. S.	Thakur Singh, Capt.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.	Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.	Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—38.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.	Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.	Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.	Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.	Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.	Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.	Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.	Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.	Sant Singh, Sardar.
Fazli-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.	Satvanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.	Sinha, Mr. Satva Narayan.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.	Umar Ali Shah, Mr.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.	Vamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.	Vusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was adopted.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am indeed sorry that some of the Honourable Members have considered it fit to drag in the political quarrel between the Muslim League and the Premier of the Punjab. I am more sorry that the Leader of the House should have lent his support to it. I have not brought forward this motion because there is a quarrel between the Premier of the Punjab and the Muslim League. Let me assure the Honourable the Leader of the House and the other Honourable Members of this House that the Muslim League, thank God, today does not need the support of the Members of this House to fight its political quarrels with others. The Muslim League has through the strength which it enjoys brought down bigger men than Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana. I am indeed very sorry that this Government of India should have a Member for Information who is so misinformed and so ill-informed. He said that I have failed to show that any political speeches have

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan] been made from the National War Front platform. I thought I had given quotations from more than one speech of the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana. I had given quotations from speeches which were published in the *Tribune* of Lahore and which up to to-day have not been contradicted that the Honourable Malik did not make those speeches.

Now let me educate the Honourable Member for Information by giving a quotation of another speech. It is definitely stated that this was a meeting at Lyallpur:

"Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, while speaking at the National War Front Conference held at Lyallpur last evening (*this is quoted in the 'Tribune' of the 31st July, dak edition*) criticised the Muslim League for its refusal to co-operate with and work on the various Post-war reconstruction committees appointed by the Government and referred to the treatment accorded to Sir Sultan Ahmed and some distinguished Punjabees by expelling them from the League for having refused to withdraw from the Government committee."

Now I understand the tender feeling which the Honourable Member has for the Leader of the Punjab National War Front!

Further on, the Honourable Member says that Malik Khizar Hayat Khan never made any speech in support of the Zamindara League from the platform of the National War Front. This was a conference held by the National War Front. It is not a question of replying to the address of the Zamindara League: I will deal with that in a moment:

"While replying to the charge that the activities of the Zamindara League were opposed to the interests of the rural and backward classes, the Premier declared that he and his party would continue to serve the poor and work for the uplift of the backward classes, a majority of whom happened to be Muslims."

Sir, there are really so many quotations from his speeches published in the papers that I think it would be brazen-faced on the part of any Honourable Member of this House to say that the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana has not made political speeches from the National War Front platform and I challenge anybody to deny that or ask the Punjab Premier to deny that all these reports which have been published in the papers during the last four or five months are untrue. On the contrary, my information is that before the Honourable the Premier goes to any place he sends an advance copy of his speech to these papers and they publish it under his authority. It is not a question of publishing anything that he has said and which has been reported by some correspondent.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend said and some other Members are also confused, that I said that the funds of the National War Front were being utilised for other purposes. I never said that. What I said was this: that the National War Front organisation was being misused and that funds were being collected and I have definite information and if the Honourable Member for Misinformation is willing to appoint a committee of enquiry, I shall be glad to furnish him with such unimpeachable evidence that he will really be surprised, although I do not think he is so ignorant as he pretends to be. What I said was that all this money was being collected in the name of the people who are supposed to work for the National War Front organisation. All this money is being presented to deceive the people from whom the money has been collected at these meetings of the National War Front, so that they may not doubt that this money was being collected for other purposes.

I am sorry that the Honourable Member referred to the late Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. I do not remember that on any single occasion he had made at any meeting of the National War Front a political speech, criticising any political party. He made speeches in support of the war effort. He made speeches in support of strengthening the home front and the purses that were presented to the late Sir Sikandar were all presented for purposes of the war. I challenge my Honourable friend, the Member for Misinformation, to prove that on a single occasion any purse was presented to the late Sir Sikandar, which was meant for propagating any political party's creed. It is absolutely wrong to say that the attitude of the present leader of the National War Front is exactly the same as that of his predecessor.

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin said that the Punjab is a peculiar province. After his speech I am inclined to agree with him, because the arguments which he gave were most peculiar. I never charged the Zamindara League. My objection is that the platform which was meant and intended and which is declared to be non-political and non-communal and only for the purpose of fighting this war should not be used for any other purpose and I think I have succeeded in showing that that is what is actually happening now.

My Honourable friend, the Member for Misinformation, stated that he was very happy to see that at least three members from the Punjab had stood up for the attitude which has been taken up by the Leader of the National War Front in the Punjab. I do not mean any disrespect to any of the Honourable Members of this House but I think five Members have spoken on this motion from the Punjab. Two of them are Nominated Members. One is a Member who represents a special constituency of a few individuals. I am referring to my Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin. The two Members who represent the people of the Punjab, my Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh and my Honourable friend Mr. Zafar Ali Khan have supported me in this motion which I have placed before this Honourable House.

Sir, it was I think very unfortunate that my Honourable friend the Leader of the House should have referred to the *Zamindar* in the terms in which he did. I did not read out any leading article from that paper. Let me tell him that the *Zamindar* is not a party paper in the sense in which he intended it to be. I did not read out any leading article from the *Zamindar*. I was only reading out statements issued by responsible members of the public in the Punjab. They have issued those statements and they have been published in the paper. I do not know how he can really put this matter aside by saying that "the *Zamindar* is a party paper. Party papers have to do this". I think that it is the duty of every newspaper to publish every matter which is of common interest and of public interest to the people. The *Zamindar* only did this duty by publishing the statements which were issued by these responsible men.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin stated that the gentleman who was removed from the District leadership of the National War Front of Montgomery was not showing sufficient interest in the organisation. Well, it is very strange that this very gentleman was praised to the skies by the Leader of the National War Front till the beginning of 1944. It was only after the Leader of the National War Front started misusing the platform of this organisation for his political purposes that he discovered that this Honourable Member was not doing his duty by the National War Front.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: I suppose till then the National War Front Leader was an angel!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: As far as my Honourable friend Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal is concerned, I am sorry that he has committed the same fallacy; that I had brought forward this motion on the floor of this House, because of our quarrel with Malik Khizar Hayat Khan. That is not the fact. I brought this on the floor of this House because I felt that this was a matter which was going to affect the public life and the working of democratic parliamentary system of government in this country very seriously. The intention of the Government is to continue this organisation even after the war. I shall deal with that on another occasion; and if this organisation is going to be used for such purposes as I have described, then I say that it will indeed be a sad day for this country and for the future of this country that the Government money and the Government officials and the Government influence should be used for propping up any particular political party. I was expecting really a better answer from the Honourable Leader of the House; and I would request him to devote a little more time and read the speeches which have been made by Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, not at Zamindara League meetings, not at district board meetings but at meetings held by the National War Front Organisation of the Punjab. I want him to read those speeches. Why should you

depend on what the Government of the Punjab has written and assured you saying "Oh, no; we are not doing this"? God has given you intelligence; God has given you sense; you can read the speeches yourself and find out for yourself whether it is really propagating the political views of any particular political party from the platform of the National War Front Organisation or not. It is not a secret; it is open; everybody knows it; everybody in the Punjab who reads the papers knows it; and those who do not read the papers also know it because money is extracted from them by force. So, it is really not a matter on which secret or confidential opinion of the Punjab Government was to be considered as final. I again repeat and I submit to my Honourable friend who is in charge of this organisation to really consider this matter seriously. If you are going to allow that an organisation like that should be used by political parties for private purposes, then it will create a very serious situation. It is one party in power today—it may be another party tomorrow and there will be so much demoralisation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: . . . of the services and of the people that the future of this country would indeed be very dark.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 2nd November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 2nd November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

31. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 776 given on the 4th April, 1944, will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether the sum of Rs. 13,000 given monthly to the Indian Labour Federation has been distributed amongst the President, Vice-Presidents and other office-bearers of the Federation? If so, in what proportion?

(b) Has the Honourable Member looked into the audited accounts of the Federation to find out how this money has been utilized? If not, why not? If so, does he propose to place the audited accounts on the table of the House from the date the subsidy of Rs. 13,000 a month was paid up to this day?

(c) Is it a fact that this question came up before the International Labour Conference, which met at Philadelphia, in the form of the comparative representative character of the Indian Labour Federation and the All-India Trade Union Congress, and what was the decision of the Conference? What has been decided for the future representation of the Indian Labour on the International Labour Conference to be given to an organization not living on subsidy?

(d) Have all the funds paid to the Indian Labour Federation been spent on the object for which they were given? If so, will he give a brief account of the activities of the Federation in this respect? If any part thereof has not been used for the purpose for which it was granted, will the Honourable Member please take steps to have that much portion refunded to the Government? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The grant is made to the Indian Federation of Labour as an organisation and is not distributed among its several office bearers.

(b) and (d) (First part). Government are not concerned with the accounts of the Federation, but with the manner in which the Government contribution has been spent by the Federation. They are satisfied that although full and regular accounts are not available for the earlier period of the grant, this expenditure has achieved the objects for which it was sanctioned. With effect from the 1st June, 1944 the accounts will be prepared in the Federation's office by a qualified accountant, and these will be available to audit in the ordinary way.

(c) The grant was mentioned in an objection by the All India Trade Union Congress made to the International Labour Office as regards the credentials of the workers' representatives in the Indian delegation. The Credentials Committee, in its report which was adopted by the Conference, asked the Conference to regard the Workers' delegate of India and his advisers at that session of the Conference as duly accredited. The Committee's report did not mention the grant but stated as follows:

"It does not doubt that the Government of India will continue its endeavours to make provision for the representation of both organisations in an appropriate manner at future sessions of the Conference and ventures to hope that the two organisations will reach an agreement, which will secure the effective participation in the International Labour Organisation of representatives of all sections of the Indian Trade Union movement. The Committee understands that, failing such an agreement, the Indian Workers' delegate to the next session of the

Conference will be appointed in agreement with the All India Trade Union Congress."

(d) (Second part). The monthly grant is spent on publications of printed literature, oral propaganda, visual publicity and the disseminating of reassuring news.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the object for which the grant has been given?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The answer will be found in my answer to part (d) (Second part). It states that the grant is spent on publication of printed literature, oral propaganda, visual publicity and the disseminating of reassuring news about war.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are the Government satisfied that the money given by them has been spent on those items alone?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, they are satisfied.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Government are aware that part of this money has been spent on anti-Congress propaganda?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They have no information.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will they inquire into the matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have stated in my answer that with effect from the 1st of June, 1944, the accounts will be prepared in the Federation's Office by a qualified accountant and these will be available to audit in the ordinary way.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether this payment is made monthly or yearly?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no information on this point in front of me. I suppose it is made monthly.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it paid to the Secretary or the President?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: To some responsible officer of the organisation concerned.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the subject of this propaganda and the subjects of the publications issued?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is pro-war propaganda and pro-war literature.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member be prepared to place the audited accounts on the table of the House?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: When it is audited, it will be placed on the table and will be available to the Members in the ordinary way.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the period covered for which there have been no accounts?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: For the earlier period; we have not got the exact accounts but we have now made arrangements that the accounts will be kept by an officer of the Audit Department.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What was the amount?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am unable to give the figure.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Who is responsible for not keeping these accounts in the earlier period—the Honourable Member himself or the Government or they?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not followed the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member said that for some period no accounts were kept.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not said that no accounts were kept. What I said was:

They are satisfied that, although full and regular accounts are not available for the earlier period of the grant, the money has been spent in the manner in which the Government desired it should be spent.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Government satisfied that the money has been spent properly?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no reason to believe to the contrary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It is not a question of the Honourable Member believing to the contrary.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What evidence has the Honourable Member got for thinking that the money has been spent properly?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no reason to believe to the contrary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My question was different. How is the Honourable Member able to believe one way or the other?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no reason to believe that the amount was not spent regularly.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is only to the satisfaction of the Honourable Member himself or does he take into account that the public has to be satisfied how the money has been spent? How has the Honourable Member satisfied the public?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know how I could satisfy the public but the Government which paid the money is satisfied.

Sardar Sant Singh: It is the taxpayers' money that the Government is paying out. How is the Government going to satisfy the taxpayer that the money has been legitimately spent?

(No answer.)

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Was the Finance Member satisfied with the correctness of accounts?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That question might be addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Who is the Secretary and who is the President of this Labour Federation? Are they paid some salary or money from this fund?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It does not arise. If the Honourable Member will give notice, I will find out the information for him.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I raise a point of order? Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad asked whether the Finance Member was satisfied and the Labour Member replied that the question might be addressed to the Finance Member. The Member in charge ought to know whether the Finance Member was satisfied or not. He must give the reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has given the reply. I cannot ask the Honourable Member to reply in a particular way.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

32. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 776 given on the 4th April, 1944, will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a statement made by the President, Indian Labour Federation, at Bombay in December last, at the 1st Annual Session of the Federation, that it was a blackest lie that they were receiving Rs. 13,000 per month from the Government?

(b) Has the Honourable Member's attention been also drawn to a statement made by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President of the Indian Labour Federation on his departure for Philadelphia to attend the International Labour Conference meeting, denying the fact of Rs. 13,000 of the Government's subsidy?

(c) Is it also a fact that this statement was made in reply to the Honourable the Labour Member's statement in the House on the 4th April, 1944, confirming the fact that a sum of Rs. 13,000 was being given to the Indian Labour Federation?

(d) Is it a fact that the subsidy of Rs. 13,000 is secretly paid to Mr. M. N. Roy? If so, why is it paid to this particular individual and not to the Indian Labour Federation?

(e) Will the Honourable Member please make a brief statement as to the measures taken by the Indian Labour Federation during the period it has been

in receipt of the monthly subsidy to achieve the object, e.g., to assist the Government in maintaining the labour morale?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a), (b) and (c). Government's attention has been drawn to the statements referred to. From the very beginning the arrangement has been with the Indian Federation of Labour and not with any individual. The attention of the Federation was drawn to Mr. Mehta's statements and in reply the Federation has re-affirmed the fact that the arrangement is with the Federation.

(d) As already stated in reply to the preceding question, the grant is publicly made to the Indian Federation of Labour and not personally to Mr. M. N. Roy.

(e) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to the second part of part (d) of the preceding question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member has stated in his reply that the money was given and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, before he went to Philadelphia, made a statement that the money was not given. How does the Honourable Member reconcile this inconsistency?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is not for me to reconcile the two statements.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member correct or not in having made the statement?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is not for me to answer that question.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know who is telling this blackest lie, either the Federation or the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend is free to draw any conclusions that he likes.

LICENCES FOR PRODUCTION OF FULL LENGTH ENTERTAINMENT FILMS.

33. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state how many licences for the production of full length entertainment films have been issued since the promulgation of Control Order in India?

(b) Is there any distinction made in giving licences to independent producers and studio owners? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that concerns who only rent out their studios to independent producers have themselves been given licences to produce pictures in their own name.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The total number of licences issued up to the end of September 1944 is 260.

(b) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the replies to Dr. Habibur Rahman's Starred Question No. 716, on the 30th March, 1944, wherein I stated the principles on which raw film is licensed. A minimum of two pictures has been fixed for a Studio-owner whereas no such minimum is fixed for an Independent producer. The reason for this differentiation is that a Studio-owner is required to shoulder much larger overhead and maintenance expenditure.

(c) No.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if a list of the persons to whom the licences have been given is maintained in the office? If so, will it be placed on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: A list is maintained but I will consider whether I will be able to place it on the table of the House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have any representations been made to the Honourable Member with regard to the matter contained in part (c) of my question that only those who pay the rent should be given the licences? What I want to know is whether the Honourable Member has got representations to that effect and whether the statement that I have made in part (c) of the question is correct?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Ever since the economic controls of different commodities has come into force I am flooded with representations of all types. If my Honourable friend would be rather specific, I will try to answer his question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have these representations been held to be unfounded?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will not say they are unfounded, but so long as the position continues that we have got only a restricted supply of films, we have to give it on certain considerations and principles, and the principles that we have enunciated are what I have stated in reply to the last part of this question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I take it that answer to part (c) of this question is 'Yes'?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The answer to that part of the question is 'No'.

PEGGING ACT.

34. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether the Pegging Act has been passed? If so, on what date, and from what date does it come into force?

(b) Has it been passed against the objections having been raised to its enactment by the Asiatics particularly the Indian Nationals?

(c) Are there any relieving features in the Act? If so, which?

(d) What efforts has the Indian Government made to oppose the passing of the Pegging Act or remove its stringent provisions?

(e) Is it a fact that lately one Mr. Pathar was sentenced to a fine or a month's hard labour for occupying premises 232, Moor Road, Durban, and that the defence was that he was in occupation before the Pegging Act came into operation?

(f) On what grounds was Mr. Pathar found guilty?

(g) What steps do the Government of India propose to take through the British Government to get the alleged undemocratic Pegging Act removed from the Statute Book?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Trading and Occupation of Land (Transvaal and Natal) Restriction Act, 1943. This Act received the assent of the officer administering the Government on the 28th April 1943, when it presumably came into force.

(b) Yes.

(c) None in the opinion of the Government of India.

(d) and (g). As the House is aware, the Government of India had made representations to the Union Government before the passing of the Act. Since then the Government of India also made further representations. The Union Government and representatives of the Indian community have arrived at an Agreement, known as the Pretoria Agreement. Under this Agreement a licensing board composed of two Indian members and two European members with a European with legal training as Chairman is to be established for the regulation of the occupation of property. On the creation of the licensing board the Pegging Legislation is to be withdrawn from the areas to which it has been applied. The Agreement has to be embodied in Legislation and an Ordinance, introduced in the Natal Provincial Council to that end, has now emerged from the Select Committee Stage. The Select Committee has made radical alterations in the Ordinance and further correspondence is now going on with the Union Government as regards future action.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House on the 30th March, 1944, to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. K. S. Gupta's Starred Question No. 703. Mr. Pather's defence was not accepted by the court on the ground that the last instalment of the purchase price of the house was not paid until April 1943, so that technically occupation took place after the prescribed date of 22nd March, 1943.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I believe a day is going to be allotted during this session for the consideration of the matter with which the Honourable Member is concerned. May I know if this question also will then be debated and whether certain light will be thrown on it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Certainly it will be debated.

RESERVATION OF KENYA HIGHLANDS FOR EUROPEANS.

35. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that Kenya Highlands have been reserved exclusively for Europeans on the ground that that part of the country is suitable for Europeans to cultivate? If so, why are Indians not considered capable to cultivate the highlands?

(b) Is it a fact that this matter went before the Colonial Office? If so, what was the opinion or advice given by the Colonial Office for the benefit of the Indian Nationals?

(c) In view of the fact that Indians helped in civilizing and popularising South Africa, and in view of the acknowledged bravery and loyalty shown by the Indians in the present war, do Government propose to have the Indian Nationals treated better and get them equal rights with the Europeans in the territories and colonies under the supervision and suzerainty of the British Government? If not, has the Indian Government no remedy at all in their hands to come to the relief of the Indian Nationals?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Indians are not considered incapable of cultivating land in the Highlands but, on the ground that the area suitable for European cultivation is limited, the Highlands have been actually reserved by His Majesty's Government for Europeans only as a matter of administrative convenience.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 8 of Part II of the Kenya White Paper of 1923, the Resolution of the Government of India of July 18, 1923, which accompanied its publication and to the Government of India's press communiqué of the 24th February, 1939, on the Kenya (Highlands) Order-in-Council of 1939. Copies are available in the Assembly Library.

(c) Yes; the Government of India are constantly endeavouring to achieve the objects which the Honourable Member refers to.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Will the Honourable Member kindly state whether in the term "Europeans" Germans are also included?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe so.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Have they also the right of cultivation in the Highlands?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Not now.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: What is the view of the Government of India—whether it is a case of administrative convenience or it is a case of racial discrimination?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I myself hold the view that it is a case of racial discrimination.

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE FOR BURMA AND COMMITTEE FOR RESTORATION OF PROPERTY OF INDIANS.

36. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether the Government of Burma have already formed a Reconstruction Committee for Burma and a Committee for the restoration of the property of Indians?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to make a statement or to lay a statement on the table of the House about the progress that has been made in this Committee?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). The Government of Burma appointed various Reconstruction Committees to advise on proposals for the reconstruction of different departments of that Government on the re-occupation of Burma, but no separate Committee was formed to advise on the question of restoration of property of Indians. The Reconstruction Committees so appointed have submitted their reports to the Government of Burma

who are now considering their recommendations. The Reconstruction Committee on Rural Economy went into the question of action to be taken in regard to the restoration of land to the owners who were in their rightful possession at the time of evacuation and its recommendations in this respect will receive the attention of Government of Burma in due course.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member's Department keeping itself in close touch with these activities of the Burma Government?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Yes.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Have the Government of India formally come into the picture at all now, because I remember on a previous occasion the Honourable Member stated that the Government of India was not participating in these discussions formally? Have the Government of India come formally into this picture as yet?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Yes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member instruct the representative who has now been appointed for this purpose to make inquiries and report to us?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think that will be part of his ordinary duties.

RESTORATION TO INDIANS OF PROPERTIES LOST BY THEM IN BURMA.

37. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) In view of the fact that Burma will be recaptured mainly by Indian Forces, does the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations propose to press the Burmese Government to restore the properties of the Indians lost by looting, unlawful capture and confiscation by the Japanese?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Mussalmans and Hindus endowed in Burma both movable and immovable properties for the maintenance of mosques, temples and other charitable institutions? Will the Honourable Member take early steps to ensure that these endowed properties are recovered from unlawful usurpers and restored to the Trustees of the Waqf to be spent in the manner laid down in the Waqf Deed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). The Government of India will take up these matters with the Burma Government in due course.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will these things be considered in the Peace Conference?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I hope so.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will these things be considered through the representative that the Government of India have appointed for Burma or will they be considered through some other independent way?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Our Representative is the usual channel of our communication and they will be considered through him.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is he the sole channel of communication between the Government of India and the Government of Burma?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Not necessarily.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What will be the matters which will be dealt with by this officer and what are the other matters which will be dealt with independently by the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, that does not arise out of this question at all.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member instruct our representative to collect the figures of the losses and find them out and lay before the House the amount of losses sustained by Indians?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think it will be done in due course.

DESIRABILITY OF BURMA GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR SCHOOLS FORMERLY MAINTAINED BY ENDOWMENTS IN RANGOON.

38. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please consider the question of approaching the Burmese

Government to give a grant for the schools which were maintained by the endowments existing in Rangoon and which have now been confiscated by the enemies?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that some Indian States like Hyderabad and Baroda are giving special assistance to their own subjects who are refugees and evacuees from Burma and Eastern Colonies? Do the Government of India propose to give similar assistance to these people till employment is found for them?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Government of India do not consider it desirable to approach the Government of Burma.

(b) Yes, the Government of India are already giving necessary financial assistance to refugees in British India.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Government of India give some small assistance to the schools which were run by the endowments in Burma?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That will be considered when the time arrives.

ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES AND EVACUEES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND BURMA GOVERNMENT.

39. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state the financial arrangements between the Government of India and the Government of Burma as regards the expenditure incurred by the Indian Exchequer in supporting the refugees and the evacuees?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The Expenditure incurred on Indians and Anglo-Indians is met from Indian revenues and that on Burmans, Anglo-Burmans, European British subjects and all other British subjects other than Indians and Anglo-Indians is charged to the Government of Burma.

ANTI-HOARDING BILL.

40. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Has the Honourable the Food Member seen the Bill (Anti-Hoarding Bill) whose notice was issued by me?

(b) Why does the Honourable Member refuse to allow even the introduction of the Bill?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Leave to the introduction of the Bill was refused not by me but by the Governor-General acting in his discretion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: And on the advice of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have nothing to add to the answer that I have just now given.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF FOODGRAINS.

41. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total production of foodgrains in the year 1943-44, and what the total consumption was?

(b) What is the total expected production of foodgrain in the year 1944-45, and what is the estimated consumption of the same?

(c) Will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table giving the production of each foodgrain, provincewise, and also its consumption in each province?

(d) What is the percentage of consumption (i) for army purposes, and (ii) for export to the countries whom India has been feeding for the last fifteen years?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The total production of cereal foodgrains in 1943-44 was estimated at 57.5 million tons. Total consumption during the year is not known, but in addition to domestic supplies a net import of 289,000 tons of foodgrains was made available during the year.

(b) The total expected production of foodgrains in the year 1944-45 is not yet available in respect of all the foodgrains. It is too early yet to estimate

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

what the production of the *rabi* grains in 1944-45 will be, while information available about *khari* grains is far from complete.

It is not possible to estimate consumption of foodgrains in 1944-45.

(c) A statement giving the production of each foodgrains, province-wise, and also total available supply in each province for the year 1943-44 is laid on the table.

(d) (i) It is not in the public interest to reveal what proportion of the total supplies were required for army purposes but I may assure the Honourable Member that the percentage was extremely small.

(ii) Export to foreign countries in 1943-44 was about 0.08 per cent. of the total available in the country.

Production, Imports, Exports and nett available supply of rice in different Provinces and States during 1943-44.

Area	Production	Imports	(In '000 tons)	
			Exports	Nett available supply
Assam	2,104	..	91	2,013
Bengal	11,782	347	3	12,126
Bihar	3,372	4	52	3,324
Bombay	836	120	..	956
C. P. and Berar	1,812	..	146	1,666
Madras	4,965	45	85	4,925
Orissa	1,349	1	123	1,227
Punjab (including Delhi)	426	(c) 1	134	293
Sind	501	..	186	315
U. P.	1,863	..	5	1,858
N. W. F. P.	(b) 20	2	..	22
Baluchistan	(b) 15	..	14	1
Ajmer-Merwara	Neg.	2	..	2
Baroda	78	1	..	79
C. I. States (Bhopal)	6	Neg.	..	6
Bombay States	259	14	..	273
Eastern States	559	..	71	488
Hyderabad	355	6	..	361
Khairpur	3	..	..	3
Mysore	255	14	1	268
Rampur	9	..	..	9
Punjab States	(a) 40	..	7	33
Rajputana	(a) 7	1	..	8
Coorg	69	..	14	55
Kashmir	(a) 322	..	1	321
Travancore/Cochin	(b) 295	136	..	431
Others	..	226	3	223
Total	31,302	920	936	31,286

NOTE.—Production figures have been taken from the final forecast for 1943-44 issued by the D. C. I. and S.

(a) Relates to 1942-43 figure supplied by the Governments concerned. 1943-44 figure not available.

(b) Supplied by the Governments concerned.

(c) Relates to imports into Delhi only.

Production, Imports, Exports and nett available supply of Wheat in different Provinces and States during 1943-44.

Area	Production	Imports	(In '000 tons). Exports	Nett available supply
Assam	Neg.	15		15
Bengal	51	456	5	502
Bihar	453	19	1	471
Bombay	(c) 264	230	5	489
C. P. and Berar	370	35		405
Madras		43		43
Orissa	2	7		9
Punjab	(c) 3,412		852	2,560
Sind	443	5	131	317
U. P.	2,525	Neg.	96	2,429
N. W. F. P.	246	3		249
Delhi	13	7		20
Baluchistan	(b) 50	4		54
Ajmer-Merwara	10	14		24
Baroda	54	1		55
C. I. States	240	4	3	241
Bombay States	(c) 112	16	2	126
Eastern States	15	Neg.		15
Hyderabad	77	4		81
Khairpur	43			43
Mysore	Neg.	14		14
Rampur	32			32
Punjab States	(c) 525	Neg.	163	362
Gwalior	327		Neg.	327
Rajputana	476	10	4	482
Travancore/Cochin	Neg.	109		109
Kashmir	(a) 116	7		123
Others		479	2	477
Total	9,856	1,482	1,264	10,074

NOTE.—Production figures are based on the final forecast of 1943-44 issued by D. C. I. and S. supplemented by Provincial forecasts where found necessary.

(a) Relates to 1942-43 figure supplied by the Government concerned. 1943-44 figure not available.

(b) Supplied by the Government concerned.

(c) The Provincial and State figures have been separated by splitting the combined final forecast figures in the proportion of the 4th forecast estimates.

Production of Maize and Barley in different Provinces and States of India and their Foreign Imports during 1943-44.

Province or State	(In '000 tons).	
	Maize	Barley
Bengal	48	48
Bihar	467	495
Bombay	56	2
C. P. and Berar	102	2
Madras	30	Neg.
Orissa	7	1
Punjab	514	210
Sind	1	4
U. P.	922	1,298
N. W. F. P.	203	52
Delhi	Neg.	4
Ajmer-Merwara	7	16
Hyderabad	104	1
Khairpur		1
Total production	2,461	2,134
Foreign imports	(a) 4	(b) 127
Total available supply	2,465	2,261

NOTE.—Production figures have been supplied by the D. C. I. and S. and the Provincial or State Governments concerned.

(a) The whole of this was given to Travancore and Cochin.

(b) The break-up of this is given below:—

Bengal	26.8
Bombay	34.3
Madras	0.6
W. I. States	0.1
Baroda	6.2
Deccan	0.1
Hyderabad	0.3
Mysore	1.3
Travancore/Cochin	2.0
Defence Services	16.5
	82.2
Karachi Depot	44.8
Total	127.0

Production, Imports, Exports and nett available supply of Millets (Jowar and Bajra) in different Provinces and States during 1943-44.

Area	(In '000 tons)			
	Production	Imports	Exports	Nett available supply
Baluchistan	18		10	8
Bengal	3	66		69
Bihar	44	Neg.		44
Bombay	1,840	106	Neg.	1,946
C. P. and Berar	1,396		7	1,389
Madras	1,766	50		1,816
Orissa	9			9
Punjab	622		127	495
Sind	315		1	314
U. P.	1,103		46	1,057
N. W. F. P.	21	Neg.	Neg.	21
Delhi	23	7		30
Ajmer-Merwara	9	2		11
Baroda and Gujrat States	398	11	4	405
C. I. States	209	6	Neg.	215
Bombay States	1,362	27	13	1,376
Hyderabad	1,560		56	1,504
Khairpur	29			29
Mysore	145	1	Neg.	146
Punjab States	(a) 353		41	312
Rajputana	(a) 513	7	5	515
Travancore/Cochin	Neg.	31		31
Kashmir	(a) 58			58
Others	Nil.	3		3
Total	11,796	317	310	11,803

NOTE.—Production figures have been supplied by the D. C. I. and S. and the Provincial or State Governments concerned.

(a) Relates to 1942-43 figures supplied by the Government concerned. 1943-44 figures not available.

POLICY RE IMMIGRATION OF JEWS.

42. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to make a statement as to the policy of the Government of India in regard to immigration of Jews to India with particular reference to the following matters:

(i) was the policy initiated by the Government of India or was it done by His Majesty's Government; and

(ii) did the Governor General in Council consider this matter?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Home Member who will reply in due course.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[2ND NOV. 1944]

LOWER WAGES, ETC., OF INDIAN SEA-MEN EMPLOYED ON BRITISH-OWNED SHIPS.

43. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please make a statement with reference to his answer to my starred question No. 71 given on the 10th February, 1944 in connection with lower wages, etc., of Indian sea-men employed on British-owned ships, showing the extent to which he has been able to carry out the assurances given by him? If nothing has been done, why?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The matter is still under negotiation and discussion.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: How long it will take?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have been expecting that it will be finally decided as soon as possible.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: How long has the discussion been going on?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: On what point?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Generally with regard to wages?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The wages were increased in June 1942, but the question of further increase of wages was taken up towards the end of September 1942 and the matter is still not settled.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the fact that expenses are increasing every day and every hour, will the matter be taken up seriously and promptly dealt with?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can assure my Honourable friend that I have taken up the matter as seriously as possible.

FRANCHISE OF INDIANS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

44. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: With reference to his answer to my starred question No. 395 given on the 14th March 1944 regarding franchise of Indians in British Columbia, will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state what the outcome of the correspondence carried on by the Government of India and referred to in my last question (i.e., No. 395) is? Will the whole correspondence between the Government of India and the British Columbian Government be placed on the table?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The Government of India have made several enquiries since then, the last enquiry being made only last month. I regret we have still no information about the result of our representations. It will not be in the public interest to publish the official correspondence.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Since representations were made so long ago, what is the explanation for Government not achieving anything for Indians so far?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I cannot give any explanation.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: When a discussion of this question takes place on the day allotted for this purpose, will all the questions arising out of all the Colonies be taken up? Will the question relating to Ceylon be discussed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No, Sir. We will discuss only South Africa and East Africa.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The Honourable Member just now said that the correspondence cannot be placed on the table. Will the Honourable Member at least give a gist of the correspondence?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No, Sir.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the objection to giving a gist of the correspondence that has been carried on?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The gist is already contained in the reply.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The House would like to know what representations were made?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It comes to this. We have made representations and we await reply.

STEPS FOR PERMANENT REHABILITATION OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIA.

45. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education; Health and Lands please state what steps were taken after he made his speech on the 10th March, 1943 on the cut motion moved by Mr. Lawson "that the demand under the Head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100" and the means whereby the present prosperous agricultural conditions might be used for the permanent rehabilitation of agriculture in India in respect of—

- (i) the raising of money crops such as pyrethrum and cinchona;
- (ii) agricultural debt;
- (iii) permanent benefit of the agriculturist—planning of production, creation of agricultural credits;
- (iv) fixing of prices of foodgrains to raise the standard of living of the agriculturist; and
- (v) financial policy having no other aim but to make life better for all the people of India of whom about 60 per cent. to 70 per cent. are agriculturists?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(i) In 1943, 5,600 lbs. of Pyrethrum seeds were imported from Kenya (East Africa) and distributed to the Governments of Madras, the Punjab, Assam, Patiala and Kashmir. Government agreed to buy the produce at certain fixed prices. The area under pyrethrum under this scheme is 2358 acres.

As regards cinchona, arrangements have been made for the planting of 2,000 acres with cinchona in 1943 and 1944.

(ii) The question of agricultural indebtedness was considered by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and as recommended by that Committee the Government of India have appointed a Sub-Committee to report on the ways in which indebtedness can be reduced and finance, both short term and long term, provided, under efficient control, for agriculture and animal husbandry operations. The report of the Sub-Committee is expected in January.

(iii) The Government of India have given to the provinces for the development of agriculture Rs. 295 lakhs as loans and Rs. 222 lakhs as grants in the last 2 years; Provincial Governments have probably given similar grants from their own funds. The main items for which grants have been given from the Centre are:

Irrigation, bunding, etc., Rs. 118.0 lakhs.

Manure distribution Rs. 27.63 lakhs.

Seed distribution Rs. 51.76 lakhs.

Miscellaneous (staff, bonus for cotton restriction, etc.) Rs. 24.61 lakhs.

All these schemes may be regarded as being for the permanent benefit of agriculturists. The question of planning production is under consideration in consultation with the Food Department. No additional agricultural credits are considered necessary at the present stage though the question of such credits for the post-war period will be looked into by a committee which it is proposed to set up shortly to deal with co-operation.

(iv) In April 1944 the Government of India announced that they were ready to purchase, until further notice, in the Punjab, United Provinces and Sind, through provincial government agency, all fair average quality wheat offered in assembling markets at Rs. 7-8-0 per maund unbagged. They also announced in May last that they would be willing to buy from the crop of 1944-45 all *jowar* and *bajra* of fair average quality offered for sale in the main assembling markets of the United Provinces, Central Provinces, Madras, the Punjab, Sind, and Ajmer-Merwara at prices of Rs. 5-8-0 and Rs. 6 a maund respectively, should prices fall.

On the recommendation of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, a Sub-Committee is being set up to examine how to have an assured market for agricultural produce and how to fix remunerative prices for it in the post-war period.

(v) The Central and Provincial Governments are planning for post-war development on the basis that considerable funds will be available over a period of years. The object of all such expenditure will be to make life better for all the people of India and steps will be taken to ensure that the rural population receive its share of the benefits. In the mean time the Government of India have been engaged in a policy of active assistance to the cultivator by means of loans and grants, especially in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign", as stated in answer to (iii) of the question, and grants such as those from the Cotton Fund.

STEPS FOR INCLUSION IN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL ROLLS OF NAMES OF PERSONS IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

46. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware that the names of many persons who are on active service in His Majesty's Forces were removed from the electoral rolls of the

Provincial Legislative Assemblies during the last revision in 1941, because they were absent from their homes and thus had lost their residential qualification;

(b) if he is aware that the revision of the electoral rolls for the Central Legislative Assembly now being undertaken will result in the removal from them of many names of persons on active service in His Majesty's Forces for the same reason;

(c) if it is a fact that unless there is an amendment of the Government of India Act, 1935, and rules thereunder, any revision of the Provincial or Central electoral rolls during and immediately after the war is bound to result in depriving many who are serving in His Majesty's Forces of the vote because of the loss of their residential qualification through absence on active service and in excluding others who would otherwise be qualified;

(d) if His Majesty's Government will be invited to undertake forthwith the necessary amendments of the Government of India Act of 1935 and the Rules thereunder; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the meantime to ensure that no person loses his right to vote in any Provincial or Central election, or his right to be included on the appropriate electoral roll in any revision thereof, solely on account of his absence from home on active service with His Majesty's Forces?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) and (e). The question is engaging the attention of Government.

Sir F. E. James: Does my Honourable friend hope to be in a position to make a statement on the subject before the end of this Session, if I put down another question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I cannot make any promise about it, but I will make enquiries, and if it is possible, it will be done.

FEES CHARGED FOR DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR PERSONS DYING IN IRWIN HOSPITAL

47. *Mr. C. P. Lawson: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) whether any limits are prescribed for the fees which may be charged by medical officers in the Irwin Hospital for death certificates for persons who die in that Hospital;

(b) if he is aware that dependents of persons who die in the Irwin Hospital may be unable to obtain access to the estate of the deceased until such death certificate is forthcoming;

(c) whether he is aware that on the 20th of May, 1944, Mr. K. V. Martin died of typhoid in the Irwin Hospital and a sum of Rs. 16 was demanded by the Resident Medical Officer before a death certificate could be issued;

(d) what steps he proposes to take to ensure that similar demands are not made in future; and

(e) whether steps will be taken by the authorities to fix the maximum charge for death certificates, and, if so, at what level the maximum will be fixed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) and (e). The fee charged was in accordance with the orders which existed at the time. The prescribed fee has since been reduced to Rs. 4.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he would look into the matter of supplying poor people with the means of getting access to such money as has been left either without any charge at all or with a nominal charge, by some means or other?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir, in so far as it relates to death certificates, I would look into it.

STATEMENT ON FAMINE CONDITIONS IN BENGAL

48. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to make a comprehensive and up-to-date statement, in continuation of the statement made by him, on the famine conditions in Bengal, in reply to my starred question No. 11 on the 7th February, 1944, dealing with the different points indicated in the said question?

(b) How have the supplies and prices of principal foodgrains varied in the different districts of Bengal since the above statement was made?

(c) What is the total quantity of foodgrains supplied to Bengal at the instance of the Central Government since January, 1944, and from which different areas were these supplies obtained? What is the system of procurement, storage and distribution of these supplies?

(d) Has the attention of the Central Government or the Honourable Member personally been drawn to various reports regarding the wastage and deterioration of foodgrains due to defective storage or deteriorated quality of supplies at different Government centres in Bengal? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a detailed statement indicating the nature of each such report, and the facts of the situation?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that a general complaint prevails all over Bengal regarding the bad quality of foodgrains supplied under Government control, and that in some past cases at least samples indicated that the supplies were unfit for human consumption? If so, has any enquiry been made at the instance of the Central Government into these complaints?

(f) Is it a fact that in some instances Municipal or other local authorities have not been permitted to exercise their normal functions regarding inquiry into and supervision over the quality of foodstuffs in connection with Government supplies of foodgrains in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I shall be making a comprehensive statement on the food position in the country in the course of the Food Debate today.

(b) Substantial purchases have been made by the Bengal Government under the *Aman* Procurement Scheme which together with the quantities supplied by the Central Government have enabled the Bengal Government to build up considerable stocks in the districts. No acute shortage of foodgrains has been reported from any part of the province during recent months.

The present average of subdivisional rice prices is Rs. 12-14-0, as against the controlled price of Rs. 13-8-0 in the surplus areas and Rs. 14-12-0 in the deficit areas. The trend of prices has been downward during all this period and rice is now available at or within the controlled rates in most of the districts. In Eastern Bengal, particularly in Chittagong, prices at one time rose to Rs. 35 per maund, but were brought within reasonable limits by accelerating despatches and releasing Government stocks at controlled rates.

(c) The total quantity of foodgrains supplied to Bengal since January 1st is over 4,75,000 tons. The supplies were obtained mainly from the Punjab, the Punjab States, the Central Provinces, Assam, the United Provinces, Nepal, the Eastern States, Orissa, Sind, Rewa and imports from abroad. The methods of procurement are not uniform in all supplying areas, but generally speaking, supplying areas procure the grain through authorised purchasing agents, which may be governmental agencies or trade agencies, store it wherever necessary and move it to the recipient areas, in accordance with the Basic Plan of the Food Department.

(d) and (e). The Government of India are aware that there have been complaints about poor quality and deterioration of stocks in storage. I propose to supply the information available to the Food Department on these complaints in course of the Food Debate.

(f) My information is that the functions of the Calcutta Corporation in this behalf are now under consideration by the Bengal Government.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: In part (b) the Honourable Member referred to the downward trend of prices. Will he be in a position to explain the reasons, so far as he may be aware of them, for this phenomenon?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall deal with that in the course of the debate.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With regard to (d) and (e) of the question, may I ask whether the appointment of a special storage expert has not in any way improved the position?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, it has improved, and is improving the position.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Improving the position of the storage expert, or what?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member kindly tell us exactly how the improvement has been effected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall deal with that also in the course of the debate.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is the Honourable Member aware that the District Magistrate of Backergunje has stated in a public meeting that people are dying literally of starvation in the most extensive area of that district?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: It has been published in the newspapers. Does not the Honourable Member read them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I read as many as I can.

STATEMENT ON SUPPLIES OF VEGETABLES, MILK, ETC., IN BENGAL.

49. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to place on the table a statement on the lines of that made by him in reply to my starred question No. 254 on the 17th November, 1943, bringing the information up-to-date from November, 1943?

(b) Is the Honourable Member in a position to make a statement regarding the prices and availability of milk, milk products, fish, poultry and eggs for the consumption of civil population in the different districts of Bengal during the last few months?

(c) To what extent has the scarcity of supplies of vegetables, milk, milk products, fish, poultry and eggs in the Bengal districts, for the civil population, and their ruling prices been induced, directly or indirectly, by the purchases, made on behalf of the Military authorities, British as well as American?

(d) Is the Honourable Member in a position to confirm the statement made by the War Secretary in reply to my starred question No. 292 on the 18th November, 1943, that "the Army to a large extent is self-supporting as regards potatoes and fresh vegetables leaving the normal produce largely untouched for the civil population", with reference to the situation that has prevailed in Bengal, particularly during the last few months? Is the Honourable Member also in a position to state whether the civil authorities in the districts of Bengal have been regularly consulted by special local purchase officers appointed by the War Department, in regard to the stocks of local vegetables and dairy products as well as the prices to be paid therefor, as indicated by the War Secretary in reply to my said starred question?

(e) What is the policy of the Central Government in regard to the maintenance of adequate supplies for the civil population in the different Provinces in respect of vegetables, fruits, dairy products, poultry, eggs, fish and meat and the regulation of their prices?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement showing monthly prices of vegetables and fruits in the Calcutta market since November 1943, is laid on the table.

(b) Precise statistics of prices are not available but reports from Calcutta and Districts in Bengal indicate that there has been an upward trend in the prices of these commodities during the last five months. They are available at these prices to the civil population.

(c) It is not possible without an exhaustive economic survey to assess with any exactitude to what extent the scarcity of the supplies of the commodities mentioned in the question has been due to purchases by the military authorities or to what extent purchases by them have affected market prices.

(d) The Army in Bengal is to a very large extent self supporting in vegetables, but not yet in potatoes, since military schemes for growing the latter have not yet begun to operate fully. It is hoped, however, that the military will be largely self-supporting in potatoes from December 1944 onwards.

The civil authorities in Bengal have been consulted regularly by military local purchase officers.

(e) Supply and prices of these commodities are regulated by the Provincial Governments who have got powers under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules.

The Food Department have also taken steps to import from abroad supplies of tinned-milk, meat, fish, and other foodstuffs in order to relieve the deficit.

To co-ordinate the demands of competing Army Units and the civil population, co-ordination committees have been set up in all the Commands, and these have again set up provincial committees. The function of these committees is to check price inflation due to competitive purchase to regulate supplies in accordance with the resources available without drawing upon the breeding stock or seed requirements. These committees also endeavour to increase production of all these commodities, particularly for meeting the Defence requirements.

Average Monthly Prices of Vegetables and Fruits in Calcutta for the period November 1943 to October 1944

Unit	November 1943	December 1943	January 1944	February 1944	March 1944	April 1944
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Potatoes (Desi Nainital) per maund	21 4 0	10 8 0	7 3 2	8 13 6	9 8 0	8 11 6
Cauli-flower each	0 7 8	0 3 9	0 3 4	0 5 7†	0 8 3	0 11 1†
Cabbage each	1 11 4	0 9 3	0 6 7	0 6 9	0 4 3	0 8 1†
Pulbul per seer	0 8 2	0 9 6	0 8 6	0 8 6	1 2 0*	0 9 8†
Squash per seer	0 5 9	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Tomato per seer	1 2 9	0 7 6	0 5 8	0 5 10†	0 4 3	0 6 3
Pineapple (Assam) . . per 100	103 0 0	100 10 0	100 15 10	95 0 0	103 12 0	95 10 0
Mangoes (Madras) . . per 4 doz.	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	19 3 3	12 0 0	6 10 0
Oranges (Nagpur) . . per 100	7 6 6	6 10 8	6 10 8	6 7 3	8 2 6	9 12 0
Apples (Kashmir) . . per 100	22 3 7	30 12 3	29 6 7	25 0 0	25 13 0	25 0 0

Unit	May 1944	June 1944	July 1944	August 1944	September 1944†	October 1944†
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Potatoes (Desi Nainital) per maund	12 3 3	20 1 0	21 4 0	31 4 0	30 5 4	35 0 0
Cauli-flower each	0 12 0†	0 12 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 14 0
Cabbage each	1 4 0	2 0 0	1 3 6	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0
Pulbul per seer	0 8 3	0 7 3	0 6 0	0 6 6	0 7 4	0 9 0
Squash per seer	0 5 9	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 7 0	0 7 0
Tomato per seer	1 0 0	0 2 8	1 6 6	1 3 0	1 3 0	1 3 0
Pineapple (Assam) . . per 100	101 0 3	88 12 0	78 8 3	125 0 0†	215 13 4	240 0 0
Mangoes (Madras) . . per 4 doz.	3 3 0	4 13 0	9 2 3	6 10 0	10 4 3	12 0 0
Oranges (Nagpur) . . per 100	12 8 0	25 0 0	16 10 6	15 1 6	25 0 0	12 8 0
Apples (Kashmir) . . per 100	20 0 0*	...	11 1 9	15 6 0	18 12 0	25 0 0

NOTE.—Controlled prices are quoted for cabbage, squash and tomato from the 24th July, 1944 and for potatoes from the 2nd October, 1944.

* Average for one week.

† Average for two weeks.

‡ Average for three weeks.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: As regards the answer to (b) and the statistics of prices, is the Honourable Member aware that the *Statesman* of Calcutta decently published a detailed and elaborate statement showing that the prices of fish, meat, vegetables of all kinds, milk, eggs, *ghee*, etc., have increased by about 100 to 200 per cent. over the prices which prevailed during the dire days of famine last year?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have nothing to add to the answer I have given. I am aware that prices have risen but we hope that once these military schemes are in full operation the prices will come down.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is the Honourable Member aware that the food distress in Bengal this year is far more acute than it was during the famine of last year?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is not so.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member kindly tell this House whether the Government of India in his Department have any responsibility in regard to the control of prices of the various articles of food I have mentioned in this question, or whether the responsibility of the Department is more or less confined to the provision of foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The constitutional position is quite well known to my Honourable friend; food is a provincial subject.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Yet we have the phenomenon of a Food Member in this House. Am I to take it that the constitution makes a distinction between rice as a food article, and eggs?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, but my Department is looking into all these commodities and we are trying to do whatever we can to relieve the situation.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That is exactly what I wanted to know from the Honourable Member. What action has the Honourable Member's Department taken for the purpose of studying the extraordinary situation that admittedly prevails in Bengal in regard to these various articles of food, and what powers the Honourable Member himself thinks he has not got for the purpose of controlling the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That would be entering into a long debate into various aspects of the matter. But I have already stated in my reply that under our instructions coordination committees have been set up and very soon I hope the military will be totally independent of the ordinary supplies of these commodities for their requirements.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When the Honourable Member mentions the military, does he include in that term what I should like to describe as semi-military personnel engaged directly or indirectly in the promotion of the war effort, or is his reply confined to the military personnel strictly so called.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As the supply is increased, I hope the military authorities will be able to give over the stuff even to the civilian population.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That is not the point. I should like to know whether by the term 'military' the Honourable Member means also the non-combatant, the semi-military personnel and organisations like the A.R.P., and so on?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have known in one province at least that the Military has given a lot of stuff for the civilian population. So I suppose—I am not able to answer the Honourable Member's question here and now categorically—but I suppose the Military will meet the requirements of non-combatants too from what they have.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that that is not the position so far?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not able to give an answer straightaway here. Probably they are doing it already.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I hope that the Honourable Member will keep himself better informed on these points hereafter.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am very well informed, as far as possible, on the question.

REMOVAL AFTER THE WAR OF TEMPORARY BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED IN NEW DELHI

50. ***Sir F. E. James:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if he aware:

(i) that Lord Linlithgow in reply to the farewell address presented by the New Delhi Municipal Committee on the 16th October, 1943, made the following statement:

You express anxiety about the removal after the war of the many temporary buildings which must be admitted to mar the beauty of the city. As I announced in my recent speech to the Houses of the Legislature it is the definite policy of the Government of India to remove those buildings as soon as possible. It is the intention that all the temporary buildings that have been constructed for use as offices and hostels, etc., in the neighbourhood of the Secretariat, in the Irwin Stadium, near the Willingdon aerodrome, in the neighbourhood of Connaught Circus and in various blocks, which under the New Delhi Development Scheme had been allotted for other purposes, will be removed as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

(ii) that His Excellency Lord Wavell in reply to the welcome address presented by the New Delhi Municipal Committee on the 30th October, 1943, made the following statement:

I can assure you that Her Excellency and I are at one with you in the matter of the removal after the war of temporary buildings. You will recollect that Lord Linlithgow gave you an assurance on behalf of the Government of India.

(b) To what buildings do the intentions of the Government of India as announced by Lord Linlithgow now apply, in view of the construction programme undertaken, since October, 1943?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) To all buildings that are of temporary construction and that will interfere with the future development of Delhi. It does not apply to the Lodi Road Officers bungalows constructed in 1941 or to most of the clerks quarters constructed recently. In particular it does not refer to the large block of clerks quarters under construction to the south of Lodi Road behind the observatory.

Sir F. E. James: May I know, Sir, who will decide whether the temporary buildings now being constructed will or will not interfere with the development of Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Obviously the Government of India.

Sir F. E. James: May I also enquire if those buildings which he has referred to in his answer, which are not included in the term 'temporary' buildings, are, in fact, being constructed on a permanent basis and at a standard of quality which will justify their being retained as permanent buildings?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Certainly.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether he considers that all the palatial buildings which have been built for Americans also mar the beauty of the city? Are they temporary, and will they be removed after the cessation of hostilities?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It does. These buildings—such as those built near the Council House—also mar the beauty of the city.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The question did not refer to the buildings built for American troops.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: All these buildings are being constructed by Government.....

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The question does not refer to the buildings built for American troops. Therefore the question does not arise.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

STATEMENT ON FOOD POSITION IN BENGAL

51. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to make a full and exhaustive statement on the food position in Bengal (both Districts and Calcutta), and the policy of the Government of India to tackle the problem? Has there been any change in their policy of feeding Calcutta from the Central Government's food reserves and from the surplus Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As regards the first part of the question I propose to make a statement today on the food position in India, including Bengal.

As regards the second part, the question what assistance it will be necessary to give Bengal from outside during the next year is under examination.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the result of the examination be out before the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I hope so.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know if a copy of the report of the Committee which was presided over by Justice Braund is in the hands of the Honourable Member, and, if so, will it be available to Members of this House before the food debate is concluded?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a provincial report, Sir. I will try and see if I can get a copy of it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will it be available to us?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will first see that it is made available to me.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I take it that although Justice Braund is an officer of the Central Government.....

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: He is not now.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: He was when he was appointed Chairman of this Committee. Do I take it that the Honourable Member does not expect formally a copy of the Report of this Committee which was presided over by one of his own officers?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have said, that Report has been made to the Bengal Government. They have got to consider it first and then come up to us with their proposals in regard to the recommendations contained in that Report.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Arising out of the reply to the first part of the question. Will the Honourable Member confirm or deny the statement made in first part that so much of foodstuff was destroyed or deteriorated? It will help the Members in making their observations on the question.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am dealing with that in my speech today directly after the questions.

WASTAGE AND DETERIORATION OF FOODSTUFFS IN BIHAR

52. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to the following:

(i) the colossal waste and deterioration of foodstuff in Bihar totalling about 1,17,786 maunds which was stored last year for export to Bengal but which was not exported and which has now been refused by all Rationing Authorities as unfit for human consumption and which, if exported to Bengal, would be sufficient to feed about 40,000 adults for one year;

(ii) the deterioration and waste of a huge quantity of foodstuff—about 1,50,000 maunds of *atta* and *maida* (flour)—now lying with Government stockists in Calcutta in a state unfit for human consumption and now proposed to be sold by the Government for use other than food;

(iii) the deterioration and decomposition of hundreds of bags of rice and *atta* now lying in a decomposed state in the Khulna Railway colony endangering public health; and

(iv) the waste of a huge quantity of foodgrains stocked at the Botanical Garden of Shibpur and which have now been thrown away in a decomposed condition into the Howrah-Belgachia dumping ground?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (i) At the conclusion of the free trade period in the Eastern Zone last year the Government of Bihar agreed to issue permits for the movement of foodgrains to Bengal in all cases where a contract had been executed between the 18th May and 31st July 1943, provided that on or before 31st July 1943 the seller had the foodgrains in his possession and that prior to the date of the contract the foodgrains in question, had not been attached under Rule 75 A of the D. I. R. for any infringement of the food laws. The Provincial Government, however, had reasons to believe that attempts were made to abuse this concession. Accordingly, in November 1943, they issued orders freezing all such stocks. Due to some misunderstanding on the part of some of the District Magistrates in Bihar, a quantity of foodgrains other than those falling under the above category were also frozen. Presumably, these are the stocks referred to by the Honourable Member. These stocks were ordered to be released in August this year and the Government of Bihar have no reason to believe that the foodgrains are not fit for human consumption, nor have any complaints to this effect been received by them from the owners in whose possession the stocks remained throughout this period.

(ii) The actual quantity of *atta* and *maida* involved is 1,46,000 maunds. This quantity represents two per cent. of the turnover in eight months since the commencement of rationing on 31st January 1944 the turnover being approximately 1,60,000 tons. Re-conditioning of these stocks was not found to be practicable, and it was accordingly decided to sell them to starch makers

and jute mills for the manufacture of sizing—this being the normal trade method of disposing of condemned *atta* and flour. Steps are being taken by the Bengal Government to improve their storage arrangements.

(iii) The quantities of foodgrains which had deteriorated in the Khulna Railway Colony are:—

	bags		bags
<i>Atta</i>	4,023	<i>Rice</i>	979
<i>Flour</i>	944	<i>Dal</i>	979

Deterioration of these grains was due to damage during transit and storage during rains. The stocks have since been removed from the Khulna Colony.

(iv) 120,000 tons of foodgrains passed through the Botanical Gardens Depot, two and a half per cent. or 3,000 tons had to be destroyed through deterioration a major portion of which had been sold to merchants who failed to remove it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who bears the loss arising out of this deterioration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Provincial Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware of a recently reported instance in which a pretty large quantity of wheat was condemned as unfit for human consumption and sold to certain traders for Rs. 4 per maund for the purpose of being utilised for food purposes and that this very stock was resold to the Civil Supplies Department at the rate of Rs. 20 per maund and subsequently found to be perfectly fit for human consumption?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I would like to have notice of the question.

BENEFITS TO INDIA FROM THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

53. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether under the constitution of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration as now amended, India comes within the scope of operations of that body?

(b) Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to a statement made by the Director General of the said Administration that because India is a contributing nation, she cannot be given any relief and that even the extension of that administration's scope to famine-stricken areas militarily important to the United Nations is conditioned by limitations of funds and facilities?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a comprehensive statement on the question of India's participation in the aforesaid Administration and the steps taken by the Government for the purpose of enabling India to benefit by its activities in terms of the express desire of the Central Legislature in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Under an amendment recently passed by the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration benefits to be made available through the Administration may be extended to areas which are of importance in military operations of the United Nations and which are stricken by famine or disease, in so far as the resources and facilities of the Administration shall permit. Famine or disease stricken areas in India may, therefore, be included in the scope of the Administration's activities.

(b) I have seen a News Agency report to this effect.

(c) I propose to move a resolution in this Assembly recommending the grant of a contribution to U. N. R. R. A. As the whole question will then be discussed, the Honourable Member will perhaps agree to wait until then.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will that be during the present Session?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will try.

VISIT TO ENGLAND OF THE COMMERCE SECRETARY, MR. N. R. PILLAI

54. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose of the visit to England of the Commerce Secretary, Mr. N. R. Pillai;

(b) whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to Press reports that one of the objects of the Commerce Secretary's visit is to evolve schemes for the partial liquidation of the India's sterling balances held in England through trade methods; and

(c) whether the Commerce Secretary possesses necessary information regarding India's probable future trade requirements, and whether he is expected to supply this information to His Majesty's Government or to organisations of British manufacturers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (c). The purpose of Mr. Pillai's visit to England is to discuss with the officers of the Departments concerned questions relating generally to commercial policy, shipping, import and export controls, arrangements for the procurement of India's requirements; etc.

(b) No.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: What do you mean by "Departments concerned"?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are for the time being in contract with His Majesty's Government for the supply of tea. That is taken by the Ministry of Food. But what is going to be done after the war for the supply of tea to the world? This is a matter which requires a lot of preliminary talk before a settlement can be reached. Again we are importing a very large number of goods and we would like to know what are the intentions of His Majesty's Government about them after the war.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it the usual practice of the Government to depute officials for discussion with His Majesty's Government rather than have these discussions carried on by correspondence?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This is the first time I have sent a man from my Department.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that His Majesty's Government is the sole purchaser of tea?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not the sole purchaser of tea but the sole purchaser of a certain quantity of tea. The rest is entirely available for Indian consumption.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I do not know whether the Honourable Member has answered part (b) of my question.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I said 'No'.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not true that the Indian trade people are anxious to know what are the post-war restrictions on trade? Will my Honourable friend explain why steps are taken to let British manufacturers and traders know the mind of the Government of India earlier than the Indian manufacturers and businessmen in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I repudiate this suggestion. There is no intention to inform anyone out of India of the Government of India's policy before we know it ourselves and before we can communicate it to the interests concerned. But in order that we may formulate our views, my friend will agree it is always better to know the other side of the picture.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: With regard to Dr. Zia Uddin's question as to the excessive exports of tea, is it not a fact that, before determining the quantity of tea to be exported, the Government first determine the quantity required for Indian consumption; deduct that from total production and prohibit export in excess of that balance?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is correct but my answer to Question 57 may help the Honourable Member. I might say that in the year 1943-44 the total production was 551 million lbs. of which only 408 million lbs. was for export and we always keep sufficient margin for the home market. So far as tea is concerned, there is a demand that much more tea should go out.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member said that the Government of India determine the quantity of tea which they can afford to export?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as tea is concerned, in view of the large consumption, the export of tea from India to the United Kingdom has gone down from 350 million lbs. to 270 million lbs. in the year 1943-44.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give an assurance to this House that he will make a comprehensive statement on this subject after Mr. Pillai returns with tips from His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I entirely repudiate the suggestion of tips. It is for the purpose of what tips we shall have ourselves. It is tactical to know what the tips are going to be on the other side.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next Question.

INSUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF SUPERIOR COTTON TO INDIAN TEXTILE MILLS.

55. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian cotton textile mills are handicapped by insufficient supplies of superior cotton;

(b) whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom has a prior claim on Egyptian cotton and that whatever Egyptian cotton is supplied to India is sold to her at a price about 40 per cent. above the purchase price for the United Kingdom; and

(c) the average quantity of East African cotton imported into India during the last two years and whether any proportion of these imports are earmarked for production for the Defence services?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). No.

(c) The average annual imports of East African cotton in the last two years ending 31st August 1944 were 150,976 bales. No proportion was earmarked for production for the Defence Services, but mills utilised some of this cotton in executing war orders placed on them.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Does the Government of India take a part in fixing the price of this cotton which comes from East Africa?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is usually done. For the last two years the representatives of the Government concerned and the representatives of this Government and the representatives of the consuming mills have been brought together in a conference and whatever is arrived at is a matter of agreement among those who consume cotton in this country.

INSUFFICIENT ORDERS FOR TINNED FOOD TO INDIAN MANUFACTURERS.

†56. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state as to why the orders for tinned food are not being placed according to the capacity of Indian manufacturers whose factories are being closed for want of order, while the stuff is being imported from abroad?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Food Department places orders for tinned foods with indigenous manufacturers only for the supply of the demands of the Defence Services. The placing of orders with factories is determined by the requirements of the Defence Forces which fluctuate considerably, the capacity of factories to produce foodstuffs of the quality prescribed by R.I.A.S.C. specifications and lastly by the availability of raw materials. In considering the last factor the Food Department has to bear in mind the availability of essential supplies for civilian consumption.

TEA SHIPPED FROM INDIA

†57. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the quantity of tea shipped from India on account of the British Ministry of Food and on other accounts in each of the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44, and the total production of India in each of these years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I lay on the table a statement showing the information asked for.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Statement

Financial year	Exports of tea from India in mill. lbs.			Production (mill. lbs.)
	To U. K.	To other destinations	Total	
1	2	3	4	5
1940-41	315	39	354	471*
1941-42	288	96	384	500*
1942-43	252	76	328	569*
1943-44	270	138	408	551*

*Calendar year.

Note.—1. Under the Tea Emergency Purchase Scheme the British Ministry of Food purchased teas for U. K. up to the 14th December, 1942. After that date exports of tea on private account (excepting to certain land-frontier countries) have ceased and the entire export should be regarded as on account of the British Ministry of Food under the Tea Block Purchase Scheme.

2. The figures in column 4 do not include the full quantity contracted for by the Tea Controller during a calendar year, as shipments by him of the total quantity covered by each year's contract are generally spread over several months beyond the calendar and financial years concerned according to the freight position.

EXPORTS AND MANUFACTURE OF GUNNIES AND HESSIAN

†58. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the quantity of gunnies and hessian exported from India on Government and other accounts in each of the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44, and the total manufacture of gunnies and hessian in India in each of these years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO ASSOCIATIONS OTHER THAN INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

59. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) With reference to starred question No. 776 of the 4th April, 1944, regarding monthly grant of Rs. 13,000 to the Indian Federation of Labour, will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to give a reply to my supplementary question as to whether there are other Associations which are getting money like the said Federation?

(b) What is the Government control over this money to see that it is being utilised for public purposes?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No other labour Association has received financial assistance from Government for this purpose. The letter in which assistance from Government in the matter of propaganda for maintaining morale of labour was offered, was addressed both to the All India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour. In their reply the All India Trade Union Congress did not ask for any assistance.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies already given to questions put by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SLAUGHTER AND EXPORT OF COWS, ETC.

20. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please make a statement indicating—

(a) the total extent of slaughter in India of living animals such as cows, buffaloes, bullocks, sheep and goats, for the years 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, stating the figures separately for each province; and

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) the total number of living animals under the above categories exported from this country in the years 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, showing separately the destination of these exports to each individual country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is laid on the table showing the estimated number of cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats slaughtered in each province, as given in the Reports of the Agricultural Marketing Officers on the marketing of hides and of skins in India. No other figures for the slaughter of cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats are available.

(b) A statement showing the number of cattle, sheep and goats exported abroad by sea from British India during 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943 is placed on the table. Figures showing the numbers exported during 1944 are not yet available.

Statement showing the estimated number of Cattle, Buffaloes, Sheep and Goats slaughtered in the various Provinces per year (in lakhs)

Name of province	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats
Assam	0.5	..	..	1.2
Bengal	18.3	0.5	3.5	29.6
Bihar	12.4	2.0	2.5	26.0
Bombay	1.7	0.4	13.8	13.9
C. P.	0.7	0.2	1.1	9.1
Madras	8.5	3.3	38.7	19.7
N.-W. F. P.	2.4	1.8	5.3	5.7
Orissa	1.3	0.2	0.7	3.0
Punjab	2.6	1.6	8.9	11.5
Sind	0.2	..	1.2	4.7
U. P.	4.8	1.9	13.7	41.1

Statement showing the number of Cattle, Sheep and Goats exported abroad by sea from British India during each calendar year 1940 to 1943

Countries and final destination	Cattle				Sheep and goats			
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1940	1941	1942	1943
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bahrein Islands	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ceylon	565	1,021	2,292	3,015	25,983	23,609	38,531	77,203
Burma	1,157	1,055	..	..	152	52	..	..
Straits Settlements	6	..	..	..	..	4,239	..	..
Federated Malaya States	..	..	..	..	..	200	..	..
Kenya Colony	41	3	4	8	..	..	..	..
Tanganyika territory	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Seychelles	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..
Iran	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
Philippine Islands	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1,796	2,096	2,296	3,023	26,135	28,111	38,531	77,203

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MEATS

21. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state:

(a) the quantity of meat, dehydrated or of other categories, exported from this country in the years 1942, 1943 and 1944; and

(b) the total amount of meat, dehydrated or of other categories, imported in this country during the years 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(a) Exports—

	1942	1943	1944
Tons	1,079	3,663	483

(b) Imports—

	1940	1941	1942 & 1943	1944
Tons	237	5,475	43,280	55,225

In addition the following quantities of bacon were imported:—

	Tons
1942	8,545
1943	1,684
January—June 1944	654

COMMODITIES NOTIFIED UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES AS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE

22. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the commodities notified under the Rules of the Defence of India Act Rules as essential for the life of the community, together with the particulars of those notifications issued either by the Central Government or by the Provincial Governments or by the authorities subordinate?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No commodity has been notified under the Defence of India Rules as essential for the life of the community, but action has been taken under these Rules to control distribution, prices, etc., of a large number of commodities because such action was considered to be essential for the life of the community. The number of orders and notifications issued in this connection is so large that the time and labour involved in giving the detailed particulars of each of these notifications and orders would be incommensurate with the value of the information so collected.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

UNSATISFACTORY CHARACTER OF RAILWAY BOARD NOTIFICATION RE REVISED RATES OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The first adjournment motion today is in the name of Mr. Joshi who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the unsatisfactory character of the notification dated the 2nd October, 1944, issued by the Railway Board regarding the revised rates of Dearness Allowance sanctioned from the 1st July, 1944.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): The exact complaint is that in this notification the Government of India have introduced certain new classes for whom dearness allowance is being given and omitted, in the case of certain other classes of railway servants, to give any increase in their dearness allowance. This is the unsatisfactory nature of the proposal in the notification.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I submit that there is nothing new in this policy which has been frequently and fully discussed before this House. This is the fifth liberalisation of the Dearness Allowance scheme which comprises benefits both in cash and in kind. The present scheme covers increases in one way or another to all classes of railwaymen up to a salary of Rs. 1,000. I think the Honourable Member has not paid attention to the other notifications which have widened the scope of the allowance and given benefits amounting to something like two and a half crores to the classes of people who, Mr. Joshi says, did not receive any benefit. Therefore I submit that there is no occasion to debate the subject on an adjournment motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not accept that plea of the Honourable Member. He has introduced new classes of railway servants for giving dearness allowance. My complaint is that he has not given sufficient dearness allowance to certain other classes. He says that the policy is not a new one. I know that the Government of India's policy is to treat their poorly paid employees worse than how they treat their well-paid ones. Therefore I am not complaining about the policy, because the policy has always been bad. I am complaining of the details.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On the facts stated by the Honourable the Railway Member I hold that there is not sufficient justification for a discussion of this motion, and I therefore disallow it.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR SAFE TRAVEL OF CIVILIAN PUBLIC.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next adjournment motion is one by Mr. K. S. Gupta relating to "the failure of the Government of India to provide adequate facilities and make proper arrangements for the safe travel of the civilian public instead of encouraging civilians sitting perched precariously on roof-tops, standing on foot boards and hanging on to the windows of the railway carriages, having failed to get accommodation inside the trains during their travel from place to place and thereby causing serious loss of life and limb as reported daily of occurrences here, there and everywhere in India, with special reference to incidents on the East Indian Railway reported by A.P.I. from Patna on 25th May, 1944."

I should like to know whether there is any objection to this motion.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, I must object to this adjournment motion. There is nothing new in the position which has been debated very fully in this House during the course of the last Session and the general facts are well known to the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How long has this state of things been going on?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Since 1942. In the matter of dealing with this we are guided by the advice of the Central Advisory Council for Railways which has twice discussed this subject and I am quite prepared to put the matter before them again during this Session, if they wish it.

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I withdraw the motion, Sir, as I am not going to move it.

FAILURE TO CHECK EPIDEMICS LIKE CHOLERA, ETC.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is another adjournment motion by Mr. K. S. Gupta which relates to "the failure of the Government of India to provide adequate facilities to prevent or check the epidemics like cholera, malaria (malignant type), sores (fatal in most cases) and dysentery, thereby causing serious loss of life as a result of malnutrition caused by inadequate supply of foodgrains (rice—the staple food) unfit for human consumption in the area devastated by successive cyclones of 1942 and 1943, including the coastal belt of Ganjam (Ex) and Vizagapatam districts of Madras Province."

The subject of this motion relates to the supply of foodgrains which is to be debated in the House today. I therefore disallow it.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN NATAL UNDER NATAL OCCUPATION ORDINANCE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion for adjournment is one by Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh relating to "the situation created for Indians in Natal by the Natal Occupation Ordinance, i.e., the Ordinance providing for the control of the occupation and acquisition of residential and other property in Natal."

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): This can be debated on the day on which the whole question will be debated.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has a date been fixed for the discussion of this question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): The date has not been fixed yet, though it has been decided to allot a date as early as possible.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay-Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I understand that the 6th has been fixed for the discussion of this subject.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, that will suit.

DEATH OF MR. SRIDEO SUMAN, AN EXILE FROM TEHRI STATE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is an adjournment motion by Mr. B. D. Pande relating to "the mysterious death of Mr. Srideo Suman, an exile from the Tehri State in the Tehri prison after a hunger strike of 50 days on the 25th July, 1944".

As the motion relates to Tehri, which is an Indian State, the consent of the Governor General is necessary. The Governor General has refused his consent.

INADEQUATE WAR ALLOWANCE FOR NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This adjournment motion is by Mr. A. C. Datta and relates to "the failure of the Government of India to extend to the non-gazetted officers of the Central Services the benefits of war allowance to the same extent to which these have been given to the gazetted officers (*vide*, Finance Department Office Memorandum No. F. 2(52) W/44, dated the 25th September, 1944)".

What does the Honourable Member mean by the phrase "to the same extent"?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural): I mean, Sir, the same proportion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the exact meaning of the expression?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The recent circular of the Government of India has given relief to the gazetted officers in the shape of a war allowance but none is given to the lower-paid non-gazetted staff.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it an equivalent or substitute for the dearness allowance?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: So far as the gazetted officers are concerned there was no dearness allowance but with respect to the low-paid Government employees there was a dearness allowance. Substantial relief has been given to the higher paid officers but none to the low-paid non-gazetted officers.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): The position is that dearness allowance was being given to classes of Government servants drawing pay up to Rs. 250, Rs. 200 and Rs. 150 in areas classified as A, B and C, respectively. The War Allowance is an extension of the principle of Dearness Allowance to higher classes of Government servants. It takes the principle of relief up to a pay of Rs. 1,000 a month for married officers. Now, Sir, the war allowance is 10 per cent. for married officers and 5 per cent. for unmarried officers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does it apply equally to gazetted and non-gazetted officers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think it does, except that for gazetted officers it is subject to a minimum. Otherwise, where the dearness allowance is less than 10 per cent the establishments concerned, instead of getting the dearness allowance, may get the percentage war allowance instead. The only difference is that there is a minimum in the case of this war allowance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the minimum?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The minimum for married officers is Rs. 50 and for unmarried officers the 5 per cent. is subject to a minimum of Rs. 30.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is for all gazetted as well as non-gazetted?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No. That is the war allowance for gazetted officers. Broadly speaking, wherever the establishment which is at present getting a dearness allowance, will be better off by getting a war allowance of 10 per cent., then they get the percentage war allowance. That I understand to be the position.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is this difference between gazetted and non-gazetted—those who are not receiving the dearness allowance?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Non-gazetted officers of the central services will receive dearness allowance at the existing rates or a war allowance of 10 per cent. of pay, whichever is greater. Therefore I suggest that it is not correct to imply that the relief is being denied to the non-gazetted officers.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: A distinction is obviously made between gazetted and non-gazetted officers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The allowance is in proportion to the pay?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, subject to a minimum as regards gazetted officers. As regards non-gazetted officers it is 10 per cent.; where the dearness allowance is more than 10 per cent. then I understand that the dearness allowance will be given.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: In their case this 10 per cent. becomes illusory.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: These are matters of detail; there is no question of principle involved.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The anomalous result that follows is this

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I want to know whether there is special hardship caused by any invidious distinction.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: An invidious distinction has been made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I take it that, generally speaking, gazetted officers receive higher salaries than non-gazetted officers. Is that so?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: That is true. I say that a gazetted officer and a non-gazetted officer getting, say, Rs. 280 have been treated differentially by this recent order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The pay is also different.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I say the pay is the same. I am taking the case of a gazetted and a non-gazetted officer, both drawing Rs. 250. The result with regard to the first officer is that he gets more and the second (non-gazetted officer) gets less.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How much more?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The difference is this: the gazetted officer drawing Rs. 250 gets Rs. 50, while the non-gazetted officer drawing Rs. 250 gets only Rs. 25. The difference is between Rs. 25 and Rs. 50, although both are getting the same pay.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes; that particular case is correct. That is due to the operation of the minimum provision. The minimum provision is the same throughout the scale for gazetted officers—it applies right up to Rs. one thousand. The 10 per cent. war allowance is subject to a minimum in the case of married officers of Rs. 50; and the 5 per cent. war allowance is subject to a minimum of Rs. 30. The result is that in certain cases the non-gazetted officer will find that his dearness allowance is less than the war allowance given to gazetted officers, but I submit that it is merely one feature in the general scheme and is not a matter of principle.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member is advised that there is an anomaly, it can be reconsidered, I suppose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say at this moment that I am prepared to reconsider that particular feature; but it is a matter which will no doubt come under consideration. The dearness allowance, I must point out, has come under constant review, as in the case of the Railway Department.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: We are now concerned with the present position.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They come under constant review in accordance with the policy of granting relief to our staff: it may be that at any particular moment there will be anomalies but that does not in my opinion raise a question of principle.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think a matter like this is a fit subject for an adjournment motion. The whole scheme has to be considered together, and if there is an anomaly in any particular respect, no doubt on the next reconsideration the anomaly may possibly be removed.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: May I have an assurance in that respect from the Honourable Member?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said that it is under constant review.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: This is only about the non-gazetted officers.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I say that the whole matter is one which is constantly under the consideration of the Government.

HUNGER STRIKE BY POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BHAGALPORE CAMP JAIL

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is in the name of Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha. He wishes to discuss "the serious situation in the Bhagalpore Camp Jail which has led to the hunger strike of the political prisoners lodged therein."

I should like to know more details of this. Is that not a matter for the Provincial Government—jail administration?

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Section 93 is operating there—there is no provincial ministry.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I am afraid that is under the law. It cannot be discussed here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next is in the name of Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, the Honourable Member does not want to move it?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan) No, Sir.

DISCONTINUANCE ON RACING DAYS OF RESTAURANT CAR ON THE POONA EXPRESS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one also is in the name of Mr. Dam. He wants to discuss "the grave impropriety on the part of the G. I. P. Railway administration in discontinuing on racing days the Restaurant Car usually attached to the Poona Express between Poona and Bombay and using it for the benefit of the racing community and the gamblers who attend the races at Poona during the monsoon."

I do not think it is a matter of so much importance that the business of the House should be adjourned on that account.

NON-REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION TO WORLD MONETARY CONFERENCE IN AMERICA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is also in the name of Mr. Dam. He wishes to discuss "the action of the Government in sending a non-representative delegation to the World Monetary Conference in America in July last by excluding from that Delegation representatives of scientific economic thought and of the common men who are most vitally affected by the deliberations of that World Conference."

I think this is a notice that was originally given by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and he did not move it. I should like to know who are the members of this delegation.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non Muhammadan Rural): May I inform you Sir, that the members of this delegation were . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I want to know it from the Honourable Mover.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I do not want to move it, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think there must have been some misunderstanding about the ruling I gave—I think in the last Session—in which I admitted a motion of a somewhat similar character, and I

want to explain what I meant regarding motions of this character. The motion that I admitted last Session related to the selection of certain non-official gentlemen who were sent by the Government of India to explain the war efforts of the Government of India to Britain and America. If there has been any misunderstanding that the admission of that motion meant that it is not the responsibility of the Government of India to make the selection in such cases but that they are bound to consult any particular representative bodies, then I must make it clear that I did not mean to lay down any such proposition. It is the primary responsibility of the Government to make the selection, though in a proper case it is the right of this House to call in question any action taken by the Government in this respect. In the other case, the question involved was one of a character which raised political issues on which a large section of the House differed from the Government of India and that was the main ground on which I admitted that motion.

CENTRAL PROVINCES GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' AID TO CONVERSION OF GONDS TO CHRISTIANITY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion No. 93 is also in the name of Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam. There was also a similar motion in the name of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. It wants to discuss the action of Government servants in C. P. in aiding and abetting the Christian Missionaries in that province in forcibly and fraudulently converting the Gonds to Christianity.

I do not know what the exact position is. I think the Government Member will be able to explain.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): This is entirely a provincial matter. The Provincial Government are responsible for the conduct of their own servants. We cannot interfere. As regards conversion, it is either lawful or unlawful. If it is unlawful, as the allegation is, and if converts were obtained by force or fraud, that is entirely for the Provincial Government who are responsible for the administration of the criminal law.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This seems to be the responsibility of the Provincial Government—to see that their servants do not misbehave in the way alleged.

BAN ON PUBLICATION OF PANCHANGAS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is in the names of Mr. Nilakantha . . . and Mr. Dam. It seeks to discuss the action of the Government of India in placing a ban and limitation on the publication of the Panchangas (Religious Calendars) which are essential for the observance of the religious and social ceremonials of the Hindus all over India.

When did this happen?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I do not wish to move it.
(Mr. Das was absent.)

FORCIBLE ENTRY BY POLICE AT THE LAHORE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF ALL-INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is also in the name of Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam. He wants to discuss the great resentment and indignation prevailing among 8 lakhs of Railwaymen all over India at the action of the Punjab Government in forcing the presence of C. I. D. reporters supported by a force of police constables both armed and unarmed at Barkat Ali Khan Hall, Lahore, at a private general meeting of the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on the 16th September 1944 and thereby interfering with and preventing the transaction of legitimate business of a body which has been recognised by the Government of India for the last fifteen years as an organisation of genuine Trade Unionism . . .

[Mr. President]

This action is an action of the Local Government of the Punjab which is responsible for law and order. It cannot be discussed here. The motion is disallowed.

RUNNING OF COMPETITIVE ROAD-TRANSPORT SERVICES BY RAILWAYS FOR MONOPOLY SIND

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is in the name of Sardar Sant Singh. He wishes to discuss "the transport policy of the Government of India as disclosed by the Railway Board's letter No. 9083TX, dated 17th April 1944, which in practice amounts to the ousting of the Public individual or Company operators—who are solely responsible for the development of this industry in India—from the road and obtain a monopoly of this field as exemplified by the recent project of the N. W. Railway to run competitive petrol driven goods services between Lahore, Pathankot and Nagrota as against private gas Plant driven services."

I have not seen the notification. Will the Honourable Member acquaint the House with the purport of it.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): The letter of the Railway Board, No. 9083TX, dated the 17th April, 1944, related to the running of road services for passengers and goods to afford relief on routes where railways are congested. In this letter it is stated (these are the portions which are relevant to the adjournment motion) that large numbers of chassis were coming to India from America on lend-lease. It says:

"Nearly 9,000 will have been released by the end of March, and releases thereafter are expected to be at the rate of not less than 1,200 monthly. Past releases have mainly been absorbed for special war purposes; future releases are expected to be increasingly available for general transport of passengers and goods, and the question is how far railways should participate in operating these vehicles and how far they should be released for independent operation."

Then, in the course of the same letter they say:

"The Government of India have not formed final opinion on the latter report but they have decided that it is in the public interest that the available vehicles should, as far as circumstances permit, be used by or in conjunction with railways for goods or passenger transport where needed for high priority traffic for relieving congested sections of railways and generally for relief to the public on routes where road and rail facilities are now together unequal to the essential needs of the community."

Later on, in the course of the same letter, they have stated:

"The Controller of Capital Issues has agreed in principle to sanction new flotations for amalgamations of transport concerns, and it seems probable that developments along these lines during the next 12 months will be substantial. With such amalgamation, the danger of a recurrence of cut-throat competition is much reduced and it should at any future time be possible for railways to enter into mutual agreements with such companies and eventually to acquire a substantial financial interest in those operating on the main routes served by the Railways."

In the course of the debate on the Motor Vehicles Bill, Sir K. G. Mitchell, on behalf of the Government of India, denied that the Bill enjoined forced partnership between Motor Transport and State Railways. Here is an instance in which the Railway transport is taking advantage of the position created in the country, because of the control they have over the imports of vehicles. They are forcing their partnership on the private bus companies who are carrying on business. This is against the policy enunciated in the course of the debate on the Motor Vehicles Bill. In my address as President of the Motor Union held at Lahore, I have pleaded the cause of the motor unions and have criticised this policy of the Railway Transport which goes against the declared wishes of two Viceroys who made speeches on this subject. Therefore, this new policy which is adopted by the Railway Transport deserves to be censured by this House. That is my case.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, it is well-known that for a long time railways have been pressed to do what they can to afford relief to rail transport. In pursuance of that they have undertaken, as I have said on several

occasions publicly, to do what they can to initiate road services to relieve both passengers and goods congestion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When was this policy announced?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will just explain the circumstances as my Honourable friend has spoken at length. In pursuance of that policy in the Punjab, we consulted with the Punjab Government and with the commercial interests in the Punjab and having due regard to the interests of the private companies, we came to the conclusion that one of the best routes on which to relieve congestion would be this particular route to which my Honourable friend takes exception. The railways were, therefore, accordingly allotted ten lorries out of about 60 which were being allotted not by us but by the Provincial Motor Transport Controller. It will be seen, therefore, that there is no intention whatsoever on behalf of the railways to obtain a monopoly, that we have co-operated with the commercial interests and that we are attempting to safeguard the interests of the small owner in this matter. If there is any difficulty about producer gas *versus* petrol, I will give an undertaking to my friend to see that there is no discrimination on that score.

As regards the main question, there is nothing new in this policy which has been referred to on previous occasions, in my Budget speech and in the debate on post-war policy. Incidentally, the matter has been before the Standing Finance Committee, who have approved the policy for the period of the present emergency. The House will have an opportunity to discuss the policy in so far as the post-war policy is concerned and I submit that this is not the occasion to initiate a general discussion on the policy.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I say a few words in this connection? The Assembly has repeatedly asserted that the railways ought not to take share in the running of the buses nor should they purchase the shares. If the railway administration wanted to depart from this policy, the Railway Member ought to have moved a Resolution in this House and taken the permission of the House to depart from the policy which this Assembly has established.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a very wide question.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am quite prepared to have this discussed at the proper time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion raised a wide question of policy and the facts stated by the Honourable the War Transport Member show that the matter cannot be discussed properly on an adjournment motion and the House will have an opportunity to discuss it later. So, I rule it out of order.

STOPPING THE BOOKING OF PASSENGERS TO NANKANA SAHIB ON GURU NANAK'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion for the adjournment of the business of the House also stands in the name of Sardar Sant Singh. He wishes to "censure the Government for stopping the booking of passengers to Nankana Sahib Railway Station on the North Western Railway on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak's birthday anniversary and for abdicating their authority in favour of the executive of the Punjab by giving powers to District Magistrates to issue permits to pilgrims".

Is not that a proper function of the Local Government?

Sardar Sant Singh: The position is this that on the anniversary of the birthday of Guru Nanak a big fair takes place at Nankana Sahib, which is a railway station on the North Western Railway. The railway authorities stopped the booking between Lahore and a certain station on Jallianwala line which is called Tandawala.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On whose order?

Sardar Sant Singh: On the General Manager's order. This ought not to have been done because of the importance of the fair and other considerations which are stated in my speech. The second grievance is that they abdicated their authority. Instead of issuing permits themselves, the railway authorities allowed the District Magistrate to issue the permits. I cannot understand how the booking can be regulated by the order of a District Magistrate. It is the function of the railway authorities to see that the passengers get the convenience as far as the accommodation is available, but I really fail to understand why they should hand over their powers to the District Magistrate to be exercised by them in order to issue permits. This is my case. The Government deserves to be censured and severely censured on the point because we find there is a tendency on the part of the Central Government to hand over their power to the Provincial Government and say that it is their duty and not that of the Railways.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I submit that there is nothing new in this question, the principle of which was debated on the floor of the House arising out of a similar situation which arose in Madras, I think in the course of the last Session. The order is, of course, put out by the Provincial Government and the Provincial Government prescribed that the following classes of persons are excluded from the application of their order: Government servants on duty, genuine residents of the locality served by specified railway stations possessing a Magistrate's certificate to that effect and persons possessing certificates, issued by the District Magistrate of Sheikhpura or by any other Magistrate empowered by him in that behalf to the effect that their presence is required to assist in the running of the *mela*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why was this restriction placed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was placed in pursuance of the general policy of trying to relieve congestion on the railways, for which the House and the public have been pressing again and again.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why was the power delegated to the District Magistrate?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is the Provincial Government which is in the best position to know whether it is desirable to allow congestion or not.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I say a word, Sir? The Honourable Member has not explained whether the stopping of booking was done by the General Manager of the North-Western Railway or by the Provincial Government. Secondly, why did he agree to the permits being issued by the Provincial authority instead of issuing them by the railways? He has not explained that.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was an order of the Provincial Government which the railways were carrying out. The railways themselves do not issue such orders which are made by the Provincial Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As stated by the Honourable the War Transport Member, I do not think the position taken up by Sardar Sant Singh is the right one and I disallow the motion.

FREQUENT DISALLOWANCE BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF MOTIONS IN THE ASSEMBLY REQUIRING HIS PREVIOUS CONSENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is also in the name of Sardar Sant Singh. He wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the passive acceptance without protest by the Government of India of the increasing and frequent use of discretion by Governor General to disallow those motions in the Assembly requiring Governor General's previous consent without regard to the fact that some of them vitally affect the interests of India and concern the welfare of the people of this country—particularly the disallowance of Sardar Sant Singh's question asking for information whether Jews have been permitted to be settled in a Native State in

India—and the resolution purporting to convey the disapproval of the House to the frequent use of Section 72 of the Government of India Act in issuing Ordinances over the head of the Assembly".

The motion is of a very general character and it really raises a large constitutional question. I gave my ruling yesterday that motions of this character cannot be moved in this House. I, therefore, hold that this motion is not in order.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know, Sir, then, what is the other method of protesting against this frequent use of section 72 of the Government of India Act?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member ought to get the Act changed.

ILL-TREATMENT METED OUT TO MR. RAM CHARAN AGRAWAL BY THE DELHI POLICE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion for adjournment is in the name of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall. He wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the revengeful conduct of the Delhi Kotwali Police in handcuffing Mr. Ram Charan Agrawal, a respectable citizen of Delhi and making him march on foot from Kotwali to the jail and refusing him the use of pillow while allowing a wrapper and a *gadda* and keeping him without food for a day and half against the declared policy and practice of the Government with regard to the treatment of political prisoner.

I wish to know what the Government Member has to say on this motion.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid I have no information on this. I have called for information and I have not yet received it. I should like to know the date of this occurrence.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadian): It happened about 10th October, 1944.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This motion will stand over till tomorrow. I suppose the Honourable Home Member will be able to get the information by tomorrow.

DEATHS DUE TO AN ACCIDENT AT BAKHTIARPUR JUNCTION STATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is in the name of Mr. Muhammad Nauman. He wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., criminal negligence of the E. I. Railway administration in not having provided lights at Bakhtiarpur Junction Station and allowing empty special train to run without searchlight on the engine on the 26th of September 1944, which resulted in the death of nine persons who were run over by the said special train when these persons were attempting to catch the 14-Up Express at about 8-30 p.m. and further failure of the E. I. Railway administration in not having instituted a public enquiry into the said accident.

I should like to know what the facts are.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, the position is that an accident took place on 25th September. It was very regrettable that seven people were killed and two died later. The facts of the case were that these people who were coming from a pilgrimage jumped on the line from the platform and attempted to get into a standing train on the wrong side of the line. They were therefore trespassing on the line.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has any enquiry been made?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There was an enquiry by Senior officers of the Railway and also by the Government Inspector of Railways, who, of course, is not under the Railway Board.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the finding?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was found that no railway staff have been held responsible for the accident which was entirely due to the passengers in question not using the overbridge to cross from the up to the down

[Sir Edward Benthall] platform, but jumping on the up track from the high level platform without heeding the approaching empty coaching special.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The allegation is that there was no searchlight on the engine.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Searchlights are provided only for the guidance of the driver and they are not intended to serve the purpose of warning trespassers off the line.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): How do you explain the fact that there were no lights on the Bakhtiar-pur railway platform on that day and probably there were no lights on the platform for months together. This was responsible for people not knowing where to go and trying to cross over the line and trying to catch the 14-Down Express.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is an overbridge.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Yes. But the overbridge is at a distance, and the train was already on the platform, and perhaps the people thought it would be easier for them to catch 14-Down Express which was already standing on the other platform and hence they crossed the line to get into the train. The platform itself is not very high and it was very easy for them to cross. Of these nine passengers, seven were Muslim women who were coming from a *mela* and they were bound for Monghyre.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Could they not use the overbridge?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But they could not see the overbridge. There was no light of any kind. The train was standing on the platform. There was no searchlight on the engine also.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it the practice to have searchlight on the engine?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The practice is to have a searchlight on the engine so that the driver can see if there are any obstacles on the track. It is not to warn passengers. Very often the searchlight is put out when it is not necessary or desirable for the driver to use it.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: How do you explain that there was no light on the platform or a searchlight on the engine?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I hope the Honourable Member for War Transport will excuse me if I point out that this searchlight was put at my suggestion as far back as 1922 or 1923. At that time there was a big accident. This searchlight is not for the benefit of the driver alone, it is also for the benefit of the passengers who may have to cross over to the other side so that they may know what is happening on the line. The searchlight has been used for a long time past to warn passengers also to keep off the track. It is not merely for the benefit of the driver to see what is happening and whether the track is in proper order or not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I admit the motion as being in order. It will be taken up at four of the clock.

NOMINATION OF THE PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the House that under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I nominate Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr. K. C. Neogy and Sir Henry Richardson on the Panel of Chairmen for the current Session.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to announce that under sub-order (1) of Standing Order 80 of the Legislative Assembly Standing

Orders the following Honourable Members will form the Committee on Petitions, namely: (1) Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan, (2) Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, (3) Mr. N. M. Joshi, (4) Sardar Sant Singh.

According to the provision of the same Standing Order the Deputy President will be the Chairman of the Committee.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I present the Report* of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1942-43.

MOTION *RE* FOOD SITUATION.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Sir, I move: "That the food situation in India be taken into consideration."

Sir, it is now nearly a year since I made my last statement in this House on the food situation in India. I have no doubt that Honourable Members would like to have from me an up-to-date review of the position since then. It would perhaps be best if I were to give the House a brief review of the conditions in the main deficit areas. Bengal was in the grip of famine last year and it is not necessary for me to repeat an account of the causes that led to this distressing situation nor give a statement of the steps taken by the Government of India last year to remedy the situation. The end of last year saw the appearance perhaps of the biggest harvest that the province of Bengal had ever seen. Nature was evidently merciful after the devastation it caused in the preceding harvest. But confidence was lacking in the Province. The public had not yet recovered from the shocks that they had sustained in the preceding months and some urgent action was necessary to restore public confidence and assist the Government of Bengal to procure a substantial portion of the new crop and make it available to its deficit districts at reasonable rates. That was why the Government of India undertook to feed Calcutta for a period of 12 months and thus relieve the Bengal Government from the strain of having to procure food supplies for Calcutta. As originally estimated, this undertaking was calculated to involve 646,000 tons of foodgrains of which 246,000 tons were in the form of rice and 340,000 tons in the form of wheat. I may say that up to date a total quantity of 475,000 tons has been moved to Calcutta of which 223,000 tons consist of wheat and 174,000 tons of rice. In the meanwhile the Bengal Government went ahead with the scheme of their local procurements. They anticipated being able to procure a total of 700,000 tons and I am glad to say that the quantity they have so far succeeded in procuring is well in excess of that quantity. I admit, Sir, that in spite of the local procurement scheme and the arrangements they had made for feeding the deficit areas and in spite of their having been relieved from the strain of having to feed Calcutta, acute local scarcities were experienced in the earlier stages in some of the deficit districts like Chittagong, Tipperah and Dacca; and that was reflected in a level of rice prices in those areas considerably above not only their own statutory maxima but also over the rate prevailing in the rest of Bengal. For example, at one time the price of rice in Chittagong ranged from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 while in Dacca at one time it was quoted in the region of Rs. 20. The main causes for these local shortages were the slowness of procurement operations in the earlier part of the season and, even more, difficulties of transporting rice from the surplus districts to the deficit districts. But the House must not forget that slow procurement was part of a deliberate policy in the beginning as we did not want to disturb the restoration of confidence by hasty and ill-planned purchases in the rural markets. We knew that if the crop was a bumper one, as we thought it was, procurement was bound to become easier in the latter part of the year, and the results have justified our

*Not printed in these Debates, but a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—
Ed. of D.

[Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava.] expectations. The food situation, as far as rice is concerned, is now easy over practically all the areas of Bengal and the sub-divisional average of rice prices in Bengal today is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 13 a maund as against the level of Rs. 15 it had reached in the first half of March, 1944. The average of rice prices in the nine deficit districts is now Rs. 13/12, prices in Chittagong ranging from Rs. 13 to Rs. 14. If Honourable Members want, I am prepared to lay on the table a statement showing the latest rice prices in the different districts of Bengal as reported to us by the Government of that province.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We shall be grateful if the Honourable Member will do that.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will do that.

The stock position has also improved. The stocks of foodgrains in Calcutta total 87,000 tons,—that was on the 21st October last,—in the deficit districts 182,000 tons and in the surplus districts 100,000 tons; and it is expected that at the end of the calendar year the Bengal Government will be left with substantial reserves. As you know, Sir, the *aman* crop will come to be harvested in the next two months, and from the reports received so far the condition of the crop seems to be normal, though not up to the bumper level it had reached last year. On the whole, therefore, I think I would be justified in claiming that so far as Bengal is concerned the policy which we and the Provincial Government adopted has been justified and that we have sound cause to look to the future with confidence.

Now, Sir, there are two other major deficit areas to which I should like to draw attention. The first is Travancore and Cochin. Honourable Members are aware how these two States used on the average to import nearly 446,000 tons of rice in the pre-war period, most of which came from Burma. The cutting off of this fruitful source of supply has placed these States in the most difficult position by depriving them of more than 50 per cent. of their annual requirements. The Food Department allotted to these areas a total quantity of 283,000 tons of foodgrains under the *kharif* plan of 1943-44 and 32,000 tons of foodgrains under the *rabi* plan of 1944-45, making a total of 315,000 tons of foodgrains. Of this quantity 239,000 tons were rice, 33,000 tons were millets and 43,000 tons were wheat. The States in their turn undertook the most comprehensive measures both for mobilising their domestic resources and for providing for an equitable distribution of the total supplies they obtained both from within and without. Honourable Members are aware that in both these States there is monopoly procurement and State-wide rationing. I have myself but recently visited these two States and I must place on record my admiration of the efficient manner in which the Governments of these two States have tackled their food problem and have prevented the occurrence of starvation deaths in spite of shortage in their domestic output. The ration in these two States today is 13 ounces per day in Travancore and 12 ounces per day in Cochin. Of this ration, however, only 8 ounces of rice are available per day in Travancore and up till recently only 5½ ounces of rice per day were the ration given in the Cochin State. The rest of the ration was made up with other grains like wheat and millets. On my recent visit to Cochin I asked the Cochin State to raise their rice ration to the neighbouring level of 8 ounces. They promised to place the necessary supplies at their disposal. The Cochin Durbar have accordingly raised their rice ration from 5½ ounces to 6½ ounces per day, and will, I hope, presently be able to raise it to 8 ounces a day. I must confess quite frankly that I am not satisfied even with a ration of 8 ounces of rice. I know that Travancore and Cochin are predominantly rice-eating areas and it is not easy to change age-long habits within the course of a few months. I would very much like to see the rice ration in these areas raised to at least 12 ounces, but my difficulty is of getting the rice. It is possible to import wheat and I am now able to do so in increasing quantities, but rice is just not available. I have, therefore, to continue to ask the people of Travancore and Cochin to supplement their rice ration with wheat, which grain, I am glad to say, is gradually becoming popular in those areas, thanks to the

active and vigorous propaganda undertaken by their Administrations to popularise its use. I may add that I shall constantly bear in mind the desirability of helping the Governments of Travancore and Cochin to raise the rice constituent of their ration to a higher level. My ability to assist them will of course depend on the supplies placed at my disposal by other producing areas. In this connection, I should like to make a public appeal to the Governments and to the peoples of those areas in which rice is in the nature of a luxury ration than an essential article of diet that they should limit to the maximum extent possible their own consumption of rice and thus release the stocks to serve the needs of the predominantly rice-eating people of the south.

Now, Sir, I come to Bombay. Bombay used to import on an average 532,000 tons of foodgrains in the pre-war period, of which 143,000 tons consisted of wheat, 50,000 tons of millets and 294,000 tons of rice. We were able to allot them 227,000 tons of foodgrains under the *Kharif* Plan of 1943-44 and 257,000 tons under the *Rabi* Plan of 1944-45, of which 129,000 tons was in rice, 98,000 tons in millets and 210,000 tons in wheat. Of this quantity, 349,000 tons have already been moved to Bombay, of which 114,000 tons is in rice, 78,000 tons in millets and 157,000 tons in wheat.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Where is barley? We were getting barley, not wheat.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That was imported barley.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much was imported?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not got the figures here. I am dealing with the Basic Plan of India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): There it is omitted!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It will be noticed that in the case of Bombay as well, we were not able to meet their requirements of rice in full, and we have tried to make up the balance to some extent by giving them other foodgrains. Bombay also is a deficit area which has tried its best to help itself, both in the matter of procurement and equitable distribution of total available supplies. Honourable Members may be aware that Bombay has put through a scheme of a graded compulsory levy of foodgrains and has also instituted a system of monopoly purchase for the balance of the cultivator's marketable surplus. Indeed, they have gone further and enacted legislation for the compulsory maintenance of their existing area under food crops, and for the compulsory diversion to food crops of a part of the area under non-food crops. They have not only extended the scheme of rationing to practically their entire urban area but have also undertaken a system of provisioning for all the inadequate producers and non-producers in their rural areas as well. The population involved in this provisioning scheme is estimated at 4 millions. The ration allowed at present is 28 lbs. per month per adult. With the stocks in their actual possession at present together with the quantities expected to be procured by them from the last year's crop and the balance awaiting despatch from the rest of India, the Bombay Government expect to be in a position to meet their requirements till the end of December and still hold one month's reserve. I am confident that with these stocks, the allotment that we hope to make to them for the next year and the quantities they will themselves procure from their own domestic production, the Bombay Government will be able to handle their food problem successfully during the coming year as well.

Sir, I now turn to another area which perhaps is prominently present in the minds of some Honourable Members. I refer to the province of Madras. Madras has been more or less self-sufficient in the matter of food supplies and we had been informed by the Madras Government that they were confident about their ability to meet their own requirements. As Honourable Members may be aware, rationing in urban areas has been most extended in the province of Madras. The Madras Government have also had a very efficient system of procurement of food supplies from their surplus districts which they utilize

[Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava.]

for feeding their rationed area as well as supplying the balance of the requirements of their deficit districts. Some time during the year, however, our attention was drawn to the presence of acute distress in Malabar. My Director-General of Food paid an immediate visit to the South and held discussions with the Government of Madras and obtained our assurance that they would keep the district of Malabar sufficiently supplied with foodgrains. We also recommended to them the advisability of introducing district wide rationing in the district of Malabar, and I am glad to say that the Government of Madras have now introduced district wide rationing in the major part of the Malabar district. This is the first experiment of its kind in British India and I am most anxious that it should succeed. I have recently been to Malabar and saw for myself the conditions in that district and I have no doubt that the introduction of district wide rationing was the correct course to adopt. As a result of my observations, and in order to assist the Government of Madras, the Government of India have recently made a special allotment to the Madras Government of 22,000 tons of rice and 8,000 tons of wheat for the purpose of easing the food situation in Malabar and facilitating the successful introduction of district-wide rationing in that area. If this experiment succeeds in Malabar it may well prove a pointer to other deficit areas in British India particularly in regard to their deficit pockets. I am not happy about the size of the ration contemplated for Malabar. The ration proposed is 12 oz. and of it only 10 oz. is to be available in the form of rice. I wish it were possible for the Government of India to make available to the Madras Government additional supplies of rice which would help them to raise this ration. But as I have already stated, rice is in very short supply and I cannot import it. We hope however to make available sufficient supplies of wheat to the Madras Government by which they may be able to raise the rations in all cereals in Malabar to a total of a pound a day. The other district of the Madras Presidency about which we have recently been hearing reports of some distress is Vizagapatam. While I was last in Madras I particularly drew the attention of the Madras Government to the reported situation in Vizagapatam district and I was assured that the Madras Government was in close touch with the situation there and were taking appropriate steps to meet it. The Government of India have recently made a special allotment of 5,000 tons of rice to the Madras Government for the use of the Vizagapatam district and I think this will go some way to meet the shortage which particularly prevails in these pre-harvest months; I shall watch with interest whether the Madras Government will also apply the principle of district-wide rationing in Vizagapatam.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member like to stop now?

Before adjourning the House I wish to mention that I understand that there has been an agreement among the Parties that the time limit to be fixed for speeches during the debate on the food situation should be 20 minutes for Members generally and 30 minutes for the leaders of Parties.

Does that meet with the consent of the House?

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): If the leader does not speak I presume that 30 minutes will be allowed to the principal speaker of the Group?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, the agreement relates only to leaders. If the Parties agree to allow 30 minutes to another speaker in place of the leader, there would be no difficulty; but in the absence of such agreement, the arrangement come to must stand.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): We do not know how many days are allotted. Neither are we informed by the Government as to what is the programme to be adopted in this food discussion. The Members here are not informed at all whether the debate is for one, two or three days. Therefore we cannot say whether 30 minutes are sufficient for leaders.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have agreed to give two more dates—8th and 9th November.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Before lunch I was dealing with the main deficit areas of India. I have dealt with Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Travancore and Cochin. I think these are the important deficit areas with which we are concerned.

I would now like to pass on to a review of certain general matters relating to food control and food policy during the last twelve months. This is the period during which the co-ordinated policy which emerged from the Gregory Committee's recommendations has been working. During this period statutory price control was instituted for wheat, gram, barley, bajra, jowar and maize. The basis for the statutory maxima price for wheat was taken at Rs. 9-8-0 per maund in the main producing markets of the Punjab and those for bajra and jowar at Rs. 7/8 and Rs. 7/- per maund respectively. In order to protect the producer if prices fall, Government gave an undertaking to purchase any quantity of wheat offered at Rs. 7/8; a similar guarantee was given in respect of Bajra and Jowar at the rates of Rs. 6 and Rs. 5/8 per maund respectively. As regards rice, an all-India statutory price was not fixed, partly owing to the absence of a homogenous market and partly because of the difficult periods through which Governments in the rice producing Eastern Region were passing during the beginning of the current year. But the Provincial Governments concerned have themselves imposed statutory maxima of rice prices and the House will be glad to know that in the Eastern Region the statutory maxima itself have been steadily brought down during the course of the year under review. The position at present is: for Bengal the statutory maxima producer's price is Rs. 12/12 per maund in surplus districts, and Rs. 14/- per maund in deficit districts; for Bihar Rs. 11/- per maund, for Orissa Rs. 9/- per maund, for Assam Rs. 14/8/- per maund and for Sind Rs. 8/8/- per maund. Rice prices in Madras have been generally kept below Rs. 10/-/- per maund, while for U.P. and Punjab the Government of India fixed the statutory maxima at Rs. 13/8 per maund. The House will see, therefore, that the last 12 months have witnessed considerable development in the realm of statutory fixation of foodgrain prices and it is happy to record that, by and large, market prices have kept well within the statutory maxima. There have been some local exceptions to this general statement, such as, for example, Chittagong and Dacca. But the situation in those places has also now been brought under control and I would be correct in saying that foodgrain prices today are within the maxima limits set by Government. I may also inform the House that the Food Department is most acutely conscious of the need for having the prices of foodgrains at levels which will be within the reach of the vast majority of our poorer consumers, but the House must not forget that the interests of the producers have also got to be taken into account and we cannot take any action unduly to bring down producer's prices, especially when we are so actively seeking his co-operation in the "Grow More Food" campaign. A just and reasonable compromise has, therefore, to be arrived at between the interests of the producers as well as of the consumers in fixing the prices of foodgrains, but I can assure the House that the most careful attention will be paid to the point of view of the consumer in the fixation of the prices with which he is most concerned, viz., retail prices.

Another important development has been in the field of rationing. The principle of rationing which was not so popular when it was first introduced has now proved its worth by experience and even the surplus administrations have now fallen into line and Government's declared policy of bringing all the major urban areas under rationing is now more or less completely enforced.

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Today the number of towns rationed is 460 and the population affected is 42 millions. In addition, rationing has been introduced in rural areas in places like Travancore, Cochin, Bombay Province and now Malabar. This extension of rationing has brought to the front important problems of administration which may necessitate an expansion of the rationing branch in order to make more readily available to the provincial and State administrations the pooled experience of the Government of India in this matter and also in order to secure within reasonable limits uniformity of standards. In this respect, it is the set policy of the Government of India to try its best to see that the statutory ration all over the country does not fall below one lb. a day but the successful execution of this policy depends upon two factors, viz., the willingness of the surplus administrations to fall into line and the willingness of deficit administrations to accustom their people, if necessary, to the use of foodgrains other than those to which they had been normally accustomed. I can see visible signs of progress in both these directions. As regards the former, the ration allowed in the newly rationed cities in the Punjab has been fixed at a pound, while with regard to the latter Travancore and Cochin have led the way and, after long and sustained effort, accustomed their people to the partial use of wheat. Now, the Madras Government have mainly at my instance agreed to try the experiment of introducing a small quota of wheat in the cereal ration in the urban areas. I know it is not an easy thing to turn over from one grain to another, nor am I suggesting that there should be a complete replacement of one grain by another. But the fact remains that we are in short supply regarding rice; and recent events tend to make me feel optimistic that it would be possible to make up the deficit to some extent by wheat. If that is so, the realities of the situation demand that the rice-eating peoples of the country should, to some extent, be induced to supplement their rice rations with wheat, so that their overall ration in cereals may not fall below the limits set by nutritional standards. Moreover I am informed that the introduction of an element of wheat in the rice eater's diet would be a definite factor in the way of securing better balance in his diet. I would like therefore to take this opportunity of urging the administrations of the rice-eating areas in India to make every effort to popularise the use of wheat and to see that it is introduced to some extent in the diet of the people, rather than allow them to stick only to rice and suffer a ration which is considerably less than the minimum of one pound.

Now, there is another matter on which I know grave concern is being felt and rightly felt by Members of this House, and that is the deterioration and wastage taking place in food grains during storage. I would quite frankly admit that losses have taken place of food grains during storage; but I would like the House not to forget that this country has always had a large incidence of loss of food grains through deterioration and wastage during storage. In fact the loss suffered on this account in the pre-war period has been estimated at as high a figure as one million tons. But the incidence of this loss used to be spread over a large number of small stocks and was therefore not so prominent before the public as it has now come to be when bulk storage of large quantities has had to be undertaken in connection with the operation of the basic plans. Moreover facilities did not previously exist in the country for the storing of grain in such large quantities and at such places as has had to be done during the last two years, and it was unavoidable that a certain amount of loss should have occurred during this storage. I would like to assure the House that I am not trying to defend or gloss over the losses which have taken place. On the contrary we have been seriously perturbed over their occurrence and the whole problem of prevention of losses during storage has been engaging the most serious attention of my department in the last few months. We have been able to secure on a temporary basis the services of a specialist with experience of storage conditions in the middle east, and this officer has personally toured round the main surplus and deficit areas and given advice to Provincial and State Governments in the matter of scientific storage.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is he a foreigner?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes. A number of advisory notes on the general fundamental principles relating to storage have been issued by the department, and training courses have been arranged in Delhi, to be held during the first fortnight of this month—they are going on now, I believe—which will be attended by selected officers from provinces and states all over India. The House will be glad to know that this storage training course is definitely practical in bias and technical procedures have been avoided as far as possible. The present temporary Director of Storage has also put up a scheme for the establishment of a permanent directorate of storage which will operate largely in an advisory and technical capacity and help the Provincial and State Administrations to minimise, if not altogether eliminate, the losses that were hitherto arising out of insufficient attention having been paid to proper storage conditions.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The permanent Director also will be a foreign expert?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, I have not said that. I have said that proposals are before me for the establishment of a permanent directorate of storage.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But there will be a Director?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, I suppose so. In addition the Government of India have drawn up an extensive programme for the construction of new storage godowns or the improvement of existing godowns, both to contain grain imported from overseas, and grain procured in the surplus areas and awaiting transport to deficit areas. A senior officer of this department has been placed on special duty to expedite this programme which is expected to be completed within four or five months.

There is another matter relating to the working of the Food Department to which I would like specially to allude. The department exercises constant vigilance over what is going on in the provinces and the States. Our regional Food Commissioners are in constant touch with the Governments of their regions in matters relating to food. They bring to our notice cases of reported shortage within their regions and they draw our attention to difficulties in movement and they also constitute the channel through which the difficulties of the Provincial Governments are brought to the notice of the Central Government and the guidance of the Central Government is transmitted to the Provincial Governments. I may inform the House that during the preceding twelve months several cases of local food shortages or action requiring emergency allotments were brought to the notice of the Central Government and every time the centre took prompt action and made emergency allotments which saved the situation and prevented the emergence of acute distress. Thus, for example, the food grains lost as a result of the Bombay explosion were immediately replaced by a special allotment and an extra allotment of 80,000 tons of wheat was made to the Bombay Government following their urgent representations in the month of August.

Another instance was the acute food shortage in the Deccan States reported at the end of April. Emergency quotas to the extent of 17,500 tons were immediately arranged and a very high priority was ordered for the movement of food grains to these areas. More than 30,000 tons of food grains were moved to the Deccan States during three months and by the end of August the food situation in the Deccan States had been brought under control. The position at present is that substantial reserves have been built up by these areas and they can face the next years without diffidence.

To give another example. Towards the end of July 1944, the U.P. Government reported the emergence of difficult conditions regarding wheat supplies and asked for an immediate allotment of 50,000 tons of wheat. Immediate action was taken by the Food Department on this request and by now a total of 50,000 tons of wheat and 18,500 tons of wheat products and 5,000 tons of rice have been allotted to the U.P. which action has materially helped the Government of that province in handling their food situation. (*An Honourable Member:* "From what province was this sent to U.P.?") I cannot tell you

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but it is from our surplus stocks. Another instance which I may quote would be the North-West Frontier Province where in the middle of April 1944 a shortage of wheat supply was reported and assistance was asked for. An immediate special allotment of 8,000 tons of wheat was made and recently with a view to assisting that province with their rationing schemes the Food Department have given them a special allotment of 22,360 tons of wheat and wheat products.

As regards Madras, I have already told you that as a result of representations made by the Government of Madras and my recent visit to the South a special allotment of 22,000 tons of rice and 8,000 tons of wheat was made for Malabar and 5,000 tons of rice for Vizagapatam. Following my recent visit to Mysore and my discussions with the Mysore Government, we have recently given them an extra allotment of 7,000 tons of rice.

By the citing of these details, it is not my object to express a feeling of self-satisfaction. All that I want to do is to draw the attention of the House to the fact that my Department tries to keep itself in touch with the changing needs of the food situation in the different parts of the country and within the means at its command take the necessary action to prevent the emergence of scarcity conditions in any part of the country.

Finally, I come to the topic which I have no doubt looms large in the minds of many Members and that is the question of imports. The Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended that one million tons of wheat should be imported every year till the restoration of normal conditions and that an extra import of 500,000 tons should be arranged for building up a central reserve. I have repeatedly stated in public and the House is aware that the Government of India have been making the most insistent and urgent representations to His Majesty's Government regarding the urgent need for the implementation of this recommendation. The matter has been not only one of constant concern to me personally but I must acknowledge the steadfast encouragement and support which I have received from His Excellency the Viceroy and my Colleagues of the Executive Council. His Majesty's Government, however, have had their own very real and serious difficulties and we were not, for a very considerable time, able to secure assurances that satisfied us. Negotiations on such a subject conducted by means of telegraphic correspondence have their limitations and it was for that reason that I welcomed very heartily the suggestion that Sir Henry French should pay a visit to India to see for himself the realities of the situation and report on them to His Majesty's Government. I have no doubt that his recent visit has helped to impress upon His Majesty's Government the imperative necessity of enabling an import of a million tons by this country and our thanks are due to him for the frank assessment of the Indian food situation which he must have presented to His Majesty's Government. The present position is that from October 1943 to the end of September 1944, an import of 800,000 tons of grain was promised by His Majesty's Government. Of this quantity, 650 thousand tons have already been received and 95 thousand tons have been shipped. They are on the seas. An additional import of 300 thousand tons has been promised in the three months ending December this year and His Majesty's Government have promised further to review the position in November. These supplies of imports have been of the utmost value to the Government of India not only in meeting the food shortage in the country but also in facilitating the measures of price control. I would like to assure the House that the position at present is that we are able to meet the wheat demands of the different Provincial and State Administrations to the full. The excess of the supplies we are getting over the amount required for this purpose is being utilised by us partly for supplementing the rice deficiency of the deficit regions in the South and in the Bombay province and partly for making up the deficiency caused by the shortage of millets in some parts of the country. We also intend to hold part of the imports of wheat expected to arrive in the next few months as a working reserve. I have no doubt that with the easing of the war situation in the West more shipping would become available and it may be possible perhaps

to obtain as much wheat as we require during the coming calendar year. In any case, the Government of India are acutely conscious of the need for securing an adequate quantity of wheat imports for successfully handling the food problem of the country and I can assure the House that we shall spare no effort to urge upon His Majesty's Government the need for taking appropriate measures for giving us the imports that we require.

So far I have been talking on the food position in the last twelve months. Honourable Members may like to have some idea of the prospects of the next year. No indication can be available at the moment of the prospects of the Rabi harvest of 1945, but we have some information about the Kharif prospects of this year. I believe I would be right in saying that while we cannot expect a bumper harvest of either rice or millets in any part of the country taking the country as a whole, the Kharif crops would be about the average, perhaps a little less in some areas and a little more in other areas. Even this statement can only be made with great caution as much will depend upon the weather conditions in the next two months. But enough is known to make us emphasise the need for care and caution in the administration of the food policy in the coming twelve months. The silver lining in the situation is the more optimistic position regarding the imports and if that position is maintained I think we should be able to go through next year without having to face any calamity of a major magnitude. But much will turn upon the efficient and successful conducting of procurement operations both in the deficit and in the surplus regions, the continued and, if possible, increased willingness of the surplus administrations to share in the All-India food burden, the further extension of rationing, the availability of imports, the maintenance of price control, the easing of transport conditions, the vigilance of the Department and, above all, the understanding and co-operation of leaders of the non-official opinion. I trust that all this will be forthcoming and will enable the Government of India successfully to handle the food situation during the next year.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like, if I may, to touch upon some problems relating to the future. For some time to come even after the termination of the war, I do not think it would be possible for the country to have restored its normal pre-war sources of rice supply. There is also the fact to be faced that in a sense the food problem has always been with us inasmuch as the country has not had sufficient food to enable everyone of its citizens to get the minimum quantity considered necessary on the nutritional grounds. It has also been a fact that a large majority of the population of this country has not been getting a balanced diet. In particular, the supply of the protective foods has always fallen very short of the basic requirements and even such supplies as were available have not been equitably distributed. In fact, the vulnerable classes like children, nursing and pregnant mothers and especially those belonging to the lower income groups have had all too poor a share of the basic and protective foods. In the meanwhile, the population of this country has been increasing and is continuing to increase. The House needs no indication from me that the food requirements of the people from the long-range attitude must be studied and definite plans regarding production, procurement, price control and distribution of both the cereal food grains and the protective foods should be drawn up so that in the post-war India at least the people of this country can look forward to having more food, better food, balanced food. All this requires careful study and involves the collaboration not only of Provincial and State Governments but also of the Departments of Food, Agriculture and Planning. The first step in this direction has been the formation of a Food Committee of the Viceroy's Council, the principle object of which is the co-ordination policy on a high level on all matters relating to food, to whichever Departments they may pertain. I am proposing to set up very shortly in my Department a Food Planning Section, the main purpose of which will be, in the first instance, to study the whole question of a long-range food policy and planned development of the food economy in India. I know that nothing spectacular can be achieved in this matter within a short

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period but I am sure the House will welcome the attempt which we are now planning at assessing the long-range food requirements of India and devising ways and means not only of setting targets for the requisite supplies but also of taking the necessary steps for their equitable distribution. I intend, therefore, to place on special duty one of the senior officers of the Department to study this question and submit a preliminary report on the subject of food planning in the post-war period.

Sir, this is just a bare recital of the main achievements of the Department of Food during my stewardship of it of a little over a year, and I leave it to the House to judge how far we have advanced since the appalling days of 1943.

I may summarise what I consider we have been able to achieve during the past year. Broadly speaking, I claim that we have been able to do four things. Firstly, we have secured the recognition and adoption of an All-India policy steadily pursued with a common direction and a common aim. In spite of all constitutional and other difficulties, to overcome which a good deal of tact and patience was required, we have been able to secure the acceptance of the broad fact that those who have must share their surplus with those who have not. Secondly, we have controlled prices. Thirdly, we have been able to prevent the occurrence of serious local shortages and improve the stocks of grain in the hands of Governments and Administrations all over India. Fourthly,—and I attach the greatest importance to this,—we have been able to restore confidence in the ability of Government to control the situation. Confidence is best reflected in prices. The steady downward trend of prices of the principal food grains is to my mind proof positive of the returning confidence. In saying this I may be accused of complacency or a desire to advertise myself. I wish to assure the House that I am neither complacent nor do I desire self-advertisement. Whatever we at the Centre have been able to do has been achieved through the hard work, self-sacrifice and steady determination of the people of the country and the administrations of the provinces and States co-operating in the general plan. I am indebted to all and particularly to the Members of this House for much help, guidance and encouragement which I have always received and without which, I am free to confess, it would not have been possible for me to cope with the situation as I found it last year. While food has clearly demonstrated the need for central direction it has, if anything, more clearly demonstrated the economic unity of the country, the interdependence of the provinces and States and the need and capacity for common effort in a common cause. Nothing can be achieved if food is regarded as something which really does not matter, as something which can be made the sport of private or political profit or privilege. We can only succeed if the nation as a whole is determined as if it believes in the possibility of success. As already stated by me, our work is really laying the foundation stone of a new India in which the first requisite of existence is not lacking, namely, adequate and balanced food for all. I appeal to the Members of this House to give a great lead in a great cause.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I ask the Honourable Member whether he will circulate copies of his speech by tomorrow evening? He has made a very important speech with facts and unless we have his speech we cannot deal with it in our speeches.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will try.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration."

Notices of amendments have been given by some Honourable Members. Of course, these amendments did not comply, and could not possibly comply, with the condition of two days' notice. Therefore in the peculiar circumstances of the case I propose to admit them all.

In the next place I think it will be convenient to the House to have all the amendments moved without any speeches in the first instance, and then there will be a general debate on the main motion and the amendments together.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

• "That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'As no effective measures for growing more rice were adopted after losing the import of rice by 2½ million tons from Burma, this Assembly recommends that the Government of India should start immediate campaigns of growing more rice in U. P. and Punjab—particularly in Assam which can grow the quality of rice which Bengal consumes and which has about 4½ million acres of cultivable land which is not under cultivation and establish poultry, cattle and vegetable farms for the use of the American soldiers and for which implements and live stock may be imported from America under lend-lease arrangement.

The Assembly is further of opinion that the control price of food grains without controlling the stock will lead to blackmarkets and will completely fail, and it recommends to the Governor General-in-Council that steps should be taken to control the entire production of food grains in India. No one—whether producer, distributor or consumer—should be allowed to keep it at his house any stock of food grain without permit from competent authority and the Government should be empowered to purchase the stock in excess of the requirements of the producers at control price.

The Government of India should collect statistics of the production of each food grain in every province and Indian States and formulate a scheme of distribution from surplus areas to deficit provinces; the transport of food grains from one province to another province should be under the control of the Government of India while the transport from one district to another district in the same province should be under the control of Provincial Government. The prices should not be allowed to vary abnormally from district to district or from province to province which is the root cause of blackmarket; the maximum and minimum prices for the whole of India should be fixed by the Government of India with which the provinces may regulate their prices; the distribution should be controlled by the Government agencies consisting of permanent staff but in every province and in each area a Committee of non-officials should be associated to help in distribution; the grain shops should be opened in each muhalla and distribution work should be done by shopkeepers in each muhalla and it should not be the monopoly of one individual or one community; the District Magistrate should consult the Advisory Committee in the selection of the personnel. The rationing should be confined only in towns with a population of 150,000 or more.

The Assembly also deplores the excess of food stuff of perishable nature in certain localities which are either burnt or dumped spoilt food stuff to other places which is very unhygienic; it also deplores the careless manner in which the stock is stored in certain places.

The Assembly further recommends that in every Committee appointed by the Central or the Provincial Governments two members of the Legislature concerned should be associated.

The transport of food grains should have the same priority as the transport of war materials and they should be carried at concession rates on the certificate of the Government. The punishment to be accorded to those who neglect these orders and to Station Masters who do not take prompt action in the supply of wagons should be heavy and in each case the confiscation of the entire stock should be the minimum punishment."

Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'As no effective measures for growing more rice were adopted after losing the import of rice by 2½ million tons from Burma, this Assembly recommends that the Government of India should start immediate campaigns of growing more rice in U. P. and Punjab—particularly in Assam which can grow the quality of rice which Bengal consumes and which has about 4½ million acres of cultivable land which is not under cultivation and establish poultry, cattle and vegetable farms for the use of the American soldiers and for which implements and live stock may be imported from America under lend-lease arrangement.

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The Government of India should collect statistics of the production of each food grain in every province and Indian States and formulate a scheme of distribution from surplus areas to deficit provinces; the transport of food grains from one province to another province should be under the control of the Government of India while the transport from one district to another district in the same province should be under the control of Provincial Government. The prices should not be allowed to vary abnormally from district to district or from province to province which is the root cause of blackmarket; the maximum and minimum prices for the whole of India should be fixed by the Government of India with which the provinces may regulate their prices; the distribution should be controlled by the Government agencies consisting of permanent staff but in every province

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and in each area a Committee of non-officials should be associated to help in distribution; the grain shops should be opened in each muhalla and distribution work should be done by shopkeepers in each muhalla and it should not be the monopoly of one individual or one community; the District Magistrate should consult the Advisory Committee in the selection of the personnel. The rationing should be confined only in towns with a population of 150,000 or more.

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Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the co-ordination of procurement and distribution between surplus and deficit areas is entirely wanting; that the transport in that behalf is not adequate and timely (even considering the priority for war purposes) and that the prices are beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country; and that the steps taken by Government for exercising vigilance over eradication of corruption among those engaged by Government in the matter of the execution of food work are poor and ineffective."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the co-ordination of procurement and distribution between surplus and deficit areas is entirely wanting; that the transport in that behalf is not adequate and timely (even considering the priority for war purposes) and that the prices are beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country; and that the steps taken by Government for exercising vigilance over eradication of corruption among those engaged by Government in the matter of the execution of food work are poor and ineffective."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that grain prices in most places are uneconomically low for producers and that the failure of Government to subsidize the food consumption of the poorest consumers both in towns and villages is hitting hard both the producers and consumers of food."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that grain prices in most places are uneconomically low for producers and that the failure of Government to subsidize the food consumption of the poorest consumers both in towns and villages is hitting hard both the producers and consumers of food."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Have copies of this amendment been circulated?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): They will be circulated in due course.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, the Honourable Member in charge of this Food Department has been at considerable pains to congratulate himself and the Government upon the failure with which the Government policy has met in this country in regard to food supply. Sir, he has not given us any reason why Government has so far failed to assure itself of adequate additional production of food in this country. He has not told us what steps Government have taken and with what results and with what success to increase the total production of food from time to time. The Government have not given us the total amount of additional land that has been brought under cultivation, they were unable to give us any definite information—not merely any estimates about the actual additional production that they have been able to achieve in this country ever since this food scarcity has been recognised to be a factor. Sir, the Honourable Member was very eloquent about his plans for the future, about

his glorious ideas in regard to the basic rations that people should have in this country. He is also very sympathetic in saying that he should give better food, adequate food for the people in future. But he has not told us what exactly they are doing today. It would be the duty of this Government to assure the masses in this country of a basic ration of at least one lb. a day. He does not recognise the fact that today more and more people in larger and larger parts of the country are living on a low ration of food. There are places in India today where the local officials are condemning the people to ten tolas of rice per day per adult, whereas in Madras jails the basic ration that is laid down for a 'C' class convict is 50 tolas per day. For the ordinary people, it was 20 tolas per day but now it is reduced to ten tolas per day. Then again, the Honourable Member has been telling us that in so many towns with about 40 million people, the Government of India have been shouldering the responsibility of feeding the people. What about lakhs and lakhs of villages in this country which are to be found not only in surplus areas but also in deficit areas. Have Government ever considered the question of providing these people with adequate rations. They have done nothing at all. What do they propose to do? He has not given us any information whatsoever. All over the country, there is a clamour for lowering the price of food grains. How I wish some pressure was brought to bear upon the Government to keep down the price of industrial goods as also the cost of these foodgrains. He should see that these prices do not rise abnormally high. The Honourable Member says there should be no profiteering. But who is profiteering, may I ask? Are the peasants profiteering? Or, are the Local Governments—in collusion with, to what extent I cannot say, the Government of India—and also in collusion with the various middlemen who are very well organised and are profiteering in different parts of the country? Only this morning information was given to me by a reliable friend of mine that in Orissa the Local Government was adding Rs. 2-8-0 to every bag of rice. This is in addition to the ordinary expenses which the Local Government is expected to allow for. Profiteering on a large scale is going on on the part of merchants; and yet no information is given to us. Either now or in the past has any effort been made to reduce the various allowances that have been so lavishly granted to all these people? Many orthodox economists have been telling us that many middlemen carry away all the profits under the present system of Government control. What steps have been taken in regard to them?

Now, Sir, coming to the actual price which the peasants are able to realise for their own benefit, what do we find? In almost all parts of the country, the peasants are not able to make both ends meet. Many of my friends may wonder whether after all my statement is correct. Let them take the trouble of going to the villages to make a detailed enquiry. They are all in the habit of going in railways from one end of the country to another. Let them visit some of the villages in their tours. Hundreds of villages have become depopulated because of uneconomic prices for the grains. They cannot carry on cultivation. Why is it that in villages one does not find any new additional houses built, whereas in towns, hundreds and even thousands of houses are coming up like mushrooms, including so many storied buildings? Is that not a sure indication that villages instead of progressing are going to decay and ruin and they are stagnating, whereas towns are growing fat, and waxing rich at the cost of villages? All this, because it has become very profitable for the various businessmen and middlemen and others who have become a sort of hangers on to this war-minded Government, it has become very easy for them to engage themselves in trade, dealing in foodgrains and thus make profit at the cost of the poor consumers and the poor producers in the villages.

Sir, we have brought to the notice of the Madras Government certain facts which could show that present prices at which rice is being supplied to the local consumers in Madras Presidency, a price of Rs. 12 per bag of paddy can easily be paid to the grower. Instead, the Madras Government insists

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upon paying only Rs. 10-8-0 as a sort of a standard rate. And who gets the benefit of this Rs. 1-8-0? It is these rice millers. The same thing happened to wheat. The millers get the benefit—they are only a few thousands of people. But they are rich and powerful, and this is an alien Government. My friend may happen to be an Indian but he has not got that spirit. He is an agent of this alien Government, which cannot inspire the people in regard to food production and food distribution. Therefore it is obliged to depend upon all these middlemen to get for it the requisite quantities of food at prices which will be low.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): On a point of order. To whom is this eloquent speech being made. The Honourable Member in charge of the Food Department is not here.

An Honourable Member: To empty benches.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): The Honourable Member has just gone out. He will be coming within a minute or two.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): He made a long speech and has gone outside to make himself comfortable.

An Honourable Member: Give him less food.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to wheat too, not so long ago the Ministers concerned of the Punjab as well as Sind complained very bitterly that not adequate prices are being allowed to the wheat growers of the Punjab and Sind. It may be that these people who live in towns want these things to be cheap. Yes, they would all like to have it, if possible, for nothing. But you cannot produce these grains for nothing. You have got to pay a decent price. Only this morning the Honourable the Railway Member was telling us that four to five times dearness allowance was granted to the various employees in the Railways. What dearness allowance has been allowed to the poor peasant in the Punjab, Sind, or Frontier or anywhere else? You have been trying to suppress these people. The Honourable Member has been repeating again and again that they have been trying their best to bring down the prices of food grains. What does this mean? It can only mean one thing: the suppression of the peasant and nothing else. On the other hand everybody else is profiting thereby. I want the consumers to be able to get grains at reasonable prices, but if under the present emergent circumstances that prevail in this country you are not able to supply these people at such prices as will be within their reach, then it is the duty of the Government not to suppress the peasant by keeping down the prices of the agricultural produce, but, on the other hand, to subsidise the consumption of the food needed by the poorest sections of the people. Has the Government been able to do anything at all in this respect? When there was so much trouble in the country and millions of people were dying in Bengal, they came forward with their generous offer of feeding Calcutta city. Some cheap kitchens were opened here and there and people were fed also. But where? In towns only. It is the mischievous intention of this Government to satisfy the press, to silence these rich people, to silence these powerful men of the towns, and their organised workers also. They have introduced rationing in the towns and have done nothing at all for the villages. In order to satisfy all these people they have kept down all these prices. What can the poor peasants do? They are not organised, they are not able to make themselves effective. A few thousands of them who were bold enough to protest against this sort of policy of the Government have been kept under lock and key for all these days. If I had not been released 21 days ago, this House would not have heard a word in favour of the peasant. And what is happening in the country? You back up the millers and allow them to become rich at the cost of others and then you say 'we have been able to keep down the prices of foodstuffs'. The sooner we reverse this policy the better it is. But how can this be done. The gentleman who is responsible for this did not care to remain here in his seat and follow the debate cannot be expected to reverse the policy of the Government. And what is his status in this country except that he happens

to be an appointed Member of His Excellency the Governor-General who is himself an alien in this country. It is only a national government which can certainly reverse this policy in a bold manner and give satisfaction to all sections of the people.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of feeding the rural masses. You want to feed the town-folk. What happens to all these rural people themselves? The Honourable Member has told us himself that in Malabar it has become necessary to introduce district-wide rationing covering all villages and towns. What is to happen to all other villages? Are Honourable Members to be told for the first time that there are thousands of villages in this country—lakhs of villages—where there are non-agricultural people? They need food too. The Honourable Member's point seems to be that villages are producing surplus food and it is from those villages that surplus has got to be taken in order to feed the people in towns, and it is possible for non-agricultural people in the villages to meet their requirements from there. Unfortunately, this does not happen. According to the latest programme and policy of the Madras Government, their Grain Requisition Officers go to villages. And what do they do? Whether you are able to produce so much grain on your land or not, they simply demand such and such prescribed quantities of grain from your land which is supposed to have been placed under foodgrains. They are not concerned with the actual position—whether you have produced it or not. They must get their quota. Therefore these people are obliged to give away all the grain in their possession. If they refuse to do so they are liable to be put into jail and, in addition, there is any amount of trouble in store for them from the local Chowkidar, Lambardar and the police. In this way grain is being taken away from the villages—please remember—in order to feed your towns. Moreover villages are becoming famished, under-nourished and are suffering from serious food shortage. The Honourable Member was telling us, 'we are now in possession of such a machinery which has got zonal officers who will be able to tell us what is happening in any part of the country and we can take care to see that no serious local food scarcity occurs'. What is happening in Orissa and Vizagapatam and in Madras Presidency? There is serious food scarcity—local food scarcity. Is there any information available here in regard to that? How soon the Honourable Member is able to get that information and who gives him the information? Even the press is being gagged. They are not allowed to publish any news with regard to food scarcity. In Patna, a paper was suppressed for publishing inaccurate information, exaggerated accounts and so on. The press is being gagged and your publicmen in towns are being gagged for pleading the cause of poor peasants. Villages are allowed to go to rack and ruin.

The Honourable Member has not mentioned anything about Orissa or about Bihar. What is happening in Bihar? Is there no scarcity of food there? Is it not a fact that all that widespread disease and epidemic which are raging the countryside, and for which even the new Governor—Sir Rutherford—was so very eloquent, were due to malnutrition? You take notice only when people begin to die. They must die conveniently in towns, also in sufficiently large numbers, so that the correspondents of papers would not be able to escape from the awful spectacle of the people dying and dead. Then alone will the Government of India open its eyes. Its officers will begin to open their eyes. Until then they are not going to open their eyes. Where is the machinery to prevent the occurrence of these things? Isn't it a fact that thousands of people in Malabar had to die of cholera brought about by malnutrition even before now? The Madras Government did open their eyes then. In Bihar and Orissa it is the same sad story. People are dying in Vizag District as a result of strange diseases brought about by malnutrition.

What do I want? I want the Government to think seriously about the rationing, supply and distribution of food in the rural areas. I want them to keep down these middlemen. When they are prepared to control millions of peasants before they reap their crop and harvest, why do they not control the few thousands of rice millers and atta millers? Isn't it because they think

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it very convenient to catch hold of these people and allow them to exploit the masses—both producers and consumers? Then I want them to adopt that scheme of Mahatma Gandhi for developing local self-sufficiency in as many places as possible. This is not Mahatma Gandhi's idea alone. There is Radha Kamal Mukherjee who is accepted by many and the Government of India as a sound economist. He also supports this idea. Then only will it be possible for the villagers to assure themselves of sufficient food before their surplus food is taken to the towns to feed us and keep us in good temper and temperament. I want prices to be fixed as much as possible at the same level of prices and salaries as enjoyed by our industrialists and professional classes respectively. You give every assurance to industrialists and commercial magnates and professional classes of rising items of profit to keep in level with the index number of prices. What do you do with regard to peasants? The Honourable Member says: we must have some compromise between the claims of the producers and consumers. He says he has brought in a British expert. Let him also accept the British practice. In Britain the price of agricultural produce is fixed again and again in consultation with the representatives of the British Farmers' Association and it is only as a result of their discussions that prices are being fixed. And at the same time the prices that are being paid to British agriculturists are shown to be much above the capacity of the consumers to pay and therefore the Government has come forward to subsidise the consumption of food for the poor people. Here, in order to satisfy your consumers, you are keeping down the prices. You come here and pat yourself on your broad chest and say: Oh, I have done so much good. Therefore congratulate me and indirectly congratulate the alien Government.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have two minutes more.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Let him see that the prices are adequate, and that the rural masses are provided with the necessary quantity of food before their harvests are taken away to the towns. We have also to see that profiteering is eliminated. Profiteering is being carried on by Government officers themselves. Your railway station masters and Grain Purchasing Officers are making a roaring business. If one officer can go on leave and gives a chance to some other officer he is likely to be remunerated by thousands: and it is at the cost of the peasant. So far as the consumer is concerned, the price is fixed, but so far as the peasant is concerned it is not fixed. You have fixed the ceiling price but not the minimum price. Have you given any assurance of any decent minimum price for the peasants in the provinces? You have done nothing at all.

Under these circumstances you come forward and say that this Honourable Food Member and this Government of India do really deserve well of the masses of this country. But have they done anything, even in their limited power, to help the peasants as well as the poor consumers? The poor consumers do not exist only in towns. When the Bengal Famine was going on, all those industrial workers engaged in the essential services were paid and fed. They did not die. I am glad. I do not want anybody to die in this country from starvation. At the same time see that those Harijan workers in villages who are mostly agricultural workers also are not starved. Those Harijans in the country-side are workers. They want food. Is the Honourable the Harijan Member there? No.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Think of those Harijan members.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Their needs have to be considered. Therefore this Government has failed miserably. Besides it could not have succeeded because it is an alien Government. It is not a National Government. It is not able to win the confidence of the people. It is only able to thrive on the profits of the middlemen. The sooner this Government gets out of this country and the sooner they get rid of these middlemen the better will it be for the masses of this country, the consumers and the producers.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I support the amendment moved by my friend Professor Ranga. The Member for Food relied principally on these things: first of all, price control; then procurement of food, equitable distribution of food, levy of grain, compulsory diversion of land to the foodgrain, rationing, allotment of food to different provinces from surplus provinces, the co-operation of leaders. On nutritional grounds, he would like to have better quality of food and he would like large range policy to be followed. Of these, the things which hit the villager most and on which the Food Member would rely for the success of his Food policy is price control and he would also like to rely on the procurement of food. If the prices were going high there were two things which were necessary to be done. One was to grow more food in the country or import more food. The other was to subsidise the agriculturist so that by growing more food the cost of production of food would be met partly by the Government and food would be available to others at a lower price. To that effect I had moved a Resolution in the last Session and I had the support of the whole House so far as giving of a subsidy for the purpose of production of food was concerned.

Now what happens is this: The Government finds that the prices of food are going up and the persons whose wages are fixed, principally Government servants, are the persons who shout most saying that agricultural prices are soaring up abnormally and they should be brought down and life made more comfortable for them. There was a period, from 1930 to 1941, when the prices of agricultural produce were very low. At that time none of these persons, who were enjoying fixed incomes, raised their voice to relieve the poor agriculturists of their distress. That was the time when those who shout now should have come forward to help the distressed agriculturists. At that time the cost of living had gone down. They saved money and all that money went to the bank and they do not want to part with any part of it. Now that opportunity has come to the agriculturists to make money we hear from all parts of the country shouts that the agriculturists should not be allowed to charge such high prices. Professor Ranga has suggested a remedy. If the Government is so anxious that the people should get their food at reasonable prices, the Government should come forward with some remedy to help the agriculturists, so that they may pay off the accumulated debts of the last so many years, just as they have granted a dearness allowance to the Government servants.

Now, how is the procurement operation carried on? The procurement of food is carried on first by fixing the prices and the prices are fixed arbitrarily, not on what should be the economic price but what the Government considers is a reasonable price which can be paid by the men who are living in towns. I would like to know the basis on which the prices for the agricultural produce are fixed, particularly in regard to food crops. No basis will be or can be given by the Government, because the representatives of the agriculturists are not taken into confidence by them. As a matter of fact in other countries (I referred to other countries last time while talking about this subsidy in my resolution)—I mean the United States and Britain—there are agricultural unions who have got their representatives in the Parliament or the Senate. Those persons compel the Government to fix a price and the Government dare not go against their decision. If you want the agriculturists to grow more food, then you should see to it that they get better prices. There can be no better inducement for the agriculturists than the assurance that they will get better and more economic prices, not only adequate to meet the cost of production but also something over and above it so that they may be able to pay off their accumulated debts of past years. In other countries there is a guarantee given to the agriculturists regarding the prices below which they shall not go down. But what happens in this country is that a price is fixed, then it is revised and again revised. What confidence can the agriculturists have, if he were to grow more food, that he will get an economic price, which will enable him to meet his needs, not only the ordinary needs of feeding himself and family but medical relief, clothing and the education of his children.

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But the Government not only does him an injustice in fixing a very low and uneconomic price but they compel him to part with his produce at that price. If the Government had fixed prices arbitrarily and had not resorted to compulsion it would not have mattered much. The agriculturists would not have complained, because they would have after all got the price they wanted. The Government could have gone on fixing prices but if the agriculturists had not parted with their crops the Government would have been in a helpless position. Now, what they do is to fix the price arbitrarily and then at that price procure the crops. That is where the farmer or the producer is hit. Not only that but the Government requisitions the crop by law. What is more, there is a target fixed, a target of procurement, that so much shall be collected. This according to them is based on statistics. What happens is that revenue officers in the districts so work it out that the target goes up by double and treble, and the crop is collected at the cost of the poor agriculturists. And this happens not only in the deficit provinces but also in the surplus provinces. For instance, what happened in Orissa is this. The Government compulsorily procured all that the agriculturists grew and then having collected all that, when the agriculturists themselves wanted food for themselves and their families they had to purchase it from the Government at a higher price. This is the irony of the situation. Then, in my own province, (C. P. and Berar)—which is supposed to be a surplus province, millets, which is the ordinary food of the agriculturists, had been procured by Government to such an extent that the poor people had to live on groundnut cakes and a little gur. If this is the way in which things are managed by Government, no wonder that there will be very little inducement for the agriculturists to grow more food.

I should like to say a few words about this long range policy. This policy has been mentioned by Government but when is it to begin? Should it not begin now? Because it is a long range policy should it begin after a few years? Does it mean that it should begin after some years instead of now? When there is a shortage of food now, you must start growing more food now. What has the Government done? However, as Prof. Ranga said, who cares for this Government. There is plenty of cultivable land in this country on which more food could be grown. There is no urgent need to reclaim waste lands for the purpose. There is already considerable land available and with better methods of cultivation more food could have been grown. This Government ordered one hundred tractors so that they may quicken this business of growing more food. How many were allowed? One. This is how in every matter the representations of the Government count with other members of the United Nations. The Government has gone down in the estimation not only of this country but of outside countries also. If the Government are not doing anything to put this long range policy of producing more food into immediate practice it will stand condemned by itself. Merely appointing directors and directorates and this committee and that committee is not by itself going to help the Government in the solution of the food problem. The Government must realise in all seriousness that it is high time that they should start doing something now.

4 P.M. **Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. The House will now take up the adjournment motion.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

DEATHS DUE TO AN ACCIDENT AT BAKHTIARPUR JUNCTION STATION.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., criminal negligence of the E. I. Railway administration in not having provided lights at Bakhtiarpur Junction Station and allowing empty special train to run without search light on the engine on the 26th of September, 1944, which resulted in the death of nine persons who were run over by the said special train when these persons were attempting to catch the 14 Up Express at about 8-30 p.m. and further failure of the E. I.

Railway administration in not having instituted a public enquiry into the said accident.

A report was published in the *Searchlight*, a daily newspaper of Patna, on the 26th and 27th, which I want to read in short. The first report which came to us was as following:

"An important railway accident involving loss of lives of nine, seven females and two males, is reported to have occurred last night at Bakhtiarpur, E. I. Railway. It is stated that the deceased along with another were returning from Biharsharif after attending the 'Chiragi' mela there and in their hurry to catch the 14 Down train that had just arrived at the station they were crossing the railway line between the Up and Down platforms, when suddenly an empty coaching special train was sighted passing through the Up line with the result that they were caught under the wheels and killed instantaneously save and except one who sustained serious injuries. The injured was removed to Patna General Hospital in a precarious condition. The party consisting of members of two Muslim families hailed from Monghyr. Enquiries are proceeding."

The following note was then published in the paper on the subsequent date:

"A report published in these columns the other day and so far uncontradicted gave some details of a tragedy in which 9 or 10 persons lost their lives at Bakhtiarpur railway station. It is alleged that seven women and two men while returning from 'Chiragi' mela at Biharsharif were crossing the railway line to catch a waiting train when an empty coaching special train suddenly came and ran over them. Again the pertinent question that arises is if there was negligence somewhere which was responsible for or which contributed to this tragedy. Is there no rule that an empty coaching special train should slow down her speed at a railway station? If this tragedy occurred after sunset, was there sufficient light at the railway station, and did the authorities give sufficient warning of the coming train to the passengers? If there was any negligence on the part of the railway authorities or the man in charge of the running train, it was simply criminal. Government should at once institute an enquiry and let the public know what they are doing in the matter. The Railway Administration have so far said nothing about this tragedy. It seems that accidents and incidents have now become so common that the Railway Administration are becoming callous, and they well may become so until the public have control over them through a popular Government."

Soon after this, I began to receive letters and representations from people of that locality. I do not intend to read at length all the correspondence I have received in this connection, but I will read just one from Mr. Syed Badrul Huda, an honorary magistrate who stays in Bakhtiarpur and is an honorary magistrate of Patna. This is what he says: (This letter has also been sent by many others):

"The whole point is that there were no lights on the platforms with the result that perhaps in the night, the poor victims could not make out the overbridge of the station and were crossing the line in a hurry to catch the down train when they suddenly met the Up coaching special train which was also without searchlight and could not be detected and were run over. It may be argued by the railways that there was no train in the Up direction and they were not bound to light the Up platform; but the point is that passengers coming from the Bakhtiarpur Light Railway have to come to the Up platform for going to the Down platform; and in view of the rush, it was a necessity that the Up platform should have been lighted. My information is that the Down platform was not also properly lit and there was only perhaps one light burning in front of the A. S. M.'s office."

Another point which he has said is that there was no searchlight on the empty wagon engine which ran on Up line and besides its speed could not be ascertained whether it was running at full speed or at controlled speed. It is also alleged that there was no information available to the Bakhtiarpur junction station. I personally went to the Bakhtiarpur station and made all the necessary enquiries on spot as to what had happened. I got evidences from about 12 to 16 persons—Hindus and Muslims—a few of whom were present at the time of the accident, and all of them told me that there was no light of any kind on the platform, either on the Up or the Down platform, except the one near the A. S. M.'s office. They further told me that not only has this been the position at that station on that particular night, but this has been the story for many months past, that practically all the night those platforms were to remain in dark. There was no light of any kind on the platforms; and there was no searchlight fixed on the engine which could not only have given guidance to the driver of the engine, but would also have given warning to these passengers who were the victims of this accident. The worst is, as Mr. Badrul Huda says, that no information was available even to the Bakhtiarpur station

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master that any Up special empty wagon train was to pass by at that time. One other man told me that until the matter was fully enquired into he was not in a position to tell me whether there was or was not any truth in the report that signals were not on on the Up line. At least, this information was not given to the people who had assembled on the platforms who were detraining from the Bakhtiarpur Light Railway and going to catch the 14 Down Express, and the result was what happened. These passengers were in a hurry to catch the train which they thought was more convenient and it was easy for them to cross the line and catch that train, although they hardly realized that they were crossing the last hurdles of their lives and that the train they were going to catch was taking them to the next world. The railway administration had arranged for all the darkness for necessary ceremony of the tragedy. I do not want to introduce any heat or sentiment. But I would only impress on the House that they should think dispassionately what this means and how callous the administration has been. Probably they think that they have no obligation because they have been carrying on a campaign of 'No travel'. But do they not realise that so long as the so-called public utility service of the railways continues, they cannot shirk their obligation or responsibility in this direction. They have got to give a certain amount of safety and a reasonable amount of safety for individuals who undertake these journeys. This is the point which I want to impress on the House now. After the accident, a public demand was made for a public inquiry into the accident to find out exactly why and how these platforms were kept dark all these days.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): To whom was it made?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Letters were sent to the General Manager by a few persons and no heed was paid. No reply was given to any one of them. Of course, the Honourable Member in the morning said that there was some sort of official inquiry made. I do not know what sort of inquiry was made. At least, I have no knowledge of that and the Honourable Member for Railways would probably be in a position to tell the House what reports he has received from the official bureaucratic source, which he is relying upon.

The other point is, when trains were coming in both directions and if the intimation was already with Bakhtiarpur Junction some sort of verbal notification could have been given to all passengers on the other platform to say that such and such a train was due to arrive in darkness. The people could not even see whether the signal post was down or not.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have two minutes more.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This accident was the result of gross negligence on the part of the E. I. R. administration. The worst of it is their callousness in not having carried out a public inquiry and they have not even sympathised with the families of the victims that they are sorry for what had happened. With these words I move my motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved.
"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): I had not originally intended to intervene in this debate but I have some specialised knowledge in regard to railways and railway working and I feel that the few remarks that I may have to make will be of some help. I would make the plea that in a case of this description the House should not allow itself to be overborne by emotion. I am sure we are all very sorry indeed that certain persons were killed, but it is a very understandable weakness, when persons are killed, to begin to argue from effect to cause and to endorse the plea that blood calls out for blood. Because some people have been killed some say that it follows inevitably that somebody must have been criminally responsible for their death.

I have intervened in the debate as a friend of the railwaymen. I am speaking merely as a matter of principle. I do not know who the persons were, what

railwaymen were involved and to what community or communities they belong but I would ask the House not to endorse or arrive at any decision to require the punishment of innocent and already overburdened railwaymen.

My friend there has made the charge that this engine was not carrying, as he called it, a search light. I want to tell the House what the position legally is with regard to this subject. I appeared in the Bombay Mail accident case recently and perhaps I know the rules even more than my Honourable friend the War Transport Member. It is an admitted fact that there is an acute shortage of bulbs of all description and this acute shortage has affected the Railway Department perhaps more than any other department. And because of this acute shortage of bulbs, railway officials have allowed engines, both mail and passenger, to operate without bulbs. This railway usage is not illegal and it has been allowed. It was admitted by the railway authorities in the Bombay mail accident case that they had no bulbs. They were obliged to allow engines to operate without the usual headlights of 2,500 candle power and to use in their place cab lights of 10 candle power because they had no other alternative. The point I wish to emphasize is this, that legally, these engines—mail and passenger engines—are not obliged to carry these searchlights, as my friend called them. The G. I. P. Railway is governed by certain rules, as is the case in all other State Railways. There is a rule, I think it is rule 143, I am quoting from memory, which allows the engine to be taken out at night, mark you, with buffer lights. Now, the buffer light throws no beam of light. It is a pin point of light. That rule has been framed and it is in existence. The legal implication of this rule is that mail and passenger engines can operate normally, even in peace time, without searchlights or headlights. They are allowed to operate with these buffer lights. In the light of their experience and knowledge, the Railway Administration do not consider it necessary to have these bulbs and if railwaymen are merely carrying out what is allowed to them under the rules, I feel that we cannot ask for their punishment.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I have not asked for their punishment. I have asked for the condemnation of that rule which has been made.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: This rule has not been newly framed. It is a rule which has been in existence for years and years. (Interruption.) It is obvious that the Railways do not consider it necessary that these engines should operate with headlight bulbs. I endorse the view that it may be desirable but the desirability is never an effective or a real touch-stone.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): In a court of law!

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Not even outside a court of law. My Honourable friend may have read the case of an American who was alleged to have been murdered in New Delhi park. It may be said that if there were more searchlights in the park, the murder would not have been committed. You may say that it is desirable to have searchlights in the New Delhi parks but you cannot seek to impeach the New Delhi Municipality because they did not have the desirable number of searchlights.

My only plea is this that the railwaymen were operating under an acute shortage of bulbs. If they were travelling without the bulbs, it has not only the sanction of railway usage but more than that it has the sanction of the law. Let us not therefore in a state of emotion lend ourselves to the process of witch-doctoring in attempting to smell out some innocent scapegoats.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to support the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Muhammad Nauman asking for a public inquiry of the accident that has taken place in Bihar. I know that on account of the war situation, on account of the lack of lighting and on account of the fact that the railways have to carry inflammable and explosive material accidents are taking place oftener than they used to. I, therefore, feel that the Government of India should consider the question of the accidents more carefully and seriously. I do not support the motion for a public inquiry in order to get the railwaymen punished, but it is the duty of the Government of India to see that human

[Mr. N. M. Joshi]

life is saved. I, would, therefore, like the Government of India under the present more difficult situation to be more watchful and to take steps to see that accidents are avoided. Accidents are more likely to take place under the present circumstances but certainly more steps are necessary to be taken in order to avoid them and in order that human life should be saved. I also feel that in all these cases a thorough inquiry should be made by the Government of India and the inquiry should be a public inquiry. Under the present circumstances it seems to me that the Government of India sometimes avoid publicity. I do not know why they should do so. It is true that under the present control over the press they can easily get some very important events suppressed.

Recently there was an accident in Bhusawal, an important railway station not very far from Bombay. As the facts are known to me, I may mention that the accident took place on account of the fact that railway wagon had contained petroleum or some other explosive material. The wagon first took fire and then exploded. While the wagon was burning, some railway officer ordered the men to throw water on the fire in order to extinguish it with the result that there was an explosion. I admit it was a much smaller edition of what we may call the Bombay explosion. The wagon was brought by the officer nearer some office where there were men working with the result that, according to my information, not less than 8 or 9 persons were killed and many more were injured. The point is this that the Government of India have to be more careful. That is the first point. Then, they must issue orders to their employees whenever they carry an explosive material to see that greater care is taken. The example of the Bombay explosions should have been an eye-opener to the Government of India and should have made them take more serious steps to avoid such accidents.

Then, so far as my knowledge goes, there was no publicity given to this explosion. I do not know how Government managed to get this explosion not mentioned in the press because not less than 8 or 9 persons were killed and many more were injured.

Lastly, Government in all these cases must make a public inquiry not with a view to punish the man who was responsible—he may be punished if found guilty—but with a view to avoid such accidents. The root cause of the accident must be gone into so that there will be a warning to all those who have to handle these difficult situations to take steps to avoid them. I, therefore, hope that the Government of India will accept this demand for a public inquiry. Let there be a public inquiry and let facts be known so that the public will know what the Government of India is doing. Sir, I have done.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am much obliged to you for having given me an opportunity today at least to say something on this adjournment motion. I have been noticing since yesterday that palliation is the rule in this Session. For every action of the Government there are some kinds of palliations. They may be circumstantial palliations or other kinds of palliations, but there is a palliation everywhere. Then there are explanations and explanations but no condemnation. And why? Simply because some of us think that we will be raised in our titles, in our positions and in some other things if we side with the Government. What happened yesterday is happening again today in this House. I do not blame my friends but the atmosphere is charged with the idea of palliations and palliations and nothing else.

Sir, nine or ten lives have been lost and it is not an ordinary matter. It is a matter for every one of us in this House to be sorry about. It is a matter over which every one in this House should feel sorry. It is not to condemn the Government that an inquiry is asked for. It is for the Honourable the War Transport Member to say. Cannot he rise and say that he will make an inquiry in the matter and if there are some persons to be punished, he will punish them? If there are no guilty persons, he will not punish anybody but at least he will issue a warning to the effect that such and such arrangement should be made. Now, nothing is being done; there is only palliation and nothing else. My Honourable friend Mr. Anthony said that he did not care whether it is a

Muslim or a Hindu. Nobody says that because some Muslims have been killed, therefore my friend should have sympathy with us or if the Hindus were killed, he should not have sympathy with us. It is not that. It is a matter for which every human being should feel some sorrow in his heart. We have become very callous in this House. I am sorry to say that although 9 or 10 lives, especially women, have been lost in this accident, yet my Honourable friend over there says that nothing should be done in the matter. We should simply sit here in this House. We should come here and go away after realising our honorarium. Is this the work that we have to do in this House? The Government ought to thank Mr. Muhammad Nauman as they ought to have thanked Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan yesterday that they have brought to their notice that such serious things are happening in the Punjab and in Bihar. But this callous Government does not care for such happenings. I say it on the floor of this House that if a European's life were lost, my friend Mr. Anthony and my friend Sir Edward Benthall would have expressed their regret. But in the present case there is no regret but palliation and explanation. Is this the way to deal with humanity?

While travelling from my constituency to Delhi, I myself noticed that small stations have no lights. And why? Here in Delhi there are lights everywhere but in small stations there are no lights. The explanation is that there is no kerosene oil. And why not? If in your own houses you can get even half a bottle of kerosene oil why should you not provide a few lamps in these stations? Government in this matter have been guilty of the greatest and grossest misconduct. It is a fact that has been established by my Honourable friend who has given so many paper quotations, and still my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony says it is not an offence. In my view it is a serious offence not to provide lamps at these stations. Nine lives have been lost; it may be nothing to Government but Honourable Members should think twice before they vote on this motion.

Sir, the Honourable Mover has not asked that any one should be punished. So why import the question of punishment at all? It is only in order to divert the question from the main issue. These attempts at side-tracking the real issue should not be made. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I join my other friends in ventilating the grievances against the railway administration in my province which has lately become a victim of these accidents. Perhaps my Honourable friend Maulvi Abdul Ghani has given notice of an adjournment motion in regard to the sinking of the "Cormorant". This thing has come in the wake of that and God knows how many accidents are still in store for Bihar which seems to be a victim of Nature's cruelty. But it is not in the spirit of a post-mortem examination or crying over spilt milk that I am speaking. I submit that the railway administration in this country is as important as the Government of India itself. In revenue they are equal to the Government of India and therefore in the interest of the people there is no excuse for their not providing some amenities so as to save the people from risking their lives in the way they have done. It may be said it was only an accident. But why should it happen? It is known to every one that railway trains are now-a-days overcrowded and this overcrowding is due to shortage of trains. Every one would like to catch the earliest train and the administration should have seen the risks which the people were running by this shortage of trains.

I will state my own experience. While travelling from Gaya to Bhagalpur there was no light in the train. I had to change the train at Kiul, and while doing so I gave my trunk to the coolie who pointed out to me that the lock was broken. Evidently a thief had tried in the darkness to break the outer lock as well as the lock of the trunk. But somehow he failed in the crowd and nothing was stolen. But even murders may be committed, and criminals are emboldened to commit these offences on account of the darkness that prevails in the whole train. That is the fate of every train that is not on the main line, and even the Loop Express runs without lights except a few lights in the first and

[Mr. Kailash Behari Lal] second class compartments; the third and inter classes are all without lights. The argument advanced is that bulbs are not available these days. But we find, things are obtained at higher prices and if the railway authorities follow the principle of not running trains without lights I believe they can get sufficient bulbs for the trains. Therefore the railways themselves contribute to these accidents, and it is in this spirit of warning the railway authorities that I speak today. Of course the lives lost cannot be brought back, but we can learn by experience at least and take precaution for the future. It will not do to say that there is no money and there are no materials. The income of the railways, as all people know, has gone up many times and they cannot simply make money and make civilians suffer in this way. They should consider that every life has its value. Of course, in these days and in this country human life has gone down in value not only on the railways but also in the general administration. Not only life but our very honour has lost its value. I will take some other opportunity to narrate the change that has come over the administration in this country where the value of our life and our very honour has gone down. It is only to remind this Government about this loss of value that I got up to make a few remarks. When the railways are rolling in wealth by increased income in railway traffic, they should see that human lives are better cared for and given due value.

With regard to the change in the spirit of the administration, I may remind the House about the keenness of the Government to check ticketless travel and punish them. In Bihar they have started the experiment of a court in a running train. A Magistrate holds court in a running train and ticketless travellers are punished on the spot. There cannot be two opinions about the evils of ticketless travel. The railways are to be vigilant in checking this evil and tracing the culprits and punishing them. At the same time they should be vigilant to see that the innocent people are not harassed or punished. Those who are in charge of attending to the amenities of passengers on railway platforms always attempt to squeeze money. They would encourage a man holding a third class ticket to get into the Inter class and then pounce upon him and collect extra fares. What can the poor illiterate passenger do when he finds that there is no room in the third class carriages? He runs about, up and down the platform, only to find that all carriages are crowded and, in his anxiety to get into the train, he gets into an Inter class compartment. I myself have drawn attention of the Inspector on the platform to find accommodation for these poor people who are running up and down the platform. The railway official simply brushed me aside by saying, it was none of my business. But he thinks it is his business to see the poor passenger enter a third class compartment and then demand full fare or at least patch up the whole affair by a compromise. That is the practice obtaining in this country at present. I may point out that I have nothing but praise for the administration so far as their vigilance to put down ticketless travel is concerned. But, at the same time, they should look to the comforts and convenience of the passengers. It is in that spirit that I make these remarks and perhaps if nature conspires to inflict some wound on the afflicted people, they will at least have the satisfaction that human agency is not against them. With these words, I support the motion of my Honourable friend.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I have considerable sympathy with the Honourable Mover of this Motion. My reasons are that in the first place, human life must be treated with the greatest sanctity. It does not matter who the people killed were, whether they were Muslims, whether they were Hindus or whether they were Christians, whether they were poor or rich, human life is sacred and must be held sacred. So, Sir, my Honourable friend has my sincere sympathy in his effort to bring before this House and also, to invite the attention of those who are responsible for the administration of the railways to this most unfortunate and most regrettable accident. I also feel, Sir, that he has done a service by bringing to the notice of those who have to deal with these matters certain great inconveniences which the travelling public has to undergo in these days. In recent years, it has been

my lot to travel more than half the month; and I spent about ten nights on the train on an average in a month and therefore I have very great sympathy so far as this question of lights is concerned. The inconvenience that is caused by the absence of lights to the travelling public is indeed very great. In a four berth compartment, you have one light and none in the bath room. This state of affairs is known to every one and every one feels it. It is much more serious if the absence of lights or a shortage of bulbs results in such a serious accident or at any rate becomes a contributory cause where human life is endangered and lost. But there are certain matters which we cannot help. We have been told that there is acute shortage of bulbs, that bulbs simply cannot be had. We have got to take that into consideration. I would also say that it may not be such an insuperable difficulty to procure bulbs as has been said by some speakers. Perhaps you yourself, Sir, might feel so touched by this accident that you may even be willing to lend to the railway administration a number of superfluous lights which I see all round me here and perhaps that will also save us the inconvenience of sitting late at night. That is of course by the way. The fact still remains that we are living in abnormal times. There is a war on. It is not only in India that one suffers from lack of lights or that one hears of unfortunate and regrettable accidents. It was not very long ago that I happened to be in England and there was hardly a light visible anywhere. The lighting restrictions may have been relaxed recently but ever since the war began, there has not been a single road light in England and as far as the railway stations are concerned, even the names of railway stations could not be read. There was no light and the same kind of accidents happened there as they happen here.

Now, Sir, accidents are bound to happen in the best regulated country in the world and the Indian railways do not claim to be the best regulated railways in the world. They may be moderately regulated, or indifferently regulated, but I do realise this, that they along with all other railways are at this time passing through a period of the utmost difficulty in keeping up the train services and in providing whatever facilities they are able to provide. As I was saying, I have been out of this country during the war and I must say that it is to their credit that they do not in any sense show up in a worse light than railways in other countries where there are probably more facilities for production of bulbs than in this country do. I would therefore say that we should make some concessions and not take the administration to task too severely for something which they cannot help.

Another point emerges. I observed that the Honourable Mover of this Motion said that these poor unfortunate people did not see the overbridge because it was very dark and therefore they crossed the line. Now, Sir, I feel this, that though I have the greatest regret for the great misfortune and the terrible punishment which they suffered because of this small mistake, the fact remains that in this country, may be in other countries too, people seem to have a terrible temptation not to see and use overbridges whether by day or by night. Somehow or other they do like to go under the bridge and cross the railway line, and no amount of loss, no amount of hearing about people who lost their lives because they tried to save a little physical effort or tried to save a little loss of time by crossing the railway line seems to deter the public from a practice which is so unwise. I still feel though I do not say that this lessens my sympathy for those unfortunate victims of this tragedy or for their relatives, but I still say that it is not due to inadequate lighting that this tragedy happened. Even the absence of light does not completely hide overbridges from human vision and it is very likely that these persons unfortunately, crossed the railway line though they had seen the overbridge. I am just trying to show that the accident was not altogether due either to the negligence or the lightheartedness of the employees of the Railway or the Railway Administration. I have already said that my friend has done a public service by bringing this accident to the notice of this House and through it to the notice of the Honourable the Railway Member. But I feel that a case has not been made up to censure either Government or the Railway Administration for an accident of this kind. It is very

[Lt. Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee]

regrettable but at the same time we must remember that the Railway has a great deal to do and the Railway Administration are now taxed to the utmost capacity. Is it fair or would it be in the public interest that whenever an accident occurs—and accidents in the time of war must frequently occur—that whenever an accident occurs, a public enquiry should be set up or that Government should be censured, or that the Railway Administration should be censured. Does it in any way improve matters? Sir, I have already said that it has been a very good thing to give publicity to this because however hardworked an official might be, human nature being what it is, he is some times negligent; he may some times be not as vigilant as he ought to be. That has already been done by the motion which my Honourable friend has moved and the speeches of those who have recounted their grievances and the shortcomings of the Railway in this matter. So what I would say is this: that what could be done has already been done. I do not think that a case has been made out for a full-dress public enquiry. I do not agree that a case has been made for censuring the Railway Administration, and I would therefore plead that my Honourable friend should now withdraw the motion.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I feel that I should commence my remarks by saying that I take exception to the remarks of certain of those Members who have, if I may say so, not dealt with the merits of the case, but have spread themselves over a number of extraneous aspects of railway management and have accused the Government of not caring in this matter and of being callous. Sir, I hope to show that the Railway have paid proper care to this accident. They have the necessary information and they did appoint an enquiry, and I have the facts with me here. I think I had better give the facts to the House with one or two comments on them:

"The facts were that there was a heavy rush of passengers at Bakhtiarpur from Bakhtiarpur Bihar Light Railway concerning the pilgrims returning from the Chiraga Mela at Bihar Sharif at about 21.00 hours." (That means 9 p.m.) "14 Down passenger came into Bakhtiarpur and stopped into the down platform and just then an Up M.T. Coaching Special for which though signals had been lowered approached on the up line. A party of about 13 passengers were waiting on the up platform near the mounting of the foot over-bridge."

I draw attention to that because the Honourable Mover pointed out that the lighting was such that passengers could not see the over-bridge.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The fact was that there was no light of any kind.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They found a way to the foot of the overbridge and could have crossed to the correct platform. The report goes on:

"These passengers had arrived by the Light Railway Train at about 20-22 hours and one of the party had gone across to the down platform to purchase their tickets from the B. G. Booking Office and had come back and joined the waiting party who apparently intended to board 14 Down Passenger Train from the off side due to heavy rush on the down platform." These passengers jumped from this platform on to the up track without noticing the approach of Up M. T. Coaching Special which ran over them, killing seven on the spot and badly injuring three."

That is confirmed by the Honourable Mover's statement and the report which he read out. It is quite clear from that that they were crossing the line in a manner which they should never have been doing and it was evident from the action of the member of the party who bought the tickets that they were crossing the line in order to board the train from the off side, and that this was not done in a wild moment but was done deliberately. I go on with the report:

"The driver of the up train pulled the emergency signal."

That is, he put on the emergency brake—

"... but could not avoid the accident."

The driver was alert and attempted to stop the train—

"The train stopped with the last vehicle about 270' beyond the site of the accident."

It shows it could not have been moving very fast—

"From the statement of the driver it is apparent that the engine of the Coaching Special had no electric head lights but had the ordinary oil lamps."

That report gives, I think, a sufficient account of what actually happened, and I think also makes it sufficiently clear that very regrettably the people responsible for this accident were those passengers who apparently decided to jump across the line and did not look at the train which was coming from the opposite direction. Needless to say, no passenger has any business to cross the line, especially when an over-bridge has been provided for them.

Three points, besides the direct responsibility for the accident, have been made. One concerns the lights on the station. There were lights on the station. That is my information. I admit on some of these stations, particularly in the A.R.P. area, lighting arrangements are not what they were. This station is, as a matter of fact, just outside the present A.R.P. area, but they have been under A.R.P. rules for a long time. Perhaps the lighting is not so good; as it might be and I will endeavour to see that so far as possible lighting is improved on these stations to the extent that the availability of oil and electric light bulbs permit. But what has not yet been explained is why the absence of lighting can be regarded as a contributory cause. What could be the defect in the lighting if people, as the evidence shows, could find their way to the overbridge and cross with perfect safety. There is no question of providing lighting to cross the rails illegally, so that I do not see how in any way better lighting would have effected the result. In fact, if the lights had been at all dazzling, they would probably have still obscured the lights of the approaching train, but the victims did not show even ordinary care to see the lights of the approaching train. There were lights on the approaching train. They were not headlights. Why, I do not know. But all the trains do not carry headlights now, because there is a shortage of headlight bulbs which has been ventilated in this House on numerous occasions. During the last month or so the position has improved, but even now I do not suppose all trains carry headlights. When they do not carry headlights the practice is to carry two oil lights which this train was carrying. Mr. Anthony has explained the technical position. There was nothing wrong. As Lt. Col. Chatterjee points out the lighting difficulties in the United Kingdom are much worse than in this country and engines there do not carry headlights. So, the lighting of the engine may be regarded as having been normal.

Lastly, there is the question of the enquiry. It is suggested that there was no proper enquiry. When an accident like this takes place what happens is that the railway authorities set up an enquiry. They notify the magistrate and the police. They did so on this occasion. They further notify the Government Inspector of Railways under the Posts and Air Department. The enquiry was held. No representative of the District Magistrate attended but two members of the police, Khan Saheb Nabi, Deputy Superintendent of Police and Mr. Muhammad Yakub, Inspector of Police, both attended this enquiry which was also attended by the Government Inspector of Railways from Calcutta. This Committee of Enquiry signed a report to say that, having carefully considered all the evidence, they found (a) that the passengers were killed, etc., (b) that the accident was entirely due to the rash and negligent action of the deceased and the injured for crossing the Up-line from the Up high level platform in order to board 14 Down passenger standing on the Down platform, (c) that no railway staff were responsible for this accident.

So, in reply to the suggestion that there was no proper enquiry, I say that there was an enquiry held by the Government Inspector of Railways whose duty it is, if he is not satisfied with the findings, to prosecute. He did not think it necessary to do so. The police officers who attended did not consider it necessary to take any further action and it appears from the evidence that I have given and the report which I have read to you that the enquiry was pretty thorough and, I hope, will satisfy members on that score.

I think I have covered all the points. I think the evidence shows that the victims unfortunately perished or were injured because they were where they should not have been and that they did not use the overhead bridge at the

[Sir Edward Benthall]

foot of which they were standing. There is nothing to show in any way that the railways or the railway staff were at fault and everything to show that it was the lapse of the unfortunate victims, and I would suggest that in fairness, to the country's own servants this House should not show a readiness to condemn their railway servants in the way in which some of the members have done.

The motion speaks of criminal negligence. I suggest there is no such criminal negligence. I would ask the honourable mover to withdraw his motion or, if he will not do that, I hope the House will reject it.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Is there anything to show how many witnesses were examined in this enquiry?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable member will appreciate that it is not too easy a matter at short notice on an adjournment motion to secure all the evidence I would like to. But the enquiry report does say "having carefully considered all the evidence". I frankly do not know what that means but the Government Inspector of Railways was there. It was not only a purely railway enquiry. It is the job of the Police and the Government Inspector of Railways of the Posts and Air Department to enquire thoroughly into these matters. They were both present at this enquiry and they came to that finding.

Several Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Sir, I do not want to take more than four minutes in reply. I went to Bakhtiarpur, spent a full day and from the reports available to me there from non-official sources there was no-one to say that there was any variety of light on the platform. It was dark and cloudy night over and above this.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Do I understand the Honourable member to say that he did not cross-question those who were particularly concerned?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I should not say they were not concerned. Those people from whom I enquired were certainly not at all concerned with the victims, but were concerned with facts. I went there after a full week. The other point is that according to the report to which the honourable the Railway Member has referred he said that there was no representative of the Magistrate and for his information I may tell the House that in Bakhtiarpur there is a Magistrate, whose letter I have read and whose evidence to me was that there was no light on the platform and on the authority of whose evidence, given personally to me, and by correspondence, I have made my statements in this House.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On a point of information I said that the District Magistrate was informed and was invited to attend but did not do so.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I do not know that: it might be a fact. I said that a Magistrate was in Bakhtiarpur and he stayed there all the time and no reference was made by this enquiry to that Magistrate. I have not tried to bring this adjournment motion on any lines of sentiment. I only want to impress upon this House how these tragedies are being given the names of accidents and how is an enquiry averted or shelved and this is what is being done. Well, if there was any anxiety on the part of the passengers on account of rush, as the Honourable Member for Railway has tried to allege, what reason can be given that, for the last 60 years this station has been in existence and there was never any anxiety on part of the passengers to cross in the manner in which they did on the 25th September 1944? So, to say that this happened because of rush is to say something which cannot convey any meaning and probably cannot convince this side of the House. So, I press my motion for division.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Question is

"That the Assembly do not adjourn."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—50

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodasa.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Gunta, Mr. K. S.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Umar Alv Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—49

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwillt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Inskin, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. D. S.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lal Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sethna, Mr. D. P.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 3rd November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

RELEASE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

60. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if the present release of Mahatma Gandhi is conditional or unconditional?

(b) Have any restrictions been placed on Mahatma Gandhi?

(c) Did the Mahatma or any one else ask Government to release him? If so, who?

(d) Did the Mahatma object to his release unless a National Government was established at the Centre?

(e) What are the grounds for the Government's belief that if the arrests of Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress Leaders had not taken place in August, 1942, the Congress would have negotiated on their own with Japan in the face of Mahatma Gandhi's clear repudiation of such a belief?

(f) Is there any likelihood of the Mahatma's meeting with His Excellency Lord Wavell? If so, when? If not, why not?

(g) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the *Daily Worker*, London, dated the 24th June, 1944 to the effect "Cannot statesmanship be found—Mr. Amery or no Amery—to begin a new chapter to replace hostility and bitterness by equality and co-operation"?

(h) What steps do Government propose to take in order to take advantage of such advice and remove the present deadlock? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The release was unconditional.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) Government have never had that belief.

(f) That is for His Excellency and Mr. Gandhi to decide.

(g) Government have seen the cutting.

(h) Government are not in the habit of taking advice from the *Daily Worker*. In the present case the nature of the advice which they offer is not clear.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I know if Mahatma Gandhi was willing to come out of jail before the deadlock was removed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Was any communication made by him to that effect?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Did the Honourable Member say that no communication was made?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has answered the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, the answer was not clear.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member repeat his answer to part (e) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have never had that belief.

WAR SITUATION

61. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the War Secretary, be pleased to lay on the table a full and detailed statement as to the progress and success of Allies on all fronts of War and particularly on the Assam-Burma and Indian borders since the last session of the Indian Legislature.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I lay a statement on the table.

Statement.

Introduction—Need to redouble effort.—Since the last statement in this House on the course of the war, great events have happened. In the West, Germany has suffered mortal blows under which she is now reeling; in the East the Japanese have been soundly thrashed and must have few illusions about the fate in store for them. The more reason for all, and particularly us in India, to redouble our efforts and ensure that this titanic struggle which has cost so much in lives and material shall not be protracted one day longer than is absolutely necessary.

Review of war—The West.—To review briefly the progress of war in Europe, the South West Pacific and the South East Asia theatres. As the House is aware, the combined Anglo-American onslaught in the West has not only broken down the so-called Atlantic Wall but has driven the Germans out of France and Belgium, deep into Holland until now our Allied Armies are storming the Siegfried Line and carrying the war into the heart of Germany. Under the Supreme Commander General Eisenhower, the combined might of Britain and the United States of America, aided by French Forces of the Interior and from North Africa and contingents of Canadian, Polish and other forces have conclusively exposed the myth of Nazi invincibility.

Italy.—No early collapse of the Nazi-war machine can be anticipated. The likelihood is that we shall have to fight our way forward through the German countryside. In Mr. Churchill's eloquent phrase, the red-hot rake of war will be drawn across the face of Germany just as it has been drawn across that of Italy. It is more than a year since the Allies landed in Italy, a year of hard and dogged fighting. General Alexander's forces are now on the threshold of the Plain of Piedmont with its important industrial areas. In this offensive, three Indian Divisions—the 4th, 8th and 10th—are playing a notable part and have enhanced the great reputation which Indian soldiers have earned during the past five years. This campaign has contained many German Divisions and undoubtedly had a profound influence on our later successes in the West.

Russia.—As in the West, so in Eastern Europe the Germans and their satellites are being swept back by the onslaught of Allied arms. Our Russian Allies have accounted for Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland. The British have liberated Greece and cut off large German forces in Crete and the Aegean Isles. The Russians have entered Yugoslavia and Hungary; they have invaded Poland in depth and have reached the gates of Warsaw. They are now fighting within East Prussia. Soon they will be hammering on the doors of Germany proper and retribution will strike the misguided people of that country. But I should not like to express an opinion on when the struggle in Europe will end; the Nazis are fighting with fanatical desperation and it may be several months before they are finally beaten.

Pacific.—If the beginning of the end is apparent in Europe, in Asia and the South West Pacific the end of the beginning has come. Between them, Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur have established supremacy over a great expanse of the South West Pacific until now American troops have landed on Leyte, in the Central Philippines, and established a firm base there. This is not only athwart Japan's link with her conquests in the East Indies and Malaya, but brings Formosa well within bombing range of U. S. land-based planes. The American Navy has just won a great sea victory over the Japanese in the Battle of Philippines. As the full might of the Anglo-American fleets grows in the Pacific so does Japan's hold upon the territories she has over-run become more tenuous. Soon, the Allies should be in a position to wrest these territories from the enemy and liberate them.

Burma.—On the mainland of Asia, the picture is in some respects brighter and in others darker. In recent months we have witnessed a triumph of Allied arms along the Indo-Burma border, where the rash Japanese attempt to invade India has been flung back with heavy loss. The Japanese have suffered no fewer than 50,000 killed; their total casualties cannot be computed. What is certain is that their plans have been frustrated.

I will not speculate upon future developments in this theatre which is the responsibility of South-East Asia Command. But I know this—that we can continue to rely upon our Indian soldiers to wage war against the Jap with the same determination and skill as they have shown in recent months. Aided by British formations and by British troops within our Indian Divisions, and by American and Chinese forces they must undoubtedly spell disaster for all the Japanese remaining in Burma and in fact, in the conquered territories. The Allied Air Forces, British and American and Indian are supreme over Burma and the Eastern Fleet with growing strength has been striking hard towards the East Indies.

China.—But we must expect a long and bitter struggle before this comes about. In recent weeks the Japs have strengthened their hold on the mainland of China by driving farward into the heart of South China and depriving the Allies of some of the forward airfields from which American planes have bombed Japan and Manchuria. That shows that the Far Eastern Fascists still have great reserves of strength—reserves which will need to be dismantled bit by bit by our offensive skill, tenacity and courage.

India as a developed base.—As members of this House are perhaps aware, India has been developed into a mighty base from which large scale offensives may be launched. The training of the Indian armed forces in the peculiar form of warfare necessitated by the difficult terrain over which they will have to fight has proceeded apace. That this training is efficient is shown by their recent achievements. Not only on land, but in the air and at sea, India's

fighting men have acquitted themselves nobly. The Indian Air Force has continued to range far and wide over Burma and reconnaissance and dive-bombing. The Royal Indian Navy continues to harry the enemy's flank off the coast of Burma, and also to help the Royal Navy in meeting the menace of underwater attack in the Indian Ocean.

As to the Indian Army, it is a fact that those who are in the best position to judge of the morale and fighting spirit of our men are not only satisfied with them but are proud to fight with Indian troops. Actions speak louder than words and the renown in which India's warriors are held throughout the world has never been higher. From the Prime Minister of England downwards, fitting tribute has been paid to their feats.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member kindly give us a summary of that statement so that we may be in a position to put supplementary questions?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question has been answered. Next question.

POST-WAR INDUSTRIALIZATION PLAN PREPARED BY CERTAIN INDUSTRIALISTS.

62. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development, be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to a plan prepared by certain Industrialists for the post-war industrialization of the country at an approximate cost of Rs. 1,500 crores? If so, what are the main features of the scheme?

(b) What are the Government's views thereon, and what steps are being taken to examine the same in collaboration with the industrialists?

(c) What other measures do Government propose to adopt to industrialize India after the War? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Government are not aware of a post-war industrialisation plan at an approximate cost of Rs. 1,500 crores. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to a plan of economic development for India prepared by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Mr. J. R. D. Tata and others. Government have seen this plan and a copy of it is available in the Library.

(b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the "Second Report" on Reconstruction Planning, a copy of which I place on the table of the House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether the Government converted the Honourable Member who was one of the authors of the Plan or whether he converted the Government?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to part (b) of the question, will the Honourable Member tell me what are the Government's views on the Industrialists Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Government have accepted the objectives of the Industrialists Plan, but they are preparing a plan of their own on their own lines. When the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin comes up for discussion we will go into further details.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask the Honourable Gentleman if the Government have accepted the objectives of that Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is not that plan very damaging to the country?

(No answer)

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I ask if the Government have accepted the position that the income of the agriculturist will be increased by 1½ per cent. and that of the industrialist will be increased by three times?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It is the output of the industry and the output of agriculture and not the income of the industrialists and the agriculturists.

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Sardar Mangal Singh: The objective laid down in that Plan was to increase the income of the industrialists and the town people by three times and that of the rural people by 1½ per cent. Is it not so?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: No, Sir. I think the Honourable Member is labouring under some misapprehension, but all these difficulties will be cleared up when we discuss the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It cannot be discussed now.

INSUET TO MR. FRANK R. ANTHONY BY A MILITARY OFFICER AT JUBBULPORE RAILWAY STATION.

63. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the conduct of a military officer at Jubbulpore Station on or about the 19th August, 1944, in insulting Mr. Anthony, an Honourable Member of this House, and not allowing him to occupy the berth reserved for him?

(b) Is it a fact that that passenger actually threatened to shoot the Honourable Mr. Anthony with his revolver?

(c) Why was not such a passenger arrested then and there and handed over to the police?

(d) Is it a fact that he defied a British G. M. P. who tried to interfere and persuade him to yield?

(e) Is it a fact that one R. T. C. Capt. Kapoor provided Mr. Anthony a berth in another compartment?

(f) Who was the concerned culprit? Was he a British or an American?

(g) What action have Government taken against him?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (f). The incident has come to my notice, but the facts are otherwise than as originally reported.

One Major Ruggles of the U. S. Army and three other officers were travelling in a four-berth compartment in a coach reserved for the personnel of the Defence Services which arrived at Jubbulpore at 7-30 p.m. on the 16th August. All of them had made reservations. A couple of days previously, my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony, had asked a friend employed on the Railway to make a reservation for him to join the train at Jubbulpore, but through a mistake on the part of the Railway authorities Mr. Anthony's reservation card was placed on the door of the compartment in which the four officers concerned were travelling. Mr. Anthony entered the compartment when three of the occupants were in the dining car. These officers, including Major Ruggles, returned to the compartment and asked Mr. Anthony to leave as there was no place for him. Mr. Anthony contended that accommodation had been booked for him in the same compartment and in the resultant argument, Major Ruggles, who had Mr. Anthony's luggage removed from the compartment, made use of some forceful language. No violence was offered to Mr. Anthony, who was then found accommodation in another compartment.

(b) No, Sir. Mr. Anthony himself has denied this allegation in his statement.

(c) and (g). Do not arise in view of the facts stated in reply to (a) above, but I should add that on arrival at Bombay, Major Ruggles was detained by the United States authorities, but later allowed to proceed to U. S. A. after investigation which established that he had not committed any offence.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member who is present here make a statement as there is a difference between the statement of the Army Secretary and the facts that I have given? If the Honourable Member chooses to make a statement, he might do so.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Sir, have I your permission to make a statement?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot answer the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that the officer went to his bed and took out the revolver when Mr. Anthony left?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. Mr. Anthony himself has denied this in his statement.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Mr. Anthony himself told me that the officer did bend down.

(No answer).

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What sort of words were used because the Honourable Member has said that forceful language was used?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Of course, I have said that the language used was forceful and my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony will bear me out that he himself also used forceful language.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: That is not correct. It is entirely incorrect.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, Order. Next question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: But, Sir, the Honourable the Army Secretary has not given me the words actually used. I did not ask whether the Honourable Member (Mr. Frank R. Anthony) also used a forceful language. Did the military officer at the time of using the word point to the revolver or the pistol?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I have already said that Mr. Anthony has denied this allegation in his statement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULE VII LEASES UNDER CANTONMENT LAND ADMINISTRATION RULES.

64. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please lay on the table, with reference to the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, a statement for the years 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, showing by Cantorments the number of applications received for the grant of lease in form Schedule VII of the said Rules, and the number of applications rejected?

(b) Is it a fact that, although the Rules leave the disposal of applications for leases in form Schedule VII to the Military Estate Officers at their discretion without any reference to any superior authority, these officers are, by executive orders, required to submit all applications to higher authorities?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please quote the authority enabling the Government to override the provisions of the law on this point, viz., Rule 27 of the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937?

(d) Will the Honourable Member also please lay on the table a copy of the orders requiring Military Estates Officers to refer to higher authorities all applications received for the grant of leases in form Schedule VII of the above Rules?

(e) Is it a fact that when the above Rules were before this Assembly, Government had given the House an assurance that the Rules would be interpreted in action in a liberal spirit and leases in the above form would be issued freely and that it was on the strength of this assurance that the Rules were adopted by the Assembly, and which assurance, consequently, on the adoption of the Rules by the Assembly, constituted for Government their guiding policy as approved by the Assembly?

(f) Is it a fact that Government have since then adopted a policy of restricting the grant of leases in form Schedule VII as much as possible?

(g) If the answer to (f) above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please quote the resolution of this Assembly, if any, authorizing such variation of the policy approved by this House?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Information has been called for and will be laid on the table when received.

(b) and (c). An executive instruction was issued which would at first sight appear to be in conflict with rule 27, as rule 27 says that an Estate

Officer may without reference to superior authority grant a lease. On the other hand, it must be remembered that all Estate Officers work under the general supervision of superior authority, and that they exercise their administrative discretion subject to the views and policies of superior authority. However, in view of the fact that there may be some doubt with regard to the legal position Government propose to take the necessary steps to amend the rule so as to clarify the position in accordance with the policy of Government as hitherto followed.

(d) It is not in the public interest to publish confidential instructions or correspondence.

(e) No Sir. The Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, were made under the provisions of section 280 of the Cantonments Act, 1924, which empowers the Central Government to make rules referred to therein after previous publication. These rules were, therefore, never discussed in the Legislative Assembly. They have, however, been interpreted in practice as liberally as possible.

It is the duty of all Government Departments to protect the interests of the taxpayer by seeing that no financial interests of Government are sacrificed owing to negligence on the part of any public servant and all steps that have been taken in this direction were always in the public interest.

(f) No Sir. It must, however, be remembered that Cantonments are primarily intended for the accommodation of troops and unrestricted buildings in Cantonments can lead to such overcrowding as to make the areas unfit and unsafe for the habitation of troops.

(g) Does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know from the Honourable Member if the rules he has referred to allow the grant of leases and also authority to them to sub-lease?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have got Rule 27 before me. I am not fully acquainted with all the details but I can read out the rule if the Honourable Member so desires.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULE VII LEASES UNDER CANTONMENT LAND ADMINISTRATION RULES

65. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoolaharoon**): (a) Is the Honourable the Defence Member aware that the position indicated in the foregoing questions has been responsible for the existence of great discontent and a sense of hardship and injustice among a class of loyal citizens who have rendered and are rendering valuable services to the Army Department?

(b) In view of the above questions, what steps do Government propose to take with a view to ensuring—

(i) that the Rules, in question, are strictly adhered to;

(ii) that executive orders constituting an infraction of, and operating against the spirit of, the legislation are immediately withdrawn; and

(iii) that confidence in the Government's *bona fides* is restored among the landholders in Cantonments by issuing a press note reaffirming the assurance given by Government at the time the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, were passed by the Assembly, and issuing necessary instructions to Military Estate Officers that all applications for leases in form Schedule VII of the Cantonment Land Administration Rules should be freely sanctioned without any reference to any superior authority?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No.

(b) (i), (ii) and (iii). The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to parts (b) and (c) of the preceding question No. 64.

STATEMENT ON FINANCE MEMBER'S WORK RE FINANCIAL SAFEGUARD OF INDIA.

66. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member lay on the table a full statement of the work he did in connection with financial safeguard of the country during his foreign tour?

(b) Will the Honourable Member give an opportunity to this Assembly to discuss the statement of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The main object of my foreign tour was to lead the Indian delegation to the International Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods. The results of the work done there will appear in the Final Act of the Conference of which two copies have been placed in the Library of the House and which in due course will form the subject of discussion in the House. Subsequent to the Conference, accompanied by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, I had a preliminary discussion of an informal and exploratory character with the experts of the British Treasury in London regarding India's sterling balance. No decisions were taken, nor was either side in a position to undertake any commitments, and the discussions related mainly to a programme for more formal discussions in the future.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Honourable Member expect to bring the Bretton Woods proposals before this House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said that the Final Act of the conference has already been placed in the Library of the House and that the subject will, in due course, be discussed in the House.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What does 'due course' mean—this Session or next Session?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It will be premature to consider the subject in this House until we know what is the likely reaction first in America and secondly in Britain, because unless those two countries decide to adhere to the agreement, there will be no scheme for any other countries to adhere to.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member make a statement to the House, either now or at any time during this Session, indicating what are the advantages, if any, to India of the adherence either to the Fund or the Bank, considering that India has got an enormous credit balance due from the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will endeavour to have the material prepared for the assistance of members when the debate is likely to take place. I shall endeavour to have some material prepared on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Manu Subedar: To the extent to which the Honourable Member, by his presence and by taking part in the discussions, has already approved of the objects of this Conference, would he not mention to us now in what way these objects will serve India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is hardly a matter which could be suitably dealt with in the course of question and answer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That is why I suggested a statement in the course of this Session, if the Honourable Member chooses.

STEPS FOR STABILISATION OF PRICES

67. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what steps he has taken since the last meeting of the Assembly to stabilise the prices in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The policy of the Government of India designed to secure a stabilisation of prices within the country in the spheres of taxation, borrowing, bullion sales, etc., as outlined in my last Budget speech has been pursued with vigour. The Government have the matter under continual review and suitable action is taken as and when conditions permit. Some new commodity controls have recently been introduced which, together with further action under the previously existing controls and under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance have resulted in an appreciable lowering of prices during the last six months. In the vital matter of food, price control is being strengthened, imports are being steadily

increased and reserve stocks built up in various Provinces and ports. Continuous improvement is being effected in the procurement machinery of supplying areas and in the speeding up of movement, while the rationing of urban areas is also being steadily extended.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that under the powerful influence of Professor Keynes, England has succeeded in maintaining the price level of 1939 during the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No country has succeeded in maintaining the price level of 1939 during the war, as far as I am aware.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With a very slight modification. They have kept it within ten per cent. of the pre-war price level or very near it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It depends on what is meant by 'very near'.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that India is one of the countries, probably next to China and Persia, which is suffering most from inflation. Has he considered the desirability of stopping the use of the printing press and throwing out several crores of notes every week in addition to the existing circulation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Has my Honourable friend considered whether it would be advantageous for Government to stop all payments including payments to the class which he represents?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that so long as he does not stop this inflation and throwing of additional notes on the people, if he continues this policy of controlling food prices, the peasants are likely to suffer because the prices of all other goods will go up, while their own prices are kept down?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid that is a subject which could hardly be dealt with in answer to a question.

PERSONS IN DETENTION UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES.

68. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the number of persons in detention under the Defence of India Rules on the 15th October, 1944—

(i) under the orders of the Government of India; and

(ii) under the orders of the various Provincial Governments;

(b) the number of persons released from the 1st of January, 1944, to the 15th October, 1944, both by the Central and Provincial Governments;

(c) was any condition imposed on the released persons such as periodically reporting themselves to the Police Station; if so, were any instructions issued by the Government of India to Provincial Administrations in this connection;

(d) has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the very humiliating conditions imposed on *ex-detenus* by the Punjab Government, was the Government of India consulted in the matter; if not, will the Government of India make an enquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). In respect of persons detained under the orders of Provincial Governments, I have information only upto the 1st September, 1944. I would also remind the Honourable Member that no persons are now detained under the Defence of India Rules. They are detained under Ordinance III of 1944.

The figures are:—

(a) Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces	88
Provincial Governments	5,237
(b) Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces	57
Provincial Governments	5,068

(c) Conditions are sometimes imposed on release if that is considered necessary. Provincial Governments were informed that in the opinion of the Government of India the imposition of suitable restrictive orders on released

detenus in appropriate cases is preferable to asking detenus before release to give undertakings of good behaviour.

(d) No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can the Honourable Member give me any figures about the province of Sind and tell me how many people are still under detention and whether their cases have been examined yet.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The great majority of the persons detained in Sind are Hurs.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Apart from the Hurs, does the Honourable Member know that some Members of the Assembly are in jail and they are not being allowed to come out, because the Ministry there wants to maintain its position intact?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I can accept no responsibility for the detailed acts of any Provincial Government under this Ordinance.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Central Government has power and if it is also desirable for the Central Government at least to examine those cases which the Government of Sind or of any other Province have refused to send for and see for themselves that justice is done to them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is quite impossible.

Sardar Sant Singh: As regards part (c) of this question, may I know whether the instructions issued to the Provincial Governments for imposing conditions upon those detenus who are released are uniformly issued to all the provinces or only to some of them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As I have already said, instructions were issued to all provinces. That is what I said.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that such conditions that have been issued have been examined by the Central Government to see whether they were fit conditions or humiliating conditions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No; the Central Government can accept no responsibility for conditions imposed by Provincial Governments.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am not asking about the responsibility. I am only asking whether the Central Government has examined the conditions to see whether they are humiliating to the self-respect of the detenus?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Certainly not; that is not one of our functions.

Sardar Sant Singh: My question has not been answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said that the Central Government has not.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: My answer was "Certainly not".

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know why the Central Government does not examine the conditions under which these releases have taken place?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said it is not the business of the Central Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India will take steps to examine the cases of the detenus within six months by an impartial committee instead of by Government officials?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not think, Sir, that that arises.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Honourable Member is aware as to how many Honourable Members of this House are detained under Ordinance III of 1944?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That also, I submit, does not arise.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that the Ordinance itself provides for some examination of these cases within six months by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am of course aware, but I do not see how that arises out of this question.

Sardar Sant Singh: With regard to the reply to part (d), is it a fact that one of the conditions laid upon those who have been released from detention is that an elected member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly is not allowed to attend the Assembly Session though the Governor issues a summons to him to attend?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Part (d) of the question was—

“Has the attention of Government been drawn to certain allegations?”

The answer was ‘No’. My Honourable friend then proceeds to ask me details about those allegations. Quite clearly if my attention has not been drawn to those allegations, I cannot give details about them. I may add that I should have thought that the Punjab Legislative Assembly was quite capable of looking after itself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Sardar Mangal Singh: With regard to the latter part of (d), may I

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

DETENTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION OF AUGUST 1942.

69. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of persons detained in connection with and after the passing of the Congress resolution on the 9th August, 1942, at Bombay? How many of them are still in detention, and what are the reasons for their continued detention?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The total number of persons detained at one time or another in connection with the Congress movement was between 17 and 18 thousand of which 2,128 were still in detention on the 1st September, 1944. The reason for keeping the latter in detention is that it is still considered necessary.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: How many persons are detained in the United Provinces.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask why Government considers it necessary to detain them still?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The reasons differ in each particular case.

FORM OF CHARGE SERVED ON A DETENU.

70. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay a copy of any charge that may have been served on a detenu on the table of the House? Is it a fact that charges served did not contain any specific information to the detenu and were generally very vague and almost uniform in language?

(b) Were the detenus permitted to consult their lawyers of their own choice by the jail authorities in order to enable them to submit their defence? If not, why not?

(c) How many replies were received?

(d) Were these replies considered by any judicial authority? If so, by whom, and with what result?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I regret that, for the reasons underlying the provisions of section 11 of Ordinance III of 1944, I am unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request. The statements of the grounds of their detention communicated to persons detained under that Ordinance comply with the provisions of section 7 thereof.

(b) No. For the reason that no question of law arises.

(c) 92 replies were received from persons detained by or at the instance of the Central Government including those detained by Chief Commissioners.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

Sardar Sant Singh: When these charges are handed over to these people in detention, who are mere laymen, why the Government does not permit them to consult their legal adviser to advise them on the legal position whether they do or do not fall under the Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the reason why the Government declines to allow any help to these laymen in framing answers to these charges? Why are not lawyers allowed to be consulted by these detenus?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that—part (b) of the question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said that no question of law arises.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask that when this liberty of the subject is being restricted under a particular Act, the question of law does arise?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is the opinion of the Honourable Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am asking, is the Honourable Member aware that in such cases applications are made to the High Court where the question is gone through?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Perhaps I may make the position clear.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

POLICY AS REGARDS RECRUITING PERSONNEL FOR CIVILIAN SERVICES FROM THE ARMY.

71. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please make a statement on the policy of the Government of India to recruit personnel for civilian services from the Army?

(b) Has any recruitment actually been made? If so, what are the qualifications of such new recruits (educational, legal, technical)?

(c) What number has actually been recruited, and how many of them are Indians and how many foreigners?

(d) What was the method of selection?

(e) What are the reasons for not consulting the Legislature on this major policy?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) A copy of the Government of India, Press Communique of the 25th July, 1944, which explains the Government policy in regard to the temporary employment with the civil administration of officers from the army, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) As has been stated in the Press Communique, the type of officer being selected is chiefly taken from the class of persons who would have been competing for posts in the civil administration if permanent recruitment had not been suspended. Their individual qualifications cannot be stated, but they will be employed in the posts for which their qualifications make them most suited and where they are most needed.

(c) 39 officers have so far been selected, of whom 12 are Indians, but the ultimate proportion of British and Indians will be 50:50. No foreigners have been recruited.

(d) Selection is made by a Board of which the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission is the President.

(e) The great majority of the officers who have been or will be selected under the scheme will be employed under Provincial Governments. Only in rare cases would these officers be employed under Government of India.

Press Communiqué.

At a time when India's Armed Forces were being rapidly expanded to meet the increasing enemy threat to her shores, the Government of India decided that the demand of those Forces for recruits must be paramount and that permanent recruitment to the Civil Services must be suspended for the time being. A similar policy was adopted in varying degrees by Provincial Governments. The intention was to ensure that the attractions of a civil career should not operate to impede the flow of recruits for Emergency Commissions. It was fully realised that the effect of this decision would be to throw a heavy strain on the civil administration, a strain which would be felt more severely as time passed. A position has now been reached when civil administration can no longer continue without reinforcements and the question has arisen how these can be obtained. Continuing demands made on the open market both by the Armed Forces and by organizations ancillary thereto have seriously reduced the man-power of suitable calibre available for recruitment to civil posts and Government have been obliged to turn to the Army as the only source from which adequate reinforcements can now be obtained. The military authorities have been approached with a request to release temporarily a sufficient number of officers whose services can be lent to Civil Governments in India. Recruitment from this source has the added advantage that it will provide a leavening of older and more experienced men. It should be noted that the type of officer proposed to be selected is exactly the type which would have been competing for posts under the Civil Government had not permanent recruitment been largely suspended in order to give priority to the demands of the Army.

The military authorities have recognised the need for strengthening the civil administration and a special India Army Order has been issued calling for volunteers from the Army on certain terms. These are:

- (a) volunteers must be under 50 years of age;
- (b) only officers of the Army in India Reserve of Officers, British and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army and British Service Emergency Commissioned Officers attached to the Indian Army will be eligible;
- (c) the deputation of officers thus lent will be for the duration of the war in the Far East and probably for a limited further period thereafter.

Such officers will not be members of the regular Services but will be appointed after such preliminary training as is considered desirable to hold posts in the administration for which their qualifications make them best suited. The object will be to maintain and strengthen the general administration and to provide sufficient staff for new and specialised branches of work e.g., work connected with food and Civil Supplies. The candidates are being selected by a Selection Board of which the Chairman or a member, of the Federal Public Service Commission is President. The ratio of recruitment between Indians and Europeans will be 50:50.

Such of the officers selected as are otherwise qualified and willing will be eligible to compete along with other eligible candidates for vacancies reserved for men with war service. Those who are not selected to fill such vacancies will return to the Army on the completion of their service with the civil administration.

It is hoped by these means to enable Civil Governments in India to carry on until permanent recruitment can be resumed.

HOME DEPARTMENT;

New Delhi, the 25th July, 1944.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether civil officers are not available and therefore these are imported?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is the idea behind the scheme.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are they allowed to stand in a competition before the Public Service Commission.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d).

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Are persons selected those who have received emergency commission or permanent commission?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Emergency.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the position of these persons who have received emergency commissions and are taken as civilian officers, after the war stops?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As soon as the war stops, they will be returned to the army and demobilised from the army.

STATEMENT ON BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE.

72. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement as to the result of the deputation to the Bretton Woods Conference in the United States of America with particular reference to the dissatisfaction publicly expressed by Sir Shanmukham Chetty, and Mr. W. Shroff, members of the deputation, at the attitude of the United States of America's delegates and British delegates with reference to the several questions relating to India during the discussions in the conference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I invite reference to my answer to question No. 66 asked today by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. The report of the Indian delegation to the Bretton Woods Conference has not yet been presented to the Government. When it has been received the question of its release for publication will be considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House whether he voted with or supported the non-official delegates when they tried to raise the issue of sterling balances being returned by the United Kingdom under the scheme of the fund?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly, I took the initiative in raising the issue.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member confirm or deny the allegation contained in the latter part of the question, namely that dissatisfaction was publicly expressed by Sir Shanmukham Chetty and Mr. Shroff in regard to the behaviour of the United States and U. K. Delegations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No dissatisfaction regarding their behaviour, but dissatisfaction at their attitude towards the matter. That is a matter of common knowledge and there is no need for me to confirm or deny it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was there complete unanimity among the Indian delegation over the issue that India should obtain a place on the executive of the world monetary conference that was brought into existence?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position either to confirm the statements made by these two Members of the delegation or describe these comments as petulant? The Honourable Member himself was head of this delegation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The non-official Members of the delegation made fairly long speeches. I am not quite sure to what particular parts of those speeches the Honourable Member refers. But I have no criticisms to make generally on the statements which they made.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member, for instance, confirm what these gentlemen have said in regard to a permanent seat for India on the Fund, namely that India lost the chance because of political influences and because of the fact that India was a subordinate Member of the British Commonwealth of Nations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is a factor which undoubtedly weighed in the decision.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the fact that India failed to secure a permanent place, and that France, China and other countries less deserving have got a place, does the Honourable Member still think that there is a definite advantage to India in joining this Fund under those humiliating circumstances and scramble for one seat with all the little people of the world?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, if the rules for election of Members to the executive directorate are studied, it will become clear that

India cannot fail to obtain a seat on the directorate and therefore the question whether she automatically obtains a place without election seems to me not of very great importance.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know whether in his reply to my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari's question he intended to convey that the subordinate status of India did count in regard to the question of a permanent seat being assigned to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know. The Honourable Member can interpret or make such inferences as he likes. The plain fact of the matter is that in regard to the constitution of the first five places, undoubtedly the idea of the big Five which has since emerged in other spheres was operative.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that one of the Members of this Delegation has publicly stated that an important Member of the American Delegation told him that the reason why America opposed India's claim for membership to the executive committee was the fact that India was a subordinate part of the British Empire and that Americans would not stand the idea of two seats on the executive committee for the British Empire.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My attention has been drawn to that statement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do the Government of India propose to take to see that this sort of difficulty is not presented to India in future sessions of this conference and also in other World conferences where India would be entitled in her own rights to independent membership on the executive committee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know what steps the Honourable Member can suggest that the Government of India should take.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I suggest to the Honourable Member to make an application, if he can, to his masters in England that India should be severed from the British Empire so that India can be assured of her rightful place in all the executive committees that may be formed in the World Monetary and other conferences that may be brought into existence in the post-war period?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: (The Honourable Member has not given a reply to my question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Evidently he is not prepared to reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He asked me specifically for a suggestion and I have made the suggestion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

ARRANGEMENT RE LIQUIDATION OF INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES.

73. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what arrangement, if any, has been arrived at regarding the liquidation of India's sterling balances between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India? Is the question of India's Sterling balances a question between the two Governments or a question to be decided by the United Nations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No arrangement of the nature suggested by the Honourable Member has yet been arrived at. The matter is one for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: As I learn from the answer, it may be a matter for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. But the latter part of my question has not been answered. "Is the question

of India's sterling balances a question between the two Governments or a question to be decided by the United Nations?"

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I replied that the matter is one for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it a fact, as has been published in newspapers, that these sterling balances will be repaid only in the shape of goods to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not a matter of decision. That is a result which may flow from the facts of the situation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member make it clear to the House in view of the reply given in the Parliament this morning by Sir John Anderson, in what form the sterling balances are at present, under what conditions they can be operated upon or withdrawn and what is the latest available figure of these balances?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As regards the last point, there is a question later on today and in answer thereto, I shall give the figures. As regards the other point, the actual form in which the sterling balances are held, I require notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did the Honourable Member bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government in England with whom he was conferring the grave concern felt in all circles in this country about the rumoured proposal presented to him for part cancellation of India's sterling balances in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No proposals of that kind have been presented to me.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member said just now in reply to my question that he wants notice. May I enquire if thereby he wants to convey that either he has not got information now or that he is unwilling to give it to the House as to in what form the sterling balances belonging to India are in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is surely aware that this is a matter of investment policy of the Reserve Bank in the Issue Branch in which the greater part of these sterling balances are held. They are of course, for the most part held in the form of treasury bills, but if my Honourable friend wants a detailed answer, I will have to refer to certain detailed reports.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Member indicate to us when the negotiations will be resumed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I can only say that it will be taken up at the earliest possible moment. As far as I can judge, it is unlikely to be earlier than next spring.

PROGRAMME OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

74. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member of Planning and Development please state:

(a) if the Government of India have now ready any unified comprehensive scheme and programme of post-war reconstruction; if so, whether they will give the House an opportunity to discuss it; if so, when?

(b) if, in view of the end of the war and the breaking down of the Powers being in sight, the Government of India propose to draw up now an All-India plan for the economic development of India and measures to give effect to it; whether they are aware that Nations which are much more involved in war have started it more than a year ago; and

(c) if Government have adopted in a modified form, or partly or wholly without any modification what is known as the Bombay Industrialists Plan for the economic Development of India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) No. The plan is being prepared.

(b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Government's "Second Report on Reconstruction Planning" which has recently been issued.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: These Reconstruction Committees are working for a year and a half. May I know when the unified comprehensive scheme is likely to be ready?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The whole plan of reconstruction and development of the country is a very important business and will certainly take a very long time.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will it go on till the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It might.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that in view of his earlier statement that the objectives of the Bombay plan have been accepted by the Government of India, grave discontent prevails among more than a crore of handloom weavers and many more crores of other artisans in this country, that no effort was made in that plan for providing for the further development and production and rationalisation of these cottage industries of this country?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. The Bombay Plan itself also lays emphasis on the development of cottage industries. When we come up to the Resolution we will go into it, but I might explain that when the general objectives of the Bombay Plan have been accepted by Government what I mean is the objective of raising the standard of living of the people and improving their purchasing power. It does not mean that every detailed suggestion that is made in the Bombay Plan has been accepted by Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then may we take it that the various main heads for the development of industrialisation of this country are not all-inclusive, but on the other hand are only indicative and other heads as can be suggested and are accepted by Government can also be included?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Have Government got any other plan of reconstruction besides the Bombay Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Government have got a plan of their own. They are prepared to utilise other plans and take what is good in them, but they are not tied to any particular plan. They are preparing a plan of their own.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: When will that plan be known to this House?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I just answered that in reply to my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh.

STEPS FOR FLOATING LOAN TO GIVE SUBSIDY TO AGRICULTURISTS.

75. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps, if any, have been taken to give effect to the motion moved by me and adopted by the House on the 1st March, 1944, in respect of floating loan to give subsidy to agriculturists? In case subsidies are given, will a list be placed on the table showing the amount and purpose of the subsidy received by each province?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Government have accepted the resolution in its broad sense; they are doing every thing possible to step up their borrowing on the one hand, and on the other, they are prepared to do every thing that is possible and useful, in order to produce more food, including milk and milk products, as a part of the "Grow More Food" campaign. I place on the table a statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" campaign in 1944-45, up to date.

Statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign in 1944-45

Description of schemes	Madras	Bombay	Bengal	United Provinces	Punjab	Bihar	C. P. and Berar	Assam	N. W. F. P.	Orissa	Sind
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Diversion of areas from cotton to food crops.	..	59,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Improvement and distribution of seeds.	1,20,128	5,26,875	5,11,050	1,08,850	..	2,30,000	1,99,666	2,09,500	1,60,500	1,26,467	..
3. Supply and improvement of manures.	3,91,000	6,21,000	54,000	2,57,140	2,54,910	60,000	3,38,000	35,350	..	85,000	..
4. Irrigation and drainage schemes.	89,250	11,51,830	2,58,095	5,34,500	7,00,000	8,76,970	74,000	1,15,000	6,63,500	1,06,000	..
5. Reclamation of waste lands and improvement of existing lands.	..	..	..	..	6,00,090	..	70,110	..	..	44,000	..
6. Bunding and Dry farming.	..	15,00,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Increase of fish production.	..	..	21,950	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Research.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Miscellaneous.	4,01,900	84,200	2,00,000	2,000	..	1,79,800	..	1,25,400	..	1,45,836	88,000
Total	12,02,264	89,43,405	10,45,095	9,02,490	15,54,910	13,46,770	6,81,776	4,85,150	8,24,000	5,07,503	88,000

Statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign in 1944-45.

Description of schemes.	Ajmer-Merwara	Baluchistan	Baroda	I. C. A. R.	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Diversion of areas from cotton to food crops.	21,996	..	4,01,000	..	4,82,496
2. Improvement and distribution of seeds.	61,116	20,653	..	..	22,74,815
3. Supply and improvement of manures.	6,900	13,550	33,750	..	21,50,500
4. Irrigation and drainage schemes	..	30,000	2,14,500	..	48,13,645
5. Reclamation of waste lands and improvement of existing lands.	..	..	52,000	..	9,66,076
6. Bunding and Dry farming	..	..	..	..	15,00,000
7. Increase of fish production	..	..	..	..	21,950
8. Research	..	..	..	2,73,400	2,73,400
9. Miscellaneous	..	32,500	18,000	..	12,77,636
Total	90,012	96,703	7,19,250	2,73,400	1,37,60,518

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that though in the name of the "Grow More Food" campaign the Government of India have been setting apart certain funds, the various Provincial Governments have been cancelling the land revenue remissions that had been ordered as long ago as 1937, and continued year after year and are thus positively discouraging the "Grow More Food" campaign in the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If certain land revenue remissions have been cancelled I have no doubt that that is being done on other grounds, but that does not relate directly, in my opinion, to the question of encouraging the "Grow More Food" campaign.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But is the Honourable Member aware that the cancellation of these concessions imposes as high a burden as 75 lakhs of rupees per annum upon a province like Madras, for instance? It certainly discourages the "Grow More Food" campaign.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is the Honourable Member's own opinion.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: May I know in what way the funds which are placed at the disposal of Provincial Governments for the "Grow More Food" campaign are being utilised?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have laid a statement on the table but, as far as I understand, those funds are utilised for the purpose of encouraging the growing of more food.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: By mere propaganda or by financial help or otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think in all possible ways, but I cannot give details. Administration is a matter within the scope of the Education, Health and Lands Department.

MURDERS AND OUTRAGES IN CALCUTTA ON INDIANS BY AMERICANS AND AMERICAN NEGROES.

†76. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please give information on the following matters to the House—

(i) murders and murderous assaults committed by Americans and American negroes on Indians and on sikh motor drivers in Calcutta in 1942, 1943 and 1944;

(ii) outrages on women in Calcutta with particular reference to forcible kidnapping of Indian girls in American jeeps; and

(iii) in the Grand Hotel and Great Eastern, Calcutta, on or about the 5th August, 1944, on the America's Independent Day, what damage was done to the property of these Hotels?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(b) Is it a fact that when the Americans were threatened to be informed against, one of them declared that he was the Head of the American Military Police and his companion was another officer in the same and hence no purpose would be served by reporting?

(c) Is it a fact that the matter had to be dropped?

(d) How many times motor drivers struck work there? How long did each strike last?

(e) What action was taken against these activities of foreigners in India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

CABIN RENT PAID BY ROYAL INDIAN NAVY OFFICERS WHEN SERVING AFLOAT.

77. *Sir F. E. James: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that officers of the R.I.N. and its reserves pay rent at 5 per cent. of their pay for their cabin accommodation when serving afloat; and

(b) if this is the practice in the Royal Navy; if not, why it has been adopted in the R.I.N.?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the pay structures in the Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy are different. In the Royal Navy, basic pay does not include any element on account of accommodation, which is provided free when afloat, and sometimes also on shore. If accommodation on shore is not provided free, an allowance is given. In the Royal Indian Navy, however, the basic pay already includes an allowance for accommodation; hence the deduction made by Government.

Sir F. E. James: Is my Honourable friend aware that the deduction is made from the pay of the officer, whether he has a cabin to himself or shares a cabin with six, eight or ten other officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That is correct.

Sir F. E. James: Can my Honourable friend tell me whether this practice obtains in any other navy in the world, even in navies whose pay structure is roughly similar to that in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have no information about navies in other parts of the British Commonwealth where the pay structure includes an element on account of accommodation.

Sir F. E. James: Will my Honourable friend look into this matter, because there is a strong feeling among officers of the Royal Indian Navy, which any sensible man would share, that this is a ridiculous deduction to make for this particular purpose?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not agree that this is a ridiculous deduction to make. I can understand the feelings of officers from whom deductions are made, but as pay includes an element on account of accommodation the provision of accommodation necessarily entails deduction of that element.

Sir F. E. James: Is any differentiation made between a deduction made from the pay of an officer who has a cabin in a ship that goes into action, and the deduction from the pay of an officer who has a cabin in a ship which is more or less operating in safe waters?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So far as I am aware, no differentiation is made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why is there this difference between the Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not see that there is any differentiation in treatment. In the Royal Navy accommodation is provided free and in the Royal Indian Navy the pay element includes an element on account of accommodation. So when Government provide accommodation a deduction is made. There is no differentiation.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Have Government considered whether this operates in any way as a hardship on these officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not heard any such complaints.

STEPS FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF RATINGS, PETTY OFFICERS, ETC. IN THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

78. *Sir F. E. James: With reference to my speech on the Finance Bill on the 20th March, 1944, dealing with the Royal Indian Navy, will the War Secretary please state what steps have since been taken or are under immediate consideration—

- (i) to increase the number of trained personnel;
- (ii) to improve the pensions of ratings, petty officers and chief petty officers, which, in some cases, had not been increased since the last Great War and were only a quarter of I.A.F. rates;
- (iii) to authorise Chief Petty Officers to travel second class on railways, as in the case of V.C.O.'s, and generally to improve their status;
- (iv) to give training allowances and extra pay to junior ratings doing senior ratings' work;
- (v) to provide married quarters for ratings; and
- (vi) to increase the awards for meritorious service, long service and good conduct, and in the case of long service, the amount of the gratuity?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (i) I am glad to be able to inform the Honourable Member that steps to increase the number of trained personnel in the Royal Indian Navy are well advanced. The training establishment for new entries is nearing completion and training is already in full swing. A training squadron has also been formed to give ratings some sea experience before they are drafted out of the training establishment.

It is expected that the new Mechanical Training Establishment will be ready to take over the instruction of engineering personnel by the end of this year, while radar training has already commenced and the new radar school will shortly be ready for occupation.

Since the end of February 1944, when the Honourable Member raised this question in the House, the number of trained active service personnel has increased by about 22 per cent.

(ii) and (iii). These matters are still under consideration. The Honourable Member and the House may rest assured that they will receive careful consideration by Government.

(iv) Chief Petty Officers, Petty Officers and Leading rates have since been granted a training allowance.

The question of paying extra pay to junior ratings doing senior ratings' work is still under discussion.

(v) The necessity for providing married accommodation for R.I.N. ratings has been accepted in principle, but the scheme cannot be implemented until after the war.

(vi) The number of these awards has been increased. Proposals for the increase of gratuity have not yet come before Government.

Sir F. E. James: With reference to the answer to part (vi) of the question, will my Honourable friend state precisely what awards are now given each year?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Fortunately, I have got the details. The number of awards given before the revision in the case of Meritorious Service Medal was 10. It has now been raised to 17. The number of Long Service and Good Conduct Medal awards (with gratuity of Rs. 25 each) before the revision was two; now it is 34 per annum. The number of Long Service and Good Conduct awards (without gratuity) before revision was 1, now it is 17.

Sir F. E. James: With regard to the answer to part (iii) of the question, am I to understand that Chief Petty Officers are still at a disadvantage as compared with V.C.Os. in the matter of railway travel?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think the answer is yes.

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend will perhaps realize that the matter was raised several months ago and he, on behalf of the Department, promised very early consideration of this matter. May I ask whether that consideration can be expedited in order to remove what is quite obviously an invidious dis-

inction between the Chief Petty Officers in the Royal Indian Navy and the V.C.Os. in the Land Army?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am fully aware of the position in the matter which is receiving active consideration, but I am afraid there are many difficulties chiefly due to lack of accommodation on railways.

Sir F. E. James: Does my Honourable friend really mean to suggest that the reason why he cannot improve the status of the Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Indian Navy in the matter of railway travel is lack of accommodation on the railway trains?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I said 'chiefly'; I did not say that was the only reason.

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend says that was the chief reason. Exactly how many Chief Petty Officers there are in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not got the information. The point is that repercussions of any such step will be great in the Indian Air Force.

Sir F. E. James: May I suggest to the Honourable Member that he should consult the War Transport Member as to the extra amount of accommodation that would have to be made available if this very desirable change were made in the status of the Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The War Department is fully aware of the difficulties of the Honourable the War Transport Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether I understood the Honourable Member correctly when he said that the War Office is not in need of recruiting more officers in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know whether my Honourable friend refers to the War Office or to the War Department.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is very difficult to say. I mean the Fighting Forces.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It does not arise out of the question. But we are still in need of officers.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If more officers are needed still, is it not desirable to raise the status of these persons whom they want to recruit?

(No reply was given.)

Sir F. E. James: Sir, may I press this question to the Honourable Member. I was indeed shocked at his reply. My Honourable friend suggested that the chief reason why the status of the Chief Petty Officer could not be raised to that of V.C.O. is the lack of accommodation on the trains. Is my Honourable friend not aware that the difficulty of accommodation is far greater in the III class than in the Upper Classes of the Railways, and therefore the transfer of these officers might relieve the congestion in the lower classes?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: With reference to part (iv) . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Sir, I want to ask only one supplementary question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

It has been fully discussed. Next question.

STATEMENT ON BREITON-WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE.

79. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement on the floor of the House on the proceedings of the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference?

(b) What was the view expressed by the Indian Delegation at this Conference?

(c) What are the findings of this Conference?

(d) If the Honourable Member is not willing to disclose the details, will he give a summary of the work done by the Indian Delegation?

(e) Will the Government give an opportunity to the House to express its views on the monetary policy before commitment of the Government of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (c) and (e). The results of the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference have been embodied in a document called the "Final Act" two copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. An opportunity for full discussion of the subject will be afforded to the House in due course.

(b) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Question No. 72 asked today by Sardar Sant Singh.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will the Honourable the Finance Member give us an assurance that India will not be committed in any way before the recommendations are discussed in this House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In his reply the Honourable Member has said 'An opportunity will be afforded to the House in due course'. Does he mean in this Session?

(No reply was given).

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: It may be during the next Session; that does not matter.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI.

80. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that besides the Deputy Accountant General and one Assistant Accountant General, there are five Assistant Accounts Officers in the Office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi?

(b) Is it also a fact that out of the above seven officers there are three Madrasis, one Bengalee and three local Hindus?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim officer in the above Office? If so, why not?

(d) Will Government be pleased to replace a Madras officer by a Muslim officer immediately?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) There are two Madrasis, four local Hindus and one Bengali.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative. Posting of officers to the offices of the Indian Audit Department is not done on a communal basis. In any event there is at present no Muslim officer who can suitably be appointed to that office.

(d) In view of the answer to part (c), this question does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether any suitable Mohammadan Officer has ever applied?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I am informed, there is at present no Muslim officer who can suitably be appointed and I presume no such officer has applied?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether recruitment to the Indian Audit Service is made on communal basis?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said that the posting of officers to the offices of the Indian Audit Department is not done on a communal basis. I think in the recruitment of this, as in other services, the communal proportions are observed.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Reference has been made to Madrasis in part (b). What community do they belong to?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was accepting the somewhat unscientific classification which was put before me in the question.

IMPORTATION OF MADRASI CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI.

81. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Subordinate Accounts Service cadre in all the Audit and Accounts Offices in India was localised in the year 1929.

(b) Is it a fact that the above scheme is being nullified so far as the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, is concerned as in that office as many as four Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks have been brought from Madras?

(c) Is it a fact that all these Madras Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks have become senior to a number of local Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks?

(d) Is it also a fact that one of the Madras Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks, has also been confirmed out of turn over and above all the local Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks who were waiting for confirmation in their cadre since a long time?

(e) As there is great heart burning and discontent in the above office on the importing of Madras passed clerks from Madras, do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to stop such immigration and also take steps to revert all such men who have not yet been confirmed in that cadre in this office to their parent office? If this is not possible, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The Posts and Telegraphs Subordinate Accounts Service Cadre was localised in 1933.

(b) Four Madras clerks who had passed the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination were transferred from the office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs to officiate as Accountants in the Delhi Office on account of the paucity of passed clerks in the latter office. This was necessary on administrative grounds.

(c) Three of the four Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks just mentioned were treated as junior to all the Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks in the Delhi office on the dates of their transfer. Only one of the men transferred was given his normal seniority according to the date of his passing the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination and placed above 2 locally-passed men on administrative grounds. One of the men has been confirmed out of turn as will be explained in part (d).

(d) The answer is in the affirmative. One of them has recently been confirmed out of turn in one of the vacancies in the Delhi Audit Office on account of his outstanding ability and comparative superiority. This has been done strictly in accordance with the rules on the subject.

(e) According to the Departmental Rules, the immigration of passed clerks is not generally permissible and is resorted to only in the most exceptional circumstances. As the dearth of Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks in the Delhi Office still continues the four men in question cannot in the public interest be repatriated.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member has referred to 'passed clerks'. May I know from him what examination they have passed? Have they passed the Federal Public Service Commission Examination?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid that I am unable to answer any supplementaries on this question because I am barely able to understand what it is about myself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR STAFF OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI.

82. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the staff of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi has been declared eligible for Government quarters only from August 1943?

(b) Is it a fact that the above office has been located in Delhi from the year 1903? If so, why like other offices of the Central Government was this office not provided with Government quarters in spite of repeated representations from the staff either to provide Government quarters or to grant some house-rent in lieu thereof?

(c) Is it a fact that inspite of the eligibility of the staff of the above office, to get Government quarters, over 800 men have not yet been able to secure Government quarters for their residences? What are the reasons for not providing quarters to these men, and also what arrangements, if any, are the Government making to build quarters for them as well?

(d) Have Central Government employees in Audit and Account offices living outside Delhi and Simla also been provided with Government quarters? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. They have been made eligible for Government accommodation in the general pool in Delhi as from August, 1943.

(b) The office in Delhi was opened in 1900. Its staff was not provided with Government quarters as they were declared to be "non-entitled" till August 1943.

(c) Yes. This is due to the very difficult housing situation in Delhi. Government are trying to meet the abnormal situation as best as they can, and have in hand a building programme for about 5,000 staff quarters.

(d) Yes, to a limited extent at Ranchi and Peshawar and in certain Railway Colonies. Government do not consider it to be either necessary or feasible to embark on a programme of construction to house all this staff throughout India.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

INADEQUACY OF THE DELHI COMPENSATORY HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE.

83. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India, Finance Department, in their Letter No. 44(9)W-44, dated the 21st July, 1944 have been pleased to grant a compensatory house-rent allowance equal to the excess of the monthly rent paid by the Government servants over 10 per cent. of their monthly pay to all those who could not so far secure Government quarters?

(b) Do the Government consider that the grant of this little concession will secure for these employees well ventilated commodious houses in healthy localities like the Government quarters? If not, do Government propose to construct immediately Government quarters for these employees as well, or grant in lieu thereof a flat rate of Rs. 20, Rs. 30 and Rs. 50 to all those getting pay upto Rs. 100 per month, from above Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per month and from above Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month respectively? If not, why not?

(c) Why has the above compensatory house-rent allowance not been extended to all Central Government employees working in Audit and Account offices in India except Delhi?

(d) Since the shortage of residential houses is acutely felt in all the Provincial Capitals in India, is it proposed that this allowance should forthwith be extended to them also. If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes, but the allowance is admissible only to those non-gazetted ministerial servants of the Central Government in Delhi who draw pay up to Rs. 500 p.m. and fail to get Government quarters. The allowance is equal to the excess of the monthly rent actually paid by the Government servant over 10 per cent. of his monthly pay but subject to a maximum of 10 per cent. of monthly pay.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, in so far as the present congestion in Delhi permits. The second part of the question does not arise, but I may mention that a further large building programme has recently been undertaken in Delhi which includes some 5,000 extra staff quarters. In the mean time, in view of the fact that rents are controlled, the existing allowance is considered adequate.

(c) and (d). The allowance has since been extended to non-gazetted ministerial servants of the Central Government in Calcutta and Bombay and their suburbs, including those working in Audit and Accounts Offices. No general or uniform scale for Central Government servants throughout India would be justified as conditions vary from place to place.

STEPS FOR STABILIZATION OF PURCHASING POWER OF RUPEE.

84. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps he has taken since the last Session of the Assembly to stabilize the purchasing power of a rupee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This question is identical in substance with question No. 67 asked by the Honourable Member today, to which I have already replied.

PROGRAMME FOR POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

85. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) the different schemes and programme for post-war planning and development;

(b) the names of departments under which particular schemes of planning and post-war development have been or proposed to be sanctioned and the details of the development together with strength of staff;

(c) the strength of the organisation to carry out planning and development schemes at the Headquarters and in different places or provinces as the case may be;

(d) the strength of his Secretariat, i.e., the number of

- (1) Secretaries,
- (2) Joint Secretaries,
- (3) Deputy Secretaries,
- (4) Assistant Secretaries,
- (5) Superintendents; and

their salaries and qualifications and the number of Muslims under each category;

(e) whether the various posts under (d) were advertised? If so, when and in what ways?

(f) whether any Selection Board was appointed or Federal Public Service Commission was asked to select personnel under each category? If not, who appointed the officers under each category? In case any Selection Board was appointed, what was its personnel;

(g) the progress of schemes already taken in hand;

(h) whether schemes of post-war planning and development have been sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee or the Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (g). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reports on several subjects of post-war development which have been published by Government from time to time and copies of which are available in the Library and also to the Second Report* on Reconstruction Planning, a copy of which was laid on the table of the House this morning in answer to question No. 62.

(b) Each scheme is prepared by the Department of Government concerned with the Planning and Development Department acting as the Co-ordinating Department.

The Honourable Member will observe from the Second Report that the Government of India have not yet got to the stage of considering the strength of staff for executing development plans.

(c) I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table of the House in due course.

(d) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(e) and (f). The posts were filled in the normal way by promotions and transfers of suitable officers already in service and there was no occasion to appoint a Selection Board or to consult the Public Service Commission.

(h) The schemes have not yet reached the stage of being placed for sanction before the Standing Finance Committee or the Assembly.

*Not printed in these debates, but copies have been placed in the library of the House.—
Ed. of D.

Designation of Officer.	Salary.	Qualifications.	Remarks.
Secretary	Rs. 4,000	Mily. Officer, Lt.-Genl., British Service.	
Joint Secretary	3,000	} Belong to the Indian Civil Service. B. A., Belongs to the Imperial Sectt. Service, Class II, has put in over 17 years' service. Non-graduate, is a permanent Superintendent in the Legislative Deptt., C. P. Govt., has put in over 20 years' service.	} The Addl. Deputy Secretary is a Muslim and the others are non-Muslims.
Deputy Secretary	2,000		
Additional Deputy Secretary	1,900		
Assistant Secretaries (2)	1,000		
	1,050		
Superintendents (2)	600	B. A. (Hons.), has put in over 15 years' service.	
	600	B. A., has put in over 17 years' service.	

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL BACKWARDNESS OF MUSLIM NATION IN INDIA.

86. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state whether his attention has ever been drawn to the economic and industrial backwardness of Muslim Nation in the country?

(b) What steps has he taken or proposes to take to remove the said backwardness?

(c) Has he appointed or does he propose to appoint an adviser to help him in removing the said backwardness?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) No statistical investigation has been made of the economic condition of the people by communities, but it is generally accepted that Muslims are economically more backward than some others.

(b) and (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to Government's Second Report on Reconstruction Planning which has recently been issued. As explained therein, the ultimate object of all planning is to raise the standard of living of the people as a whole. The ultimate effect of planned development will be to benefit the backward classes to a comparatively larger extent than the more advanced classes.

GOVERNMENT HANDWRITING EXPERTS IN PROVINCES.

87. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether any Provincial Government maintains whole-time or consulting handwriting experts? If so, what are the Provinces?

(b) Was any order issued by the Government of India to the Provincial Government, in pursuance of the answer given by the Government of India to question No. 351 in the February 1930 Session of the Assembly? If not, do the Government of India propose to issue such Orders immediately?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I understand that some Provinces do employ official handwriting experts, but I have no complete information.

(b) The answer to question No. 351 of 1930 did not suggest or promise the issue of any orders; none were therefore issued and the Government of India do not propose to issue any now.

CONSIDERATION OF INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES AT THE BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE.

88. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it has been brought to his notice that Mr. Shinwell raised a question in the House of Commons on the 6th July, 1944, enquiring of the Secretary of State for India as to the authority under which the subject of India's sterling balances was raised at the International Monetary Conference?

(b) Was there any definite commitment by the Government of India with His Majesty's Government with regard to the raising of this question at Bretton Woods Conference and had the Government of India at any time agreed to the exclusion of the consideration of this question from the agenda of the Conference?

(c) Were any instructions issued by the Government of India to their representatives at the preliminary Conference at expert level? If so, what was the nature of such instructions?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India's representative experts at the preliminary Conference did not raise the question regarding the inclusion of the subject of India's sterling balances within the purview of the International Monetary Conference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to both parts of this question is in the negative.

(c) and (d). I am not sure to what stage of the proceedings the Honourable Member is referring, but I can say that it is not a fact that the Government of India's representatives at any stage agreed not to raise this question.

IMPORT OF SILVER FROM IRAN.

89. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have arranged to import 500 tons of silver from Iran through an arrangement with the Iran National Bank;

(b) whether it is a fact that the import of this silver has been financed by the British and United States of America Governments whereby the British and the United States of America Governments have offered gold to Persia in exchange for the silver released for India;

(c) the conditions on which this silver has been imported by the Government of India; and

(d) whether the Government of India have paid for these imports in sterling; if so, at what rate this silver has been paid for, or whether the profit margin between the price at which the silver has been acquired and the price at which it has been offered in the Indian market is accruing to the Iran National Bank, or the British or United States of America Governments or to the Government of India or the Reserve Bank of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) The transaction was a straightforward purchase on the part of the Government of India.

(c) Import was made by outright purchase by the Government of India. I regret that I am not prepared to furnish any further details.

(d) Payment for the silver was made in rupees. The remaining portions of the question do not therefore arise.

IMPORT OF SILVER UNDER LEASE-LEND.

90. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have arranged to import about 100 million ounces of silver under Lease-Lend;

(b) whether the Government of India have undertaken to repay ounce per ounce the silver so acquired from the United States of America;

(c) whether the silver so acquired is meant purely for finance purposes or for sale in the Indian market; and

(d) at what price this silver has been accounted for in the Lease-Lend accounts of the United States of America so as to debit the value of silver imported into India, and at what price this silver will be sold in the Indian market?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communiqués dated the 15th June and 11th July, issued on this subject.

(d) The question of accounting for the price of the silver does not arise as no payment is to be made and the silver itself is to be returned ounce for ounce. As regards the last part of part (d) I regret that I am unable to supply any information.

FINANCIAL BURDEN ON INDIA DUE TO INCREASE IN EMOLUMENTS FOR BRITISH TROOPS SERVING IN THE EAST.

91. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) what additional burden would be thrown on Indian exchequer as a result of increases in the emoluments allowed to British troops serving in the East in the recent past;

(b) whether the aforesaid increases in emoluments would be governed by the terms of the agreement between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India regarding the allocation of Defence expenditure; and

(c) what effect this additional obligation of the Indian exchequer is likely to have on the sterling balance to the credit of India in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The matter is under consideration in consultation with His Majesty's Government.

FINANCIAL BURDEN ON INDIA DUE TO INCREASE IN EMOLUMENTS FOR BRITISH TROOPS SERVING IN THE EAST.

92. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what increases in the emoluments in the recent past have been sanctioned for the British troops serving in the East;

(b) to what extent these increased emoluments will constitute a charge on Indian revenues;

(c) the difference between the emoluments of a British soldier serving in India and of an Indian soldier; and

(d) with what objects the forthcoming visit of the Earl of Munster is being undertaken, and in what manner his visit is likely to affect the revenues of India by way of further increased charges on account of British soldiers stationed in India and in the East?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) A copy of the White Paper issued by His Majesty's Government on the subject is placed on the table.

(b) The matter is under consideration in consultation with His Majesty's Government.

(c) A statement comparing the emoluments of typical ranks of British and Indian soldiers is placed on the table.

(d) The Earl of Munster is investigating the arrangements for the welfare, entertainment and amenities in general for the armed forces. I am unable to anticipate the results of his mission.

White Paper.

Additional Financial Benefits for members of the Forces with prolonged service during the present war and in respect of service in the Far East.

1. His Majesty's Government consider that with the increases in the pay and allowances of members of the Forces and their families announced in the White Paper (Command 6521) of April, 1944, the general provision made for serving personnel was brought up to a satisfactory level. Recently, however, they have been giving consideration to the position of those members of the Forces who have already rendered prolonged service during the present war, and of those who will undertake service in the Far East. The war against the Axis Powers will be one continuous effort until the last of the enemies is defeated, and many men will be required to continue their service either in Europe or in the war against Japan. His Majesty's Government have accordingly decided to introduce, as a war measure, a scheme of special financial benefits in respect of prolonged service during the present war and also in respect of service in the Far Eastern theatre of war.

These benefits, which will not be taken into account for the purpose of contributory or qualifying allotments for Family or Dependents' Allowance, fall into two parts:—

(i) Increments of pay, known as War Service Increments, for officers and men of the Royal Navy, Army and R. A. F., in receipt of pay under British or British Indian rates of pay, who have given a considerable period of service during the present war.

(ii) Additional pay, to be known as Japanese Campaign Pay, for those officers and men who served in the Far Eastern theatre.

2. *War Service Increments.*—These increments will be given to all ratings, and other ranks and to all officers below the rank of Rear Admiral, Major General, or Air Vice Marshal, who have completed, or who subsequently complete, three years man's service from and including the 3rd September, 1939. They will take effect from the 3rd September, 1944, and will be at the following rates:—

7s. a week for ratings below Petty Officer and other ranks below Sergeant, after completion of three years' war service, with an additional 3s. 6d. a week for each subsequent year's war service.

10s. 6d. a week for Petty Officers and Chief Petty Officers, Royal Navy, Sergeants and higher N. C. Os. and Warrant Officers of the Army and R. A. F. after three years' war service, with an additional 3s. 6d. a week for each subsequent year's war service.

15s. 9d. a week for officers below Lieutenant Commander, Major and Squadron Leader, after three years' war service, with an additional 5s. 3d. a week for each subsequent year's war service.

21s. a week for Lieutenant Commanders, Majors and Squadron Leaders and above (but not officers of or above the rank of Rear Admiral, Major General or Air Vice Marshal) after three years' war service, with an additional 7s. a week for each subsequent year's war service.

Women members of the Forces will receive these increments at two-thirds of the appropriate men's rates.

3. *Japanese Campaign Pay.*—Officers and men of the Royal Navy, the Army and the R. A. F. serving in the Far East, and in receipt of pay under the British Pay Code, will be granted Japanese Campaign Pay at the following weekly rates, with effect from the 1st November, 1944:—

	s. d.
Men below Leading Rating and Corporal	7 0
Leading Ratings and Corporals	8 9
Petty Officers and Sergeants	10 6
Chief Petty Officers, Staff and Flight Sergeants	12 3
Warrant Officers, Class I and Class II	14 0
Officers up to and including Lieutenant, Royal Navy, Captain and Flight Lieutenant	21 0
Lieutenant-Commanders, Majors and Squadron Leaders	35 0
Commanders, Lieutenant-Colonels and Wing Commanders	49 0
Captains, Royal Navy, Colonels and Brigadiers, Group Captains and Air Commodores	63 0
Flag Officers, General Officers and Air Vice Marshals and above	77 0

Japanese Campaign Pay will be payable irrespective of the period of service rendered, and will be in addition to any War Service Increments admissible under paragraph 2 above.

4. Japanese Campaign Pay at the rates shown above will also be granted to men below commissioned rank and to officers up to and including the rank of Captain and Flight Lieutenant in receipt of pay under the Indian Pay Code. It will not be paid to officers of the rank of Major and Squadron Leader and above in receipt of pay under the Indian Pay Code, in view of the substantial advantages which they receive under that Code.

5. Women members of the Forces will receive Japanese Campaign Pay at two-thirds of the appropriate men's rates.

6. *Far East Allowance.*—It has also been decided to introduce, with effect from 1st November, 1944, for all officers and men of the Army and R. A. F. serving in the Far East, who are in receipt of pay under the British Pay Code, a tax-free allowance to take the place of Field and Colonial Allowance. This allowance will be known as Far East Allowance and will be at the rates shown below. Far East Allowance will also be granted to officers and men of the Royal Navy serving ashore in the Far East, except where provision for the grant of a Naval Colonial Allowance is already in existence.

	Weekly s. d.
Ranks below Petty Officer and Sergeant	2 4
Petty Officers and Sergeants	3 6
Chief Petty Officers, Staff and Flight Sergeants	4 1
Warrant Officers, Class II	5 10
Warrant Officers, Class I	9 4
All Officers	21 0

7. Women members of the Forces will be granted Far East Allowance at the same rates as men.

8. The effect of these additional benefits, including Far East Allowance where drawn, is shown in the following typical examples (Army rates are quoted for simplicity):—

Total weekly cash receipts of officers and men and their families. The rates quoted refer to officers and men paid under the British Pay Code.

	Unmarried.			Married, wife and 2 children.		
	Present.		Future.	Present.		Future.
	At home.	At home.	Far East.	At home.	At home.	Far East.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Private, Cl. I, 3 yrs. war service.	1 13 3	2 0 3	2 9 7	4 4 6	4 11 6	5 0 10
Private Cl. I, 5 yrs. war service.	1 13 3	2 7 3	2 16 7	4 4 6	4 18 6	5 7 10
Sergt., 3 yrs. war service	2 9 0	2 19 6	3 13 6	4 18 0	5 8 6	6 2 6
Sergt., 5 yrs. war service	2 12 6	3 10 0	4 4 0	5 1 6	5 19 0	6 13 0
Lt., 3 yrs. war service	4 11 0	5 6 9	7 8 9	8 4 6	9 0 3	11 2 3
Lt., 5 yrs. war service	5 1 6	6 7 9	8 9 9	8 15 0	10 1 3	12 3 3
Capt., 3 yrs. war service	5 15 6	6 11 3	8 13 3	9 2 0	9 17 9	11 19 9
Capt., 5 yrs. war service	5 15 6	7 1 9	9 3 9	9 2 0	10 8 3	12 10 3
Major 3 yrs. war service	9 19 6	11 0 6	13 16 6	12 15 6	13 16 6	16 12 6
Major 5 yrs. war service	9 19 6	11 14 6	14 10 6	12 15 6	14 10 6	17 6 6

In the above table no account is taken of items provided in kind or allowances granted in lieu thereof.

9. In the assessment of War Service Grants, the War Service Increments and Japanese Campaign Pay now approved will be taken into consideration broadly on the present basis, and any necessary adjustments in existing awards will be made as and when individual cases are reviewed.

10. The cost of the above increases is estimated to be not less than £100 million a year.

Statement comparing the emoluments of British and Indian soldiers of the non-tradesmen classes.

British Other Ranks serving in India (i.e. outside their own country).			Indian soldiers serving outside India.		
Rank.	Emoluments per mensem.*		Rank.	Emoluments per mensem.†	
	Rs.	A. P.		Rs.	A. P.
Privates—			Privates—		
Private (after 3 years' service)	119	12 0	Sepoy (after 3 years' service).	44	8 0
Non-commissioned officers—			Non-commissioned officers—		
Corporal	142	9 0	Naik	56	0 0
Sergeant	171	1 0	Havildar	63	0 0
Warrant Officers—			No comparable ranks in the Indian Army.		
Class II (Sub-Conductor)	262	5 0			
Class I (Conductor)	307	15 0	Viceroy's commissioned officers—		
No comparable ranks in the British Army.			Jemadar	108—5	133
			Subedar	183—10	223

* Includes proficiency pay and post-war credits. Marriage allowance has not been taken into account.

This is admissible to married British Other Ranks at the following rates:—

	Rs.
For wife	30
For wife + 1 child	86
For wife + 2 children	136
For wife + 3 children	181
Each additional child	45

† Includes Proficiency Pay, Deferred Pay, Batta and Expatriation Allowance.

DETENUS RELEASED, ETC.

93. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of detenus who have been released as a result of the six-monthly reviews provided for in the Detention Ordinance;

(b) in how many such cases restrictive orders have been issued or re-arrest and detention effected again;

(c) the total number of detenus now in detention in each province, and whether the process of review has been applied to all these cases; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in some cases detenus who were furnished with the grounds for their detention were refused facilities for securing legal assistance for the preparation of their defence?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). I have no detailed information in respect of persons detained under the orders of Provincial Governments but as stated in my reply to Question No. 68, 5,068 persons have been released since the beginning of this year. As regards those detained under the orders or at the instance of the Central Government and the Chief Commissioners the number released between January 1st and October 15th was 57. None of these has been re-arrested or re-detained. The movements of some of them have been restricted. Accurate information is not available as to the number of such persons, but it is between 25 and 30.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing the position on 1st September, 1944. Later figures are not yet available. It must be remembered that the figures include a large number of persons who have been detained for reasons other than political. The process of review is applied in all Provinces in cases where detention is under Ordinance No. III of 1944. This is clearly laid down in section 9 of the Ordinance.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to question No. 70.

Statement showing the number of persons undergoing detention on 1st September, 1944.

Madras	315
Bombay	343
Bengal	1,281
United Provinces	722
Punjab	107
Bihar	324
Central Provinces and Berar	136
Assam	165
North-West Frontier Province	61
Orissa	127
Sind	1,656
Coorg	..
Delhi	21
Ajmer-Merwara	7
Baluchistan	..
Total	5,265

UNSATISFACTORY WORKING OF THE CONTROL ON CAPITAL ISSUE.

94. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how long it is the intention of the Government of India to maintain the present control on capital issue?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that great disaffection prevails as to the manner in which consent of the Government is given to some applicants and refused to others? If so, will the Honourable Member indicate the present policy which is being pursued in the disposal of applications for capital issue, and lay on the table a statement of the number of cases in which consent was granted and of those in which consent was refused?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) It is impossible to foresee precisely when the conditions which necessitated the establishment of control over capital issues will disappear.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The present policy is indicated in the Press Notes of June 21st, 1943, July 10th, 1943, April 28th, 1944, and July 28th, 1944, copies of which are in the Library of the House. The total numbers of cases in which consent had been given and refused up till the 24th October, 1944, are: consents, 2,735; refusals, 737.

UNSATISFACTORY WORKING OF THE CONTROL ON CAPITAL ISSUE.

95. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether consent is refused under the present control of capital issues, to register private limited companies also?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, on what ground is such consent withheld?

(c) Is there any other criterion by which applications are judged than that specified in the objects of the Ordinance under reference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Consent for the issue of capital by private limited companies (not for their registration) is necessary and may be refused.

(b) Generally speaking, for reasons referred to in the Press Notes quoted in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 94.

(c) Control is exercised not under an Ordinance but under a Rule made under Defence of India Act. The criteria applied are those referred to in section 2(1) of that Act.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES.

96. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the latest amount of India's sterling balance, and what amount thereof is at present held in the Post-war Reconstruction Fund? Are there other proposals pending at the moment for the utilisation of the balance, and, if so, what are they?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The sterling balances stood on the 13th October 1944 at Rs. 1,149 crores. The entire amount is held in the Issue and Banking Departments of the Reserve Bank of India and no portion is separately held in a Post-War Reconstruction Fund. The question of the utilisation of these balances will, it is expected, form the subject of discussion between the Government of India and of the United Kingdom.

PROPAGANDA BY MEMBERS OF THE VICEROY'S COUNCIL.

97. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is not a fact that the members of the Viceroy's Council tour about India at the public expense?

(b) Are they allowed to carry on propaganda—personal and party?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that Dr. Ambedkar carried on propaganda for the Scheduled Caste Federation?

(d) Is it not a fact that Dr. Ambedkar started the propaganda that scheduled castes form a separate nation? If the answer is in the positive, is it the collective and considered opinion of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Leader of the House.

ATTACK BY WAR TECHNICIANS ON CITIZENS OF RAJAMPET.

98. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state if it is not a fact that several peaceful citizens of Rajampet lost their lives and limbs as the result of an attack by War Technicians?

(b) How many lost their lives and limbs? Is there any compensation paid to the sufferers?

(c) What is the action taken by the Government against the culprits?

(d) Is there any police prosecution launched against any of the inmates of the War Technicians Institute Hostel? If so, what is the result?

(e) What are the precautions taken by the Government of India to prevent such untoward incidents there and elsewhere?

(f) Is it not a fact that the citizens were conducting a peaceful procession when the War Technicians in their uniforms and armed with sticks fell on the processionists?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (f). Yes, Sir, an incident did take place. It was in the nature of a riot between members of the Mala caste, who were trainees at the Civil Centre, Rajampet, and members of the Boya and related castes, who had performed a certain dance accompanied by Chindu

music, considered provocative and insulting to the Mala caste. There is, however, no report to the effect that sticks were used. I would add that the music was played in defiance of a local order prohibiting music without previous notice to the civil authorities.

(b) One Boya resident of Rajampet was killed and another was injured. One trainee also was injured. As regards compensation, the matter is under correspondence.

(c) and (d). Of the three culprits tried by the Sessions Judge, Cuddapah, one was sentenced to death for murder, the second to twelve months' rigorous imprisonment, while the third was acquitted.

(e) All military personnel are under orders to take special care that none of their acts violate religious customs and prejudices.

ACTION ON DISCUSSIONS AT THE TOBACCO CONFERENCE HELD AT CALCUTTA.

99. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what decisions have been taken and what orders have been passed on the matters discussed at the Tobacco Conference held at Calcutta on the 26th and 27th June, 1944?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the advisability of publishing or informing the All-India Biri and Tobacco Merchants Federation what changes have been introduced either in the letter or spirit of the Central Excise Rules relating to tobacco and in the working of the system, in the light of the discussions at the Tobacco Conference for the guidance of dealers in tobacco?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The various proposals put forward at the Conference were carefully studied by the Central Excise Department. Some of these matters entailed detailed investigation but except in two instances, where orders will shortly be issued, appropriate orders have been passed and a resumé of the action taken has been sent to the All-India Biri and Tobacco Merchants' Federation.

(b) The Federation have been informed of the action taken.

PRINTING PRESSES CONFISCATED AND NEWSPAPERS SUPPRESSED.

100. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of printing presses confiscated and locked up by police and national newspapers suppressed by the Central and Provincial Governments throughout India during the so-called 'rebellion' of 1942;

(b) how many newspapers have not been given permission to restart; and

(c) how many printing Presses have been released since then, and how many are still locked up?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer so far as the Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces are concerned is:

(a) One printing press was confiscated and locked up by the police in January, 1943. No newspapers were suppressed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The one press referred to in part (a) was released in October 1943. None is still locked up.

GRIEVANCES OF DELHI DETENUS.

101. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the grievances of the Delhi detenus as published in an A.P.I. report which appeared in the *Tribune*, dated the 16th July, 1944, in the form of an interview given by Mr. Ramlal Verma, Editor, the daily *Tej*, Delhi, on his release from detention;

(b) whether the Government have looked into the allegations made therein particularly about the medical arrangements at the Ferozepur Camp Jail Hospital and about the facts that there are frequent complaints regarding the inadequacy of necessary medicines and the indifferent attitude of the Medical Officer;

(b) I regret that information for the past few months is not available, but the average contract rates for 1943-44 were as follows:—

Articles	Per	Rates		
		Rs.	a.	p.
Mutton	10 lbs.	70	0	0
Beef	100 lbs.	35	0	0
Potatoes	100 lbs.	19	0	0
Onions	100 lbs.	15	0	0
Vegetables, fresh	100 lbs.	24	0	0
Eggs	100 Nos.	10	0	0
Chickens	lb.	1	4	0
Fresh Milk	lb.	0	5	0
Butter	lb.	2	4	0

(c) No such statement appears to have been made but the procedure followed is that contracts for local purchase are sanctioned by authorities of ranks commensurate with the amounts involved and that except in cases of a minor nature specified prior concurrence of financial authorities is obtained. Since February 1944, all Local Purchase of foodstuffs for Defence Services is being co-ordinated and controlled by Command Co-ordination Committees which consist of representatives of the Command, the Food Department and the Provincial Government and which have sub-committees constituted on similar lines at each military station or convenient group of stations in the Command.

(d) It is normal army procedure, observed invariably, to consult the civil authorities in regard to prices before making any contract. I regret, however, that detailed information regarding these consultations is not available as no record of them is kept.

POSITION RE DOLLARS AND DOLLAR SECURITIES.

25. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement indicating—

(a) the total amount of dollars and dollar securities requisitioned by the Government of India at the outbreak of War under the Dollar Requisitioning Order;

(b) the amount of trade balance between India and the United States of America from the outbreak of war to the present day, year by year;

(c) the accretion of dollars to this country as a result of expenditure undertaken by American forces in India and other United States of America expenditure in this country; and

(d) the total amount of dollars contributed by this country to the Empire Dollar Pool?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (c). I regret that I cannot give this information as its publication would be contrary to the public interest.

(b) The balance of trade in merchandise between India and the United States of America are shown in the accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India which are published every month.

(d) Accurate information is not available and in any case could not be published without detriment to public interest.

DOLLARS AVAILABLE IN THE EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL.

26. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the amount of dollars available at present in the Empire Dollar Pool; and

(b) the amount of dollars that were available in the Empire Dollar Pool in the years 1941, 1942 and 1943, separately?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India are not in possession of information asked for.

UTILIZATION OF DOLLARS IN THE EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL.

27. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the Government of India possess exact information as to how these dollars in the Empire Dollar Pool are used?

(b) What is the total amount of dollars made available from the Empire Dollar Pool to India, United Kingdom and other Empire countries, separately, in the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944?

(c) Has any portion of the dollars in the Empire Dollar Pool been utilised or earmarked for redeeming dollar securities which have been pledged by the United Kingdom Government with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation under the agreement between the United Kingdom and this Corporation in 1941, whereby the United Kingdom secured a loan of 425 million dollars?

(d) Has any portion of these dollars been utilised by the United Kingdom for imports from the United States of America on private account?

(e) If the answer to (d) be in the affirmative, what is the amount of dollars so utilised, and did such imports consist of capital or consumers goods?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The dollars in the common Empire Pool are used for meeting Essential import requirements of the sterling area countries.

(b) to (e). The Government of India have no information.

DETENTION UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES OF STAFF ON SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY.

28. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that a large number of the staff on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway has been detained under the Defence of India Act Rules in the District Jail at Meerut since November, 1943, without trial? If so, (i) when are they to be produced before a Court to stand their trial, (ii) what are the reasons for not completing the investigations of the offences under the Defence of India Act Rules within a period of one year?

(b) Did the Government of India refuse their trial by the Special Tribunal, War Department?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) This is the concern of the Provincial Government. I regret I have no information on the subject.

(b) No, Sir.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

REMOVAL OF LARGE NUMBER OF TELEPHONES FROM SUBSCRIBERS.

Sir F. E. James: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) how many telephones in New Delhi have been removed in pursuance of 12 Noon the warning issued by the Department of Posts and Air during October;

(b) how many of these telephones are being installed in the houses and private rooms of Members of the Central Legislature for the current session;

(c) the reason for the removal of a large number of telephones from subscribers of long standing in New Delhi;

(d) if one of the reasons is the necessity of supplying private telephones to a large number of Members of the Central Legislature for the duration of the Session, whether these telephones will be restored to permanent subscribers at the end of the Session;

(e) when the new plant is expected; and

(f) when the new plant arrives, whether those permanent subscribers whose telephones have been summarily removed will be given priority in the distribution of the available plant?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) 65.

(b) It is not possible to give a definite reply to this part of the question in its present form as telephones are not transferred as separate entities. The matter is explained further in the reply to the other parts.

(c) The New Delhi Telephone System has been overloaded for a long time and the demand for telephones for urgent war purposes has now exceeded the capacity of the system. In addition it was necessary to provide approximately 80 telephones in connection with the present Session of the Central Legislature. It is also known from experience that a further irresistible demand

will be made before the end of the present cold weather. As it was impossible to expand the System in time, it was necessary to cut off a certain number of subscribers and these were selected on the advice of the special committee which had been appointed for this purpose. Telephones are not requisitioned individually for particular purposes as the System has to be treated as a whole and by obtaining relief in one area it is possible to give telephones in another area.

(d) The necessity of providing telephones for Members of the Central Legislature was taken into account as an immediate requirement but compulsory disconnection would have been unavoidable apart from this demand and requirements as a whole will not permit re-connection of the permanent subscribers in question at the end of the Session.

(e) Some of the new plant has already been shipped and arrangements have been made to instal it as soon as it arrives. There is, however, always the danger that consignments may be lost and in any case it is not possible to bring it into service before the end of April 1945, earliest.

(f) The permanent subscribers whose telephones have been removed will be given priority immediately after demands having prior right either from war necessity or by virtue of compulsory removal at an earlier date.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask my Honourable friend whether I was right in hearing from him that the number of permanent telephones, i.e., telephones of long-standing subscribers which have been removed, was 65 and the number of telephones which the meeting of the Central Legislature involved was 80?

Mr. W. H. Shoovert: That is correct, Sir.

Sir F. E. James: I take it that the 80 telephones which are being installed as a result of the meeting of the Central Legislature are temporary connections only.

Mr. W. H. Shoovert: That is also correct. The position is that whenever the Central Legislature meets we have this periodical demand for telephones and we make provision accordingly. I might perhaps explain that at the present time the excess over our safe load in our local telephone exchanges here is 186. It is made up as follows:

80 is the ordinary excess which we had before.

80 connections have been given to the Honourable Members of the Legislature.

Six very urgent Government connections have been made and 20 more are considered necessary at once.

But I would add as regards the connections given to Honourable Members of the Legislature, that they do not add very badly to the load which we have to carry during busy hours, because Honourable Members are generally occupied here or in another place during those busy hours and the telephones which they have are either at their place of business or at their residence, and they use them in the evenings when we can risk the heavy load which is thus given.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask my Honourable friend whether his Department has considered approaching the Presidents of the two Legislatures with a view to requesting them to ask the House Committees of both Houses to review the telephones which are installed for Honourable Members in order that every possibility of economy might be exercised by Honourable Members in that regard.

Mr. W. H. Shoovert: The reply to that question, Sir, is in the negative, because the Posts and Telegraphs Department has always considered it as one of the primary obligations of the Department to see that Honourable Members of the Legislature have every facility for communication. I have also already explained to the Honourable Member that these connections given to Honourable Members of the Legislature do not embarrass us very considerably, but if Honourable Members of the House think it necessary, I would be quite prepared to request the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to consider consulting the Presidents of the two Houses as to whether connections could be cut down.

Several Honourable Members: No, no.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ILL-TREATMENT METED OUT TO MR. RAM CHARAN AGARWAL BY THE DELHI POLICE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The first adjournment motion for today is Motion No. 40 on the list by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall regarding "the revengeful conduct of the Delhi Kotwali Police in handcuffing Mr. Ram Charan Agarwal, a respectable citizen of Delhi and making him march on foot from the kotwali to the jail and refusing him the use of a pillow while allowing a wrapper and a *gadda* and keeping him without food for a day and a half against the declared policy and practice of the Government with regard to the treatment of political prisoners".

I should like to know from the Honourable the Home Member what the facts of the case are.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): I have taken, Sir, great care to get the facts of the case. I got a report last night from the Chief Commissioner which, owing to insufficiency of time, was not complete in certain details. I therefore saw this morning both the Additional Superintendent of Police and an officer from the Kotwali (Police Station). I have also verified some of the facts from the Deputy Superintendent of Police (C.I.D.) and I have not the least doubt that the facts I am going to place before the House are correct.

Mr. Ram Charan Agarwal was arrested on the 7th of October for breach of a restrictive order passed against him under Ordinance III of 1944. He was brought to the kotwali between 7 and 8 p.m. He was given special permission to bring down his bedding. He had had his food before he arrived at the kotwali. He left the kotwali about 10 a.m. next day (Sunday) and was taken to the cutchery. He had tea before he left.

An Honourable Member: Khali Cha?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No. *Roti bhi diya*.

He was not in police custody for a day and a half. He was there only for fourteen hours. There was no question of the use of a pillow being refused since he was allowed to bring his own bedding. He was also permitted to have food. He was taken from the kotwali to the cutchery on foot, handcuffed. From the cutchery he was taken in a prison van to the magistrate on duty. Being a Sunday the cutchery was not open. That magistrate who is the Treasury Officer lives in Tis Hazari. As I said, Ram Charan Agarwal was taken there along with the other prisoners in a prison van. From there he was remanded to the district jail. The original remand for one day was extended to three days and then he was let out on bail. So the only question that arises is about his removal on foot from the kotwali to the cutchery and his being fettered and whether such action can be considered as revengeful. Honourable Members will understand that when the Police escort a prisoner from one place to another.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I just want to know what the facts of the case are.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The facts are, Sir, that the handcuffing was in accordance with the Punjab Government rules on the subject.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On the facts stated by the Honourable Member I rule the motion out of order.

FAILURE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING HAJ PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next adjournment portion is one by Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha relating to: "the failure of the Government to make arrangements for the carrying of Haj Pilgrims to Hedjaz who had already secured passage in accordance with the directions and rules laid down by the Government, thereby causing great loss, hardship and inconvenience to a large number of pilgrims."

What are the facts in this matter?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): The basis of the motion that I have given notice of moving is a telegram sent by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin (an ex-Member of this House

[Khan Bahadur Sheikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha.]

and President of the Haj Pilgrim Protection League, Delhi) and also a statement issued by him on the 20th October in the *Dawn* which, if the Honourable the President desires, I should be glad to read out for his information.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the present state of things? How many pilgrims have already embarked and how many yet remain?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: I do not know the exact number of pilgrims but there is the statement published in the *Dawn* of the 2nd of this month, in which it is said that Mr. Gazdar, the Home Member to the Government of Sind and Chairman of the Port Haj Committee, in a statement had said that there are nearly 3000 pilgrims in the Haj camp at Karachi. The authorities have made provision for 2,245 pilgrims in the second batch but there are about 600 more who have paid all their charges and are insisting to be included in the second batch and the Committee has asked the Central Government for accommodation for them in that batch. This is, Sir, about the second batch which is to leave or has left. But from amongst the first batch there were about 100 pilgrims who were not allowed to embark on the pilgrim ship that was leaving that day. Therefore, Sir, that makes sufficient ground for the house to consider the motion I have moved.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Do you mean to say that only one hundred pilgrims have not been able to obtain accommodation?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: In the first batch 100 and in the second 600.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): The facts so far known are as follows. Owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing in war time our final decision to organise Haj sailings this year was unavoidably delayed. We could not therefore give longer notice. A party of about 16 pilgrims who had booked their passages was left behind, as they could not arrive at the dock in time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How many pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sixteen. The boat was held up for them for about an hour but they arrived too late. The Honourable Member mentioned a telegram from Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin. I got a telegram from him yesterday where he has expressed complete satisfaction with regard to the position and has no complaints to make. Tickets could not also be issued to 200 pilgrims from the Manipur State and neighbouring places. 190 of these pilgrims had been given reservation cards for seats. These passengers also arrived rather late and the necessary pre-embarkation formalities could not be gone through in time. They did not, however, return to their homes but stayed on at the pilgrim camp. They will be accommodated in the boat scheduled for the second sailing. The complaint that a considerable number of pilgrims who had already secured passages have not been provided for seems to be exaggerated. The above facts relate to the first sailing but we have no information as to what has happened regarding the second sailing. Owing to war conditions we could only provide for a limited number of pilgrims and in spite of our best efforts ideal conditions could not be secured for the pilgrims.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How many had already secured accommodation and have left?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: About 5000.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is that the usual number?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Yes, Sir: that was the number fixed. We had fixed a limit of 5000. The Under Secretary and the Haj Officer in the Department, both Muslims, have been camping out at Karachi as they did on the eve of the first sailing. Full instructions have been issued to ensure reasonable comforts and to accommodate as many surplus passengers as may be feasible. They have been able to arrange for the embarkation of 400 pilgrims in excess of the number prescribed by the Shipping Rules. This is all that could be done.

Complaints have also been made about advanced collections of Saudi Arabian and other dues.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this motion.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: My contention is that we have done our best in the abnormal conditions prevailing and there is no case on the facts, therefore, for the admission of this adjournment motion. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I point out, Sir, that there are certain facts which are not quite clear. The Honourable Member has said that 5,000 pilgrims have already left the shores of India. Is that correct?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I said that 5,000 pilgrims have been allowed to sail.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That may be so, but how many did actually leave by the first boat? Let me tell him that only 86 have left.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not believe that information, but the full figures have not yet been received by us.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Can you give any figures?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On the facts mentioned by the Honourable Member who is in charge of the Haj pilgrimage, I rule that there is no justification for this motion.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The facts that he has given are wrong.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): **Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee** has given notice of an adjournment motion by which he wishes "to set up a machinery to apply economic sanctions against South Africa on account of its growing anti-Indian attitude as evidenced by the Natal Ordinance".

This motion is not in order because it is not intended to discuss any action taken by the Government of India, but the suggestion is made for certain action to be taken. The motion is not in order.

FAILURE TO FRAME AND ENFORCE RULES UNDER RECIPROCITY ACT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is also in the name of **Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee**. In this motion he wishes to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to frame and enforce all the necessary rules under the Reciprocity Act."

Were the Government of India expected to frame these rules?

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, there is a long history behind it. It is now over two years that we have been asking the Government of India about this matter and they have every time been saying that they are preparing the rules. But I do not want to go into the details as I find the Honourable the Leader of the House has fixed a day for going into these matters. I would like to be told what is the day that has been fixed for this purpose.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): It is Monday, the 6th of November.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is also in the name of **Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee**.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: Sir, the same remarks apply to this. I do not want to move it now because a day has been fixed for this purpose.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, with your permission I want to inform the House that 1,900 pilgrims have left by the first sailings.

APPOINTMENTS TO SUPERIOR REVENUE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS, STORES DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is in the name of Mr. H. M. Abdullah. He wishes to discuss "the appointment by the Railway Board of nine probationers to superior revenue establishment of the Indian State Railways, Stores Department, none of whom is a Muslim or a member of any other minority community, in direct contravention of the Government of India Resolution No. F14/17B/33, dated 4th July 1934".

I would like to know what are the facts.

Mr. H. M. Abdullah (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I do not wish to move this motion.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION FOR REPUBLICATION OF NATIONAL HERALD AND FORWARD

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion is in the name of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. He wishes to discuss "the refusal of the Government to permit the republication of *National Herald* and *Forward* and thus using the Paper Control Order to suppress Newspapers for political reasons".

I do not know if the Honourable Member can explain it further.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not move it.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT IN APPOINTING ADJUDICATOR IN TRADE DISPUTE BETWEEN SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY AND ITS EMPLOYEES, ETC.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion stands in the name of Mr. Dam. He wishes to discuss "the unconstitutional conduct of the Central Government in the appointment of the Adjudicator in the trade dispute between the Administration of the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and its employees and further failure of the Central Government in not extending the order on the award of the said Adjudicator to the employees on the East Indian Railway by making cheap grains available at the rates charged by the North Western Railway as made available to the employees on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway".

What is the exact complaint? Does he want that there must be some sort of allowances which have been awarded elsewhere?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the rule says that both parties to the dispute should apply for a reference to the court. That was done and the privileges that were extended to the employees of the North Western Railway were not extended to the employees of the East Indian Railway as regards the cheap grains that were made available to them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You want the same privileges to be extended to the employees of the East Indian Railway.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I oppose the motion and I must say that my Honourable friend is considerably misinformed as to the facts and the circumstances. This adjudication took place under Rule 81A.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The only question before the House is whether the motion is in order.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am stating the facts. This adjudication took place under Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules and the power to appoint an Adjudicator completely vests in the Government of India. Therefore, there is nothing unconstitutional in the Government of India appointing an Adjudicator to settle this dispute particularly when the dispute covered a railway which runs in two provinces, namely, the United Provinces and Delhi and no single Provincial Government was entitled to appoint an

Adjudicator. Therefore, I submit there is nothing unconstitutional in the action taken.

With regard to the second part, my submission is that my Honourable friend is considerably misinformed on the point because the award of the Adjudicator did not exclude any dispute with regard to the other Railway. It was certainly not open to the Government to extend the provisions of the award to a railway which was not the subject-matter of the dispute at all. The dispute concerned only the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and not the East Indian Railway.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There was no such demand on behalf of the employees of the East Indian Railway?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Certainly not, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The facts stated by the Honourable Member for Labour show that there is no justification for this motion. Therefore, it is disallowed.

SINKING OF THE S. S. CORMORANT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next motion stands in the name of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani. He wishes to discuss "the sinking of the old repairable steamer S.S. Cormorant of O. T. Railway in the Ganges near Digha Ghat in Bihar on the 12th September last due to overcrowding and negligence of the Railway authority and the action of the said Railway Authority to conceal losses of lives and goods by one-sided enquiries".

These are general terms. What did actually happen?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, on the 12th September last the steamer S.S. Cormorant started from Mahendra Ghat and according to the report of the Inquiry Committee 2,311 tickets were issued till noon at Digha Ghat and 341 tickets were issued at the starting station, Mahendra Ghat. The number of passengers altogether came to about 2,600. Besides these passengers, some passengers also had come from the E. I. R. side. I fail to understand as to how the Committee came to the conclusion that only 600 passengers were on the steamer and there was no overcrowding.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What does O. T. stand for?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Oudh and Tirhut Railway.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is that a Company-managed railway or a State-managed railway?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: It is a State-managed railway.

The second point is that the steamer was declared already, according to my information, a damaged one and was fit to be repaired. This was a great negligence on the part of the Railway authorities, to use such a damaged steamer and there was evidently overcrowding.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The sinking of the steamer was due to overcrowding?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Overcrowding and also the damaged condition of the steamer.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): I think I can best explain this matter by reading some extracts from the communique of the Bihar Government which begins by saying:

"A good deal of misapprehension seems to prevail and several ill informed statements have appeared in the press in connection with the accident which happened to the passenger steamer S. S. Cormorant on the 12th September 1944. Government consider it desirable to state the correct facts which have been ascertained during Police investigation and the enquiry of the Joint Enquiry Board."

They then proceed to give the facts:

"S. S. Cormorant had a carrying capacity of one thousand at the time of the accident was carrying about 600 persons."

To cut a long story short: the bow of the steamer suddenly struck against some hard substance, supposed to be a submerged tree trunk. With great

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promptitude, the Commander ordered the steamer to be stopped and backed towards the bank and, at the same time, sounded the danger whistle. Passengers then proceeded to disembark on the bank. I have no doubt there was a certain amount of rush but that any number of passengers was lost is not the fact.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No life was lost?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One child of six years old was missing. The whole of the 37 lifebuoys which were on the steamer were subsequently found intact. It shows that the passengers found no need to use them and there was no occasion for any one to jump into the stream. The danger whistle was blown and help was sent to the spot but was found to be unnecessary. I need not, I think, quote the paragraph in the report which explains why the number of passengers was round about 600 but the report ends up by saying:

"In the above circumstances Government are satisfied that the accident was an accident and no one could be held responsible for it and they see no reason for ordering a special enquiry into the cause of the accident. The sensational reports about the accident that appeared in some newspapers were grossly exaggerated or inaccurate on many important details and apparently published without any care being taken to find out the facts."

There is one other point. The Honourable Member suggested that the ship was in a bad state of repair. The facts are these:

"The vessel has been laid up for survey every year and dry-docked every four years, the provisions of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, (Act I of 1917) and the rules made thereunder by the Government of Bihar being complied with."

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): Is it not a fact that the steamer met with an accident before this and was not considered fit to ply? Was it not due to the O. and T. Railway Administration's negligence that this vessel was allowed to ply?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not a fact.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In view of the facts stated, I must disallow this motion.

INACCURATE GOVERNMENT REPLY RE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is in the name of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. He wants to discuss "the inaccurate, incomplete and misleading reply given by the Honourable Member for Labour to a question asked in the Assembly yesterday about the alleged grant of Rs. 13,000 per month to the Indian Federation of Labour."

The Honourable Member does not specify what the incorrect statement is; I want to know what is the incorrect statement.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Government's reply was that the grant of Rs. 13,000 was made to the Federation which I dispute as incorrect.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member kindly read the reply?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I have not got the *Hindustan Times* with me but I may tell you

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has charged the Member of Government with making an inaccurate and misleading reply. Surely the Honourable Member ought to be prepared to prove his case. He must give me the exact replies.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must read out from the record of the proceedings. I cannot accept any other statement.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I can state from memory the exact reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The record is there. You cannot rely on memory. Heaps of questions were asked yesterday.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If I get a copy of the proceedings

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must resume his seat. He should get hold of the proceedings before he charges any Member of this House with making incorrect, false and misleading statements.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If you will kindly listen to me

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member resume his seat?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I shall take another opportunity.

RESOLUTION RE PROTECTION OF MOSQUES IN NEW DELHI—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Further discussion of the Resolution moved by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan on the 30th March, 1944.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): The Resolution is a very modest one. Although the power of controlling these mosques vests in the Majlis under Act XIII of 1943, section 25 clearly says...

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): On a point of order. This Resolution raises substantially more than one definite issue. I say that it is out of order under Standing Order 59. It asks that the bungalows should be given to the Muslim employees.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why did not the Honourable Member raise this before.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: A point of order could be raised at any time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It ought to have been raised before. It cannot be raised now.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Supposing a wrong thing has been done and allowed to be discussed, is it not open to any Member to raise a point of order at a later stage?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The objection ought to have been taken earlier. Will the Honourable Member resume his seat? **Mr. Ghani** will proceed with his speech.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I was submitting that under Act XIII of 1943 the Majlis has got full powers of control over all kinds of wakfs in the province of Delhi. The powers given are mentioned in section 25 (1): the general superintendence and control of all wakfs in the province shall be vested in the Majlis; and the majlis shall do all things necessary to ensure that the wakfs are properly supervised and administered. Sub-section (3) (g) says "to give directions for the proper administration of a wakf in accordance with the law governing such wakf and the wishes of the wakfs in so far as such wishes can be ascertained and are not repugnant to such laws".

The Majlis is given full power to repair and take charge of all these mosques in the whole province of Delhi. The Resolution only means that there should not be any friction between the officials and the Muslim public represented by the Wakf Majlis. In order to avoid friction this Resolution has been brought forward; otherwise there was no necessity of bringing in such a Resolution, because already the Majlis has the full control of all these things, and complete mastery over all these mosques is vested in the Majlis. We have, however, said experience of the affairs during the past years, that the treatment of the Government was not good, so far as these wakf properties, particularly mosques, were concerned. It happened sometimes ago that 34 mosques and *khanquahs* with their compounds were leased to the Jama Masjid Committee at a rental of 3 annas per annum, as if the Government were master of all those things. This was resented and the Government took action to remedy them. If you look to the wretched conditions of mosques in New Delhi, you will find that every now and then these mosques and wakf properties are treated very badly. Even those mosques which are under the supervision and superintendence of the Archaeological Department under the Preservation of Monuments Act are

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not in good condition. Take the case of Bhuli Bhatari Sarai which has a mosque also. This mosque, if you go there you will see that dirt and other filthy things are lying inside the mosque. It is not preserved properly but used as a lavatory by persons passing that way. You will find that latrines have been built near the graves by the P. W. D. You will remember, Sir, when Talkatora Mosque Bill was introduced in this House, we then came to know that 16 mosques had already been acquired by the Government, along with temples; and about 39,000 rupees were lying with the District Judge and for the disposal of that money the said Bill was introduced. We objected to the passing of such a Bill and the matter was dropped. So, we are afraid of the bad conditions and mismanagement of the wakf properties here and hence an Act was passed for which we thank the Government for their assistance. Now, the Resolution is a very modest one and I do not think the Department of Labour should have any kind of objection in giving permission for repairs and other things which are in the power of the Majlis. They can say this, that the individuals should not have any right of repairs. It may be so, but after all the Majlis is duly constituted under the Act and it is functioning in this province. One thing can be done by the Government, that all matters connected with all these mosques should be entrusted to the wakf Majlis which is the competent authority to repair them. As regards the offering of prayers I think when the mosques have been once built and used for prayers, nobody can obstruct offering prayers therein; and I think there should not be any kind of restriction in offering prayers. The Government may come forward and say that these mosques which are within the compound of the Government quarters, if used, may inconvenience the occupants staying in those quarters. Government must have been well advised to leave out those mosques outside, however the easy remedy is for the Government to separate the mosque with its compound from the bungalow and then there will be no friction at all. The people will go by the outer road and they will offer their prayers and come away. There will be no friction at any time with the inmates of the bungalows. With these few words, I fully support the Resolution and hope the Government will reconsider their position and will be well advised to accept my suggestion just made.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Again, Sir, on another point of order. Lest I may be too late I want to say at the very beginning that in today's agenda there are a number of Resolutions—one carried over from a previous day, and five more Resolutions. I do not find my Resolution which has been disallowed and which came in the ballot.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If it has been disallowed, you cannot raise a point of order on that.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: The point is that it was disallowed on the ground that it raises more than one substantive issue.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot argue the matter. The Honourable Member can only make any representation he likes to the Chair; then I shall be very glad to reconsider it.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Let it be considered and revised just now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It cannot be done now.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: What will be the good of my making a representation later on?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows the practice of the House; he cannot do it now; I cannot allow any question or resolution that is disallowed by me to be discussed here.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: When shall I make a representation, that is the point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can write to me or to the Secretary.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But the day for Resolutions is over.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot help it; the order has been passed and cannot be reviewed here.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But it is no use.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order; will the Honourable Member resume his seat?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I have got a right to be heard.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member to resume his seat.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: If I am given the opportunity.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Your temper cannot cow me down. I am not used to be treated like a school boy. I must be heard.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has been heard; I have given my ruling.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: If the Chair gives me an assurance that it is going to hear me, only then I will resume my seat.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will not give any assurance. The Honourable Member can make a representation to me later on.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I do not believe in Chamber representations. I must be heard on the floor of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot be heard now. Will the Honourable Member obey the Ruling of the Chair?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Only if I am allowed to exercise my right and make my submission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow that.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I must make my submission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already made his submissions.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But I have not been allowed to submit my points.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I find the Chair is not allowing me to make my submissions. I cannot put up with that sort of thing. I am making my protest to the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He should obey the Ruling of the Chair.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But I am not going to take it lying down like a school boy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member accept my Ruling or not?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Yes, but I must be allowed to have my points put before you.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But the Ruling of the Chair cannot be discussed on the floor of the House.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: What cannot be discussed?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): My Ruling.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I find that the Honourable the President is losing temper at all times and it is very difficult for me to make my submissions.

Several Honourable Members: Order, order; obey the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I find the Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House. I must ask him to leave the House, as he is persisting in obstructing.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I am willing to take the extreme penalty imposed by you. But I am not going to submit like a school boy to your temper. I leave the House under protest.

(Then the Honourable Member, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, left the House.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I intervene in this debate because I find that some of the demands made in the Resolution are fair and reasonable and so far as those portions are concerned, I shall give my support and no further. The Resolution says:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to keep in proper repairs and to protect the mosques situated in New Delhi, he should be pleased to take the following certain steps . . ."

So far as keeping the mosques in proper repair is concerned, and so far as protecting them is concerned, nobody would object to it. The Majlis might surely go and repair them. Not only mosques should be repaired but even all other places of worship, such as *mandirs*, *Tikanas*, etc., should all be allowed to be repaired in the same manner. So far as that portion of the Resolution is concerned, it will have my full support and sympathy.

(Coming to the details what do I find? It is said;

"Instruct the Department concerned to allot all those bungalows in the compounds of which mosques are situated only to the Muslim employees of the Government."

I cannot support this part of the Resolution. I will make another suggestion to bring about the same result. In Sind also there was sometime ago great disturbance involving loss of life regarding the use of a mosque and the device employed was to separate that part for prayers which occupied the mosque. My suggestion therefore is that the portion of the compound of the bungalow in which a mosque is situate should be enclosed by four walls and a separate entrance should be made leading to the mosque from outside. Then there will be no difficulty in people having access to the mosque. It does not matter then who is occupying the bungalow, Hindu, Muslim or Christian. This suggestion of mine if adopted will remove all the cause for rancour and ill-feeling and it will avoid all communal questions.

The next portion of the Resolution says:

"Instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission, without delay on presentation of applications by the Muslims for repairs"—

"who should be instructed not to obstruct or stop their Muslim servants or visitors from saying prayers in such mosques."

There can be no objection to this if the entrance to the mosque is from outside. If the demands are reasonable, there can be no objection. As regards these visitors, they cannot obstruct the occupant of the bungalow since these visitors will enter the mosque only from outside. No inconvenience can be caused to the inmates of the bungalow.

The next portion of the Resolution reads:

"Instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal committee that they should give permission without delay on presentation of applications by the Muslims for the repairs of or restoration to the old position or rebuilding with some altered designs of mosques situated either in the compound of any Government bungalow or on any place surrounded by Government or Municipal property."

I think if an application is presented in the ordinary way, the Municipality or the Government will have to dispose of the same. Where they allow alterations or additions, they are all governed by the bylaws and rules framed. If the applications sent conform to those rules and regulations, then they will be considered. If there are cases in which no reply has been given or unreasonable replies have been given, then there are remedies under the Act for the applicant. Government can certainly decide those individual cases. But to say that general instructions should be given that permission should be given irrespective of the fact whether they conform to rules and regulations or not, this is a thing which I cannot accept. If there has been obstruction or undue delay, then those cases only can be dealt with by the Government. I think they will be attended to. The Government or the Municipality will not be unreasonable in dealing with applications. If they are unreasonable, then recommendations can be made that they should not be obstructive. This discussion in the House will open their eyes. If the Government or the Municipality take care of all public places of worship, mosques, *mandirs*, etc., of any community, and build a separate entrance from outside, then I think there will be no disturbance. I support the Resolution to this extent.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, the Resolution before the House falls into two parts and similarly the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Seth Abdoola Haroon falls into two parts. The first part of the Resolution and of the amend-

ment has already been dealt with by the Honourable the Labour Member, and I propose to confine myself to the second part of the Resolution and of the amendment which concern my department. There are three categories of mosques, I suppose, in the Delhi area. There are those in private occupation with the repair of which we are not concerned and I will leave those out of account. Then there are mosques under the charge of the Archaeological Department. I think some 12 out of 68 mosques are in the charge of that department. The repair of those mosques is the duty and responsibility of the Archaeological Department and repair is not entrusted by that department to any outside authority or person; repairs are done as far as the funds at the disposal of that department permit and I do not think, though reference has been made by one Honourable Member to the way in which they are maintained, that that is really the subject matter of the Resolution before the House. I would only say that the right of the Muslim public to worship in the Archaeological Department-controlled mosques is scrupulously guarded and respected. But I think the Resolution before us is directed to the position as regards the third class of mosques which are referred to by the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution as "mosques surrounded by Government or municipal property". Those are mosques which have not been regarded as sufficiently important for archaeological reasons to be made protected monuments by the Archaeological Department and for which in most cases there is no regular arrangement in existence for their repairs.

Now, Sir, the Resolution asks the Governor General with regard to this last class to instruct the department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission without delay on presentation of an application by the Muslims for repairs to these mosques. In the first place there are obvious objections and difficulties in the way of acceptance of casual applications from Muslims or members of the Muslim public for permission to repair or reconstruct mosques standing on sites surrounded, as my Honourable friend says, by Government or municipal land. In fact one of the great difficulties that the local authorities have had with regard to this class of mosques is to be sure that the party coming forward is a man of substance, that he will be able to carry through the repairs that he wishes to carry through and that he can be relied upon to stick to the terms arranged for the repair of the mosque. And it was to surmount that difficulty that the late Chief Commissioner proposed to deal through one responsible body, the Jumma Musjid Committee, to put them formally in charge of this category of mosques for the regular repair of which no other arrangement exists. I may say that no financial obligation was placed on the Jumma Musjid Committee, but they were mainly to act in an advisory capacity and to advise the authorities whether the persons coming forward were persons who could safely be entrusted with the repairs. This laudable effort to get the *imprimatur* of a responsible Muslim committee on repair applications and to have its advice in dealing with these applications fell through. It is a pity it fell through because it had made a very good beginning but it fell through on a point to which I do not wish to refer at length here. Since that attempt fell to the ground we have had set up this new body, the Majlis-i-Wakf, and the Chief Commissioner is now dealing with this matter through this body. I am glad to be able to say that it looks as though this body was going to be extremely helpful to the authorities and to the community in their handling of this question of repairs to mosques. I believe that through this body the Chief Commissioner will have some one with whom he really can deal and feel assured that the repair of mosques is in right hands. I am glad to understand also that the point on which the previous arrangement broke down has been met. A formula acceptable to both parties has been evolved and it is probable that the Majlis-i-Wakf will be able to execute

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

agreements under which they will be made responsible for the repair of a great many of these mosques. But though, Sir, that will remove one of the chief difficulties of the past that have faced the local authorities, there still remains the necessity, which I think must remain, for the person who wishes to effect a repair or erection or re-erection to comply with the requirements of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. I do not think that it is seriously suggested that that should be waived. There are health requirements and building requirements and they must apply to any kind of building that is put up within the area of New Delhi. There should not ordinarily be great delay in the disposal of these matters. Under the Municipal Act the authorities are bound to give either an express permission or refusal within 60 days of the application. I think, therefore, that now that we have got a body set up who will take up the responsibility of advising about people who are coming to finance repairs, things ought to go better than in the past. I am not prepared to admit that the authorities have been unsympathetic in the past. According to some figures that we got out a few years ago I find that permission had up to a date in 1940 been already granted for the rebuilding of mosques in two cases, other improvements in 15 cases, in 4 cases Government have provided wire fencing and hedges, in 2 more Government have provided boundary walls, and in one case Government have built a complete set of quarters for Maulvi, fitted with sanitary and electric installations and have also provided a private access road. Since then there was the case of the Pandara Road mosque which has been restored partially at Government expense and the community themselves were permitted to make improvements to it; and that permission was given even though the arrangement with the Jumma Musjid Committee had by that time broken down.

I think we may claim, Sir, that the local authorities are not unsympathetic in these matters. In the case of the small Queensway mosque to which reference has been made I think there must be some misunderstanding. The Chief Commissioner informs me that on three occasions within recent years sanction to designs for improving the mosque has been given to persons in charge of the mosque to execute repairs and improvements; and a year or two ago when that very handsome tree fell down and damage was done I believe that alterations and repairs were carried out at the expense of Government to that mosque.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Which mosque?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The small mosque near Western Court to which my Honourable friend referred. I think his point was that there has been refusal to allow them to extend the mosque over the full area of the *chabutra*. If they have got a plan for that and if it is to cover only the *chabutra* and does not involve any impediment below the *chabutra*—on the foot path and the highway—and if it were pressed again, I am sure it would be sympathetically considered.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Thank you very much.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, on another point to which my Honourable friend referred,—I am afraid I cannot agree that the authorities can give up altogether any say in the matter of design of the mosque. Delhi is not in any way an ordinary place and I think the power must be retained to veto obviously incongruous designs.

• For the reasons I have indicated, I am afraid we cannot accept the Resolution as it has been put up; still less I am afraid could we accept the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon. It goes much further and asks the department concerned to be instructed to give all facilities, assistance and necessary legal permits to such Mussalmans as come forward to repair, restore or rebuild any existing mosque in New Delhi area. As I have said, we must ensure that only people of substance are allowed to take up such matters and I think the new body which has been set up is going to be very help-

ful to us in that matter. I would reiterate that it is the intention neither of the Government nor of the local authorities, as I have been assured, to prevent any of these old religious buildings being maintained or put into a state of repair and used for their original purpose. But in a place like Delhi, as I have said before, it is only natural and proper that the authorities, including the New Delhi Municipality, should wish to retain an interest in the way in which repairs are carried out. We must, therefore, continue to reserve a right to treat applications on their merits. But I hope that the Honourable Member will not press his Resolution in view of the assurance of sympathetic consideration of applications on their merits which I have given.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I shall deal only with the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour Department. His speech has indeed raised a very fundamental question which is of vital importance to the Mussalmans. His speech is an indication of how difficult it is for a non-Muslim to understand the true meaning of prayer and the position of a mosque in Islam. It indeed is a pity that in a matter like this the Government as a whole do not consult together. The Muslim Members of the Government should have explained to the Honourable Member in charge of Labour Department as to what is the position of mosques in Islam.

The Honourable Member dealt with part (a) of the Resolution wherein it was stated that the Government houses which have mosques in their compounds should be allotted to Muslims and that no Mussalman should be prevented from offering prayers in these mosques. I think, Sir, that these two parts are interconnected. My Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, when he made the proposal that these houses should be allotted to Muslim officers did so because he felt that it might not be liked by non-Muslims if Muslims went and offered prayers in their mosques. The Honourable Government Member has pointed out several difficulties in making such allotments. Sir, I think, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan had met all those difficulties in the sense that he stated in his speech:

"I shall be satisfied if the Honourable Member for Labour Department says he will abide by the terms of the Resolution unless there is some great difficulty. If a Muslim is not found for the house only then should it be given to a non-Muslim and that also only temporarily."

My Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin, made it quite clear that in cases where it was found difficult to allot a house to a Muslim then it might be given to a non-Muslim temporarily.

Now, Sir, with regard to the second part, that Muslims should be allowed to go and offer prayers in these mosques, the Honourable Member for Labour said in his speech:

"I feel quite certain that I am not exaggerating the matter that if I were to introduce the kind of stipulation which is mentioned in the Resolution that every man, whether he is Muslim or non-Muslim, should open his compound to anybody who wants to come and say his prayers, it will be anything short of destroying the privacy of the premises and converting it, if I may say so, into a *musafarkhana*."

Unfortunately the Honourable Member belongs to a community that has for generations been excluded from a place of worship and he is naturally not able to understand or appreciate the sanctity of a mosque and that a mosque is open to every Mussalman irrespective of whatever his position may be. If we were to accept what the Honourable Member has suggested, it would mean putting restrictions on the right of the Mussalmans to offer prayers in a mosque. A mosque, may I tell the Honourable Member, is a place which is dedicated as *waqf*; it is the property of God; it does not belong to anybody; and therefore every Mussalman is entitled as of right to go and offer prayers in this house of God.

My Honourable friend is thinking of privacy of the private individuals who may be occupying those houses. May I tell him that before those houses were constructed, these mosques existed there and the Mussalmans had the right to go and offer prayers in those mosques. Therefore the houses that have been constructed and the people who are occupying those houses are doing so under

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan.]
the condition that the Mussalmans are entitled to go and offer prayers there. It is not a question that a house was there and later on a mosque was built, and even then, I believe that it would be impossible for the house-owner, once he has constructed a mosque, to stop Mussalmans from going and offering their prayers there.

Now, Sir, this is not a matter which we, the Muslim Members of this House, can take lightly. If we accept this position which has been put before the House by the Honourable the Labour Member then we will be nullifying the whole Islamic conception of prayer and the sanctity of mosques. Sir, I wish to point out to the Government that they should not treat mosques as *musafarkhanas*. They are not *musafarkhanas*. My Honourable friend has hurt the sentiments and feelings of Mussalmans by talking of mosques as if they were *musafarkhanas*. Sir, if the Government find that they cannot allow access to the whole compound, then what they should do is this: enclose these mosques and have a separate entrance so that the privacy of those residents who object to people offering prayers to their God may be safeguarded. But I cannot accept this position that we are to be prevented from going and offering prayers in these mosques. And let me tell the Government and warn the Government that this is not a matter which will end on the floor of the House. This is a matter for which the Mussalmans will have to make greater efforts and whatever sacrifices we may have to make in this connection, we shall not allow the Government to prevent us from going and offering prayers in our mosques.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Not like it was done in Sukkur.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, my Honourable friend cannot get out of the deserts of Sind; his mind is nothing but a desert.

Sir, I was saying that this really is a very serious matter and I warn the Government that they will not find a single Mussalman who will be willing to accept this position that the Mussalmans are to be prevented from going and offering prayers in any mosques. When my Honourable friend the Mover made the suggestion that these houses should be allotted to Mussalmans the idea was that those persons who may be living there may not raise any objection or they may not be put to any inconvenience. But I do not agree. I say that if anybody is occupying that house, he is doing so under this condition that the Mussalmans are entitled to go and offer prayers to their God. If he does not like to live in this house he should leave that house, but we can never accept that position. As I have said before, mosques existed there when the houses were built and we Mussalmans have got a right legally and morally, in every sense of the word, to offer our prayers there. Sir, I appeal to the Government—and I appeal to the Government as a whole, not only to the Honourable the Labour Member because this is really not a matter which only concerns the Labour Department; this is a wider issue—I appeal to the whole Government to consider this matter carefully and not to take any step which might create a serious situation for which they alone will be responsible.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): So far as the question of sanctity of mosques is concerned, it is not a question of sentiment; it is a question of recognising the law which is followed by the Mussalmans. A mosque which is built by a house-owner may be built for his own purposes and may be a private property, but even once if he allows the public to go and offer prayers and treats it as a public mosque it ceases to be a private mosque. And, as a matter of fact, a private mosque is no mosque at all.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: There is no such thing as 'private mosque'.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: You can, in your own house, reserve a room for offering prayers and not allow the public to enter, that would not make it a public mosque. But once the mosque is made public, it ceases to be the private property of anyone; it becomes the property of God. It is *waqf*, and every Mussalman has got a right to go and offer prayers there. It has been fully explained by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party and I quite agree with him, and the reason why I have risen to say something in this matter is

that there is a general idea in the public here and everywhere—and probably rightly—that the policy of the present Government is not to repair themselves and not to allow Mussalmans to repair mosques in New Delhi and elsewhere. By keeping them under the protection of the Preservation of Old Monuments Act they intend to get them gradually destroyed in natural course. They want to retain them as monuments and if any part of these mosques falls down, they will not repair it themselves nor allow anybody to repair it.

I have found another difficulty. Mosques are in general taken over by the Archaeological Department probably with very good intentions, but unfortunately for ourselves we find that several difficulties and restrictions are put which frustrates the very object for which they were constructed. There are certain mosques, for example one in Mehrauli in which the *moazzin*—the person who calls for prayers and who looks after the mosque—is not allowed to remain there. Nobody remains there except ordinary labourers of the Archaeological Department who cut grass during the day and sleep there at night and thus they use it as a *musafarkhana*. It was brought to my notice that a regular dispute is going on in Mehrauli between the public and the employees of the Archaeological Department over this question. The Muslim public wants to keep the *moazzin* in the mosque at night, whereas the employees of Government do not allow that. My feeling is that Government did a very good thing by enacting the Act for the preservation of monuments and we, as a matter of fact, are obliged for that, but so far as mosques are concerned, they must also know that mosques—whether they come under the Preservation of Monuments Act or whether they happen to be in the vicinity of residential house—continue to be public mosques. Mussalmans have got a right to see that they continue to exist in the condition in which they were made. They have got a right to say their prayers there. If any private houses have been built round about these mosques it is not a question whether they were made under any condition or not, but if the object of building those houses was to prevent people from going to the mosques then the houses have been illegally built. They must be demolished. They cannot be allowed to continue because a public mosque existed beforehand and no person has got any right to make a building near a public mosque and then say that you cannot enter the mosque because I have built a private house here. Building of a private house itself is an illegal thing if it is intended to prevent the entry of the public to the mosque.

The Resolution does not say that the Government should revise their whole policy so far as mosques are concerned. I would like to urge upon the Government to revise their policy not only in the case of those mosques which happen to be situated within the compounds of certain bungalows but also in the case of those which happen to be situated at places near which no buildings of the Government exist and still Mussalmans are not allowed to repair those mosques. They are *waqf* property and Muslims have got a right to go and say prayers there and to repair them if necessary. With these words I support the Resolution.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, after the able speech of my honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League to which the House has just listened, there is nothing much to say except that I am here to support him and vote with him.

Sir, a mosque, as he has explained, is the House of God and no man has any right to stop a Muslim from offering his prayers in that House of God. When the Government first constructed these buildings, they did a serious wrong by including these mosques in the premises. It has therefore become necessary to separate those mosques from the residential buildings and allow the Muslim public to use them for prayers.

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.]

The Resolution is a very modest one. I should have gone much further. If Government do not agree to pay for the removal, I undertake to put in the money required to separate all the mosques from the buildings since come into existence.

In this connection I may mention that a year and a half ago I was asked by a number of Muslim friends in this House to take charge and see to the completion of the construction of the Mosque at Talkatora, which is used by the Muslims employed in the Secretariat. They cannot go very far because they have to be back in office in time. At the beginning there was little response to the demand for fund required, but when I started with my own donation of Rs. 10,000, money flowed in so that I have now in the bank over a lakh of rupees for this mosque, which is being completed and will be completed in another two months. The moment the Muslims found that I undertook to see that not a single penny would be wasted but would be utilised in the construction of this mosque or in repairing all the other mosques in New Delhi, I found no difficulty in finding the money. In fact Rs. 70,000 was collected from Delhi alone.

Now, Sir, after a few months Muslims came to me in hundreds and asked me to try and raise a fund to repair those ancient mosques which are existing in New Delhi. Those mosques, I assure you, Sir, will be repaired and we have already started to repair four mosques. The Chief Commissioner of Delhi, an Englishman, has a Muslim heart. When I approached him for assistance he told me that so far he had not found a single Muslim who would take over the burden of repairing those mosques. He said that I was the first man to have approached him but what amazed him was the dirty and filthy advertisements that were pasted on the back of the mosques and this he disliked. I asked for his co-operation which would certainly enable me to guard against a single mosque being desecrated with these advertisements on their walls. He then pointed out four mosques which should receive my attention at once. He described them to me and advised me how to approach the owners and how to do the needful. This was very nice of him. His heart bleeds that these ancient mosques should deteriorate in this manner. Undoubtedly the Majlis-i-Auqaf will do their duty in this matter. We are not going to compete with them. We can assist them. I have pledged myself that so long as I am alive I shall carry on this work and collect funds from day to day and month to month to restore gradually all the ancient mosques in New Delhi.

The four mosques which he pointed out were, first, the mosque in Faiz Bazar, the second was in Pindara Road, the third in Cornwallis Road, New Delhi and the fourth in the middle of Qutab Road about half a mile south of Qutab Road and Sadr Bazar.

I will not take up the time of this House except to say that the Government should accept this Resolution with good grace. Failing that, as my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League has said, it will not end here but will probably be the beginning of trouble.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I must in the beginning take up the second part of my Resolution which deals with the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and in this connection I must thank my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, for his very conciliatory speech which he made this morning and I must also thank the Chief Commissioner of Delhi for showing such great sympathy as has been referred to by Mr. Tyson in his speech.

Let me deal with the points which he raises. The first was about the protected monuments. Those mosques which come under the care of the Archaeological Department and are protected monuments do not come under the purview of this Resolution nor have I anything to say about them.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend objected to the wording in the amendment moved by Seth Yusuf Haroon in which he said that every Muslim may be allowed to repair the mosque. My Resolution does not go to that extent and I quite agree with my Honourable friend. Mr. Tyson, that the repair should be done under the auspices of the Majlis-i-Auqaf, Delhi. When I say Muslims,

I mean the statutory body which has the authority to look after the Muslims works and I never emphasised that individual Muslims should come forward and put in an application for the repairs and they may probably be wanting in funds. I quite agree with this safeguard and I can assure him that my resolution always considered the same points which he wanted to cover in his speech. All repairs will be done through the Majlis-i-Auqaf and I am glad that my friend Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi has also said that in future everything will be done by him or the persons who have been generous enough to subscribe towards this object through the Majlis.

Now my friend Mr. Tyson referred to municipal bye-laws and that applications have to go through several channels. I think I have made it clear in my speech that the repairs or the restoration of the mosques should be allowed immediately provided the applications do not infringe the municipal bye-laws or laws. I can understand the municipal bye-laws and laws coming in where residential houses are concerned with regard to some area being left out, health restrictions, etc. But so far as the architecture of the mosque is concerned, everybody knows what a mosque should look like. I do not want a mosque which will not look like a mosque. My Honourable friend knows and understands quite clearly that a Church must look like a Church. You cannot have a Church built in the form of a square. If a Church of this kind did exist, there must be a steeple and a place for the parson to conduct the prayers, a place for the organ and it must look towards the east. The same applies to the mosque. Now it is known that every mosque has got at least one dome or three domes. It is usual to have three domes but wherever the space is not sufficient, then there is one dome. Then there must be two minarets or four minarets. No mosque can be different to this. Since Shahjahan's period it has become the fashion to build mosques to this type. But for anybody to say that you cannot build a mosque under this style but have it like a square room to suit the modern Delhi architecture, that is a position which I am not prepared to accept and I want to bring it to the notice of my Honourable friend that silly objections have been put in by the New Delhi Municipality but I am glad that my Honourable friend says that if I want now to include two *chabutras*, which formerly were refused, it will be favourably considered. Formerly I and my late friend Sir Muhammad Yaqub tried to have that mosque enlarged but permission was not granted. After all that mosque was built by villagers; it had no architectural beauty and it was not according to the style of buildings in New Delhi.

My Honourable friend the Member in charge of the Labour Department knows that this Resolution is a consequence of the fall of a mosque in No. 9 Asoka Road. I find that some authorities said that if you want to repair the mosque you must build it up again in the same architecture as it was built up originally. Well, Sir, we are poor people. Some mosques, which require repairs, have been originally built by very rich people. The architecture is different, the decoration is so expensive that we cannot afford to pay for it. It is probably not necessary that the repairs should be done in the old style. So it is unnecessary that the same architecture should be kept. Mr. Tyson has referred to this in his speech and if it stands then it might be narrowly construed by those people who have not got the same spirit as he has. Those people may never understand and they have not got the administrative capacity or ability to understand these things in the same manner as he does. Therefore I have said clearly that they should not object to the architecture. I can assure him that it is no intention of mine nor will it be the intention of the Muslims who will restore those mosques to spoil the beauty of any architecture existing there. I would like to observe that if the mosque is built in the Tughlak period I should like to keep it in that style. I would not like to have the monuments and domes of the Tughlak period replaced with that of the Shahjahan period.

New Delhi has no architecture at all. No one would call the ugly looking structures all over New Delhi as any kind of architecture. I wonder if any American or European would ever care to have a look at them. If they come to India it is to see the beauty of the architecture of buildings round about Delhi.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan]

I do not want to mix up the architecture of a mosque with the architecture which you have got for your modern requirements. The elevation of these buildings may be all right for residential or other purposes but the architecture of a mosque is entirely different. Therefore I would like that it should not be insisted upon that the mosque should have a particular elevation. A mosque should be a mosque and nothing else.

Now I come to the other part of the Resolution. I do not know if I am out of order were I to mention my private conversation with my Honourable friend, Dr. Ambedkar. His conversation with me was totally different from what he has said in his speech here. I do not know whether he had been influenced by his department on that day when he made his speech. He did not know what injury he was doing to my Resolution. Every objection which he raised I had myself foreseen and had replied to them. I do not want to bind the Government to any particular position. I do not mean to say that if any necessity arises or in an emergency, if a bungalow is lying vacant and an officer who is not a Muslim has to be allotted that bungalow which has within its premises an old mosque, he should not be allotted that bungalow. That is not my position. By all means allot the bungalow temporarily provided you stick to the principle that ordinarily the house will be given to Muslims and the mosque will be treated as mosque.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Another point which my Honourable friend has raised is that a stream of people will not be allowed. In my Resolution I had said that the tenant should not object to servants or visitors.

I must deal with one point rather strongly. We understand that a resolution is a recommendation to the Governor General in Council and the entire responsibility is on the whole of the Council. On issues which vitally concern a big section of the population like the present Resolution it should be the clear duty of the Honourable Muslim Members of the Executive Council to take this matter to the Executive Council. They knew full well what the Resolution was. They were fully aware of the reply of my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar. These Muslim Members should have taken the matter to the Executive Council and enlightened my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar, if he did not understand the position properly. Of course Dr. Ambedkar can be excused on the ground that he was ignorant of the Muslim sentiments on this matter. But the Muslim Members of the Executive Council have no such excuse; and what were they doing all the time? Perhaps they had not read the Resolution or had been only sticking to their own respective departments and did not care as to what is happening outside.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I therefore commend my Resolution to the House. I am afraid in spite of the very nice appeal made to me by my friend Mr. Tyson I cannot accept that appeal. If I agree then I lose my principle. I would have accepted his appeal if the reply from my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar had been similar. I therefore have to press the Resolution to a division.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): I will first put to vote the amendment moved by Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon.

The question is:

"That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to protect and keep in proper repairs the mosques situated in New Delhi area, he should be pleased to take the following steps:

(a) instruct the Department concerned to allot those bungalows in the compounds of which mosques are situated subject to the stipulation that no obstruction should be offered to their restoration or to the use of such mosques by Muslims for offering prayers therein; and

(b) further instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee to give all facilities, assistance and necessary legal permits to such Mussalmans as come forward to repair, restore or rebuild any existing mosque in New Delhi area."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Now, I will put the original Resolution to vote. The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that, in order to keep in proper repairs and to protect the mosques situated in New Delhi he should be pleased to take the following steps:

(a) instruct the Department concerned to allot all those bungalows in the compound of which mosques are situated only to the Muslim employees of the Government, who should be instructed not to obstruct or stop their Muslim servants or visitors from saying prayers in such mosques; and

(b) instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission, without delay, on presentation of applications by the Muslims for the repairs of, or restoration to, the old position or rebuilding with some altered designs of mosques situated either in the compound of any Government bungalow or on any place surrounded by Government or Municipal property."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—17.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.

Abdullah, Mr. H. M.

Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.

Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.

Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.

Falz-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.

Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.

Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.

Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.

Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.

Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.

Raza Ali, Sir Syed.

Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.

Umar Aly Shah, Mr.

Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.

Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—30.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.

Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.

Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.

Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.

Caroe, Sir Olaf.

Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.

Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.

Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.

Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.

Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.

Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.

Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.

Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.

Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.

Joshi, Mr. D. S.

Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.

Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.

Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur

Sir A. Ramaswami.

Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.

Piars Lal Kureel, Mr.

Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.

Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.

Sethna, Mr. D. P.

Shoobert, Mr. W. H.

Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.

Spence, Sir George.

Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.

Thakur Singh, Capt.

Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION RE FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN PREPARED BY CAPITALISTS OF INDIA

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council not to entertain the programme of 15 years' plan prepared by the capitalists of India in the interests of the people of this country."

I had put down one or two points in the preamble of this Resolution which, according to the rules of debate, were removed. I said it was in the interests of the cottage industries that I desired to move this resolution and if this plan is accepted then it will be the shortest route to turn India to Bolshevism.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Do you object to that?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Bombay plan, has laid down in para. 2 of their report certain conditions precedent. (1) it is said that it is assumed that on the termination of the war a National Government will come into existence; (2) that it will be constituted on a federal basis; (3) that the jurisdiction of the Central Government in economic matters will extend over the whole of India; and (4) that there will be a national planning committee under the Central Government which will be responsible for drawing up the plans.

Prior to this Bombay plan, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru also drew up a similar plan under the direction of the Congress Committee, in which he said:

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"An essential pre-requisite of planning is thus complete freedom and independence for the country and the removal of all external control."

This was a condition precedent which Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru put in connection with his plan. Now the Honourable Member today told us that the Government had accepted the object of the 15 years plan. I do not know whether the conditions precedent on which this plan is based have already been accepted by the Government. The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal occupies a double position: he is a signatory of the report and he also accepts it on behalf of the Government of India. Before I develop my argument further, I would like to know whether the conditions precedent have been scrutinised by the Government and if so, whether the conditions of the Government have been accepted by the signatories of the report; and if the signatories of the report have not accepted them, its discussion will serve no purpose. I shall sit down. I want a reply as to whether the conditions precedent have been accepted by the Government or not. There is nothing left in the plan, if we do not accept the condition precedent. The Honourable Member of the Government of India, mentions on the floor of this House that the Government of India have accepted the object of this particular plan without accepting the principle on which the plan rests.

Before I develop my arguments there is one thing which I would lay before the economists and financiers in this House. Suppose I do a service and for that service I get one rupee, that one rupee really guarantees certain comforts. If I take this one rupee to the market, then I do not get the comfort of the value of 16 annas but only of five annas. In other words the purchasing power of the rupee I have is only five annas and not 16 annas. Where do the 11 annas go? (An Honourable Member: "Into the pockets of Government men".) Some persons say it is really due to inflation. I think this is the catchword of the economists, which is not really understood by the common people. I do not talk in technical phraseology. I talk in simple language. Where do 11 annas go, which I have lost? It goes into the pockets of the middle men, into the pockets of those who deal in the black markets, into the pockets of those who produce these articles and the big merchants. It is distributed all over the place but does not come to me. (An Honourable Member: It goes to the 11 Members of the Executive Council".) I call this loss, creative tax, to borrow the phraseology of this report. What is the value of this creative tax on account of the reduction in the purchasing power of the rupee? We have got the figures supplied in the report. The total income as calculated by Mr. Rao and accepted by this Committee, is estimated at about Rs. 2,200 crores. The creative tax which the people of India are paying on this income at the rate of 11 annas per rupee is 1,500 crores per annum. In fact the creative tax is much more as the total income estimated in 1933 has substantially increased in 1944.

Take the case of any peon standing here. For every rupee he pays 11 annas in this creative tax which goes into the pockets of somebody. I am not concerned just now to find who the somebody is. He is now hoping that as soon as the war is over this creative tax will disappear and he will get full 16 annas value for his rupee. The common man undergoes enormous privations and sufferings in order to pay this creative tax to rich men who call it the miseries of war. There is an accumulative wealth on account of this creative tax, whose minimum value I estimate at 6,000 crores. That is the accumulated value of this creative tax during the war period at the rate of 1,500 crores per annum which is calculated at 11 annas per rupee. This does not include war profits which may be in the neighbourhood of 2,000 crores.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): My attention has been drawn to an incident which happened earlier, when the President was presiding. I have the unpleasant duty of drawing the attention of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall to Rule 17(2). Under that Rule, I am afraid, the Honourable Member cannot sit in the Chamber till the close of the day.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): Did the President pass any order of expulsion?

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): In order to make sure, I called for the record of the proceedings* and I find that the Honourable President did order the Honourable Member to leave the House and the record confirms it. As Rule 17(2) is very clear, I am afraid I have no option but to ask the Honourable Member to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: What I heard him saying was.....

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): It is very difficult to enter into argument. I have satisfied myself—I was not here at the time the incident happened and therefore I called for the record—that the Honourable President did ask the Honourable Member to leave and Rule 17(2) is quite clear.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I do not dispute the rule.....

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member will co-operate with the Chair by leaving the Chamber.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: So far as the present Chair is concerned, I am clearly in a mood to co-operate but I still maintain my contention that I am leaving the Chamber not in obedience to the order of the Chair under Rule 17 but as a protest against highhandedness and I make mention of this fact that this conduct was not worthy of respect.

(Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall then left the Chamber.)

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The object of the whole plan is laid down in Section 36 of the report, to increase the aggregate income from 1,733 crores to 5,300 crores.

Now, the object of the whole report is to treble the income. I like to ask—does this trebling of the income mean trebling the pre-war purchasing power of the people? If this is not guaranteed, Finance Member can treble the income over night. The Finance Member can issue an Ordinance saying—wherever you find 1 rupee, read 3 rupees. Then you increase the income three times at once. (An Honourable Member: "Do you mean to say that the Finance Member is a juggler?") If the purchasing power of the rupee is not to be considered and you simply want to treble the income, then it can be done by Ordinance. We do not require any plan. The Finance Member may issue an Ordinance and the income of the whole country is trebled. I say it is not the way to do it. The real object is that the purchasing power of individual should increase three times of what it was before the war.

Now, money, as admitted by the report, is a measuring rod, and hence it must have a fixed length. A measuring rod must not be like India rubber which you can go on stretching to any length you like. Then it is not a measuring rod. If money is a measuring rod, it must have a definite purchasing power. The report has given a list of the foodstuff that a person can purchase from Rs. 65. They say that every person in India should have every day cereal 16 ounces, pulses 8 ounces, sugar 2 ounces, vegetables 6 ounces, fruits 2 ounces, fats 5 ounces, milk 5 ounces or eggs, meat and fish. This is for the whole population of India, including the villages. May I ask if any one can feed on this menu on Rs. 65 per annum, unless the purchasing power of Rs. 65 is substantially increased. It is also mentioned in the report in para. 13 that the cloth will be sold at 3½ annas per yard. Therefore, the condition precedent, before you talk of trebling the income, is that you fix the purchasing power of the rupee or, as the

*The record referred to by Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum) is the Reporters' copy of the order passed by the President in the morning sitting before it was corrected by him. That order and the subsequent proceedings are as follows:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I find the Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House. I must ask him to leave the House, if he persists in this.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I am willing to take the extreme penalty imposed by you. But I am not going to submit like a school boy to your temper. I leave the House under protest.

(Then the Honourable Member, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, left the House.)

For the report of the relevant proceedings as corrected by the Honourable the President when it was submitted to him after the House had adjourned for the day, see page 223 ante.—
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economists say, you must stop inflation and what I say is that you must stop this creative tax which you are now imposing on everybody in India. Unless this is done first, it is idle to proceed further.

I strongly object to the method of approach in this particular report. What are the problems before India? The problems before India are two. In the first place, there must be employment for everybody. Now, the report does not touch this question at all. They think that probably by creating a few key industries the whole problem of unemployment will be solved. They ought not to forget that after the war, the problem of employment will be very acute. A large number of persons now serving in fighting forces and in auxiliary offices will be out of employment. They must have some kind of employment and the report does not take into account the new situation which is bound to arise. What is the use of a few key industries when there are so many people without employment? What is the use in making all these magnates still richer when the bulk of the people will be dying of hunger? The conditions precedent of all planning, on which the prosperity of the country will depend are two. One is to stabilise the purchasing power of the rupee. Secondly, you should make out a plan so that there may be employment for everybody. Both these important questions are left out. How can you have any plan of future reconstruction of India by neglecting these two fundamental principles. What is the principle underlying this report? They want one hundred thousand crores of our credit to be handed over to them so that they may purchase the machinery. They want to stabilise their existing profits. Call a spade a spade. We may be fools but we are not ignorant fools. We understand something about it. The whole object behind the plan is that one hundred thousand crores which is our sterling credit in England should be earmarked for the purchase of the key machinery. And I understand that action has already been taken. They have already selected four key industries, namely, sulphuric acid, caustic soda, artificial silk and aniline dye industries. They have selected their magnates through whom all these things would be given, so that you will make richer those people who are already rich. Whenever I talk of stabilisation, I talk of the stabilisation of the money, of the purchasing power of the rupee. But whenever the industrialists talk of stabilisation, they mean the stabilisation of profits. The thing is this that during the war they have got a certain standard of profit and they want to stabilise this profit even after the war. This is really the object which they have in mind. The whole plan is really drawn up with this object that whatever profits they have been making during the war ought to continue even when the war is over. I will read out passages from their own report to show that this is the case.

The other thing which is conspicuous by its absence in this report is the question of the agriculture. We know that 92 per cent. of the people of India live on agriculture. What has this report provided for the agriculturist except shedding crocodile tears for them? They have not entered into the real question. They ought to know the population of India and take into account the fact that our population increases by 5 millions every year. So, in 15 years time the population will increase by 75 millions. Have you got enough land in India to provide living for everybody? This is the problem which ought to have been tackled. I have got before me the figures of the agriculturist's budget which is drawn up by a person who knows something about agriculture. For want of time I will not give all its details and will only give its result. He says that if a person has one wife and two children, in all four persons of the family, and has got 12½ acres of land, then he just makes both ends meet. His income will be Rs. 353 and his expenditure will be Rs. 351. If you want 12½ acres for a family of four, then you can easily calculate how much more land you will require after 15 years when the population will be increased by 75 millions. Now, this question ought to have been tackled but it has not been tackled in the report. Nothing is suggested about the purchase of Zamindari rights. Country will be more contented if our internal savings of about 8,000 crores are used in purchasing Zamindari rights.

Sir, there is one other point which is very often neglected and even my

Honourable friend who is in charge of labour probably does not realise the magnitude of that problem. Whenever we talk of an agriculturist, a resident of a village, one always understands that he has got some land to cultivate, but 40 per cent. of the population in the villages have got no land to cultivate. They are landless tenants. Nothing has been provided for them. This class of people have been neglected altogether and their number is very large. If you make special arrangement for these village labourers by giving them additional work in the form of cottage industry their condition will be considerably improved.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): I am afraid the Honourable Doctor has left his seat. He is standing in the gangway.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am by my books. This is the class of people whom this report absolutely neglects and I think something ought to be done for them.

Now, the other question is about the cottage industries. That has also been neglected altogether. Take the case of one particular industry, the textile industry. 90 per cent. people in the textile industry are supported by cottage industries and only 10 per cent. are supported by the mills. Let me see what these big manufacturers are doing for the improvement of cottage industries. How much yarn do they supply to these cottage industries? Will the Honourable Member tell me on the floor of the House or any of his Colleagues if the mills will agree that half of the yarn which they produce will be handed over to the cottage industry and only half of the yarn will be spun by the mills? This is the only way in which they can help the cottage industries, and, it is a test question of their integrity. The textile magnates are not

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prepared to help the cottage industry by giving more yarn. They reserve the entire yarn for their own use. It is the duty of the representatives of the people, who are sitting on these Benches, to see that the interest of the cottage industry is not ignored. If you destroy the cottage industry, then you really deprive a large number of people of their living. If these people are thrown out of employment, they will be a great danger to the country. Mr. D. C. Driver in his presidential addresses said about giant India:

"The giant is now awake and hungry; we will have to feed him and find work for him. We cannot feed him on slogans and eloquent emotional appeals. India now wants work and food to fill its stomach, not so much eloquence and emotion to stir its heart. If we do not give to the giant food and work, the giant will destroy our capitalist system, devour our half baked democracy, and rush the country into the chaos of uncharted communism of imitative, immature experiments before the country is ready for them."

This is the opinion of a very experienced man. If you leave the people alone and do not make any provision for their food and employment, then you will repeat the experiments of Russia. That is a point which has got to be remembered. Therefore the problem of all problems before the Government today is not so much to get machinery for the people who are already rich, but the problem is to make people contented and to get employment for demobilised soldiers and retrenched civilians from auxiliary offices.

The next point is about the system *per capita*. It is contemplated that *per capita* will be Rs. 195 in future and that it is Rs. 65 now. It will be three times afterwards. This is a false calculation. Suppose Mr. Birla has an income of six crores per year. Then how many of these people whose *per capita* income according to your calculation will be Rs. 195 after fifteen years will go without food? This calculation of *per capita* allowing some people to have crores per annum at the expense of other people, is giving a false picture of the economic position of the country. This is just like the analogy of the person who went to a river. He saw the river was 10 feet deep, then he added the height of all the people who accompanied him in the carriage party and then came to the conclusion that they could simply walk over the river. This method of allowing some people to have income in crores and making some other people grovel in poverty and misery and calculating the average *per capita* income of the country is the most unscientific and uneconomic method of calculation. It has already denuded the wealth of the country. If you want to calculate *per*

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capita income, then you must lay down the minimum and the maximum income for each man, just like the Congress Government did of fixing Rs. 500. If any person gets more, the excess should be put into the public funds. This is the only method of calculating *per capita* income. Our industrialists are not interested in the stabilisation of prices. They are interested only in stabilising their profits. They are not interested in finding employment for everybody so long as they get labour for themselves, indentured or free labour. They are not interested in the development of cottage industries nor in any problem of employment.

As regards the object of the plan, I will read from the Report itself:

"By giving priority to basic industries in our programme of development and by using our sterling balances in the initial stages for importing the necessary plant, machinery and technical experts, it is however, possible to curtail our requirements of external finance."

This has really let the cat out of the bag. One more point. They are going to finance from "created" money. What does this mean? The Finance Member should print notes in large number for circulation. The moment he puts more notes in circulation, the people talk of inflation and the prices will go up. This is a conundrum which can be solved between Sir Ardeshir Dalal, the Finance Member and Prof. Ranga sitting together. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Resolution moved:

"That the Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council not to entertain the programme of 15 years' plan prepared by the capitalists of India in the interests of the people of this country."

There are certain amendments to this Resolution. They can all be moved one by one and after they are put from the Chair, discussion will proceed on all of them. The first one is in the name of Mr. Krishnamachari.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the fact that several plans for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, such as the Bombay plan, the Royist plan, Visveswarayya plan, have been put before the public, the Government do examine these plans and formulate at an early date their conclusions regarding the set up of post-war economic and industrial development of this country."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Amendment Moved:

"That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the fact that several plans for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, such as the Bombay plan, the Royist plan, Visveswarayya plan, have been put before the public, the Government do examine these plans and formulate at an early date their conclusions regarding the set up of post-war economic and industrial development of this country."

I have now put the amendment. But I find that the next amendment of Mr. Azhar Ali is really no amendment at all. It is merely a repetition of the Resolution, and the clause at the end of the Resolution demands non-acceptance of the Bombay plan, and in fact the so-called amendment of Mr. Azhar Ali contains all the arguments in favour of the Resolution. That is really no amendment at all. I therefore hold that this amendment is out of order.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The amendment says that in place of the original Resolution, substitute this.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): It is merely an argument in favour and in support of the original Resolution.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely:

"That an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen Members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial with instructions to report to this House."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Amendment moved:

"That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely:

"That an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen Members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial with instructions to report to this House."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I have heard the speech of my

learned friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin. He is a Wrangler and a Senior Wrangler, but I think constructive suggestions are more helpful than mere negative opinions. So in moving this amendment I should like to put before this House a few suggestions about post-war economic, industrial and agricultural development of this country. Firstly, we think that any scheme for the agricultural development of this country must have as its basis certain considerations. The first is that it must be mainly and entirely from the point of view of the masses of this country, from the point of view of the poorest people of this country; and the sole aim and objective of the plan should be to raise their status economically and in every other way. Secondly, if it is to attain this object it must succeed in giving them greater purchasing power. By purchasing power I do not mean its calculation in rupees, annas and pices. To-day by inflation the cost of everything has gone up. The labourer in the fields who was getting five annas before is getting Rs. 1-4-0 today, but in effect he is getting much less than he was getting before. And so what we mean by purchasing power is not inflation and greater money but greater comforts in life for the ordinary man, something more to eat which he does not have today, two square meals a day and all the essential requisites for a good, decent and full existence. Thirdly, it should see that it does not create big industrial establishments which go to make a rich man richer and a poor man poorer. In our opinion, in the opinion of the Congress, big industrial establishments like automobiles, aircraft, machine tools, chemicals and others must be State-owned. It is our view that these establishments must be run with mainly national ideals, from the point of view of the development of this country as a whole and not for profit-sharing and profit making. We do think that private enterprise must have a fair share in the industry and commerce of this country, but it should never be at the expense of the ordinary consumer, of the poor man in the fields and in the factories. Fourthly it should aim at the development of the country as a whole and must be suited to the traditions and genius of the country.

Fifthly, the development that is aimed at in any plan of reconstruction in this country should not be merely industrial but must also be mainly agricultural. And the reason for this is not far to seek. More than 80 per cent. of our people are dependent upon agriculture and unless we can make them produce better and unless we can make them get a fair distribution of the wealth of this country, all our planning will come to nought and it will be a tragedy. So we feel that any scheme worth the name and worth the support of this House and the country must have these five requisites as its basic principles.

I do not want to go into the matter whether the Bombay plan as it has been called satisfies these principles. It is a mere suggestion; as a matter of fact I will congratulate the authors of the Bombay plan. I do not talk about its merits; but they have put forth something before us which has provoked people to think. This has brought other plans into the field. Other people also have got to think about it and even the Government of India have actively begun to think about it. The Bombay plan is only one of the plans which they must take into consideration. If they think that it satisfies these principles, accept it so far as it goes; if it does not satisfy these principles scrap it. So I am not talking about any particular plan. There are many plans, as has been pointed out in Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment, the Roy plan, the Bombay plan, the Visveswarayya plan, and my friend Prof. Ranga suggests, the Agarwal plan, and a host of other things which any intelligent person with constructive ideas can yet put forward. And our recommendation is that people on whom there is responsibility for planning for this great country should go into all these plans without any prejudice and without any favouritism. Take whatever is good from the point of view of the people of this country and reject whatever is bad from the point of view of the masses of this country.

The second point mentioned in this amendment is this; who should make these plans? It is a very important matter. Government can very well claim that they are in possession of the facts, they are in possession of the experts,

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they have the material, the time, the money and the finance, and therefore they should do it. I want to point out, and Government know it well, that this is not a Government which is going to survive after this war. The people who are going to work it are different from the people who are governing today. It is the people who will have to work the plans that should make the plans. And to this end we suggest what has been suggested in this amendment, that a committee of this House should consider these plans. There are other reasons why I think Government, constituted as it is today, are not in a position and cannot undertake the responsibility of framing these plans. To begin with—and they know it and we know it and every section of the country knows it—they have been looked upon, and rightly so, with suspicion. From past history and experience it is well known that at the back of everything that they propose and profess to do for the people of this country lies the idea of exploitation, the good of the foreign Government and the foreign people. And naturally we wish that future plans for this country should be made by such people about whose motives there will be no room for suspicion. Secondly, we feel that the Government, constituted as it is today, cannot resist the influence of my Honourable friends there. I mean not only the European Group but the constituencies which they represent, that is, the ordinary British industrialists. Many people in Britain, the merchants and ruling classes, believe that India is still and should be kept reserved for their exploitation. I feel, Sir, and rightly, and Honourable Members if they speak out their hearts to me will also agree, that they are not able to resist these influences as well as they may sometimes wish. I do not want to put them in awkward positions. For that reason they are not fit to make a plan like this.

Thirdly, they are not in touch with the people of this country. The people in Delhi are the most unreal people I have met. In no sense do they represent the people of this country. The ordinary man of this country is a poor man suffering untold misery. He gets rotten rice if he gets anything at all. The war has made terrible inroads on him. There they suffer from want of food, but here they suffer from indigestion. How can they make plans for a people they do not know?

Fourthly, by their training and association, they have lost touch with the genius of the people. They do not know what the people want. We therefore feel that the Government constituted as it is today is not fit, is not suited to the great task of planning the post-war reconstruction for this country. I do not mean any disparagement to any particular individual but the system as it is cannot move in one direction. We have come into touch with the Provincial Governments. We have come into touch with the Central Government. When they want to start forces of oppression, it is done at once; but if you want to do something good it takes years and years to put it into action. Only today I heard from one of the front Benches that such measures move very slowly. We therefore propose that a Committee of this House should be constituted for this purpose. Advisedly a Committee of this House does not mean that there are not to be any officials in it. As a matter of fact we welcome some of them because they may be in touch with certain factors with which we may not be in touch, but it must be mainly composed of non-official elected Members who represent wide constituencies who are in touch with the people of this country and who know the sufferings of this country and who know where the shoe pinches with the poor people of this country.

I feel that planning is necessary. There is no doubt about that. The days of *laissez faire* are over and these are days of planning and perfect planning. Mere planning on paper will not do. It must be backed up by the people of this country. Only then will plans mature and come into action. Mere decisions from armchairs in committee rooms and secretariats come to nothing. If you want to get the co-operation of the people of this country, if you want to have the real backing of the people of this country, if you want that these plans should be worked for the good of the people of this country, it must be made by representatives of the people of this country. It must be

made from the point of view of the people of this country, and later on when I hope a National Government will come it must be worked by the representatives of the people of this country.

I therefore commend my amendment to the acceptance of this House.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I rise to speak on the subject with considerable amount of reluctance because I know that in a certain section of the House the very word "Bombay" is anathema to them and the Bombay industrialists are particularly in the bad books of my friend the gallant and learned Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University. I am not here as an apologist of Bombay because there is no need for me to apologise for our existence or our eminence in the industrial life of this country. I am here to speak on certain aspects of this plan which has been pioneered not by the Bombay people alone. You will find the name of Mr. Birla, a leading industrialist of Calcutta. You will also find the name of Sir Shri Ram, the leading industrialist of this city, and knowing as I do the great work done by the authors of the plan I can tell this House that these two persons have pulled their weight in the formulation of the proposals that are known popularly as the Bombay Plan.

This is just the time that a study of the problems of this country should have been made but not the time to give effect to any plans. We are living in very unreal times. The Honourable the Finance Member has found it very difficult to control the economy of the country which had gone astray as the result of lack of control in the earlier stages of the war. He has done his best. Although I may not agree with him in all matters, I think we can say that certain measures which he has taken during the last 18 months have helped the Government to take control of the situation, not to the extent to which we would have liked, but certainly to a considerable extent.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Now this plan has been prepared by certain persons connected with some of the biggest industries in the country. Sir, may I take this opportunity of congratulating His Excellency the Viceroy in having the courage to invite one of the authors of the plan to join his Council of Ministers? I do not think it means that the Government of India have accepted all the principles underlying the plan but it does mean that the Government of India are very serious and sincere in their efforts to promote and prepare a scheme to which, when a National Government when it comes into being, will be able to give effect.

I quite agree with my friends on the other side that without the existence of a National Government it will be very difficult for any Government with the best of intentions to overhaul the economy of the country. In any country the first fundamental requirement is that the Government of the day must be responsible to the people of the country and must have their confidence. I do not think that any of my friends here on the Front Bench are either responsible to the people or have the confidence of the people. But I am prepared to admit that they have undertaken a very heavy responsibility in accepting office when the majority parties are not willing to take office. They are doing their best to serve the interests of the country and with that motive my friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal has taken on the onerous responsibility of the Minister of Planning and Development, not because he thought he had confidence of the country, but because he felt, I am sure when called upon by His Excellency the Viceroy, that he could not shirk that call and he has come and joined the front bench of this House so that he can have something prepared which can form a basis for action by a National Government if and when such a Government comes into existence.

Now, Sir, I come now to my learned and gallant friend over there. What is this plan? It is only the basis for a plan. I believe more literature is going to come on this subject and more concrete proposals will be placed

[Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar.]

before this country. As I read the plan, it is more or less a recital of the objectives, not a plan with definite proposals. With those objectives as a basis I think the authors are going to put forward their proposals for the consideration of the country.

It has been said that the plan would make the rich richer and the poor poorer. I do not think there is any warrant for such an assertion. On the contrary, the very fact that the authors have approached the whole problem of planning from the point of view of the requirements of the population as a whole indicates their anxiety to reduce the poverty of the country. They want to raise the standard of life. We all know that the mainstay of this country are the agriculturists. At the meeting of the Tripartite Conference held in 1943 when the Honourable the Labour Member came forward with the proposals for social security it was urged by us, the industrialists, that unless the agriculturists were included such an enquiry would be incomplete and I actually moved an amendment that within the scope of the enquiry of the Rege Committee agricultural labour should be included. But the Honourable the Labour Member thought that my amendment was outside the scope of the Conference and ruled it out of order. He, however, gave me an assurance that he would move the proper authorities to conduct a similar enquiry for agricultural labour. At the meeting of the Conference held last week I asked him whether anything had been done and he promised to let me know what steps have been taken in that direction.

Sir, we are all aware that the agriculturists form the mainstay of the economy of this country. What happened in 1930-37 when the agriculturists' condition was very depressed? We could not sell our goods and the depression in the agricultural industry was reflected in the depression in all industries, because our main buyer had no purchasing power. It is in the interests of the country, or if you would like to say so from a purely selfish point of view, taking a long range view of things, that we were anxious that Government and every one of us should see that the purchasing power of our best buyers, the agriculturists, is increased. I think that point has been met by my friends who have propounded this plan known as the Bombay Plan.

The next criticism is that the plan is the outcome of an unholy alliance—I think it was Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad who said it outside the House—between the Indian and foreign capitalists. The plan itself on page 47 (Clause 82) makes it clear that foreign capital would only be accepted if it is not accompanied by political influence or interference by foreign vested interests. The reaction of the organs of British Capitalist interest also does not seem to bear out this suspicion. On March 11, 1944, the *Economist* (London) touched the plan as follows:

"The plain fact is that, knowing industry to be the basis of modern power and national independence, they have decided, in the naivest way, that India can be made into a Great Power by 1960 by large-scale industrialisation. In the same way they are led into a kind of economic chauvinism that would throw away most of the benefits of foreign investment in Indian development, in order to cap political with economic independence."

Then, later on, on March the 25th the *Economist* partially retracted from this position but it again stressed its objection as follows:

"It is not true that, as was said in our note, it definitely advocates a policy of self-sufficiency and high protection. But it is true that several sentences place much emphasis upon the need to be as independent as possible of foreign imports, especially of capital goods."

You cannot say that it is an unholy alliance between Indian industrialists and foreign capital.

Then, Sir, there is a fear in some quarters and that fear has been strengthened by the acceptance of office by Sir Ardesair Dalal, that the assumption that only a National Government can give effect to this plan is merely an eyewash and that the authors want the scheme to be given effect to forthwith. I do not think that that is a fair criticism of the authors of the plan. They have again and again emphasised that the essential condition for the successful execution of any development plan is the existence of a National Government but because there is no National Government it does not mean that we

should remain absolutely idle. It is only with a view to preparing the ground for the National Government if and when it comes into being that these seven or eight leading men of India have set their shoulders to the solution of the problem and for that I think they deserve the thanks of the country.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): So that you get the best of both the worlds.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You do that when you form, as you have done in this House, temporary party alliances. I am not ashamed of it, provided I do it in ethical or moral methods. My ambition, in fact it ought to be the ambition of every one of my countrymen, is that we must make the best bargain out of every thing. Because good bargains were dropped or opportunities were given up that we are in the present mess.

The next criticism is that the plan would give no room for provincial autonomy or for regional self-government. Probably the reason for this fear in the minds of certain people is because this plan contemplates the existence of a fairly strong Central Government which would control the whole economy of the country and see that it is put on a proper basis. Probably the recent political controversies that are going on in the country are responsible for this opposition to the plan, which presupposes the existence of a Central Government. I ask my friends, without going into any political controversies, whether anybody who is interested in the welfare of the country, if he wants to think out a plan for the future development of the country, can think of plans province by province. The whole trouble in this country is that controls have failed, because the Central Government finds it difficult to direct the provinces to do certain things. If the Central Government had taken control of the food situation at an earlier stage there would have been no famine in Bengal, at any rate it would not have been felt to the same extent by the people at it was actually felt. It was only after the Central Government came into the picture that the situation has been brought, to a certain extent, under control. If one were to forget his political predilections, can he doubt that any future development of the country is possible in the economic field, unless the planning is done on a national basis? Each province will have its own problems to solve but the main planning must be done on a national basis and not on a provincial basis.

Sir, my time is nearly up and I do not want to take the time of the House, because there are a large number of speakers on this question. But I do want to urge one consideration before this House. Whenever we discuss problems of this nature, it is not so much to arrive at definite conclusions as to provoke people into thinking on the problems. Government have proved their sincerity by appointing perhaps the best man fitted for this job in the whole country, who at considerable personal sacrifice has joined the front Bench. Our attitude in the circumstances ought to be one of helpfulness. We should all tell him "Go ahead with your plans. We in the Assembly of course have the right to criticise your plans according to our lights. But we wish you God speed and God bless you. Please do something for balancing the economy of this country".

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion as moved by my friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. I do not want to dilate at length on the Bombay Plan as the last speaker himself had made it clear that the scheme has not been out fully as yet. It is more in the form of the objective than any working scheme which is embodied in the plan. We representing the Muslims are opposed to the very principle of it as it envisages a central and unitary government. This is the political consideration and I will also examine from consumers point of view the details of financial effect of this plan. Sir Chandavarkar who has spoken just before me has tried to say that the control and other efforts of Central Government could not be successful because there exists some sort of provincial autonomy in this country who did not do what they were asked to do. I wish to say that whatever success was achieved in the matter of

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

control was due to the co-operation of the provinces in their own interests; the control was defeated by that very group of capitalists who are the authors of the Bombay plan, whose interest it was not to have any kind of control, who thrived on black markets, who wanted that the country should be left to its own fate and that they should make hay while the sun shines. I am sorry to have to make public this secret and I would just like to point out who are the authors of the so-called Bombay plan. They are industrialists of this country. What are their credentials? What is their past history? How have they behaved so far with the consumers of this country? Of course India has not been industrialised to any reasonable extent; but even to the little extent it has been, I am sorry to say, that those industries were never willing to repay the obligation due to the consumers of this country and to repay any part of that contribution which the consumers of this country had been made to sacrifice for a period of over twenty years. The Tatas thrived on a subsidy from this country; the sugar industry and the textile industry were made to exist, not by any achievement of their skill, these industries were not capable of selling at world parity prices—they could not have competed with the world markets—but by the contribution in the form of protective tariff that was made by the 400 million people of this country to see that those industries were established by consumer's sacrifice; and what happened? It made the rich richer; it made a few capitalists richer—may be a hundred people, may be two hundred, may be a thousand; and it gave a living wage to another 10,000 or 20,000 or perhaps a lakh or two of the skilled and unskilled labour. But the contribution was made by 400 millions of people for over 20 years and the estimated value would be about rupees two hundred crores per year. Sugar could be imported into India from Java at Rs. 3-8-0 c.i.f. (insurance and freight) per maund, but the Indian consumer was to contribute Rs. 9-8-0 per maund for the Indian sugar industry and was compelled to buy at Rs. 11 or above Indian sugar per maund. That was a direct contribution in order to make the industry exist, and exist for the good of a few of this country. There was an obligation on the part of those industries to repay consumers in times of prosperity, when industrialists could make only reasonable profit; but they did not do so. When the time came, sugar syndicate was brought into existence, when control was about to be introduced, we all know the way in which this was opposed by industries. So, I am definitely opposed to any sort of planning by this capitalist section of people. Mr. Birla may be a friend of mine; many of the authors of this plan are intimately known to me—I myself belong to the Muslim Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta and personally I come from that section which favours plan to some extent; but as a representative of the people I have got to make my position very clear; that the industries in this country have only got to exist for the good of the majority of its people and they have got to exist on the world parity prices and have got to exist with the full co-operation of the consumers in this country. This Government is not at all competent to come up with any such plan at the moment, constituted as it is. The mere fact that Sir Ardeshir Dalal has been associated with the Government of India and that compliments have been paid to him for bringing out some sort of plan, shall not convince anybody in any part of the world that they are ultimately useful for the masses or the great majority of the people. We have had sad experience in the past. Are we not going to dislodge the foreign capital from this country? The last speaker, Sir Chandavarkar, said there is no unholy alliance between foreign capitalist and Indian capitalist. May not be now. But in practice it will be so. Do you want that an industry like that of Batas should be established to stifle down our old shoe industries? Do you want similar bodies of foreigners from England and America to come out here and establish their industries in combination with Indian capitalists and we to give them all sorts of preference so that they may stifle down cottage industries and take their contribution from the 400 millions of starved people in this country? Do you want that? The whole thing is being misunderstood and

a wrong interpretation is being given to the plan. These good people who are the authors of the Bombay plan can by no means claim to be the well-wishers of this country. By no means can it be shown by their conduct in the past that they have done anything for the uplift of the country. By no means can they say they had not grudging even to give living wages to their labour. Mr. Joshi will bear me out how the industrialists treat the labour and that in how many cases a strike had to be met by force; every moment there were chances of strike, every where the labourers were working under the worst possible conditions—be it in Tatas or be it the Ahmedabad mill-owners or be it the sugar mill-owners. I know these matters. I had unfortunately to associate myself with one labour organisation. Mr. Bari an M.L.A. of Bihar came and told me what was happening in 1937, 1938 and in 1942 in Tatas. Sir Ardeshir Dalal knows in his own conscience how he has treated the labour there; he knows it too well. Now to ask us to contribute and establish industries of that nature in this country with high-tariff preferences and with all the contributions by our own people is something which at least I, as a representative of the people and as one knowing some of the conditions in the country, will not be a party to.

I certainly congratulate my friend Mr. Chettiar who has said that if at all a plan is to be drawn up, if at all we have got to get busy with post-war-development scheme, we should have a sort of committee of this House associated with representatives of other Legislatures from the different provinces, who can sit together and I do not mind if you associate those members also who are the authors of the Bombay plan; let them explain, let them come with their own credentials; let them come with their history and say what they have done so far and what they propose to do in future. There can be no more exploitation allowed in this country. It was the exploitation of the foreigner in earlier days of the past; and now it is the exploitation by a few people of this country. I will not be a party to this fraud on the consumers of this country. As Sir Chandavarkar has said, the whole scheme is not out and I do not propose to criticise it industry by industry. I will not even touch the question of the sterling balances, the utilisation and the importation of machinery or otherwise. The time will come and then you will probably not find this country wanting in the necessary brain and the necessary intellect and the necessary sacrifice to give you the right plan at the right time. But I have no doubt that the entire purpose of the Bombay plan is sinister in itself and we will not be a party to this fraud of false development. We are very sorry, if Sir Ardeshir Dalal has been associated with this Government because of that plan, I think it is a reflection on the choice. I think for his own intelligence, for his own great capacity and his valuable experience, if he is associated with the Government of India all well and good; but if there is the idea that his association with this Government is because of that plan certainly I should think it is a reflection on the choice that has been made. I am not casting any reflection at all on Sir Ardeshir Dalal. He is a very capable man and may well deserve it; he is a most intelligent man and I take it he is a practical man who understands all these things; but at the same time he should not be associated with this plan; to say that he has been associated with this Government, because he was one of the originators of this plan, is something which I hope will not be made a case of by anybody. At least I want to understand from Sir Ardeshir Dalal himself that he is here because of himself, not because of anything else or anybody else, not because of any plan or scheme. He certainly could have envisaged many other plans—probably he is capable of producing a better plan in the real interest of the country and in the real interest of the masses. He knows their condition. But I have no doubt in my mind that to say that the industries should be given an upper hand in planning the whole thing, and that the agriculturists and the cottage industries interests should not have any say but be subordinate to them, is something which at least I cannot accept for one minute.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

And I would only impress on this House that the plan as it is and the object which it envisages, such as one Central Government,—I denounce it and denounce it strongly from this platform. With these few remarks, I sit down.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Knowing as we do that the Government were not committed to any particular plan, not even the Bombay plan, and that they are considering several plans, besides promulgating their own plan, it seems to me that much of the criticism that has been levelled against the Government by my friend Mr. Nauman misses the target. I appreciate the remarks of my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, though some of them are characterised by a good deal of prejudice against the Bombay industrialists and though they are the outcome of an incomplete study of the Bombay plan. The authors of the Bombay plan, we must admit, are modest enough to acknowledge that their plan is not complete, that they merely throw out, as they themselves call it, a plan for the consideration of the country and for provoking thought in the minds of people for a post-war reconstruction scheme. In fact, individual Honourable Members of the Government have heroically stated that the country was missing the bus by not formulating plans for post-war reconstruction, that there was no use of mere destructive criticism and that the Government would welcome any proposals for post-war reconstruction. That was the burden of their speeches. Some of us desisted from making any definite proposals, because we knew that behind those utterances there was no strength and that the real object was that the attention of the country might be diverted from the actual politics to what may be called constructive economics. However, the industrialists of this country, while they are national minded and while they are imbued with patriotic fervour, would also like to meet the criticism of Government and would not allow Government to indulge in criticising the country for not proposing a plan or not making out a plan for post-war reconstruction. I should think—I am not in their confidence that that was the object with which they have ushered this plan and I think their attempt has been fully justified by the number of plans that have followed that plan, so much so that even the Government have thought it necessary, at least as a sort of complacency, to appoint one of the authors of that scheme as a Member of the Executive Council in charge of the Post-War Reconstruction Department and collect information or make out a scheme for post-war reconstruction. I think to that extent we ought to be grateful to the authors of the Bombay plan. There may be some in the Muslim League who are opposed to the Bombay plan on account of the objectives of that plan and also, what is more important, on account of political reasons and the Central Unitary form of Government envisaged there seems to be more an anathema to them than the object of the plan itself. There are many outside the Muslim League who do not see eye to eye with or who do not agree with the Bombay plan in all its details. In fact, my Honourable friend who spoke before me from these benches, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, has made it plain that the objects of the plan needed for any economic reconstruction are quite different from those which have been envisaged in the Bombay plan. They may be supplementary or they may be complementary, but still the Bombay plan has not met the real want of the country but on that account it does not seem to be fair to reject that plan altogether. It ought to be one of the plans to be considered. Every one of us seems to be agreed that unless a National Government is formed, there is no chance of any plan being successful in this country. I quite agree but it will take a long time for a National Government to be formed and do you expect the National Government to start planning immediately after it is formed. We shall be losing valuable time if we wait till the formation of the National Government and till that government prepares schemes and executes them. We therefore suggest, in the amendment proposed by my friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, that you might form a sort of informal National Government by associating elected representatives of this House with you even in the early

stages and ask it to formulate a plan. Let not that plan be tainted by a merely official approach. You must seek the co-operation and assistance of non-official members even in the very early stages. Do not say that you asked for co-operation and we spurned it. It is customary for the Government of India to spurn public co-operation when it is offered and to make a fake appeal for public co-operation when the public is not in a mood to give it. I think that the amendment proposed by the Congress Benches affords an excellent method of solving a problem like this and it would be a pity if the Government of India would not take advantage of this amendment.

Apart from this, there are one or two points in the Bombay plan itself which ought to be initially objected to. In the first place, it seems to rely upon our getting foreign capital, though it has been qualified by Sir Vithal Chandavarkar by saying that it should be foreign capital unaccompanied by political interests. But is there a single instance in which foreign capital has not been accompanied by political influence? I do not myself see how you can get foreign capital without political influence.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Then we do not want it.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: You might say so even now. While the Bombay plan says it is aimed at doubling the national income, it does not ensure the individual security. Therefore it confirms the suspicion of many of my friends on my left that while, under it, the rich man will become richer, the poor man will become poorer. Your national income may be magnified a hundredfold but still the personal income of a single individual, of the average individual, would go down. That is a danger which we ought to avert even in the beginning.

Well, Sir, having said this, I should consider that our ideas of the Central and Unitary form of Government being impediments to any planning ought to be revised in the interests of the country. Whatever might be our political future, I do not think we can escape a Central control and that control must comprise all essential questions like Commerce, Industry, the supply of foodstuffs and so on. With these few words, I commend the acceptance of the amendment proposed by my friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chetty.

(Prof. N. G. Ranga rose to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday the 6th November, 1944.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 6th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-

Monday, 6th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

BOMBAY EXPLOSION

105. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the War Transport Member be pleased to lay a statement on the table about the explosion that occurred in Bombay in the 3rd week of April, 1944?

(b) What are the estimates of damages to:—

- (i) private property; and
- (ii) the Government?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government have appointed a Committee to enquire into and investigate the causes of this explosion? Will the Honourable Member lay the report of the Committee of Enquiry on the table of the House, or at least give its summary?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c). The first report* of the Commission of Inquiry, Bombay explosions, appointed by Government in their resolution No. 8-P(29)/44, dated the 2nd May, 1944, and the Government resolution* on the report No. 8-P(29)/44, dated the 12th September, 1944, are laid on the table.

(b) It has not yet been possible to arrive at a reasonably approximate estimate of the damage. All the claims in respect of damaged private property have not yet been received and information regarding damage caused to Government property is not yet complete. It may be possible to lay a statement on the table during the next session.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are Government aware that the last date for putting in claims by people who have suffered is the 30th October and that there are a large number of people, specially uneducated dock labourers who have gone to their villages and who will be unable to put in their claims before that date and do Government propose to extend the date for receiving claims from people who have gone to their villages?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The date has been extended to 30th November.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Has the question of financial responsibility of His Majesty's Government in this matter been fixed and some agreement come to?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am replying to that question later on in the morning.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government considered the damage done to Municipal property, roads, drains, lighting and other equipment and the obsolescence of such property on account of the proposed town planning in the proposed area and whether Government will also recoup the Bombay Municipality for this damage?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand those claims are being registered, but I have not got details with me at present.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: As regards the extension of date for putting in claims, are Government aware of the fact that under the Workmen's Compensation Act, six months period is given to put in claims and that the Workmen's Compensation Act, after giving six months period, also gives discretion to the

*Not printed in these debates but a copy of each has been placed in the library of the House.—Ed. of D.

Workmen's Compensation Commissioner to waive this period and consider claims though they may be late?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of the point. I have not given it consideration. But it is the Government's intention to avoid any avoidable hardship in this matter and I have no doubt that it will be looked into.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know what are the findings of the Committee about payment of damages as regards insured property?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Government took action very soon after the event, sent representatives to Bombay and put out more than one Press notice setting out the arrangements come to.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Indian Press generally and Indian public opinion has commented unfavourably on the Resolution of the Government of India on the interim report of the committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member provide a day during this Session to discuss this matter in the House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the matter had been of great interest, I should expect there should have been a Resolution on the subject, but there were only two adjournment motions and they were not moved. There were only three questions on this subject and at this stage of the Session, it is difficult to allot any day for discussion.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The Honourable Member is well aware of the circumstances under which these adjournment motions were withdrawn.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know if the Government of India will give publicity to the extension of the date for putting in claims and also to the fact that he mentioned that Government want to avoid all avoidable hardships in the case?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the latter part of the question is obvious from the Government's action already. As regards the first part, notice has already been given prominently in the Press.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In connection with the reply to my supplementary question, may I know if the insurance companies have agreed to pay for the damages of insured property along with the Government payment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There has been considerable discussion on this matter, as a result of which the insurance companies should pay part of the damage, and the Government another part, all of which has been set out in the Press *communiqué*.

STRIKE BY ACCOUNTS CLERKS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

106. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please lay a statement on the table about the strike of the Accounts Clerks on the North Western Railway in August, 1944?

(b) What were the causes of the strike and how did it end?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information.

Note stating the details regarding the strike of temporary clerks of the Accounts Department, N. W. Railway, from 29th July 1944 to 15th August 1944.

The temporary clerks of the Accounts Department stationed at Lahore, who draw pay in the scale of Rs. 30-5-50-5-2-80 with an initial start of Rs. 40 for the duration of the War, submitted a memorial dated 21st July 1944, asking that, in view of the increased cost of living and the inadequacy of the existing Dearness Allowance and foodgrain concessions they should be granted an initial pay of Rs. 80, in a revised scale of Rs. 80-10-230, with 100 per cent. Dearness Allowance for the duration of the War. The memorial ended with the remark that "if this moderate request" was not acceded to, they would take "some undesirable step".

2. The memorials were considered by the General Manager in consultation with the Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway, and on the morning

of 29th July 1944, the memorialists were informed through a Circular Notice that their demands were so obviously excessive that they could not be considered or recommended to the Railway Board and that if the memorialists adopted any unconstitutional methods, they would be liable to disciplinary action. They were also told that the Administration had already been taking steps to relieve the position and were always willing to consider reasonable requests and to adjust individual cases on their merits.

3. In spite of this, however, the temporary clerks (numbering 530) struck work at 12 hours on 29th July 1944 and left the office premises without permission. Later, they staged a demonstration and delivered speeches, first within and subsequently, without the office premises.

4. On 4th August 1944, a Notification was issued in the N. W. Railway Gazette explaining that according to the policy of the Railway Board, revision of scales of pay could only be considered after the war and that, for the duration of the war, the policy was to grant compensation for increased cost of living through Dearness Allowance and grainshop facilities, both of which had been enhanced from time to time in consideration of the rise in prices. It reiterated the willingness of the Administration to consider reasonable representations and said that an examination was in hand of the repercussions on railway staff of the recent allowances and other improvements sanctioned for the ministerial staff of the Government of India.

5. The Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer specifically made this position known to the memorialists through a Notice and verbally, and further assured them that if they returned to duty peacefully, there would be no victimisation. But the temporary clerks continued to remain absent and to gather together outside office premises, trying to enlist support from permanent clerks and to bring in temporary clerks of other Branches of the Railway. The permanent clerks of the Accounts Department also staged a "pen-strike" for half a day.

6. However, when again on 14th August 1944 a Notice was issued further assuring the temporary clerks that if they came back to duty, their absence would be treated as *dies non* for all purposes and that the question of relief both for temporary and permanent employees was under active consideration and recommendations which were considered to be adequate were being forwarded immediately to the appropriate authorities, they resumed work on 16th August 1944. Except 6 clerks who had not turned up by 4th September 1944 and were consequently discharged, all others joined.

7. Temporary clerks of the Divisional Accounts Office, Rawalpindi, (26 in number), followed the example of Lahore clerks and remained on strike from 12th August 1944 to 18th August 1944. All of them rejoined.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to part (b), the Honourable Member has not told us what is the cause of the strike?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have been asked to lay a statement on the table which I did.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Part (b) asks for a specific reply?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It covers both parts.

SIKH REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

107. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the number of posts under him carrying salaries between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750, Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,000 and above on the 1st of November, 1944, separately? How many of them under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Christians, (iv) Muslims, (v) Hindus, and (vi) Sikhs?

(b) Since his reply to my question on the subject on the 4th August, 1943, will he please state the number of such new posts under each category which have been created, the number to which promotion was made, and the number of Sikhs promoted and recruited in order to equalise communal inequalities in higher posts so far as Sikhs are concerned?

(c) Will he please state the efforts made by the Department to see that the Sikh community is represented in higher posts in his Department?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). The information required is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) It is my constant care to ensure that Sikhs, in the same manner as other Minority communities, get a due share in all ranks of the Supply Department. The importance of observing the orders on the subject of communal representation is well understood by the heads of offices under my Department.

Sardar Sant Singh: I thank the Honourable Member for the assurance. May I ask, if it is a fact that since the last reply was given there is a paucity of Sikhs in the higher grades and the communal proportion is made up by including the numbers which are in the ministerial or lower grade?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have asked for information. It is being collected. Probably the Honourable Member will repeat his question when I have laid that information on the table of the House.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF CERTAIN OFFICES UNDER POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT

108. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in (i) the Department of Posts and Air, (ii) the Indian Meteorological Department, (iii) the Civil Aviation Office, and (iv) the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate? (b) How many posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of posts carrying rates of pay above Rs. 500 and their distribution community-wise

Monthly Salary	Total Number of posts	Euro-peans	Anglo Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others
<i>Posts and Air Department (Secretariat)</i>							
Rs. 500—750	2	..	1	..	1	..	..
Rs. 750—1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rs. 1,000—1,500	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Rs. 1,500 and above	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
<i>Posts and Telegraphs Directorate</i>							
Rs. 500—750	10	1	..	7	2	..	..
Rs. 750—1,000	10	..	2	7	1	..	..
Rs. 1,000—1,500	5	..	..	3	2	..	..
Rs. 1,500 and above	13	8	1	2	1	..	1
<i>Civil Aviation Office</i>							
Rs. 500—750	5	1	1	3	..	..	..
Rs. 750—1,000	6	1	..	4	..	1	..
Rs. 1,000—1,500	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Rs. 1,500 and above	4	4	..	..	..	..	..
<i>India Meteorological Department</i>							
Rs. 500—750	14	..	..	14	..	..	..
Rs. 750—1,000	6	..	..	5	1	..	..
Rs. 1,000—1,500	11	..	..	10	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above	2	1	..	1	..	..	..
TOTAL	93	18		75 for Indians.			

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if it is a fact that in the case of Superintendents, certain recommendations were made by the Departmental heads down below which included the names of some Sikhs, but those recommendations were overlooked and the claims of Sikhs were passed over in favour of junior men.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am not quite clear as to what posts the Honourable Member is referring to in the posts of Superintendents.

Sardar Sant Singh: Superintendent of Post offices.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am not at all clear either as to whether promotions or selections are referred to. In the original question the Honourable Member wants information regarding certain posts carrying certain salaries. If

the Honourable Member can be a little more specific, I might be able to give him some information.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that the senior-most Sikhs are being superseded by men occupying sometimes 73rd place in the seniority list simply because they happen to belong to Muslim community and the senior-most men belong to the Sikh community.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: My answer to that question is that it is not a fact that there has been any supersession simply because an officer belonged to the Muslim community.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member give me an assurance that seniority will be considered in selection, as seniority is one of the factors which has to be taken into consideration along with efficiency?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I can assure the Honourable Member that seniority, which means general added experience, is certainly a factor which is taken into consideration when recommendations are made regarding promotions.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE RAILWAY BOARD

109. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in the Railway Board?

(b) How many of these are held by (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, (iii) Sikhs, and (iv) others?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A statement showing the information required by the Honourable Member is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The numbers by communities are shown in the statement.

Number and communities of officers on the scales of pay mentioned in part (a) of the question, in the Railway Board's Office.

Scale of Pay	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
Rs. 500—750	9	3	2	2	16
Rs. 750—1,000	5	1	..	2	8
Rs. 1,000—1,500	3	1	..	9	13
Rs. 1,500 and above	8	4	..	13	25
Total	25	9	2	26	62

COMPLAINT RE MANNER OF POSTAL INSPECTORS' SELECTION

110. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Posts and Air been drawn to a contribution in the *Sind Observer*, Karachi, dated the 12th September, 1944, under the caption "Postal Inspectors Selection"? If so, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to remove the complaint regarding the actual selection by local officials by interview after the competitive examination instead of having the interview before the competitive examination?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Yes. Government have examined the proposal out do not see any reason to alter the existing rules.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know what are the reasons for holding a competitive examination first and then holding an interview and then turning them out? Is it fair?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will it not be advantageous to hold the interview first and then hold the competitive examination, so that no time is lost and no unnecessary trouble is given.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: May I explain to the Honourable Member that it would really be difficult to interview all the candidates before the examination for promotion to posts of Inspectors. They are a very large number

indeed and it would be waste of time for the Selection Committee to interview all candidates. Such an arrangement would entirely stultify the rules. It is a well known fact that in making selections for instance even to Indian Civil Service, the Federal Public Service Commission interview only those candidates who qualify themselves in the written examination. The same principle has been adopted in the case of examinations for promotions to Inspectors of Post Offices.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I point out that in view of the fact that there are large numbers of candidates for the examination, it would be advantageous to have the interview first and thus eliminate the candidates and restrict the number who sit for the written examination? Is that not a better course?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: My reply to that is that although any men with good records and with five years service in clerical grades of the Department, are allowed to appear in the examination a great many of these men entirely fail to get anything like qualifying marks. Some of them might possess good personality and they might be selected to appear at the examination under the system proposed. With all due respect to the Honourable Member that system which he recommends would be entirely unworkable.

INDECENT REMARKS MADE BY AN S. T. E. TO A SECOND CLASS LADY PASSENGER

111. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to refer to the information contained in a cutting of the *Railway Herald*, Karachi, dated the 18th September, 1944, to the effect that on or about the 6th September, 1944, an S.T.E. Railway seeing a respectable 2nd class lady passenger going out of the train all alone approached her and made indecent remarks which made her angry and she threw at his head a vessel that she was carrying and also gave him a thrashing with her sandals?

(b) Is it a fact that this case is being hushed up? If so, who is responsible for such a conduct?

(c) What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take in this case as these days even veiled ladies travel all alone?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I have seen the cutting of the *Railway Herald* referred to by the Honourable Member. The account is grossly inaccurate.

(b) and (c). The reply to the first part of (b) is in the negative. The second part of (b) and part (c) do not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If the information is inaccurate, may I know if the Honourable Member has got correct information?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I can merely inform the Honourable Member that the lady herself and her son contradicted the allegations regarding indecent remarks; they also contradicted the statement that the lady threw a vessel at the head of the Special Ticket Examiner, or that she gave him a thrashing with her sandals or otherwise. Both of them further maintain that the newspaper report is quite baseless and highly exaggerated and they made a statement duly attested by a Magistrate to this effect.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But did this incident take place at all?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir; not in the terms mentioned.

ACCOUNTS OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STORE AND DAIRY AT KARACHI.

†112. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are serious complaints regarding the management and accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Store and Dairy at Karachi?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, what is the result of enquiries, if any, made by the Government?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The Government of India have received no representation in this matter but they understand that the Director-General has made an enquiry in view of certain statements which came to his notice unofficially and is satisfied that the complaints are not justified.

(b) Does not arise.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

COMMUNAL TREND OF ARTICLES IN *POSTAL SENTINEL*, KARACHI

†113. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the articles published monthly in the *Postal Sentinel*, Karachi, an organ of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union Provincial Branch, Karachi?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, have the Government taken note that these articles are breeding communal hatred between the Hindu and Muslim Postal staff of the Sind and Baluchistan Circle? If so, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes.

(b) No; the second part of the question does not arise.

ANTI-MUSLIM ACTIVITIES OF THE ALL-INDIA POSTAL AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE UNION, PROVINCIAL BRANCH, KARACHI

†114. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the activities of the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union, Provincial Branch, Karachi, against the Muslim employees of that Department, and persecution of the Muslim staff through its official organ *Postal Sentinel*?

(b) Will the Government call for the correspondence exchanged by this Union with the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, to verify the statement made in (a) above?

(c) In case his reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, do the Government propose to take remedial steps in this direction?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) No.

(b) If a specific instance or instances of alleged persecution can be given, the suggestion will be considered.

(c) Does not arise.

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN POSTAL CIRCLE

†115. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that a number of postal officials of different categories are on extension of service in the Sind and Baluchistan Circle?

(b) What is the ground for granting these extensions?

(c) Are Government aware that these extensions are adversely affecting the promotion of younger deserving officials?

(d) If reply to (c) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to issue orders to cancel the extensions already granted?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Extension of service has not been granted to any official in the Sind and Baluchistan Circle but some postal officials have been retained in service in certain categories beyond the age of 55 years.

(b) Under the rules, the officials in these categories should ordinarily be retained in service up to the age of 60 years provided they continue to be efficient.

(c) The matter is under examination.

(d) No.

ISHURDI-PABNA-SADHUGANJ RAILWAY PROJECT

116. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if any action has been taken or is under contemplation for the opening of the Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway project?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No action has been taken for the construction of the Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway. This project will be considered along with others when the post-war plans for the area are being finalised.

BEGGAR NUISANCE AT RAILWAY STATIONS

117. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Railways been drawn to the increasing and clamant beggary at all Railway stations in India?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) Have Government taken any steps since the war to ask Railway officials and the station staff to abate this nuisance?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in future to prevent the hardship to passengers and the trespass on Railway property at the hands of beggars?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). Government are aware of the nuisance caused by beggars at railway stations and have issued instructions to Railway Administrations to take active measures in collaboration with the Government Railway Police to eradicate the evil.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government instructed the station staff, that is all men on the station, ticketmen, cleaners and everybody else, to remove these people and stop them from annoying the passengers, that is, make it the duty of the whole staff and not merely of the railway police?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is so, but the staff have other duties to attend to also.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask when these instructions were issued?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The general rules were altered in 1941 to give the railways and the police greater powers in this matter. A letter was recently issued to the Provincial Governments; I have not got the date with me but I think it was about August.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself that any improvement in the position has been effected?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. The evil continues and one of the troubles, of course, is the generosity of the public who encourage beggars and make it worth their while.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Who will see to the enforcement of these things in stations where there are no railway police?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The railway staff will do their best to do so, but, as I said, they cannot make it their sole occupation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are Government aware that the public is generous to the beggars because Government have provided no place where their poverty can be relieved and they may be taken care of?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is illegal for persons, whether they are in possession of a ticket or not, to solicit alms or subscriptions or charity in any part of the railway premises or trains.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Therefore will Government take steps to establish some poor houses and pass legislation by which their needs will be provided for?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not a question for the Railway Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Surely a part of the savings of the Railway Department can be set apart for a poor house like that?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We endeavour to stop this evil which, I understand, is the wish of the House, and therefore have made it illegal to solicit alms or charity on railway premises or trains.

SHIPPING AVAILABLE FOR CIVILIAN GOODS

118. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state the amount of shipping, as compared with the two years before the outbreak of the war, available for civilian goods in connection with (i) overseas trade, and (ii) coasting trade?

(b) What steps have Government taken to increase the tonnage available for these purposes?

(c) What is the basis on which available shipping space is assigned to various firms and various classes of goods?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This question concerns the Honourable Member for Commerce who will reply to the question in due course.

BOMBAY EXPLOSION

119. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Having regard to the explosion in Bombay, will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state what steps Government are taking to secure the recoupment of the compensation moneys paid by them?

(b) What is the total amount of compensation either paid or estimated to be payable in connection with this explosion?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have not assisted in the rebuilding of this area and more particularly of the warehouses and other business buildings?

(d) Is it a fact that the explosion occurred on the 14th of April, 1944, and not a single building has been put up and ready for actual use after the lapse of six months in one of the most important business localities of Bombay, and that this delay is entirely due to the intransigence of the Defence Department in releasing building material?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) It will not be possible to prepare an estimate till all the claims have been received, i.e., till after the 30th November.

(c) It is not a fact. Government have given the fullest possible assistance in the rebuilding of the damaged area. The reconstruction work in the docks undertaken by the Army authorities is proceeding according to plan and all the assistance asked for by the Port Trust has been and is being given. As regards the city area outside the port, the Bombay Government received 66 applications for reconstruction of godowns all of which have been dealt with and release of materials arranged by the controlling authorities concerned.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question regarding the date of the explosion is 'Yes' and the answer to the rest of the question is 'No'. In the port area reconditioning of warehouses and godowns is proceeding apace. In the Elphinstone Estate, several buildings have been reconditioned and in the city area outside the port, about 30 buildings have been erected and plans for reconstruction prepared for many more.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With reference to part (a) may I know whether the Government of India have written to His Majesty's Government and whether the War Cabinet have considered the question that the great losses involved in the accident are a direct responsibility of the Allied Nations and that the Government of India should be recouped?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Some very intricate legal and technical questions are involved which I should be in a better position to answer when they have received further consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question was, whether Government have written to His Majesty's Government on this subject, if there has been any correspondence, and if the matter has been brought before the War Cabinet by the representatives of India.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The matter has been raised with His Majesty's Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Government of India distribute copies of the Report to Members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir: I have no objection. If there is a general wish I shall do my best to get copies produced for Members before the end of the Session, i.e., for those who may want them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member assure this House that there has been no delay in the issue of materials to the Bombay Municipality who are putting up houses to house the de-housed population of this locality, and godowns. Not one godown is functioning today; more than six months have passed and not one godown has been completed for the trade. The Honourable Member has mentioned about the reconstruction work that is going on in the docks for the Army, I am talking of the civil population. Why are the Government so negligent with regard to the needs and requirements of the civilian population?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I entirely deny that Government are negligent or have been negligent in this matter. The Army, I understand, have done a great deal in clearing the Elphinstone Estate and a certain amount in re-roofing the grain market, and I think other buildings. Government set aside some iron and steel for the part outside the Docks but they subsequently found that this iron and steel was not wanted at that time. I think it is a fact that no demands were received by the Bombay Government from anybody before September 1st, and I think this is an attributable fact that during the monsoon it is not possible to do building reconstruction. As I said in my answer, I think that all demands for materials have been adequately met.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government now and hereafter, at all events, be liberal in the issue of building materials for the construction of trade godowns and firms' offices as well as for the construction of residential buildings for the population which has been de-housed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So far as I am aware, within the limits of the availability of supply, Government always have been liberal in this matter.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that the Government resolution on the interim report is a deliberate attempt at white-washing the responsibility of the representative of His Majesty's Government's War Transport Department in India, and if that would not mitigate against the financial aid that they expect to get from His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

COAL POSITION

120. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the figures of the export of coal from India two years before the war and during each of the years after the outbreak of the war?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian coal was exported to Greece and other destinations in the Mediterranean?

(c) Is it a fact that convoy ships were supplied with Indian coal for their fuel requirements?

(d) How much coal was exported on account of the military from India during each of the years of the war?

(e) How much additional demand for coal has arisen in the country after the war, and for what purposes?

(f) What has been the increase in the consumption of coal by the Railways?

(g) How many factories in India, since July last, have been compelled to close down on account of the coal shortage?

(h) Are there any factories or class of factories which were asked to close down on the plea that they would not be given any more coal?

(i) Has the situation materially improved since the appointment of the Coal Controller? If so, in what way?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) A statement showing coal exports from British India during the seven years 1937-38 to 1943-44 is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Yes.

(c) Coal burning ships in convoy which call at Indian ports are supplied with Indian coal as and when necessary.

(d) It is not in the public interest to disclose the amount of coal that was exported from year to year on account of military requirements.

(e) The average consumption of coal during the first three years of war was about two million tons more than the average for three years preceding the outbreak of war. This was largely due to the increased requirements of the Railways, the Defence Services and the Industries. Since 1943, the consumption of coal has shrunk. This is because of the fall in the output. Government have met the situation as far as possible by introducing coal rationing and various fuel economy measures, and by steadily reducing exports of coal.

(f) The average monthly consumption in 1943-44 exceeded that in 1938-39 by 122,000 tons.

(g) I regret I have no information. If the Honourable Member has any particular cases in mind I shall have them investigated.

(h) No factories or class of factories have been asked to close down solely on account of coal shortage. So far as the Re-Rolling Mills are concerned I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to the supplementary questions asked by him on 1st November, 1944.

(i) I would draw Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by me in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st November, 1944, to parts (a), (b), (d) and (e) of Mr. Neogy's Starred Question No. 17.

Exports of coal from British India during the seven years 1937-38 to 1943-44

	Quantity (in thousands of tons)
1937-38	1,006
1938-39	1,321
1939-40	1,991
1940-41	1,915
1941-42	1,513
1942-43	326
1943-44	156

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (c), may I know whether coal supply to the Convoy Ships inside the Indian harbours is not included in the export figures?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. It is Bunker coal that is supplied. It is not included in the export figures.

DESIRABILITY OF RUNNING A MORNING TRAIN ON LUDHIANA-DHURI-JAKHAL LINE

121. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal Line all the three trains, Nos. 411, 265 and 407, reach Ludhiana in the evening at 14-55, 19-10 and 22-00 and that there is no train which reaches Ludhiana before noon;

(b) whether the Honourable Member is aware that there was a morning train which used to reach Ludhiana at 10 A.M., the discontinuation of which has caused great inconvenience to the public; and

(c) whether he proposes to instruct the Agent, North Western Railway, that train No. 265 should be started from Jakhal at 5-30 A.M. instead of at 14-40 as before?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative so far as passenger trains from Jakhal to Ludhiana are concerned.

(b) Prior to 1st May 1944, there was a train which used to leave Jakhal at 5-15 and reach Ludhiana before 10-00 A.M. Government are, however, not aware that the change in the timings of this train has caused any inconvenience to the public.

(c) No, as it would entail the provision of an additional rake and engine, which, in the present day circumstances are difficult to provide.

Sardar Mangal Singh: With regard to part (b), does the Honourable Member think that Government is not aware that it has caused inconvenience to the public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a question of greater convenience really. The Service, I understand, was changed in order to provide a better connection with five Main Line Mail trains thereby giving greater convenience to the public.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Does the Honourable Member realize that there are three trains reaching in the afternoon and none reaching in the morning?

The morning train used to bring litigants from a number of stations, and since this train has been discontinued, the litigants have to arrive one day earlier. Surely it has caused them great inconvenience and if the Honourable Member wants any representation, that can be sent.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. But against that has to be set the fact that if the alteration had not been made, the passengers arriving in the middle of the night would have to wait till the afternoon. This matter is for the Local Advisory Committee and if the Honourable Member will arrange to raise the matter with them, it will undoubtedly be dealt with satisfactorily.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of discontinuing further trains in order to discourage litigation?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

PROPOSALS FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN CONSUL AT MOSCOW AND RUSSIAN CONSUL AT DELHI

121A. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether there are any proposals under consideration for the appointment of an Indian Consul at Moscow, and Russian Consul at Delhi; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government are in a position to assure the House that an Indian will be appointed to this post?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the Government of India has made any representation to His Majesty's Government about this matter?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Has there been any correspondence between the United Kingdom and the Indian Government on this subject.

Sir Olaf Caroe: No, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that some questions were asked in the House of Commons about this, and whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I saw a press report of the question in the House of Commons. As far as I am aware, the answer was on the same lines as I have just given. Where the information came from, I have no idea.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PROPOSAL FOR ALLOWING SECOND CLASS PASSES TO INSPECTORS AND ASSISTANT INSPECTORS ON STATE RAILWAYS

29. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the question of allowing second class passes to Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors in Indian State Railways, irrespective of pay, was under consideration of the Railway Board? If so, how was the same disposed of?

(b) Is it a fact that these Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors travel in Inter and Third Classes along with their labour? Does it not affect the discipline of the service?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the Assistant Inspectors of Works get Third Class passes on the North Western Railway, while the staff working under them such as Works Mistries, are given Inter Class passes?

(d) Is it a fact that these very Assistant Inspectors of Works issue and sign Inter Class passes, while they themselves are given Third Class passes?

(e) Do Government propose to revise pass rules with a view to do away with the anomalies referred to above and permit the issue of higher class duty passes to all Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. The matter referred to was considered in 1941, when the Railway Board decided that there was no justification to depart from the rules in force on the subject.

(b) In some cases, yes. As regards the second part, the answer is in the negative.

(c) Yes, in two cases.

(d) One of the Assistant Inspectors referred to in reply to part (c) above is delegated with powers to issue and sign Inter Class Passes.

(e) No. The class of pass admissible to a Railway employee is determined by the pay he is drawing, and though this rule may, in rare cases, result in such anomalies, as pointed out by the Honourable Member, Government consider that on the whole the rule is sound.

DIFFERENCE IN SCALES OF PAY OF THE TWO CADRES OF TELEGRAPH MASTERS

30. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that there is a huge difference in both the initial and the maximum pay of the two cadres of Telegraph Masters, i.e., the Station Service and the General Service?

(b) Is it a fact that the nature of duties performed and the responsibilities shouldered by both the classes of Telegraph Masters are the same?

(c) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to remove the anomaly, or to explain in what respect do their duties and responsibilities differ?

(d) Is it a fact that the maximum pay of a Station Service Telegraph Master is less than the maximum pay of a General Service Telegraphist whose work the former supervises?

(e) Is it a fact that some General Service Telegraph Masters were transferred to Station Service at their request whereas similar requests of Station Service Telegraph Masters for transfer to General Service have been turned down?

(f) Why were the conditions of service relaxed in the case of General Service Telegraph Masters for transfer to Station Service and the same refused in the case of Station Service Telegraph Masters for transfer to General Service?

(g) If the reply to (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) be in the affirmative, will the Government consider the removal of existing discontentment amongst the Station Service Telegraph Masters (who constitute an important portion of the Supervisory staff) by transferring them to General Service? If not, why not?

(h) Do not the Government consider it necessary in the interest of efficiency of service that Station Service Telegraph Masters, like General Service Telegraph Masters, should have varied experience of different offices in different Circles prior to promotions?

(i) Will it not be fair that the scales of pay for both the categories of Telegraph Masters be the same except that those accepting transfers be granted house-rent allowance?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) There is a difference but it is not huge.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no anomaly; the conditions of service of Station Service Telegraph Masters and General Service Telegraph Masters are not the same; their scales of pay are therefore different.

(d) Yes, but in certain cases only where it is unavoidable.

(e) The fact as stated by the Honourable Member is substantially correct.

(f) Because it was in the interests of Government to do so.

(g) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (f).

(h) No.

(i) No, because the conditions of service of General and Station Service Telegraph Masters regarding liability to transfer are not the same.

ABSORPTION OF STATION SERVICE TELEGRAPH MASTERS INTO GENERAL SERVICE

31. Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the Director General's letter No. A. 4-37/42, dated the 25th February, 1942, in which he expresses his inability for immediate absorption of Station Service Telegraph Masters into General Service? Will the Government state if they are prepared to absorb gradually? If so, when?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The reply to the second part is in the negative. The concluding part of the question does not arise.

DIVISION OF FRUIT VENDING CONTRACTS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

32. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration in April, 1940, divided the Fruit Vending Contracts of certain stations against the policy laid down by the Central Government viz:—"where contractors of any community have rendered long and satisfactory service the division of the contract should be unnecessary"; if so, the reasons therefor; and whether such divisions were also made on other State-managed Railways; if so, who they are;

(b) if it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration in conformity with the said policy circulated a letter, No. 23-AC, dated the 17th June, 1940, to Divisional Superintendents stating therein that these contracts as and when fall vacant are to be granted to the original Fruit Vending Contractors; if so, how many since then have been granted to the original Fruit Vending Contractors; if none; the reasons therefor.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No, and as far as Government are aware such divisions have not been made on other State-managed Railways.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the fruit vending contract at Bhatinda which had been divided before the issue of the Railway Board's orders of May 1940, has been restored to the original vendor. The occasion for such restoration has not arisen at other stations where the contracts had been divided.

VACATION TO TRAIN EXAMINERS TRAINING SCHOOL AT JAMALPUR.

33. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the school for training Train Examiners at Jamalpur on the East Indian Railway remained closed from the 1st day of May, 1944 to the 14th day of August, 1944; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if it is a fact that the staff of the said school was utilized in capacities outside the cadre of the school and their pay and allowances were charged against the school; if not, what the true fact is; and

(c) if it is a fact that for training students were detailed more than once for those periods by the respective Divisions but they had to come back without receiving any training; if not, what the true fact is; if so, the reasons for the unnecessary expenditure, and whether it was a practice to close the school for vacations in the past; if not, why the new procedure was adopted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PRESS NOTES ON CONVICTION OF RAILWAY SERVANTS FOR CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY

34. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is the policy of the Central Government to publish press notes on conviction of Railway servants for corruption and bribery and not to publish or to refer in those press notes the admission of their appeals against those convictions and of their acquittals?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Press notes are published when convictions of railway servants are obtained but Government do not receive information regarding admission or acceptance of appeals till a considerable time has elapsed after the issue of the original press notes. Government will however attempt to publish this information when possible.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE PAID TO CERTAIN TICKET INSPECTING STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

35. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the Railway Board letter No. 822-E.G., dated the 22nd December, 1932, viz:—"While the Railway Board are convinced that there is no justification for paying the ticket-inspecting or Examining staff mileage allowance as running staff, the Governor General has accordingly decided that as an *ex-gratia* measure the following scales of monthly consolidated travelling allowances should be sanctioned to such employees:—

Staff drawing less than Rs. 100	Rs. 35 per mensem;
Rs. 100 or over but less than Rs. 200	50 per mensem; and
Rs. 200 and over	65 per mensem; "

and state the rate of the travelling allowance paid in each Division on the East Indian Railway to (i) Junior Inspectors, (ii) Senior Inspectors, and (iii) Chief Inspectors, appointed from the staff and who held permanent posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors prior to the introduction of the crew system in Howrah, Asansol, Dinapur, Allahabad, Lucknow and Moradabad Divisions, respectively, and the reasons for the difference if any in the rate of payment in any Division?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES OF RUNNING AND OTHER STAFF

36. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the rate of increase in the daily allowance of the staff other than Running Staff;

(b) the rate of increase in the daily or mileage allowance of the Running Staff; and

(c) the rate of increase in the daily (consolidated or *ex-gratia* measure) allowance for the Running Staff; and state the reasons for the difference in the rate of increase, if any; for the said staff since March, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The distinctions made by the Honourable Member in the various parts of this question are not very clear, and with your permission, Sir, I propose to deal with the question as a whole.

Railway staff, other than running staff, draw daily allowance for journeys by rail or absence from headquarters and mileage allowance for journeys by road. The rates of daily allowance have been increased by 33½ per cent. for inferior servants and 50 per cent. for subordinates and the rates of mileage allowance have been increased at different rates from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent.

Certain categories of staff like travelling Ticket Inspectors, Road Van Clerks and running Parcel Clerks draw consolidated travelling allowance at a certain rate and this rate of allowance has been increased by 25 per cent.

Running staff, which term includes railway servants like Drivers, Guards, Firemen, etc., who perform duties directly connected with the movement of running trains, draw running allowance, which, subject to certain limits, is treated as pay for all purposes. It has been recognised that a certain portion of this allowance is of the nature of a compensatory allowance and is analogous to T. A. given to other staff. It is considered that this portion does not exceed 25 per cent. of the running allowance. On this basis an increase equal to 10 per cent. of the running allowance for those who earn running allowance of Rs. 60 a month and under 6½ per cent. subject to a minimum of Rs. 6 for those who earn running allowance of Rs. 61 and above has been sanctioned. This gives an increase over the compensatory portion of the running allowance of 40 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively.

The increase in daily and road mileage allowances was sanctioned from the 1st March 1944 and that in consolidated travelling allowance with effect from 1st May 1944 and that in running allowance from 1st July, 1944.

EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ON CHEAP SUPPLY TO RAILWAY SERVANTS SCHEME AND AMOUNT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE PAID

37. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay a comparative statement of the expenditure and income on the Cheap Supply to Railway Servants Scheme per head, together with the amount of dearness allowance paid per head in kind and in coin, respectively?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The figures for the half year ending September 1944 are as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
The average wholesale cost of goods sold per employee per month	19	13	0
The average cost of retailing including freight, losses and all other overheads, per employee per month	1	3	0
Total average expenditure on the scheme per employee per month	21	0	0
Average receipt per employee per month	14	4	0
Nett cost per employee per month	6	12	0
Average retail cost in the bazaars of goods sold in the Railway shops per employee per month plus cost of retailing	22	8	0
Value of relief (dearness in kind) per employee per month	8	4	0

The Honourable Member will find the various rates of dearness allowance in coin per head notified in the Railway Department's notification No. E. 44-D.A. 11, dated 1st March 1944, as subsequently amended by notification No. E. 44-D.A. 11, dated 2nd October 1944, a copy of each of which is in the Library of the House.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SIND GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON CHAPTER XIV OF SATYARTH PRAKASHA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a notice from Bhai Parmanand of his intention to move an adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent and definite public importance, namely, the Sind Government's ban on the 14th Chapter of 'Satyarth Prakasha', which is a sacred book of the Arya Samajists throughout the whole of India.

Why was this ban imposed and when was it imposed?

Bhai Parmanand (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): I read it in yesterday's *Tribune*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why was this ban imposed?

Bhai Parmanand: It was imposed under the Defence of India Rules for security of public peace.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When was it imposed?

Bhai Parmanand: I think it was day before yesterday. I read about it in yesterday's *Tribune*.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): No ban has been imposed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member seen the orders of the Government?

Bhai Parmanand: I have seen the orders in the *Tribune*.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind; Non-Muhammadan Rural): Does the Honourable Member know that a chapter out of that book has been banned?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No ban has been imposed by the Government of India. If someone else has imposed a ban, I have no knowledge of it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It is the Sind Government, but it applies to the whole of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it not a provincial matter?

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Action is under the Defence of India Rules.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Was the action taken under the Defence of India Rules?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The first I heard of it was when I got this notice at two minutes to Eleven. I enquired from my office and I was informed that no such order had been issued. The question has never even been before me.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Will the Honourable Member please make enquiries?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is a matter on which he can take time and give a reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member please find out and let me know?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I can find out. The position is this: that these bans are imposed if the local situation makes it necessary. This follows from the delegation of powers to the Provincial Government. It may be that the situation in Sind makes it necessary from the point of view of law and order and it is a question on which it is impossible for us to pass judgment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is alleged that it is a sacred book of the Arya Samajists and a ban has been imposed on it and it is a matter of public importance. As objection has been taken, those who are for leave being granted please stand up.

(A count was taken.)

As not less than 25 Members are for leave being granted this motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock to-day.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nomination for the Standing Finance Committee, only one nomination was received. As there is only one vacancy I declare Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee to be duly elected.

THE HINDU CODE, PART I (INTESTATE SUCCESSION).

PETITIONS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, under Standing Order 78, I have to report that 134 petitions as per statement laid on the table have been received relating to the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to Intestate Succession which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd March, 1943, by the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed.

STATEMENT.

Petitions relating to the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to intestate succession which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd March, 1943, by the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed.

Serial No.	Number of signature	District or town or village	Province
1	123	Madhyananagar	Assam.
2	58	Sylhet	Do.
3	20	Do.	Do.
4	48	Do.	Do.
5	84	Do.	Do.
6	47	Do.	Do.
7	32	Do.	Do.
8	34	Do.	Do.
9	40	Do.	Do.
10	5	Darbhanga	Bihar.
11	15	Do.	Do.
12	10	Do.	Do.

Serial No.	Number of signature	District or town or village	Province
13	295	Darbhanga	Bihar.
14	5	Do.	Do.
15	6	Do.	Do.
16	6	Do.	Do.
17	61	Patna	Do.
18	176	Bankura	Bengal.
19	52	Do.	Do.
20	45	Do.	Do.
21	61	Bogra	Do.
22	147	Do.	Do.
23	443	Do.	Do.
24	70	Burdwan	Do.
25	104	Do.	Do.
26	68	Do.	Do.
27	23	Calcutta	Do.
28	36	Do.	Do.
29	42	Do.	Do.
30	53	Do.	Do.
31	55	Do.	Do.
32	132	Dacca	Do.
33	121	Do.	Do.
34	92	Do.	Do.
35	72	Do.	Do.
36	40	Hooghly	Do.
37	62	Do.	Do.
38	99	Do.	Do.
39	70	Do.	Do.
40	29	Faridpur	Do.
41	28	Do.	Do.
42	846	Do.	Do.
43	111	Do.	Do.
44	61	Do.	Do.
45	108	Jalpaiguri	Do.
46	20	Do.	Do.
47	85	Jessore	Do.
48	143	Do.	Do.
49	56	Do.	Do.
50	66	Do.	Do.
51	12	Do.	Do.
52	61	Khulna	Do.
53	33	Do.	Do.
54	59	Do.	Do.
55	20	Do.	Do.
56	181	Malda	Do.
57	94	Do.	Do.
58	7	Do.	Do.
59	63	Midnapore	Do.
60	17	Do.	Do.
61	19	Do.	Do.
62	64	Murshidabad	Do.
63	113	Do.	Do.
64	174	Do.	Do.
65	71	Do.	Do.
66	71	Do.	Do.
67	71	Do.	Do.
68	27	Do.	Do.
69	118	Do.	Do.
70	183	Do.	Do.
71	116	Do.	Do.
72	16	Do.	Do.
73	233	Do.	Do.
74	103	Do.	Do.
75	125	Do.	Do.
76	62	Do.	Do.
77	113	Do.	Do.

Serial No.	Number of signature	District or town or village	Province
78	123	Murshidabad	Bengal.
79	124	Do.	Do.
80	24	Do.	Do.
81	30	Do.	Do.
82	62	Do.	Do.
83	49	Mymensingh	Do.
84	30	Do.	Do.
85	193	Do.	Do.
86	65	Do.	Do.
87	165	Do.	Do.
88	56	Do.	Do.
89	125	Do.	Do.
90	40	Do.	Do.
91	98	Do.	Do.
92	73	Do.	Do.
93	44	Do.	Do.
94	86	Do.	Do.
95	132	Do.	Do.
96	149	Do.	Do.
97	42	Do.	Do.
98	64	Do.	Do.
99	71	Do.	Do.
100	30	Do.	Do.
101	15	Do.	Do.
102	114	Do.	Do.
103	53	Do.	Do.
104	37	Do.	Do.
105	46	Do.	Do.
106	116	Do.	Do.
107	80	Do.	Do.
108	762	Do.	Do.
109	70	Do.	Do.
110	148	Do.	Do.
111	107	Do.	Do.
112	392	Do.	Do.
113	11	Do.	Do.
114	85	Do.	Do.
115	96	Do.	Do.
116	66	Nadia	Do.
117	78	Noakhali	Do.
118	171	Do.	Do.
119	67	Do.	Do.
120	47	Pabna	Do.
121	194	Do.	Do.
122	70	Do.	Do.
123	28	Do.	Do.
124	543	Do.	Do.
125	114	24 Parganas	Do.
126	280	Rajshahi	Do.
127	197	Rangpur	Do.
128	114	Tippera	Do.
129	59	Dhu Garu, etc.	Do.
130	46	Dhanigram, etc.	Do.
131	99	Jogpai, etc.	Do.
132	32	Gogra, etc.	Do.
133	30	Salikha, etc.	Do.
134	102	Marupduha, etc.	Do.

G. Total 13,075

MOTION RE POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND EAST AFRICA.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations):
Sir, I move:

"That the position of Indians in South Africa and East Africa be taken into consideration."

[Dr. N. B. Khare]

This motion relates to both the cases—South and East Africa. With your permission and indulgence of the House, I would like first to deal with the position in East Africa although I realise that the House is at the moment more exercised over the position of South Africa. I am doing so because in connection with the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú and accepted by Government at the last Session of the Council of State a detailed discussion took place on the position created by the East African Government's temporary restrictions on the immigration of Indians. I do not repeat here the history of these immigration regulations up to the last Session of the Council of State. If any of the Honourable Members desire further information on any matter of detail I will be only too glad to furnish it later on.

In February and March of this year certain regulations were sprung upon us more or less as a surprise by the Colonial Governments of Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda. The regulations disallowed the entry of non-natives into these colonies without a permit from their Government. They are to apply without any discrimination to all non-native immigrants and are a purely temporary wartime measure. Normal residents in the colonies are however exempted from the scope of the regulations provided they have not been absent from the colonies for more than two years from the date of the enforcement of these regulations.

When first received, these regulations appeared to be of a comparatively innocuous character. They appeared to be only an extension of the restrictions on the issue of passports which had been introduced in December 1942 without any popular objection, for keeping down the floating population of the colonies as a wartime measure. We had no reason to presume that the measure contemplated interference with the free movement of Indians who are normal residents or have vested interests in those colonies.

Soon after the introduction of the regulations, protests however poured in from East African Indians as well as Indian organisations interested in East Africa. We have made repeated representations to the Colonial Governments and brought to their notice the facts and considerations urged in the various representations received from Indian leaders and also disclosed in the course of the debate in the Council of State. The present position arising out of the representations that have met with some response so far, is as follows:

(a) The Colonial Governments have agreed that entry permits will be granted to all *bona fide* residents of the colonies even though they may have been absent from the colonies for more than 2 years from the date of the enforcement of the Regulations.

(b) The Secretary of State for Colonies after consultation with the three Colonial Governments has now given us the assurance—through the Secretary of State for India—that the Regulations in question in all the three colonies are purely for meeting war-time conditions and are not intended to be permanent.

We realise that the public apprehension that these Regulations are a prelude to a further attempt to the permanent exclusion of Indians from the colonies is understandable. This aspect of the matter has a historical background. The Regulations were also sprung as a surprise on the Indian community and the Government of India was much hustled in the matter. For the present, however, there is no reason to question the genuineness of the assurance that has been given to us that the Regulations will not be made permanent. I can only assure the House that Government shall keep a vigilant eye on all future developments and step in to take remedial measures as soon as there are indications that the Regulations are being prolonged unduly. We have also taken up with the Colonial Governments any hard cases in which permits have been refused and I am glad to say that we have been successful in securing permits in certain recent cases.

I should however inform the House that in any case we are not resting content with the assurance received so far. We have urged upon the Colonial Governments that there are no valid reasons why normal residents of the colonies should even have to submit to the necessity of obtaining permits for

returning to their homes or for looking after their interests in the colonies. We have also forwarded to the Secretary of State for India copies of the debates in the Council of State and have urged most strongly that the following action must now be taken by the three Colonial Governments:

(a) All normal residents (including their families and dependents) in the colonies as well as Indians possessing vested interests in the colonies should be immediately exempted from the operation of the Regulations irrespective of their periods of absence from the colonies.

(b) Such new personnel as has to emigrate to the colonies to replace or reinforce the business staff of the Indians should be immediately exempted from the operation of the Regulations.

(c) Even as regards other entirely new entrants the Regulations should be withdrawn as soon as possible.

In any case the Regulations should not be renewed after the expiry of their present term. We have urged the Secretary of State for India to take up our representations with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and move the Governments of the three colonies to reconsider the whole matter and take immediately the action proposed by us.

As the number of new immigrants has been automatically reduced by war-time conditions particularly by shipping difficulties, we have concentrated on having the ban on the movements of the normal residents removed. We expect that all normal residents, irrespective of their period of absence from their colonial homes, should be able to obtain permits for return automatically. Government will be grateful if any cases where difficulties are experienced are brought to our notice.

We are awaiting a further reply from His Majesty's Government and I can assure the House that the matter will continue to receive our closest and most vigilant attention. The Regulations have been enacted for one year for the present and that period is due to expire within the next three or four months. The Government of India would make every possible effort to prevent the extension of these Regulations. We are much handicapped by the lack of an agent in these colonies and I shall be grateful if gentlemen like my Honourable friend Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee and his colleagues always keep us informed of any developments regarding which they may have any information. I hope, Sir, that the House will be satisfied that we have done all we could and that we are not likely to relax the pressure that we have continued to exert on the Colonial Governments.

An amendment has been moved asking us to apply the Reciprocity Act to East Africa as well by my Honourable friend Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee, who is, if I may say so, an expert on these matters. I want to state here, Sir, that we have achieved something so far through negotiations and we are hoping for some good results through the correspondence which we have begun through His Majesty's Government. It is not therefore very proper to apply the Reciprocity Act to East Africa at this stage. I would, however, assure the House that I will not shirk or flinch for a single moment if that necessity unfortunately arises.

Sir, now I will come to the position in South Africa which is exercising our minds for the last sixteen months or more since I have taken up this office. The House will recall that in February this year when my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh tabled an adjournment motion to discuss the Indian question in South Africa I told the House that nothing would be lost and something might be gained by postponing further discussion of the matter on that occasion. I hope the House will accept my assurance that when I made that statement I had good reasons to hope that the Union Government were making genuine efforts for a settlement of the question which might be acceptable to us.

In March, the Union Government appointed a Judicial Commission which had been foreshadowed in the speech of Mr. Lawrence, Minister of the Interior, introducing the Pegging Bill. Mr. Justice Broome was appointed Chairman and two leading Indians were appointed as members of the Commission. The terms of reference to the Commission were:

[Dr. N. B. Khare]

To enquire into and report upon matters affecting the Indian community of the province of Natal, with special reference to housing and health needs, civic amenities, civic status and provision of adequate residential, educational, religious and recreational facilities, and to make recommendations generally as to what steps are necessary further to implement the uplift clauses of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927, and as to all matters affecting the well-being and advancement of the permanent population of Natal.

The local Indian community was on the whole inclined to give this Commission a chance. About this time we also had information that Field-Marshal Smuts was going to receive a representative deputation of the Natal Indian Congress. We did not wish to impede the course of these negotiations. We have always been opposed to any statutory measure of segregation of Indians but, in view of the long-standing and deep-seated racial friction prevailing in the country, we did not desire to stand in the way of a compromise being worked out which the local Indian community might accept voluntarily.

I had, however, noted the intense feeling on the subject which the House had given expression to. Soon after the House dispersed in the first week of April, we therefore made it perfectly clear to the Union Government that Indian opinion would not be satisfied except by concrete action and unless the discussions, which had been initiated between the Union Government and representatives of the Indian community, resulted, within a reasonable time, in some solution acceptable to us, we would be compelled to take counter-measures. The House will recall that a public announcement was made by the Union Government on the 19th April that an agreement had been reached by them with the representatives of the Natal Indian Congress. The announcement was to the following effect:

"Discussions took place as the result of representations made by Indian Congress to find an alternative method of controlling occupation of dwellings in towns and boroughs in Natal to that adopted under the Pegging Act. It was agreed that the situation would best be met by the introduction of an ordinance into the Natal Provincial Council. This ordinance would provide for the creation of a board consisting of two Europeans and two Indians under the chairmanship of a third European, who would be a man with legal training. The object of the legislation would be to create a machinery for a board to control occupation by licensing of dwellings in certain areas, and application of Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by Proclamation on passing of this ordinance."

This agreement was reached on the 18th April and has been known as the Pretoria Agreement. On the 19th April, His Excellency the Viceroy also received a message from Field-Marshal Smuts, which, we thought, clinched the agreement. This message has already been published in the press, but I may perhaps reproduce it in the House. It runs thus:

"At meeting on April 18th between Prime Minister and Minister for Interior and representative of Natal Indian Congress it was unanimously agreed that legislation be immediately introduced into Natal Provincial Council to provide for a joint board of five consisting of two Europeans and two Indians, with a European chairman, whose functions it will be to license the occupation of dwelling in area within borough and town in Natal. On passing of ordinance the application of the Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by proclamation. This agreement provides a fair solution of trouble which has arisen in connection with the Pegging Act and will, I trust, be as welcome to your excellency as it has been to me."

According to the terms of this agreement, the Licensing Board of mixed composition was to control residential occupation in areas when the question of racial proximity arose. Apart from this control and regulation of future juxtapositional residential occupation of Europeans and Indians, there were to be no further restrictions on Indian interests in land. All restrictions other than this contained in the Pegging Act were thus to be withdrawn. In particular it was made clear that there was to be no restriction on the right of Indians to acquire properties of any kind in the country.

The agreement had the approval of an overwhelming majority of the working committee of the Natal Indian Congress. Only 14 communist members out of a body of 81 dissociated themselves from the agreement. On the whole opinion in India also favoured giving the agreed compromise a chance to work. Our immediate demand was that an alternative solution acceptable to both sides

should be found early and that unless this was done the Pegging legislation should be repealed; or, if that would take time, the areas affected by it should be deproclaimed. We felt that the agreement went far to meet this demand. We did not regard the solution embodied in the agreement as ideal, but as it was accepted by a majority of the local Indians and as, for the first time, the Union Government also accepted the principle of dealing with such matters by voluntary agreement in preference to statutory compulsion, we acquiesced in the agreement and decided to give it a chance.

By the end of April, however, reactionary European elements in Natal began to organise opposition to the agreement. We immediately took steps to draw the attention of the Union Government to the attempts made in this connection to go back on the Pretoria Agreement. About the middle of May, the prospects of legislative implementation of the agreement appeared to be more hopeful. Information, however, reached us that the legislation was not likely to be introduced before August and we conveyed to the Union Government our uneasiness at this delay. The European agitation did not abate, but went on hardening progressively. The demand of the Europeans was that the provision for the control of acquisition of property which exists in the Pegging Act should also be incorporated in the Ordinance. In the first week of June we therefore again conveyed strong representations to the Union Government. A definite improvement followed soon after. The Occupation Control Ordinance, the draft of which was approved by the Natal Indian Congress, was published in the official gazette and was put down for consideration before a special session of the Provincial Council on the 19th June. We had also a further reassuring message from the Union Government that the passage of the Ordinance would be expedited.

On the 19th June the Ordinance was, however, only referred to a Select Committee after the first reading. This was a definite set-back to our hopes and we did not fail to urge on the Union Government our demand for expediting the legislation without any radical alterations.

Field-Marshal Smuts had left for London on the 21st April. In order to leave Field-Marshal Smuts free to deal with the European opposition we decided not to hustle the Union Government. The hopes we entertained about Field-Marshal Smuts using his personal influence did not, however, materialise. He returned to South Africa on the 1st July from the Prime Ministers' conference and visited Durban in the last week of July. It soon became clear that he was not prepared to deliver the goods, presumably with a view to avoiding a split in his ministerial party over the ordinance. About the 1st September we therefore addressed further representations and made it clear that we would not brook further delay. We were then given an assurance that the draft Ordinance would be taken up for consideration on the 17th October. Having waited so long, we decided to wait a few weeks more.

On the 17th October the Select Committee's report which was unanimous was presented to the Provincial Council and the House is aware of the developments that have occurred since then. The draft Ordinance as amended by the Select Committee contained radical alterations and contravened the Pretoria Agreement in several important respects. Let me explain the general position in plain language.

Under the Pegging Act occupation and acquisition of "any land or premises" could be allowed only on a permit issued by the (Union) Minister of the Interior. Under the Pretoria Agreement and the original Natal Occupation Ordinance, which was drafted in conformity with its terms, only occupation of any dwelling for residential purposes required a license to be granted by the licensing board (Occupation Control Board) of mixed composition. All other restrictions on occupation and all restrictions on acquisition contained in the Pegging Act were to be withdrawn. Under the amended Ordinance occupation and acquisition of residential properties can be allowed only on a licence issued by the licensing board. The provision for the control of acquisition of residential property is

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thus a definite departure from the Pretorial Agreement and the original draft Ordinance.

Licensing Board's control (of occupation and acquisition of residential property) is to be extended immediately to boroughs and townships throughout the province. Under the Agreement and the original Ordinance this control was to be extended to local bodies other than the Durban borough only on the recommendation of the provincial licensing board. Under the Agreement and the original Ordinance in granting licenses for occupation the licensing board had to make allowance for, *inter alia*, natural residential expansion of either racial group into contiguous streets, roads or localities. This is omitted from the amended Ordinance under which licensing boards will have to take into account the views of local bodies and any scheme of town planning adopted or contemplated by them. This provision is obviously designed for facilitating the carrying out of plans of racial zoning. The amended Ordinance thus departs from the Agreement and the original Ordinance in these respects also.

It is true that the amended Ordinance provides for agreement being reached by the majority of rate-payers of the two racial groups regarding occupation and acquisition of residential and other properties by each group. The licensing boards will not exercise any control over occupation of residential properties in areas regarding which such agreement is reached. A majority of European rate-payers is not, however, likely to be a party to an agreement which does not make for the largest measure of segregation of the Indian population. A majority of Indians is also unlikely to be a party to such agreement. In practice, therefore, such agreement is not likely to be reached in most places. The net result would thus be that the jurisdiction of licensing boards will extend to most, if not all, boroughs and townships.

In the face of these radical alterations the Union Government have made the amazing statement that the amended Ordinance does not go back on the spirit of the Pretoria Agreement. Although not surrendering their inherent right, the Indians agreed, in deference to the thoroughly unreasonable sentiment of the European community, to the regulation of occupation of property for residential purposes in urban areas where the question arises of Indians living in close proximity to Europeans. I should state for the information of the House that on the eve of the Agreement in April the Natal Indian Congress presented to Field-Marshal Smuts a memorandum setting out their demands. In response to a request made by the Congress for exchange of letters embodying the terms of the Pretoria Agreement this memorandum, read with the Union Government's public statement of the 18th April, which I have already quoted, was confirmed as the Pretoria Agreement in a message sent by Senator Clarkson, Minister of the Interior, to Senator Shepstone. Field-Marshal Smuts' telegram of the 18th April to His Excellency the Viceroy also referred to control of only *occupation* as the object of the Agreement. The original draft Ordinance which had the concurrence of Indian representatives and was published in the Provincial Gazette on 2nd June, also provided for the regulation and licensing of *occupation* only. The new provisions regarding control are also to be extended immediately to boroughs and townships throughout the Natal Province except a few to be excluded by administrative action. The House will thus see that the control of acquisition and some of the other provisions obviously involve a violation of the Pretoria Agreement. We also understand that the amended Ordinance is to be one of a number of measures for a comprehensive long-term programme of town extension and racial zoning. A new provision is being made by a housing board ordinance under which the housing board to be set up should have the right of pre-empting properties offered for sale to Indians in European quarters. From the new measures it also appears that the Union Government are now not willing to await the results of the labour of the Broome Commission which has been still investigating this very problem of better housing facilities for Indians.

Field-Marshal Smuts may have his political difficulties, but we have always understood that the Union Government's concurrence in the Pretoria Agreement connoted as a necessary corollary their guarantee to ensure the enactment of implementing legislation. Had they the will to honour their pledge, it would have been quite open to the Union Government to have the necessary legislation enacted by the Union Parliament. I should tell the House that we have not failed to urge upon the Union Government this alternative also. They have, however, disregarded our representations in this respect.

The Pegging legislation, though applicable to the whole province, has been actually enforced only in the borough of Durban so far. Being temporary we had some hope that segregation would not be made a live issue in the rest of the province. The control of occupation which the Pretoria Agreement and the first draft of the Ordinance provided for was also to be actually applied only to the borough of Durban, though it was applicable formally to other parts of the province. The revised Ordinance is, however, to be brought into force, and the full apparatus of licensing board to be set up *ab initio* in the entire province. The right of unfettered acquisition which was to be restored by the Agreement is now thrown overboard. The new measure is therefore more far-reaching and retrograde in several respects than the Pegging Act. Far from using their influence to provide an alternative solution of the limited racial problem in the borough of Durban, the Union Government have now gone back on the Pretoria Agreement and presented us with a scheme which only reveals a concerted plan for the wholesale segregation of Indians in the entire province of Natal. I should state for the information of the House that, apart from an Anti-Asiatic Clause in certain transfers of properties between Europeans, there were no restrictions in the Natal Province on the right of Indians to occupy and acquire lands prior to the Pegging legislation of 1943. The Durban borough has the largest concentration of Indian population. The only two other urban centres with any considerable concentration of Indian population are Pietermaritzburg and Ladysmith. Neither in the two latter centres nor in any other areas (except, of course, Durban borough) has an issue been made of the question of Indian penetration. The amended Ordinance has thus been sprung as a surprise on the Indian community. The House is aware that the Indian community has rejected the amended Ordinance as entirely unacceptable to them in view of its contravention of the terms of the Agreement. The House is also aware that the third reading of the Bill was passed in the Natal Council on the 1st of November. It is now due for presentation to the Governor General for his consent.

This is the history of the efforts we have been able to make since the last Session of the House to secure the withdrawal of the Pegging legislation. I have made a detailed statement, even to the extent of boring the House, to facilitate a proper appreciation of the position now reached. I hope the House will agree that I have maintained incessant vigilance over the interests of our ill-fated countrymen in this dominion and have done all we could with all the limitations and difficulties under which our Government have to work. The House is aware that the chronicle of the sufferings, hardships and above all the humiliation of our countrymen in South Africa is long and tragic. I gave a detailed account in the statement I made in the House on the 30th July last year. I therefore felt that all possible resources of negotiation and compromise should be exhausted. While pursuing this course, we have, as already explained by me, made it perfectly clear to the Union Government that unless a satisfactory solution were evolved, we would have no alternative left to taking counter-measures. This latest attempt at racial segregation of Indians is but one of the many discriminatory measures which have been forged by the Union Government to keep fresh perpetually the brand of racial inferiority on our nationals in the country of their adoption. The House is aware that our nationals have been voteless in South Africa for many years. Although these major grievances of Indians remain untouched, we decided to give the Pretoria Agreement our moral support and did our best to maintain an atmosphere favourable to its implementation.

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Our forbearance has been misunderstood and measures are now about to be placed on the statute book which, according to all the information we have had, will seal the fate of our countrymen for generations to come. Honourable Members have no doubt read in the Press the impassioned appeal made to the Natal Provincial Council the other day in this connection by Mr. Kajee, the redoubtable leader of our oppressed Nationals in South Africa.

The House will no doubt ask me—what shall we do now? I would like to put the same question to the House. I know the persistent demand from all sections of the House and repeated throughout the length and breadth of India is that we should retaliate. Let me tell the House at once that the Government of India as a whole, and in this I include all my Honourable Colleagues and His Excellency the Viceroy, have been as amazed as the House and our countrymen at the Union Government going back on an Agreement into which they solemnly entered with the Indian community. The Government of India share in the fullest measure the indignation and resentment which this exhibition of racialism on the part of a fellow-member of the British Commonwealth has created in this country. Sir, we all have our own views on the political status and future of our country as a member of the British Commonwealth, but so far as this attack on the honour and self-respect of our country and nationals is concerned, I think I can say with confidence that there is absolutely no difference of opinion as regards what we all feel about it. With all the defects of our political status as a unit in the British Empire and with all our quarrels with His Majesty's Government in this connection, I believe that the overwhelming majority of our countrymen think that during this global war we should stand by the Commonwealth; or else we may be thrown out of the frying pan into the fire. Mr. Gandhi, also, Sir, has come down from his high pedestal, has suspended the civil disobedience movement and is now prepared to advise the Congress to offer the fullest co-operation with the Government, in this war on radically altered and much attenuated conditions. I believe it is this general instinct which has led the thinking elements of our countrymen to adopt a truce in our internal political warfare and not to do anything to impair the contribution of two millions of our fighting men,—who have been acclaimed throughout the Commonwealth as constituting the largest voluntary army in the world;—towards the emancipation of the civilised world from Fascist tyranny. The Union of South Africa is also a constituent part of this Commonwealth.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Is the Honourable Member sure that the Union Government is also within the Commonwealth?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That is a matter of inference.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I thought it was not.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We draw that inference. They have, however, thought fit to cast to the winds the interests of the civilised world and to wage to the bitter end a racial warfare against the nationals of a fellow member of the Commonwealth, many of whom have shed their blood in preventing the extension of the ravages and devastation of this war to their very country.

Sir, the United Nations are fighting this war against what they call Hitlerite principle. It is an irony of fate and a tragic situation that the country which is supposed to be doing so is applying the same Hitlerite principles to our nationals although we have a common object. Sir, our patience is now completely exhausted and the whole nation is in a mood of desperation.

I may now inform the House that we have already told the Union Government in the plainest and most unequivocal terms, that the Government of India now hold themselves free to take such counter-measures as they can. Had our nationals been really accepted and treated as full citizens of the country of their adoption—towards the growth and prosperity of which they have made vast contributions—the attitude of the Union Government might have been intelligible. In view, however, of their latest exhibition of callousness the Government of India

cannot possibly divest themselves of their moral responsibility for the welfare of their nationals in this ill-fated country. They, therefore, refuse to be a helpless spectator of the decision of the Union Government to relegate the large and progressive Indian population in Natal to a position of permanent inferiority.

On a former occasion I have told the House that the surgeon's knife will have to be applied if and when necessary. I may inform the House that we have therefore already issued a notification applying to the Union of South Africa the Reciprocity Act, passed by this House last year. This notification imposes on South African citizens of non-Indian origin the principal disabilities from which Indians suffer in South Africa. The imposition of a few other disabilities is under consideration and a decision will be taken immediately. So long the Government of India have only gone on holding out threats of counteraction and I am glad to be able to say that we have made at any rate a beginning in action.

I note, Sir, that two of the Honourable Members have also suggested the recall of the High Commissioner and enforcement of economic sanctions. I would want a little more time to take a decision on the question of the recall of the High Commissioner. I hope the House will accept my assurance that the presence of our High Commissioner in South Africa is of some advantage to our nationals there. I personally believe that his recall will be a great tactical blunder. Honourable Members will agree that a decision on this matter requires the most careful consideration, but I have no intention of taking any unduly long time over it.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I do not want to interrupt my Honourable friend, but may I know whether the High Commissioner gave evidence before the Provincial Council of Natal or before the Select Committee set up by that House? As the Honourable Member knows, the Select Committee is empowered in South Africa to take evidence. Did the High Commissioner give evidence?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe he did not.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That is my information. I have no other information.

The Government of India have also been considering most actively the question of enforcing economic sanctions. This is a step the repercussions of which require the most careful consideration. The fact that I am not able to make an immediate announcement on this measure does not mean that I or my colleagues have approached it in any spirit or hesitancy or pusillanimity. A comprehensive and as up-to-date as may be possible examination of the implications of the commercial relations between the two countries is essential and we would want a short time for it. Here, again, I can assure the House that I have no intention of delaying unduly our final decision. We are striving to reach a decision as soon as possible and our decision will be announced immediately after it is taken.

None of us is in a position to forecast what the possible effects will be of the action that we have already taken and the measures which we have under active consideration. Some may criticise that the action taken is nothing else but a rubber nipple without the milk. Our counter-measures may or may not have any effect on a member of the Commonwealth whose racial arrogance has been raised to white heat even during the gravest crisis in the throes of which the Commonwealth is now involved. After all is said and done, Sir, we cannot get away from the fact that politically and internationally our position is weak. The Union Government have some experience of what the weak and the oppressed can do for resisting injustice. Indians were practically cajoled into proceeding to South Africa, generations ago, for the exploitation and development of the country by the white settlers. The extent of their contribution towards the growth and prosperity of that country is well-known to the world; yet a fellow-member of the Commonwealth has thought fit to choose this moment to forge a plan of segregation of Indians which will, in the words of Mr. Kajee, "establish on generations yet unborn racial animosities and prejudices which are the seeds of conflict and war". We must declare throughout

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the Commonwealth and the civilised world, in the plainest and most unequivocal terms, that we are determined not to submit to this racial arrogance, and weak as we are and limited as our powers are, we shall resort to all such overt acts as are open to us to give shape to our determination. The civilised world must know how those at the helm of the affairs of a country in the Commonwealth who are so loud in their professions about a beatific post-war world order are treating the nationals of a country whose relative contribution towards the world war is second to that of no other country fighting side by side with the United Nations. Sir, if the professed war and peace aims are true and if really this war is being fought for the liberation of humanity from thralldom, it is inevitable that all people of this world must get their Sovereign equality and under these conditions any discrimination based on race or religion or colour or caste must disappear throughout the United Nations. The Union of South Africa may laugh in their sleeves because our counter-measures may misfire or fall flat, as they may. But our determination and action to resist this insult to our honour will not rest and end here. Hatred and arrogance can only beget counter-hatred and counter-arrogance.

Sir, it has fallen to the lot of a medico, as my humble self is, to inoculate the body-politic of India with the anti-toxin of retaliation. I hope it will generate sufficient resistance in her to fight against this virus of racial arrogance and animosity wherever it may be. The nation-wide determination for retaliation will go on smouldering for years and through generations to come. Some day or other—and we are all hoping that it will be sooner than later—India will come into her own and be in a position to take more effective action against those who persist in assailing her national honour and self-respect. Our efforts to resist such insults will certainly attain fruition then.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the rules that the Government of India were to make under the amended Reciprocity Act have been published by them?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: A notification has been issued by the Government of India in the *Gazette Extraordinary* but the rules have not yet been published.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Have they been made on all the points?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: On most of the points.

Sir, these questions show how deep the feeling of resentment in this country is. It was suggested in some quarters that since one of the reasons why the British Government went to war against the Boers in South Africa in the early part of this century was the bad treatment they were giving to Indians there, the British Government should now repudiate the Dominion Constitution conferred upon South Africa and appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into the maladministration and the injustices done by the South African Government against Indians, Africans and even against Europeans. It is not for me to suggest measures to be taken by His Majesty's Government. They claim to be our trustees and I am bound to say that no trustee in the world can afford for any length of time to watch with supreme indifference and supineness, while his ward is being insulted and assaulted for the very simple reason that in the very process of natural evolution, as time goes on, the ward is bound to attain the status of an independent entity himself. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the position of Indians in South Africa and East Africa be taken into consideration."

All the amendments will be moved first and then discussion will proceed on the original motion as well as the Amendments.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'and having considered the matter, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith exercise the Powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as

amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of South Africa's Union not being of Indian origin and should immediately recall the High Commissioner for India in South Africa."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'and having considered the matter, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith exercise the Powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of South Africa's Union not being of Indian origin and should immediately recall the High Commissioner for India in South Africa."

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Ruari): Sir, I move:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of those countries."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of those countries."

Dr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Sir, I move:

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, after the word 'Nationals' the following words be inserted: 'not being of Indian origin'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, after the word 'Nationals' the following words be inserted: 'not being of Indian origin'."

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is there any time limit for speeches?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no time limit, unless the House wants it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) Sir, the House will remember that it has got to adjourn at four of the clock to discuss the Motion for Adjournment. So we have very limited time. I think all Parties ought to decide among themselves as to how much time should be allotted to each speaker, otherwise, I am afraid there will be tremendous difficulties at the end.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Just now it has been suggested to me by the Whip of the Congress Party that fifteen minutes be fixed for each speaker.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: It seems to me that it is too early to fix a time limit now. It may be that it will be necessary to enforce the time limit later on. It is true that today we have to finish this debate at four of the clock because we have to take up the Adjournment Motion. We have got two hours. Further, I hope the Honourable the Leader of the House will consider whether, if this Motion is not finished today, he can give us 1½ hours or two hours some other day. This is a most important debate. That is all I can say. Public opinion should not be stifled on a question of this character.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is no question of stifling the debate. I consulted Party Leaders and they agreed with me that a day be allotted for this debate. I simply point this out to show that there is no question of stifling the discussion. The House has to take up the Adjournment Motion at four o'clock. Nobody suggested to me that there should be another day allotted for this Debate, otherwise, I would have suggested that there might be a reduction in the period for the Food Debate. We might

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allot two days for the South Africa Debate and one day for Food, just as you like. Otherwise you will have to be satisfied with this.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: We can continue this on some other day.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I do not want to take up more time than is absolutely necessary on this painful and shameful subject. Sir, I am sure the speech of the Honourable Member in charge is very encouraging but I own to mixed feelings in moving this motion. I admit that there is a sense of frustration in this motion, not only a sense of frustration that I have in my mind but combined with a sense of frustration there is also a feeling of resentment at the injustice done to my countrymen in a place which has been developed mainly by their labour. At the same time I must say that I am not sorry that the South African Union has raised this question at the present time, because while the fight for freedom is going on they have raised an issue which will settle the position of India and of the Asiatic nations in the framework of the so-called Commonwealth of Nations. At the same time, combined with these I cannot resist a sense of shame at the weak-kneed policy of this mighty Government of India, the flabbiness of spine, the procrastination and the laziness with which.

An Honourable Member: Have they any spine?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: There is a spine but there is flabbiness in it, although this mighty Government is run by a warrior Viceroy at its head.

Sir, this question of South Africa is a very painful one. You will remember that Natal, the plague-spot of all this trouble, has been developed by Indians, and that the Natal administrators have themselves admitted that but for Indian labour and but for Indian hands the prosperity of the colony could never have been produced. You will see how painful the subject must be to their countrymen on the floor of the House today. It is astonishing that the Government of India should have kept such a childish and blind faith in these people of South Africa in expecting that deputations and round table conferences or agreements and promises made by these people will be kept by them. First a labourer went to develop this colony; then to give comfort to these labouring people a small petty trader from India followed him. Naturally after a certain time this poor trading class amassed a certain amount of competence and wealth with which they managed to acquire a certain amount of property in the colony. But you will find that right from the beginning, as soon as their purpose was served, this white population of South Africa could not resist the temptation of having the whole of the profit to themselves, reducing the Indian by whose efforts the whole prosperity was achieved to a state of slavery and what in euphemistic language may be called the policy of segregation. This policy of segregation is not new; it is stamped on the policy of South Africans right from the beginning. It may have been camouflaged by many words and by the attempt of the South African to reduce the Indian there to a state of poverty by means of restrictions on licenses, charging a certain fee on trade licenses, etc. This attempt was made to reduce the petty trader so that he may not own any property. What is the meaning of the ordinances and regulations which forced the petty trader to have licenses only under penalties and that he shall not carry on trade on the proclaimed land,—the so-called gold law of South Africa? You can even see that right from the very beginning these people had no other object in view except gold and wealth and nothing else, nothing of the honourable sentiments that should exist in the hearts of ordinary human beings. How was this labour which produced this prosperity in Natal at the beginning treated subsequently? The same labour after a certain period was tried to be replaced by the so-called white labour policy. So far as labour is concerned, so late as your Pretoria Agreement this white labour policy was enforced; and if the labour that produced the prosperity of the colony was tried to be replaced by a white labour policy, I have no hesitation in saying that so far as the South African policy with regard to the Indians in South Africa is concerned, it is a white-

leper policy. It is nothing but a disease, as odious as leprosy, which is afflicting the Indian community in South Africa. How are we going to fight it out? My Honourable friend the Member in charge is a medico and he should understand that in the medical line inoculation is not the only way of treatment. Inoculation is a very slow process which may or may not succeed, according to the vitality of the individual in which it is inoculated. We know the vitality of this country as it is governed by a foreign power, by a white Government; it is a white Government in spite of the presence of my countrymen on those benches. Does he expect this inoculation treatment to succeed? No, Sir, there are other treatments in medicine and one of them is the surgical treatment. Whenever you find a foul festering part of the body, the only way is to cut it out and I hope.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have done both.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I shall be very happy when it sees the light of day. We have had too long of promises, of rules being made, the Reciprocity Act having been passed, and so on; but I am not nourished on the faith that whatever the Government members say in this House will be carried out or is going to be carried out.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: They have been already applied.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will take the assurance of the Honourable Member that all these have been applied. But, as I said, with all the efforts of my valiant friend I do not think he will be able to succeed in bringing any of the measures that he would like to. Therefore, Sir, what I propose for this festering sore of the so-called Commonwealth of Nations is not a slow policy. We have had enough of this. I say this festering and foul sore has to be disposed of, so far as we are concerned, as soon as possible. We have tried all the different methods. The wars came and the wars seem to be passing away; we may be approaching the end of the war. But during all these periods what has been the attitude of these South Africans? To reduce us economically to a condition of slavery and, so far as the Asiatic races are concerned, to segregate us and to brand on our brow the perpetual mark of slavery. I should have very much liked my Honourable friend to persuade his Government to take the same steps as were taken in the case of another European nation who had the impertinence and the inhumanity to go down to Africa for another brown or black nation, to bomb it from the air, to take their lands and their property; and I am proud to say that that Italian nation was knocked out by Indian regiments and Indian regiments alone. Can my Honourable friend say that this Government will ever be prepared to knock the stuffing out of these South African races and will ask his Government to send Indian regiments to drive some sense into the heads of these South African people? Will he be able to do so? If not, why not? On lesser pretexts than these, wars have been declared between nations. Even at the time of the Boer War we know one of the Home Secretaries said that it filled him with indignation to see the treatment meted out by the Boers to the Indians in this colony. I say there have been worse provocations than what the Boers gave to the Indians, in a part of the Commonwealth by the white part of that Commonwealth in this affair. And yet my Honourable friend knows that he cannot do anything. And if he cannot take these measures what is the good of telling us that they will be able to do this and do that? I wish very much, and I would pray, that the Indian Regiments which knocked the cuts out of the Italian Nation, which took out macaroni out of Mussolini, might be sent down to South Africa, and then you will not have the Pegging Act, you will not have the Pretoria Agreement, you will not have the Capetown Agreement, you will not have the Control of Occupation Act, you will not have the Regulation of Residences Act. Nobody will dare to challenge what part of Africa we occupy, when we occupy and what we occupy. We would have got it by spilling our blood and yet what are the South Africans talking about? South African colonials owe everything to Indians. In 1914-18, I myself treated Indian officers who had been to South

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Africa to help the South Africans to retain South Africa for these colonials. Have not we known that even in this war India has helped the colonials to retain South Africa, and yet we have to keep quiet? Why? Our blood is valuable for this Commonwealth, our labour is valuable, but our dignity, our honour cannot be upheld by this Commonwealth, and, I am very sorry to say, by this weak-kneed Government of India. That being the case, I think we are perfectly justified in suggesting the measure that we have suggested. After all, if we cannot send our armed forces to drive sense into the heads of those people who treat us with indignity and dishonour, the least we can do is to show our disapproval. My Honourable friend says, "withdrawing the High Commissioner would be very bad tactics". Pray how is it going to be bad tactics? What purpose has this Commissioner served? So far as the popular opinion goes, he has served like a post-office box. You can put correspondence into that box.

An Honourable Member: Ask Sir Raza Ali if it is not so.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is it worthwhile to incur these expenses? I am not really bothering about the expenses. Where the question of honour and dignity of our country is concerned, I am not concerned with the expenses at all. What I say is this. What purpose does this High Commissioner serve? I know that the appointment of the High Commissioner started from the time of the so-called Capetown Agreement, but, Sir, the South African colonials, as I have said, have no sense of honour, leave aside the sense of dignity and humanity. I remember, Sir, a long time ago, after the last war, I happened to read a speech made by their statesman, General Smuts, before the Scientists of British Medical Association, and I thought that there was the philosopher statesman who will guide the destinies of the Union, or wherever he could govern, on the lines of humanity and philosophy. But his philosophy seems to be all fraud, and I doubt whether his humanity may not be for getting rid of all the non-White population. This General Smuts who has the reputation of being a philosopher and statesman guarantees to the Indians that so far as the liberty is concerned that will be saved. And then he does not do anything to fulfil that promise although he is the Prime Minister in power. Instead I find that when a provincial council brings forward measures for segregation of Indians he has not got even the courtesy to receive an Indian Deputation. These are the doings of that philosopher-statesman on whom we have to rely. I would request my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, not to rely on the professions and promises—whatever they may be—of these colonials because the history is very painful on this subject.

Sir, I will give you an example to illustrate my point. We had a parliamentary franchise in Natal. That parliamentary franchise was taken away with specious reasons and Municipal franchise was substituted. At the time when an attempt was made for this substitution what was the argument used? The argument used was that if you do away with parliamentary franchise you will have municipal franchise and you will be able to look after your community and society much better. I may mention for the information of this House that this parliamentary franchise was taken away in 1896. They said, in fact, that giving away of parliamentary franchise would strengthen the arrangements for sanitation and health of the Indian community. The parliamentary franchise was taken away on this pretext, and yet in 1925 the municipal franchise was also taken away. Then, Sir, they promised that if you agree to the limitation of immigration then the poll tax will be removed. It was in 1913-14 when our Indian leaders agreed to the limitation of immigration of Indians. But in spite of all that the poll tax was not removed. It needed a passive resistance movement to remove it. With regard to emigration again, after the Capetown Agreement, our Indian leaders agreed, in their childish faith and simplicity, to the emigration of colonials from this Union, in the hope that those who would be left over there—and this was the promise which was given—would get better facilities. Their future generation will

be better educated and the economic condition of those Indians will be better and there will be uplift of the Indian community in South Africa. What happened? Our representatives agreed to this emigration. The result is that this has been utilized for isolating these Indians in South Africa.

In this morning's paper I find an advice given by one of the responsible South-African gentleman. It is this:

"Look here you Indians, 80 per cent. of you are born in South Africa; only 20 per cent. are Indians here; your interests are not with them. Why do you look to the Indians outside? You had better approach us and accept all our conditions, then we will see what we can do to make you comfortable and happy."

The result of this emigration has been to isolate the South African Indians from Indians at large so that it has become easier for them to destroy the Indians after division. Sir, I do not want to go into all the details, but the point is this: you are dealing with a very fraudulent Government in South Africa which has no sense of honour, not even for their pledges. What is your Commissioner going to do by just remaining there? During all these years that we have been having our Commissioner in South Africa, he has been able to achieve absolutely nothing. Instead he is looked down upon as somebody who represents.

An Honourable Member: Nobody.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I would have been satisfied if he had represented nobody, but he represents a population which can be dishonoured, which can be trampled upon, which can be degraded. This is the kind of population that he represents. It is a constant reminder to the South Africans and a humiliation to us Indians at the way that our nationals are being treated in South Africa but it is an encouragement to the colonials that here is a Commissioner of a downtrodden people on whom we can trample upon. The Commissioner as he exists is a sign symbol or an emblem of the degradation of the Indian people at large and the sooner you remove him the better. It will be for the good of the honour of this country and what is more the South African people will know that now you are in earnest, that now you have not the same imbecile faith either in their Government or professions.

I am not one of those who say withdraw the Commissioner from South Africa and leave the field open for South Africans. Our experience of this withdrawal and leaving the field open for our opponents has been very bitter. I say that this withdrawal must be accompanied by aggressive tactics, by an attack, and that attack, we can have by the economic sanctions that we are in a position to impose.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: The rules have not been published yet!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: My suggestion is to apply surgical methods of hacking and cutting as soon as you can. I hope he will succeed in applying them quickly to this problem of South Africa. I do not believe in this policy of withdrawing merely. We have suffered very bitterly by it. Whatever the qualifications of it may be from the ethical point of view, from a wordly point of view if we withdraw this Commissioner I want to send down our economic sanctions to South Africa. I know our wishes cannot be carried out. We would very much like the Indian regiments who have already wiped out one nation, the Italians, to be sent round to South Africa. But I know that that is not possible. If that is not possible let us do what we can in our power. I hope, Sir, that the economic sanctions will be applied as soon as and as quickly as we can. Let no base thoughts of trade or profit influence us where the honour of our country is concerned. I know some will say that the balance of trade is in favour of India and that we should not lose the profit. We will also be told that the population of 200,000 will be in a very bad way if we do not export grain to that country. I say that these considerations do not matter with me. They do not even matter with this Government when the question of honour comes in. We lost a trade four times or ten times as large when this Government declared war on Germany and other European nations without consulting us. That time we silently did forego all this profit and that was when this war was declared. The Government can

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rest assured that it has the full support and backing of the people of India. We have done all we can. We have tried every method from representation to delegation, pacts and agreements. None of these has succeeded. Now, Sir, our countrymen outside are looking to us to support them in a point which concerns the honour of our country. As I said, do not let any mundane base considerations of profit and other ordinary considerations influence us, but let us prove to the world at large, especially at a time when the war is being fought, when the position of coloured nations is at stake, when the position of coloured nations is such that in spite of all the high-sounding phrases, in practice, if this war means that we Asiatics are to be doomed to perpetual slavery then we must thank the South Africans for raising the issue at the present time. But I will not be satisfied merely by thanking the South Africans. Let us show we can oppose. Let us show that we can compel our Government to oppose. Let us show that we are men, not slaves, at heart. Let us show we can oppose. Let us show that we can compel our Government to oppose if it is a question of honour of Asiatic nations in general, of our position in a Commonwealth, and in India in particular.

I commend my amendment to the House and I hope Sir that there will not be any Member here who will oppose it because it concerns the honour and dignity of my countrymen outside.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I may now inform the House that it has been arranged with the Parties that the leaders or chief speakers of Parties will have half an hour and the other speakers twenty minutes. Otherwise the discussion cannot be conveniently finished.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): The adjournment motion may be put off till to-morrow.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That question I have to discuss with the Mover of the motion. With your permission he will ask the House to allow him to move it to-morrow. He is not here just now.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I must thank the Commonwealth Relations Member for the lucid and brave speech he has made. The very fact that today it is our Indian Member who has made bold, after so many years, to point a little finger at a big nation is a great thing for India. It is a great thing for Indians who have been in East and South Africa suffering humiliations worse than anyone else in this world. They have suffered far more than the people of Europe for whom this war is raging.

Sir, with regard to East Africa, let me point out to my friends here certain facts and figures to prove to the hilt that this insidious move of the East African Government shows the prevalent mentality in that country to treat the Indians there in as light a manner as possible. What was the reason given for limiting the Indians entry into East Africa? The reason was that owing to the exigencies of the war—(after it had lasted for four years)—we do not want a large influx of Indians into the country because of the food situation and because of the housing problem. That is the reason given and we

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have proved to the Department of Overseas that this plea is nothing but a false one put forward by these Governments.

East Africa, Sir is well known to be one of the granaries of the world. Then you have to consider that so far as East Africa is concerned it is an acknowledged fact that we have been there since the 14th century. It is also an acknowledged fact that until 1811 not a single European soul ever reached there. In 1866 when Sir John Kirk went there he said that the entire business of the place was in the hands of Indians. It was only in 1895 that the British Government took over the administration there and it is now hardly fifty years.

You must have read the history of the highlands and the low lands but the most important thing to note is this. For so many human beings have all these things been done? There are in Kenya 40,000 Indians and the number of Europeans (I do not say Britishers) is 17,000. It is for these

17,000 Europeans that the whole of East Africa and the highlands and every thing else must be reserved. People talk of humanity and civilisation. I do not find my friend Mr. Griffiths here. I would ask him to put these figures to the public in his National War Front propaganda. Now what do these Europeans want? They want for themselves all the highlands and there should be no Indians there; and, further more, at the sacrifice of not less than 30 lakhs of the native population there. The European population there includes South Africans, Germans and Italians. The South Africans are 46 per cent. in the Parliament and they have been saying that if they got another 4 votes they will have drawn the Union Jack and make treaty with Germany. These are the people with whom my European friends, the Britishers, are co-operating to drive away the 30,000 Indians from there. The number of Indians that go to East Africa is hardly 4,000 a year and for these 4,000 the plea put forward is that there is no housing and what is worse that there are no foodstuffs! 17,000 tons of foodstuffs are being exported from East Africa every year but for these 4,000 poor Indians none is available.

This law has been brought forward against those people and yet my friend, the Honourable Member, would say that they have at his representations at least considered that those people who were there in East Africa and had come here but could not return within two years, were not going to be barred.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have not said so at all.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: They were barred and I will put it that he has succeeded in inducing these great 17,000 Europeans to allow them to return. But even so far as the family members of those who go there are concerned, they have to take a special permission and my Honourable friend has said that he is trying his level best to have this removed and that actually he has succeeded in two cases. Annually about 4,000 for last 2 years, go there and about 30,000 return. Those are the official figures. For just therefore these 1,000 Indians the East African Europeans cannot find the food, though they can export as much as 17,000 tons every year to different parts of the world.

Now, take Tanganyika and Uganda. In Uganda, according to historical records, the Indian population was 13,026 and the European population was 2,001 and for this number Uganda must be kept for them. In Tanganyika Indians are 23,000 and the Europeans are 1,500 and still the latter do not want any Indians to go there and the excuse is there is a food shortage. Who can believe this? Who can tolerate this situation? Is there any honesty in the plea? It amounts to reminding us: "You Indians are fighting for the freedom and liberty of others in the world, but fight for your own self first and get your liberty and rights. First fight for your own status and for your own honour. We are going to teach you by this treatment this lesson because you have not learnt it up to now." On the eve of the Boer War Lord Lansdowne, the then very responsible Minister, declared: "Among the misdeeds of the South African Republic I do not know that any fills me with more indignation than its treatment of our Indian subjects". Has the situation changed now? Is it not worse than ever it was before? So far as East Africa is concerned what right have these people to make all these rules? They say "we have taken upon ourselves the responsibility of being trustees of these 30 lakhs of East African natives". But the fact is that not a single representative of theirs anywhere has any voice. They are represented by a reverend priest gentleman in the legislature. This position, the Europeans say, is in the natives' own interest and that is the only justification they can offer. The British went there in 1866 but it was not until 1895 that anybody except India bore the expenses of the administration and of the army of occupation there. It was the Government of India that was paying. See your own records. Indians have paid the cost of the administration for solid forty-eight years from their own purse, because they were there and were told that it was a legitimate charge on them. Even today if a census were taken the number of Britishers there would be a few hundreds out of 17,000 Europeans.

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All this is being done in the name of capitalists, or rather in the name of all these European vested interests; and once my friend the Honourable the Commonwealth Relations Member allows this action against India to remain and to go on, I assure you it will not be for one year—it will ever remain there; and therefore in my amendment I have said—and I am very sorry to say, perhaps many members have not been able to understand my real motive in saying therein that I want sanctions to be applied against the East African Governments. Who are the East African Governments? My Secretary of State for the Colonies—I say 'my' because I am part and parcel of British Government, they being in the British Empire and not in the Commonwealth dominions, and I do want to apply sanctions if you can boldly do so against all Britishers who are governing the provinces or states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and if it pleases you, against even the British Government; if the British Government is not going to withdraw these orders but insist on them, I think it is but fair and right that we should see that the sanctions and the Reciprocity Act are applied. Under the constitution of 1935 we cannot make any discrimination against Britishers; neither are they entitled to do so; but so far as the commonwealth is concerned, I think they are separate. But surely the colonial Governments are not separated; and if the British Government through the Colonial secretary allows discrimination against Indians, I say we can demand of the Secretary of State to ask in the British cabinet for sanctions against the British people there who are ruling these East African Governments of Kenya and Uganda and Tanganyika. Why do they allow this? Will they allow us to do that? They will not; and in all fairness for a few people why should they? It is but fair and right that we should adopt not only the provisions of the Reciprocity Act but also the sanctions. Let it be known that we are prepared for it. As my Honourable friend, Dr. Deshmukh, has said, we have sent out 2 million people to fight for the liberties of somebody else and only for the cause of humanity; and surely, if not today, when all these soldiers return here and come back from Rome, Italy and from Berlin with success, they will feel ashamed of themselves—they will not care for a few acres of land that you may give them, if they know that in East Africa and Natal and such places they and their Kith and Kin are being treated worse than Hitler has treated the peoples of Europe. The South African Indian people have said openly, as my friend the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations has quoted, it is Hitlerism within the British Empire that is going on in Africa.

I hope I have made it clear that it is no use now asking them to remove those disabilities and wait for another year to pass. I represent the East African people and I have a mandate from them. The Honourable Member has got a telegram and we have also got telegrams: we are prepared for the sanctions. Let them dare use against us. Let us see how these 17,000 Europeans will be able to see that we will not be allowed to enter and stay in that country which has been our country for four hundred years while they have been there for hardly forty or fifty years. We want the Honourable Member to take that stand and to declare this clear position. I am sure for these 17,000 people the British people in the British Isles would not like this policy to be adopted. If the facts are placed before the British common people I am sure they themselves will call upon those in power there not to do this sort of thing and create bitterness and hostility in India against them. With regard to South Africa I will not take up much time—I will only say that there again you have got to consider seriously the promises that General Smuts has made from time to time. This is the fourth time that that gentleman, if you can call him a gentleman at all, has rescinded from his promises. Very recently we got a wire from him to our Viceroy: they are both soldiers. The word of a soldier to a soldier is considered to be much more than that of a diplomat to a diplomat. But here we hear from the Honourable Member's mouth that he has given this undertaking and he has broken this undertaking

within four months. This is the class of people with whom we have to deal. Here are 2 lakhs of people, and if they are going to treat them badly, we shall certainly insist upon our Government to declare war against them, our soldiers are already in the field.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Not only that; if it comes to that for the time being, we can get our people home; we have got today about 7 lakhs of European foreigners and 3 lakhs of European prisoners in India and we are made to look after them. We have never raised the question of shortage of food for them, we never raised the question of restriction, in spite of famine in Bengal, in spite of every difficulty, and inspite of their inhuman treatment to us. Now, Sir, we do not want our Indians to go to South Africa and East Africa any more and be disgraced there until we are strong enough to fight Europeans there. The Treasury Benches have given the right lead and I am sure they will boldly play their part in this respect and will accept my amendment and the House also will be good enough to accept it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, the Honourable Mr. Bhai Parmanand desires that his motion of adjournment may be taken up tomorrow in order to enable the present discussion to be finished today; we have no objection; and if you, Sir, will kindly give another half hour after five o'clock, I think we will be able to finish this debate and we shall be very grateful.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well. I believe there is no objection on the part of any one if the adjournment motion be taken up tomorrow. I shall be prepared to sit till half past five today to dispose of this motion.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (One of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Sir F. E. James (Madras European): Sir, the Honourable Member for the Department of Commonwealth Relations made a full statement this morning on the position of Indians in South Africa and in East Africa and, as I understood him, invited the House to offer him any advice or suggestions which they might wish to make. I shall not deal with the question of East Africa. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to the position in South Africa and I may say, at the outset, that we fully support the powerful remonstrance which the Honourable Member has directed to Union Government of South Africa.

Sir, we welcomed the Pretoria Agreement, although we did not like the principle of statutory segregation. It appeared to us that this agreement which resulted in the withdrawal of the Pegging Act, laid down that there will hereafter be no statutory prohibition against investment, and that only occupational juxtaposition would be controlled and that by a Board of which half the members, excluding the Chairman, would be Indians. That seemed to us a fair agreement, a compromise which the Indian community there should be complimented upon in reaching. But the Residential Regulation Draft Ordinance as it has now emerged from the Select Committee of the Natal Legislature, to my mind, goes very much beyond the Pretoria Agreement in scope and in application and in the machinery which it proposes to set up. The House must also remember that it has been made quite clear in the debate in the Natal Legislature that this measure is only one part of a group of comprehensive measures covering the whole field of economic and social relationships between Indians and Europeans in Natal and indeed between other racial groups in that province.

Now, Sir, the Pretoria Agreement was the result of bilateral negotiations sponsored by the Prime Minister of the Union. The Residential Regulation Draft Ordinance and its attendant measures are the result of unilateral and

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provincial action. The House must know that the Indian community is not represented in the Natal Legislature, though I understand that a representation by one of the leaders of the community was heard at the bar of the House in the form of a petition. But apart from that, the Indian community was at no time consulted between the issue of the first draft of the ordinance embodying the Pretoria Agreement and the emergence of the Ordinance from the Select Committee with all the modifications and changes which I have mentioned. I understand, I think I am right in saying this, that at no stage was the Indian High Commissioner consulted about these changes.

Now, Sir, quite apart from the merits of these measures—and there may be more merit in them than appears at first sight—we feel that this is not the way in which an important and valuable minority should be treated on matters which vitally affect their own interests. Certainly it is not the way to lay the foundations of racial harmony throughout the Union. Indian reactions to this are, to our minds, fully justified.

I have observed from quotations in the papers that South African European opinion, particularly in Natal, seems to consider it quite improper for India to take any interest in the matter at all. This section claims that the Indians of Natal belong to the Union, and should therefore look to the Union for their protection; and that it is improper for them to look beyond the Union to the Government of India. Well, Sir, if that be the case, then the Indian community should be granted the municipal and Parliamentary franchise that it once had but which was taken away from it. There will never be any racial harmony in the Union as long as important racial groups are excluded from every form of political representation and denied representation even on local and municipal bodies. These are rights which are fundamental to any minority or any community in any country, and as long as these are denied to Indians in any part of South Africa there will be trouble not only in the Union but also between India and South Africa. Without representation, to whom can the Indian community in South Africa look, if not to the mother country. If they are obliged to do this in the absence of representation in the country of their adoption; what can India do to help them except to remonstrate, if that fails, to boycott and, if that fails, to impose such sanctions as lie within their power. I know that many sections of the European population in South Africa are moved by fear of economic exploitation and ultimate domination by the Indian community and it would be unwise for any one trying to appreciate this problem to under-estimate that fear. I believe that fear is wholly groundless, but in any case it would be largely removed if the Indian community felt that they had a future in the Union and were not denied their elementary rights. No minority problem can ever be solved by sending the Minority to Coventry in the political sense, and that is what the Union of South Africa has done to date as far as the Indian community is concerned.

Now, Sir, the various amendments before the House call for three measures. First of all the application of the Reciprocity Act, secondly the recall of the Indian High Commissioner and thirdly the imposition of economic sanctions. The first measure has been or is in process of being carried into effect. The recall of the High Commissioner is justified by the way in which he has been treated in these present measures. But I think that if the House decided to recommend his withdrawal, they should realise that that measure would at best be an expression of severe disapproval, which no doubt other parts of the Empire and other countries outside the Empire will understand. Speaking individually, I am uncertain as to the wisdom of this course. But if that course is demanded by Indian opinion, we will certainly not oppose it. The third measure is the imposition of economic sanctions, and here, I must say at once that the Party for which I speak, are not in favour of that measure being taken at present. We are not prepared to agree to any measure which might jeopardise any part of the war effort. The House will no doubt realise that India and South Africa are at present supply bases not only for India

and for Britain, but also for the United Nations generally; and we fear that the imposition of economic sanctions, which really means the opening of economic warfare as between these two great supply bases, would most definitely interfere in certain particulars with the war effort.

Sir Syed Kaza Ali: For instance.

Sir F. E. James: I will give one instance, and that is the importation of wattle bark from South Africa.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): We can get it from other countries.

Sir F. E. James: Wattle bark is one of the most important items of imports from the Union.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: It is being replaced here and now.

Sir F. E. James: Before referring to this matter, I have taken the trouble to make some very careful enquiries and I understand the Supply Department conducted an enquiry into the possibility of using other materials for this essential purpose. The result of that enquiry is that no other materials were possible. In other words, no substitute can be used for this particular process. I made it my business to find confirmation of that during my recent visit to one of the great leather industry manufacturing centres in India.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Is it not a fact that as a result of the enquiry by the Supply Department, it was ascertained that babool bark gives as good results as the wattle bark?

Sir F. E. James: I cannot enter into a technical discussion on this subject. I am advised by those who are in a position to know that India cannot at the moment do without wattle bark without very serious injury to war production in this country.

I am trying to explain to the House that while under normal circumstances, we should perhaps take a different view of the question of economic sanctions, we cannot now do other than oppose any measure which would interfere with the efficient prosecution of the war. We take the view that the early and successful termination of the war takes precedence over everything else, even over a quarrel of this nature, which is so injurious to the best interests of the Commonwealth. Therefore I felt it my duty to make that perfectly clear.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is the Honourable Member assured that his feelings are reciprocated by any section of the European public in South Africa?

Sir F. E. James: That question hardly arises here. I think my Honourable friend had better address his remarks to that particular section of the population in South Africa.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Then my Honourable friend's concern appears extremely one-sided.

Sir F. E. James: I think the House will appreciate a plain statement from me and that is what I am endeavouring to make as to our particular attitude. If there had been any other consideration which had moved us, I would have mentioned it, but that being the main and sole consideration which we have in opposing this particular suggestion of an Honourable Member in this House who has moved his Amendment, I hope I have made that very clear. Sir, it is indeed tragic for any one, who believes in and cares for what he believes to be the opportunities of freedom and of liberty which are still to be found in the British Commonwealth of Nations to have to contemplate the present relationships between the Union of South Africa and India. It is all the more distressing because the spokesmen of the Union Government have again and again reaffirmed the principles which were laid down in the Cape Town Agreement of 1927, which for some time was looked upon by South African Indians as their *Magna Charta*. I was reading only this morning a report of the debate on that agreement in which Field-Marshal Smuts took a prominent part and this is what he said:

"Whatever might be the formal position of the agreement today, the policy embodied in that agreement for giving Indian people in South Africa a square deal and every oppor-

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tainly for progress should never be abrogated. The Government were bound to carry out that policy and Indians should not be made to feel that they were outcasts. The country must be fair to the Indian people as regards land holding, housing schemes and all the amenities and rights to which civilised people were entitled."

One has only to appeal to that statement to realise how far the policy of the Union Government and of the Provincial administration of Natal has departed from that high ideal.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Can my Honourable friend give the date of that debate?

Sir F. E. James: Soon after the completion of the Agreement in 1927. If any voice can reach South Africa from this Chamber, I suggest to the Field-Marshal, to the Provincial legislature, to the Parliament of the Union, that this House should appeal to that declaration and claim the fulfilment of the promise then made.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Sir, we are considering the motion of my Honourable friend Dr. Khare and the various amendments to it under very dark shadows of a great blow that has befallen our people, a blow the like of which I cannot readily remember since the year 1909 when the constitutional reforms associated with the names of Mr. John Morley and Lord Minto were introduced in India. I welcome the manly, courageous and lucid statement made by the Honourable Member in charge, Dr. Khare. We should never forget that under the shadow of this great blow it is our duty not to let our ranks be divided and it is our duty to take every section of this House as far as possible with us. It seems that possibly one of the objectives, in any case, of the Union Government is to provoke us into saying harsh and nasty things against them. If one were to examine carefully the speeches that have been made in the Union during the past ten days, one could not help coming to the conclusion that not only have they injured our people, the domiciled Indian community in South Africa, but they are insisting on adding insult to injury. In the course of my speech I will read out a few brief extracts to show as to what the mentality of the White settlers in South Africa is. But let me make it quite clear that since the people of this country have no active voice in the counsels of Government, we should guard against using harsh language. One must remember that harsh language, as a rule, is used by those who are powerless, who cannot do anything, who have no strength and who have no self-reliance. Unfortunately, we and our countrymen suffer from all these things, but I put it to this House, if I may, whether it would serve any useful purpose to use unnecessarily harsh language without taking our courage in both hands and putting into practice the measures which are reasonable and consistent with the assertion of self-respect against the Union nationals.

The history of our relations with South Africa is very sad. I do not want to go into that history, but one thing, with your permission I would certainly say and it is this: It seems that no pact, no agreement, no contract come to between India and South Africa can ever be binding on the people of South Africa.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: Let us make an appeal to them so that they may carry out their order. That is what we are advised.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Yes. I know the significance of the word "appeal". I know what it is. As a matter of fact, I do not want to lecture some of my Honourable friends here, but that is a function which I have always loathed. But may I put it to my Honourable friend Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee what else can you do except taking such little action as may be open to you under the provisions of the Reciprocity Act and supplemented by appealing to the people of South Africa? What else is left to you? There has been some talk of war, army, invasions and all that sort of thing, but does it really amount to anything? Does it really mean anything? Let us, if I may say so, eschew using those terms because they are not likely to add to the respect in which we might be held by the people of South Africa. It is the weak who always

brag. A strong man, a powerful man or a nation never indulges in this sort of thing. What I was going to say is this that we were faced with a very similar situation in the year 1924 when General Smuts was the Prime Minister. He was defeated in the general election of that year and with him was shelved the Class Areas Bill that his Government had introduced in that year. General Hertzog succeeded him as Prime Minister in 1925 and a similar Bill was introduced by his Government. Then, a deputation was sent out in the time of Lord Reading by that Viceroy and the result was the protracted negotiations between this deputation and the representatives of the Government of South Africa. The only question that we had to consider then was this and it is most important to concentrate our attention on that.

The people of the Union Government say that all this large Indian population is a population which we cannot assimilate, which will never make South Africa its own home, which will never conform to our civilisation, our standard of living and our ways and manners. Therefore, this is a foreign element. What are we to do with them except to drive them out which we propose to do through the instrumentality of the Class Areas Bill? That question was very carefully gone into and the result was this. The suggestion made by the representative of the Government of India and the Delegation that was sent in 1927 to that country was this, "If this is your fear, why can't you absorb the small Indian population, in any case not a very large population, that is there. The Government of India and the people of India have absolutely no objection to the domiciled Indian community conforming to the European standard of living and adopting European methods and manners. You assimilate this population and let this population for all practical purpose become an integral part of the population of South Africa."

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): What about their colour?

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Colour is a problem which even Europe has not been able to solve, much less can we aspire to do the same.

And on that basis a compromise was arrived at in the Cape Town agreement, and to that agreement everybody was a party including 3 P.M. General Hertzog and his followers. And so was Field-Marshal Smuts who was the Leader of the Opposition at that time. After that many songs were sung in honour of this Cape Town agreement and a debate followed. General Smuts not to be outdone by any speaker on the Government Benches made a speech to which reference was made by my Honourable friend Sir F. E. James. My point is that that was, so far as it appeared, the final settlement of the Indian question in South Africa and yet it seems that in South Africa no sanctity attaches to agreements and treaties or contracts made between two Governments. If that is the mentality of the people and Government there, all I can say is this that it is really almost useless to try to obtain the goodwill of the people of that country since it is impossible to obtain that goodwill in any circumstances.

Now, Sir, in enacting the Pegging Act the Union Government gave the go-by to the basic principles underlying the Cape Town agreement, and attention was drawn to that. Now they have gone much further and by the Natal Council adopting the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance they have made that law applicable to all the townships and boroughs in Natal where mostly Indians reside. Here I will put my European friends on their guard, because this Ordinance is the result of the anti-Indian agitation of not the African settlers or the Dutch or Boer settlers but of the Britishers who form 95 per cent. of the population of Natal. They should be on their guard because they are in a way on their trial. This unfortunate Ordinance, this repulsive, objectionable and offensive Ordinance, which has given the greatest offence to India and one of the objects of which seems to be to humiliate Indians not only in South Africa but also in this country, is the result of the endeavours of the Britishers, pure Britishers, who have settled in Natal. Let the European Group vote any way they like, but let me tell them again this. There is a

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feeling in South Africa,—and my Honourable friend Dr. Khare may take note of this,—that the Government of India and the Europeans who are doing business in India are in their heart of hearts not in support of the Indian demand with reference to the amelioration of the grievances of Indians in South Africa, but that they are forced to lend their outward support to it because they do not want to show to the public that even on such an important question where the Europeans in India and the Government of India should be with the people of India, vital differences of opinion obtain between us and the Government of India and the Europeans settled in this country. That is really their feeling, and I think it is the duty of the Government of India and of my European friends, if they will listen to my words, to make it quite clear that they are not offering mere lip sympathy to the Indian people and the domiciled Indian community in South Africa in their hardships and trials but that they are as much convinced about the justice of the Indian case as we Indians ourselves are. The moral issue involved is one which can be decided in only one way. Of course, in the last war one of the slogans, according to Germans was that might is right and according to the Allies it was the other way, that is, right is might. That same question is being fought out again on the battle-fields of Europe and Asia and it was fought out on the battle-fields of Africa. But whatever may be the position of the other parts of the British Commonwealth there is not the least doubt that, so far as South Africa is concerned, might was right before, might is right today, and I am afraid if General Smuts, for whose attainments and abilities I have the greatest respect, were allowed to have his own way, might will be right in South Africa so long as he is at the helm of affairs there. I am sorry to say that but the facts are there. As I pointed out, the issue is a moral one; I put it on moral grounds.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I was told I would be allowed 30 minutes.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, he is the chief spokesman on behalf of the Muslim League Party and according to the understanding arrived at he may be given half an hour.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): If the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party gives his time to him I have no objection.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: People are so excited and feelings are running so high that my friend Mr. Kazi in giving evidence on behalf of the Natal Indian Congress at the bar of the House straightaway charged the Government of South Africa with adopting the methods and mentality of Hitler. That is very harsh and hard language to use, but knowing the country and its conditions as I do I dare not disagree with Mr. Kazi's description. The economic, social and political condition of Indians is known to this House and I will not go into all that. But the position is that the Cape Town agreement has been given the go-by; legislation the like of which has never been passed by any territory comprised in the British Commonwealth of Nations against another territory has been adopted by South Africa against people who have no vote, who have no free right of trading, who are subjected to numberless disabilities. That being the case, is it not the duty of all the countries forming the British Commonwealth of Nations to take up India's cause, because I am quite clear that if this matter is allowed to go any further and if no compromise is found between these two countries, this might mean the death-knell of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Look at the implications and consequences. It is impossible for you to maintain the British Commonwealth of Nations if one part of it enacts legislation against the people of another part. This would, in all likelihood, lead to a declaration of war. So those who hold the idea of British Commonwealth of Nations dear should never lose sight of this aspect of the question.

My Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, just pointed out why he was opposed to the last item of the Resolution. He made it quite clear that if economic sanctions were enforced, they would lead to interference with war effort. May I ask my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, does he expect us Indians to be more loyal than the King? Does he expect us to have greater regard for the solidarity of the British Commonwealth of Nations than these English settlers in Natal have had for it? Does he really contend that while Natal should be allowed to do anything it likes against the Indian settlers who Indians should never lose sight of the fact that the war is going on? Yet if the war is going on, that war is likely to affect South Africa also. Whether the Commonwealth loses or wins—and I am very happy that all the signs are that we are going to win,—whatever might be the result of war, that would affect both the countries equally. So far as the Commonwealth business is concerned, both India and South Africa can sink or swim together.

May I say a word to my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare? I am glad that the Government of India have at long last decided to apply the Reciprocity Act to South African nationals. All I can say is that the action is too late by just 11 to 12 months. What the Government of India ought to have done in November 1943, they have done on the 4th or 5th of November 1944. The real point, as I have said, is that the South African people believe that the Government of India, after all, will not support the people of India in seeking the removal of Indian grievances in South Africa wholeheartedly. That is their belief. Therefore, it is unfortunate that the action which the Government of India is going to take is belated.

There is another thing: My Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, is not ready even with his rules which incorporate the sanctions that can be enforced against the South African nationals. I do not know how long those rules will take to be published, but that is his real weakness. His attention was drawn twice and again both in this House and in the meetings of the Immigration Committee. Today there is some hope that these rules will be published 'in the near future', though I do not know what that really means.

It is rather difficult to embark upon a detailed examination of the various parts of the amendments, but one thing I would like to say is this. I do not think any section of this House should agree with the Government in the view that it is not necessary to recall the High Commissioner. I will, in a few words, expose the position taken up by the Government. You are enforcing economic sanctions. One of the economic sanctions would be that wattle bark and some other things should not be allowed to come to India and certain other things should not be exported from India to South Africa. That is really an economic warfare and that is a tremendous business. The Government of India are going to swallow the camel but they want to strain at the gnat, namely, we will take economic sanctions all right but we are not prepared to recall the High Commissioner from the Union. That is a sad mistake.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): They will send him back.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: That makes it much worse. What I mean really is this. If you are in right earnest, if you want to enforce the economic sanctions, really, honestly and straightforwardly, that very moment India's relations with South Africa will become strained. It simply cannot be helped. Then having endeavoured to inflict a larger injury on South Africa, you are considering the question of not injuring South Africa's susceptibilities too much by recalling the High Commissioner. Sir, this is an absurd position. This is a position which no man with a grain of common sense will be prepared to take.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask if the Government have said that they have decided to impose economic sanctions?

Sir Syed Raza Ali: It is an open question. I am saying that if it is decided it becomes necessary to recall the High Commissioner.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Either don't enforce economic sanctions, or if you do you must go all out for it. Otherwise you will be making yourself a laughing-stock of people in that country. Sir, there is a saying in English: "Willing to sound but afraid to strike". That will be applicable to us if we try to enforce sanctions without making up our mind to recall the High Commissioner from South Africa.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I am finishing, Sir. The position is very sad but it is a question of India's honour. I know that in spite of doing all that we have been discussing we might fail yet, but it is a question of India's honour and it is the duty of every Indian to do what he can to vindicate India's honour even if such vindication results in some injuries being inflicted on our people in South Africa. Sir, I support.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Mr. Chairman, it was never my intention to intervene in this debate but a very admirable speech by Sir Frederick James, which contained three sentences, necessitate my getting up in my seat. One sentence which I think will be read with great concern by the people of the country was when he said "India should appeal to the Union Government and the Provincial Government of Natal.....". Sir, he does not realise perhaps that this momentous issue is an issue of sentiment, honour, and self-respect;—I further go and say—even of principle because four-fifths of His Majesty's subjects are Indians. After all that has happened in South Africa to which he made reference himself in his speech, he asks us to appeal to these Governments. I submit to the House that it is a most extraordinary request. I wish Sir Frederick James would ask His Majesty's Government and his own people in this country to appeal to their countrymen in South Africa to be reasonable, to be sensible and not ask us to appeal.

Sir F. E. James: May I rise to a point of explanation? I think my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, misunderstood the purport of my remarks. I certainly did not recommend that this House should appeal either to the Union Government or to His Majesty's Government. What I did say was that if any words of mine from this House could reach those quarters, may those quarters be reminded of the solemn pledges they had given in the past which were now being disregarded. I submit, Sir, that is quite different.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Most certainly it is different. But I heard the word 'appeal'. (Several Honourable Members: "Yes, he said 'appeal'".) Anyhow I would make a request to Sir Frederick James to call meetings of the European community in different centres in India and then appeal to his countrymen in South Africa to behave. Sir, Sir Frederick James said that war efforts will suffer if certain steps were taken by the Government of India. I do not know whether those steps will be taken or not. That is a matter entirely for the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department. On behalf of the Government of India he has made the position clear. But I do not understand the meaning of throwing on us this sentence: "War efforts will suffer". Of course they will suffer but who is responsible for this? (Several Honourable Members: "The Union Government".) Are we responsible? Sir Frederick James himself has given us a good certificate. If South Africa is responsible for this then I suggest to the United Nations—twenty-five nations in the world apart from India—to go to South Africa and tell South Africa that they have to be reasonable.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Smash them. Segregate them.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir Frederick James said that India cannot do without wattle bark. Let me tell him that India can. Indian can do without it for the simple reason that nine-tenths of its population do without boots and shoes and if the remaining one-tenth have to walk bare-footed without shoes or boots, they will be prepared to do it.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Let the South Africans bark!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I suggest to Sir Frederick James that he must appeal to His Majesty's Government to get wattle bark from whatever source they may and bring it into this country, if war efforts suffer. The position is that if the matter is not settled and if the Government of India decide to take economic sanctions which they haven't yet decided surely this wattle bark will not stand in the way. We will go to His Majesty's Government. We will go to the United Nations, every one of them, to secure wattle bark from any place that they can find so that the war efforts of the United Nations may not suffer.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Unless we know in what spirit this legislation is taken by the South Africans we will not be on the right lines so far as this debate is concerned. In the words of Mr. Mitchell, the Chairman of the Select Committee "the revised draft ordinance would go hand in hand with proper town planning and controlled development, and—mark these words,—in conformity with South African tradition that separation of races is very necessary and to that end town planning can be associated with the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance administratively". The main idea behind any legislation that is enacted in South Africa is that the Indians will be segregated from the whites and it shall be mostly a white man's country. In other words, there is one race which wants to suppress the other race. In a few words one race wishes to persecute the other race. I do not know when Hitler will be defeated and finished but the spirit of Hitlerism is gaining ground. Although Hitler is at present in Germany his spirit is abroad and I have not the least doubt that so far as this colony is concerned it is gathering momentum. If we remember this, then we can understand that it would be useless to appeal to His Majesty's Government. The Government of India have from time to time spoken about their representations through the High Commissioner to the Union Government of South Africa but they have not been heeded to. As a matter of fact, my friend Sir Raza Ali was not wrong when he said that there is a belief that this Government is not in earnest. Public opinion has been very strong but the Government has been slow to move. I dare say that today the words that have fallen from the Leader of the House will dispel that belief. If we see the history of this Legislature for the last four years we will find questions and adjournment motions relating to this subject and they have always said: look here, there is only one way for us, the representation and what can we do? When this Government said we have made representations and we do not possess any sanctions, this House gave them the Reciprocity Act and yet they were most loath to enforce that Act. In connection with that adjournments have had to be brought up frequently. The last was in February 1944 brought by me to which reference has been made by the Honourable Member.

Well, Sir, at that time they put faith in Field-Marshal Smuts. They said that he was a strong man, that our Viceroy, himself a Field-Marshal, was dealing with another Field-Marshal in South Africa and that a soldier's word will always be respected. At that time Sir Raza Ali reminded us of a prophecy and his warning certainly proved prophetic today. He said: "Do not put your faith in General Smuts" and he quoted passages after passages how Field-Marshal Smuts had gone back on the words which he had pledged himself to. Still the Government of India gave Field-Marshal Smuts a chance and if he had followed the debates in this Assembly he would very well have thought that at least to disprove the words of Sir Syed Raza Ali, who had himself been in South Africa, he should rise to the occasion and keep to his pledged words.

I do not wish to go into the details of this Legislation, this Ordinance. The Honourable Member mentioned the Pretoria Agreement with which, he said, we were all satisfied. As a matter of fact I was to a certain extent thinking that the Government of South Africa was changing its attitude. I thought it was taking Indians into their confidence and whatever legislation or ordinance will be passed by them, Indians will be associated with it or consulted as to the lines on which they should proceed. But we have found out

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to our great disappointment that we were really wrong in thinking so. Sir, in view of the admissions of the Honourable Member, it is not necessary for me to analyse the several clauses of this ordinance. I may perhaps refer to one instance in which the South African Government have tried to go back on their promise, and have made a somersault. There was a Reconstruction Committee which made a recommendation that there cannot be economic watertight compartments, i.e., one race cannot be segregated from the other and the two races will have to get on together. The Commission stated:

"Your Commission believes that the population of Natal cannot be divided into economic watertight compartments based on racial lines. That is to say, if economic prosperity is to be established for the whole community, then in its view, the laws of economics must be allowed as free a play between the different racial groups as they are between individuals in each group."

In contradiction to this the Residential Property Regulation Draft Ordinance proposes to restrict the free play of economics by controlling acquisition of residential property and land by Indians. This is the latest instance which shows how these people can go back on their own pledged words. In other words we were hoodwinked and we were fools till now to believe them. Let it be said to the credit of the public that they have not acted foolishly, but it was the Government of India who have always acted foolishly till their hands were forced very recently. It was of course heartening and encouraging to hear just now the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House. I am very pleased at the attitude which he has taken and I am more happy to see that he has gone a step further, the Honourable Member says: "What are we to do. There is a war on and we must stand by the United Nations. Does it mean that we alone of all the United Nations must bear the brunt of the war in spite of the indignities heaped upon us." May I ask: does it mean that we must put up with everything and anything so that European civilisation may be saved and Indian civilisation and Indians themselves may go to the dogs? Does it mean that all other communities and races which enjoy the European civilisation should alone prosper and others should be annihilated. Now it seems to me that our prospects are very gloomy, if we do not start on the war path now. Let us think of this. If we help them to win the war and peace comes, who would sit round the table in the Peace Conference? Field-Marshal Smuts will be there. He has always been attending round table conferences and peace conferences and his words count, because he has received the best certificates from British statesmen like Mr. Churchill. His voice will be most potent. I am afraid there will be no peace after this peace conference. It will no more be a problem of Indians *versus* South Africans. It will be a question of Coloured races *versus* White races; and what better could Hitler or Japan desire than this situation. It would prove a very good weapon for them. Hitler would say, "See how you are treating the coloured races. What face have you to say that I shall not persecute the Jews. In what way are you better than me when there is so much persecution of one race by another within your own dominions". What kind of peace can there be with such conflicting interests between the coloured and white races. If this question is not amicably and satisfactorily settled (let this go to His Majesty's ears) there is very little chance not only of winning the peace soon but every prospects of prolonging the war. And peace that comes will only be a superficial peace which is likely to erupt any moment.

We were told that our Viceroy was a soldier and Field-Marshal Smuts was another soldier. We were asked to believe in the words of a soldier. We thought that one soldier would stand by his word and if he did not the other soldier would see to it that his words are respected. What was it that was said by Field-Marshal Smuts in his telegram? He said: "This was really a fair arrangement and we hope hereafter matters will be finally settled." He said in his telegram:

"The Natal Provincial Council is going to provide a joint board of five consisting of two Europeans and two Indian members under the chairmanship of a third European whose

function it would be to create a machinery for a board to control occupation by licensing of dwellings in certain areas and application of Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by Proclamation on passing of this ordinance."

Here he has gone back on a settlement which was according to him fair and what trust can we put in a soldier's word now?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Not a soldier's word but a Field-Marshal's.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It was asked by my Honourable friend what shall we do now and he said that he had put this Reciprocity Act into force. Very good, though you have done it at a very late stage. I myself had moved an adjournment motion about a year before that the rules should be ready and the Act should be put in force. But we were asked to put our trust in Field-Marshal Smuts. But we have now realised we have been betrayed, the confidence which you placed in your negotiations with Field-Marshal Smuts was a misplaced one. Now even it is not too late to mend matters. But you are halting in enforcing the Reciprocity Act. Now that you have struck, strike hard; go to the full length. I cannot understand this halting manner. Either declare war or do not declare war. But this halting position I cannot understand. If you wish to engage in a fight, then unless you throw your full force, whatever little action you take will recoil on you. I do not know what the Government of India feels like, but if you ask any person who has been engaging in fights of any kind, he will tell you to go full length—otherwise do not strike at all.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: But you are not one like that!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am going to do that; I have done like that throughout my life—go full steam ahead. All my life whenever I have engaged in a fight I have gone full length, whether in my school days or later. As a matter of strategy, therefore, I say, go with your full strength and strike at your opponents. I say if any of these Members of this Government were to appear before a selection board of the G. H. Q. every one of them would be turned down: they would not be considered fit.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: You will be turned down also!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: No. Psychologists and psychiatrists will tell you that you are unfit to lead this country and to protect the interests of this country. You possess a defeatist mentality. You vacate those seats and we will take them over and then show you what we can do. Therefore, I am telling you, do not be so helpless. When you said you were helpless and could not do anything we gave you the Reciprocity Act which you were most unwilling to wield.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): That is past history.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What I say now is, enforce this Reciprocity Act. You merely say something about acquisition of property and disposing of property. How does it affect them? You must apply this in every day matters—in the case of travel for instance. These people may not desire to acquire any property here and have no property here, but they have to travel every day: why do you not put these restrictions the same way as they do? Enforce all South Africans to put on badges saying they are South Africans so that it may be known to all of us who they are: force them to wear such badges and tell they cannot use our railways: prohibit them from travelling on our railways. So far tram cars are concerned, I hope my friends will urge that the municipal authorities are concerned with preventing South Africans from travelling on their tram cars; that is a matter of everyday occurrence; I hope my words will reach them. You will realise that it will have a psychological effect.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: They will be made to know what India means, and they will be treated in like fashion. As regards this High Commissioner, from the summary of his speech which my friend gave in the last debate in March, it would appear that the High Commissioner has done nothing except

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transferring letters which he receives and sending a summary of something or other this side. The people in South Africa for whom you wish to speak and whose interests you wish to protect have said "We do not want him". They know their own economic interests better. They say "Apply the economic sanctions". It is not you who are going to suffer; they are ready and they say "enforce the economic sanctions". With what face can you say "No"? They are the people who want it and they are going to live in that country. Therefore, whether it is by way of remonstrance as Sir James has said or whether it is by way of enforcing some sanctions and expressing our greatest displeasure and saving our High Commissioner from the most humiliating position in which he is placed.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: One minute, Sir. They must be saying "What is the use of this High Commissioner here? What can he do? He has been representing."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member must conclude his speech.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I will finish in five minutes.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): I am afraid the time is up. There is an arrangement with Parties to that effect.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: As the chief spokesman of his Party, he gets half an hour, Sir.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): If he gets half an hour, then I think the debate will not conclude.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Mr. Chairman, I will not take more than five minutes. After the speech which we have had from my Honourable friend, Sir Sultan Ahmed, we are fully satisfied with the attitude which the Government intends to take. He has told us very plainly what we can expect from the Government. As a business man, I would like to mean business. Time is money. Do it now. The only weapon Government has got in hand to teach these fellows a lesson is the economic sanction. Impose the economic sanction at once without delay, and then recall the High Commissioner, and note how the trick works. Unless Government does that, mere taking of time, talking in this House and explaining to us that Government is very much annoyed and aggrieved and want to do whatever it can, will not have any effect. Government must proceed in a business like way. Delay will be suicidal. Apply economic sanctions: Recall the High Commissioner. That is the only thing that Government should do, and nothing will prevent Government from getting what it wants. What is the use of retaliation? There may be 204 South Africans in India. What is the property they hold in India? Nothing at all. Whereas we have got 2 million Indians there in South Africa.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Two lakhs, not two millions.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Anyway 2 lakhs as against 204. This is the only effective weapon. If Government delays, then, take it from me that it will spell disaster. Now is the time. Do it now. Sir, I support the amendment.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, I will not take the time of the House for long. I congratulate the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations and my congratulations go more heartily to the Leader of the House for the Churchillian speech he has made in the House for the first time. The tone of that speech is clear enough to indicate that the Government of India is quite serious. I will not address much words to the Government of India, but I am afraid there are two other parties to address. One is South Africa. So far as South Africa is concerned, the tragic word has been spoken and war has been declared upon South Africans by the Government of India. Today's *Hindustan Times* must have been read by the Honourable Member—where the *Natal Mercury* has chosen to hold out serious threats both to the residents

in South Africa and to the Government of India as well. The paper points out that "the only course left open" to the two lakhs of people—Indians who are resident there—is to go down on their knees and ask for the mercy of the South African Government. The *Natal Mercury* has said that if the Reciprocity Act is to be applied, there will be reprisals. I personally wish that there be reprisals. We will welcome such reprisals. It is only then that we shall be able to hit back more effectively against them. This will also enable us to hit at the Imperialistic system to the great advantage to India.

Now, the third party whom I wish to address is His Majesty's Government. We now know that the Government of India is serious in this matter. We know also that they are in earnest. But after all is said and done, we cannot forget that the Government of India is a subordinate Government, getting their cue from His Majesty's Government. If Mr. Churchill is true to his word and is sincere about what he wrote about the part played by Indians in the development of South Africa—the well known passage from his book has been quoted several times on the floor of this House—we are sure that Mr. Churchill's Government will sanction all the measures which the Government of India will demand from them. I am sure that the Churchill Government would not compel the Government of India to lose in this war which has been declared from Delhi against South Africa.

I will say one word more and finish. Let not any impression go abroad that we retrace the steps which we have taken. The Leader of the House has rightly said that if the war effort is affected thereby, the responsibility is that of the 45 United Nations and not the responsibility of the Government of India. If the South African Government have declared war and the war effort suffers, the responsibility will be of those who have declared the war and it is for the United Nations to bring South Africa to its senses. With these words, I will finish my speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the speeches of the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations and the Leader of the House are a pleasant surprise and at the same time an encouraging sign. They show that a grave situation has been created by Field Marshal Smuts' action, by going back on his plighted word in the Pretoria Agreement. Unfortunately, Sir, this is not the first time that the South African Government has gone back upon its word. They promised in the Cape Town Agreement that they would put forth greater efforts to raise the standard of life of the Indian citizens in South Africa. The South African Europeans complain of the lower standard of life of the Indian people in that country but it is the South African Government which is responsible for keeping the Indians on a lower standard of life. They did not give them much education. They spent ten times more on European education than on the education of the Indians. They did not give Indians the full benefit of the labour laws and the social security legislation which they have. Therefore it is not for the South African Europeans to complain of the lower standard of life of the Indian and of the unfair economic competition. I therefore feel that the struggle that our countrymen are making in South Africa is fully justified and we from this Legislature should give them every support that we can. I am glad that the Government of India has been led into some action on this occasion. They have delayed action too long but when they act it is for us to recognise that at least they have done the right thing. In this connection I feel that some Members wrongly take the view that the application of the Reciprocity Act is retaliation. I do not think it is retaliation. It is placing both the South Africans in India and the Indians in South Africa on the same terms. There is therefore no retaliation in the application of the Reciprocity Act. This is reciprocity and not retaliation.

My Honourable friend Sir F. E. James said that the European Group does not approve of the economic sanctions on the ground that they may come in the way of the war effort. The Honourable the Leader of the House has pointed out that we Indians need not assume the responsibility and the monopoly of helping the war effort, while others can do anything they like to

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hamper the war effort. I therefore feel that the Europeans in this country will join the Indians in helping the struggle which the Indians are making in South Africa.

There is the question of the recall of the High Commissioner. Personally I feel that if we apply the Reciprocity Act and if we also apply the economic sanctions the question of the recall of the High Commissioner becomes a nominal one. He will have to come back to India, whether they send him back or we ask him to come back. I feel that the Government of India should act boldly.

I was somewhat sorry to hear from the Honourable the Commonwealth Relations Member that he feels that his powers are limited. Let him not feel that. It is wrong for him to feel that. The Government of India does not consist of the subordinate officials. They are the Government of India and if they unitedly exercise their influence with the British Government, they need not feel that their powers are limited. If they once feel that their powers are limited, then they will not be able to help our countrymen either in India or in South Africa. I therefore suggest to him very humbly—let him not feel that his powers are limited. He can depend upon the support of this House and the people of this country, if he does what the people want. I feel that the Government of India should act boldly and take courage in both hands and then I have no doubt that this matter will be settled satisfactorily. I support the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, the history of the relations between the White settlers in South Africa and the Indian settlers is one of the most dismal chapters in world history. Indians were invited, persuaded and cajoled to emigrate to South Africa and they helped in a very large measure to build up the prosperity of that country. But as soon as this object was achieved, injuries and insults were heaped on Indians one after another. Indians made appeals, submitted representations and pledges were given and solemn agreements were arrived at; but no sooner were these pledges given and solemn agreements made, they were thrown to the winds, and the attitude of the White settlers in South Africa grew from bad to worse as one day succeeded another.

Now, what is the attitude of the present Government? Their attitude has assumed the worst form. This attitude would not have been taken up by South Africa if the British Government had raised its little finger on behalf of the sentiments of 400 millions of the Indian people. But the British Government did not do anything to help us. Now, the question is: What shall we do? We are left to our own resources; and I am not sorry for that. We are struggling for freedom and unless we are able to exercise our own rights and to utilise our own resources to the fullest extent, we shall never be fit to gain freedom.

Sir, what, then, are we to do? What are the different methods which are open to us at the present moment? My Honourable friend Sir Frederick James, who is a very pleasant-mannered gentleman, in a half-hearted speech suggested that we should remonstrate and make appeals. But he made it clear that that was not his own view, but the view of the European Group. I am very sorry for the European Group. They are supposed to be the lovers of freedom, but in this case what do we find? We find that they are a party to humiliations being heaped upon India. They have not ever lifted their little fingers to help us, although they enjoy all the benefits, the rights and privileges of Indians.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Much more.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Yes, much more; I stand corrected.

Now, what are the ways open to us to deal with the present question? Last year the Reciprocity Act was passed and we have been told by the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations—I do not know whether

that title is an appropriate one, because we are not yet in the Commonwealth and still we have a Commonwealth Relations Member—that the Reciprocity Act had been put into force and a Notification had been published in the Gazette. This was done only two days ago. Better late than never. But what more can we do? We can enforce economic sanctions as rigidly as possible. There are some who doubt the efficacy of these economic sanctions, but it appears to me that the question of gain or loss does not arise when the honour and prestige of a nation is involved. Therefore, let us not hesitate to apply economic sanctions with the fullest rigour. It has also been suggested that the application of economic sanctions would impede war-effort, but that is not, as has been pointed out by the Honourable the Leader of the House, our responsibility. That is the responsibility of the British Government and their Allies. We are not intending to hamper the war-effort, but if through their action or inaction war-effort is impeded, we are not to blame.

Lastly, the question is whether we should recall the High Commissioner or not. It appears to me to be placing ourselves in a most humiliating position to retain our representative in South Africa when all sorts of indignities and humiliations are being heaped upon our countrymen in that place. Therefore, we should not have the least hesitation in recalling the High Commissioner. And as my Honourable friend Sir Syed Raza Ali points out, the High Commissioner has not been able to render any substantial assistance to the Indian community in South Africa. Why should we, therefore, hesitate to recall the High Commissioner. If we recall the High Commissioner, we will vindicate the honour and prestige of this country. We shall tell all people that we do not want our Representative to be there to be humiliated. We will raise the prestige and honour of our country and we shall also be able to raise our heads high before the world. For these reasons I support the amendment which has been moved and I hope that quick and immediate action will be taken in all these respects.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Mr. Chairman, this is not the first time that the question of degradation of Indians in South Africa has come up for discussion before this Honourable House. This is not the first time that it has been brought home to us, Indians, that a slave country has no place in this world anywhere. I feel that the time for speeches is over. All these speeches in the past have done some good by bringing home to the Government of India the true sentiments and the real feelings of the peoples of India, as has been evident from the two speeches that have been made by the two Honourable Members of the Government. I have not heard any speech made by anyone who has tried to whittle down the effect or minimise the consequences of the new ordinance that has been passed in South Africa. Therefore, it is evident that with regard to the injurious effects of that ordinance there are no two opinions in this House. The view that the European Group has taken with regard to this motion is that while they deplore what has happened in South Africa, they feel that the application of economic sanctions or the withdrawal of the High Commissioner will not be in the interests of the British Empire.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim resumed the Chair.)]

I am purposely not using the words "war effort" but I am using the words "British Empire". Sir, this is not the first time that whenever we, on this side of the House, have raised any question which is of vital importance to the peoples of this country, we have been confronted with this war and the consequences which any action might have on its prosecution. I say, Mr. President, damn your war efforts; and damn the British Commonwealth of Nations, if my position in that Commonwealth is to be that of hewer of wood and drawer of water. I am interested in your Commonwealth only to the extent that I enjoy the same freedom, the same privileges and the same rights as every free man in this

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world is entitled to enjoy. But if my helping you to maintain that Commonwealth means degradation to my people, abroad, then I say, the sooner this Commonwealth of British Nations vanishes the better it would be not only for India but for the peace of the world. Sir, what is the use of deceiving the people by expressions like 'Commonwealth' and so on? To me it seems that the meaning which is attached to the word 'Commonwealth' by the White races is that the wealth of the world is their common property. That is the only meaning that they wish to put on the word 'Commonwealth'. My Honourable friends of the European Group feel that you might not be able to put sufficient pressure by the methods which have been adopted. I say, yes. We might not. But if a country is impotent, if a country is not free, then does it mean that it should take lying down all the insults that may be heaped on its nationals in any part of the world? I am not free to declare war on South Africa, but I am certainly free to do as much damage to South Africa as I possibly can.

Sir, my Honourable friend the Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations—I think he should ask the name of his Department to be changed—has told us that the Government of India have applied the Reciprocity Act. Sir, it is good as far as it goes. But without the application of economic sanctions, it is no use your taking this action. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh that unless and until you are in real earnest about this matter, you should not have taken this action, because if your intention is only to show to the people of this country that the Government of India have done something, then I think, by this action of yours, you have done incalculable harm to our nationals in South Africa. It will only irritate the whites without affecting them in any way. The action which is required to be taken should be such as would affect South Africa, materially and financially. I go further and say, Mr. President, that the United Nations have made India their base, main base for operations in the East. The Government of India should tell His Majesty's Government that it is a fit case for their intervention and if His Majesty's Government are not able to put pressure on the Government of South Africa, then this Government, if it has any responsibility to the people in this land, should tell them that India will not be able to give any further help in the prosecution of this war. These are the methods by which you can bring it home to those people as to what India really feels, not by the method of applying half-hearted measure, known as the Reciprocity Act. I submit that even if, after the application of Reciprocity Act, there was no demand from this side of the House for the recall of the High Commissioner in South Africa, the Government of India in their own interest and in the interest of that man who is there as your High Commissioner should recall him. When a country is hurt, when a country is insulted, this is the first action that any free country takes, namely, to recall its representative from that particular country. I submit, Sir, that under the circumstances, it is not only futile but it is degrading to keep the representative of the Government of India in South Africa. Sir, I would go further and say that if the Government are really in earnest, the Honourable Member in charge of the Department should come forward asking for the amendment of this Act, the Reciprocity Act. Section 5 says:

"Any direction made by the Central Government under section 3 imposing disabilities in respect of entry into India or travel or residence in British India upon persons domiciled in a British possession shall not, until the expiry of six months after the termination of the present hostilities, apply to any person domiciled in that British possession, who is a member of the armed forces."

I say, Sir, I do not want any South African to be in this country whether he is in the armed forces or otherwise. A man who belongs to a nation which day in and day out is treating my people inhumanly has no right to be in my army or in my country, and therefore I suggest that the Honourable Member should in view of what has happened come forward asking for the amendment of this Act. We do not want anybody here to protect our country.

How can they protect the country of a people whose nationals they are treating in this disgraceful manner? Sir, I again appeal to the Government, you have taken some action, do not any longer be half-hearted about it. Go ahead full speed and you will have the support of every man, woman and child in this country.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, Sir, in rising to support the amendments that have been moved as regards the consideration of the question now before the House, I am deeply gratified to find at the terms in which that Resolution has been accepted, at all events, by the non-official Members of this House, barring the European Group, and supported not in half-hearted, but full-throated language even by the Leader of the House. The question now before the House is indeed a very old issue, even before the times, Sir, when you were the Leader of the Opposition in this House. Ever since 1870, I find it recorded by a Commission, then appointed for the purpose of investigation into the conditions of Indians in Natal, that the majority of the white colonies are opposed to the presence of free Indians as rival and competitor in agriculture or commercial purposes. That, Sir, is the beginning of this disgraceful story. That was the infection that spread to the Transvaal in the course of some three or four years thereafter. And thenceforward it has happened in the history of this country that those who were domiciled in foreign lands the Government of this country has found itself entirely impotent to protect. Indeed reference has been made to the new denomination of the Member in charge of this particular measure. At one time I was familiar with the words "Member for Indians Overseas". I thought that was good enough, neutral enough and respectable enough. But to call him the Commonwealth Relations Member is an innovation against which I wish to emphatically protest. For it is perfectly true, as I once pointed out in this House, even more than what my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party said today, that of all the countries in this world as I look round the only "common wealth", the wealth that is common property of all those who wish to exploit is poor India. Every other country has a special wealth of its own. You cannot enter it, you cannot leave it, you cannot trade in it, much less can you ever be a citizen of it. That is the condition of the legislation of all the countries of this world except this poor country in the hands of this present Government after a period of 150 years and after the experience which they have had with reference to the Indians as they are being treated overseas.

Sir, so far as the Indians overseas are concerned, the problem of South Africa has now raised a much larger issue than the mere issue of the Pegging Act under suspension or the Pretoria Agreement or the manner in which it has now been broken. The issue now raised is, what is going to be the position of Asiatics as they are described in the Pegging Act, and particularly the Indians, in the future of the world? And that is the way in which I want this issue to be considered by the Government of India, unless they are prepared to tell the House, which I hope they are not prepared to do, that in future whatever happens in this war, whoever wins or whoever loses,—and I trust the Britisher hopes to win, the position so far as Indians are concerned is going to remain exactly the same *vis-a-vis* Britain and *vis-a-vis* the rest of their colonies, let alone the foreigners. If that is the position which we are going to get, all the eloquent words that are here uttered with reference to post-war reconstruction and post-war arrangements had better not be uttered in this House at all, if indeed all that post-war reconstruction means is that they are going to reconstruct India in order that Britain may still remain the same dominant position by exploiting this land. Therefore it is that I can well understand the position that my Honourable friend Sir F. E. James has taken up. He has had the temerity to tell this House, "Look here, there are two things which you have got to consider. One thing is, what will you do for wattle-bark?" I suppose my Honourable friend

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knows that India tanned hides and not wattle-bark, long before that word was known to this land. But he could not do any better. I myself looked down the list of exports and imports of India and I venture to say that South Africa will be less able to do without India than India without South Africa. So that let him understand that this kind of half-hearted and feeble effort to remind Indians of the position in which they are is not going to last any long; that if they belong to this land, if they wish to be settlers in this land and to be called neighbours of this land, their attitude will have to alter here and now and immediately; that it is not merely a question of economics any longer, it is a real question of freedom and equality in the brotherhood of mankind. And if we are not going to occupy that position, then,—to quote the words of my Honourable friend Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan,—“what does it matter to us what happens in this war? It is all very well to frighten us, as used to be done at one time, by saying, ‘Oh, what will happen to you if we lose?’” But what will happen to you if you lose? Have you considered that problem and have you considered the position today, of not allying yourselves with Indians in every question that concerns the Indians in the complete and fullest manner? That is the appeal I make again after several years to my friends of the European Group. But the question is not merely addressed to them, it is addressed to His Majesty's Government. At present on account of the large issue that has arisen,—and in a way out of evil cometh good,—it is just as well that General Smuts, the show-boy of Mr. Churchill throughout the period of this war, has been quoted, and he has had the temerity to tell us what can be done and what cannot be done. Sir F. E. James failed to quote the rest of the speech which General Smuts made, and I will quote the last words there:

“White South Africa” (*W-h-i-t-e*) “is big and strong and honest enough to do justice to all races and all colours and we shall do so,”—(*Mark these words*)—“and we shall do so taking into consideration our known attitude of separatism in housing, work circles and associations.”

No greater insult could have been offered to the Indians who have made at all events Natal what it is. Figures are known to this House. There are 195,000 domiciled Indians in Natal alone today as against 205,000 Europeans. Therefore it is that—though there are only 20 thousand in the next colony, eleven in the third and nine in the Orange Free State,—we know exactly what the issue is. The issue is not one which is merely confined to Natal in its effect and in its consequences; and hence it is that it is up to us to consider the question of where we stand today. When we, for instance, said in this House some years ago that the war was declared against our will and against our consent we were told “Oh, that is all very well, but we have done so to protect you”. If this is what is meant by protection, if what is meant by protection is that South Africans are to be encouraged, that all countries where Indians reside are to be encouraged, that they are to be pampered, that they are to be flattered and fattened in order that we may bleed and fleece for them,—they are very much mistaken. The time has now come when we must recognise and realise what our position is going to be after the war. It is not a question of saying, “Oh, yes, on some future distant day we shall declare you a dominion”. The time has now come to recognise the issue as a living issue here and now. And hence it is that from many other places we have demanded that in so far as the freedom of India is concerned, it is a matter of declaring here and now. India is being made the basis of operations and the question is not merely whether or not the Indians in South Africa will be allowed to buy or occupy land in particular areas. That is merely a test of the question. You are aware of what has happened in the history of that unfortunate South African legislation, apart from what happened in the year 1870 and the eighties and the nineties. The question came up first, thank God, when that country gave us the first real measure of our fight for freedom. It was there for the first time that Mahatma Gandhi was able to face the real

issue of self-respect of subject races. It is he who fought against General Smuts himself, and it is General Smuts who in 1914 entered into what is known as the Gandhi-Smuts Agreement which is the charter on which the Indians, subject as they are to restrictions, still base their rights today. The spark that came to fire that day is going now to devastate other lands. If the freedom of this country is not going to be achieved here and now, what is this war being fought for? Britain says she must be free, Germany shall not offend them or encroach upon them. That is perfectly true, but you cannot have abstract ideas, one freedom for yourselves and another freedom for the rest of the world.

This is a world war in its true sense of the term. Apart from the fact that it encircles the world, it has a greater significance. If China is to be one of the powers that is going to play a vital part in safeguarding the future security and peace of the world, do you expect that the rest of the world, if it remains subjugated, is going to end the war, notwithstanding the fact that this war may be won? Do you really believe in your heart of hearts that China is really to sell the rest of the world? If you think so, I am afraid you are very much mistaken; you are also mistaken if you think that the Asiatics are any longer going to allow themselves to remain as subject races of the world. If you are fighting the war merely in the sense that you are going to raise your dignity higher and higher in the eyes of the world, by all means do so, but don't tell us it is our war. It will be only our war if you, here and now, tell us that you and I are equals, that you are as free as we are. It is the only thing which is important, namely, that the European people of the world should proclaim freedom for everybody and for this land. This is the real issue which has acquired much importance. It is not a matter of recalling the High Commissioner, that is a small measure. I can understand what exists in your mind, but I cannot understand the mind of any Member who says we must consider how we can recall the Commissioner. Does he remember that if the freedom of a single national of any of the European countries was concerned, their own Ambassador would be recalled next morning? Does he remember that the breaking of diplomatic relations is only a step to the declaration of war with that country from which you recall your Ambassador? It is true and I fully appreciate it that we are not in a position to declare war—perhaps that is the reason why they are talking in the language in which they do—but what does it matter whether it is so or otherwise. So far as we are concerned, we cannot be a party to any diplomatic relations with a country that has no respect for my nationals. What does he usually do? I have no soft corner for any particular individual. He is generally unable to say anything to the Colonial Office or to General Smuts, so he comes and bullies us “why don't you accept this or why don't you accept that”. That is the only use we can make of that Agent. He gets correspondence from the Government of India and he goes from one white house, dark house or black house to another in which other people are housed. Therefore, in so far as the three measures at our disposal are concerned, Sir, it is our necessary duty that we shall apply them.

And to take them, therefore, in order, in so far as the Reciprocity Act is concerned, it should be made no excuse. The 5th Section, to which my Honourable friend referred, should be made no excuse to tolerate any individual with a greater freedom in my land than my own countryman is enjoying there. After all what is our contribution? Two million men have been raised in this country. They are good enough to fight so far as the security of this land is concerned. No doubt it is true that they have imported some others to fight along with us in order that it may not be said that we were alone able to defend ourselves. That also I am aware of, but it is perfectly true also that many excuses can be made in the name of war effort. Nobody is more anxious than myself that we should make a common effort to fight for the cause of freedom, but standing, as I do, here after a little more than five years after the declaration of war, we demand that it should be clearly understood that we shall fight for our freedom as much as we have fought for the

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freedom of others. Therefore, I say that if they continue to think in the terms they do in South Africa—that we are an inferior race, that they cannot tolerate a free Indian, equal in agriculture or commerce—if that language which was used in the year 1870 is going still to be the governing sentiment of the Europeans as a race or Europeans as a body, then I may tell you that there is going to be no peace, notwithstanding that this particular war may be won. I think it ought to be recognized everywhere else and should be recognised here and now that there cannot be any peace so long as the world consists of two portions: one part standing as a victor to dictate peace and another part standing as their subject races.

Look at the map of the world. Africa—there is no colour of European country which is not represented there and they hope to retain that as a part of their dominions, whether it is Belgium or whether it is Holland or whether it is France or whether it is Germany—I hope they will come to terms with them in some manner or other—and of course Britain. If that is also going to be the history of occupation of the rest of Asia, well, you may be quite sure that whatever may be agitating the world, the world is not going to stand still. The world will not and cannot tolerate any inequality between man and man in what is now called a highly civilized condition. In other words, India and the rest of it, Burma, which you are going to conquer—that we are going to conquer, if I may be permitted to say so, with a little modesty or immodesty—and Indo-China and all the rest of it, is going still to be the hunting ground of Europeans—French in one place, English in the other, and a little further South the Dutch in Java and Sumatra,—so that as I look round the world I do not see any peace in it, not unless and until they rise to the stature, real, genuine and honest, namely, that we stand for democracy, that we fight for democracy, that we wish to see every human being free in his own land. "Peace in the world and goodwill to all" is not enough. That you recite every Sunday, but that is not enough. It has to be translated into action, it has to be translated into life, it has to be translated into sacrifice every day of the week. For indeed I have read during the last few months a great deal of controversy going on.

They say in the country to which my friends belong and who are at present dominant in this land, "Remember that the standard life is to be maintained, remember that that standard of life will depend on trade, remember that we have to increase our trade even in excess of what it was before the war." We remember all that. But I began to ask myself where do I come in. That is all very well, but where do I come in. And the question so far as this House is concerned is—I am very glad that they have almost directly raised this issue—why should they tell us if war effort suffers, therefore please don't displease Africa. Have you had the courage to tell Africa that war effort suffers? That is the attitude of every man who is either a part of that Government or a constituent part in the constitutional sense or a part of the Government in the racial sense. You come to the same answer. War effort is good, we wish to win, but if liberty is not given to Africa and Asia then you may be quite certain that you will not have peace in this world. You will only have peace and lasting peace not by accumulating arms of two or three powers—I suppose in order to please the Asiatics they say China is going to be one of those security powers, it is all right to say that but it is wrong to plan like that—but by liberating other nations of the world. Other races of the world will have a great deal to say before real peace comes. Therefore, I say that in so far as the two amendments before the House are concerned, we wholeheartedly support them. We demand that with regard to the half-hearted sanction so far as the Reciprocity Act is concerned there must be an immediate amendment to section 2, we demand that the Commissioner should be immediately recalled. There is no time to lose in giving effect to this. While this House is yet considering it, the Natal Council has had the decency or indecency or courage or whatever mood you may like to call it, I do not know, to pass that Ordinance so that it will be taken as an

accomplished fact. Let it be remembered that there are many accomplished facts to which Indians have submitted but the time has gone by when Indians will not submit to what I call accomplished facts if the peace of the world is to be imperilled thereby. Therefore we also ask that in so far as economic sanctions are concerned, they should be applied forthwith. As for any further measures that are concerned, it will be later on for us to consider. It will be for us to consider to what extent we shall participate in this war, which to a great extent is a war for the perpetuation of our domination. Therefore it was that unless it was made our war we shall not be made a party to it. And the issue remains to-day still the same whether we are parties to the continuation of our domination or whether we are parties to our own freedom. On that depends the issue of the House.

Sir, I support the amendments.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understood from Mr. Chairman who was occupying the Chair before I came in, that it has been arranged that after Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Khare is to reply to the debate.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): There is plenty of time yet, if you will allow one or two more speakers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Dr. Khare.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am grateful for the sense of appreciation to which general expression has been given in this House. Sir, I do not want to flatter myself or to pat myself on my back. I have done what I could within my limited power and resources and I also realise it is precious little. I have made no secret of it. I have compared it to a rubber nipple without milk. So there can be no two opinions on this matter and I may further want to add that so far as sentiments for India's domination, democracy, opinion of the world, racial discrimination and exploitation and sovereign equality and what not have been expressed, I am in entire agreement with any Indian who calls himself the son of Mother India. I do not make a vain boast. I have said so in my speech. I wish, Sir, that India could have been in the position of declaring war against South Africa here and now. As my friend the Honourable Colleague from Bombay asked, why not war? But he is non-violent. I am not. Yet it comes from him. It is surprising.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: You should know better.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, I wish India was free to declare war. Had it been so, I assure the House that I would have lost no time in taking all the arms and implements available and invading that country and perhaps being in the forefront. Unfortunately, it is not so. We are all aware that we are a politically subject people. You cannot blink at that fact. (*An Honourable member:* "Why not resign?") For this subjection every Indian, including the Members of the Opposition, and all our ancestors, are responsible. They cannot single me out for that blame and if they want me to resign, I ask them: What has brought you back here? After all you have come here. You know your limitations. You know your Legislature is not a Sovereign Legislature; yet you have come back here to do service within those limitations. I have come here to a similar Government, also to do service.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: We are only a Dunkirk!

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Reference has been made about the withdrawal of the High Commissioner. I have already told the House that we have not yet reached any decision one way or the other. The question is open and it can appear to anybody that that should be the step. There is nothing new in that. It occurred to me also. But, Sir, I take it that as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has said, that immediately we withdraw the High Commissioner we declare war, but we are not in a position to do that.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: What will happen?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Therefore, it is not worth while to take any hasty decision. After all we have to see how things develop and be circumspect about it. These withdrawal and re-entry measures have been indulged in

[Dr. N. B. Khare.]

by the Opposition *ad nauseam*. They may please the Opposition Members but I do not think this policy has achieved anything at all. Therefore, I would not like to be the laughing-stock of the world as they have been. So before any withdrawal takes place, I will have to think twice. That is my attitude.

So far as my friend, Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee is concerned, he has only made one point that the reasons for the issue of the Ordinance in East Africa are not true. There is no scarcity of any food, etc. In my opening speech I said: We have conveyed to them that the Government of India do not hold that there are any valid reasons for the Ordinance. So he has made no point at all.

So far as my friend, Sir Frederick James is concerned, I do not want to say anything because Sir Frederick and Sir Sultan have cancelled each other.

I take very strong objection to some sentiments expressed by my friend Sir Raza Ali. He has expressed doubt about the sincerity of the Government of India in this matter. He has said it is only lip sympathy. I hope I am correct. If it is so, I repudiate the whole thing with all the emphasis at my command and with the contempt it deserves.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Why did you not enforce sanctions last year? Why were you waiting for eleven months?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am coming to that. Do not be impatient.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Let us hear Adolphus!

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Don't spoil the effect of your speech!

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: My Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh has pointed out that there are likely to be reprisals against Indians as well as against the Government of India, although I do not know how they can take any steps against Government of India. If they are going to invade India we will welcome it. Therefore, I still maintain that we should watch and see what reprisals they will take upon our nationals. Perhaps they may themselves find it necessary to declare our High Commissioner *persona non-grata*. If that happens there will be no difficulty to recall him.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Waiting for him to be kicked out.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: There is another inaccuracy which has crept into the speech of my Honourable friend from Nagpur, Mr. Deshmukh, to which I am bound to refer. When he referred to the application of the Reciprocity Act, how it was brought into being, etc., I think he gave us wrong history. He said that the Government of India were unwilling even to accept that measure which we passed in this House sometime in 1943.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: That is quite correct.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The fact of the matter is that the measure of my Honourable friend which was passed by this House was incapable of being brought into force. When I took charge in May I found that that was the position after I had got it examined and I lost no time in bringing before this House the amended measure in July which this House passed. They will thus see how far the charge of unwillingness and delay can be sustained. I am afraid my Honourable friend is not on strong ground in view of the sequence of history in relation to this measure.

Then, Sir, the matter of war effort was mentioned. The Honourable the Leader of the House has gone far ahead of the Honourable the Member for Commonwealth Relations. As far as I remember I simply said; if you think of going out of the Commonwealth we may perhaps fall from the frying pan into the fire. It is a maxim known to all of us. Its implications are well known. I do not think any further amplification is necessary on that point.

My friend Mr. N. M. Joshi has charged us with delaying action among several other things. I do not know that I am guilty of that charge. I have taken great pains to explain in detail what transpired between us and South Africa in

the course of several months. I have given dates. The House will consider whether in the course of negotiations it is at all proper to bring this Reciprocity Act into effect. Would it have in any way helped the negotiations? Before the negotiations actually failed, as they ultimately did, was it at all wise to apply any act? If you consider the matter dispassionately I am sure you will come to the same conclusion.

Another point made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, is the distinction between reciprocity and retaliation. Sir, this is nothing but hair-splitting. Supposing I give a slap in the face of my Honourable friend and he gives one in return to me, what is it? Is it reciprocity or retaliation? I maintain it is both. He has attempted to swell our head about the power which we possess. Sir, we know what power we possess. We cannot easily be befooled with fanciful ideas about our having full power. Therefore if we proceed on the basis that we have adopted I think it is wisdom and not folly.

Sir, some people have expressed doubts about our attitude even today. In my opening speech I have said emphatically that the Government of India will not shirk doing any overt act which is necessary and possible in this behalf. Is it necessary to give any further assurance?

Much has been made about the name of my department, from "Indians Overseas" to "Commonwealth Relations". This is not germane to the issue under discussion. It is merely a change of name and I have never made any fuss about it. I am not ashamed to declare here and now that the change has no political significance at all. It is merely on paper. After all what is there in a name?

Sir, the amendments which have been moved so far are two in number. The purport of them all is that the Reciprocity Act should be applied, that the High Commissioner should be recalled and that economic sanctions should be enforced. About the Reciprocity Act you have got it already applied by a Gazette Extraordinary. About the recall of the High Commissioner I have expressed my own views on it absolutely without any hesitation, and about the economic sanctions also I told the House that this matter also is under the serious consideration of the Government. And I hope it won't take very long to decide on them one way or the other. I have also, I remember, in my opening speech, requested the House to give their advice as to what should be done in this matter. Therefore, Sir, I want to tell the House that I do not think I should like to fetter the hands of the House in any decision which they want to take on these three matters. It is entirely for the House to give its advice. I do not think, Sir, I shall want to waste any more time of the House and I thank the House again for all the good opinions which they have expressed from all quarters except one.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I shall first put Dr. G. V. Deshmukh's amendment. The question is:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion: 'and having considered the matter, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of South Africa's Union not being of Indian origin and should immediately recall the High Commissioner for India in South Africa.'"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next amendment is the one moved by Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943 against the Nationals of those countries.'"

[Mr. President]

To this, there is an amendment moved by Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee, after the word 'Nationals' the following words be inserted: 'not being of Indian origin'."

I shall put the last amendment first. The question is:

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee, after the word 'Nationals' the following words be inserted: 'not being of Indian origin'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I shall now put Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee's amendment as amended. The question is:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals, not being of Indian origin, of those countries.'"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I shall now put the original motion as amended by the amendments passed by the House.

The question is:

"That the position of Indians in South Africa and East Africa be taken into consideration; and having considered the matter, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith exercise the Powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of South Africa's Union not being of Indian origin and should immediately recall the High Commissioner for India in South Africa; and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943), against the Nationals, not being of Indian origin, of those countries."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 7th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES UNDER CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

122. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands lay a statement on the table of the House giving the grants, both recurring and non-recurring, to the three Universities under the direct control of the Government of India (Delhi, Benares and Aligarh) for the years 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to mention the grants given to the associated colleges of the Delhi University during the same period in addition to the grants given to the University?

(c) Did the Benares and Aligarh Universities approach the Government of India for special recurring and non-recurring grants during the period?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes.

Statement

	1939-40		1940-41		1941-42	
	R.	N. R.	R.	N. R.	R.	N. R.
1. Aligarh Muslim University.	3 lakhs		3 lakhs		3 lakhs	
2. Benares Hindu University.	3 lakhs		3 lakhs		3 lakhs	
3. Delhi University.	1 lakh		1.25 lakhs.	1.5 lakhs.	1.5 lakhs.	1 lakh
4. Delhi Colleges	98,655	†1 lakh	97,672	‡50,000	98,521	‡50,000

	1942-43		1943-44		1944-45.	
	R.	N. R.	R.	N. R.	Budget	Estimates
1. Aligarh Muslim University.	3 lakhs		†3.15 lakhs.		†3.15 lakhs.	
2. Benares Hindu University.	3 lakhs		†3.15 lakhs.		†3.15 lakhs.	
3. Delhi University.	1.75 lakhs.	1 lakh	‡2,48,693	3 lakhs.	‡2.99 lakhs.	‡50,000
4. Delhi Colleges	97,887	‡50,000	2,88,398		‡2.641 lakhs.	‡2.5 lakhs.

†Including grant for dearness allowance.

‡Grants to Hindu College.

§This amount will be given to the colleges only if they move to the University site. It is, however, unlikely that any of the colleges will be able to move to the University site. No grant will therefore be made to any of the colleges.

¶Grant to A. A. College.

R.—Recurring.

N. R.—Non-recurring.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the reply to part (c)?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer is "Yes".

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What reply did the Government of India give?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member did not ask that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I ask now. May I know whether the Government of India made any grant to the Universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer to that is covered by the statement I have laid on the table.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON ALIGARH UNIVERSITY DUE TO INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

123. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is not a fact that the Government of India gave a grant of three lakhs of rupees to the Aligarh University at a time when Intermediate Classes did not form part of University education?

(b) Is it not a fact that in subsequent years the Government of India by its own enactment abolished the Intermediate College in the Aligarh University and transferred the teaching of Intermediate Classes to the University?

(c) Did the Government of India realise that by such an enactment the responsibility of the maintenance of the Intermediate College was transferred from the Provincial Government to the Central Government?

(d) Is it not a fact that Intermediate Classes are now maintained out of the grant of three lakhs of rupees which the Government of India gave about thirteen years ago?

(e) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that the burden of maintaining the Intermediate Classes has fallen on the University which was previously under the Provincial Government which means an expense of about one lakh of rupees per annum on the University?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The annual recurring grant to the Aligarh Muslim University was increased from Rs. 1.25 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs with effect from 1930-31.

(b) Legislation to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act with a view to abolishing the Intermediate College and transferring the teaching of Intermediate Classes to the University was undertaken by Government in 1931 at the express request of the University.

(c), (d) and (e). It is understood that the grant made by the Government of the United Provinces to the Intermediate College, Aligarh Muslim University, was transferred by that Government to the University after the passing of the Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1931. The Honourable Member was personally apprised of this position in 1931.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the grant was sanctioned a year before the passing of the Act by which they abolished the Intermediate College?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Intermediate College was abolished after the grant of 3 lakhs.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: At the time the grant was given, Intermediate classes did not exist and this grant was for the Post-Intermediate classes?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not admit that all. The Aligarh University was supporting the Intermediate College before that College was abolished. I suppose it is supporting the Intermediate classes since that College was abolished.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Prior to the abolition, the Intermediate College was supported by the Provincial Government and after the enactment by the Government of India of the Act of 1931 the responsibility was transferred entirely from the Provincial Government to the Central Government and we have been maintaining it out of the grant of three lakhs. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Provincial Government was supporting the Intermediate College prior to its abolition by enactment of the Government of India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: They gave a small grant which, I understand, was transferred to the University when the Intermediate classes were transferred to the University.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This really means that the grant which was previously given by the Provincial Government is now transferred to the University, which means out of the grant of three lakhs which the Government is giving us.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member has misunderstood me. The Government of the United Provinces made a grant to the Intermediate College

and I understand that when the Intermediate College was closed and the classes were transferred to the University, the Government of the United Provinces transferred that grant to the University.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: That is not a fact. The Intermediate classes have been expanding and the number has now trebled and the Government of the United Provinces does not give the grant equivalent to half the expenditure. They have clearly said that it is not their responsibility. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have no information on that point.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: At the time the Government of India Act was passed, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain the then Education Member gave me clearly to understand that any financial loss of revenue to the University will be compensated by the Government of India. It is not on record. I wanted to expose it on the floor of the House but I was asked not to speak and the Bill got through in five minutes. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: This is the subject matter of a later question.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON ALIGARH UNIVERSITY DUE TO INTERMEDIATE CLASSES

124. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is not a fact that by the enactment mentioned in the previous question private candidates cannot appear in the Intermediate Examination as they could do prior to the enactment?

(b) Are the Government aware that the loss of income to the University on account of stopping private candidates from appearing at the Intermediate Examination amounts to Rs. 40,000 per annum?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that the Honourable the Education Member then in charge promised to compensate the losses of the University? Was any compensation ever given? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1931, did not affect the power of the University to admit private candidates to its examinations. The University of its own accord had restricted admission of private candidates to the Intermediate Examination prior to the enactment of the 1931 amending act.

(b) No.

(c) Government are not aware of any such promise. The second and third parts of the question do not arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Prior to 1931, the Intermediate Examination did not form part of the University. After passing the Act, the Intermediate Examination was transferred from its independent position to the University and under section 5(3)(a) of the Act, private candidates are prohibited. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The University by its own action had precluded itself from admitting private candidates to the Intermediate examination before the Act of 1931 was passed and the Act of 1931 did not alter that position.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend does not know that the Government of India sent Mr. Richey and asked us to abolish the system of private candidates altogether. We did that. Afterwards, is it not a fact that the Government of India went to the Governor and asked us to abolish the system of private candidates, both High School and Intermediate?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member cannot have a debate on a question like this. It cannot be done by means of question and answer.

WAR EFFORTS OF ALIGARH UNIVERSITY

125. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware of the war efforts of the Aligarh University?

(b) Did the Government of India in any of its report mention the war efforts of the Aligarh University?

(c) Did the Government of India make any contribution to meet the expenditure incurred during the war by the University in connection with war efforts?

(d) Does the Education Department realise that all the war work in the University has got educative value and, as such, it comes directly within the purview of the Education Department?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) The Department of Education, Health and Lands have not published any report in which war efforts of the Aligarh University could be mentioned.

(c) Yes. The Honourable Member, as the Vice-Chancellor of the University, is well aware that assistance is being given by the Departments of Labour and War to the University in connection with their war efforts.

(d) War work done in a University may have its educative value but as such work is of a specific character and is undertaken primarily with a view to promote war efforts, it comes within the purview of the departments directly concerned in the matter.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Am I to understand that the Government of India in the Education Department is not aware that India is at war? These efforts have an educative value, if they have no educative value the University will have nothing to do with them. We are not Military Staff College.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the nature of the war effort that the Aligarh University is carrying on and which the other Universities are not carrying on?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have not had notice of that question.

Sardar Sant Singh: How has the Honourable Member made a reply with regard to the war effort if he did not know the nature of the war effort?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I know the nature of the war effort which is being made by the Aligarh University, but my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga has asked me about the war efforts that are being made by the other Universities. Of that I have had no notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I ask what is the special war effort that is made by the Aligarh University?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: To that I can reply. There is the formation of an Indian Air Training Corps, the establishment of an Aeronautical Workshop and work for war technicians in respect of which a hostel has been erected. Those, I think, are the principal lines of war work.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We have also got a pre-cadet school which is one of the most important institution and also an institute of military science.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am prepared to take it from the Honourable Member.

POLICY RE SELECTION OF CONTROL GOODS SHOPS

126. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the policy of the Government in the selection of shops for the sale of various goods under control? Is it not a fact that the policy of the Government is to select those persons who controlled the trade before the beginning of Government control?

(b) Have the Government only selected the individuals to run the controlled shops, or have they also allocated the quota?

(c) Have they introduced the system of control shops in the districts of Surat and Ahmedabad and, if so, how are the persons selected to sell the controlled articles? What quota has been given to each community? Has the quota been given in proportion to the volume of the trade each community had before the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government's policy in the selection of shops for the sale of controlled goods is to interfere as little as possible with normal trade channels, and to make use as far as possible of those persons

who were in the trade over a period of time before the beginning of Government control.

(b) Government makes use of a quota system for the distribution of controlled woollen goods of Indian manufacture, cotton textiles and scheduled wireless sets.

(c) Government has some recognised dealers in Indian woollen goods and scheduled wireless sets in Ahmedabad, but not in Surat. There are selected dealers in brass utensils manufactured out of brass released by Government in Ahmedabad and Surat. Selection of dealers is made from amongst those who are established and considered to be eligible, and was not made on community basis. The conditions of eligibility vary according to the articles controlled, but are based on normal trade practices.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask why was Surat excluded because the complaint came from there that you do not apply the normal rules there because they would benefit a certain class of people?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would rather like to have notice of that question, but as far as I am aware they were distributed on the basis of the applications made. Several times it has come to my notice that places have been excluded because dealers did not apply in time. But I should like to have notice of the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the same policy applies to the distribution of consumer goods which are now imported under the lend-lease?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that these shops or most of them are being given only to those who are the favourites of the Government and who have done something for them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I categorically deny this statement and challenge the Honourable Member to prove one single case in which this has been done.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the case of Sind where shops are being given to such persons as are the favourites of Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sind may be a special favourite of my Honourable friend, but we have distributed in Sind, as elsewhere, on uniform principles.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries to find out what is the real case, because even the District Magistrate admitted to me by saying that they have been given to some favourites of Government who had done something for the Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the Honourable Member mentions to me some concrete cases, I shall be glad to make inquiries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps Government have taken or propose to take in order to prevent any arbitrary use of the power of licensing these various shops and selecting some shop-keepers with reference to orders?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know if any such rules can be made which can be said to be entirely fool-proof, but all I can say is that for the last 18 months I have been keeping a careful watch on the representations which have been made to me on the score of distribution. The difficulty, however, comes in because of the fact that we have not got enough commodities. We have to give them to some and therefore we generally follow the practice of inviting applications and get names from the Government and from the local people in some cases. Generally, we hold a Conference of the trade interests and after that the lists are published. Even thereafter, if there is any such case which has for some reason or other been excluded, we try to incorporate it as far as possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of constituting local Advisory Committees in view of the fact that Government already have proposed to hold a Conference of the trade interests in the matter and take their advice before they make their final choice?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Advisory Committees are attached to the Controller-General at Bombay of different trades. In addition to them, we have constituted a Consumers' Council wherein there are representatives of some of the newspaper interests of biggest circulation, members of this House, representatives of the public, educational interests and various other interests. Up till now we have had two meetings of this Council, which is representative of all the provinces. There has not been a single complaint on that score but I shall certainly go into this matter to find out if we can do anything further in this matter.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member, especially after the challenge that he has held out and which I receive so far as Lyallpur is concerned, what steps has he taken to make it clear to the provincial persons who are in charge of this controlled business that the policy which is adopted by the Government of India is followed by them in actual practice?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have repeatedly drawn the principles of the Circular to the notice of the provincial authorities and we get weekly reports. In addition to that, I have always received representations supported and endorsed by some of the Honourable Members of this House and have always looked into them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they made it clear to the local authorities that no political considerations should come in when they decide matters of licences?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF CERTAIN OFFICES UNDER THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

127. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state specifically and separately the number of posts carrying monthly salaries between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750, Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,500 and above in (i) his Department (Labour), (ii) Central Public Works Department, (iii) the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery, (iv) the Central Stationery Office, (v) the Central Forms Store, (vi) the Central Publication Branch, (vii) the Government of India Presses, (viii) the Explosives Department, and (ix) Miscellaneous?

(b) What is the number of (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Muslims, (iv) Hindus, (v) Depressed Classes, (vi) Sikhs, and (vii) Indian Christians holding such posts? (Please give the number, separately for each community under each head.)

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The distribution of the posts is as under:

Departments	Posts carrying pay between			
	Rs. 500— 750	Rs. 750 1,000	Rs. 1,000 1,500	1,500 and over
Labour Department	19	4	13	10
Central P. W. D.	25	50	2	15
Stationery and Printing	10	7	1	1
Explosives	2	1	1	1
Miscellaneous	71	70	24	26
Total	127	132	41	53

(b) A detailed statement showing the appointments made community-wise is laid on the table. The position in a summary form is as follows:—

Statement I.

Name of the community	Ra. 500 and Rs. 750					Posts Carrying Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000				
	Lab. Dept.	Central P. W. D.	Sty. and Ptg.	Misc.	Total	Lab. Dept.	Central P. W. D.	Sty. and Ptg.	Misc.	Total
Europeans	...	3	...	1	4	2	5	5	19	31
Anglo-Indians	...	1	1	1	3	...	1	1	2	24
Muslims	1	4	...	11	16	...	9	...	9	18
Hindus	16	15	8	40	79	2	25	1	30	58
Sikhs	...	...	...	5	5	...	2	...	2	4
Scheduled Caste	1	...	...	3	4	...	3	...	...	3
Indian Christian	1	2	1	4	8	...	5	...	5	10
Others	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	...	2	4
				7 (Vacant)					2 (Vacant)	
Total	19	25	10	73	127	4	50	7	71	132

Pay Between

Name of the community	Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500.					Over Rs. 1,500.				
	Lab. Dept.	Central P. W. D.	Sty. and Ptg.	Misc.	Total	Lab. Dept.	C. P. W. D.	Sty. and Ptg.	Misc.	Total
Europeans	2	1	1	7	11	4	8	...	15	27
Anglo-Indians	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Muslims	3	...	...	3	6	2	1	...	1	4
Hindus	7	1	...	13	21	4	4	1	9	18
Sikhs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Scheduled Caste	1	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...
Indian Christian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
									(Vacant)	
Total	13	2	1	25	41	10	15	1	27	53

Statement II

Department	No. of posts	Posts carrying pay between.			
		Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	Rs. 1,500 and over
Department of Labour	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	19	1 (I. C.)	...	...
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	4	16 (H.)	2 (E.)	4 (E.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	13	1 (M.)	3 (M.)	2 (M.)
	Rs. 1,500 and over	10	1 (S. C.)	7 (H.)	4 (H.)
	Total	46		1 (S. C.)	
Central P. W. D.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	25	3 (E.)	1 (E.)	8 (E.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	50	1 (A. I.)	1 (H.)	1 (A. I.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	2	4 (N.)	9 (M.)	1 (M.)
	Rs. 1,500 and over	15	15 (H.)	25 (H.)	4 (H.)
	Total	92	2 (I. C.)	3 (S. C.)	1 (H.)
				2 (S.)	
				5 (I. C.)	
Controller of Printing and Stationery.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	3	1 (A. I.)	...	...
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,500	3	2 (H.)	2 (E.)	1 (A. I.)
	Total	7			

Department	No. of posts	Posts carrying pay between			
		Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	Rs. 1,500 and over
Central Stationery Office	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	4	4 (H.)	1 (H.)	
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	2		1 (E.)	
	Total	6			
Central Forms Store	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (H.)		
Central Publication Branch	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (I. C.)		
Government of India Presses	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (H.)	2 (E.)	1 (E.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,500	3			
	Total	4			
Explosives Department	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	2	2 (H.)	1 (E.)	1 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	1		1 (E.)	1 (E.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	1			
	Between Rs. 1,500 and over	1			
	Total	5			
Miscellaneous—					
Geological Survey of India, Mines and Indian School of Mines.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	9	5 (H.)	5 (E.)	8 (E.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	14	3 (S.)	8 (H.)	4 (H.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	9	1 (I. C.)	1 (I. C.)	
	Between Rs. 1,500 and over	12			
	Total	44			
Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	1	1 (H.)		1 (E.)
	Between Rs. 1,500 and over	1			
	Total	2			
Civil Pioneer Force	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	37	1 (E.)	6 (E.)	
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	29	8 (M.)	1 (A. I.)	2 (E.)
	Between Rs. 1,500 and over	2	19 (H.)	10 (H.)	
	Total	68	2 (S. C.)	1 (S.)	2 (I. C.)
			1 (S.)	2 (I. C.)	
			3 (I. C.)	7 (M.)	
			1 (Parsi)	2 (Vacant)	
			2 (vacant)		
Labour Welfare Adviser	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	3	2 (H.)	1 (H.)	1 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	1	1 (M.)		
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	1			
	Total	5			
Conciliation Officer (Rlys.) and Supervisor of Rly. Labour.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (H.)	1 (M.)	2 (S. C.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	2		1 (S.)	2 (H.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	5			1 (M.)
	Rs. 1,500 and over	1			
	Total	9			
Chief Adviser, Factory A. B. P.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	2	2 (H.)	2 (H.)	1 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	7		1 (Parsi)	2 (E.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	3		1 (M.)	
	Rs. 1,500 and over	2		3 (E.)	
	Total	14			
Technical Training Scheme	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	18	9 (H.)	4 (E.)	1 (E.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	15	2 (M.)	1 (A. I.)	1 (M.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	5	1 (S.)	8 (H.)	4 (H.)
	Rs. 1,500 and over	3	1 (A. I.)	1 (I. C.)	1 (I. C.)
	Total	46	5 (vacant)	1 (Jew)	1 (vacant)
Labour Welfare Injury Scheme	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (S. C.)	1 (I. C.)	1 (M.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	1			
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	1			
	Total	3			

NOTE.—H. stands for Hindus, M. for Muslims, E. for Europeans, A. I. for Anglo-Indians, S. C. for Scheduled Class, S. for Sikhs, I. C. for Indian-Christians, O. C. Other Minority Community.
*79 posts held by British Specialist Instructors directly recruited in the U. K. have not been included in the statement.

RELEGATED POSITION OF INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

128. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that in a photograph taken of all delegates from the various colonies and dependencies of the British Commonwealth to the War Conference held in London the two representatives of India, the Honourable Sir Feroze Khan Noon and His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir, were

made to stand behind the chairs occupied by the representatives of the colonies? If so, are the Government of India aware that it has given great offence to the Indian public for keeping His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir as an inferior to the white representatives from the colonies?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have seen a group photograph but have no information if the Honourable Sir Feroze Khan Noon and His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir were made to stand as they did. I have also no information about the feeling of the Indian public.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know what were his own reactions after seeing the photograph that the representatives of India were made to stand behind the Premiers of the Dominions?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: These two gentlemen were standing along with a good number of white gentlemen and it does not appear to me that the position of inequality in the photograph was decided on racial grounds. I do not think that my countrymen are so foolish as to raise a storm in a tea cup. The matter is so trivial that no further enquiry is required.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a definite policy behind the allotment of positions in the photograph and that it is to stress the inferiority of the Indian delegates attending the conference, and yet my Honourable friend calls it a storm in a tea cup?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am not aware.

Sardar Sant Singh: Everybody who saw this photograph remarked to this effect and they did not like it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

RISE IN PRICE OF COTTON IN INDIA AND AMERICA

129. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) what at present is the percentage gain over the August, 1939, price to the cotton cultivator in India and the United States of America;

(b) the percentage increase in the price of Indian cotton cloth over the price in August, 1939; and

(c) the index of the cost of living, assuming the index of 1939 equal to 100, in India as well as in the United States of America?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) For the purpose of the comparison desired by the Honourable Member I have taken the percentage increase since August 1939, in the prices of Medium Staple Indian cotton and American Middling. The increase in the Indian cotton price has been 115 per cent., and in the case of the American cotton 141 per cent.

(b) The percentage increase in the price of Indian cotton cloth in October 1944 as against August 1939 was 161 per cent.

(c) The cost of living index in the U. S. A. in April 1944 was 26 per cent. over the index in 1939. No all-India cost of living index numbers are maintained, but an averaging out of the cost of living indices for big cities in India shows that the increase over the 1939 figure has been about 182 per cent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government propose to take to see that the cotton cultivator gets at least as much as is justified by the rise in the index number of prices and also by a fall in the value of money due to inflation caused by the Honourable the Finance Member?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult to answer this in reply to a supplementary question. I can assure my Honourable friend that we have taken all possible steps to guarantee a minimum price for the cotton cultivator.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What steps do Government propose to take to reduce the all-India cost of living index number which stands at about 182 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as my Department is concerned, we have taken all possible steps for the last 18 months to bring down the prices. Today, the fact that it is 161 per cent. as against 395 in the middle of

June, 1943, is largely due to control measures which we have taken in the Department.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am referring to the cost of living index number which is 182 per cent.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The administrative responsibility for all these things depends upon other Departments to whom my Honourable friend must address this question. But so far as the Industries and Civil Supplies Department is concerned, I have answered that we have taken considerable steps to bring down the price.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will my Honourable friend make enquiries and find out if any other measures are necessary to bring down the cost of living index numbers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I am aware, quite a considerable measure has been taken, as a result of which the price of rice which was ranging between Rs. 30 and Rs. 25 last year has come down to between Rs. 10 and 7 this year in the part of the country affected by famine.

INDIANS SHOT IN POLICE FIRING IN MAURITIUS

130. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state with reference to his answer to my starred question No. 241, given on the 17th November, 1943, in connection with 'Indians shot in Police firing in Mauritius', if the report of the Commission of Enquiry referred to in the answer has now been received? If so, will it be placed on the table? If not, why not?

(b) What is the summary of the report?

(c) Have the Government considered the advisability of appointing an Indian who will be on the spot to look after the interest of Indians as suggested by me in one of the supplementary questions?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). The Report has not yet been received but is expected to be published shortly.

(c) The question will be considered but I may say that at present there are four Indian inspectors of labour to look after the interests of the Indian labourers.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I remind the Honourable Member that the same answer was given last time when I put this question, namely that the report has not been received. Is there any explanation as to why there is so much delay in submitting the report?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: May I point out to my Honourable friend that the same situation still continues.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answers to Questions Nos. 131, 132 and 133 of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will be laid on the table, as he has exhausted his quota.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I represent to you, Sir, that since the answers to these questions are laid on the table, the House is denied the opportunity of putting supplementary questions and may I therefore request you to allow supplementary questions to be put tomorrow after going through the answers laid on the table?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, no, that cannot be allowed under the rules.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

131. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total quantity of import of foodgrains expected in the year 1944-45?

(b) What suggestions has the Food Department given for the production of rice whose import has been curtailed owing to the closing of the Rangoon Market?

[†]Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is not possible to state at present the total quantity of foodgrains expected to be received from overseas during the year 1944-45 as His Majesty's Government are reviewing the position in the month of November and it is not known yet what quantities will be shipped during the first quarter of 1945.

However, I may state for the information of the Honourable Member that 800,000 tons of foodgrains was promised to be shipped during the year ending the 30th of September, 1944, and a further 300,000 tons of wheat and wheat products has been promised for shipment during the last quarter of 1944.

(b) The 'Grow More Food Campaign' started by the Government of India in March, 1942, includes increased production of rice also. The following schemes have been sanctioned for the increased production of rice:

- (i) Distribution of improved seeds of paddy at concessional rates.
- (ii) Multiplication of improved strains of paddy seeds.
- (iii) Distribution of manures at concessional rates for manuring paddy fields.
- (iv) Reclamation of waste lands.
- (v) Construction irrigation works, e.g., wells tanks and tube wells.

The Government of India have allotted for paddy 30,000 tons of ammonium sulphate out of 65,000 tons which will be received in India during 1944-45. About 17,500 tons have been allotted to provinces and States from current stock against expected supplies for manuring the standing winter rice crops and subsidies have been promised by the Central Government for the distribution of ammonium sulphate at concessional rates for paddy. The Central Government have also given financial assistance to the Provinces in the forms of loans and grants for financing various food production schemes.

In addition to the above, steps have been taken to increase the quantities of rice available for consumption by restricting the overpolishing of rice in milling. A number of provinces and states have issued orders regarding undermilling of rice.

EXPENDITURE ON BUILDINGS IN DELHI

132. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state how much money have the Government of India spent on buildings—permanent and temporary—in Delhi?

(b) How much was provided by (i) Loan, (ii) revenue, and (iii) by land and lease arrangements?

(c) What would happen to these buildings after the war?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The total cost of permanent and temporary, office and residential accommodation, constructed since 1939, is Rs. 6.38 crores.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available.

(c) Permanent buildings will be retained after the war. As regards temporary buildings, it is the intention of Government to demolish them as soon as practicable after the war, as and when the sites are required for the development of Delhi.

DEMOLITION OF TEMPORARY BUILDINGS.

133. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Has the Honourable the Labour Member suggested to his Department that the buildings will be constructed in a manner that they may be pulled down soon after the war which will involve additional expenditure of the money?

(b) Are the Government contemplating to demolish temporary buildings? What would be the cost of demolition and what would be the manner in which these buildings will be pulled down?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. The primary object of the buildings is to meet war requirements and they have been constructed in a manner and on sites most suitable to meet such requirements. This has involved in most cases temporary construction on sites which will be required for other purposes after the war. The actual order of demolition of the buildings must

[†]Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

depend on the programme laid down for the utilisation of the sites and the development of Delhi.

(b) Yes. It is not possible at present to estimate the cost of demolition and to lay down the manner in which the buildings will be pulled down.

SUICIDE BY A STUDENT OF THE LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE, DELHI.

134. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to a report in the *Sind Observer*, dated the 9th September, 1944, that Miss Prakash Khurana, a fifth year student of the Lady Hardinge College was found dead in her room in the College hostel? If so, what was the cause of the suicide?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the fact that there is a lack of supervision and check on the girl students?

(c) Is it not a fact that the girls are freely allowed to go about outside the college without any attendant?

(d) Is it a fact that the girls go for evening walks and return too late when the compound doors are closed and they secretly jump over the compound walls?

(e) Is it a fact that there is a restaurant within the college premises where even outsiders go even at late hours?

(f) Since how long does the present Lady Principal and the manageress of the college hold her post, and what arrangement has she made to guard against the above mentioned evasions?

(g) Is there any Committee in existence connected with the management of the affairs in the college? If so, who are they, and how many meetings of such a Committee took place during this year and the last?

(h) What steps do Government propose to take for a better supervision and check?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes. In recording a finding that death was by suicide. The Magistrate has assigned no reason: but letters left by the deceased indicate that she thought she was going mad.

(b) No.

(c) Between 4 P.M. and 8 P.M. the students are allowed outside the College without any attendant.

(d) and (e). No.

(f) The present Principal has held office since November 1943 and the Warden (Manageress) from December, 1936. There is a wire fencing all round and Durwans on watch on the closed door at the gates. It is not considered possible for the students to enter the College premises after the closing hour without the knowledge of the authorities.

(g) The management of the College is entrusted to the Governing Body and the Executive Committee of the College and Hospital. Ordinarily the former meets twice a year and latter once in two months. The Governing Body met twice during 1943 and so far it has met once in 1944. The Executive Committee held seven meetings during 1943 and seven meetings so far during 1944. A list showing the composition of these two bodies is laid on the table of the House.

(h). Government have no reason to believe that supervision is not adequate.

Composition of the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, New Delhi

President

The Director General, Indian Medical Service, (Lt.-General J. B. Hance, C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S., till 10th August 1944 and Major-General W. C. Paton, M.C., K.H.P., I.M.S., from 11th August 1944).

Members

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, (Mr. A. V. Askwith, C.I.E., I.C.S.).
The Chief Engineer, Delhi, (Mr. A. W. H. Dean, C.I.E., M.C., E.D.).
The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India (Mr. John Sergeant, C.I.E.).
The Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service (Dr. H. M. Lazarus, W.M.S.).

A representative elected by the members of the All-India Association of Medical Women. (Dr. J. R. Dadabhoy, Bombay).

The Surgeon to H. E. the Viceroy, (Lt.-Colonel H. Williamson, O.B.E., I.M.S. (Retd.).

Six members nominated by the Government of India as follows:

2 members of the Legislative Assembly—

(1) Sir Syed Raza Ali, C.B.E., M.L.A.

(2) Sardar Sant Singh, M.L.A.

One member of the Council of State:

The Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú.

One prominent Indian lady of Delhi:

Mrs. H. Sen, Principal, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi.

One prominent Indian gentleman of Delhi:

Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore, Advocate.

One local Medical Officer:

(The Chief Medical Officer, Delhi Lt.-Col. R. McRobert, I.M.S.).

A prominent businessman of Delhi:

Mr. L. W. Woodward, Agent, Imperial Bank of India, Delhi.

Honorary Secretary

The Deputy Director General, Indian Medical Service, (Col. S. L. Bhatia, M.C., I.M.S.).

Honorary Treasurer

An officer nominated by the Government of India: (Mr. M. Hashim, M.A., LL.B., Joint Financial Adviser, Supply Finance, New Delhi).

Composition of the Executive Committee of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital.

Chairman

The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India (Mr. John Sergeant, C.I.E.).

Members

Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore, Advocate, Delhi.

The Chief Medical Officer, Delhi. (Lt.-Colonel R. McRobert).

The Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service (Lt.-Colonel H. M. Lazarus, W.M.S.).

The Honorary Secretary to the Governing Body (Colonel S. L. Bhatia, M.C., I.M.S.).

The Honorary Treasurer to the Governing Body (M. Hashim, Esq., M.A., LL.B., Joint Financial Adviser, Supply Finance).

Mr. L. W. Woodward, Agent, Imperial Bank of India, Delhi.

Secretary

Dr. R. E. R. Mitton, W.M.S., Principal, Lady Hardinge Medical College.

In the absence of the Chairman, the members present shall elect one of their number to be Chairman.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are there any Members of this House on these Committees which the Honourable Member mentioned?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There are two Members of this House on the Governing Body.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are there any indications that before this girl's death, she was administered a rebuke?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir, a Member of the staff had noticed that she had become very inattentive to her lectures and in her duties and she asked one of her colleagues on the staff to get into touch with the girl privately and discreetly and try to find out if there was something in the matter. Unfortunately the girl kept very much to herself for the two or three days after this was noticed and then she committed suicide before the lady who was asked to find out was able to make touch with her.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Was any post mortem held?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Was the condition of the girl communicated to her parents or guardian before she died?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There was nothing very definite to communicate. She was inattentive at her lectures and classes but there was nothing to communicate at that stage.

ACCOMMODATION CONSTRUCTED IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI

†135. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) for how many officers and staff (i) office, and (ii) residential accommodation has been constructed in Delhi and New Delhi by the Central Public Works Department since the beginning of the War;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) the total cost of (i) the temporary, and (ii) the permanent accommodation, so erected;

(c) what temporary office and residential accommodation is now under construction and at what estimated cost;

(d) whether any further temporary construction is under consideration, and, if so, for what purpose; and

(e) what plans are being made for the removal of the temporary constructions after the war, and for the disposal and utilisation of the materials employed in their erection?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Since the beginning of the war the construction of office accommodation to the extent of 12,24,516 sq. ft. and roofed residential accommodation for 969 officers and 745 clerks has been completed. These figures do not include accommodation provided for the Far Eastern Bureau of the British Ministry of Information, the South East Asia Command and the U. S. A. Forces. Information regarding the number of officers and staff for whom the office accommodation has been constructed is not readily available.

(b) The total costs of office and residential accommodation, constructed since 1939, are (i) Rs. 5.29 crores for temporary accommodation and (ii) Rs. 1.09 crores for permanent accommodation.

(c) A statement containing the required information and also information regarding permanent accommodation under construction is placed on the table of the House.

(d) No further proposal has as yet been approved.

(e) It has been decided to remove the temporary buildings as soon as possible after the War. The question of the disposal and utilisation of the materials is under consideration.

Statement of temporary and permanent office and residential accommodation now under construction and their estimated cost.

Description of accommodation	Estimated cost Rs.
I.—Temporary—	
1. Additional residential accommodation for G. H. Q. Signals Officers	Not readily available
2. 1000 Single Clerks Quarters at Kitchener Road	23,41,000
3. Accommodation for 367 clerks at Asmara and Masawa Lines (by alteration of existing temporary buildings)	1,62,000
4. 68 married clerks' and 224 single clerks' quarters in Tibbia College Hostel compound	21,00,000
5. Accommodation for 200 single officers in existing Government Hostels	7,80,000
6. Hostel for 160 married officers on King Edward Road	Not readily available
7. Office accommodation of 3,05,043 sq. ft.	39,65,559
I.—Permanent—	
1. 50 'D' type and 168 'E' type clerks' quarters on Railway land near Minto Road	23,67,386
2. 2,468 clerks' quarters on Lodhi Road	2,94,00,000
3. 228 married clerks' quarters in 12 acres of land in Karol Bagh	32,00,000
4. 8 'E' type clerks' quarters in Aram Bagh	80,000
5. Three-storeyed flats for 120 clerks on Chitra Gupta Road	15,00,000

RECONDITIONING OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER DENIAL POLICY

136. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to refer to the statement made by the Director-General of Food in the Council of State on the 16th March last, in connection with the scheme of the Bengal Government of reconditioning boats which were removed from the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial Policy, which had, according to him, "very considerably affected trade movements in that areas", and that the Bengal Government had taken in hand repairs of about 10,000 of these boats, and also that these boats were expected to be ready before the rains this year, and state:

(a) the total number of boats that had either been removed or destroyed in the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial policy;

(b) how many out of the above number have been reconditioned, repaired and made available to the people concerned before the rains this year; and

(c) how many other boats are under repairs or construction at present and when they are likely to be made available to the people concerned?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is possible to give precise figures only in respect of those boats which were surrendered at the various reception centres. That number is 26,935.

(b) Of this number 5,984 have been made available to the civil population.

(c) The Government of Bengal have sanctioned construction programme for 10,000 boats of which, they hope, that 5,000 will be ready by the end of the present year.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (b), may I know how many of these boats were actually returned before the rains, as was promised by the Central Government in the other House?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I shall require notice of that specific point.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that very few boats were actually reconditioned before the rains?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All we can say is that every step was taken to recondition boats but the reconditioning of so many thousands of boats must necessarily take time. But if my Honourable friend wants a specific date I must ask for notice.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out, when he makes an inquiry, the exact reasons that stood in the way of the Government of Bengal in fulfilling the promise given by the Central Government in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir, I will.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any steps taken by the Central Government to pay any compensatory allowances to these people who were left unemployed because of their boats being compulsorily taken away by Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In every case where boats were surrendered at the reception centre, compensation was paid.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did that compensation cover only the cost of the boat taken away or the loss of employment caused by the confiscation of the boat?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have no figures to analyse that, but all we can say is that the amount which was paid was more than the price which was usually available.

STEPS FOR REDUCING SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE.

137. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) what steps the Government of India have taken in order to reduce the number of cattle slaughtered in this country;

(b) the nature of steps taken by the Government of India in order to see that prime cattle, such as those below the age of 10 years, or milch cattle and pregnant cattle are not slaughtered; and

(c) whether the Government of India have satisfied themselves that the Provincial Governments, Army authorities and military and other contractors have scrupulously followed the instructions of the Government of India in regard to the slaughter of cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). A copy of the press note issued on 26th July 1944, narrating the steps taken by Government is laid on the table.

(c) Six provinces, viz., Madras, Bombay, Bihar, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Assam have issued orders under the Defence of India Rules prohibiting the slaughter of useful cattle; the others have the matter under their consideration. The military authorities have issued orders to various commands prescribing the categories of cattle which may not be purchased for slaughter. Inspections are being carried out from time to time to see that the instructions are complied with.

Restrictions on Cattle Slaughter on lines adopted by Army Authorities.

Restrictions on the slaughter of cattle for civilian purposes, on the lines already adopted by the army authorities, and the prescribing of meatless days each week have been recommended by the Government of India in a circular to all Provincial Governments. The aim is to preserve the cattle wealth of the country, particularly working cattle, cows in milk or pregnant, and young stock.

The army authorities have agreed to prohibit the slaughter, or sale for slaughter, of (1) cattle below three years of age, (2) male cattle between 3 and 10 years which can be used for work, (3) all cows between 3 and 10 years which are capable of producing milk, excepting those which are unsuitable for breeding and (4) all cows which are pregnant or in milk. Any civil veterinary authority can object to the slaughter of a particular animal, and for this purpose has the right of access to the military butchery pens. The military authorities fix minimum prices for all purchases after consultation with the local Purchase Committees on which both military and civil authorities are represented.

The Government of India have requested all Provincial Governments to take early action in this matter, either by issuing similar orders or by modifying existing orders on these lines. It is understood that certain restrictions on the slaughter of cattle for civilian consumption are already in force in the Provinces of Madras, Bombay, the U. P., the C. P., Bihar and Assam, while Bengal and Assam have fixed certain days in the week as meatless days.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out the reason, if that is possible, why the Government of Bengal have taken such a long time to come to a decision on this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think I can tell the Honourable Member the reason that has been given. The Government of Bengal have approached it in rather a different way and they imposed either one or two meatless days a week; and they wanted to see whether that would have the desired effect instead of issuing an order in the terms suggested to them by us. And I understand that this cause has had, according to their figures, a considerable effect.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that in spite of the meatless days proposed by the Government of Bengal, the proportion of cattle slaughtered in Bengal is about the highest among all the provinces of India so far?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It used to be so before; I cannot say whether it is now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that more cattle are slaughtered in India than are born by natural causes and that if this process continues the 'Grow More Food' campaign might actually become 'Grow Less Food'?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware that more are being slaughtered than are being born by natural processes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: On what basis is the Honourable Member giving this information to the House that more are not slaughtered? Will he produce figures before this House either now or in the course of the food debate, or at any time during this Session to show that the number of cattle that are born by natural processes is more than the number slaughtered, not only in the civil slaughter houses but also by the military and by contractors and those which are going into ships? Will Government take some reasonable steps to avoid the catastrophe that is lurking behind this process?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will examine the point raised in this rather long question when I see the manuscript.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of either importing cattle into this country to be consumed by the army or request the army to reduce the slaughter and consumption of cattle and beef?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot speak for the army but I believe both processes are going on. I believe they are importing a considerable quantity of meat and also making arrangements for cold storage, and they have also cut down their requirements of meat.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it impossible for the Government of India to press the army to reduce their consumption of beef in this country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Because the consumption of meat in the army is infinitesimal as compared with other slaughter and deaths from natural causes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied that the consumption of beef by the army is absolutely the minimum?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is very difficult for my Department to answer.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are Government aware of any processes other than natural by which cattle can be born?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question should be addressed to the Honourable Member who raised that point.

RISE IN PRICES OF MILCH AND FARM CATTLE.

138. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of milch and farm cattle have gone up by 300 to 400 per cent. in various parts of India as compared with the pre-war prices;

(b) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to ensure that farmers are able to purchase milch and farm cattle at prices within their means; and

(c) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to see that the Army authorities or the slaughter houses do not offer high prices in order to unduly induce the farmers and the cattle-owners to part with their cattle for slaughter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No reliable figures are available but it is probably correct that prices of livestock have increased in sympathy with the general trend of prices and in excess of that trend in some areas.

(b) It is not considered practicable to control the price of cattle but the Government of India have indicated to Provincial Governments the lines on which cultivators should be advised to conserve their livestock and to increase good breeding stock.

(c) The military authorities have agreed to fix maximum prices for all purchases after consultation with the local Purchase Committees on which both military and civil authorities are represented.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Arising out of part (d), will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the nature of the instructions which they have sent down to the Provincial Governments?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is rather long.

CREATION OF CENTRAL TECHNICAL POWER BOARD.

139. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans for the creation of a Central Technical Power Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chairmanship of this Board has been offered to a former employee of the British Firm of Messrs. Merz and Mclellan, and that one of the two seats on the Board has been filled by an American Engineer;

(c) whether his attention has been drawn to reports that Government are considering the appointment of Messrs. Merz and Mclellan, and the American Bond and Share Company as consulting engineers; and, if so, whether they are true;

(d) whether these two American and British firms, respectively, have acquired any interest in the erection or operation of electrical undertakings in India so far, and what they are;

(e) whether it is a fact that a Committee of leading Power Engineers appointed by Government early this year have reported that India would require electrical plant to the value of Rs. 400 crores, and that Government have accepted this recommendation; and

(f) whether Government would publish full details of the recommendations of the above-mentioned Committee?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but in the case of the former he has for the last three years and nine months been in the service of the Government of India as Electrical Commissioner.

(c) Government have seen certain press reports to this effect but they are not correct as they have not yet taken into consideration the question of appointing consulting engineers.

(d) In so far as Messrs. Merz and McLellan are concerned, the reply is in the negative. Government, however, understand that the Electric Bond and Share Company of U. S. A. (and not the American Bond and Share Company) which is a holding company has substantial interest in the Tata Hydro Electric Agencies and the United Eastern Agencies who are Managing Agents for the electric supply undertakings at Karachi, Broach, Nasik-Deolali and Poona.

(e) No.

(f) Steps are being taken to publish the proceedings of the Conference.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When may we expect to see these recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think in about a week's time.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With reference to part (e) of the question, can the Honourable Member give us some idea of the figure, if it is not 400 crores?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not got the facts before me.

CONVICTION OF MR. PARTAP SINGH, MARKET INSPECTOR, NEW DELHI.

140. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is a fact that Mr. Partap Singh, Market Inspector, Health Department, New Delhi Municipal Committee, was convicted on the 12th August, 1944, under section 161, I. P. C. (Bribery), by the Resident Magistrate, New Delhi and was sentenced to eight months rigorous imprisonment? If so, what action was taken against the said Mr. Partap Singh by the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(b) Are Government aware that Mr. Partap Singh is still under suspension and is in receipt of a subsistence allowance? If so, is it admissible under the Government Servants Conduct Rules to retain a hand after his conviction by a court of law? If the answer to the latter part of (b) be in the negative, why has the said Inspector been not so far removed from service?

(c) Is it a fact that the Resident Magistrate New Delhi, bitterly criticised in the course of his judgment the conduct of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Captain Ram Dyal, as an interested party in the above-mentioned case of Mr. Partap Singh's conviction? If so, was this criticism the basis of Captain Ram Dyal's resignation, or did he resign for any other reasons?

(d) Are Government aware that efforts are being made to re-employ the said Assistant Medical Officer of Health in the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes. He was placed under suspension pending decision on his appeal.

(b) Mr. Partap Singh is still under suspension but he has not been paid any subsistence allowance since the date of his conviction.

(c) The convicting Magistrate criticised the evidence of Captain Ram Dyal as a defence witness in the case. Captain Ram Dyal resigned on grounds of ill health.

(d) No.

I should perhaps say in continuation that since this answer was drafted Mr. Partap Singh has been acquitted by the appellate court.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN POSTS IN HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

141. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay on the table a statement showing the communal composition of the following posts in the Health Department of the New Delhi Municipal Committee:—

- (i) Assistant Medical Officer of Health,
- (ii) Anti-Malaria Officer,
- (iii) School Medical Officer,
- (iv) Chief Sanitary Inspector,
- (v) Superintendent, Vaccination.

- (vi) Head Clerk,
- (vii) Municipal Building Inspector,
- (viii) Sanitary Inspector, and
- (ix) Clerks.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: A statement giving the communal composition of the posts referred to is laid on the table.

Statement giving the communal composition of the posts in the Health Department of the New Delhi Municipal Committee

Particulars of posts	Strength	Hindus	Moham- madans	Sikhs	Chris- tians	Sche- duled castes	Vacant
Assistant MOH.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Anti-Malaria Officer	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
School Medical Officers	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Ch. Sanitary Inspector	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Supdt. Vaccination	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Head Clerk	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Mun. Building Inspector	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Sanitary Inspectors	7	4	1	1	1	..	..
Clerks	6	5	1	..	..	..	..
Total	21	16	2	1	1	..	1

POSTS OF HEAD CLERK IN NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

142. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the total number of posts in the cadre of Head Clerk in the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(b) Are the holders of the posts of Head Clerk liable to inter-branch transfers?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Five.

(b) Yes.

RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS APPOINTED IN FOOD DEPARTMENT.

143. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to make a statement giving the number of retired military officers who have been given appointments in the Food Department, the appointments held by them at the time of retirement, and the appointments that they hold now, together with their past and present salaries?

(b) What special qualification or experience make them particularly suitable for the posts to which they have been appointed in the Food Department?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) They had given proof of administrative capacity in staff and command posts and had special experience in handling problems of supply.

Statement showing the retired military officers employed in the Food Department

S.No.	Name	Appointment held at the time of retirement	Post held in the Food Department	Past Salary per month	Present Salary per month
1	Lt. General Sir Clarence A. Bird, K. C. I. E., C. B., D. S. O. (Rtd.).	Master General of Ordnance in India.	Regional Food Commissioner, Punjab Region.	Rs. 4,000 p.m.	Rs. 4,000 including car allowance less pension* drawn.
2	Lt. Col. G. B. Nokes, R. I. A. S. C. (Rtd.).	Officer Commanding 'A' Supply Department, Ferozepore.	Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Bombay Region.	Rs. 2,130 (including allowances).	Rs. 800 as pay + Rs. 100 as Bombay Compensatory allowance exclusive of pension of Rs. 825-8 p.m.

* (£1,280 per annum.)

Mr. K. O. Neogy: What is the total number?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Two.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the names of the posts to which they have been appointed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Regional Food Commissioner, Punjab, and Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Bombay.

PAPER STOCK AND PAPER ECONOMY MEASURES.

144. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the stock of paper in the hands of Government on the date when the paper control was introduced?

(b) What steps were taken by Government to effect economy in the consumption of paper by Government Departments including the Defence Department?

(c) What measure of success has been achieved in making such economy?

(d) Can Government give any adequate reasons why further economies in the use of paper by Government Departments is not possible, as suggested in all directions from the public?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have not exerted themselves and, in any case, have not succeeded in securing shipping space for paper to an appreciable extent either before or immediately after they instituted the paper control?

(f) What measures were taken to increase the import of paper pulp, newsprint and other kinds of paper, respectively?

(g) What imports have been received, and what further imports are expected?

(h) Would Government consider the relaxation of the thirty per cent. basic ration given to the public in the consumption of paper, and, if so, by what method, and in what direction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) All-India figures are not available. The stock in the Central Stationery Office and the Government of India presses would be 2,500 tons approximately. This represents less than two months' consumption. The collection of figures from all Central Government offices and Provincial Governments, etc., will involve a good deal of labour and time which will not be commensurate with the result to be achieved.

(b) A statement of description of the measures is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Government have been able to reduce their requirement from 90 per cent. of the Indian production reserved between October 1942 to March 1943 to 70 per cent. since April 1943 and 65 per cent. between October and December 1944. Enforcement of paper economy measures has in many cases resulted in reduction of paper consumption by 50 per cent. Two statements showing approximate savings effected during 1942 and 1943 are laid on the table of the House. They are not exhaustive and leave out several items for which savings effected were not recorded.

(d) Further economy may be possible and the matter is under the constant review of Government. All suggestions received by the Government of India are carefully considered and adopted wherever possible.

(e) No.

(f) and (g). It is not in the public interest to disclose this information. Government have constantly been endeavouring to obtain increased imports of woodpulp, newsprint and other kinds of paper. Considerable quantities of these articles have been received during the first 9 months of 1944 and further quantities are expected. Comparison shows that quantities imported during the present year were larger than those imported in the last year.

(h) Yes, when supply position justifies this action. The method and direction will depend on the circumstances existing at the time.

Statement

Labour Department have been alive to the necessity of securing the utmost economy in the consumption of paper for some considerable time. With this end in view the Controller of

Printing and Stationery was declared Paper Economy Officer and *ex-officio* Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in June 1940. In 1942, on the recommendation of the W. R. C. C. the paper economy staff of the Controller was strengthened by the appointment of four Inspectors of Stationery, who were stationed at Delhi (2) Calcutta (1) and Bombay (1). The duties of these Inspectors are to see that the various paper economy instructions issued from time to time are strictly adopted in various Departments and offices of the Government of India throughout India. A Paper Economy Officer and an Assistant Paper Economy Officer have also been appointed to inspect G. H. Q. and units and formations of Defence Services in India with the same purpose in view.

2. Every possible device to secure economy in the consumption of paper is being adopted. The action taken is summarised briefly below.

I. General instructions have been issued from time to time suggesting the ways and means to achieve the maximum economy in the consumption of paper. More important of such instructions are:

- utilize both sides of note sheets and other paper;
 - type in single spacing;
 - use of economy slips on envelopes;
 - correct way of cutting stencils keeping in view the paper economy factor;
- etc., etc.

II. Economy in the use of paper is also achieved by:

- discontinuance of the printing of publications which are not directly connected with war efforts;
- printing instead of duplicating, where number of copies required is hundred and more;
- discontinuance of forms which are not essential and reducing the sizes of others to the barest minimum.

III. Eliminating the demands for new paper by:

- the use of blank spaces in obsolete forms and blank pages in the old records which mature for destruction;
- use of slates for rough work;
- discontinuance of the supply of slip blocks;
- imposing the following cuts on demands for paper and paper items;

Description	Percentage cut imposed Per cent.
Writing paper including note sheets, draft forms, etc.	50
Blotting paper	33½
Envelopes (smaller size)	75
Envelopes (bigger size)	50
Overall cut on all Government demands for Paper and articles made of paper during 1944-45	20

A copy of the *pamphlet containing extracts of important Government orders on paper economy and a *card (*Copy placed in the Library of the House) containing paper economy points meant for heads of departments are enclosed. Important paper economy instructions have also been brought to the notice of Provincial Governments for similar action.

3. The total paper production of India was estimated during 1943-44 at one lakh tons per annum. As the requirements of Government were estimated at 70,000 tons, 70 per cent. of the total Indian production was reserved for Government requirements. The supply of paper is made to the various Departments of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments against the quotas allotted to them by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, who reduces the quantity of paper indented for whenever he feels that, in view of certain paper economy instructions, reduction is called for.

Statement showing the approximate savings effected by the Paper economy campaign in 1942

	Rs.
1. Savings effected by curtailment of demands for paper in indents submitted by the Central Civil non-paying departments to the Central Stationery Office	1,40,100
2. Saving effected by reduction of sizes of several Defence Department's forms, dispensing with binding cloth and art canvas, and changing of binding style to cheaper style	1,79,800
3. Saving effected by restricting the issues of various standard forms	80,400
4. Saving effected by reducing the sizes of standard forms	87,800
5. Saving effected by discontinuing the printing of table calendars	2,400
6. Saving effected by the substitution of less expensive items in printing and binding of forms, publications and other miscellaneous items and by the use of old boards covers, etc., furnished by the departments and substitution of less expensive styles of binding, in the Government of India Presses	9,500
7. Savings in stores and stationery, forms etc., effected in Government of India Presses and Central Publication Branch	1,100
8. Savings effected by the use of assorted off-cuts in the Government of India Presses	10,000
9. Savings effected by the use of paper strips instead of envelopes in the Government of India Presses	100
Total	5,11,200

Statement showing the approximate savings effected by the Paper economy campaign in 1943.

	Rs.
1. Savings effected by curtailment of demands for paper in indents submitted by the Central Civil non-paying departments to the Central Stationery Office	2,73,445
2. Savings effected by recoveries of surplus stationery articles from various offices by the Inspectors of Stationery	12,884
3. Savings effected by reduction of sizes of Army forms, printing them on both sides of paper, dispensing with binding cloth and art canvas and changing of binding style to a cheaper one.	90,840
4. Savings effected by restricting the issues of various civil standard forms	89,132
5. Savings effected by revision of civil standard forms	31,331
6. Savings effected by discontinuing the printing of table calendars	2,500
7. Savings effected by substitution of less expensive items in printing and binding of forms, publications and other miscellaneous items and by the use of old boards, covers, etc., furnished by the departments and substitution of cheaper styles of binding in the Government of India Presses	41,028
8. Savings effected by the use of assorted off-cuts in the Government of India Presses	11,308
9. Savings effected in stores and Stationery, Forms, etc., effected in Government of India Presses and Central Publication Branch	7,535
10. Savings effected by the use of paper strips instead of envelopes in the Government of India Presses	747
Total	5,60,750

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PAPER ECONOMY POINTS

KEEP THESE PEPS ON YOUR TABLE AND SEE THAT EVERYBODY IN YOUR DEPARTMENT OBSERVES THESE TWELVE POINTS

1. You are personally responsible for paper economy in your department. Remember, your subordinates will follow your example.
2. Do not forget the back of any sheet you touch. Use both sides. Do not waste space on a sheet.
3. Use salvaged paper blank on one side in preference to clean sheets.
4. Watch distribution of circular letters, memos, etc. Faulty distribution is the most prolific source of paper wastage. Send your communications only to those who must have them and select these carefully every time. Don't treat distribution as a routine matter.
5. Having fixed the minimum number of copies necessary, don't rush to duplicating automatically. Think of printing first, unless copies required are less than 50. Printing is more legible and saves more paper than duplicating.
6. Before signing a stencil, see that it is cut according to economy instructions to a 1/2 cap Octavo (4" x 6 1/2") size where possible and that it bears an imprint indicating number of copies and the date, e.g., "35-5-3-44".
7. For noting and U. O. correspondence, use a full-sized sheet, but for official correspondence, use the smallest size of paper necessary, typing on both sides.
8. Wherever possible, type enclosures on the backs of the fair copies of your letters instead of on separate sheets.
9. Keep the office copy of replies on the backs of original letters wherever possible.
10. Use economy labels for all non-confidential letters and see that the flaps are not gummed or sealed.
11. Use blotters sparingly. See that your blotting sheet is not changed without your orders.
12. Attend to paper economy in each file you handle. Record invariably on each any violation of paper economy instructions so that others using the file will notice your comment.

SAVE PAPER.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Government have succeeded in implementing the assurance given by Sir Akbar Hydari that Government will take active steps to speed up the delivery of raw materials and of coal to the local paper manufacturing mills in India in order that the position may be made easy?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certainly.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Do I understand that Government are prepared to consider further steps for effecting paper economy and to receive suggestions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, the question is constantly before Government and not only in one Department of Government but in all the various Departments.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Would Government consider the possibility of printing Assembly papers on both sides instead of on one side as at present?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If there is matter enough for both sides.

PROTECTION TO WAR INDUSTRIES.

145. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have, through the Commerce Member, since the beginning of the war, given repeated assurances to industries which have come into existence on account of and during the war, for tariff protection against cheap imports from abroad after the war?

(b) Apart from general assurances, have Government conveyed such assurances, in writing, to any concerns? If so, which are the concerns, and what is the nature of such assurances?

(c) Is it the intention of Government to hold on to this declared policy of protecting such industries, or, as is apprehended in certain quarters, to change it?

(d) What steps are Government taking to implement their assurances in this regard?

(e) What are the industries which would be covered within the scope of such assurances, and on what principle is the selection being made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have assured some specified industries, the starting of which was considered essential under conditions created by the war, that they would be given such measure of protection against unfair competition from outside India after the war as may be necessary to enable them to continue their existence provided that they are conducted on sound business lines.

(b) No. The assurance was given to some specified industries, not to any particular concern.

(c) There is no foundation for the alleged apprehension anywhere that Government proposed to change their policy.

(d) The time for implementing the assurances has not yet arrived.

(e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the speech made in this House on the 6th November, 1940, by the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, then Commerce Member. The industries, to which an assurance has been given through Resolutions issued by Government from time to time, include production of bichromates, steel pipes and tubes, aluminium, calcium chloride, calcium carbide and starch.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, Sir, whether when the Honourable Member said 'industries which were considered essential', the test of essentiality is not the fact that Government made extensive purchases and in some cases they purchased the entire output of certain factories, and whether this test would not establish the essentiality of an industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I have already answered that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the test of essentiality?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have answered this question, namely, it is because they are considered essential for war purposes that Government give that encouragement and assurance.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The encouragement and assurance has taken the form of Government making purchases. Certain industries arose in this country under very great difficulties and I put it to the Honourable Member whether it is the policy of Government to permit industries, which have come into existence under very severe difficulties, to go down ultimately after the war, and to go down immediately by the cheap consumers' goods which they are putting on the market?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid my Honourable friend has put an involved question. If he wants a reply to his question regarding consumers' goods, I will answer separately. But quite apart from that, it is the policy of the Government of India to see that the industries, which have come into being whether for war purposes or for essential requirements in India, should continue to exist after the war.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the specified industries which have received Government's assurance that they will be protected and looked after?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They are industries which produce bichromates, steel pipes and tubes, aluminium, calcium, chloride, calcium carbide, and starch.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they exhaustive?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They are exhaustive.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government of India have come to lean very much upon the handloom weaving industry for the supply of cloth during these war times and also in view of the fact that the handloom weaving industry has rendered a handsome service to the Government as well as the public in these years of crisis, have Government given any assurance, and if they have not till now, will Government consider the advisability of giving an assurance to the handloom weaving industry that their interests in the post-war period will be adequately protected?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my Honourable friend would have the patience to wait for a reply in answer to his question on this subject, I think it would be better.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it be favourable?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance to the House that the Regulation of Import Quotas has given any protection to the bichromate industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, in deciding the import quota, Government have taken into consideration the quantum available in the country.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am in a position to state that it is to the contrary. I want an assurance from the Honourable Member on the matter.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would like to know the facts.

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

EXAMINATION OF PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE AT VIRAMGAM DUE TO EXPORT CONTROL.

146. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state how many cases of (i) detection, (ii) confiscation, and (iii) prosecution, separately, have occurred ever since the system of examination of passengers going from British India via Viramgam was instituted in connection with export control?

(b) Is it a fact that all the Indian States have been asked to adopt the export control and that they have adopted it?

(c) In view of the hardship to passengers do Government propose to discontinue the examination of passengers' luggage at Viramgam?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) The maritime Indian States have been requested to adopt the British Indian export control regulations and have done so.

(c) While the Government of India fully realise the necessity for minimising the inconvenience caused to passengers, they regret that it is not possible to dispense with the examination of passengers' luggage for export control purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have received representations and whether they have seen the views expressed in the public press that extraordinary hardships are being caused to the passengers who are going through Viramgam and that the new arrangements made are particularly humiliating and inconvenient?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This examination of passengers' luggage at Viramgam for purely custom purposes is not a new thing; it has been going on for some years. I have seen one or two comments in the press, but unfortunately, from those comments I could not locate what the grievances are, but if my Honourable friend would give me a note on the subject I promise to look into the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Viramgam is not productive of any particular financial results and that it is causing irritation to an enormous mass of people who come in crowded trains these days, and very grave inconvenience to people who are travelling with families, with old men and women and children? May I know whether Government would not go into this question and see if they cannot relax the regulations altogether or at least improve the conveniences at the places where this examination is done?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared to look into the question of improving the conveniences. After all our intention is to ensure that there is no smuggling going on but I am not prepared to agree to the cessation of the examination because my Honourable friend knows that it is along the coast lines not far distant that things are smuggled through.

"ASSOCIATION TRADING" PROPOSED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

147. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to what is known as "association trading" proposed in the United Kingdom by which competition of individual manufacturers would be eliminated and goods produced for export would be sold through an association of the trade as a whole?

(b) Have Government realised that this would result in jockeying the prices against India?

(c) What steps have Government taken to safeguard the interests of the Indian producer, and to enable him to receive competitive goods from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I understand Government are now notifying all and sundry in this country to give particulars of the machinery which they want and they are saying that priority will not be given unless you book now. May I know what steps Government are taking in order to see that Indian industrialists do not purchase at inflated and heavy prices in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The whole question is under consideration. Our Indian industrialists are not such fools as to be duped by any statement made from the other side.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Government has sent out circulars to find what kind of machinery they require after the war and asking them to send their replies soon, otherwise they may be left out?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think my friend knows that detailed enquiries were made last November, if I mistake not and there were some inquiries at a later stage. That is quite a different thing to the question asked by my Honourable friend. That was on a governmental basis to know the total quantum of Indian requirements after the war so that the Government of India might help the industry in getting these things from abroad.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Whereas the United Kingdom is taking steps by what is known as the Association Trading to secure maximum prices for United Kingdom exports, are our Government taking steps to see that Indian purchases in the United Kingdom do not come at maximum inflated prices?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The whole question is under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member also concerned about the possibility of obtaining better prices for agricultural commodities and semi-manufactured commodities made out of agricultural commodities when they are exported to other countries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: After the war is over?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think it is too early to think about that but we are considering that question.

PURCHASES BY THE U. K. C. C. IN INDIA.

148. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the total volume of purchases by the U. K. C. C. in India for each year since they started work?

(b) Is it a fact that the U. K. C. C. purchases in India at controlled rates and sells at a heavy profit in outside markets?

(c) Have the Government of India represented to His Majesty's Government that a portion of the profits earned in this manner belonged to this country, and have they claimed any such portion?

(d) Do Government propose to represent to His Majesty's Government for a participation of these profits retrospectively and hereafter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Supplies valued at about 18 crores of Rupees have been purchased and despatched so far by the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation from India to various destinations.

(b) No, Sir. Of the total supplies despatched by the Corporation about 90 per cent. are for Russia, and these are understood to be made on a nett cost basis with no addition for overhead charges. The Government of India have no information that the Corporation has made heavy profits on other transactions.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If they have not made heavy profits, does my Honourable friend wish to convey that they have made no profits?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I was only answering his question whether they made heavy profits.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If they are not heavy profits they must have made some profits. Why is it that the Government of India have not asked for a share?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have tried to find out what the profits are.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the Government's conception of heavy profits?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is an issue which every man sizes up according to his own light.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation took the sugar in this country and sold it at eight times the value in Persia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation enjoys monopoly interests in exporting these things to Russia and other countries, they can make these profits at the cost of India. Isn't it in the interests of India that the Government of India should see that they get a portion of any legitimate profits that this company makes at the cost of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: First of all, the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation except probably in the case of Russia is not a monopolist company.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation has a monopoly, has the Government of India fixed any profit which they can amass to themselves?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Except in the case of Russia the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation is one of the many purchasers abroad.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member how the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation pays India for goods purchased for Russia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Well, I should ask for notice of this question because it is difficult to answer offhand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Government of India have not called upon the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation to pay income-tax on profits which they earn in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That question does not arise after what I have said.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will it be possible to arrange with the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation that it pays India in dollars for goods purchased for Russia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that over this matter of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation there have been several representations. As a result I agreed to have a conference with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce at Bombay. We had that conference. All the questions which the Chamber wanted me to examine I have had them examined and there is no substantial difference on the points raised by them between ourselves.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: They have been locked into?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, we have been able to satisfy the members of the Chamber on almost every point.

COAL POSITION.

149. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the figures of the export of coal from India two years before the war and during each of the years after the outbreak of the war?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian coal was exported to Greece and other destinations in the Mediterranean?

(c) Is it a fact that convoy ships were supplied with Indian coal for their fuel requirements?

(d) How much coal was exported on account of the military from India during each of the years of the war?

(e) How much additional demand for coal has arisen in the country after the war, and for what purposes?

(f) What has been the increase in the consumption of coal by the Railways?

(g) How many factories in India, since July last, have been compelled to close down on account of the coal shortage?

(h) Are there any factories or class of factories, which were asked to close down on the plea that they would not be given any more coal?

(i) Has the situation materially improved since the appointment of the Coal Controller? If so, in what way?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by my Honourable colleague the Supply Member on the 6th instant to question No. 120.

SPREAD OF CHOLERA, INFLUENZA AND MALARIA IN BENGAL, BIHAR, ETC.

150. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state how the Government proposes to account for the phenomenal rise in the virulence, spread and incidence of Cholera, Influenza and Malaria in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Vizagapatam and Malabar Districts of Madras since the beginning of this year?

(b) Is it not a fact that this increase in the incidence of these diseases is due to increasing mal-nutrition of the people?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

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(c) What steps have Government taken to rush adequate quantities of food, build up stores of food and distribute them among the starving and under-nourished people of these affected areas and thus minimise the sufferings and also untimely deaths of people?

(d) What steps do Government propose to prevent the further worsening of the situation, and also to prevent the recurrence of famine, epidemics due to malnutrition during 1945?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). It is not a fact that there has been an abnormal increase in 1944 in the incidence of the diseases mentioned in all the areas referred to. No information has been received of any undue prevalence of influenza in any of the areas. There has been a steady decline in the cholera incidence in Bengal since the beginning of the year and the figures are now and have for some months been, well below the normal. In Malabar there has been little cholera, the total number of deaths reported to date being about a hundred compared with over 25,000 in the first eight months of last year. There has been a severe cholera epidemic in North Bihar but in the last few weeks there has been a very considerable improvement and the reported mortality rate is now below the average. Cholera was abnormally prevalent in Orissa in the early part of the year but here again there has been considerable improvement. Malaria has been widely prevalent in epidemic form in recent months in Bengal and Bihar and parts of Orissa. As regards the cause of the incidence of these diseases their spread is favoured by malnutrition but epidemic conditions are also governed by other factors.

(c) and (d). There is no acute shortage of foodgrains in any part of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Shortages were reported from Malabar and Vizagapatam and are being met by the allocation of special quotas. The Provincial Governments concerned have made arrangements for procuring foodgrains. The Government of India have also allotted foodgrains made available by surplus provinces or received from abroad under what is known as the Basic Plan and have endeavoured, in consultation with the War Transport Department, to secure that the surpluses so allotted are despatched to their destinations at a high priority and with the least possible delay. These measures will be continued during 1945. The total quantity already despatched to these areas is 590,572 tons and further allocations of over 300,000 tons have been made and await despatch.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the idea of the Government by saying adequate quantities are being supplied to these people in order to prevent mal-nutrition and even starvation that the rations granted to the rural folk in Vizagapatam district are to be reduced from 20 to 10 tolas, whereas the town people are being granted 40 tolas per day per head?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not quite follow the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Isn't it a fact that in Vizagapatam district during this month the rations granted to the people in the rural areas of the district have been reduced by 50 per cent., i.e., from 20 to 10 tolas, even while these 20 tolas is 50 per cent. of the rations granted to the people in towns.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am sorry I cannot reply to the question. Rationing is not the business of my Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government wish to take to satisfy themselves that the people in this area are not doomed to under-nourishment and semi-starvation and therefore mal-nutrition which favours the spread of these contagious diseases?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Partly, Sir, we will try to grow more foodgrains there or near-by. As regards rationing and supply of food, I shall have to refer my Honourable friend to the appropriate Department.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Has the Honourable Member seen to-day's *Hindustan Times* which reports that there are 10,000 deaths in Gorakhpur district in the United Provinces and these are due mostly to bad nourishment that the people get?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I saw the paragraph in the newspaper to which my Honourable friend referred. The present question however deals with shortage of foodgrains in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Malabar and Vizagapatam.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India received any representation from the Bihar Government for supplies of foodgrains from the Central Storage?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I must again refer my Honourable friend to the Honourable the Food Member.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: In part (c) of the question, the Honourable Member who put it wanted to know about the adequacy of the quantities of food supplied to these suffering people. I should like to know from the Honourable Member who has replied to the question as to whether food other than foodgrains was rushed to those areas on behalf of Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I cannot answer that but perhaps if it is raised in the current food debate the Food Member may be able to reply.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I hope "food" is not interpreted to mean only "food grains" in the Government of India Secretariat.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

CONFERENCE FOR EQUITABLE PRICE FIXATION.

151. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if the Government are prepared to convene a conference of the representatives of Provincial Governments, Provincial Food Councils and peasants, especially foodgrain producers and millers in order to work out a more equitable system of price fixation so that only producers and consumers will be benefited?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Government of India do not consider it necessary to convene a Conference of the type proposed by the Honourable Member. In formulating their price policy, the Government of India are advised by a Price Advisory Committee, which consists of the representatives of producers, consumers and the trade. Provincial Governments are also consulted.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

152. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state, in reference to the Labour Department's letter No. L. 1882, dated the 3rd March, 1942 in which Mr. M. N. Roy's scheme for propaganda on the Labour Front, costing Rs. 13,000 per mensem was approved:

(a) whether Government have satisfied themselves that the said moneys have been spent according to the scheme;

(b) whether they have received any reports from Mr. M. N. Roy or his Labour Organisation on the manner of their utilisation;

(c) whether Government have drawn any conclusions upon their work and reports, if so, what they are, and whether they will be placed on the table of the House;

(d) whether there is any audit, and, if so, by whom;

(e) whether the audit report at least be placed on the table of the House;

(f) whether similar subsidies are being granted to any other individuals or organisations; if so, what they are, and what sums are being thus granted, and with what effects; and

(g) whether Government propose to continue these grants; and

(h) whether these grants are grants-in-aid, and, if so, on what basis?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d) of question No. 31 put by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

(b) Yes.

(c) As already stated in reply to an earlier question, Government is satisfied that it has received adequate value for the money spent. The monthly grant is spent on the publication of printed literature, oral propaganda, visual publicity and the dissemination of reassuring news.

(d) and (e). This expenditure like all other expenditure is subject to Government audit and any comments made will appear in the Audit Report.

(f) No.

(g) Yes, it is the intention to continue for the present the grant made to the Federation.

(h) They are not grants-in-aid but represent payment for certain work carried out by the Association at Government's request.

INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS CHARTER AND INDIAN SEAMEN:

153. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Commerce Member aware of the existence of the International Seafarers Charter? If so, does he realize the gap between the conditions demanded by the Charter and those existing for Indian Seamen was enormous?

(b) Is the Government of India prepared to ratify the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation Conference together with the Philadelphia Declaration?

(c) What is the basic wage of the Indian dock hand today? What is the basic pay per month recommended by the Charter?

(d) Are Government aware that Indian seamen do not enjoy the same treatment as white seamen regarding war bonus? If so, how do the Government of India propose to make good the difference?

(e) Is it not a fact that Indian seamen are grossly under-paid as compared with White seamen?

(f) Is it not a fact that necessary training for the job is denied to Indian seamen? If so, when is this glaring injustice to be remedied?

(g) Are Government aware that there is a tacit agreement between shipping employers in Bombay and Calcutta to bar Indians who might prove as efficient as European seamen?

(h) Is it not a fact that the cost of living in India to-day is not far below that in Glasgow and Liverpool or London?

(i) Is it not a fact that Indian seamen perform most of their service outside India?

(j) Is it not a fact that the case of the Indian seamen is under active consideration? If so, how long is this going to last?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the recent twenty-sixth Session of the International Labour Conference held at Philadelphia. The Conference did not adopt any Conventions. As regards the Recommendations adopted, the Government of India have not yet come to any decision what action will be taken on any of them, except that the proceedings of the Conference will be placed on the table of the Legislature in its next Session.

As regards the "Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the I.L.O." known as the Philadelphia Declaration or Charter, no question of ratification arises. The delegates of the Government of India voted in favour of the Declaration.

(c) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information. The second part of the question does not arise in view of my reply to part (a).

(d) So far as the inequality in war bonus is concerned, the position is as stated by the Honourable Member. The question of an increase in war bonus is under negotiation between Shipowners and Indian Seamen's representatives.

(e) The wages of Indian Seamen are lower than those of corresponding ranks of British Seamen.

(f) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to facilities for training on board the ship. If this is so, Government have no information on the point.

(g) The Government of India are not aware of any such agreement.

(h) No.

(i) Yes.

(j) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the wages of Indian seamen. His attention is invited to the answer to part (d).

Statement showing the present basic wages of Indian Deck hands at Calcutta and Bombay

Ratings.	Present basic wages (including 100 per cent. increase on pre-war wages)	
	Calcutta.	Bombay.
	Rs.	Rs.
Serangs	120	130
Seacanny	110	120
First Tindal	74	92
Second Tindal	60	70
Cassab	60	64
Winchman	56	68
Lascar (first grade)	50	60
Lascar (second grade)	44	56
	to 45	
Lascar (third grade)	35	50
	to 42	
Lascar's Boys	24	30
Bhandary	50	60
Bhandary Mate	20	40
	to 24	
Topass	44	46

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN THE EASTERN ZONE OF CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

154. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Central Public Works Department has been bifurcated into Eastern and Western Zones?

(b) Is it a fact that there is under recruitment of Muslims in all grades of service in the Eastern Zone? If so, have Government taken any steps to redress this grievance? If so, what? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) In the case of Subordinates, there was an under recruitment of Muslims in the Eastern Zone and over recruitment of Muslims in the Western Zone, if these Zones are considered separate units. But there is no deficiency in the recruitment of Muslims in the Central Public Works Department considered as a whole.

In the case of Temporary Engineers there was over recruitment of Muslims in the Western Zone, and under recruitment in the Eastern Zone due to the fact that suitable Muslim candidates were not available in that Zone at the time the recruitment was made. This deficiency in the Eastern Zone will be made good gradually as suitable Muslims become available.

There is no deficiency of Muslims in any other grade either in the Eastern or in the Western Zone.

ORDINANCE OF THE NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

155. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state when the Ordinance of the Natal Provincial Council is to be passed?

(b) Are the Government of India aware of the provisions of the Ordinance?

(c) Are the Government of India satisfied that the provisions are not detrimental to the interests of Indians in Natal?

(d) Is it a fact that Town Boards and Town Councils in Natal do not contain any Indian representatives?

(e) Is it a fact that the Housing Board which has been formed in Natal is buying up all the property declared by the Licensing Board as not transferable by a member of one race to a member of another to the detriment of Indians holding properties?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance. The Ordinance passed its third reading in the Natal Provincial Council on the 2nd November, 1944.

(b) Yes.

- (c) No.
- (d) I have no accurate information but the number of Indian representatives on these bodies must be negligible, if not nil.
- (e) As far as Government are aware a Housing Board with functions described by the Honourable Member is proposed to be set up under an Ordinance now before the Natal Provincial Council but none is functioning at present.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE U. K. C. C.

156. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state when the U. K. C. C.'s activities were last reviewed? What are the results of such a review?

(b) Does the policy and attitude of the Government of India for the U. K. C. C. require any change in view of the enormous profits derived by the concern to the detriment of Indian interests?

(c) Is there any suggestion to the Government of India by the Indian Commercial representatives to start an Indian organization similar to the U. K. C. C. for carrying on India's export trade? If so, what has been the reply by the Government of India?

(d) Is there any possibility of starting such a concern to safeguard the business interests of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The activities of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation are reported to the Government of India every month. The review of such activities has at no time disclosed any breach of the statutory or other regulations in force.

(b) The Government of India have no information that the U.K.C.C. have derived enormous profits from their operations in India.

(c) Suggestions regarding the desirability of establishing a Government organisation in India similar to the U.K.C.C. have been made from time to time but the consensus of opinion expressed by representatives of Indian Commerce and Industry who were invited to a conference in September last was not in favour of the creation of such an organisation.

(d) The Government of India do not consider that the creation of a Government trading agency at present will safeguard the business interests of India.

PLAN FOR BUILDING UP OF FOODGRAINS RESERVE.

156A. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if Government have made any effective plan to build up a foodgrain reserve as recommended by the Foodgrains Committee of Dr. Gregory, and with what success?

(b) Why have Government failed to mobilize and store adequate quantities of food in food deficit Provinces such as Madras, certain districts of Orissa, Bihar and Bengal during the last ten months?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government to leave Provinces to shift for themselves or to go to their rescue in time?

(d) Do Government propose to import adequate quantities of foodgrains from surplus Provinces such as Sind and Punjab and also from Canada and Australia into deficit Provinces such as Madras, Bombay? If so, what special steps are being taken to import foodgrains in time from other Provinces and from abroad into deficit Provinces and districts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, but the supplies which have been made available to the Central Government have been little more than sufficient to meet immediate current requirements and to enable Provincial and State Governments to establish the necessary reserves against their own rationing and provisioning schemes.

(b) The Provincial Governments concerned have mobilised their resources and the Central Government have sent large quantities of food to the areas in question.

(c) It is the intention of the Government of India to forestall local shortages wherever possible.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In so far as the second part of the question is concerned the Food Department allot

the surpluses declared by surplus Provinces to meet the needs of deficit provinces under what is known as the Basic Plan. The Department, in consultation with the War Transport Department endeavours to secure that the surpluses so allotted are despatched to their destinations at a high priority and with the least avoidable delay.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RADIO SETS RECEIVED UNDER LEASE AND LEND

38. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state how many radio sets the Government have received under the Lease and Lend during the period from 1st October, 1943 to date?

(b) How have they been distributed amongst the different provinces in India, and how is their cost to be met?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

PAPER ANNUALLY SUPPLIED TO BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, ETC.

39. Bhai Parma Nand: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quantity of paper supplied in each year since 1941 to (i) the Bureau of Public Information, (ii) the Counter-Propaganda Directorate, (iii) Film Publicity, (iv) External Publicity and (v) Foreign Publicity?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As the question concerns the Labour Department I am answering it. The information as far as readily available is given in the statement below:—

Statement		
Indentor	Tonnage consumed during 1-4-1943 to 31-3-1944	Tonnage consumed during 1-4-1944 to 31-8-1944
(i) Bureau of Public Information	162	55
(ii) Counter Propaganda Directorate	50	23
(iii) Film Publicity	Not available.	1
(iv) External Publicity	18	Nil
(v) Foreign Publicity	99	17

NOTE.—(1) The figures prior to 1st April 1944 in the case of Film Publicity and 1st April 1943 in the case of the rest are not available. The figures relate to Financial years.

(2) The figure shown against item No. (iv) above represents the consumption by the British Ministry of Information.

(3) The figures against items (iii) and (v) are in respect of the consumption of "Information Films of India" and "Publicity Officer (Foreign)", respectively.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India, three nominations were received. Subsequently one candidate withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected: (1) Dr. P. N. Banerjee, (2) Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Public Debt (Central Government) Bill together with the Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

CASES IN WHICH THE LOWEST TENDERS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I lay on the table four statements furnished by the High Commissioner for India, London, showing all cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India during the half years ended 31st December 1941, 30th June 1942, 31st December 1942 and 30th June 1943.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT of Cases in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1941.

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—
Nil.

PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
	Sq. yds.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Glass Substitute on fabric base.	30,000	A. 1150/458/27-6-41	Dr. Fay-Chromax Ltd.	5,240 17 7		50,000 yds. of glass substitute on a fabric base were recd. very urgently. Two tenders only offered suitable material.
Ditto	20,000	A. 1151/458/27-6-41	British Celanese, Ltd.	1,958 6 8		20,000 yards were ordered from the lower who offered to commence delivery in 12 weeks, and to deliver at the rate of 10,000 yards every 3 weeks. The remainder was ordered from the next tenderer who offered delivery in 3 weeks.
Ligature, Catgut, Sterilised, one length of 28" in tubes, size 1-4.	Nos. 20,076	A. 1822/1976/3-9-41	Allen & Hanburys, Ltd.	451 14 2 plus packing & delivery f. o. b. at cost. (British).	250 19 0 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 7-15 months. The next lowest offered delivery in 4-7 months. The order was therefore placed with the third lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-8 weeks.

[7TH Nov. 1944]

Ligature, Catgut, Sterilised, one length of 5 ft. in tubes size 00, 0, 1, 2, 3.	Nos. 83,715	A. 1823/1976/3-9-41	Johnson & Johnson (Gt. Britain), Ltd.	2,000 13 9 (British).	1,857 12 2 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8-14 months. The order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 13 weeks.
Bearings, Roller Journal metric size 40×90×23 mm.	Nos. 24	A. 2025/2516/1-10-41	The Hoffman Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	10 10 7 (British).	8 18 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-20 weeks. Indent asked for supply as soon as possible and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.
Ligatures, Catgut, Sterilised, plain, non-boiled, medium hard, boxes of 12 glass capsules each containing 1 length of 5 ft. sizes 1 to 5, 1/0, 2/0, 3/0, 5/0.	Boxes 2,188	A. 2051/3167/4-10-41	Johnson & Johnson (Gt. Britain), Ltd.	750 9 8 (British).	574 7 0 (British).	The ligatures were required very urgently in replacement of stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6-8 months. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 7-15 weeks.
Ligatures, Catgut, Sterilised, plain, non-boiled, medium hard, boxes of 12 glass capsules each containing 1 length of 5 ft. sizes 6 and 6/0.	Boxes 507	A. 2052/3167/4-10-41	Allen & Hanburys, Ltd.	215 10 2 plus delivery and f. o. b. at cost. (British).	131 15 6 (British).	The ligatures were required very urgently in replacement of ligatures lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6-8 months. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 8-12 weeks.
Spare parts for Carden-Lloyd Light Tanks. Mark IV.A. Fan Spanner.	Nos. 12	A. 2339/1574/7-11-41	R. T. Shelley, Ltd.	9 6 0 (British).	4 10 0 (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 30 weeks. As the spanners were required urgently, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered very early delivery.

c Single Ended Box Spanner for Bevel Shaft Nut 1-1/8" Whitworth. Nos. 12

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

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Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
Ligatures, Catgut, one length of 28" in a glass tube :—Sizes 1, 2 & 3.	Tubes 18,248	A. 2461/3920/21-11-41	G. F. Merson, Ltd.	£. s. d. 266 2 4 (British).	£. s. d. 228 0 0 (British).	The ligatures were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered two alternatives viz :—in envelopes for delivery in 6 months, or in tubes at a higher price for delivery in 1½-2 weeks. In view of the urgency the latter was accepted.
Ligatures, Catgut, sterilised, one length of 5 ft. in a glass tube.	Tubes 9,708	A. 2594/3920/1-12-41	Armour & Co., Ltd.	£. s. d. 293 13 4 (British).	£. s. d. 212 7 3 (British).	The ligatures were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 26 weeks. The order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week.
Sulpharsphen-amine, B: P. Amps.	21,500	A. 2603/4666/2-12-41	Boots Pure Drug, Co., Ltd.	£. s. d. 796 17 6 (British).	£. s. d. 483 6 8 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery to commence in March and complete in Nov. 1942. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 2 months.
Knives, Band, 20' x 1" with plain edge, for "Crescent" Band Knife-cutting machines.	Nos. 240	A. 2637/4403/4-12-41	Aublet, Homer & Co.	£. s. d. 117 0 0 (British).	£. s. d. 114 0 0 (British).	The knives were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12 weeks. The higher tenderer offered delivery of 240

knives in 4-6 weeks, and the order for this quantity was therefore placed with him. The remaining 48 knives were ordered from the lower tenderer.

Chemical Apparatus parts

Sodii Phosphas Acidus B. P.	Cwts. 17	Additional A. 2383/4250/13-11-41.	Burgoyne Burbridges & Co., Ltd.	£. s. d. 103 14 0 (British).	£. s. d. 146 8 0 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The delivery offered by the lowest tenderer was indefinite and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 7 days.
Ditto	7	A. 2711/4250/10-12-41	Thomas Tyrer & Co., Ltd.	£. s. d. 49 0 0 (British).	£. s. d.	The sodii phosphas was required very urgently to replace material lost by enemy action, and in order to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers.
Copper tubing	Cwts. 219	A. 2894/4164/27-12-41	Chas. Clifford & Son, Ltd.	£. s. d. 1,457 14 0 (British).	£. s. d. 1,452 8 11 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10 weeks. As the tubing was required in India as early as possible the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only.—Nil.
Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders.—Nil.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1942

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—Nil.
PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores ordered.	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance
Circuit breakers outdoor. Trip Coils Three Phase Contacts.	10 Nos. 1 set. 2 sets.	A. 2955/5072/1-1-42	Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Export Co., Ltd.	£ 544 10 0 s. 0 d. 0 (British).	£ 522 0 0 s. 0 d. 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-22 weeks. The stores were required in India by April-May 1942 and the order was therefore placed with the next tenderer, who offered delivery in 7-11 weeks.
Tools, Measuring	158 pairs	A. 2978/5314/3-1-42	Coventry Gauge & Tool Co., Ltd.	232 12 6	209 8 4	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10/40 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8/10 weeks.
Reagents (various)		A. 3157/4453/17-1-42	Hopkin & Williams, Ltd.	43 8 9 (British).	40 15 7 (British).	The stores were very urgently required in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered delivery in about 4 months, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 4 weeks.
Cutters, Concave Speed Steel,	36 Nos.	A. 3233/5706/21-1-42	Thos. Firth & John Brown Ltd.	172 16 0 (British).	158 8 0 (British).	The stores were required in India by April 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 36 "working weeks from receipt of the Export Licence number" and "subject to Government priority work". Their quotation was also subject to increase. The order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 5-6 months.

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STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

ment priority work". Their quotation was also subject to increase. The order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 5-6 months.

The indent asked for supply in India of part by March and the balance by June 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10-12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the next equal lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week.

The lower tenderer offered delivery in 4 months. The tubing was required in India as early as possible in view of the heavy costs programme, and the order therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.

The Indent, which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible: the lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-20 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2 weeks.

The stores were urgently required at Site in India by 15th April 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8 weeks and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week.

19 2 8
(British).

26 5 0
(British).
Plus postage
at cost.

John Elsworth & Sons,
(Sheffield), Ltd.

A. 3742/6319/23-2-42

Saws, Band, for "Doall"
machine. Set of teeth.
042" :—
1/4" width by 18 teeth
per inch.
3/16" width by 18 teeth
per inch.

Rft. 450
550

16 5 0
(British).

19 15 10
(British).

J. G. Ingram & Son, Ltd.

A. 3748/6281/23-2-42

Tubing, India Rubber :—
3/8" wall × 1/4" bore
3/8" wall × 1" bore

Ft. 100
100

152 0 0
(British).

157 0 0
(British).

The low Moor Best York-
shire Iron, Ltd.

A. 3797/6093/26-2-42

Wrought Iron round bars
for cold riveting :—
1-1/2" round
4 tons.

354 5 6

356 10 4
(British).

British Insulated Cables,
Ltd.

A. 3801/6023/26-2-42

Wire, Electric. Copper,
hard drawn, High Con-
ductivity, bare stranded.
Size, 7, stroke.

193

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
Saws, Band for Thell machine— Teeth 6 per c. m. Width 8 m.m.	550 Rft.	A. 3936/6141/5-3-42	E. H. Jones (machine Tools), Ltd.	£. s. d. 15 0 0 (British).	£. s. d. 10 8 6 (British).	The Indent asked for supply in India of part by March and balance by June 1942. The lower tender offered delivery in 10-12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tender who offered delivery ex-stock.
Ligatures, Catgut, Tubes of 28" size 1.	6800 tubes	A. 3984 6863/9-3-42	Armour & Co., Ltd.	£. s. d. 138 7 10 (British).	(British).	The ligatures were required in India very urgently in replacement of stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tender offered delivery in 3 months, and the order was therefore placed with a higher tender who offered delivery in 1½ weeks.
Steel, Mild, Hexagon, Black 5/8" Nut (1.100 across flats) in 12 to 16 ft. lengths.	4 tons.	A. 4032/6091/11-3-42	Colville, Ltd.	£. s. d. 81 1 0	77 1 0	The Indent, which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible. The lower tender offered delivery in 12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tender who offered delivery in 4-6 weeks.
Floating carriage diameter measuring machines 0.4"	Nos. 2	A. 4251/5973/26-3-42	Conventry Gauge & Tool Co., Ltd.	£. s. d. 133 0 0 plus N. P. L. fees. (British).	120 0 0 (British).	The Indent asked for supply in India by 15th March 1942. The lowest tender offered delivery in 10 weeks and the order was therefore placed with a higher tender who offered delivery in approx. 4 weeks.
Ligature, Catgut, Sterilised :—Plain 5 ft. strand in a glass tube :— Size 3	76260 tubes	D. 363/7339/20-4-42 D. 365/7339/20-4-42	Cuxson Gerrard & Co., Ltd. Tubes 34260 G. F. Merson, Ltd. Tubes 42000.	£. s. d. 832 14 2 1050 0 0 1,852 14 0 (British). 145 0 0 (British).	£. s. d. 1,853 10 0 106 17 6 (British).	The Ligatures were very urgently required in India, and to expedite supply, the order was divided between the two lowest tenders.
Rods, Coupling, Trail- ing :— Right hand Left hand	Nos. 3 Nos. 2	B. 646/7220/5-5-42	North British Locomotive Co., Ltd.	(British).	(British).	The Indent, which was originally placed in America, and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible. The lowest tender offered delivery in 36 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with a higher tender who offered delivery in 12 weeks.
Levels, 9.5' in box with stand.	Nos. 20	B. 829/3/15-5-42	Hall Bros.	£. s. d. 658 2 6 (British).	600 0 0 (Approx.) (British).	The lower tender offered delivery towards the end of 1942. The Indent requested the stores to be in India by June 1942, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tender who offered delivery in 5 weeks.
Regulus Metal Valves :— 2" bore 1" bore	Nos. 40 Nos. 15	B. 994/7811/28-5-42	Haughtons Metallic Co., Ltd.	£. s. d. 342 15 0 (British).	243 10 0 (British).	The lowest suitable tender offered delivery in 6 months. The stores were required at site in India by 1st September 1942 and the order was therefore placed with the higher tender who offered delivery in 9-10 weeks.
Ligature, Catgut, Sterilised :— Lengths of 5 ft. in tubes :— Size 2 Size 3	1824 Nos. 2556 Nos.	B. 1014/WF. 1976/29-5-42	G. S. Merson, Ltd.	£. s. d. 109 10 0 (British).	106 9 2 (British).	The lowest tender offered delivery by approx. mid September 1942. The stores were urgently required in India, and the order was therefore placed with a higher tender who offered delivery in 7/10 days.
Pneumatic Grinders	Nos. 4	B. 1031/241/1-6-42	Holman Bros., Ltd.	£. s. d. 113 8 0 (British).	91 16 0 (British).	The lowest tender offered delivery in 20-24 weeks. As the stores were required in India by June 1942, the order was placed with a higher tender who offered delivery in 6 weeks.

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Stores Ordered

Quantity

Contract No.

Name of Contractor

Amount
of
ContractLowest
tender not
accepted

Reasons for acceptance

Oil Stones (Various)

Nos. 419

B. 1073/229/3-6-42

The Carborandum, Co.,
Ltd.£. s. d.
30 16 7
(British).26 19 10
(British).

The lowest tenderer offered delivery in approx. 7 months. The stores were required in India by the end of July 1942, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in about 10-12 weeks.

Bolts and Nuts, Mild Steel,
Bright.

Nos. 6400

B. 1359/521/23-6-42

Stoll Parts, Ltd.

£. s. d.
42 4 6
(British).38 5 11
(British).

The lowest tenderer could not offer a delivery date. As the stores were required in India by 30th June 1942, the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered the store ready for inspection in about 10 weeks.

Surface table 6' x 3' marking out, on four legs, marked in 6" squares. Allowable variation .001" per foot.

Nos. 1

B. 1390/1157/25-6-42

W. Notting, Ltd.

£. s. d.
41 0 0
(British).37 0 0
(British).

The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8-10 weeks. The surface table was required at site in India by October 1942 and the order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered a table of superior design for delivery in 5 weeks.

Steel Spring Flat :-

1-3/8" x 1/16"
1-4/5" x 1/16"
2-1/8" x 5/64"

1 cwt.
2 cwt.
4 cwt.

B. 1508/124/30-6-42

The Rotherham Steel
Strip, Co., Ltd.£. s. d.
15 13 6
(British).12 10 2
(British).

The lower tenderer offered delivery in 26 weeks. As the stores were required in India from March to September 1942, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6-8 weeks.

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only—Nil.
Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders—Nil.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1942.

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—Nil.

PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest Tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Sheet Spring Steel :— Sheets 4' x 2'.	Ton 1	B. 1513/950/1-7-42	William Jessop & Sons, Ltd.	£. s. d. 66 10 0 (British).	£. s. d. 55 10 0 (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12 weeks (not guaranteed). As half the quantity of the stores was required in India by June 1942, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6-8 weeks.
Flannel, White Best Roller, Rot-proof, 36" wide, 14½ ozs. per yard.	Yards 150	B. 1645/123/8-7-42	Hugh Shaw, Ltd.	£. s. d. 32 18 1 (British).	30 9 4 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-13 weeks. As the stores were required in India as soon as possible after the 1st April 1942, and supply was expedited by telegram the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4 weeks.

Paper, printing Art. imitation, Double Crown, 20" x 30" 45 lbs.

Reams, 50

B. 1752/367/14-7-42

Alex. Cowan & Sons, Ltd.

£. s. d.
73 15 0
(British).50 6 3
(British).

The paper was very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer could not offer a definite delivery date, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 3-4 weeks.

[7TH Nov. 1944]

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest Tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Bearings, Ball, Double Row, Journal, Self-aligning, 2½ bore etc.	Nos. 9	B. 1810/1480/20-7-42	Ransome & Marles, Bear- ing Co., Ltd.	£. s. d. 7 7 9 (British).	£. s. d. 5 8 1 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered deli- very approx. end of October 1942. The stores were re- quired in India by September 1942, and the order was there- fore placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-5 weeks.
Belt, Driving Lacing ("Alligator" type)		B. 1863/4624/23-7-44	Automatic Pressings, Ltd.	£. s. d. 59 9 6 (British).	£. s. d. 48 5 3 (British).	The bolting was urgently requir- ed in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered deli- very in 12-16 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6-8 weeks.
Glasses, Straight for gauge column Cock—		B. 1910/1648/27-7-42	John Moncrieff, Ltd. (half quantities). S. & C. Bishop & Co., Ltd. (Half quantities).	216 15 9 235 18 9 452 14 6 (British).	433 11 5 (British).	The stores were required in India by 31st July 1942, and in order to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers.
Switchboard cable 22 wire 9½ lbs. per mile.	Yds. 1530	B. 1865/1923/30-7-42	Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd.	113 10 0 (British).	97 0 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered deli- very in 12 months after re- ceipt of all licences. The stores were urgently required in India, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 12-14 weeks.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Lamps, Electric, Discharge, Fluorescent, etc.—	Nos. 500	B. 2153/2051/19-8-42	The Edison Swan Elec- tric Co., Ltd. (200 lamps).	485 0 0 728 2 6 1,213 2 6 (British).	1,097 18 4 (British).	The lowest tenderer could not commence delivery for 20 weeks. As the stores were re- quired in India by October 1942, the order was divided between the two higher ten- derers, in order to expedite supply.
230 volts, 400 watts.		B. 2154/2051/19-8-42	The General Electric Co. Ltd. (300 lamps).			
Rings, retaining, steel 3" 3" for tyre fastening.	Nos. 400	B. 2356/1675/4-9-42	The Glasgow Rly. Engi- neering Co., Ltd.	206 5 0 (British).	178 15 0 (British).	The indent, which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible. The lowest tenderer offered deli- very at the end of March, 1943 and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 9-10 weeks.
Grinders Electric, Portable hand ball bearings.	Nos. 20	B. 2694/2470/1-10-42	S. Wolf & Co., Ltd. (10 grinders, 60 spare wheels).	214 7 7 265 4 0 479 11 7 (British).	436 3 0 (British).	The lower tenderer was unable to commence delivery before February 1943. Ten machines and seventy stones were re- quired in India by December 1942. This urgent portion of the demand was therefore ordered from Van Dorn Elec- tric Tools who offered delivery in 6 weeks. The balance was allotted to Wolf & Co., Ltd.
Spare wheels	130	B. 2695/2470/1-10-42	Van Dorn Electric Tools. (10 grinders, 70 spare wheels).			
Razors, with nickel silver scales, in cardboard case.	Nos. 2000	B. 3220/2802/4-11-42	Joseph Rodgers & Sons, Ltd.	300 0 0 (British).	292 10 0 (British).	In view of the long time for deli- very offered by the lower ten- derer, who offered 100 per week commencing at the end of March 1942 the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery at the rate of 50 dozen per month com- mencing at the end of January 1943.

[7TH Nov. 1944]

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Mild Steel Pots 15½" dia. by 18" depth :— Calorised Uncalorised	Nos. 40 20	B. 3283/3417/6-11-42	Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.	£. s. d. 756 12 0 (British).	£. s. d. 690 0 0 (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 28-30 weeks. As the stores were required in India by Nov. '42, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery of the uncalorised pots in 4-6 weeks, 10 calorised pots immediately, and the balance within 6 weeks.
Knives, Spare, for paper cutting machine.	Nos. 6	B. 3304/3113/9-11-42	F. Mountford & Sons, Ltd.	£. s. d. 29 4 0 (British).	£. s. d. 23 8 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-16 weeks. As the early supply of the stores had been specially requested by the indentor, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-6 weeks.
Gaskets, Asbestos, Wire woven, 4-11/16" sq.	Nos. 5000	B. 3317/3957/10-11-42	Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd.	£. s. d. 105 0 0 (British).	£. s. d. 88 7 6 (British).	The stores were urgently required in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered delivery in 8-10 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery from stock.
Bulbs, hooded, 3.5 volts for cystoscopes :— (a) Adult's size. Gauge CS/2. (b) Child's size. Gauge CS/2.	No. 500 500	B. 3524/3287/25-11-42	James L. Hatrick & Co., (London), Ltd.	£. s. d. 210 0 0 plus packing, postage & insurance at cost.	£. s. d. 175 0 0 plus postage & packing at cost.	The indent requires the stores in India in instalments complete by Dec. 43. The lowest tenderer already has a much larger contract for similar stores, on which he is unable to maintain his promised rate of delivery and which is likely to take most of 1943 to complete. On the recommendation

of the Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State the new contract was placed with the next lowest tenderer in order to ensure complete delivery of outstanding requirements in the time specified.

The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12-26 weeks. As the stores were required in India in April to Sept. 42, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8-16 weeks.

Ball Bearings (Various).

B. 3951/907/30-12-42

The Hoffmann Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

£. s. d.
25 17 3
(British).

£. s. d.
23 18 3
(British).

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only—Nil.
Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders—Nil.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1943.

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign-made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—Nil.
PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Bridge-Megger Testing Set, 1000 volts.	No. 1	B. 4079/4757/11-1-43	Evershed & Vignoles, Ltd.	£. s. d. 50 11 3 (British).	£. s. d. 33 5 9 (British).	The indent required the stores at site in India by March, '43. As the lower tenderer offered delivery in 10-12 months, the order was placed with the higher tenderer, who offered delivery in 6 months.

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			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Hoists, Ball-Bearing, Spur-Gear, etc.	Nos. 100	B. 4378/4997/30-1-43	The Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co.	1,200 0 0 (British).	The lowest suitable tenderer offered to commence delivery in 10 weeks at the rate of 15-20 per week. The indent required half the quantity of stores at site in India by March 1943, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 10-12 weeks, with part earlier.
Screws (various sizes and quantities).	..	B. 4513/4983/13-2-43	Unbrako Socket Screw Co., Ltd.	53 12 6 (British).	The lowest tenderer could not promise a date for delivery as the stores would be manufactured in U. S. A. The next lowest tenderer offered part delivery from stock and completion in 12-14 weeks. The remaining tenderer was only 2s. 8d. higher than the second lowest tenderer and offered complete delivery in 8 weeks. As part of the requirements were specified to reach India by the 1st April 1943, the order was placed with the last mentioned tenderer.
Gauges, Pressure, Com-pound, 7" dia.	Nos. 12	B. 4576/4892/23-2-43	Payne & Griffiths, Ltd.	22 16 3 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 13-14 weeks. The next lowest offered delivery in 30 weeks. As the stores were required at site in India by February 1943, the order was placed with the third lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 8 weeks.

			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Copper Tacks, cut 3/8", 1/2", 5/8"	19,856 lbs.	B. 4588/5325/24-2-43 B. 4589/5325/24-2-43	Hall & Rice, Ltd. (9928 lbs.). Harrison & Cook. (9928 lbs.)	564 16 7 567 15 2 1,132 11 10 (British). 695 16 0 (British).	The Copper tacks were required in India by March 1943, and to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 28/46 weeks. As the stores were required in India as soon as possible, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 20 weeks.
Motor Generator Sets	Nos. 2	C. 132/6735/7-4-43	The Electric Construction Co., Ltd.	706 0 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered to commence delivery in 26 weeks and to complete in 36 weeks. The indentor required the stores in India by 30th April 1943, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 6 weeks.
Sterilisers, Portable, etc.	Nos. 500	C. 690/394/22-5-43	Surgical Equipment Supplies, Ltd.	775 0 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6 months, and the next lowest in 20-25 weeks. As the stores were required very urgently, and were in replacement of those lost at sea by enemy action, the order was placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 12 weeks.
Copper Wire double rayon covered.	800 lbs.	C. 833/732/31-5-43	The London Electric Wire Co. and Smiths, Ltd.	167 18 4 (British).	

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only.—Nil.
Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders.—Nil.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on Wednesday, the 1st November, 1944, namely:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934 (Second Amendment), be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi, and the mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): The first part of the Bill provides compensatory days of rest when the Provincial Governments exempt certain factories from the operation of section 35 of the Factories Act, making a weekly day of rest obligatory. This removes one of the defects of the present Factory Act and therefore the Amendment is a welcome one.

Sir, the second part of the Bill deals with the principle that human beings after continuous work for a long period, say for a year, require certain continuous holidays, so that their health may be recouped and efficiency revived. I therefore congratulate the Honourable the Labour Member for having proposed to apply that principle of a continuous holiday to the working classes in this country. But, Sir, unfortunately the Honourable Member restricts the application of this principle only to workers working in factories. There are other industries in which workers work for a continuous period and they work very hard and therefore are equally entitled to a continuous holiday as the workers in the factories are entitled to. Take for instance the mines. The conditions under which the miners work are harder and more unpleasant than those of the factory workers. Still the Honourable Member does not propose to give them a continuous holiday, even though they may work for a year or a longer period. I wish, Sir, that the Honourable the Labour Member, instead of proposing that the application of the principle of a paid holiday should be restricted to the factory workers, had brought forward a measure applying the same principle to all industrial workers. In that case the measure would have been more welcome to the working classes of this country. It seems to me that the Government of India believes that if they were to make any progress, they should go very slow. I know that they are considering the question of health insurance but they begin with the factory workers only. Similarly, when they are proposing to give holidays to the workers, they begin with the factory workers only. I would like them to consider whether this rate of progress is not a very slow one. If they begin to give holidays to the workers in the factories first, then to miners, then to dock workers and then to the plantation workers, it will take several years before all the industrial workers are covered. I would like, Sir, the Honourable the Labour Member to consider whether he should not adopt any other method; so that progress will be quicker.

Then, Sir, the holiday which the Honourable the Labour Member proposes for the workers in factories is a very short one and in my judgment it is very inadequate considering their need for rest. He will agree that work in a factory is a very hard one and if a man works continuously for a year, a holiday of seven days out of which he will receive payment only for six, is not a sufficient rest. Therefore the Honourable Member has, in my judgment, made a mistake in making the holiday such a short one. Sir, those who work in Government offices generally get a month's holiday and that holiday is also a paid one. Moreover, work in an office, especially in a Government office, is not half so hard as work in a factory. I therefore think that the Honourable Member should have kept the paid holiday larger than what the Government of India gives to its employees working in offices. In Russia the industrial workers get a month's paid holiday. In several other countries the holiday given is a larger one and I thought that the Government of India would follow the examples of countries where workers are properly cared for, like Russia and other countries. This question was considered by the Bihar Labour Com-

mittee and they recommended that the holiday should be at least for a fortnight, and in the case of heavy workers such as workers in steel factories, they recommended a three weeks' holiday. The Government of India did not accept even that modest proposal. Moreover, when we are considering the question of the length of the holiday, generally speaking, young persons below the age of 18 or 16 are given a longer holiday. There is a Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation on this subject of holidays with pay; and in that Convention special provision is made for longer holidays for young persons. (An Honourable Member: "Even in schools they have long holidays!") The Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation also proposed that the length of the holiday should be in proportion to the length of the service; that is, if a man works in an industry for several years he should get a longer holiday, because he needs a continuous rest much longer than a man who freshly joins an industry. I hope that the Government of India and the legislature will consider this point regarding the adequacy of the length of the holiday.

Then this Bill provides that in order that a workman should be entitled to get a continuous holiday, he must work in one factory. I think that is a wrong thing. The worker should be free to choose his employer when he finds that the conditions are not suitable. If you pass legislation providing for a holiday for a workman, on condition that he will get the holiday only if he does not change his master, then the Government of India is weakening the power of bargaining of the worker. If the workman is free to change his master, he has a better power of bargaining regarding the conditions of his work than if he is tied down to one master. It is quite possible to make some arrangement by which a man may change his master but keep his right to a holiday if he works in one industry for a period of 12 months or more. I hope that the Legislature and the Government of India will consider this question.

Then, the Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation also provides a proposal that an agreement to relinquish his right by a workman with his master should be made void. I hope that the Government of India will accept this proposal also.

It is a good thing that this Bill provides for a continuous holiday, although the provision is inadequate. But let me tell this House and also the Government of India that in a country like India where distances are very great, if your holiday is only six days holiday, it will be difficult for workers to go home and enjoy the holiday. Half of his time—perhaps more than half—will be spent on the railway train. If a short holiday is to be given and if the worker is to take advantage of it, the Government of India should have made some provision for what I may call holiday homes. Such holiday homes are provided in Russia and in several other countries. Therefore, as the Government of India is thinking of giving a holiday and if the holiday is to be properly used by the workers, the Government of India should move in the matter to see that some holiday homes are provided for the workers. Otherwise the holiday may not be as useful as it should be.

There is also another point which I want to make and it is this: in India as I have said the distances are very large. If workers have to go home and even not for very long distances they will have to spend some money on travelling out of the small amount which they will get for six days. In India the average wage is generally 8 annas a day—the highest average wage is about a rupee a day. If a man gets a paid holiday for six days and if the average wage is only 8 annas, he will get three rupees. After spending for his railway fare out of these three rupees, what can he spend for the enjoyment of the holiday? The average wage in India will not be more than 8 annas a day. It is true that in the case of Bombay, of which my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir has some knowledge, the average wage is about a rupee a day; but even taking that figure, after all 6 rupees is not a sufficient sum for the enjoyment of a holiday for six days. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable Labour Member that he should approach the Honourable Railway

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Member, who is not present here, that the railways should give concessions to the workers when they go out on a holiday. The Indian railways give concessions to all sorts of people, for parties going out for cricket or hockey matches, for theatrical companies going from place to place, for people going to conferences etc., and I therefore suggest to the Honourable Labour Member to persuade his colleague, the Railway Member, to provide railway concessions for the workers who take advantage of the Bill for providing for a paid holiday and who want to enjoy that holiday and recoup their health and revive their efficiency. I have great pleasure in supporting the motion made by the Honourable Labour Member.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I have listened with great interest to both the speeches, the one made by the Honourable Labour Member introducing his Bill, and the other made by that veteran labour and social worker from Bombay, Mr. N. M. Joshi. I shall first deal with certain general observations made by the Honourable Labour Member. He referred to the past history of this case; he referred to the debate which took place in this House in January 1937 when Sir Frank Noyce moved "that the House do not approve of the Convention passed by the International Labour Conference". I shall just read what the Government of India's view as placed before the convention in Geneva was: it said:

"The Government of India believe that the principle is sound"—(*I agree and also believe that the principle is sound*)—"but every sound principle of labour welfare is not capable of satisfactory general enforcement by legislative enactment. In the present case any attempt to enforce a general system in India would meet with grave difficulties. Much of the labour employed in industries is drawn from and maintains contact with villages at long distances from industrial centres and a holiday would be of little value to the workers unless it made it possible for them to revisit their villages. But few could afford to make such a journey every year. Again holidays would lose much of their value for the worker unless they could be taken at a time when on account of"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think the Honourable Member need read all that at such length. If he has any comments to make, he can do so.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: The Government of India's contention was that conditions in India were so different that the object of such a proposal would not be achieved. Take the question of long distances and family events which are more numerous than in any other country I know of. Everybody is interested in the marriages and deaths of fifth cousins and sixth cousins, the funerals and so on and the result is that a holiday with pay would be a misnomer in this country. If I were the Labour Member, I would straightaway say 'Pay your workers 6 days' additional wages and do not care what they do and how they spend the time'. Take my own constituency in the Bombay Presidency. We get workers from the Coast districts, to which practically for four months in the year—from May 15th to September 15—there is no transport. If they have to go at all during the monsoon, they have to go first to the Deccan, to Kolhapur and then by bus to the coast, in a very difficult time of the year when rains are heavy in the Ghats. We get workers from the Ghats and the villages near by, from Poona and Satara and other districts. Then we get workers from the Hyderabad State and lastly we get workers from the U.R. who are known as Bhaiyas in Bombay.

Now, Sir, our experience is that the demand for holidays comes in three or four seasons. The first is before the sowing time, the second when the crops are harvested and the third is when the marriage season starts. Just before I left Bombay, my manager reported that there were so many applications for leave and if all of them were granted leave it would result in dislocation of work. In the case of the Hindus, the marriage season comes in a particular period of the year.

Now, what will be the effect of this Bill. If Holidays with pay Bill is passed, then you are compelling the employers to grant leave to their employees. The principle of compulsion has not been introduced even in England up to

now. Lord Amulree's report has not been given effect to. On the other hand, Government have allowed this scheme of holidays with pay to be developed by voluntary co-operation between the employers and the employees and even in India such a movement has already taken place. My friend Mr. Miller referred to what has happened at Calcutta. There people are given pay for seven closed festival days. I know one concern in Bangalore where they started a scheme of holiday with pay a long time ago. Owing to a flaw in their orders, the workers, instead of taking this 7 or 10 days in one bloc, ask for leave not only on closed days but even on Sundays. Following that precedent, in the Mysore State now, most of the concerns have got schemes for holidays with pay. It is a voluntary development as a result of negotiations between the employers and employees. In my own concerns which I control at Bangalore, I have also accepted this principle but I have accepted the principle of continuous holiday and debarred them from taking leave on closed days. As regards continuous work, the principle I have introduced is that within a year they must put in 270 days work so that there will be 52 holidays and 10 closed days and I have left a gap of 33 days for sickness and other involuntary absence. But if this Bill is passed, what is going to happen is this. The workman will go on 2 months leave and he will get pay for 7 days during the period. Merely 7 days with pay is not really a holiday with pay. The real term ought to be 'leave with pay'. I agree that the system followed in Bengal or in the concern to which I referred in Bangalore is that of holidays with pay. That means that they get pay for some of the customary and sanctioned holidays. This is not leave with pay. I feel that so many complications will arise when people insist on going on leave. A man asks for leave. If it is refused, he goes. He simply goes away. He does not accept the order of the Manager. The next day he simply leaves and then comes and waits at the gate and pleads for mercy to be taken back. Now what has happened in Bombay. Under the Standing Orders, the workman is entitled to leave without pay after he puts in 12 months in the year. Then a further obligation is put upon us—I do not say unreasonably—especially nowadays, when transport difficulties are great. After the leave expires we have to keep the workers' lien on the post for 8 days. There is a ruling given under the Payment of Wages Act now—that if an employee overstays his leave without authority, he loses his lien not on the first day of his unauthorised absence but after 8 days. Even those days of grace have been included by the judgment under the Payment of Wages Act within the leave granted by the Standing Orders and the result is now when these people apply for leave they simply ignore the interests of service. I do not blame them, because our social customs are such that a man wants to attend even if a distant cousin marries. I know of one concern in Hyderabad State with which I am connected as a Director where if a workman dies the whole mill goes to the funeral and the mill is closed and there is no remedy. My friend Mr. Joshi and his friends have never told the workmen—at least I have not heard it on the floor of the House—not to do these things. He only speaks of our obligations.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: These are social obligations.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You are speaking of social obligations. The clerks do not stay away on occasions like this. If a clerk dies, the whole staff of clerks does not go but only one or two go. They do not abstain from attending office. I know Mr. Joshi wants all the conditions of Government service for his workers. Will he accept all the disciplinary obligations of Government service for the workers?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I will consider.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I am prepared to bargain with him on that point. There is no question of consideration. Here is a question of our giving rights and when I expect obligations in return, Mr. Joshi says that he will consider.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not a dictator.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: It is now sought to impose obligations on the employers by means of legislation. When the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act was passed, there were several obligations put on the worker and Mr. Joshi opposed the measure. It is not a question of dictatorship or consideration. That being the difficult atmosphere in which we have to work, even if the principle is sound, I do not think anybody can call us reactionary if we oppose or find it difficult to support such a measure. I maintain that the conditions that are described in the Government of India's statement before the Labour Convention are still existing in this country. Now, what happened? The Government of India held a Conference when Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar was in charge of the Labour portfolio. At the Conference held by the employers with the Member in Calcutta in 1940 our case was that the first item in a scheme of labour welfare should be the sickness insurance. Government moved in the matter by appointing a special officer. We supported that move and we gave our co-operation. Now we have got a very valuable report from Professor Adarkar. We say that in view of the circumstances prevailing in the country, holidays with pay should be the last item on labour welfare programme. Government have already appointed a Committee for social security. We are going to have unemployment insurance, sickness insurance and minimum wages forced on us. In these circumstances how can Mr. Joshi's charge against the Government of India be justified? If you look at the history of labour legislation, the record of the Government of India is such that they can be proud of it. They have been in much great hurry than several other Governments. I may not go into the motives, but the Government of India have always gone on legislating and compelling employers to do this and that.

A Bill for providing Holidays with pay was actually drafted and sent to us for opinion in 1942. Then, we presented our case and I am glad that even that democratic body among commercial organisations, the Indian Merchants Chamber,—I am sorry Mr. Manu Subedar is not here—also supported the point of view taken by us and other employers. That being the case, I hope the House will understand the difficulty which I feel in supporting or giving whole-hearted support to the proposal made by Dr. Ambedkar before the House.

Now, Sir, I will come to the details of the Bill. I entirely agree with Mr. Joshi that leave or holidays that are granted under the proposed scheme should be continuous. That is the view of the Bombay employers. I believe in Calcutta they have had their difficulties and those difficulties may have to be considered while framing a scheme for holidays with pay. But in principle I entirely agree with Mr. Joshi that the holidays—I would rather call it leave—to be granted should be continuous. The whole trouble arises because the words used are 'holiday with pay'. Leave should be of a continuous nature. I object to the words 'at least'. I think the Government should lay down a definite period. I do not like the expression 'at least' because I want a standard period for all the provinces. I do not want various Provincial Governments having different periods of leave. Bombay, for instance, may give 7 days, Madras 10 or 12 days. The employers might voluntarily make it a period of 12 or 13 days. I would rather increase the number from 7 to 8, 9, or 10 days but it should be a standard period for all the provinces so that the Provincial Governments cannot run amok in compelling employers to grant holidays for different periods.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There is no power given to the Provincial Governments.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You have got the provision for provincial rules. If I am wrong, I shall be corrected by the Honourable Member in charge.

Then, as regards the payment of leave pay in advance. I agree that it is a small amount but it is entirely wrong in principle. Two essential conditions of Government leave rules are: (1) that leave cannot be granted as a matter of right and (2) that leave will be granted only at the convenience of the employers. If leave is refused, the employees are allowed to accumulate

it, but leave can be refused, and it is entirely within the discretion of the employer to refuse even the earned leave if he cannot spare the services of the employee. Further, Government leave rules are that if leave is refused and if the accumulated leave amounts to nine months and the man is due for retirement, he can be given an extension only up to a maximum period of 6 months to enjoy the leave which has been refused to him in the interests of service. I do not think even the *chaprassis* when they go on leave, they get an advance of the leave pay. If I am wrong, I shall be corrected. I know what is happening in various industries. Even if there is no leave with pay due to a man and if he has got a long record of service, we pay him the advance if he wants it because he has been with us for a period of 15 or 20 years. But here what is going to happen is that if you give leave to the man as a matter of right, he will go on 7 days' leave and he may not come back to us and we have no remedy. The object of this Bill is to make labour more or less loyal to one concern so that there is a continuity of service.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is servitude.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I do not want to go into that question because if I do I may have to speak on it for more than one hour. What happens is that the man takes away 3 or 4 rupees and goes away and then comes back and joins another employer or he may not come back at all. The word used is 'earned'; so the Government thinks that he has earned those 7 days' wages. Why don't they follow the same principle in their own case and give the *chaprassis* advances? In Government service if a Government servant over-stays his leave, he loses automatically his lien on the post. But in Bombay we have to keep his lien open for 8 days and if we take any action we have to face so many inquiries under the Bombay Industries Disputes Act and generally the decision goes against us. The man simply says that he posted a letter or a postcard asking for extension of leave. The Standing Orders require that the man should apply in writing for extension of leave. But the worker says that he posted a letter or sent a telegram which is generally of a stereotyped character. Once I almost told the Manager to give typed telegrams to workers when they go on leave so that they may not have to spend money on clerks who write out letters and telegrams for them. Therefore, it is wrong in principle to have this compulsory payment of half wages for 7 days and I oppose it.

Now, what is the position about sickness. Most of these village people go to the villages where there is no Doctor at all. Who is going to certify that the man is really ill? I may be told that the Government will make the rules, but it is very difficult to make rules to provide for all contingencies. Even if a man is really ill and he sends a certificate from an Indian Vaidya or somebody else, we do not know whether such a Vaidya or Doctor even exists there. In a place like Bombay you can get a medical certificate for 4 annas and they are very often used in Government offices. In these conditions I submit that the whole thing should not be left so vague in the Bill. If the Bill is to be improved, the conditions under which a man should become eligible for leave should be specified in the Bill itself. For instance, I have stated that if a man puts in 270 days work in a concern, then it does not matter if he is absent for 30 days on account of sickness or for other involuntary reason. In that case the position of both the employers and the employed will be made clear. But the clause as drafted is very vague and likely to make a difficult situation still more difficult.

Sir, I have nothing to say except this, that if this Bill is to be enacted and enforced, Government should make certain things, which I have mentioned, clear in the Act itself and not leave it to the rule making power. Even when the rule making power is exercised, it should be exercised in such a way that it does not lead to friction between the employers and the employees. The first principle that leave can be granted only at the convenience of the employer should be incorporated in the rules. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi says, no. Again, I take the case of my own concerns at Bangalore. The scheme there was accepted by a tribunal, presided over by a High Court Judge, with one representative of employer and one representative of employee. The

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condition that I had proposed was accepted unanimously by the Board and accepted by the Labour Association, which was a party to that reference before that Court, the condition that leave should be granted at the convenience of the employer, and that leave, if refused, will be allowed to accumulate for a period of one, two or even three years, because if I refuse leave, I do not want the man to lose his leave. That safeguard must be there. The elasticity, which is the main feature of the Government and of all leave rules must be incorporated in any scheme that emerges as a result of the passing of this measure. Sir, for the reasons that I have stated above, while I am not going to oppose the motion for reference to Select Committee, I am sorry I cannot support it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the employers this time seem to have been very fortunate in obtaining a powerful advocate for their cause in the person of my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, because without trying to import any passion, without even appearing to be opposing this Bill, while only saying that he is not prepared to associate himself with it and while protesting that he is not a reactionary, he has made in effect a very reactionary speech. The purport of the whole speech of his comes to this, leave it to us and our employees and we shall settle it between ourselves as we have been settling for the last sixty years, ever since we have been making profits in our mills by keeping these workers continuously illiterate, ignorant, unorganised, incapable of looking after themselves and even unable to get over their usual absenteeism.

I do not think this Bill is really and wholly intended to be in the interest of the workers alone. It is a quasi-political measure. What prevented this Government of India from coming forward to this Assembly as long ago as 1937 itself, in order to give effect to the recommendation of the International Labour Convention? On the other hand, they came forward to us to say that they were not prepared to give effect to it. They got this House—I do not know whether it was this House or the other House—to agree with them weighted as it was on the Government side. They got the House to agree with them that effect need not be given to that convention.

Then, again, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar has volunteered the information that Government wanted to introduce this Bill and get it passed in 1942, and yet the employers were powerful enough to succeed in preventing them from introducing it. Today, why is it that the Government have come forward with this measure. It is not only because the Honourable the Labour Member is specially lucky, he happens to be lucky in having come just at this moment when the Government are anxious somehow or other to please labour to some extent and thus retain labour at its post of duty in these war times. They want to bribe everybody, they have bribed so many sections of the country and now the Government seem to think that they can bribe organised labour also. They seem to be succeeding to some extent. They have succeeded in gagging the mouth of one or two labour organisations in this country by making a very convenient monthly grant of no less a sum than Rs. 13,000. The Government are also giving bribes to others in ways which are difficult to discover but which I think in a way can be traced somewhere to Whitehall in England. There are other organisations; more and more organisations are being continually brought into existence under quasi-official inspiration in order to ply the trade of this Government in labour ranks. Not being satisfied with that, because after all these organisations are not able to hold the loyalty of all the organised labour in this country, they have found it necessary to come forward with some of these labour measures which should have been placed on the statute book long ago. They come forward with these Bills, today and then ask us to admire them for their liberalism and their anxiety to serve labour by these measures.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar has introduced the fiction of comparing Government servants, taking the lowest of them, the *chaprassis*, with industrial labour. Does my Honourable friend remember that

the *chaprassis* under the Government are guaranteed pension and also sometimes provident fund? Does he also remember that the Government is not on a par with private individuals, that Government is continuously under the fire of public criticism whereas these private individuals are a law unto themselves and the public have no control over them and they are not even able to tell these people how to behave themselves at least in regard to their own labour? Sir, that shows quite clearly how the employers are able to bring forward such intelligent and clever advocates for them to bamboozle—I beg your pardon, Sir, I shall not use that word.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You can use that word, we do not mind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We can also make a choice of words—to try to mislead even such a well informed House as this. Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar wants us to leave the employers to care for their workers. What happens if any one Group of employers or any one big individual employer refuses to give any such leave at all? Is there any control over him? It is for that reason, it is not to fetter the hands or the liberty of those progressive employers, if there are any left in this country—my Honourable friend claims to be one of them,—it is not to fetter their liberty in helping their labour to get more holidays than what are provided for here, but it is only in order to see that those reactionary and conservative minded men also behave themselves at least with a minimum of decency and humanity towards their labour that this Bill and similar measures are being proposed by the Government of India and Honourable Members on this side of the House try their best to associate themselves with any liberal minded proposal that is being brought in this House by Government or anybody else in order to help and assist labour in getting justice in this country.

My Honourable friend specially objects to workers in any concern going in a procession,—in a funeral procession,—in order to pay their last respects to a deceased worker or any one closely related to any worker. Sir, who is responsible for all these workers being dragged, induced and persuaded to leave their villages and come to distant towns? They leave all their usual social relations and they are unable to go back to their villages in order to enjoy the usual social amenities and the natural support which they get in their villages either through blood ties or social ties. It is these employers. They may say that they have not asked them to come. Well, it was not so long ago that even my Honourable friends were assisting the other friends,—the Europeans,—in invoking the aid of the indentured system in order to get labour for the plantations in Assam and other places. Similar privileges they wanted to have also. Indeed there was the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act under which the employers were able even to exercise criminal powers or were able to take advantage of the criminal law in order to take any one of their workers to task merely because he had the temerity to leave their service and go away to his village or home. Therefore, Sir, it is these people who induced these men to come away after severing their social relations in their own villages and live in the towns. And then they want to deny even this privilege of social relationship and camaraderie to the workers in a particular factory who want it in order that they may be able to stand by the worker when he is in distress or whenever he is in joy. That is an attitude which I very much deplore and regret and I hope the employers in this country will not support that kind of attitude.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi rightly stressed the necessity for the workers to have the privilege of working continuously for one year not only in one factory but in a successive number of factories whenever any necessity arises, provided of course that in any one factory he does not misbehave so badly that he comes under the censure of the magistracy or the courts that are set up under the Payment of Wages Act. But my Honourable friend Sir N. Chandavarkar does not want that privilege to be enjoyed by the workers. That is an extraordinary thing. He did not want to go into the abstract side of the conception of slavery; but I suppose he knows what is known as chattel, and he wants these workers to be tied hand and foot to one particular

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

employer throughout the year, and then alone he wants that worker to enjoy this particular privilege, this very small privilege, of having seven days with pay. I do not subscribe to that view; I am in favour of the worker being given a right to leave the employer if he is dissatisfied with his conditions of employment with that employer and then go to another employer, and exercising the right to get his services under both these employers counted as continuous employment, so that at the end of the year he will be entitled to enjoy this leave with pay.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi has rightly pointed out that workers in this country are generally recruited from the rural areas, have to go over long distances to travel to their villages from their mills and so they will have to be given some special consideration so that they may have enough time to enjoy themselves or to be in the company of their own people. I agree with that and my Honourable friend Sir Narayan Chandavarkar also recognised this particular difficulty of the workers that they have to go long distances when they have to travel. Therefore that is common ground; what is not common ground is that Mr. Joshi wants this leave period to be extended; my Honourable friend, Sir Narayan Chandavarkar is not quite so sure about it, whether it can be extended at all. He says, it does not matter even if it is extended provided you leave the privilege of giving leave to the employer. I cannot agree with him. I do not want it to be the private privilege of the employer to give him leave or not; I want it to be a right to be exercised by the workers and to be conferred upon them by the State. I want this particular period to be extended, and to what extent? The Honourable Member in charge is on strong grounds when he said that the International Labour Convention has suggested that it should be at least seven days. But he did not say that it should be only seven days. It certainly does not prevent my Honourable friend from trying to extend it. After all this recommendation was made as long ago as 1936. Things are different today; organised labour is much more important in this country and the Government of India are more in need of its support, and it is but just that organised labour should be given a little more privilege than this, considering the special circumstances prevailing in this country. And my Honourable friend Sir Narayan Chandavarkar also laid stress upon that particular point that there are special circumstances in this country; but he wants to use that fact against the workers whereas I want to use it in favour of the workers. And that is for this reason. The constituents of my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar are in very large numbers working as industrial workers in Bombay. They have to take the steamer to go back to Ratnagiri which takes time, and to come back also takes time. And therefore although I would like the Honourable Member to double this particular period of holidays with leave, if he cannot do that I suggest as a minimum that he should consider the advisability of including the two days taken up by travel each way, i.e., the day he leaves and the day he reaches his village, and the same two days on his return. These four days should be added to the time that the worker can be legitimately expected to take in travelling to his home and back. That will come to eleven days and it is not very much. I hope the Honourable Member will seriously take this suggestion into consideration.

Then there is the question of whether the average pay to be paid for this holiday of seven or eleven days is enough to enable the worker to go back to his village, see his relatives, make a few small and paltry and conventional presents to them, and make them also feel happy because one of their men has gone to town and has come back with something new, introducing urban civilisation into their poor economy. Will it be enough? I say it will not be enough. Therefore I suggest that the allowance that is to be paid and the pay that is to be given to the workers should be double the average when they have earned during the previous 10 or 11 months that is prescribed under this particular Bill. It is not asking for too much; it is the minimum that any

one can ask for and I hope this war-minded Government which is having plenty of notes at its disposal will not find it so very difficult to agree to it and also to persuade these employers who are paying huge sums as excess profits tax to make this allowance to their workers.

Then there is another point that Sir N. Chandavarkar has made, that this leave shall be utilised by workers continuously on any one occasion. I do not agree with that. It must be left to the convenience of the worker as to when he wants to make use of this holiday and for how long. I do not know whether this Bill gives that privilege to the worker of utilising this holiday; not on any one occasion only in that year but on two or, if necessary, more occasions, whenever the need arises. If the Bill does not contemplate it and the Honourable Member did not have it in his mind when he was drafting this Bill, I should like him to keep it in mind and give this privilege to the workers.

Sir, there was a big point made by Sir N. Chandavarkar which I wish to oppose. He says leave should be granted to the workers at the convenience of the employers. I oppose it, and for a very good reason. He seems to think that the employer is in the same position as Government. It is not so. The employer is there in charge of his factory by virtue of the leave given to him by society as a whole and the State concerned to function as employer. He is treated by some of us as a mere trustee and nothing more. The real owners of this property are the workers, including the employers, if of course they wish to consider themselves as workers. But surely the employers have no moral right whatsoever to flaunt their ownership and then say, "We are the lords of the whole thing here. The workers are only here at our mercy, they are to behave at our command and on our dictation" and therefore just as the

Government today has got the right to grant or not to grant leave to its workers, we must also be allowed to enjoy the same privilege. I refuse to allow this privilege to the employers. They are mere trustees and they have not discharged their trusteeship properly till now—in fact, they do not realize that they are trustees. Therefore, it is most necessary that this privilege of deciding when and how the workers shall make use of leave with pay shall not be given to the employers.

If a worker is not able to or is unwilling to utilize his holiday with pay in any one year, he is entitled to use it in the next year. I agree with that provision in the Bill, but I want to know from the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill whether he contemplates 'tagging on' of the previous year's 7 days holiday to the next year's 7 days to which the worker is entitled, so that a worker will be able to enjoy, if he so cares to, a continuous holiday of 14 days. That will mean that at least once in two years a worker is able to go back to his village and have a grand holiday to recoup his health and come back to his work in good spirits.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): That is provided in the Bill.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am assured that it is in the Bill, and I am glad that this provision has been made.

Then, Sir, there is a lacuna in the Bill. Dr. Ambedkar places too much confidence both in the employers and in the Government of India's readiness to come forward whenever a need arises for the necessary legislation. And therefore he says that he will come forward whenever he finds it necessary to provide for the prevention of any abuse by any employers of their right to do any counting and accounting that workers have put in continuous service for 11 previous months. He himself says it is quite possible that some employers may try to dismiss the workers just a few days or weeks before a worker becomes entitled to leave. He sees that possibility, yet he does not want to make any provision for it. I can only say that it sounds rather strange in the case of an Honourable Member who is very well known for his industry, who goes to his desk and sits in his library at fixed hours. Here he comes forward like a lazy man and he has not been able to put in a little more work in adding a few lines more in order to prevent any such mischief which may

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]—occur in the course of a worker's career under an employer. I hope the Honourable Member will try to make the necessary provision at the Select Committee stage in order to fill this lacuna.

What is to happen to all those workers who were employed in non-perennial factories in this country before the war? There may be as many as 4 lakhs of workers working in what are known as seasonal factories as against 13 lakhs of people employed in perennial factories; that is, sugar mills, which have come into existence during the last ten years; rice mills, atta mills, and several other factories. All those places of employment have not been brought under the scope of this Factories Act and even of the few that have been brought under the scope of this Act he wants to exclude a very large class of workers from enjoying this minimum privilege. I think it is a mistake. I very strongly desire that this shall be made good and necessary provisions shall be introduced into this Bill so that those people may be able to take advantage of it. He may ask, how? I would like to proffer a suggestion for whatever it is worth, and that is if in any seasonal factory a worker is in continuous employment for not less than one month, he may be entitled to enjoy at least one holiday with pay. That will also satisfy the criterion of my Honourable friend, Sir Chandavarkar. Sir Vithal Chandavarkar does not mind whether a worker goes to his village to enjoy his earned leave, or not. So make him entitled to enjoy at least one day for every continuous period of one month service that he puts in. Now he gets a day off—Sunday—but he does not get any pay for that day. He has to make both ends meet somehow or other by his own efforts. Therefore I urge that one holiday with pay for every month of service should be provided. If it is not provided it can only mean this: These people working in seasonal factories, hailing, as they do, from villages have no organisation, and therefore this Government is not afraid to ill-treat them. I hope that is not the feeling of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill and I trust that he will take advantage of this suggestion and give them whatever help he can possibly give.

Sir, there are other speakers also who would like to make other suggestions and I do not wish to take any more time. I would only like to add that I am generally in agreement with the objects of this Bill, but that it does not go far enough, and myself and the Congress Party expect the Honourable Member to come back to this House from the Select Committee with a much better and much more favourable Bill for the workers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we support the principle of the Bill. We are always for supporting Bills which ameliorate the condition of workmen in this country. In those cases we shall not even go behind the political motive if any of the Government.

I must protest on this occasion against the prostitution of Government funds for financing labour organisations for political reasons. It is not necessary for me to say explicitly to what I refer,—I mean the giving away of Rs. 13,000 to the Trade Union Congress. The other day an adjournment motion was moved protesting against the statement of the Honourable the Labour Member. If the Member concerned were serious we should have taken this opportunity to come and verify the facts before the Labour Member today, but, unfortunately, he is conveniently absent. I do not know what other labour organisations they are trying to corrupt.

Leaving that point aside, I want to make a few observations about the Bill itself. Section 35(a) seeks to remedy the mischief that has been done by section 43 which gives powers to the local Government to exempt holidays. Section 43(2) A (d) and (e) give power to the Local Government to exempt the holidays on Sundays which are made compulsory under section 35. We would like to know in how many factories and mills and in how many cases the Local Government have interfered in this matter, and how many labourers till today have been deprived of this weekly holiday.

In section 35A, which is the new section to be introduced, there is a lacuna. It is said that worker who deprived of any of the weekly holidays for which provision is made by sub-section (1) of that section, shall be allowed, as soon as circumstances permit, compensatory holidays of equal number to the holidays so lost. "As soon as circumstances permit", there are words which give scope for defeating the section itself. A definite period should be fixed for this compensation to come into effect. These qualifying clauses have an odd way of being used against the workmen themselves and so I would suggest that in the Select Committee a definite period be put by which they can fix the period within which the compensatory holidays will be given to them.

Secondly I come to the new Chapter 4(A) dealing with holidays with pay. We are entirely for this and I would support the suggestion of the Honourable Sir Vithal Chandavarkar that the Select Committee should fix the number of such days. I would like in this matter an all India policy to be followed rather than that there should be separate Central and Provincial policies. In this regard the Labour Commission Report has rightly said that these holidays with pay granted to workmen have the effect of improving their efficiency and their attachment to the organizations which they serve. So I would appeal to the Honourable Sir Vithal Chandavarkar that it is in their own interest that these holidays with pay be granted to workmen. As a matter of fact every employer should support this Bill.

I think that certain of the suggestions that he has made will not work in practice. He says holidays should be given at the discretion of the employer. In practical life that will be the procedure. Taking holidays at a particular time may not be in their interest or in the interests of the establishment that they serve. My view is that there won't be much of a quarrel in the actual giving of these holidays.

Another point is what my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, referred to, that it should not be possible for any employer of labour to evade the provisions of the Bill and yet go unpunished. We owe it to this Bill to make it not only fool-proof but knave-proof.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Before lunch, Sir, I was just saying that law should be made fool-proof or knave-proof and I said that things must be made clear that any attempts on the part of employers to deprive their workers of these holidays must be prevented by a provision under this Bill itself. Sections 60 and 61 in the Bill as sought to be amended prescribe the penalties. There it is provided that employers will be punished if there is any contravention of section 49 B, C, D, and E., i.e., where people are entitled to this holiday with pay and where they are not given, the employers will be subject to this penalty but that does not make clear that if any employer prevents any worker from getting the right of this holiday with pay, any action against him is possible. Suppose before a year is out, after eleven months, a man is dismissed without any proper grounds, this Bill does not make the conduct of such an employer punishable. I would like, Sir, that along with G there must be a provision saying that if any attempt is made by previous dismissal without any valid reasons or otherwise, this penalty must come into force. We think that amendments are necessary to meet the few points which I have mentioned. Generally we support the principle of the Bill.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I share the opinion of some of the Members of this House that labour legislation should not be brought before the Assembly piecemeal. Ever

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

since Sir Andrew Clow became the Secretary of the Labour Department (who happened to be the Secretary of the Labour Commission) Bills after Bills have been coming before the House in connection with one aspect of the Labour problem or another. I thought that the time has come, when we are considering the reconstruction of every problem, we should also consider whether we should have a fresh orientation of the entire labour problem. This problem has arisen under modern conditions. It did not exist in olden days in the order of society and the culture that then existed. There were labourers and servants in those old days but they always ate the same meal and enjoyed the same privileges as their masters and they shared with the latter all their troubles and joys. They lived as members of the same family and there was not this fight between the capitalist and labour. But in the modern civilisation, when the capitalist began to exploit labour in order to fill up his own pockets at the cost of labour, then the tug of war started. It became very serious in most countries in the West and it has now come to India as well. I know of one country at least before the Great War where this struggle between capital and labour did not exist. We talk day after day as to whether the hours of work should be 56, 49 or 42, whether strikes are permissible, if so under what conditions and whether it is or is not a punishable offence but this is doing things from the wrong end. We ought really to solve this problem in an entirely different manner. Call it nationalisation of industries or as some call it rationalisation of industries, whatever the term used, I would like the labour problem to be settled for good and that is the only way in which it can be definitely ended once for all. I am afraid the Capitalist regards himself as an alien who is there only to exploit labour, get the maximum benefit from his labour for himself and give the minimum wages to the workers. The workers should be considered as partners with the capitalists in every business. Unless labourers and capitalists are regarded as equal partners in the same firm, this struggle between Capital and Labour will go on without end. I should like very much that this problem is settled at least within our time. I do not know whether this amending Bill is an improvement or the reverse of the previous one. I say this that so long as you maintain a sharp distinction between employers and the employed, discipline or *esprit de corps* cannot be kept up. I have to face a similar problem in the University of Aligarh. So long as you treat the members of the staff as a body of servants of the governing body or the employers, the work will never be done. Pass any rule you like but the *esprit de corps* cannot be maintained. The only principle on which the problem could be solved and solved satisfactorily is to treat all the members of the staff as business partners entitled to a share in the fortunes of that particular institution. That is the only way in which you can get the maximum benefit out of them for the institution. This same principle should be adopted in all business concerns. Times are moving very fast and if we do not foresee events we will be forced to do it. This is really the origin of the Bolshevik movement, because they did not foresee that trouble was coming. Whenever you start a business you must have a capitalist, unless the Government takes place of the capitalist. I am not in favour of destroying the capitalist. I think they have their place and they have their utility and they are the integral part of the development of the country. Let them be there. Then we want expert managers, we want expert advice and we want the workers but these workers ought to be treated as co-partners. Let the worker have his living wage. Let the capitalist have the bank rate of interest, viz., 3 per cent. It is the minimum which they must get and it should be considered as a part of the expenditure before any profit is declared. Let the Managing Agent also have a living wage according to his standard of living. The Congress has already fixed Rs. 500 as the maximum salary of any person in office, and in the absence of any suggestion I would follow the lead, that Rs. 500 should be the salary of every managing agent, plus furnished house and a motor. I do not stick to this figure of Rs. 500, but I say there should be a living

wage for all according to their standard of living. Similarly you must calculate according to the standard of living—a minimum wage for labourers; in certain localities it may be Rs. 10 and in other localities it may be Rs. 75; but you must give a minimum living wage.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is a living wage?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Wage that is sufficient to provide clothing, shelter, and food and the necessities of life for himself and his family—that is what I call a living wage. Pay the labourer at the market rate as you pay your clerks or managers and other persons engaged in that business. Afterwards you put down by means of compromise a schedule that whatever profit is made, it will be shared in certain proportions—say every labourer will be entitled to get one pie or half a pie in the rupee, and every clerk will be entitled to so much and the managing agents will get so much, and the capitalists and share holders so much. The proportion will be fixed in the articles of association, and whatever profit is made will be distributed equitably. In that case the owners or capitalists and the managing directors and every person connected with the industry will have a share and an interest in the industry. Nobody will ask “How many hours have you worked?” The workman knows that if he works more he will get more and will be inclined to do more work. We have the experience of the cottage industries—there the people work for about 12 hours a day—the whole family works and do not grudge it because it is their own work and they are not responsible to any one and whatever profit is made comes to them and is not taken away by somebody else. But if you keep labour in the nature of indentured labour, not free, and you only require them to work without giving them the full value for the work extracted from them, then there is a very different feeling; and so long as that feeling is there and there is this difference between capital and labour, then it will end either in chaos or in some kind of Government interference which I cannot describe at the present moment. I think, therefore, that it is very desirable that we should establish this principle. In some factories it has been established. In one case at least I noticed that the labourer and the capitalist had become co-sharers in the development of the factory and the profits were divided in a particular proportion among all persons responsible for the production in that mill.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You have not said who should control that industry.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Capitalists and labourers jointly being co-partners.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend asks me “who is going to control that particular industry?” Take coal for example, which is now before us. I have not studied this problem of coal on the spot but from what I have heard I have come to the conclusion that the trouble between employer and labour is mostly responsible for shortage of coal. Some people say the coal is not there. That is wrong. The coal is there and I think they have enough coal to keep us going for a sufficiently long time to come. The transport difficulties are there no doubt, but they are not insurmountable. The shortage of coal is not due to short of wagons, as people sometimes make it out to be, but it is due to the fact that the owners of those mines do not like that the coal should be lifted: the proprietors think that if coal is lifted now, nothing would be left to them and they do not like that. They want more money for less quantity. That is one of the difficulties. The second is that they do not pay proper wages and persons who have worked there for some time have left owing to the absence of good wages.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This is a Bill for the payment of holidays—for paid holidays!

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I started with the idea of a general discussion. It is my friend who is responsible for asking this question: I am merely answering his question; I never intended to bring up the question of coal now: I am merely giving it as an illustration. I gave notice of a Resolution which unfortunately was not balloted—that we should nationalise the coal industry in

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[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

the interests of the development of industries in the country. As for control, I would like to leave the control as it is; but if it becomes unmanageable or if it works against the interests of the people, the Government of the day will have to step in and nationalise or rationalise the entire industry. I do not think the question of control is of great importance now. It will assume importance only if a group of industrialists engaged in the same industry form a combine and try to exploit the consumers to a larger extent. So long as there is no combination of industrialists among themselves, as there is in some cases, and which I would very much like to explain on the floor of the House one day, it does not matter. But if it does occur, the government will have to step in.

I say again that we ought to work in such a manner that the interests of capital and labour go hand in hand and there ought to be no trouble between labour.

Mr. D. S. Joshi (Government of India: nominated Official): On a point of order, Sir: that does not arise from the general principles of this Bill.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: As this is the first time this Bill has come before us and goes to Select Committee, I am rather entitled to discuss the general purpose behind this Bill. When it comes back from the Select Committee then I cannot. We ought to proceed and finish this quarrel between labour and capital, because we must remember that whenever the difficulties increase, it is the experience in every country that labour will always win and the capitalists will not: they may win for a certain length of time, but the ultimate success will be in the hands of labour because they are larger in number and have more votes in parliamentary and other elections. I think it is very desirable that we ought to create a situation in which these two will go hand in hand. Talking of reconstruction, there is the question of unemployment which comes in—it is also a labour problem. There is no question of unemployment as far as the capitalists are concerned. Therefore this question is also very peculiar to them and this ought to be taken into consideration so that the factories should employ the maximum number with good wages. Therefore I say again that this question should be considered from a broader point of view, either in this connection or later, on and I hope the Honourable Member for Labour, who represents both capital and labour, will be in a position to solve this question. I say 'capital and labour' because on one side he spends 20 crores of rupees in buildings which even an ordinary capitalist cannot do and he is also the representative of labour.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Which clause of the Bill are you referring to?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is general discussion of the policy. We are not discussing the Bill clause by clause. The Labour Member should be able to tackle this problem and in view of the fortunate position in which he is placed, I hope he will tackle this problem and bring in this question of reconstruction of the future policy in regard to industries after the war.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My task has been considerably lightened by the fact that there has been general support given to the motion which I have made in regard to this Bill and therefore in the course of the reply which I propose to make to the debate, I shall be very brief.

I had better say something straightaway with regard to the speech of my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. What I propose to say is this—that I really do not propose to say anything about what he has said and I hope he would not take it as an act of discourtesy to him, because what he has said, if I may say so, has really very little to do with the Bill which is under discussion. He has propounded a novel theory of solving the labour problem—namely partnership. I am sure that we are greatly benefited by the elucidation which he has given of this new ideology, and I can assure him that when the problem of our constitutional structure comes before us for discussion what he has said undoubtedly would be a matter of great use and

benefit not only to myself but to all those who will be engaged on that problem.

Coming to the other speakers. I first propose to deal with the observation which fell from my friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar. He referred to the Resolution which was moved by Sir Frank Noyce in this House with regard to the International Convention dealing with holidays with pay. I did not, if I may say so, succeed in catching exactly the point that he wanted to make by reference to that speech but I understood him to convey the fact that the Government of India had changed front.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: No, no.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That in 1936 they were opposed to it, while now they are prepared to give recognition to the principle contained in that Convention. I do not think that there has been any change in the position of the Government of India. I have read the debate with some care and attention and I am quite satisfied that the reason which led the Government of the day to oppose the Convention was because of the understanding that if a convention has to be recognised it must be recognised as a whole. It could not be recognised in part and the Government of India, as it was then advised, felt that it was impossible, having regard to the circumstances of this country, to accept the convention as a whole and although therefore they were prepared to accept the principle and also prepared to investigate the possibilities of applying it in some limited manner they could take no other course than the one which was open to them under the circumstances which then prevailed.

Now, my friend Mr. Joshi has made some points in the course of his speech. Two of his points, I must admit, are points of substance. The first point that he made was that although we were limiting the scope of the Bill we have limited it to a factory and we have not agreed to extend the principle at least to an industry. As I said, I admit that this is a point of substance but I must at the same time point out that to have applied it to an industry means that it would be necessary for us to devise some method by which we could pool the resources of those concerns which come under one particular industry. Now, although as I said, I have the fullest sympathy with the point which he has made, it is not possible for us at the present moment, without any experience behind us, to work out a pool system by which all factories within a particular industry could be made to share the cost of broken holidays earned by different employees in different factories arising out of broken periods of service in different factories. And this is the reason why it has not been possible to make the thing applicable to industry as a whole.

The second point which Mr. Joshi made was the complaint that the holiday period provided in the Act is too short. I also admit that there is considerable force in that. 7 days is in fact too short a holiday but there again I am confronted with another difficulty, which difficulty is a difficulty which I am sure both Mr. Joshi as well as Sir Vithal Chandavarkar have to admit. The difficulty arises on account of the desultory character of our labour. Labour, as Mr. Joshi and Sir Vithal Chandavarkar both know, take long holidays for a variety of reasons and consequently the absenteeism which is prevalent on account of this habit does really complicate the matter very much. If our labour was induced or was trained to give continuous service in a factory for a larger number of days than they have been doing now, I should be quite prepared to admit that the case for extension of the holiday beyond the period that we have fixed would undoubtedly be very strong but I hope that the fact that we have given seven days' holiday would have its indirect effect on the labouring and working classes of this country who will realise that if they did render more continuous service than they have been doing, they would be making stronger the case for the extension of the holiday beyond the period of seven days but as the situation stands, I think it would not be justifiable to go beyond the prescribed period of seven days which, if I may say so, is also the period which was recommended by the Convention.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

Then, Sir, another point that was made with regard to the same question was with relation to the application of the Act to non-perennial factories, a point that was made by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga on the other side. To that point also my reply is the same, namely, that the provision for 7 days paid holiday is made to those workmen who are not getting a sufficiently long rest, if I may use that phrase. Now, a non-perennial factory is a factory where people do get long period of rest. It may be that it is a case of involuntary employment, but I am not looking at it from the point of view of employment or unemployment. So far as the Bill is concerned, we are looking at it from the point of view of rest and so far as the non-perennial factories are concerned, the workmen certainly get a sufficiently long period of rest so that it cannot be said that in their case there is as much necessity for a paid holiday of 7 days as it is in the case of the perennial factories.

Then, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar raised a point with regard to the words 'at least' in one of the amending clauses. He expressed the fear that having regard to the use of the words 'at least' in one of the amending clauses it would be possible for Provincial Governments to direct that the factory-owners may be compelled to give more than 7 days. Now, I would like to convey the assurance that has been given to me by my legal advisers that under the amending section, as it stands, it would not be possible for the Provincial Governments to compel an employer to give more than 7 days' holiday. Another point which was made by Sir Vithal Chandavarkar was that this was a premature measure and that, in his opinion, this measure should come last; certainly it should come, according to his judgment, not before the Sickness Insurance Act which Government is contemplating and thinking about. I personally beg to differ from that and if I had time I would have given some arguments in support of my contention. I would invite him to read the observations of Professor Adarkar in his report on health insurance for industrial workers which occur on page 112 where he will find some very strong arguments which he has produced in order to show that the holidays with pay is a measure which is so integrally connected with sickness insurance that if an order of precedence was to be framed it would be necessary to give priority to the measure relating to holidays with pay before social insurance. As I said, the report is now available to the Members of the Legislature and I will not take the time of the House in repeating what has been said by Professor Adarkar on this point.

Then, Sir, another point which has been raised on both sides is the question whether a measure like this should be compulsory or voluntary. So far as the Bill is concerned, I think it strikes a very happy mean inasmuch as the Bill, while making obligatory by law to provide holidays with pay for workmen who render a certain length of service, has left it open for voluntary agreement between the employers and the employees. As Honourable Members must have seen, there is a clause in the Bill which says that if Government is satisfied that a measure of holidays with pay substantially similar to the one which has been contained in the provisions of this Bill is introduced voluntarily by an employer and the Government is satisfied of its efficacy, Government has been giving power to exempt a factory from the obligations in this Act. I find that the position in Great Britain is also similar in this matter. Under the British system, there is a Holidays with Pay Act of 1938 and 2,300,000 people are covered by it. The rest of them, namely, 5 millions, get it under voluntary agreement, not under the Act and 4,000,700 get under what is called a long-standing custom.

Sir Gowasjee Jehangir: Where is the provision whereby an employer can postpone giving that leave?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am coming to that.

Now, Sir, one other point I wanted to deal with, as I said, was this compulsory versus voluntary.

The other point that was raised by my friend Prof. Ranga and also by Mr. Chettiar was that we have made no specific provision against an employer entering into an unfair practice whereby he would discharge an employee in order to prevent him from earning his holiday. To that point I had referred in my opening speech when I made the motion and I said that while Government is aware that certain practices may develop, Government does not think that they ought to take any action straightaway. Government would prefer to wait and watch and see which side resorts to what sort of strategem in order to over-reach the other side. But, as I said, if there is a strong feeling on the point and those who represent labour are able to convince the Select Committee that it is necessary straightaway to have a provision entered into the Act itself to prevent any such practices, it will be open to them to move and get it through. Government does not regard that as a matter of principle and will not stand in the way of the thing being done in the Select Committee.

The other point which has been raised is whether this question of leave should be entirely made dependent upon the wishes of the employee, namely, that the employee should have a right to determine from what date and at what time he should exercise his holiday. Now, we have deliberately made no provision in the Bill for that and we have left it to the Provincial Governments to make rules to regulate what should be done with regard to that particular point. I think it would be desirable in an experiment of this kind not to tie down everything by statute. It would be better if the matter was left to be regulated by rules for which the Bill authorises the Provincial Governments to make, because, as the House knows, it is much easier to change a rule than to change a statute. But as I said, if the parties to this Bill who are concerned and affected do desire that this should be made the subject-matter of a statute, it will again be open to the Select Committee to do so.

I do not think there is any point raised by any Honourable Member which I have not covered and I therefore do not propose to say anything more in support of the motion I have made.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi, and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sir F. E. James, Mr. Huseinbhai A. Lalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, the Bill before the House follows lines with which the Central Legislature has become very familiar. It seeks to impose a duty of excise, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the establishment of a Fund to finance in this case the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products: and it sets up a Committee to administer the fund on lines laid down. We already have similar Committees in respect of cotton, lac, jute, coffee, tea and coconuts. Indeed the present Bill is almost word for word a replica of the Indian Coconut Committee Bill which was passed by the Legislature during the last Budget Session.

From many points of view, rice is the most important crop grown in India. In point of area, it is our largest single crop; more than one third of the entire

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acreage in food grains is under rice. It is the most important single article of food in the country, the staple diet of a majority of the population: and as about two-fifths of the total crop comes, in one form or another, into the market, its importance as a cash crop is also great. Not only is it our most important food crop, but as was demonstrated last year, the rice-eating population is on the whole much less adaptable in times of food shortage than those whose principal staple is, shall we say, wheat or ragi, and anything that seriously affects the quantity of rice available is apt to have repercussions much more serious and immediate than a comparable shortage in any other foodstuff. This is the more important because, of course, India has not for many years been self-sufficient in the production of rice. We were latterly in peace time an importer to the extent of an average of about two million tons a year and if the optimum nutritional requirements of the rice-eating population were taken into account, the shortage of rice would be even greater.

Again, as every one knows, our population is increasing and it is in the rice consuming areas where generally speaking the pressure of population is heaviest that the rate of increase is highest. Finally it is common ground among nutrition authorities that India must develop her protective foods,—milk, vegetables, fruits, poultry, fish, eggs, etc., and this can only be done if much more land is made available for these foods. Everything, therefore, points to the necessity of producing more cereals on less land,—in other words, greatly increasing the offtake per acre under food crops. Our yields of rice are low compared with yields in many other countries and I have not the least doubt,—I think no one has the least doubt,—that given proper facilities and improved knowledge it can be done. We can raise much more rice on the same amount of land as is under rice at present,—but it can only be done as a result of intensive research and vigorous development. I hope the House will forgive me for making these somewhat elementary remarks which are directed to showing not only the importance of the rice crop to India but also the need for very early action to increase it and improve it.

Now, I may be asked why the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research should not do all that is necessary in this matter, and why there is need for a separate Committee. Well, Sir, in the first place, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research does not derive any revenue at all from rice. In spite of that, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has, during the past twelve years, inspired and stimulated and financed much valuable work on rice. Progress has been made both in the evolution of better yielding varieties and in the improvement of methods of cultivation. Work is going on now to extend the area under these important types of seed and to work out manurial and cultural schedules for the cultivator, because the requirements differ so much in different localities that no single Schedule or indeed no small number of schedules will suffice. But these and many other fields of investigation have still been quite insufficiently explored. Much more research is necessary if the Agricultural Departments are to be placed in a position to give the cultivator the advice and help which the importance of the crop warrants. For example, fundamental research is needed into such matters as the inheritance, in the rice plant, of certain agricultural and botanical characters; the factors which induce drought-resistance, flood-resistance, soil-resistance, disease-resistance; rice plant nutrition, the changes which take place during storage—very little is really known about these factors which affect quality; technological aspects, such as removal of the various seed coats, polishing, and the relation of these to the nutritional properties of the grain. And when results in these and other fields have been established, the work will be only half done until adequate steps are to be taken to induce the cultivator to adopt the discoveries of the laboratory. Not long ago it was estimated that only about six per cent. of the area under rice in India was under improved varieties. Development on these lines is apt to be very slow work; it calls for

demonstration and propaganda and, above all, for continuous and systematic pursuit of the policy laid down; and all this calls for money. Now, with its attention divided and its resources stretched to cover a very wide field of agricultural and veterinary research, the I. C. A. R. simply has not got the funds to do for any single crop what we now consider necessary for rice. That is why at its meeting in November last year the Rice Committee of the I. C. A. R. advised that rice research, development and technology should be put on a more permanent basis, both in the interest of the country as a whole and of the large elements of the people that live on rice. The Rice Committee, which is a small committee but representative of both growers and trade and industry, recommended the establishment of an Indian Central Rice Committee to do generally for rice what the Indian Central Cotton Committee has done,—I think it will be admitted, with conspicuous success,—for cotton. It advised that the Committee should be furnished with funds, either by Government grant or, failing that, by a levy at a low rate on rice milled in the factories. The Government of India's Agricultural Policy Committee (a Reconstruction Committee) which met in Simla in June of this year favoured the establishment of commodity committees for all the important crops of India including, of course, the food crops. We had already been thinking along these lines in the department; and this short history supplies the origin of this Bill.

As I have remarked already, there are precedents for giving a committee of this kind a settled and comparatively stable source of revenue in the form of an excise on the commodity in question. In the planning of research it is of prime importance that the financial position should be stable and known with reasonable accuracy for some years ahead. This cannot be achieved by dependence on the budgetary position which fluctuates from year to year; it can only be achieved either by means of a very large endowment or by the allocation of a separate and permanent source of revenue. Some of our statutory bodies like the I. C. A. R. derive their funds wholly or partly from a duty on exports. That would not of course be a significant source of revenue in the case of rice, and we have in the Bill before the House accordingly followed the precedents of the Coconut Committee and, partially, of the Cotton Committee itself. These two are respectively financed wholly or partly by an excise on the agricultural product brought for processing in the mills.

Now, Sir, I am prepared to hear it suggested that this proposal amounts to an imposition on food, and the poor man's food at that. I would, however, remind the House that only about 27 per cent. of the rice produced in India is hulled in rice mills; the poor man does not generally consume milled rice. The classes that consume milled rice will be the classes that will bear the cost of this Committee. At the maximum rate proposed in the Bill, six annas a ton, which is less than one pice per maund, the burden works out, I am told, at one anna per annum for each member of a rice-eating family. An excise at this rate would, we calculate, bring in a return of 24 lakhs gross. We should have to deduct the costs of collection. Though one Provincial Government has expressed a doubt whether such a sum would be adequate, I feel we could do something for rice with 24 lakhs a year, which is about twice the income at present received by the I. C. A. R. from its export duty.

The composition of the committee will be a matter on which the Select Committee, if the House appoints one, may be expected to have its say. But I should like very briefly to touch on the principles underlying the proposals in this behalf embodied in the Bill. As set out in the Bill, the Committee will total 51 persons,—a large figure, but it is difficult to cut it down while giving representation to all the interests that are affected. The House will see that growers on the one side and the industry on the other are evenly matched with 14 members each, distributed roughly according to the importance of the crop or the industry in each province. There is provision for expert agricultural and research talent and provision also,—though not by that name,—for representation of consumers, in so far as these are not already

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growers, traders and experts. But we have not specified, as I say, how the consumer will be represented. The growers, trade and industry were all represented on the I. C. A. R. Commodity Committee on whose recommendation this Bill has been promoted. The proposals have been circulated to provincial Governments which all concurred in the proposals generally and some useful suggestions were put forward which largely figure in the Bill. It is only right that I should add that one provincial Government, the Government of Bihar has subsequently reconsidered its view and withdrawn its support on the ground—I will quote letter—"that rice is not a valuable commercial crop and that in these circumstances the cost of research for its improvement should more properly be supported by ordinary revenues and not by the levy of a special tax as proposed."

As against this I hope the House will bear in mind what I have said about the smallness of the burden and the entire absence of any burden in respect of about 73 per cent. of the rice crop which never goes to the mills at all, and also that the other ten Provincial Governments and the four central administrations agree with the Government of India that the proposals are desirable and should be pursued.

I have moved for a Select Committee. We are anxious to get the Bill through as soon as possible and to get the committee constituted and at work before another paddy season begins. I see there are a number of amendments suggesting circulation by various dates. I shall endeavour to keep an open mind until I have heard the arguments developed. In the meantime I cannot help wishing that my motion had come up after, rather than at an early stage of, the food debate. Already in that debate an amendment has been moved referring to the urgency of increasing rice production. I only mention it because I hope that Honourable Members who are thinking on those lines will agree to get this committee set up at an early date and therefore support reference to select committee.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sir F. E. James, Mr. Huseinbhoy A. Lalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1946."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1946."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I fully appreciate the main object of this Bill. I entirely agree that a systematic effort should be made to expand the yield of rice and to improve its quality. It is a pity that a systematic effort has not been made so far. That shows the shortsightedness of the Government, and it is most unfortunate that it is only after the occurrence of a most disastrous famine that the eyes of the Government have opened. But, Sir, although I welcome the object of this Bill I cannot lend my support to some of its provisions. The provisions relating

to finding the fund for this purpose does not appear to me to be quite sound. Rice is the most important staple food of this country and the cost of the expansion of its yield and improvement of its quality should be borne on the general revenues of the country. The analogy of a cess on tea or coffee or sugarcane does not hold good in the present case. Those are articles which people could do without, but people of large parts of the country cannot do without rice. Therefore, Sir, I submit that Government would have acted wisely if they had set apart a substantial sum of money for research work on the expansion of yield and the improvement of quality of rice.

What will be the effect of levy of this cess? I think the producer or the consumer—perhaps both the producer and the consumer—will be affected. Is it desirable that the producer of rice, who is a very poor man, should be taxed and is it desirable that the consumer who also is in most cases a poor man should be burdened for the most staple article of his food? I do not think it is desirable.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, the mover of this motion, suggested that it will not add much to the burden of the producer or the consumer. I agree with him to that extent that the burden is not much, but still there will be some burden and it is my submission that this burden should not be imposed.

Then comes the question of representation on the committee which is provided in this Bill. The composition of this committee appears to me to be very unsatisfactory because it is packed with Government servants and Government nominees. If we look at the composition, we find that the producers of rice will have to depend for their representation on Government nomination, and the consumers have not been granted any representation at all. As regards the trade and industry—the rice trade and the rice industry—the representation does not go far enough. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that it would be wise on the part of the Government to reconsider this matter and bring forward a better Bill.

Coming to the details, I suggest that the growers' representatives should not be nominated. If there are no Associations of Growers in any part of the country then it would be better that they should be represented through commercial bodies—Chambers of Commerce or other similar bodies. It would be better still if associations of growers are formed to whom representation may be given. I also consider the representation of the different provinces to be unsatisfactory. The production of rice in Bengal is larger than the production in any other province. It is twice as much as the production of Madras and the production of rice in Bengal is one-third of the total production of the whole country. Therefore I urge that greater representation should be given to the Bengal growers, the Bengal industry and the Bengal trade in rice. This principle of giving greater representation to provinces which deserve greater representation has been recognised with reference to the other articles such as sugarcane, tea, coffee and coconuts.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: In this regard, may I point out that the Honourable Member's province is getting the biggest number on the committee—seven?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I admit that somewhat greater representation has been given to Bengal, but not to the extent which the importance of the province demands. As regards nomination, I have already submitted that this should be done away with so far as possible. If the consumers cannot be given any other sort of representation let there be some representatives on this body from the Central Legislature. Sir, if all these things are done then some of the objectionable provisions of the Bill would be removed and the Bill would be made more satisfactory.

Finally, I would suggest that the functions of this Committee should be expanded. It is not clear whether the Committee will confine its activities only to research work or will go further and take other measures for the improvement of rice. That also should be made clear, and if these objections which I have raised are met I will support this Bill. But for the

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present I am not quite sure that I am able to lend my full support to this measure.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: At first sight and on first thoughts I was inclined to support the main object behind this Bill. But on thinking more carefully, I am also anxious to see that Government will withdraw this Bill and bring forward a more satisfactory Bill as my honourable friend, Dr. Banerjee, has suggested. In the hope that Government may enjoy a certain amount of flexibility of mind, I have suggested here that the Bill should be sent into circulation and brought back again before the prescribed date so that they may be able to obtain views of all the interests concerned, and then in the light of those opinions they may be willing to redraft this Bill and then ask the leave of the House to withdraw this Bill and come forward with another Bill.

Sir, the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill has made it perfectly clear that so far as this Government is concerned in regard to this Bill it was not thinking primarily or even incidentally of the producers and their interests but it was only thinking of the general public, whatever it may mean, and the great body of consumers who have to live upon rice. I can easily see why they are concentrating upon these two sections of the people. Today the country has suddenly become aware of a serious deficit of food supply in this country and consumers in towns and other places also have become victims to the profiteering that is going on in different parts of the country, encouraged by this Government and carried on through various middlemen. Therefore, there is a clamour on every side for more and more food and that too at lower and lower prices, so that everybody can have enough and also at lower cost. They want to take advantage of this general prevailing atmosphere and come forward here in this House and plead not in the interests of the peasants that this Bill is being introduced but in the interests of the consumers whose interests seem to be very much prominent in the counsels of this Government at this present juncture. I would have liked the Government to come forward with a better Bill than this primarily with the intention of helping, assisting and developing the interests of the producers, but that does not seem to be the case of the Government today.

Then, Sir, I am opposed to the very essential financial basis on which this Bill is framed. My honourable friend, who is in charge of this Bill, told us that there have been very many precedents and he has quoted the formation of various crop committees that we have had in this country from cotton to lac and so on. If there is a precedent, and I admit there is one, and it has been based on wrong financial basis, it is my business here and the business of the Members on this side of the House to oppose that precedent and to make it necessary for this Government and also for the country to work on different principles.

Sir, even in regard to the principle that I wish to suggest there are precedents. First of all, let me say on what principle I want the Government to go ahead in regard to these crop committees. The Honourable Member said that the Agricultural Policy Committee for Reconstruction has already suggested that there must be crop committees for all staple products of this country. I want committees for all these staple products but I do not want them to be established on similar financial basis. And why? It is for this reason. I said that this Government which owes its responsibilities towards purchasers as well as consumers and the general public does not want to contribute even a pie to the finances of a Committee like this and wants to shift its responsibility on the producers and the consumers and place the burden of financing all such operations on the slender shoulders of the peasants. They say this is not going to be very much. It may be so but we would like more money to be collected, more money to be placed at the disposal of this committee and in future times to come if we are going to have our say at all in the future counsels of this country, we are going to see that such committees

will come into possession not of such meagre funds but ten times and even twenty times as much funds. Therefore any sort of levy that is going to be raised will fall upon the peasants. And more so in the future, because as my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has just now told me, at the end of this war there will again be foreign imports of rice coming into this country and the price of rice and paddy is bound to fall. And then it will be for the peasants to bear not only the lower price but also the additional incidence of such a levy as has to be levied under this particular Bill. Sir, when I am ready to ask the future Government also to levy even bigger cesses upon the producers of the staple products, why is it, it may be asked, that I am today opposed to this particular levy. It is for this reason. What is the contribution that the Government of India wishes to make for the financing of this committee as well as such other committees that may come into being. Does the Government of India come forward and propose that they are going to contribute just as much, if not twice or thrice, as the growers are going to be made to pay in order to finance this committee? Why should not Government come forward with such a proposal? It is not an unreasonable thing and there is a precedent for it. There is organised labour in this country. Very many benefit schemes are being organised here for it in this country. Many Provincial Governments have legislated for maternity benefits. The Provincial Governments have come forward to make their contribution too. Look at the example of England. There in many labour schemes like unemployment insurance and health insurance the Government comes forward to contribute at least as much as the workers and also the employers are contributing. Even here in this country in regard to Government employees and also with regard to those employed in the local bodies, Government have constituted what are known as provident funds and Government offers to contribute its own portion to these funds. Why is it that Government, when it is ready to make these contributions to these small sections of our population, is not prepared to make a similar offer of help and assistance and encouragement to the rice-growers of this country? I agree with my Honourable friend when he said that the rice-producing industry in this country is one of the biggest and we have as much as 80 million acres of land under rice. The producers of rice in this country number the largest among all our producers. What is it that this Government has done for them and what can this Government show as its own record of having done anything at all for these people. When these peasants were suffering from very low prices during the last economic depression what did this Government do? It was then that my Honourable friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, who at that time was on this side of this House, had to get up and ask this Government (and in vain, since he could not succeed then) to impose a protective duty on rice imports from Burma, Siam and other countries. It was after a lot of struggle and trouble that when the Congress Party came into this House, in cooperation with our friends on this side of the House that we were able to convince this Government and force them to impose a minimum protective duty in order to keep up the bottom for the rice prices and paddy prices. Government cannot very well lay claim to any sort of credit on this account. Now the Honourable Member comes forward and says that the I. C. A. R. has been doing so much but it has not sufficient funds. Whose fault is it that it has not got sufficient funds? It is the fault of this Government. If they had only accepted or adopted the principle that I am now suggesting, viz., to whatever money the I. C. A. R. collects from the duties imposed upon the exports of our own agricultural produce the Government also will be ready to contribute just as much to its revenues, certainly it would have been possible for the I. C. A. R. to finance many more schemes of research and development of rice than it has been able to do. I have no grievance with the I. C. A. R. It has done excellent work in this country. I want more and more money for it. While I myself and the late Mr. Satyamurthi of revered memory were on the Public Accounts Committee we tried

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our best to prevent the then Finance Member as well as other people concerned from putting many more impediments in the way of the I. C. A. R. so that they might build up sufficient reserve funds from out of the savings of the funds that were granted them by this Government. I want more money for the I. C. A. R. and I hope the Honourable Member in charge will keep it in mind and on the next occasion he will come forward with the adoption of this principle that the Government will pay at least as much to the I. C. A. R. as it is able to get today by independent means.

Sir, what are the objects for which this Bill has been brought forward. Are they wide enough? I have had talks with one or two responsible Members concerned with this Bill on the other side. They have told me that they are wide enough and that they can be made more wide also in the Select Committee, if only I and others would be good enough to come into it. Those on the other side have been paid all this time and they have been expected to go into this matter as carefully as possible keeping the interests of the growers in their mind. What did they do? They completely ignored the interests of the growers. Naturally one could not have expected them to give as much attention to this very essential and important aspect of the interest of the growers of rice as one could have expected from a representative Government.

This Government seems to be working in water-tight compartments, if not air-tight compartments. There was one gentleman, a worthy gentleman, who was sent to America to represent this Government at the Hot Springs Food Conference. There is another gentleman here who does not seem to know the work that that gentleman has done there and what are the results of the work of that gentleman there. Sir, here is a report of the conference and I do not know whether the Honourable Member will supply every one in this House with a copy. This was not a conference of the Governments of the United Nations held in the interests of the peasants. It was held in the interests of the consumers. It was held in the interests of the big businessmen, those capitalists who are anxious to have our raw products at the lowest possible price. It was held in the interest of those big manufacturers of the West, to enable them to establish an international grain pool, so that they can always procure foodgrains at lower and lower prices. Even in that conference the interest of the peasant seems to have been considered, much more satisfactorily and to a much greater extent than this Government seems to be anxious to consider. The Government suggest in this Bill that this duty and the funds from it shall be utilised in order to develop research, in order to develop the rice trade and in order to develop more production of rice. All these things have been thought of only in order to see that on less land with less labour we will be able to produce more rice than what we are able to produce now, so that more land can be placed at the disposal of what are known as protective foods or protective crops. But what happens to these poor growers who will be displaced when less land is put under rice? You will say

4 P.M.

"Oh, they will be switched on to the production of fruit." May be so; but have you taken sufficient care.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. Adjournment motion. Bhai Parmanand.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

SIND GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON CHAPTER XIV OF SATYARTH PRAKASHA

Bhai Parmanand (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.....

Honourable Members: We cannot hear you.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will the Honourable Member speak up? He may come nearer, if he likes.

Bhai Parmanand: I move that the House do adjourn in order to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the Sind Government's order banning

one chapter of the Satyarth Prakash—the 14th Chapter—in the interest of security and public peace. On the very beginning I want to remove the impression that I am going to bring in any religious matter. My basic contention is a legal or constitutional. I think that this order of Sind Government is not justified by any constitutional or legal principle. This order purports to be issued under the Defence of India Rules for the public safety and the public interest while the fact is that the banning has nothing to do with these. I shall read what the Act says. In the preamble it is said:—

"This section shall come into force at once and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force in such areas and on such date as the Central Government may by notification in the official gazette specify."

And further on—

"Wherever an emergency has arisen which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interest and the defence of British India and for the control of such offences."

This is the real object of the Defence of India Act and I cannot see how the Defence of India Act can apply to the banning in the case of a book, which has not endangered the safety or public interest in any way. There was no evidence for it, otherwise the Sind Government ought to have given us their reasons for it. This action of Sind Government cannot be justified by any rule under the Defence of India Act.....

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): What is the ordinance to which my friend is referring? Is it an order or an ordinance?

Bhai Parmanand: The Sind Government's ban on one chapter of Satyarth Prakash under the Defence of India Rules.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: That is an order, not an ordinance.

Bhai Parmanand: It may be so. Again, this order under the Defence of India Act was to extend only during the continuance of the war and for six months after that war. What does this ban mean? Is this going to continue during the war and six months thereafter or will it continue even after that six months period is over? Now is it possible for this Act to apply to the case of banning of the book? This book deals only with a religious matter. There is another question whether under the Defence of India Act we can deal with old religious books. My idea is that religion has to be kept free of this Defence of India Act and its rules, how is that the Sind Government applies these rules to the religious book or any one chapter of it? This one chapter is of course a criticism on Islam, but there are other chapters that give us criticism on other religions as well. Whenever the founder of a new religion, or a sect starts his movement, he cannot do so by his command, he has to propagate his new theories and generally to criticise those, which are already current. Swami Dayanand, the writer of this book, had to do the same. His criticism has got one single motive, and that is the reform of all religions and of the Hindu religion as well. That is the object. Surely, there was not the least abuse of any person or of any great man or of any great religion. I am sorry that I am not well and I cannot say all that I wanted to say.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member will proceed with his speech.

Bhai Parmanand: I am trying to do so.

The book has been in the market for the past seventy years—from 1875 in Hindi, and then it was printed in Urdu from 1940, perhaps much before this, showing that it was read by people—learned men of Islam and of other religions, who had open discussions with Swami Dayanand himself. The Punjab, particularly Lahore, was the centre of such discussions. Maulana Zafar Ali is here and he will bear witness to the fact that for many years there were discussions and controversies among the leaders of several religions in Lahore, Rawalpindi and other places but there was no bad spirit. Of course in these discussions which were attended by thousands, each one had to explain his own view and defend his own point. It is quite strange that after such a long time the Sind Government has come to discover that it was a source of danger

[Bhai Parmanand.]

to public peace. It is quite true that there was criticism and criticism had to be made by every writer on religious subjects. Sometimes it is urged that the Satyarth Prakasha is not a religious book of the Arya Samajists because it is not revealed. It is true that the Arya Samajists did not revere it because of any revelation. They think it is the best logical book which they have adopted as their religious or sacred book of their faith, and it is not in any way, right or proper for the Government of Sind to ban its publication or printing without rhyme or reason. As I am not feeling well and shaking, with these simple words, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, my friend Bhai Parmanand, the Mover of the motion, deserves my thanks for having given us an opportunity of discussing such an important matter, which has created a great stir in the Muslim community throughout the length and breadth of India and which but for the motion moved by my friend could not have been debated in this House.

Sir, it is most unfortunate that Bhai Sahib should have come forward to condemn the action of the Government of Sind, which deserves the appreciation of not only the Mussalmans of the country but of all those sections who call themselves lovers of the country and advocate unity amongst different sections in India. Those who have read the 13th and particularly the 14th chapters of this book, however holy and sacred they may be for my friend, Bhai Parmanand and those of his views, will honestly come to the conclusion that such a writing cannot be ascribed to a reformer like Swami Dayanand. It is alleged that this is an addition made by some of his followers after his death. The truth of this allegation (An Honourable Member: "What is your authority for this?") has been always supported by one named Mahmud Dharampal who believed in Arya faith and afterwards embraced Islam. But I have nothing to do with this at present. Whatever the case may be, the language used in the chapter is so filthy, shameful and provocative that the bitterest kind of hatred is produced in the minds of not only the Mussalmans but in the minds of all those who have got any regard for decency or gentlemanliness. Sir, it is because of such writings and their publications that a foundation is laid for permanently creating hatred amongst the communities. I had the opportunity of reading some passages and I make bold to say that the blood of a law and peace abiding person like myself began to boil at the most insulting and filthy language used for Allah and the Holy Prophet. I realised at that time how persons on such occasions were in the zeal of their religious convictions actuated to commit crimes of murder and then when sent up for trial boldly make confessions. Such instances are experienced all over the country and my province particularly had to see many such instances.

If such publications are allowed a wide publicity and they are read by the general public who feel strongly about their religion, they will create a Hell in the country and would be responsible for many conflicts and bloodsheds, as has been experienced in several places where such differences existed. With the increase of education in the rural areas, Mussalmans there have become conscious and sensitive of their rights and religious feeling because they are more religious minded than people of the towns. I warn the Government that it is time for them that they should avoid the creation of such circumstances as prompt bloodshed in the country. In spite of the fact that since a very long time there has been a great hue and cry in the country and in the Muslim Press against the book the Government has not stirred at all in this matter. May I know why? These are the circumstances which create a great suspicion in the minds of the Mussalmans about the coming Central Government when India has the fortune of becoming a self-governing country. The subject under discussion today brings forth a reasonable ground for Mussalmans of the

country to demand Pakistan where at least they can expect to be able to keep the sanctity of their religion, God and their Prophet. The publicity given to such publications as the 14th Chapter in the Satyarth Prakasha is the biggest bomb for the country in this respect and I foresee bloodshed everywhere in the country, if no action is taken to stop its publicity. Government take so many precautions when they smell that riots are expected to take place at some places in the country. I say that the objectionable chapter of the Satyarth Prakasha would bring riots everywhere and it is high time for them to give their most serious consideration to the matter.

In my opinion the Sind Government has done a great service to the country in taking a lead in stopping the publication of Chapter 14 of the Satyarth Prakasha and thus obviated the chances of disunity and bloodshed in their province that would have resulted, as a result of the publication. I may tell the House that to a Mussalman loyalty to his Prophet is greater than any other being, greater than the regard for his wife, parents, children and even his King. I would therefore request all those friends of mine who call themselves the friends of Bharatmata and advocate unity in different communities to strongly oppose the motion. Everyone of us should commend to the Central Government and the Governments of all the Provinces to follow the Sind Government's policy in this matter. May I, therefore, take this opportunity of appealing to the Ministries now functioning in the provinces to take up this question in their Executive Councils and to follow the good lead of the Sind Ministry. I can assure them that this action of theirs will prepare a ground of unity amongst the Mussalmans and the Hindus and they will be doing a great service to the country. Sir, with these remarks I oppose the motion moved by my friend Bhai Parmanand.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I feel that Bhai Parmanand was very wise in putting the legal question before the House instead of going into these quarrels which would injure the feelings of the other party. But on this Muslim side I still see an attempt to fight out and to create a quarrel even in this House and to injure the feelings of the Members of this House and also of those who are outside it. It would have been wise on their part if they had shown that according to the law, namely, the Defence of India Act, this order of the Sind Government is a correct or a legal order. Coming from Sind as I do, I know that that exceptionally estimable Ministry is not only capable of passing such orders but they will not see that peace is kept there, especially when murders and unlawful assemblies are so very common there. It would have been wise on their part to see if any other Ministry in India has passed any such order during the last 20 years when the book has been in existence. It is easy to find out why the Sind Ministry has passed this order. Most of the Ministers there prize themselves as being the members of the Muslim League. When we find that the two Hindu Ministers have also been a party to this order, we cannot refrain from saying that they are most condemnable. They have been condemned for this and for many other things and the Panchayats of Sind have met together and have asked them to resign on this issue. But their seats are very sweet to them and probably they will injure our feelings in many other matters as time goes on. We can gauge from this action of the League what sort of Pakistan would be. Pakistan they have already in Sind. (Interruptions.) What I am submitting is this. It is very easy to get these things done. If we recount the list of the harm that has been done to the Hindus which is well-known to everyone, then everybody will say: "Well, they have now been put up by the Muslim League and they take the credit of putting the whole of India into chaos and trouble."

Now, Sir, I will read to you the law on this point and I would advise the Government not to go into the merits of this book or rather the order. They should try to find out whether the Ordinance applies and whether the order is legal or not. I would tell them that it would be wise on their part to do that. If they do not agree with the Sind Government, then no other Ministry would

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.] create any disturbance like this. Otherwise, they would ask the other Ministers to come forward and create disturbances and thus disturb the peace of the country.

Now, Sir, to begin with, when the Defence of India Act was enacted (and I was a party to it), it was said that it is only for the war front. With that object, the Defence of India Act was enacted. Then, the power was given under this Act to the Government at the Centre to make rules. It was proposed that these rules will be placed before the House or at least the Members of the House will be taken into consultation when those rules are made.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

These rules have now been made and they are being abused all over the country. We have been asked that these rules should be revised but this has not been done. In this particular case, this rule does not apply to this religious matter. A part of it has been read by Bhai Parmanand. It says:

"Whereas an emergency has occurred which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interests and the defence of India. . . .

So, it is only for the defence of India and the safety and security of India that this Defence of India Act was enacted. Then I come to the other sections which clearly show that no order of the nature which the Sind Government has passed can be passed under any section or any rule of the Defence of India Act.

Now, let us see what are those rules under which a book can be proscribed or under which an order can be made that a certain book should not be printed. The House will then be convinced that it is not with respect to religious or communal questions or questions between certain parties or individuals that this Defence of India Act has to be applied. It is to be applied in particular cases and even with regard to the publication of books. I will refer the House to rule 38. What does this rule say?—

"No person shall without lawful authority or excuse do any prejudicial act or, obtain, collect, record, elicit, make, print or publish, or distribute or communicate by any means whatsoever to any other person, any information likely to assist the enemy."

Does it come under that? No. The Rule further goes on:

"make, print, publish or distribute any document containing, or spread by any other means whatsoever, any prejudicial report."

Is this a prejudicial report? Certainly not.—

"make, print, produce, publish, or distribute any publication containing, or communicate to any person by any means whatsoever, any confidential information."

Does this come under this Rule? It does not. Barring the above, there is no other Rule that I have come across. Now, there is another Rule in similar strain and it is Rule 40. It says:

"Where in the opinion of the Central Government or the Provincial Government any document made, printed or published, whether before or after the Ordinance came into force, contains any confidential information, any information likely to assist the enemy or any prejudicial report, the Government may, by order. . . . proscribe that book."

Now, Sir, it is very clear that the order of the Sind Government is illegal and it should not have been made. Shelter has been taken under this that this order is for the public safety and order. Now, Sir, let me refer to Part X of the Defence of India Rules, Rule 56:

"The Central Government or the Provincial Government may, for the purpose of securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war, by general or special order, prohibit, restrict or impose conditions upon, the holding of or taking part in public processions, meetings or assemblies."

Even going through all the three other parts of this Rule, they do not say that in a matter like this where a book has been printed, that book would come under the mischief of the Defence of India Rules. Therefore, Sir, it is plain that the Sind Government has erred. I might go further and say that the Sind Government has done a most mischievous act and it has done a dangerous act. It is fighting with fire, because the House knows that if Muslims are brave, the Arya Samajists are no less brave. The Arya Samajists

are known to be brave. They have fought to the end on their own religious matters. In a matter like this where the Arya Samajists are concerned on the one side, and the Muslims on the other, the Sind Government should not have come into the picture and taken sides on behalf of Muslims. On this ground alone the Sind Government's action is condemnable. I do not wonder that the Sind Government has been doing all kinds of things, but not other Governments. Hereafter if any agitation is set on foot in other Provinces, I hope other Provincial Governments will be wise enough to consider whether this Act applies, whether this Rule applies and whether it is desirable to invoke the Rules to ban this book on the ground that the contending parties would create a disturbance and thus safety will be jeopardised. I therefore submit that so far as the Sind Government is concerned, I am not at all feeling surprised, because I know what all acts the Sind Government are doing. They are already acting as a Pakistan Province.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss Sind politics here. This motion is in order owing to the alleged failure on the part of the Government of India to take action under the Defence of India Rules. Sind politics cannot be discussed here.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But the Chair has not heard what I was going to say.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have heard:

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I uttered only two words, call it Pakistan. Is it not Pakistan, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question of Pakistan does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then, I will invite the Chair with great respect to come and see what is happening in Sind. On the floor of the Sind Legislature, they have condemned the Sind Ministry and charged it with corruption, but nothing has been done so far.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Sind Ministry is not under discussion on this motion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Sind Government ought to be brought to its senses.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member ought not to try to indict the Sind Ministry which is not represented here. I would not have admitted this motion but for the fact that the particular order was passed under the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder and I thought that the Government of India might have some thing to say as regards the way the Rules under the Act have been given effect to in the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If that is the point that has to be urged, then I have said that the Act does not apply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Issue of Pakistan is not there.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: On the contrary, I submit, it should not be. It would be wise on their part to restrict to local questions. Now, Sir, I am condemning the Sind Government.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is the responsibility of the Government of India that is in issue and the Honourable Member must confine his remarks to the responsibility of the Government of India in this matter. I see that the Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But the Chair has taken two minutes of my time and I request that I may be allowed some more time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, the Honourable Member must conclude.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then I will only say that the Central Government is to be condemned because they have not taken care to see that the Sind Government do not exercise their power in an arbitrary way.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, at the outset, I want to make it perfectly clear that whatever I am saying today does not represent the views of my constituency, I am speaking in my personal capacity. I am neither an Arya Samajist nor an orthodox Hindu. I belong to a family which was outcasted nearly sixty years ago. The only reason why I am taking part in this debate is that I understand this book has been in existence for over sixty or seventy years. I have not read the Chapter which has been banned. But the question is this: Is the Sind Government or any Provincial Government entitled to take action under a measure against a book which has been there for over sixty or seventy years and which has nothing to do with war, under the powers delegated by the Government of India under a measure which was enacted for the purpose of maintaining law and order with special reference to the conduct of the war. If the Government of India feel that there is something very objectionable in that Chapter, then the unilateral action of the Sind Government will not carry us very far. If the Government of India really believe that this Chapter is so obnoxious that it ought not to be there, then, it is high time to see, that as far as this Chapter is concerned, it is banned for the whole country. The Government of India should go further and appoint a Committee to scrutinise all the ancient scriptures or ancient religious texts and to see that anything that is against public policy and morality as understood by us now should be deleted. I refer to Christian, Hindu scriptures and all scriptures because I do not want to hurt the sentiments of any one. Even in my own Hindu scriptures there are sentiments which I consider to be objectionable and obnoxious and against public policy and public morality as we understand them today. Are Government prepared to take action in regard to all such matters? If so, I shall certainly be with them and I might, if invited to, serve on such a committee. I am still awaiting the speech of the Honourable the Home Member but I really cannot understand the unilateral action of the Sind Government in taking this action with regard to a book which has been in existence for 70 years. At present, Sir, I feel inclined to support this motion of adjournment.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, it is unfortunate that the Sind Government has passed this order banning a particular chapter of the Satyarth Prakasha. I will give you a history of this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must address himself to the Government of India. The Sind Government is not here to answer any charge.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: In June 1943 the Sind Government stated in a communique that it was considering the question whether the Satyarth Prakasha should be proscribed or not, but there was a tremendous agitation against it and after that the Sind Government again issued a communique in July 1943 stating that they had no intention of taking any step against the Satyarth Prakasha. But now it is strongly enough that owing to some frantic efforts on the part of some fanatic gentlemen of the Muslim League, the Sind Government have passed this order. This Satyarth Prakasha, Sir, is a book of criticisms just as many other books in Hindu and Muslim society are: I have gone through the whole of the 14th chapter but I have not seen any scurrilous attack either on Muhammad or on Islam. General criticism is there just as in many other books. In the Bible Christ said something against the Pharisees and the scribes. Should the Bible be banned on that account? There are other sects of Hindus on which Swami Dayanand has passed strictures. The thing is that in books of criticism the author is given freedom of expression and we give every historian, writer or critic some freedom of expression. The Holy Koran too has said many things against infidels. I have got a book with me here to show how Muhammad spoke against non-Muslims.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member should not spread the trouble any further.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I should like to say how the order of the Sind Government hurts the feelings of the Arya community. And the Central Government should take steps about it. Sir, the point is, if there were so much in the book that is objectionable, what were the Government of India doing so long? Why could not they take action earlier? I think there is nothing in the book which can endanger public safety or induce riots among Hindus, Muslims and Arya Samajists. Therefore, I feel that the Sind Government had no business to take such action which will introduce new enmity among the communities. In this country we all should be tolerant; there are so many books, communities and sects; no one ought to fight against another because of the literature which expresses the view of a particular sect. The Sind Government has taken this step, because the Muslim League in 1943 passed a Resolution at Lahore urging the Sind Government and the Governments of other Muslim majority provinces to take measures against the Satyarth Prakasha; otherwise they had no reason to take this step according to the Defence of India Rules. These rules have been read out by my honourable friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai and also referred to by my Honourable friend Bhai Parmanand. There is nothing in the book to entitle the Sind Government to ban any portion of it. Sir, you know the reformer Martin Luther said many things against King Henry VIII. The great Muslim leader and reformer Sir Syed Ahmad Khan also said something very much against the Muslims. In one passage speaking about the description of paradise in holy Koran, he says: "If this is Paradise our brother is without exaggeration a thousand times more decent." That was his criticism. What I say is that people are always doing it and why should Government go out of its way to ban something here and something there? My Muslim friends in Sind may go to a law-court and get a judgment about this book; why should the Sind Government ban it? It is high time for the Government of India to intervene; otherwise there will be riots and fighting. This order under defence of India Rule will help to disturb peace.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Have the Government of India powers under the Defence of India Act to issue orders in such cases, is the question under consideration?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Yes, Sir, the Government of India has the power of supervision. The Government of India can say that the Act and the rules have been misapplied and the order should be withdrawn.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Government of India can issue

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not prompt him from there.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Sir, the Muslim League has also asked other provincial Governments like the Bengal and Assam Governments to pass similar orders. So the danger is there. If the Government of India do not take action in time it may be too late. Therefore, in the interest of the country and its people and in the interest of humanity they should intervene in time. This is a question of freedom of religion and freedom of expression any my friends of the European Group should join with us and demand necessary action from Government. My Congress friends stand for the sacred principles of liberty and freedom. I call upon them to say whether the freedom of religious belief and freedom of expression will be given to the author of Satyarth Prakasha which guides the actions of thousands of Arya Samajists in this country. All religions should be free to publish books and criticise the views of their opponents. My Muslim friend over there says there are obscene things in Satyarth Prakasha. There are obscene passages in many religious books. There are obscene passages in Koran. I can show you the passages now and here. Are you therefore going to ban the Koran?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member should confine himself to the book referred to in the motion.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Sir, I will not take any more time. I have expressed myself strongly because I feel strongly. I would request the Government of India to come to the help of the people and take such action as

[Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam.]

is necessary under the law. In the name of the Defence of India Rule the action of the Sind Government will invite more troubles in India. -Sir, with these few words I support the motion moved by Bhai Parmanandji.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): I thank you, Sir, for your ruling that we are not discussing the politics of Sind, but that does not make it any easier for me to know what to say because the action that we have been condemned for is the action of the Sind Government. It has been alleged that we could come to the conclusion that it was illegal. One Honourable Member said that the Government of India should come to the conclusion, if they examine the matter, that the action of Sind Government was illegal. Supposing they did. The Sind Government thinks one thing, we think another. There is nothing we could do really.

Sir, this action of the Government of Sind was taken presumably under Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules: they banned the printing and publishing, as far as I understand it, of a fresh edition of Satyarth Prakasha. They did not take any action under 99(A) of the Criminal Procedure Code as they might have done and confiscate all copies of that book. There is no question of stopping the circulation of it. What was done was stopping the issue of a new edition. It was said that that action was illegal. Rule 41 gives power to prohibit or regulate the making or publishing of any document or class of documents, and that can be done in the interests of public safety and public order.

One Honourable Member laid it down that action could not be taken under the Defence of India Rules except for the defence of British India and the prosecution of the war. That, Sir, is not so. In sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Act—not the Rules, the Act as it was passed in this House—it is laid down that the Central Government may make rules for securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order, or the prosecution of the war. That was debated on the floor of this House and an amendment was moved. That amendment for the deletion of the words 'public order' was negatived. Therefore it is clear that action can be taken under the Defence Rules for the maintenance of public order. The Government of Sind have ostensibly passed their orders in the interest of public peace

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): How was it affected?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is not for me to say whether that order was justified, or not justified. It is not for any one in this House to say, least of all it is for my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, to say. No one can say unless he is in Sind and responsible for the administration of Sind. But it needs no elaboration for me to point out that religious contentions do in this country imperil public order. This very new edition of this Book has resulted in disorder in Lahore.

Then I come to the suggestion of my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, that the Government of India should, if this Book is objectionable, take action and ban it throughout the whole country. That, Sir, shows, I think, complete misapprehension of the position. These books are not banned in a case of this sort, because the book is in itself objectionable. That is not the case. Action was taken because in this case the printing of this book was held to imperil public order. There is no judgment passed on the book in one way or another. It may be that public peace in Sind is imperilled and public peace elsewhere is not imperilled. What would be the immediate reaction if we were to ban this book throughout India? What justification would we have to do it. If this is not likely to cause trouble in the Punjab, Madras, Assam, Bengal and so on, why should we take action to ban it? The Honourable Member who moved this motion at once raised the question to an all-India level. Up till now it was merely provincial, and the circumstances which have led the Government of Sind to take this action are peculiar to Sind. I am very much afraid that the whole of this debate, particularly because of the way it has been carried on, may do great harm. I am sure that the Mover has done no good

to the cause that he has at heart. I would like to make it quite clear that this trouble, as far as I know, has necessitated action only in Sind. There is not the least chance of the Government of India taking any action unless there is an extraordinary change in the circumstances. Unless this happens it is quite impossible to envisage the Government of India following my Honourable friend Sir Chandavarkar's advice and banning this book throughout India. Action of this sort is only taken in the interest of public peace and that is the responsibility of Provincial Governments.

One word more. What would be the result if the Government of India were to interfere in the day to day law and order administration of the provinces? The first thing they would have to do would be to accept the responsibility for the peace of these provinces. Now, whether you do that on paper, or not, one thing is certain that the consequences of breakdown of law and order fall first and principally on the Provincial Government. It is the provincial Police and magistracy that have to quell these disturbances and may lose their lives in doing so. The three consequences of civil disturbance, the break down of supplies, the interruption of communications and destruction of property also fall chiefly on Provincial Governments. The Government of India cannot, in fact, accept the responsibility for law and order in the provinces. It is for this reason, i.e., that the consequences of disorder fall on Provincial Governments, that law and order has now been transferred to Provincial Governments. Any interference in that situation would most seriously affect law and order throughout the country. It is of the highest importance that the responsibility of Provincial Governments for law and order should in no way be blurred. For these reasons, I ask the House to reject this motion.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, I would like to congratulate you on giving that ruling and confining this debate to a narrow issue, which is really the issue on which the mover of the motion had concentrated. And I wish, Sir, you had been in the Chair when my Honourable friend, Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, made his speech which went beyond the issue, with the result that he gave expression to certain sentiments which are really irrelevant to the issue before the House and unnecessarily offensive.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I hope the Honourable Member will not indulge in anything irrelevant.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Does Sardar Sant Singh know that Guru Nanak has been abused in Satyarth Prakash?

Sardar Sant Singh: I know much more than Maulana Sahib does. I know how to express my feelings. I have been longer here than Maulana Sahib has been.

Sir, I have listened with interest the reply given by the Honourable the Home Member to this motion. The issue is really a narrow one. That issue is: "what is the Government of India to do in the matter where a Provincial Government abuses the powers delegated to them under the Defence of India Rules?" Particularly if Provincial administration acts in a manner which is prejudicial to a large section of the people of that province. If I have understood the Honourable the Home Member correctly, he has taken this position. He says, 'Presumably the action has been taken under Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules'. I am inclined to agree with him that presumably the action had

been taken under this Rule. But from an Honourable Member who 5 P.M. represents the Government of India, the House does not expect and rightly does not expect that he should base his case on presumptions. He should have made enquiries from the Government of Sind to find out under what rule they took the action and if they took the action under Rule 41 he should have been prepared to say that they actually took the action under that rule. However, that is not the very important point. Part (b) of the rule to which the Honourable the Home Member referred says:

"Prohibit or regulate the making or publishing of any document or class of document or of any matter relating to a particular subject or class of subject or the use of any press as defined in the India Press Emergency Powers Act 1931."

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

This rule gives power under certain conditions. Those conditions are contained in clause 1 of this Rule, *viz.*,

"The Central Government or the Provincial Government may for the purpose of securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war by order, etc., etc."

Thus before part (b) of clause 1 can be applied the conditions precedent which are stated in clause 1 of the Rule must exist. Now, here again the Honourable the Home Member has taken a very convenient line. He says presumably in the interests of public order this was done. When I asked him how the public order was affected thereby, he had no information to give to the House. He did not care to enquire from the Sind Government what were their grounds for believing that the public security was affected thereby. He has not enlightened the House on that point. It is very convenient to say that this rule applies—It can be made to apply to such a case as to a petition writer who may be asked to write a complaint for the Court that a certain woman has been enticed away for some immoral purpose; therefore under Rule 41 the petition writer should not write this. If the legal powers are to be twisted into a convenient shape for the purpose of injuring the religious prejudices of a particular community then the object of law is frustrated. It is a common knowledge that in a Court of law the lawyers of both sides make plausible arguments for their clients. But for the Government of India, who has taken the responsibility for administering this country and has got extraordinary executive powers vested in them, to justify the use of those powers merely on presumptions and on lack of information, is a thing which is unheard of in any democratic government and which cannot satisfy the democratic conscience of anybody much less it should satisfy that of the Honourable the Home Member.

This motion has been admitted in this House on the ground of the responsibility of the Government of India. You, Sir, as the Honourable President, were right when you put the question: What can the Government of India do in the matter? It is this. After reviewing the working of the Defence of India Rules by the Provincial Governments, they can take action under two heads. First by issuing instructions to the Governors to see that the minorities are protected under those minority safeguards in the Government of India Act and that they enjoy freedom of religious worship. I may not agree with a particular sort of worship of a particular religion.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan at the beginning asked me about the references to the Sikh Gurus in that chapter. I am aware of them. I do not agree with them. I am opposed to them. My community has condemned that portion. But does it mean to say that when we are developing democratic institutions in this country, when we are learning toleration towards one another and allowing freedom of worship to everybody I should not allow freedom of worship to a certain section because I happen to disagree with it or because its criticism of my religion is intolerable?

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: I do not agree with you.

Sardar Sant Singh: You will not agree with the prejudiced spectacles on your nose!

I say with confidence that in the working of the democratic institutions the first essential amongst others is that we should learn to be tolerant towards one another. Without toleration we cannot go on for a minute. The Government of India's responsibility is to invoke the safeguards in the Government of India Act where the freedom of worship and the rights of the minority classes are particularly handed over to the Governor for protection. The second point which the Government of India should note is to issue friendly instructions to the provinces and if they do not listen to this advice then the course is plain: that this rule which has been framed by the Central Government should be amended and the power taken away from the Provincial Government and vested in the Central Government. They have the power to amend this rule. Why

allow this rule to stand where they find a gross abuse of power by a Provincial Government?

My friend has said that the peace of Sind may be affected thereby. It does not require a prophet to tell him or to predict that the peace of Sind if it is to be disturbed will be disturbed by the use of this rule rather than by the want of the use of this rule. The book has been there for the last five years of the war. There has been no disturbance. Now, if the Arya Samajists take it in their heads to come and commit violent deeds and to break the law, what power is there for you to say that you will prevent them except by sending them to jail and using your brute force against them? Will the peace of Sind be disturbed or will it be saved? If anyone has paved the way for a disturbance of the peace in Sind it is the Central Government and I can predict without any fear that the peace of Sind will be disturbed by this action unless the Government of India intervenes.

What happened in Hyderabad (Deccan)? There was a similar incident. Thousands of people went to jail to defend their religious rights. I may not agree with those who went to jail. But we cannot shut our eyes to the realities of the situation that it did happen: I understand that the Arya Samajists in the Punjab are greatly disturbed over it and if they begin to break the peace of the land the Government of India cannot sit quietly and say it is the responsibility of the Sind Government.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What did you say?

Sardar Sant Singh: They are determined to fight this ban.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But they are in the Punjab!

Sardar Sant Singh: They will go to Sind to fight it there.

May I ask what is the meaning of the Government of India taking up this attitude that if the peace is disturbed in Sind it will be the responsibility of the Provincial Government and not the Central Government? Will you sit quiet if firing takes place or if more serious breaches of the peace are committed? Will not your war effort suffer thereby and will not the very object of the Defence of India Act be defeated by your silence and condoning of the act of the Sind Government? This is a short-sighted view which no man with the least grain of common sense can afford to take.

Lastly, Sir, I want to say that I do not approve of the attitude of the Congress Party in spiriting themselves away when the time comes to test their love of democracy and love of complete independence. They have left their benches: what for? Because they are afraid to displease the Muslim League Party. I do not approve of this method of the Party. If there is to be democracy, we should have courage enough to say what we believe to be right and must vote for it, and if a thing is not right we must have the courage to oppose it. This neutrality, which is much less benevolent neutrality, is a thing which ought to be condemned strongly, even so because I have more often to agree with the Congress Party than differ from them.

Therefore, Sir, I think the Government of India will do well even now to hold out an assurance that the Sind Government will be approached to take the right decision and to rescind this order which is full of mischief, and danger, and is calculated to produce class hatred between different communities in India. With these words I support this motion.

Nawab Suddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Sir, it is always very unpleasant to enter into a religious controversy. It is a pity that my Honourable friend Bhai Parmanand thought it proper to table the adjournment motion on an occasion, when we instead of coming closer to each other, are pursuing two different paths which I am sure will never meet.

Let us examine as to why this India-wide agitation is being carried on for the deletion of the objectionable passages in the book in question by the members of the Muslim League and Muslims of different schools of political thought. It is only about a year ago that a resolution was passed in the open session of the All-India Muslim League at Karachi where it was demanded of the Central

[Nawab Siddique Ali Khan.]

Government, (not the Provincial Government as my Honourable friend Mr. Dam said) to prosecute the publishers of this book and to ban chapters 12, 13 and 14, which are devoted to a criticism of Jainism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. The language of Chapter 14 is no doubt very offensive, abusive and insulting. Sir, nobody would object to fair criticism but malicious, and provocative attacks on religion, religious beliefs or the Prophets cannot be tolerated. This principle has also been accepted by the Government by the enactment of sec. 295A, Indian Penal Code.

Sir, let us see whether the criticisms levelled against Islam and the whole community fall under the former or the latter category. I shall now, Sir, quote a few passages from Chapter 14.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into that. That is not the question. The question simply is this: whether the Government of India would not be justified in reviewing the order of the Sind Government, prohibiting the publication of a certain book which they consider is likely to lead to a breach of the peace or is otherwise objectionable. The merits of the book in question cannot be discussed.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): It has been contended, Sir, that it was a religious book and as such has got sanctity. Hence it was that the motion was considered one of public importance and the debate has been allowed to take place in this House. If the book has no sanctity, then it is no more a matter of public importance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow any such discussion.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The Honourable the Home Member has just said that the Sind Government had to take action because in their opinion they thought that peace and order could not be maintained there. I want to submit that I wish to show from the passages (I will quote with your permission, Sir) that peace and order can not be maintained in Sind or anywhere else, if these objectionable passages are not deleted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think it is disputed that there are passages in that book which might be considered offensive by particular religious bodies.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: My Honourable friend Mr. Dam said that there are no offensive or abusive passages in the book Satyartha Prakash.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are, I understand, criticisms of other religions too than Islam. But that is not the question. You cannot possibly go into questions like that.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The other point which I want to raise is this. I have got a book here, which is the authentic translation of the original Satyartha Prakash, which was published in the year 1875 and doesn't contain chapters 13 and 14. The Secretary of the Arya Samaj, Lahore, in the introduction says that the Urdu translation of the original book is quite literal and that he has not added anything. Afterwards he says that the fabricated copies of 'Satyartha Prakash', which are in the market today, deserve to be heaped together and burnt. This opinion has been expressed by the Secretary of the Arya Samaj in the translation published in the year 1912. From this one can conclude that the book is objectionable and the language which is used there is very insulting. I think the Sind Government, as has been said by my Honourable friend Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, deserves our thanks for taking prompt action in this matter.

Sir, the House will be interested to know that this is not the first time that action has been taken regarding similar offensive books. In the Central Provinces when the late Dr. Raghavendra Rao was the Home Member, some poems were composed which were known as "Quran ki Gazalen". He got the composer of these poems prosecuted and copies of the poems were forfeited and the composer was fined. So this is not the first time that a Provincial Government has taken action.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Was it the Satyartha Prakash?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: It was a similar book in which abusive language was used against Islam and the Holy Prophet. Sir, I do not think I have anything more to say and I request that the adjournment motion be defeated by this Honourable House.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Mover wish to reply?

Bhai Parmanand: No.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—15.

Bhai Parmanand.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Hans Raj, Raizada.

Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Bihari Lal, Mr.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Raghubir Narain Singh; Choudhri.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sham Lal, Lala.

NOES—55.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lal.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joshi, Mr. D. S.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhooy A.

Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad
Muhammad.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sethna, Mr. D. P.
Shabhan, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Muhammad.
Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Spence, Sir George.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 8th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 8th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

INSTALLATION OF KARACHI RADIO STATION

157. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the paragraph appearing on page 118 of the *Indian Information*, dated August 1, 1944, about the Karachi Radio Station to the effect that the project has been held over owing to technical difficulties? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to specify them briefly?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Secretary in the Department of Information and Broadcasting informed me on the 17th March last that owing to the preoccupation of the Department with other heavy commitments connected with the War and lack of suitable house for use as a Radio Transmitting and Studio building at Karachi, the installation will be delayed?

(c) Is the Honourable Member also aware that the Secretary of his Department in his earlier letter to me on the 5th August, 1943, stated that if no suitable building was forthcoming at Karachi, the Government of India may put up a building of their own?

(d) Is it not a fact that all commitments for extension of the Delhi Radio Station are now complete? Is it now proposed to start installations at Karachi? If not, when is it proposed to take the matter in hand?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes. The difficulties arise out of the depletion of the technical staff owing to the installation of a number of new transmitters, including two of 100 k.w. and the pre-occupation of the remaining staff with the installation of some more transmitters and also their being unable to remodel the 0.25 Transmitter into a 1 k.w. Transmitter due to the present war conditions.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the letter of the 25th August, 1943. The letter clearly explained that the Government of India may put up a building of their own only when work in connection with the installation of the transmitter starts.

(d) The reply to the first two parts of this part of the question is in the negative. As regards the last part, plans for the post war development of Broadcasting in India are being prepared and the installation of more stations including a station at Karachi will be taken into consideration as part of the general plan.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask if the Honourable Member has seen the debates in which three of the Honourable Member's predecessors made a promise for a radio station at Karachi and yet it has not yet been installed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have seen this promise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Last time the Honourable Member said in reply to a question that the installation at Delhi was occupying the attention of the Government. Now that the installation has been completed, will the Honourable Member fulfil his own promise?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am prepared to do this provided the Sind Government is prepared to take the .25 transmitter.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member include Nagpur also in his plan as it is a very important station?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Certainly.

INDIAN KINGS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ENLISTED FROM INDIA

158. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state as to how many Indian King's Commissioned Officers have been enlisted in the fighting forces from India, provincewise, since the 1st January, 1943, together with their grades and emoluments?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to Emergency Commissioned Indian Officers of the Indian Army.

The number of those commissioned during the period 1st January 1943 to the 31st August 1944, was 5,756, including 1,960 Medical Officers. I regret that this information is not available by Provinces.

Of these officers, excluding Medical Officers, 560 have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, 33 to the rank of Captain and 15 to the rank of Major.

As regards their emoluments, a statement has been laid on the table.

Statement showing rates of pay and allowances of Indian commissioned officers

Ranks	Rates of pay	
	Unmarried Rs. p. m.	Married Rs. p. m.
2nd Lieutenant	370	450
Lieutenant	410	490
Lieutenant after 3 years' service	440	520
Captain	480	610
Captain after 3 years' service as such	500	630
Captain after 11 years' service	530	660
Captain after 14 years' service	620	750
Major	765	850
Major after 22 years' service	865	950
Lieutenant-Colonel	1,090	1,145

2. Married officers serving overseas and in "non-family" areas where their families are not permitted to go, receive separation allowance at the following rates:—

	Rs. p. m.
2nd Lieutenant	40
Lieutenant	50
Captain	80
Major	120
Lieutenant-Colonel	120

3. Indian commissioned officers serving overseas receive expatriation allowance at the rate of colonial allowance admissible to British officers of the British Army. The rates of expatriation allowance for certain areas are:—

	Rs. p. m.
Ceylon	75
Persia & Iraq	120
Egypt	70

Unmarried officers serving in India and in areas overseas where no expatriation allowance is admissible receive a special allowance at the following rates:—

	Rs. p. m.
2nd Lieutenant	35
Lieutenant	20
Captain until completion of 11 years' service	20

4. A field allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem is also admissible to officers serving in areas declared as "field allowance areas". These are generally the forward areas.

5. Officers serving in technical corps like the Corps of Indian Engineers, Royal Indian Army Service Corps, Indian Army Ordnance Corps, Corps of Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, receive corps pay at the following rates:—

	Rs. p. m.
2nd Lieutenant and Lieutenant	45
Captain	70
Major	115
Lieutenant-Colonel	160

6. Officers serving in staff appointments receive rates of pay as follows:—

	Single Rs. p. m.	Married Rs. p. m.
General Staff Officer III	700	830
General Staff Officer II	1,000	1,130
General Staff Officer I	1,350	1,510

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Was any separate record kept of the provinces from which these officers were recruited?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So far as I am aware, there is no separate record, and in order to get the information, I will have to look up the applications of the candidates concerned.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the figures given by the Honourable Member also include the officers in the Royal Navy and the Air Force?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I said: "Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to Emergency Commissioned Indian Officers of the Indian Army". It does not include the Indian Officers in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Can the Honourable Member give the figures of Commissioned officers in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I shall be very glad to do so if the Honourable Member will put a question. Even if the Honourable Member will not put a question, I will communicate the information to him.

CONTINUANCE OF HUR TROUBLE IN SIND

159. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state what the legal responsibilities of the Central Government are in case the civic security in a province is in danger?

(b) Have Government taken any account from the Sind Government after the withdrawal of Martial Law, with regard to the welfare and safety of the community from the ravages of Hurs and allied culprits who not only attack villages but cause serious breaches in canals, flooding and desolating the country?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The primary responsibility is on the Provincial Government. The Central Government, by virtue of war-time provisions, have certain powers of control by way of Legislation and direction.

(b) The Central Government are kept informed of happenings in Sind, as in other provinces. They have no reason to suppose that the Sind Government have failed in their responsibility since the withdrawal of martial law.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that so many murders and dacoities have been committed by the Hurs in the Sind Province? If so, may I know why the Honourable Member is not interfering in the matter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member inquire as to what is happening in the province of Sind and then do something on the responsibility of the Central Government? Will the Central Government always leave it to the Provincial Government even if there are disturbances? I want a reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has heard the question but he is not replying.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask if the occurrence of crime is the test of the efficiency of a Provincial Government or the overcoming of the crime is the real test of their efficiency?

(No answer.)

HOME DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM ON REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN POSTS FILLED BY PROMOTION

160. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Home Department had issued a memorandum in September, 1942, on the subject of representation of minority communities in posts filled by promotion? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House?

(b) Has this memorandum been circulated to the staff affected? If not, is it proposed to do so now? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes; presumably the reference is to Home Department office memorandum No. 23/1/39-Ests. (S), dated the 4th September, 1942. A copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) No; the instructions in the memorandum are meant only for the guidance of the authorities making promotions.

No. 23/1/39-Ests. (S).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi, the 4th September, 1942.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:—Representation of minority communities in posts filled by promotion.

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to this Département office memorandum No. 23/1/39-Ests. (S), dated the 16th August 1941, and to say that after considering the views expressed by the Departments on the proposals contained in that Office Memorandum it has been decided to adopt the following principles:

(a) There should be no indefiniteness about the normal mode of filling vacancies nor any uncertainty about the proportions to be filled by direct recruitment and by promotion. The practice, where it is not sufficiently well-defined, should be settled for the future.

(b) No variation in existing rules or practice which would have the effect of increasing the present proportion of vacancies filled by promotion, nor any departure from the pre-determined proportions, should be made without the orders of Government.

(c) Except in certain classes of appointments which must be defined as open only to selection, seniority must as a general rule be given its due weight and good men should not be passed over by their juniors merely because the juniors might, other things being equal, be judged to be better than they.

(d) Without prejudice to the position of the War Department vis-a-vis Naval, Army and Air Headquarters, each Department should be responsible not only for the accuracy of the communal returns from each of its Attached and Subordinate Offices, both in form and substance, but also for submitting a consolidated return for all its offices to the Home Department by a specified date each year, accompanied by brief remarks on any defects or departures from the rules that may have come to its notice. It should be the duty of the Home Department not to check the returns of other Departments but to consolidate them further without delay and review the general working of the rules as disclosed by the returns.

2. In order to comply with principle (c), Departments will have to prepare lists of appointments which may be filled only by selection of the best candidates available. So far as posts in the Secretariat Ministerial Staff are concerned, the list will be prepared by Home Department after consulting the other Departments.

3. As regards (d), the Departments are requested to submit to Home Department consolidated returns for 1941 as soon as possible and thereafter by 1st April of each year.

H. K. CHAINANI,

Deputy Secretary, to the Govt. of India.

STATEMENT ON PROGRESS OF WAR

161. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the War Secretary please lay on the table a statement on the progress of the War during the months, of August, September and October?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table in reply to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 61 on the 3rd November, 1944.

CANDIDATES EXAMINED BY GENERAL HEADQUARTERS SELECTION BOARDS

162. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Does the War Secretary propose to lay on the table a statement showing the number of candidates examined by each of the four General Headquarter Selection Boards, and the number of candidates declared to be successful? What is the percentage of passes by each Board, and by all the Boards combined?

(b) Is it not a fact that nearly all the candidates examined by the General Headquarter Selection Board were examined by a preliminary Board—provincial or otherwise? What is the reason for the difference in the estimate of the primary and final Selection Boards?

(c) Have the Government in the Army Department examined the method of psychiatrists and psychologists? Have the Government in the interest of economy and efficiency considered the proposal that the test of psychologists and psychiatrists should be applied at the beginning and not at the end.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) As regards the first part, it would not be in the interests of security to reveal the actual number of candidates appearing before and accepted by the General Headquarters Selection Boards, of which there are now seven. The percentage rates of acceptance by each Board for the year ended the 31st August, 1944, are as follows:—

No. 1 Board—29.4 per cent.

No. 2 Board—26.9 per cent.

No. 3 Board—30.8 per cent.

No. 4 Board—24.3 per cent.

No. 5 Board—32.2 per cent.

No. 6 Board—24.9 per cent.

The average acceptance rate is 28 per cent.

No. 7 Board has been excluded as this is intended only for candidates for the Indian Air Force. In the few months that this Board has been operating, the acceptance rate has been 11.8 per cent. This comparatively low percentage is partly due to the higher standard required of officers in the General Duties Branch and partly to the policy whereby large numbers of candidates are sent direct to No. 7 General Headquarters Selection Board, without a preliminary interview.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The proportion of civilian candidates who have passed a preliminary interview has been less than 50 per cent. for some time past. As regards the latter part, the preliminary interview boards have no accurate objective means of assessing the qualities of a candidate and therefore pass him to the General Headquarters Selection Board if there is the slightest chance of success. Only the obviously unsuitable candidates are weeded out by the preliminary boards.

(c) Yes, Sir, Government have thoroughly examined the question and are satisfied that the methods now being used are the best devisable and are conducive the high standard of individual required for the Defence Services, consistent with economy and efficiency in the machinery of selection.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to the latter part of (c), may I ask whether the Government have considered that these tests of psychiatrists ought to be applied at the time the candidates go to the Provincial Board, that is in the beginning and not in the end?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: We have considered this, but it has not been possible to adopt this because of the limited number of psychiatrists and psychologists available.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to parts (a) and (b), will the Honourable Member say whether any police reports are called for before final selection is made of each candidate?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The G. H. Q. Selection Boards do not call for any police report.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is there any machinery which sifts the number of candidates who appear before the Boards?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There is no machinery to do so before the candidate appears before the G. H. Q. Board for selection.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if political influence does not play any part in the matter of selection or rejection of a candidate?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I can assure the Honourable Member that political considerations do not play the slightest part in the deliberations of G. H. Q. Selection Boards.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Honourable Member prepared to examine any specific case if it is brought to his notice?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Most certainly.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether at any stage of the selection reference is made to the police for a report?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, the suitability of a candidate for the service is taken into account after he is selected by the Selection Board.

Sardar Sant Singh: Before appointment is made, is there any stage at which the antecedents of the candidate are enquired into by the police from the parents in the place where he comes from?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it confined to the antecedents of the candidate himself or to the antecedents of his parents and relatives also?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So far as I am aware, it is confined to the antecedents of the candidate himself.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT

163. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and upwards in the Home Department?

(b) How many of these posts are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Sikhs, (v) Muslims, and (vi) others, under each category, separately?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). A statement which gives substantially the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

Statement showing the communal composition of Gazetted and non-Gazetted Officers in the Home Department drawing pay in the salary-groups of Rs. 500—749, Rs. 750—999, Rs. 1,000—1,499 and Rs. 1,500—upward.

Community	Salary Groups				Total.
	Rs. 500—749	Rs. 750—999	Rs. 1,000—1,499	Rs. 1,500— upward.	
Europeans	..	1	2	6	9
Hindus	6	Nil	1	3	10
Muslims	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Anglo-Indians	1	Nil	1	Nil	2
Sikhs	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Others	1	Nil	Nil	1	2
Total	11	1	4	10	26

Sardar Sant Singh: Before this statement was made, did the Honourable Member take into consideration the circular issued by the Department that the Sikhs included in these are those who are *bona fide* Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Who am I to distinguish between them?

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF CERTAIN OFFICES UNDER THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

164. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in his Department including (i) the Central Board of Revenue, (ii) the Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excises, (iii) the Office of the Chief Chemist, Central Revenues, (iv) the Auditor General in India, (v) the Director of Railway Audit, (vi) the Accountant and Deputy Accountant, Generals, Posts and Telegraphs, (vii) the Accountant General, Central Revenues, (viii) the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts, (ix) the Director of Audit, Defence Services, (x) the Military Defence Department, (xi) the Supply Finance Department, (xii) the office of the Additional Financial Adviser, Supply Finance, and (xiii) the office of the Joint Financial Adviser, Supply Finance? (Please give figures separately for each of the above section)?

(b) What number of posts under each category in each Section is held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

SIKH REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

165. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state what steps he proposes to take in organising his new Department to grant adequate share to the Sikh community in posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500, and Rs. 1,500 and above in his Department?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please give assurance that he would give personal attention to this aspect of the personnel of his staff so that the Sikh community should have no grievance in this matter of selection?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). I may assure the Honourable Member that in making appointments every endeavour is being and will be made by me to secure adequate representation of all communities, subject of course to candidates with the requisite qualifications being available.

CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT RE STERLING BALANCES

166. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement as to the conversation Mr. Deshmukh, Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Honourable Member had with His Majesty's Government as to Sterling balances in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Starred Question No. 66, asked by Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad on the 3rd November, 1944.

PROJECTS POSSIBLE ONLY UNDER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

167. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) which are those things which a National Government alone could do and not the present Central Government as stated by the Honourable Member in the course of replies to journalists at a recent Press Conference?

(b) whether such things will be left out from planning until the National Government is established in India? Will the Honourable Member enlighten the House on this subject?

(c) whether the booklet which the Honourable Member proposed to bring out is ready? If so, will it be placed on the table of the House, and if it is not yet ready, when should it be expected to be out?

(d) which large private industries he contemplates in his post-war reconstruction plan which could be helped and encouraged by Government with sufficient Government grants like those of Tatas, in view of the present economic condition of the country?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). When the Plan is in full operation, large scale measures involving compulsion and interference with the established habits of the people will have to be put into force. Such measures could only be carried out by a Government having the full support and goodwill of the people behind them.

(c) The booklet to which I referred is the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning which has recently been issued and a copy of which I laid on the table of the House on Friday, the 3rd November.

(d) It is proposed to set up panels to deal with the questions of almost all the important industries, such as iron and steel, heavy and light engineering, manufacture of automobiles, aircraft, heavy and light chemicals, electrical and other machinery, non-ferrous industries, textiles, plastics, etc.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether in the formulation of these plans, the Government consult some responsible people in India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

+Not printed in these debates, but copies have been placed in the library of the House.—
Ed. of D.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to part (d) may I know whether the Honourable Member has taken into consideration any private industries which are suitable to be given grants so that they may develop like the Tatas?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The question of the exact grants or protection to be given to the different industries will come up as the plan gradually evolves. Such a question has not yet come before the Government.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it the intention of the Government of India to eliminate altogether the Provincial Governments and formulate industrial planning direct?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I can assure the Honourable Member that it is not the intention of the Government to eliminate the Provincial Governments at all. Plans are being worked out in full agreement and co-operation with Provincial Governments and without in any way encroaching upon their autonomy.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Provincial Governments can go ahead with their own planning or have their schemes to be considered and approved by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The plans which are now being formulated by the Provincial Governments will be taken into account by the Central Government and a co-ordinated plan for the whole country will be put into force.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know at what stage the Government of India propose to consult the Legislature or any one of its committees in the matter of evolving these plans and carrying them out?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: This is a matter which will come up in connection with the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad and it will be considered at that time.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the plans prepared by the Provincial Governments be in the nature of suggestions which the Government of India might alter or amend, or will the Provincial Governments have full authority to carry out their own plans?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Provincial autonomy is not going to be disturbed in any way. It is hoped that in co-operation with the Central Government, and perhaps with the financial assistance of the Central Government, a co-ordinated plan will be made out.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I want to press this point. Provincial autonomy ought to be respected in every plan which the Government of India may produce and if it is set aside then there will be chaos.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I have already assured the Honourable Member that it is not the intention of Central Government in any way to interfere with the autonomy of the Provinces.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Is it the intention of Government to bring the Indian States also into the picture?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: With reference to part (d), may I know whom the private industrialists have to approach, the Provincial Government or the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Both, Sir.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In view of the supreme importance of this subject, will the Honourable Member see that copies of these reports are placed at the disposal of each Member of the House?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: If possible, I shall try to do so.

ANTI-EROSION MEASURES FOR SIND AND OTHER PROVINCES

†168. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) In taking effective anti-erosion measures for the future well-being of India, has the attention of the Honourable Member for Planning and Development been drawn to the constant recurrence of such happenings on the Indus in the portion which runs through the Sind Province

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

and which cause immense loss and damage to crops and affect the food products not only of Sind but even of other provinces deficient in food? If so, what proposals has he on the subject? Have any experts been engaged or are proposed to be engaged to meet the situation?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to take this matter in the plan for the agricultural development of the country as a whole? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The question should be addressed to the Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands.

PROGRAMME FOR PROVISION OF DEMOBILISED WAR SERVICE MEN

169. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state what plans and programmes have been made after February, 1943, by the Government to guarantee freedom from want to demobilised war service men and to absorb the military officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, I lay a statement on the table.

Statement

The Second report on Reconstruction planning published by the Reconstruction Committee of Council, a copy of which has been placed in the library of the House, explains the objectives of Government planning.

2. Leaving aside those persons who have their own lands to which to return or other forms of employment which they can take up without assistance, plans for resettlement of ex-service men have to cater for four main categories. Firstly, those who wish to settle on the land; secondly, those who wish to take up a profession or business career; thirdly, those who wish for employment in the service of Government; and fourthly, those who seek employment in industry.

3. To assist those who wish to return to the land the Military authorities have opened Exhibition Rooms and Demonstration Plots at Training Centres. Here volunteers from amongst those who are returning to or wish to settle on the land are being given short courses in improved methods of agriculture, including poultry farming, vegetable growing, horticulture, and bee-keeping. It is hoped that the men who have been trained in these courses will themselves become instructors and pass on their knowledge to those of their companions who are interested either during or before the demobilization period. In the case of Centres in the United Provinces batches of instructors are already being trained with the aid of Specialists from the Provincial Agricultural and Co-operative Services, and it is hoped that similar arrangements will be made with other Provinces in the near future. A start has also been made in the Punjab. It is proposed to extend this scheme to all Training Centres from which men will be demobilized and when hostilities cease the scheme will be extended to all cantonments where large numbers of troops are stationed.

Most of the Provinces have also offered facilities for training in rural subjects, including co-operation and the consolidation of holdings. It is proposed to make as much use of this as possible, and of all facilities which exist or have been created at Service establishments, both now and during the period between Armistice and Demobilization.

It is not yet possible to say how much land will be made available for settlement, either as grants or by purchase at concessional rates, but schemes to this end are being examined.

4. Some officers and men have had to interrupt their education or training by volunteering for service. Others have acquired some technical skill which, with a little further training, would fit them for a career in civil life. The Government have under consideration a scheme for further education and training for their benefit. Government's aim in such cases is to provide facilities to enable these men to qualify for a career or to acquire the necessary standard of skill in the chosen trade. The employment of disabled personnel is also engaging the attention of Government. These schemes are still in the planning stage.

5. As regards employment in Government service all Governments—Central, State and Provincial—have made Provisions for allotment of vacancies to ex-service men and women in the departments and services which they control. This is being done by reserving a percentage which varies from 70 per cent. to 30 per cent. of all newly created posts, and vacancies which have occurred in existing cadres. In order to facilitate the placing of ex-officers in the superior services all Emergency Commissioned Officers have been asked to state the employment which they wish for when demobilized, and the particulars of all those who have asked to be considered for employment in the Civil Services have been passed to the Federal Public Service Commission.

A special organisation is being set up to deal with the problems connected with resettlement in civil life of demobilised medical personnel including Auxiliary Personnel such as Nurses, Nursing Orderlies, Dispensers Radiographers and Laboratory Assistants. The question of the civil capacities in which Auxiliary medical personnel can be employed, the recognition for civil purposes of any training they have had and the supplementary training necessary to fit them for civil employment is under examination. The provision of facilities for post-graduate training of medical officers in the United Kingdom and the United States of America in the Post-War years is under active consideration.

6. Particular care will be taken to see that ex-service men receive the fullest consideration of their claims at the hands of Government in all post-war employment schemes. The development of reconstruction plans will naturally provide many openings for employment—both superior and inferior—for ex-service men.

7. Resettlement of men and women in industry depends largely upon the good will of employers and their realisation that the qualifications of the servicemen are or can be made suitable to their particular branch of industry. Arrangements are already in hand for canvassing employers to this end and also to provide the necessary machinery for bringing employers and employees together.

Service trades have been related to civil trades wherever possible, and every effort is being made to persuade industrialists to accept this classification. It may be possible to bring those trained for the special work of the Army, more into line with the needs of civil life by post-demobilisation training in certain lines in technical training institutions already established or by arranging for men with suitable qualifications to become apprentices.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is that a general statement or is it with reference to number of officers as well as other ranks?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Both. The Honourable Member will find the information he wants there.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Does it refer to figures in detail or is the plan merely sketchy with reference to the number of persons enlisted and the officers in the army? When is the plan coming into effect? When is the army going to be demobilised?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member will please read the statement and then ask questions, if necessary.

ANTI-HINDI POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

170. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting been drawn to the news published in the *Hindustan Times* of September 14, 1944, under the heading "Anti-Hindi Policy of A. I. R.—Strong condemnation at Lucknow meeting"?

(b) What has the Honourable Member to say regarding the demand for programmes of all categories in Hindi according to the proportionate requirements of the Hindi knowing listeners which is referred to in it?

(c) Whether more than 85 per cent. of the items are in Urdu, and whether more than 75 per cent. of the items were contributed by Muslim writers?

(d) Have Muslim salutations and phraseology been exclusively adopted by the All-India Radio for all purposes of its Hindustani programmes?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes, and also to a recent publication of the Provincial Sahitya Sammelan, Allahabad, and to a number of representations and comments in the Muslim press.

(b), (c) and (d). Government are considering the whole question of language policy of the All-India Radio and other matters connected with it and hope to announce their decision at an early date.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take steps to consult non-official opinion also before they come to any final decision?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Certainly.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the matter being considered departmentally by the Government of India or will representatives of the various communities be taken in order to reach a conclusion satisfactory to all?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I do not know what is a satisfactory solution; it is very difficult to say. But I propose to consult the representatives of the Hindi Sammelan and the representatives of the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi Urdu and our own standing committee of the two Legislative bodies here.

BADGES DISTINGUISHING MILITARY OFFICERS WITHIN FIGHTING AREA

171. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the War Secretary please state if any decision on the question of badges distinguishing military officers who have been actually within the fighting area from those who are sitting in offices, either army or civil, has now been taken?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The only distinguishing badge so far issued is the Overseas Badge for Viceroy's Commissioned Officers who have returned to

India from Overseas, or from the Burma front. No other officers are eligible for it.

Two War Medals in the form of Stars have been awarded by His Majesty the King. These are the Africa Star, and 1939-43 Star and are granted to officers and other ranks who have served in theatres of war, subject to certain necessary qualifications. Recipients of these awards can be distinguished by the medal ribbons sanctioned for each star.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am referring specifically to such persons as are civilians, including Vice-Chancellors.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I did not read the question like that.

OMISSION OF MR. JINNAH'S ID MESSAGE IN ALL-INDIA RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS

172. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting aware that both Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Gandhi issued messages for the last Id-ul-Fitr?

(b) Is it a fact that the All-India Radio news broadcasts on the morning of the 20th September in English, Urdu and Gujrati mentioned Mr. Gandhi's message but totally suppressed Mr. Jinnah's? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) The facts are that both Mr. Jinnah's and Mr. Gandhi's Id messages were broadcast. Mr. Jinnah's message was issued on the evening of the 18th September, was received through the A.P.I. on the night of the 18th/19th and broadcast on the morning of the 19th September. Mr. Gandhi's message was issued on the evening of the 19th September, was received through the A.P.I. on the night of the 19th/20th and broadcast on the morning of the 20th September. The question of suppressing Mr. Jinnah's message on the 20th September does not, therefore, arise.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS DURING AND AFTER WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

173. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement on the floor of the House about the work done by him and his other colleagues about financial arrangements during and after the war between India and other countries?

(b) Will the Honourable Member give an opportunity to the House to discuss his statement?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his Starred Question No. 66 on the 3rd November, 1944, also to my answer to Sardar Sant Singh's Starred Question No. 72 on the same date.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member give us an opportunity to discuss it?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I answered that also.

STEPS FOR STABILISING PURCHASING POWER OF RUPEE

174. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement before the House on the steps he has taken since the last session of the Assembly for stabilizing the purchasing power of rupee and fixing the prices of principal commodities to paper rupee?

(b) What is the price of gold in terms of sterling at New York and London?

(c) What is the price of gold on the same rates in India as sold by the Reserve Bank?

(d) What is the reason for such an enormous difference?

(e) Is it not a fact that the difference of prices is written off against the sterling balances of India and England?

(f) Have the South African Government approached the Government of India or the Reserve Bank with the request that their gold may also be sold at this high price by the Reserve Bank? What reply, if any, have the Government of India given to the South African Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to his question No. 67 on 3rd

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November, 1944. It is not considered necessary to lay a further statement on the table.

(b) The price of gold in London is 168 shillings and in New York \$35 which at the present rate of exchange of \$4.03=£1 represent 173 sh. 7d. per fine ounce.

(c) The question is not clear but if the Honourable Member wants to know the price at which Reserve Bank makes sales on behalf of H. M. G. and the American Government as compared with the London and New York rates, the London price is equal to Rs. 112 and the New York price to Rs. 116-7-0 per fine ounce while the Reserve Bank does not sell at a fixed price but with reference to the prevailing market price in India.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my remarks on the Budget Debate at pages 941-43 in Volume II, No. 6 of the Legislative Assembly Debates.

(e) No process of writing off is involved.

(f) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In part (c) there was a misprint, the word "rates" being put instead of "dates".

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is one of the reasons why the question was not clear.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member should have noticed that mistake.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot always assume that an ambiguity in the Honourable Member's question is due to a printer's error.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (f), may I know if any gold belonging to the South African Government is sold in India as such?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already answered that. Certainly a certain amount of gold that comes from South Africa is sold in India. But the question was whether the South African Government had approached the Government of India or the Reserve Bank; the answer is in the negative.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In amplification of it, does the Honourable Member confirm that a certain amount of gold that comes from South Africa is sold in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly; South Africa is one of the main sources of the world's gold, and a good deal comes here from South Africa.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Member state whether this gold is the property of the South African Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As far as I am aware, the gold sold by the Reserve Bank is sold on behalf of either the United Kingdom or the U. S. A.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: At what profit?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already said that no question of profit arises.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the full price realised in India goes to His Majesty's Government or to the South African, and neither the Reserve Bank nor the Government of India get any share of that price?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a fact that neither the Reserve Bank nor the Government of India make any profit on these sales.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Government of India have not so far approached H. M. G. for a share of this profit that is made in this country, and whether they propose to approach them in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This question was fully discussed in the last Budget debate and I have nothing to add to what I said on that occasion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I want to know whether gold is sold in India at world's parity on the same date.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir, it is not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then some one is making a profit; who is that?
The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid the Honourable Member is arguing, but I did deal with that argument in the course of my reply to the Budget debate.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is no argument. My question is, who is making that profit?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If it is not admitted that a profit is made, it becomes an argument.

DETENTION OF MR. R. P. CHADDAH OF AMRITSAR.

175. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if Mr. R. P. Chaddah, resident of Koocha Khotian, Katra Moti Ram, Lohgarh Gate, Amritsar, was originally detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules on his repatriation from Shanghai when he landed at Bombay along with the members of his family.

(b) Is it a fact that later on he was transferred for detention from civil jail to military authorities? If so, how long has he been in detention now?

(c) Were any charges ever handed over to this gentleman? If so, will the Government place a copy of the charge on the table of the House and his reply to the charge if any?

(d) Was his case ever reviewed, since his detention? If so, by what authorities, and with what result?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, he is still in a civil jail. Mr. Chaddah has been in detention since 24th November, 1942.

(c) No, Sir; neither the old Defence of India Rule 26, nor the new Ordinance IV of 1944 required communication of the grounds of detention to the detenu. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Mr. Chaddah's case has been reviewed twice by the Central Government, but on each occasion it was considered, after due deliberation, that he must continue to remain in detention. Government propose to review the case again shortly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was the last date when his case was reviewed?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think it was about six months ago.

Sardar Sant Singh: His original arrest and detention was under D. I. Rule 26 and later on he was transferred to the military authorities. May I know the reasons for this transfer?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: He has not been transferred to the military authorities. What happened was that when Ordinance No. 4 of 1944 was passed the order under D. I. Rule 26 was cancelled and an order under that Ordinance was passed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are not Government expected under Ordinance 4 of 1944 to review these cases at least once every six months?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Not according to Ordinance 4. My Honourable friend is thinking of Ordinance No. 3.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Very well. Under Ordinance No. 3 are not the Government of India liable to review these cases once in six months? If so, why is it that they have not reviewed this case as yet, because the Honourable Member said it was last reviewed six months ago?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: This gentleman was not detained under Ordinance No. 3 but under Ordinance No. 4.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In that case has he the privilege to expect his case to be reviewed once in six months or not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Ordinance itself does not require a review ordinarily, but we sometimes do so.

Sardar Sant Singh: May we know whether it is a fact that the civil police of the Punjab and the police of Bombay reported in favour of this man when he was originally detained?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member kindly send for these reports when reviewing the man's case?

Sardar Mangal Singh: Who reviews these cases?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

WAR ALLOWANCE

†176. ***Seth Yusuf Abdooia Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India, Finance Department, in their letter No. F. 2 (52)-W44, dated the 25th September, 1944, have sanctioned War Allowance equal to 10 per cent. of pay to married officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 and with marginal adjustments up to Rs. 1,100?

(b) Is it a fact that single officers drawing pay up to Rs. 750 will also receive War Allowance equal to 5 per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 30 and with marginal adjustments up to Rs. 788?

(c) Is it also a fact that non-gazetted officers will also receive Dearness Allowance at existing rates or War Allowance at 10 per cent. of pay, whichever is greater?

(d) Is it a fact that so far as the non-gazetted staff getting pay up to Rs. 200 is concerned, there will be no relief to men getting pay up to Rs. 140 and relief of Re. 1 to Rs. 6 to those whose pay is between Rs. 150 and Rs. 200? Do the Government think that this relief to staff getting pay up to Rs. 200 is commensurate with the rise in prices which have increased from 400 per cent. to 600 per cent. over the pre-war rates? Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the matter and afford some more substantial relief to staff getting pay up to Rs. 200? If not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that the Government of India had sanctioned the grant of travelling allowance upto a maximum of Rs. 300 to Government servants not enjoying Dearness Allowance?

(f) Is it a fact that the Government of India have now sanctioned War Allowance equal to 10 per cent. of pay to officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 with marginal adjustments up to Rs. 1,100?

(g) Will the above travelling allowance also be paid to all the officers now in receipt of the War Allowance? If so, will the Government also extend this concession to the entire non-gazetted clerical staff in Audit and Accounts Offices in India who are also paid 10 per cent. War Allowance from the 1st July, 1944? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). Yes, to gazetted officers.

(c) Yes.

(d) The extra relief in 'B' areas is as stated by the Honourable Member. The general increase in prices has been somewhat overstated in this part of the question. Government do, however, realise that the present rates of dearness allowance only compensate in part for the increased cost of living, but they regard the present rates as affording as much relief as all the factors which have to be taken into consideration permit. Government have the matter continually under review.

(e) Yes, but the maximum varies from Rs. 300 for 1st Grade to Rs. 150 for second Grade and Rs. 80 for third Grade officers and is only admissible to the extent that they and their wives incur the expenditure on a journey on leave granted for rest and recreation.

(f) My reply to parts (a) and (b) of this question covers this point.

(g) Yes, except to those who were in receipt of dearness allowance prior to 1st July 1944. Government regret that they are unable to make an exception from the scope of the above decision, in favour of the staff mentioned.

RE-EDITION OF FILM "TUNISIAN VICTORY"

177. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the film "Tunisian Victory" was re-edited in order to include the exploits of Indian soldiers;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) whether this re-edition has been only in respect of the copy exhibited in India;

(c) who were the producers of the "Tunisian Victory";

(d) whether his attention has been drawn to the comments of the British film weekly *Picturegoer* that the *Tunisian Victory* is "the first fifty-fifty per cent. Anglo-American documentary which depicts with complete impartiality the work of the British and American forces during the Tunisian campaign";

(e) whether it is a fact that the film "Desert Victory" also omitted to include the exploits of Indian Soldiers in the campaign depicted in it?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The film "Tunisian Victory" was re-edited prior to release to the public in India in order that additional footage showing the exploits of Indian troops over and above that already in the original film could be included.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The film was a joint official Anglo-American production, the Ministry of Information being responsible for the British share.

(d) I had not seen the "Picturegoer's" comments, but as quoted by the Honourable Member they are correct.

(e) No, Sir. The exploits of Indian troops did appear in the film "Desert Victory".

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to this other film, "The Tunisian Victory" has the Honourable Member taken any steps for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the British Ministry of Information the injustice done by exclusion of the exploits of the Indian soldiers from the original copy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The original copy included 100 feet of specific shots of Indian troops and we added afterwards another 150 feet. At the time this came to our notice we did lodge a protest to the Secretary of State.

FILM SHOWING MAHATMA GANDHI'S RELEASE

178. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether any film unit working under the Information and Broadcasting Department had taken shots of the scenes showing Mahatma Gandhi's release from the Aga Khan's palace in Poona, and his subsequent arrival by train in Bombay;

(b) whether these shots were exhibited along with others in the series "Indian News Parade" in any city on any day, if not, whether these particular shots, later on were prohibited from being exhibited?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) First part: 'yes'; second part: does not arise.

LANGUAGE POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

†179. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn towards a recent publication of the Provincial Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Allahabad, entitled "The Language Policy of All-India Radio"?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps have his Department taken to refute the charges levelled against the language policy of the All-India Radio?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) In view of the fact that the book is full of inaccuracies and is manifestly tendentious, it has not been considered necessary to refute the allegations contained in it. Government is, however, aware that there has been some dissatisfaction with the language policy of All-India Radio in some quarters and the matter is receiving Government's serious consideration.

PREPONDERANCE OF URDU BROADCASTS FROM ALL-INDIA RADIO STATIONS

†180. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the proportion of total

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent.

broadcasts from the All-India Radio stations, so far as language is concerned, is 35 per cent. items in Urdu and 15 per cent. in Hindi? Is it also not a fact that 75 per cent. items go to Muslim writers and 25 per cent. to Hindi writers, including Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me this morning to part (c) of Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh's starred question No. 170.

HINDU AND MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN RADIO STATIONS

†181. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to lay before the House a chart giving percentage of employees of Hindu and Muslim communities in all the Radio Stations in India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: A statement showing the percentage of Hindu and Muslim employees on the staff of All-India Radio stations as on 31st August 1944 is laid on the table.

Statement			
Name of station	Percent- age of Hindus	Percent- age of Muslims	
Delhi	60.2	31.3	
Bombay	70.0	13.3	
Calcutta	70.3	18.8	
Lahore	41.2	52.9	
Lucknow	64.0	36.0	
Madras	80.0	8.0	
Peshawar	35.0	55.0	
Trichinopoly	66.7	15.7	
Dacca	76.9	23.1	
Madras Unit (Delhi)	78.6	21.4	

The above figures exclude the inferior staff and include the posts of Station Directors, Assistant Station Directors and Programme Executives which are exempted from the scope of communal representation orders.

RADIO NEWS BULLETINS IN HINDUSTANI

†182. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state as to who lays down the language policy of Radio News Bulletins in Hindustani, and the policy followed in editing the Hindustani language for common consumption?

(b) Has ever an attempt been made to find out whether the language used is palatable to the majority of the listeners? Are the news bulletins written originally in Urdu or Hindi scripts?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The policy is laid down by the Government of India. It is and has all along been that the words used should be as widely intelligible as possible.

(b) Suggestions from listeners are welcomed. They are invited through announcements and through correspondence and are constantly received in All-India Radio in large numbers. Government have also the benefit of the views of the Advisory Committees which have been set up, one for each station, to advise Director General, All-India Radio and to keep him in touch with the wishes of the listening public. The programmes are designed to meet these wishes as far as possible. The news bulletins are written either in Urdu or in the Hindi script depending on which script the Announcer is familiar with.

RECONSIDERATION OF LANGUAGE POLICY RE HINDI

†183. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state if in view of the great resentment prevailing amongst the Hindi speaking public regarding the treatment meted out to Hindi, the Government contemplate to reconsider its present language policy?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Government is aware that there has been some criticism of the language policy of All-India Radio in some quarters. The matter is receiving Government's serious consideration.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

PAMPHLET "OUR INDIAN EMPIRE".

184. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Is the War Secretary aware of the publication of a pamphlet 'Our Indian Empire'? Who is the author, and when was it published?

(b) How many British officers in the Indian army were provided with the pamphlet?

(c) When was it withdrawn? Did the Government of India make any representation with regard to it? If so, would it be placed on the table?

(d) Is a copy of it available with the Government of India? Would it be placed on the table?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir. The publication was produced by the General Staff, India, and published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. It has been printed and revised four times during the period 1932 to 1940.

(b) Copies at the rate of 10,000 per annum were supplied to the War Office for issue to all Army and Air Force personnel proceeding to India.

(c) The pamphlet was withdrawn in April 1944. Being an official publication of the Government of India, the latter parts of the question do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why was it withdrawn?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It was withdrawn because I think the pamphlet as a whole is really out of date.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Outraged?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, I said: is "out of date".

MAHATMA GANDHI'S LIFE SAVED BY BRITISH SOLDIERS.

185. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a statement reported to have been published in the *Birmingham Post* and reproduced in the issue of the *Hindustan Times*, Delhi, dated the 13th September, 1944, to the effect that during a recent journey Mahatma Gandhi's life was saved by British soldiers? If so, what are the particulars of any such incident?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have seen the statement in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 14th September, 1944, in which the *Birmingham Gazette* is quoted as stating that Mr. Gandhi's carriage had to be protected by British troops from anti-Gandhi demonstrators. I have no particulars about this incident, except the Press reports that, when Mr. Gandhi was on his way to Bombay from Wardha, there was a small demonstration against him at Kalyan station on the 9th September, that the Railway Police and some British troops, who were travelling by the same train, and local volunteers cordoned off Mr. Gandhi's compartment and that the demonstrators withdrew after shouting slogans.

†186.*

INDIA'S DOLLAR POSITION.

187. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state to what use the dollars accruing from exports to the United States of America from India have been put since the beginning of the war?

(b) Is it a fact that these dollars have been appropriated by His Majesty's Government to their own use?

(c) Have His Majesty's Government given away all these dollars to the United States of America, or are they holding them in a dollar pool?

(d) If there is a pool, what is the volume of it?

(e) How far have the negotiations advanced for giving a share of the dollars accruing to India for use by India for purchases of capital and other goods after the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (c). The dollars which accrue from Exports to the United States of America from India, as also those which similarly accrue from other Empire countries, are paid into a Common Empire

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

pool from which are met the essential dollar import requirements of the sterling area countries.

(b) No.

(d) The Government of India are not in possession of this information.

(e) I am not in a position to add to the information which I have previously given on this subject.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it is not a fact that a much larger amount of dollar accrued to India than the corresponding liability for purchases made in the United States for India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That may be so in respect of commercial purchases. That does not necessarily give the whole picture.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does he wish to convey that the United Kingdom and other sterling areas have appropriated dollars which rightfully belonged to this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by appropriating dollars which rightly belonged to this country. The fact is that the whole of the transactions of these countries with the United States of America are dealt with as one and that the proceeds of those transactions are utilised on behalf of the war effort of the whole of the Empire country?

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I enquire, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the civil population is refused dollar exchange by the Reserve Bank even for such things as subscriptions to the Readers' Digest, and whether it is not a fact that a good many industrialists who desire to make essential purchases for their own requirements are told that they cannot get exchange on the United States of America when there is a visible surplus and when dollars arising out of the purchases by the United States of America from India are there and that the use of this exchange is denied to the citizens of this country: even for the education of their children no remittances are given.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is quite true that a stringent economy is exercised here as well as elsewhere in regard to the expenditure of dollars, but that arises from the fact that the whole position of the sterling area vis-a-vis America is difficult and therefore economy has to be exercised in the interests of the war effort. It is the situation created by the war which has brought about these difficulties and India as a participant country has to suffer certain disadvantages.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know with regard to (e) whether recently a promise was not made to assign a definite share of this pool to India and particularly for use after the war: also what progress has been made with regard to this arrangement and how much will be India's share in this dollar pool.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That undertaking has been carried out. A certain quantity of dollars is being earmarked for India's use after the war.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In that case the Honourable Member has replied to (d) that there is no share for India for the dollar pool and I have asked for the volume of it. Why not tell the House how much it is?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The question of the total external resources which are at the disposal of His Majesty's Government for this purpose is a secret which is not published anywhere. I am not in a position to state it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government promise to see that justice is done to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The concern of the Government of India is to see that justice is done to India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I said in proportion to the goods which the United States required from this country that the entire dollar arising out of such purchases will be made available to the population of India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The question of doing justice to India would not be decided on that factor alone.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that the United States of America has to pay India a considerable amount of money for expenditure incurred on American troops in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes. The United States has to raise rupees for expenditure in India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does America pay India in dollars for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It raises rupees partly by sale of gold and partly by provision of dollars.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What happens to those dollars?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Those go to the Empire Dollar Pool.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Why should they go to the Empire Dollar Pool? It is a direct payment by the United States to India for services rendered by India directly to the United States. Where does the Empire Dollar Pool come in?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Because dollars, like all resources—like man power, like life blood—is a factor which has to be used in the prosecution of the war.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That life blood has to be used by everybody. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Quite so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: . . . by India, as everybody else, and if it is due directly to India, it should be credited to India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is credited to India as part of India's contribution to the general war effort.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Reserve Bank of India or the Finance Department is keeping a separate Lease and Lend Account between India and the United States?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir. We are endeavouring to keep a separate account.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the amount that is made available to India is a specific amount arbitrarily fixed, or does this amount depend upon the requirements of the Indian public as assessed by the Indian Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It also depends, to a certain extent, on the quantity of India's dollar earning.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member give a certificate of good accountancy to any person who is 'endeavouring' to keep separate accounts?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It depends on the circumstances with which he has to deal.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Since the Honourable Member has remarked that the amount that is made available depends on the quantity of India's dollar earning, may I ask whether any amount that is paid by the American Government in respect of expenses on American Forces in India also comes into the Pool?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The amount paid by America in dollars comes into the general calculation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

MEASURES FOR RECOVERY OF STERLING BALANCES.

188. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that purchases in India by the Eastern Group, the Allied Governments, the U. K. C. C. and His Majesty's Government are made at controlled rates? What, if any, are the exceptions to this rule?

(b) Is it a fact that concern has been shown in the United Kingdom about the sterling balances accumulated in London and that there have been various proposals to scale down or to repudiate the liability for such balances?

(c) What correspondence in letters and telegrams has taken place between the Secretary of State and the Government of India, and do Government

propose to place this correspondence on the table of the House?

(d) What steps have the Government of India taken to safeguard the interests of India which are in clear conflict with the interests of the United Kingdom in this case?

(e) What conversations did the Honourable Member have in London on his way back from the Bretton Woods Conference?

(f) Is it a fact that the Honourable Member did not support the non-official delegates at the Bretton Woods Conference in the specific request which they made with regard to the sterling balances?

(g) What decisions have Government reached with regard to the measures to be taken for the recovery of the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I assume that by 'controlled rates' the Honourable Member refers to Supply Department contract rates for Government purchases. Where other Governments purchase from India through Government channels Government of India contract rates are available where the purchase is for war purposes; otherwise not. Eastern Group Governments make all their purchases from India through official channels; Allied Governments sometimes do and sometimes do not. HMG generally obtain finished articles through Government channels, but not raw materials. The UKCC whether it purchases direct from the market or through the Supply Department (e.g., for controlled items) gets no price advantage.

(b) The question of India's sterling balances has been discussed in the English Press and in Parliament but no proposals of the nature suggested have been made by His Majesty's Government.

(c) It is not the practice of Government to disclose the contents of their correspondence with the Secretary of State.

(d) The necessity of steps to safeguard India's interests has not arisen, but the Government of India are fully conscious of the importance of this matter.

(e) and (g). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's starred question No. 66 on the 3rd November 1944.

(f) No, it is not a fact.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the answer to part (a), has the Honourable Member conveyed to this House the fact that these outside parties get their goods at controlled rates through Government channels, goods which the civil population of this country cannot get either at controlled or at any rate?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said '... Government of India contract rates are available where the purchase is for war purposes'.

Mr. Manu Subedar: But where the purchase is for the civil population of the United Kingdom, does the Honourable Member deny that tea has been purchased in this country for consumption of the United Kingdom civil population and at controlled rates of 5 to 8 annas a lb. whereas the civil population of this country has to pay Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2 per lb.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware of the facts about tea specifically. I should require notice of that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is a Controller of Tea purchasing to the tune of about a crore of rupees a month. Does the Honourable Member in charge of India's finances really mean that he is not aware of these accounts?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am certainly aware of the existence of the Tea Controller.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then, Sir, does he deny that tea for the civil population of the United Kingdom and many other articles for civil population of the Eastern Group, including our friend South Africa, are purchased at controlled price in this country in priority to, and in preference to the requirements of the civil population of this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The purchase of supplies for civil population may nevertheless be a purchase for war purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the rest of the replies, will the Honourable Member tell this House when he proposes to lift this *pardah* of mystery

on the question of sterling balances which is agitating the minds of the whole country? When does he propose to give us full amounts of them, when he will tell us what negotiations are on in order that these balances may be ultimately, and when India requires them, realized?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware what the Honourable Member means by a '*pardah* of mystery'. The actual figures regarding...

Mr. Manu Subedar: I refer to the consistent denials of information by the Honourable the Finance Member on this subject.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The actual figures of the sterling balances are published more or less every week and anybody can find out what their amount is. They are regularly commented on in the financial journals. So I do not see where '*pardah* of mystery' comes in. As regards the other question, I, like every human being, am not in a position to make a statement on any matter which has not yet been determined. I have answered questions regarding the present position of the sterling balances and the possibility of discussions on them, but I cannot tell him about anything which does not yet exist.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (g), I asked what decisions have Government taken with regard to the measures to be taken for the recovery of the sterling balances? I hope the Executive Council have deliberated on this subject and I would like the Honourable Member to give this House some information as to what progress has been made in these discussions?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the Honourable Member would kindly listen sometimes to replies given to other Honourable Members' questions as well as his own, he will realize that I have answered that very question. I have said that no decisions were taken.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it not a fact that the United Kingdom were going to invite a delegation to that country to discuss this question of Sterling Balances?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I indicated on a previous day that we were expecting discussions to take place and I said that I did not think they could take place before the next spring.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I understand that no progress has been made with regard to the invitation to the Government of India to send somebody to England to discuss this question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, no further progress.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (d) of this question, may I ask the Honourable Member what steps Government of India are taking to associate with themselves non-official public opinion in order to safeguard the interests of India when the interests of India are in clear conflict with the interests of the United Kingdom in respect of sterling balances in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know what specific steps the Honourable Member contemplates. I should have thought that we had already associated with ourselves non-official public opinion with regard to this matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What I had in mind is this: Whenever there is a conflict between the interests of India and the interests of England in regard to the disposal of the sterling balances that have accumulated to the credit of India in England, what steps do Government of India propose to take in order to associate with themselves non-official public opinion of this country so that they can strengthen their own hands in their effort to get justice for India from England and English statesmen.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India are fully aware of the importance of the considerations suggested by my Honourable friend and they will undoubtedly bear that in mind when any question of negotiations or discussions arises.

†189.*

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner

BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE.

190. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state when the Government of India received an invitation to attend the Bretton Woods Conference?

(b) Was the invitation extended direct or through His Majesty's Government?

(c) What were the considerations that influenced him in selecting the delegation to Bretton Woods Conference?

(d) Where exactly did the General Policy (Reconstruction) Committee come in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) 26th May 1944.

(b) The invitation was received direct.

(c) The official delegates consisted of those who are Government's principal expert advisers in regards to monetary policy. Government selected as non-official delegates persons representing business and commercial interests who were in close contact with current economic developments.

(d) In view of the close connection between monetary policy and reconstruction, and the limited time available for sounding public opinion, the Government, for the guidance of their delegation, consulted the General Policy (Reconstruction) Committee on the Joint Statement of Principles by experts, which formed the basis of the Bretton Woods Conference.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if it is the considered opinion of the Government of India that this House is not capable of helping him in regard to what is stated in answer to part (c) of the question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir. I must point out that the last Session of this House, viz., the Budget Session, had already finished early in April and that suddenly through no fault of ours, but as a result of American developments, we received an invitation in May for an early conference. It was hardly possible in those circumstances to summon this House in order to deal with that question.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Could not the delegation be made wide enough to include one or two non-official Members of this House to assist him in this Delegation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The invitation which was sent to us asked us to send one or more delegates to participate in the Conference and it did not seem at the time as though any non-official association was expected. But, on mature consideration, we did decide to associate two non-officials with our Delegation, which was a larger proportion than was present in most of the other Delegations.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Am I to understand that the Honourable Member has come back wiser and now feels that non-official help will be of value in such delegations in future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It did not require any increase in wisdom in order to arrive at that conclusion!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Bretton Woods Conference made a specific recommendation that special steps were expected by that Conference to be taken to make provision for adequate agricultural credit in the different countries of the world, how is it that the Honourable Member never thought it necessary to see that his Delegation included at least one or two representatives, whether official or non-official, who could be expected to speak for the interests of the Indian agriculturists at this Conference. Does this mean that the Government of India had thought that at this Conference the Indian agriculturists have no interests at all nor were their interests involved in the deliberations of this Conference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid if arguments of that kind were accepted the Delegation would have to consist possibly of fifty or sixty persons. The Government of India felt that they were themselves able

to deal with such aspects of agricultural credit as might arise at the Conference.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government of India bear in mind the necessity for providing adequate representation for these interests at least in regard to the future conferences that may be held?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India are not likely to overlook the necessity of bearing in mind the agricultural interests.

PROFITS MADE BY UNITED KINGDOM AND AMERICA THROUGH SALE OF GOLD IN INDIA.

191. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the total profits made till 1st November, 1944, through the sale of gold in this country by—

(i) the Government of the United Kingdom, and

(ii) the Government of the United States of America;

(b) whether the transactions by the Government of the United Kingdom are made through the agency of the Bank of England and by the Government of the United States of America through the Federal Reserve Bank; and

(c) whether the profits made by these two Governments are subject to income-tax and super-tax?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) As I have previously explained on the floor of this House, the purpose of the sales of gold by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America is to provide rupees towards meeting the war expenditure of those two countries in India. The question for profit does not therefore arise. If the Honourable Member's desire is to know the difference between the actual realisations from these sales and what would have been realised had the sales been made at import parity prices I regret that I cannot give the information.

(b) The sales are made by the Reserve Bank as agent for the two Governments concerned on instructions received from time to time from the Bank of England.

(c) There is no question of liability to income tax as the sales of gold are not of the nature of trade or business transactions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the question of profit does not arise, what are they? Is it not a fact that gold is sold in this country because the price of gold in this country is higher than its price in the country of its origin?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already pointed out that the only object in the sales of this gold is to raise the rupees necessary in order to pay India for some of the services and goods which are received from India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Any article sold by any foreign government in this country should be liable to income-tax at the hands of the agent of that country. I would like to know why the Finance Department is lax in its duty of sticking up income-tax and supertax on these people, from the agents whom they employ in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is not quite correct in saying that any foreign agent is liable. Actually the legal position is that such a body like, for instance, the Government of the United States of America, would not be liable to income-tax, even if the view that the transactions were of the nature of trade were adopted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the Reserve Bank of India allowed to act as agent of any foreign Government in the matter of sale of gold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The functions of the Reserve Bank are controlled by the Reserve Bank of India Act. The Reserve Bank is certainly entitled to act as agent in such sales.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Government of India prepared to have the Income-tax Act suitably amended in order to bring these people under the mischief of that act and see that those people are made liable to pay income-tax on the profits they make at the cost of India?

EXCESSIVE RAILWAY TRAVEL BY MILITARY MEN.

192. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the purpose of the considerable movement of military of all ranks throughout the country by practically every train which is running from anywhere to anywhere?

(b) Are Government aware of the enormous inconvenience to the civil population, of cases of unpleasantness between soldiers and the civil population, or of civil population being forcibly asked to clear out of Railway compartments in the middle of the journey to create accommodation for soldiers and their officers?

(c) Is it a fact that American sailors on duty at Madras were found in Simla for sight seeing because they had a week off?

(d) Is it a fact that liberal leave rules exist and every officer of the Army can get leave either to go and see his family or to go to the town or to a hill station?

(e) Is it true that the same conditions existed before the war?

(f) Have Government taken steps to reduce the amount of travelling by Army officers and others?

(g) Have Government thought of restricting the movement of military people to one day in the week or to a certain number of trains only and not in all trains?

(h) Is it a fact that advertisements of Railways appealing to the public to travel less had their origin in the desire to get more accommodation for military people when they are reporting from somewhere to somewhere, when they are going to conferences, or when they are spending their leave with friends or in large cities?

(i) What steps have Government taken to reduce travelling by their own officers and men in the Military Department so as to reduce the inconvenience to the travelling public and the civil population?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Military personnel move on duty and leave. The fact that their movement at present is so heavy is due to the great expansion of the Defence Services.

(b) Yes, Sir; Government are aware of the inconvenience and of occasional instances of unpleasantness. I may however add that whenever the guilt of military personnel is established in such cases, disciplinary action is taken against the individuals concerned.

(c) I am not aware of this, but if my Honourable friend gives me further particulars, I will have the matter investigated.

(d) and (e). Leave rules do exist, but they are now considerably less liberal than they were before the war.

(f) and (i). Travel by military personnel is already reduced to the absolute minimum commensurate with the necessity of the situation, so that no further reduction is possible.

(g) This would be impracticable in view of the urgency of the moves and of the large numbers to be carried.

(h) Yes, Sir. It is essential that the civilian public should travel less in war time, not only to enable the railways to carry vital war material and military personnel wherever required, but also to avoid inconvenience to themselves.

EXPORT TRADE TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

193. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the export trade to the United States of America since the beginning of the war? (Please state in value per year).

(b) Does this include export to the same destination, i.e., United States of America or is it also for the United States of America Army elsewhere from purchases made by the Government of India?

(c) Is there a purchase machinery for the United States of America in India, and, if so, how is it functioning, and how much is its turnover every year?

(d) Is it a fact that the dollars arising out of such exports to the United States of America or purchases made by the Government of the United States of America have been appropriated by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and India is credited only with the sterling equivalent?

(e) What is the total volume of such dollars which have been diverted from India into the United Kingdom Treasury?

(f) Since when has the Lend-Lease arrangement between the United States of America and India started?

(g) What is the total amount of Lend-Lease goods that have reached India?

(h) What are the principal items in such goods, and what is the total amount of purchases made by the United States of America or supplies made available by India under the Lend-Lease arrangement?

(i) On balance, who is the gainer?

(j) Who made this arrangement?

(k) Was it negotiated in England by His Majesty's Government, and imposed on India, or did the Government have anything to say on it?

(l) Was this arrangement discussed by the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor General before it was accepted and given effect to?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The figures of export trade from British India to the United States of America are given in the Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India which are published every month.

(b) The figures are for trade in merchandise to the United States of America

(c) The U. S. Government have no regular mission for making purchases in India on their behalf.

(d) All dollars accruing to India as well as to other Empire countries are put into the Common Empire Pool from which they are used for meeting the essential import requirements of the sterling area countries. India gets credit in sterling for the amount of dollars in excess of her requirements.

(e) There is no question of wrongful diversion. Information regarding the actual net amount of dollars contributed by India to the Empire Pool is not available.

(f), (j) and (k). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the relevant portions of my Budget Speeches for 1942-43 and subsequent years.

(g) The total estimated value of Lend-Lease stores received in India to the end of July 1944 is approximately Rs. 275 crores.

(h) The principal items of Lease-Lend goods received from the United States of America are mainly munitions of war of all kinds. Metals, machinery, Pol, food and tobacco for the armed forces, etc. are also received. As regards the supplies or services made available to the United States of America as a measure of Reciprocal Aid, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Press Note on the subject published on the 3rd September, 1944.

(i) The Honourable Member can draw his own conclusions.

(l) The normal procedure was observed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to my question, on balance who is the gainer, the reply given is that "the Honourable Member can draw his own conclusions". But since the Honourable Finance Member has got figures on both sides, will he not tell this House whether up to date we have given more than we have received, or whether it is the other way round?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I explained the position in my last Budget speech; the position up to now is that India has received more than she has given.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

OUTSIDE MISSIONS TO INDIA.

194. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how many Missions have come to India since the commencement of the war?

(b) What has been the cost to India of each of these Missions?

(c) Why is the report of the Grady Mission not published?

(d) Did the Government of India invite the Machine Tools Mission, or was it the suggestion of His Majesty's Government or English businessmen that they should visit this country?

(e) Who invited Professor Hill, Earl Munster, Sir Henry French and Beverly Nichols, and what would their visits cost this country?

(f) In what other directions have "experts" been called out for this country, and what is the total additional cost of the services of these "experts" since the beginning of the war?

(g) What will be the cost of the proposed Medical Mission to India, and what is its purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

CONFIRMATION OF A MATRICULATE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX IN THE PUNJAB.

195. *Bhai Parmanand: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Governments' general instructions are to take candidates with the minimum qualification of Intermediate for the posts of clerks and Graduates for officers?

(b) Is it a fact that two new posts of Assistant Commissioners have been recently created in the Income-tax Department, Punjab, and two officers have been confirmed on those posts, out of whom one is a Matriculate? If so, will Government be pleased to see that the principle of minimum qualification of a graduate for the post of officers is duly adhered to?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the Income-tax Departments. Ordinarily, the minimum qualification required for direct recruitment to clerical grades in the Income-tax Departments is a Matriculation certificate or other equivalent qualification and to officers' grades a Degree. But this restriction regarding minimum qualification does not apply to departmental promotions.

(b) Possibly the Honourable Member has in mind the two temporary posts that have been made permanent. If so, one of the officers confirmed as an Assistant Commissioner against one of these two posts is a first in Arts, which is, I understand, a stage above a Matriculate. But he has been "selected" for promotion from the Income-tax Officer's cadre of the Punjab Income-tax Department. The second part of the question does not arise.

INCOME-TAX REFUNDS TO CERTAIN ASSESSEES IN THE PUNJAB.

196. *Bhai Parmanand: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Commissioner of Income-Tax, Punjab, has given large amount of refund to some assesseees without their filing regular appeals, as provided by the Law, in spite of the fact that the assessment in those cases was approved by the Assistant Commissioners-in-Charge?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to avoid such unnecessary harassment to the tax-payers like this in future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I am making enquiries and an answer will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

SCHEME FOR RESETTLEMENT OF PERSONS EVICTED FROM HOMES UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULE 75 (a) (1).

197. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme for resettlement and rehabilitation of persons evicted from homes under Defence of India Rule 75(A)(1)? If so, what is that?

(b) Is it a fact that the valuation of certain houses requisitioned under Defence of India Rule 75(A)(1) are done in the district of Sylhet, Assam, by officers who have no expert knowledge in the line?

(c) Is it a fact that the compensation paid for *kuchha* houses requisitioned under the Defence of India Rules in the district of Sylhet fall far below the

Public Works Department's rates for similar houses in those localities, and that the compensation given for trees also are very low, having no bearing with the present market value of fruits etc.?

(d) Will Government for the sake of justice have a schedule of rates for *kuchha* houses prepared by experts, having regard to the present Public Works Department's rates of every district, for ready reference of the laymen who make valuation of the *kuchha* houses requisitioned under Defence of India Rule 75(A)(1) and also revise the schedule prepared for the valuation of trees, having regard to the present market value of fruits?

(e) Have Government any information about the discontent prevailing in Assam, particularly in the district of Sylhet, over land requisition matters due to most unusual delay in payments and inadequate payments both for houses and trees?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to part (b) of starred question No. 29 answered on the 8th February, 1944.

(b) to (e). Information is being obtained and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as it is received.

TRIAL OF BABU JAI PARKASH NARAIN.

198. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Babu Jai Parkash Narain will be tried in a court of law; whether he will be tried alone or along with some other persons; and

(b) whether the sanction of the Government of India has been obtained for instituting this case?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The whole matter is under consideration and I regret I can give no further information with regard to it at present.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS OF CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

199. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) what restrictions have been placed on interviews of the members of the Working Committee with their relatives; and

(b) whether any interview has taken place since the permission has been granted to the members of the Working Committee?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The restrictions are the same as for other security prisoners in Bombay. The Rules are in the Library of the House.

(b) No.

OMISSION OF INFORMATION RE BALANCE OF TRADE IN GOLD AND SILVER FROM THE RESERVE BANK REPORT.

200. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the reasons why the balance of trade in gold and silver is not shown in the statement on the balance of trade in merchandise of British India in the Reserve Bank of India report on currency and finance for 1943-44? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give this House the information thus omitted from the Reserve Bank Report?

(b) What were the reasons for leaving the gold and silver market in India a free market, though the London and New York markets were controlled as stated in the above Report?

(c) What were the average prices of gold and silver in New York and London, respectively, during the period covered by the Report, and the prices in India during the same period?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer to the first part is that disclosure of the information referred to, during war time, would be contrary to the public interest. For the same reason the answer to the second part must be in the negative.

- (b) Government did not think it necessary or practicable in Indian conditions to fix and enforce maximum prices for gold and silver.
- (c) The information required will be found on pages 27, 29, 77 and 79 of the Report in question.

INDIA'S DOLLAR CREDITS.

201. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of Rs. 46.65 crores which according to the Reserve Bank Report on currency and finance for 1943-44, represents India's total balance of trade with the United States of America from 1938-39 to 1943-44, has been accounted for as Dollar credits;

(b) how much or what percentages of the total dollar credits have been set apart exclusively to India's account and not surrendered to the Empire Dollar Pool;

(c) whether the allocations, when the Empire Dollar Pool is dissolved, would be made on a *pro rata* basis; and

(d) the value of the Dollar securities surrendered to the Government of India since their notification, dated March 10, 1941?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The balance of trade, the figures for four years for which are given on page 23 of the Reserve Bank's report on Currency and Finance for 1943-44, differs from the balance of payments between the two countries the figure for which may be larger or smaller than the figure for the balance of trade. It would be correct to say that dollar credits have been received by India equivalent in amount to the favourable balance of payments India has with the United States.

(b) The arrangement is that the total dollar earnings of all empire countries are surrendered to the Empire Dollar Pool from which each country draws dollars according to its needs. There is no fixed allocation between the sterling area countries.

(c) The arrangement to be made when Empire Dollar Pool is dissolved have not yet been considered.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave to part (a) of his question No. 4 on the 3rd November, 1944.

RELEASE OF DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD.

202. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there was a widespread feeling of expectation in Bihar over the release of Dr. Rajendra Prasad;

(b) if it is a fact that even the Government of Bihar recommended his release;

(c) who turned down the proposal for his release;

(d) if it is a fact that he was offered release on certain conditions;

(e) what those conditions were; and

(f) if it is not a fact that his health has considerably gone down due to an attack of asthma?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) There was no proposal.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Dr. Rajendra Prasad is a chronic asthma patient. He had an attack in September but it was reported early in October that his condition was satisfactory.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

203. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the latest figure of the political prisoners, security as well as convicts, in each of the Provinces;

(b) how many cases of the security prisoners have been reviewed since the promulgation of Ordinance No. III of 1944;

(c) how many security prisoners have been released in consequence of the review of their cases in each of the Provinces; and

(d) if the recommendations of the Tribunal instituted to review their cases have been given effect to in the matter of their release by the Provincial Government or the police had the final say even over the recommendation of the Tribunal?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons undergoing detention and imprisonment in the Provinces on 1st September, 1944, in connexion with the Congress movement.

(b) Under the Law all cases of detention must be reviewed at least once every six months.

(c) I gave the number 5,068 of releases since the beginning of this year in reply to question No. 93 on November 3rd.

(d) So far as I am aware no such Tribunal has been appointed. It is certainly not required by law. Certain Provincial Governments may have appointed persons to advise them, but the review in every case is conducted by the Government concerned.

Statement of persons undergoing detention or imprisonment in connection with the Congress Movement on 1st September, 1944.

Province	Detention	Imprisonment
Madras	288	744
Bombay	290	532
Bengal	53	275
United Provinces	617	3668
Punjab	79	61
Bihar	271	4230
Central Provinces	136	534
Assam	165	149
North-West Frontier Province	44	27
Orissa	127	481
Sind	26	11
Coorg	..	..
Delhi	21	234
Ajmer-Merwara	7	4
Baluchistan	..	..
Centre	4	..
Total	2128	10950

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CASES UNDER CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT (AMENDING) ORDINANCES INITIATED BY THE SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.

40. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please lay on the table of the House the number of cases under the Criminal Law Amendment (Amending) Ordinances, No. XVI of 1944, No. XXIV of 1944 and No. XXXVI of 1944, which the Special Police Establishment initiated itself (*i.e.*, not being made over by the Central Government in accordance with the provision of Ordinance No. 22 of 1943)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Forty six.

INFRACTUOUS INVESTIGATIONS BY THE SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.

41. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please lay on the table of the House a list of cases up to date in which the investigations by the Special Police Establishment did not furnish adequate material for prosecution and the result of their disposal?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is not in the public interest to give the information in the form asked for by the Honourable Member since it would involve disclosure of the names of persons who were suspected of misconduct but against

whom charges could not be proved after investigation. I may add for the Honourable Member's information that out of a total of 667 cases investigated up to date by the Special Police Establishment, only 40 cases, were dropped for want of evidence and 120 cases, in which the evidence available was not sufficient to warrant trial in a court of law, were referred for Departmental action.

TRIALS UNDER ORDINANCE NO. 29 OF 1943.

42. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state the result of the trial of cases under Ordinance No. 29 of 1943 as amended from time to time by the Special Tribunals and the result of the revisions of those cases by High Courts?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Special Tribunals have decided 64 cases, of which 45 have ended in conviction, nine in acquittal and ten in discharge.

In revision, High Courts have upheld the sentences awarded by Special Tribunals in all cases except two. In one, a sentence of imprisonment was modified to a sentence of fine only, and in the other a sentence of 1½ years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 2,000 fine, was modified to a sentence of six months' simple imprisonment.

EXPENDITURE ON SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT, ETC.

43. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the expenditure up to date, year by year, of the Special Police Establishment (pay and allowances to be stated, separately);

(b) the expenditure up to date, year by year, of the Special Tribunals (pay and allowances, separately);

(c) the number of cases made over to the Special Police Establishment for investigation from the 1st March, 1944, to date, together with the result of their investigation;

(d) the result of cases reported for departmental action from the inception of the Special Police Establishment to date; and

(e) the amount of fine imposed in cases which were tried by Special Tribunals?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) A statement showing the expenditure on the Special Police Establishment year by year is attached.

(b) A statement showing the expenditure on the Special Tribunals is attached.

(c) A statement showing the number of cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment from the 1st March, 1944, to date, together with their results, is attached.

(d) The result of cases reported for departmental action from the inception of the Special Police Establishment to date is given below:

Found guilty	67
Found not guilty	24
Pending	29
Total	120

(e) The total amount of fines imposed in cases which were tried by Special Tribunals is Rs. 2,42,050.

(a) Statement showing the expenditure of the Special Police Establishment, War Department from June 1941 to October 1944, year by year.

Year	Pay Rs.	Allowances, etc. Rs.	Total Rs.
1941-42	37,355 7 0	23,993 7 6	61,348 14 6
1942-43	1,14,177 0 0	59,994 13 6	1,74,171 13 6
1943-44	2,19,520 2 0	1,37,369 1 0	3,56,889 3 0
1944-45 (Upto 31st October 1944)	1,71,258 11 0	1,15,989 11 0	2,87,248 6 0
GRAND TOTAL	5,42,311 4 0	3,37,347 1 0	8,79,658 5 0

(b) Statement showing the expenditure of the Special Tribunals, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow from September 1943 to October 1944.

Year	Pay Rs.	Allowances, etc. Rs.	Total Rs.
From September 1943 to October 1944	2,47,420 0 0	63,970 0 0	3,11,390 0 0

(N.B.—The above figures are approximate).

(c) Statement showing number of cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment from the 1st March 1944, to date, and their result.

Sent up for trial			Departmental action	Filed for want of proof	Under investi- gation	Total Number of cases
Convicted	Discharged	Pending trial				
11	1	25	17	6	114	174

TELEPHONIC MESSAGE TO SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT, DELHI RE HARASSMENT OF MILITARY OFFICERS BY RAILWAY STAFF.

44. Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that on the 24th September, 1943, the War Department made a telephonic communication to the Special Police Establishment, Delhi, to the effect that military officers were being harassed by the Railway staff as they had to pay money for reservation of berths? If so, (i) who telephoned the message, and (ii) who gave the information to the War Department that military officers were being harassed and was the payment of money for reservation of berths unlawful?

(b) Was the information reduced in writing?

(c) Was any complaint lodged by any of the Military officers? If so, what is that in original?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No such telephonic communication took place.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

MATERIAL SUPPLIED TO CERTAIN ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS.

45. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please lay a statement of the material supplied to the Accredited Press Correspondents who were awarded category (A) privileges, and the extent of that material used by them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: A statement giving the required information in respect of the period March 1944 to October 1944 is laid on the table of the House. Government do not feel that the labour involved in the collection of the information asked for in the latter part of the question would be justified in war time.

Statement of the material supplied to the Accredited Press Correspondents during the period March 1944 to October 1944—

Month	Number of publicity items distributed to Press Representatives
March 1944	343
April 1944	300
May 1944	266
June 1944	245
July 1944	282
August 1944	283
September 1944	375
October 1944	362
Total	2,456

REVISION IN THE DIVISION OF ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS.

46. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if any revision in the division of Accredited Press Correspondents has since been made? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No. The matter is under consideration.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOODGRAINS POLICY COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Sir, I lay on the table a Memorandum showing the summary of the progress made up to the end of October 1944 on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOODGRAINS POLICY COMMITTEE.

CHAPTER 2.—STATISTICAL POSITION

As mentioned in the last report on the progress made on the recommendations of Foodgrains Policy Committee steps are being taken in the permanently settled areas to obtain correct acreage statistics by field enumeration as is done in the rest of British India, Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and Assam are taking active steps to introduce a system somewhat like that prevailing in the U. P. and the Punjab for reporting correct crop areas. Experimental work is also being done in Bengal and Bihar on a randomised sample survey basis to determine both acreages and yields, at least of the major food crop viz., rice.

A large scale experimental scheme costing about Rs. 90,000 in one year sanctioned by the Government of India has been carried out by the I. C. of A. R. to determine the yield of wheat in the major wheat growing districts of the Punjab and the U. P. It has been estimated that the technique adopted is a good one giving an error of not more than 1 per cent. Arrangements have been made to obtain from two reliable banks fortnightly reports regarding crop and stock holding tendencies in the principal producing areas.

It may also be mentioned that at present all India forecasts of acreage and production are issued in respect of two food-crops only viz., rice and wheat. The views of the Provincial Governments and Indian States have been received on the proposal to issue forecasts of kharif foodcrops other than rice and are being considered by the Government of India. The question of publishing all India forecasts of rabi food crops other than wheat will also be taken up shortly.

CHAPTER 3.—GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

1. *Distribution of improved seed.*—In 1943-44 the Government of India helped in the multiplication and distribution of improved seed by granting loans to the extent of Rs. 93.72 lakhs and grants of Rs. 18.42 lakhs from Central Revenues in addition to Rs. 3.47 lakhs from the Cotton Fund. As a result 17.26 lakhs maunds of improved seed were distributed.

In 1944-45 further financial assistance has been given to the extent of Rs. 75.1 lakhs as loans and Rs. 25.5 lakhs as grants out of Rs. 1.56 and Rs. 47 lakhs respectively of loans and grants sanctioned from Central Revenues and 4.34 lakhs from the Cotton Fund for the multiplication and distribution of improved seed to cultivators on a subsidised basis. It is expected that as a result some 6.5 lakhs of additional nucleus seed of rice and wheat will be available; and that 18.81 lakh maunds will be distributed to ordinary cultivators. As a result of these measures production is estimated to increase by 4 lakh tons of grains.

Production of vegetable seeds of European type vegetables has been undertaken in Kashmir and Baluchistan. Financial assistance has been given to these two areas and it is expected that they will be able to produce 4,50,000 lbs. of such seed this year and to be largely independent of imported seed in subsequent years. Steps have been taken to ensure that all sales are made through Directors of Agriculture. Maximum prices have also been fixed for these seeds.

2. *Compost from Town refuse.*—Under a scheme arranged by the I. C. of A. R. on behalf of the Central Government, on receipt of a special grant for the purpose, a number of biochemists deputed by all the Provinces have undergone a six-months course of training in the Bangalore process of composting night soil and town refuse. The trainees will inaugurate this work on those lines in selected Municipalities of their respective Provinces and would train others for the work. The work of manufacture of compost has now started in several municipalities in each province and it is expected that some 20,000 tons of such compost will be available for rabi sowings of 1944-45. Grants have also been given to the provinces for the production of compost from vegetable waste.

The use of green manure and oilcakes as manure has also been encouraged. Some 25,000 maunds of green manure seeds have been distributed and 9½ lakh maunds of oilcakes and 9,000 mds. of bone meal given out to cultivators on a subsidised basis in 1943-44. In the current year schemes have been approved for the distribution of 28.9 lakh maunds of oilcakes, 40,000 maunds of bone meal and 28,000 maunds of green manure seeds. The export abroad of all kinds of manures (bone meal oil cakes, etc.) has been strictly controlled.

3. *Chemical Fertilizers.*—Supplies of chemical fertilisers from abroad are now beginning to arrive. All the indigenous production of sulphate of ammonia which could be made available for agricultural purposes has been arranged to be taken over by the Government

of India. The supplies from these two sources have been pooled and quotas assigned for various Provinces and States on the pre-war consumption basis.

The question of producing Ammonium Sulphate in India has been actively pursued. At a meeting held in April 1944 with representatives of provincial governments it was provisionally decided that the plant for manufacturing ammonium sulphate should preferably be owned by Government and that technical experts from the U. K. should be asked to come out to India and advise about the nature and location of the necessary plants. The technical experts have toured all over India and their report is awaited.

The financial assistance given for manurial schemes Rs. 53½ lakhs as loans and Rs. 27 lakhs as grants. The extra yield expected is about one lakh tons of foodgrains.

4. *Irrigation and Drainage Schemes.*—In order to bring new land under cultivation several minor irrigation schemes for pumping water from tube wells and river beds have been launched, help given to provinces in securing priorities for the release of plant, equipment and material, loans and grants sanctioned for the construction and repair of tanks, for the sinking and improvement of surface wells and for the reclamation of waste lands and field embankments. Altogether the loans sanctioned for these items come to nearly Rs. 63.73 lakhs, the grants sanctioned from Central Revenues Rs. 64 lakhs and from the Cotton Fund to Rs. 18½ lakhs. As a result, it is expected that a million acres of unirrigated land will be brought under irrigation, giving nearly 200,000 tons of extra food.

5. *Depletion of India's milch and draught cattle.*—The cattle position has become acute on account of increased demand for animals for cultivation, transport, milk and meat. An increase in the production of cattle cannot be dealt with in the same way as the increased production of food crops, breeding being a long range matter. It is proposed shortly to make some suggestions to provinces and States on this important matter.

In the meantime the military authorities have agreed not to slaughter (1) all cattle under three years of age, (2) male cattle between three and ten years of age which are used as or are likely to be used as working cattle, (3) cows between three and 10 years of age which are capable of giving milk, other than those unsuitable for bearing offspring, and (4) cows which are pregnant or in milk.

Provinces have been asked to issue similar instructions in respect of civilian slaughter houses and to establish some meatless days in a week where possible. A number of provinces have already introduced the latter.

6. *Iron and steel for agricultural implements.*—It has been estimated that 25,000 tons of iron and steel per quarter are required to meet the minimum demands for the whole country for implement-making and repair. Owing to the very difficult supply position regarding iron and steel it was not possible to secure for the whole country more than 6,872 tons for the third quarter of 1944 and 13,996 tons for the fourth quarter of 1944, of iron and steel of controlled categories, in addition to some tonnages of scrap and defective iron and steel which will become available during these periods. For the first quarter of 1945 a combined allotment of 25,271 tons of 'good' steel and 9,020 tons of 'defectives' and cuttings of different categories has been obtained for the whole country for the purpose of (a) Agricultural Implements, (b) Consumer Goods, and (c) Unlicensed Sales. The various Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controllers will distribute these tonnages in consultation and close co-operation with the Provincial and State Governments within their circles. The procedure for obtaining regular supplies in future has been explained to the Provincial Government and States who have been requested to furnish timely details of their actual requirements to the Deputy Iron and Steel Controllers in order to enable them to prepare correct forward estimates for obtaining the requisite quantities from the Priority Authority.

7. *Supply of Fuel and Lubricating Oil to Agriculturists.*—Under the decentralised control system, all Controllers of Supplies are now giving first priority to fuel oil genuinely required by agriculturists. The distribution system is understood to be working satisfactorily.

8. *Regulation of Crop Production.*—In order to get more out of the land already under cultivation steps have been taken to ensure that of the present cultivated area, an adequate part is sown with food as opposed to money crops. Provincial Governments have already co-operated in reducing the area under short-staple cotton and some of them have introduced or are considering introduction of statutory crop regulation.

Action for the compulsory restriction of the acreage under certain varieties of short staple cotton was first taken by Madras. It provided that if cultivable land is not cultivated, it may be taken over for a certain period by the State and handed over to suitable persons for cultivation. It was also made compulsory for landlords to keep their irrigation works in order, failing which the State would do the work and recover the cost from the landlords.

Bombay also passed an Act in May 1944 to regulate the cultivation of crops with a view to grow more food, providing for the maintenance of the existing proportion of growing food crops and for guarding against diversion of areas under food crops to non-food crops, by prescribing a minimum proportion of food crops to be grown.

9. *Land settlement in Assam.*—As mentioned in the last progress report monthly reports were called for from the Government of Assam on the progress of land settlement in that Province. These reports show that the total area newly settled during the period September 1943 to the end of August 1944 is 111,114. In addition to this, old encroachments have been regularised by granting settlement on 7,358 acres.

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10. *Undermilling of Rice.*—It was reported in the last progress report that most provinces and States had followed the example of the Madras Government and had issued orders making compulsory the undermilling of rice. Certain other Provinces and States have followed suit after the said report. At present undermilling is enforced in Madras, Bombay, C. P., U. P., Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Baluchistan and Coorg.

11. *Stores for Rice Mills.*—A committee has been formed consisting of representatives of 3 firms, which are among the largest importers and manufacturers of rice mill machinery in India to advise the Food Department on the best method of securing and distributing spare parts for rice mills, indents for which were collected from all Provinces and States. The Committee met on 16th September 1944 and its various recommendations are under examination.

In the meantime provision is being made for the importation of rice mill machinery and spare parts from the United Kingdom and North America in larger quantities.

CHAPTER 4.—EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Exports.—There has been no marked departure from the declared policy of the Government of India with regard to exports, which is that India shall cease to be a net exporter of foodstuffs and that during the present emergency no exports whatever of foodgrains shall be permitted except for the immediate requirements of ships, aircraft and isolated communities in neighbouring countries which depend on India for supplies. Recently it was found possible to allot 25,000 tons gram to Ceylon after meeting the requirements of deficit areas. There was no market for this surplus gram in the country and it would have gone bad if not put into consumption immediately.

Imports.—The Government of India are fully alive to the importance of arranging for imports and are continuously pressing upon H. M. G. the urgency of foodgrain imports on a scale adequate for current consumption, including military requirements and the establishment of reserves.

6,49,520 tons of foodgrains, mostly wheat, have been imported during the 12 months ending October 1944. In addition, approximately 380,000 tons wheat and wheat products are expected to be received during November, December and January. Thus the total quantity of foodgrain imports will amount to nearly 10,30,000 tons by the end of January next. H. M. G. will review the position again in November.

CHAPTER 5.—ARMY PURCHASES

Co-ordination of the army demands for foodgrains and pulses is secured through the Food Department's Basic Plans. As regards other foodstuffs, Co-ordination Committees have now been set up at all Command Headquarters and these have split themselves up into provincial, regional and functional sub-committees. Altogether about 40 such bodies are working. They provide a clearing house of information and an authoritative forum for resolving difficulties and for the expression of the view points of Civil Administrations and States. They are securing a unified and co-ordinated system of procurement and the various purchasing agencies are now working hand in hand and paying particular attention to the requirements of civilians as well as the necessity for conservation of stocks for breeding and for seed purposes. The main objective is that the requirements of the Army are met with minimum disturbance in the markets and every effort is made to increase production by the Army units so that the Army offtake from available supplies is reduced to the minimum.

CHAPTER 6.—PROCUREMENT

As reported in the last progress report the Government of India agreed with the Committee that a Central Government Foodgrains Monopoly is the ideal medium of procurement, but that for the time being it had to be ruled out of consideration by reason of the time factor. Since then the matter has been given considerable attention and the problems that have to be faced in proceeding towards a system of monopoly purchase have been examined. These are (a) finance, (b) storage, (c) likelihood of deterioration, (d) difficulty of finding experienced staff, (e) effect on public confidence, and (f) public co-operation.

It was decided to examine, in Provinces where monopoly purchase schemes are in force, how the practical difficulties have been surmounted by the various administrations. For this purpose a senior officer of the Food Department was deputed to visit those Provinces and States which have already established monopoly purchase schemes or a compulsory levy of grains from cultivators for the purpose of gaining first hand knowledge of the schemes in operation. He has just returned from tour and is compiling his report, which, when finished, will help Government in formulating future policy.

2. A Central Foodgrains Reserve approximating to about 5,00,000 tons was recommended by the Committee. A Depot was established at Karachi to hold a part of this resources; but storage accommodation available at other ports was neither adequate nor satisfactory. The Central Government have therefore embarked upon a scheme for the construction or acquisition of additional storage accommodation for imported foodgrains at certain port towns and elsewhere. The scheme has received the approval of the Finance Department in principle, and will provide storage accommodation for a total of 1,40,000 tons. At the same time it is proposed to extend the Depot already established at Karachi to its full capacity of 2,00,000 tons and make all preliminary arrangements for an additional 50,000 tons.

In addition a scheme for the construction of more and better storage accommodation for 175,000 tons at strategic points including railway stations, in the surplus producing areas is under consideration. It is proposed that the cost of construction for this scheme be shared equally between the Government of India and Provincial Governments. Replies from all Provincial Governments received in this connection are under examination.

A senior Officer of the Department of Food has also been placed on special duty to progress the various proposals for construction of storage at the ports and in various provinces.

3. The procurement systems set up by the administrations of Provinces and States show a marked diversity, varying from complete Government monopoly, as in Travancore and Cochin to the loosest form of Government Control as in the N.-W. F. P. All procurement systems in force pre-suppose a certain measure of movement control—the control being stricter as the scope for private trade diminishes and progress is made towards a system of monopoly buying. Movements of grains under Government programmes are given a higher degree of priority by the railways than movements by private trade in cases where such private movements are still permissible. To enable the Central Government to exercise direction, superintendence, and control to a degree which is necessary to secure the effective discharge of the Central Government's responsibility for the success of food administration in India as a whole, the Provincial Governments have been asked to keep the Central Government closely in touch, through the Regional Food Commissioners with any important proposals for the modification of their existing procurement arrangements, and wherever possible, to obtain the Central Government's approval before actually introducing major changes.

4. Judicious requisitioning as an aid to procurement has been tried on occasions and has resulted in an improvement in supplies.

Supply of consuming goods.—(a) *Cotton Textiles.*—Ceiling prices were again reduced in September 1944. The reduction was at the rate of one anna in the rupee on the previous reduced prices as regards cloth and somewhat more as regards yarn.

Government's action hitherto in the sphere of control of cotton textiles has been directed mainly to ensuring that adequate quantities are supplied to the Indian Civil market as a whole and at reasonable prices. Government have now however decided to take on a further responsibility, to wit, that of ensuring that every part of India receives its due share of cloth. To this end India has been divided into certain zones, and Government will ensure that each zone receives its quota, of cloth determined on the basis of population. Proper distribution within the zone will be the duty of the Provincial and State Governments concerned. The proportion of India's output of cotton textiles which is available for civilian consumption after Defence requirements and certain essential civil exports have been met works out to about 12 years per head of the population per annum. This *per capita* availability has been taken as the basis of the quotas allotted to the various zones, but has been varied in certain places where the average normal consumption of the population is either somewhat greater or somewhat less than the rest of India.

(b) *Drugs.*—A marked fall in the prices of drugs has been noticeable during the past few months. This applies particularly to pharmaceutical chemicals and the important group of sulphur drugs. The fall is partly due to the import on Government account of large quantities of these items which are already being released to the trade. The supply situation in respect of proprietary medicine has on the whole radically improved although certain particular items such as Glucose 'D', Ensatine and Infants Milk Foods are still in short supply.

(c) *Footwear.*—The position remains the same as previously stated.

(d) *Woollen goods.*—Towards the end of last year, roughly 50 per cent. of the pre-war capacity of woollen goods in India was released for the manufacture of woollen goods for civilian consumption. To take up this released capacity, the Industries and Civil Supplies Department placed orders on mills for certain popular lines of civilian woollen goods. That Department has so far been arranging sale of these goods to the public through a limited number of dealers appointed by the Central Government. The quantities of these goods available, which has not so far been very considerable, have been allotted to dealers in different towns in proportion to the population of the town. In the colder provinces we have extended this scheme more fully than in the warmer Provinces. The Central Government have appointed dealers in all towns in Northern India having a population of more than 50,000. The goods are supplied to the dealers selected, at a price fixed for mill-station, and they have to sell them in retail at a price fixed by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department which allows a margin of profit of 12½ per cent. over the f.o.r. millstation price. In order to keep the goods moving into the market as quickly as possible and to keep the financial liabilities of the selected dealers as low as possible instructions have been given to mills to despatch the goods to the dealers in small lots as and when ready according to the transport facilities available. In 1945, it is hoped it will be possible to obtain a release of a capacity equivalent to 100 per cent. of pre-war production for the civil consumers.

(e) *Cement.*—On account of shortage of supplies of cement for some time past, cement for civilian users was released in small quantities and no cement was released for building of private houses or for essential repairs to private buildings. From the beginning of

this year, it has, however, been decided that 75,000 tons of cement per month should be released for civilian users out of which 20,000 tons should be allotted for essential repairs to private buildings. Although allotments to this extent have been made every month, on account of transport difficulties, it has not been possible to move the full monthly allocation. Efforts are being made to ensure that as large a quantity as possible of cement for the civilian user actually moves to centres in which it is to be used.

The prices of cement have also been fixed [vide Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Notification, No. 129-C(4)/44, dated the 30th September 1944].

(f) *Electric bulbs*.—Electric bulbs are now being supplied to the civilian consumer at 29.1 per cent. of the total imported and indigenous production. The supply position has improved of late and there appears to be every likelihood of an overall average of the allotment to the General public being raised in future to about 33 per cent.

(g) *Paper*.—At present, only 30 per cent. of the Indian mills production of papers is available for non-Government consumption. This is far short of needs. It was accordingly decided that in order to release larger quantities for the civilian consumer, Government should import, for meeting their needs, 20,000 tons and release a corresponding quantity from the percentage of Indian mill production reserved by them. Orders have already been placed for this quantity which is expected to arrive in the near future. As soon as it is received, the release from indigenous production for the civilian consumer will be effected. This will increase the civilian consumers share of Indian production to 50 per cent. Ceiling prices for all varieties of Indian mill made paper, as well as strawboard and millboard and for principal varieties of imported paper have also been fixed. A scheme for the distribution of paper for non-Government requirements under which, quotas have been fixed for each Province and State on the basis of supplies available and estimated requirements, has been put into operation with effect from 1st October 1944. The Provincial and State Governments will mainly be responsible for the equitable distribution of the quotas within their respective territories. Stringent measures for enforcing economy in the use of paper by civilian consumers have also been introduced by the issue of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, on 12th June 1944, so as to make available larger quantities and paper for more essential purposes.

(h) The position regarding matches, cutlery, crockery, plywood, enamel ware, electric fans and other electric goods, and domestic holloware remains the same.

(i) *Kerosene*.—With a view to increase the present available supplies for Kerosene oil, the Government of India have decided to reduce their reserve stock which would make available about 9 per cent. extra kerosene during the winter months from 1st October 1944 to 31st March 1945.

(j) *Import of consumer goods*.—The imports of consumer goods from United Kingdom and U. S. A. in larger quantities are coming forward.

(k) *Prices under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943*.—During the last 11 months of the operation of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, ceiling prices have been fixed for the following articles:—

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| (1) Photographic materials. | (14) Electric bulbs. |
| (2) Cigarettes. | (15) Vegetable seeds. |
| (3) Razor Blades. | (16) Toilet articles. |
| (4) Wines and Liquors. | (17) Condensed milk. |
| (5) Tinned Provisions. | (18) Bicycles and spare parts. |
| (6) Boot polishes. | (19) Battery cells. |
| (7) Imported woollen goods. | (20) Vegetable ghee. |
| (8) Arms and Ammunitions. | (21) Camphor powder. |
| (9) Fountain pens and inks. | (22) Sissoo Timber. |
| (10) Sports goods. | (23) Camphor tablets. |
| (11) Leather. | (24) Imported thermos. |
| (12) Japanese staple fibre yarn. | (25) Clock. |
| (13) Silk fabrics. | (26) Radio tubes and spare parts. |

Consumer Goods—Control of Distribution—Supplies.—Under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, prices for the articles referred to in the preceding paragraph have been fixed and the upward trend of prices in the civil market has been arrested. Experience, however, has shown that with the control of prices of a particular commodity its available supplies have a tendency to go underground. While the Industries and Civil Supplies Department have taken action to increase the supplies of consumer goods in the country, price control to be really effective must be implemented by a control over distribution of supplies. This is particularly necessary in the case of imported articles.

In order to enable them to do this the Central Government have passed the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order on the 15th July 1944. The Order applies to such imported articles and articles made in India as are mentioned in the schedule attached to it. These include, for the present, a limited number of articles in common use and later on it is intended to add other articles to the list as and when necessary.

Importers and producers of scheduled articles are required to give intimation of arrivals and productions to the Controller General of Civil Supplies. Importers of scheduled

articles will not be at liberty to dispose of their goods after arrival except in accordance with the instructions of the Controller General of Civil supplies. For internal distribution the Controller General will appoint approved dealers throughout the country and it is only to them that the importer or producer is allowed to sell his articles.

To implement the provisions of this Order suitable machinery consisting for the present, of an Additional Controller General, 3 Deputy Controllers General and 3 Assistant Controllers General has been added to the Organisation of the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

CHAPTER 7.—DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION (INCLUDING RATIONING)

Transport.—As already reported in the last year's statement of progress made on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, a Director of Movements was appointed to take charge of the Transport Branch of the Food Department. His close association with the distribution problem at every stage has helped to plan allocations under the Basic Plan in which the transport aspect has been given adequate consideration. The Basic Plans have, therefore, been more readily accepted by the War Transport Department. A further progress has been made in getting the Provinces to prepare their programmes of movements in a manner suitable to the railway requirements. With the close watch on the progress of programmed movements it has been possible to anticipate difficulties and to obtain special measures of assistance from railways through the co-operation of the War Transport Department.

2. Special mention may be made of the action taken to secure increased shipping at Karachi in order to relieve railways of the difficult all rail movements from the North to the South. Experience showed that despatches from the North to the South were generally behind programme and without this special assistance there was little prospect of meeting the full requirements of the south from the northern Provinces. An arrangement has now been arrived at with the War Transport Department whereby 60,000 tons of foodgrains will be despatched monthly from Karachi by steamers and country craft. This will make it possible to despatch foodgrains to the deficit areas of Travancore/Cochin, Deccan States, Malabar, Kathiawar, Bombay, etc., from Sind, Punjab, etc., by the sea route.

3. Maximum use is also made of the river transport available in the Eastern parts of the country. Boats available in Bengal and Assam are being utilised for moving rice from Assam to Bengal in addition to the local movements within the two provinces. An appreciable proportion of the Assam food supplies from the U. P. and Bihar is also arranged by the river route.

4. Now that the prospects of the Lease/Lend vehicles for civil requirements have improved, the Provincial Governments have been requested to make increasing use of road transport for the movement of foodgrains. A number of Lease/Lend lorries are now operating in the Eastern States, Orissa and Rewa State, where crops could only be obtained in the interior far away from rail-head stations. These lorries have been of material assistance in easing procuring operations.

Rationing.—

(A) *Progress of Rationing*.—1. All the Provincial/State Governments in the country have accepted the need for food rationing of towns and cities and there are now 460 towns and municipal areas fully rationed or about to be rationed, representing a population of approximately 42,000,000 people who are covered by an assurance of sufficient food at controlled fair prices.

2. Bombay have already rationed 6 of their important towns, viz., Bombay, Ahmedabad, Surat, Poona, Nasik and Sholapur, also 91 smaller towns covering 90 per cent. of the urban population therein. In the Madras Presidency, 84 towns have already been rationed and district-wide rationing of Malabar was inaugurated from 15th October 1944. Rationing in Greater Calcutta including the industrial area is working satisfactorily and the rationing scheme has been extended to Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Mirsarai, Sita Kund, Double Mooring, Puchalaish, Hathazapi, Fatichchapi, Raozan, Ramgunia, Patiya, Anwara, Boalkhali, Banekhali and Satkania. Preparations for the introduction of rationing in Dacca and Narayanganj are in hand.

3. The Punjab, although a surplus province, has inaugurated rationing in Rawalpindi, Amritsar and Lahore, and is shortly extending the scheme to five more of its largest towns, viz., Multan, Ludhiana, Simla, Sialkot and Jullunder. Sind, another surplus province has rationed Karachi and Hyderabad. Nagpur and Jabalpur have been rationed in C. P. Enumeration has already been completed by the N. W. F. P. in Peshawar and all steps have been taken for the introduction of rationing there shortly.

4. Travancore and Cochin have introduced state-wide rationing which means both urban and rural population. Mysore has already rationed its four important towns and has a scheme for state-wide rationing.

5. Rationing was introduced in Delhi on 29th May, 1944. Quetta has been rationed in Baluchistan; Ajmer will be rationed shortly but partial rationing has already been enforced there from the 1st of May 1944. The Assam Rationing Scheme is operating in 8 towns of Assam partial rationing in 6 towns. Shillong has not, however, been rationed as yet.

but preliminary steps have been taken: Abu, Mhow, Secunderabad and Civil and Military Station Bangalore have also been rationed.

6. The U. P. Government have introduced partial rationing in 39 regulated towns covering over 80 per cent. population in five towns, viz., Cawnpore, Lucknow, Allahabad, Gorakhpur and Jhansi and 50 to 60 per cent. in the rest. Its two towns, Azamgarh and Mau pur and Jhansi and 50 to 60 per cent. in the rest. A scheme for full rationing which are situated in deficit areas have been fully rationed. A scheme for full rationing of 11 towns has now been prepared. The other Provinces and States which have introduced rationing are Kashmir in Srinagar, the Deccan States, Hyderabad, Central India and Western India States in certain towns. Bihar have introduced full rationing in Patna and Jamshedpur and partial rationing in 10 other towns. Gwalior and Rampur have also been rationed.

7. The extension of rationing has brought to the forefront several rationing problems which have been under examination, e.g., rationing scales and composition, treatment of children and heavy manual workers, use of substitute grains, subsidisation, retail prices, industrial canteens and milk supplies.

(B) *Scales of Ration*.—1. The minimum basic standard per adult per day has been laid down by the Foodgrains Policy Committee to be 1 lb., that is roughly $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per week. In actual practice, some provinces have given a slightly higher ration than the standard mentioned above. While others have not found it possible to give this standard, the tendency of surplus provinces being to give ration somewhat higher than the standard recommended by the Food Grains Policy Committee.

2. The Government of India in the early stages have advisedly not tried to impose strict restrictions upon the different Governments as local conditions have varied and it has required a good deal of effort to win over the people for introducing rationing.

3. The question of equalisation of ration scales is not so simple as would appear at first sight. All the foodgrains are not rationed everywhere, and at different places the question of preponderance of the industrial population varies. In the Punjab only wheat and wheat atta are rationed; in Delhi rice is included whereas in the Madras Presidency (excluding Madras city) only rice has been rationed. Moreover, the Northern and the North-West provinces claim that their people are physically so constituted as to require a relatively greater proportion of foodgrains than the people in the Southern parts.

4. The question was placed before the Central Food Advisory Council at its meeting held on 20th July, 1944, which recommended as follows:—

“The Council is of the view that the present burden of an over all deficiency of foodgrains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country and deprecates the existing disparity of ration scales. It therefore, recommends that full rationing should be introduced in every province in all urban areas and that the basic ration per head should be uniformly 1 lb. per adult per day. It presses the Government of India to bring about uniformity in both these matters throughout India without delay”.

5. The Government of India is disposed to accept the recommendations of the Central Food Advisory Council these have been communicated to all Provinces/Administrations/Residents, who have been asked to communicate their views urgently. The whole problem revolves round the supply position and the demands likely to be made by the deficit areas for increased quantities to raise the minimum size to 1 lb. per day. So long as there is any part of the country where the ration is lower than $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per week there appears to be little justification for having a bigger ration anywhere else.

6. The present aim in view of the overall shortage of supply (i) to equalise the size of the basic ration everywhere to the recognised minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per week per adult; (ii) to include all grains moving under the basic plan in the ration everywhere; (iii) to ration pulses as separate from the cereal group and (iv) guided by the supply position, to allow the consumer to draw any proportion of his ration in any item within the group.

(C) *Composition of Rations*.—1. So far as the composition of rations is concerned the policy of the Foodgrains Policy Committee has been to include all major foodgrains in general use in the particular areas concerned. In the Bombay Presidency, Sind, Hyderabad (Deccan) and C. P. wheat, rice, and millets have been rationed; in the Punjab and Baluchistan only wheat or atta; in Delhi and Bengal wheat and rice, and in Madras Presidency excluding Madras, only rice. Madras City has also rationed wheat with effect from 22nd October, 1944. In most of the States wheat and millets have been rationed while in others rice has been added. In the States of Cochin and Travancore, rice, wheat and dry grains have been rationed whereas in Mysore it is rice, wheat and ragi.

2. It will thus be seen that the composition of rations has depended upon the staple foodgrain of the area. It will not be an easy task to include all the foodgrains, although it would be advisable to do so.

3. As rice is in acute short supply the proportion to rice that can be drawn out of the group cereals is lower than that allowed for the other foodgrains. For instance, in Bombay out of $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers it is allowed to the extent of 1 seer and 40 chataks, and in Calcutta up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers as against $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers of wheat. In Delhi rice is allowed upto 2 seers out of 3 seers and 15 chataks. In Cochin 5.3 ozs. is allowed out of a total ration of 12 ozs. The only place where it is allowed in a greater proportion is in Travancore where it is 8 ozs.

out of a total ration of 13 ozs. Cochin has now been asked to raise the rice proportion to the Travancore level of 8 ozs.

4. In the Southern areas, including Travancore and Cochin, efforts are being made to introduce alternative foodgrains on account of acute scarcity of rice. From among the dry grains the people there prefer jowar better than bajra and in allocating the millets people's preferences for a particular kind of foodgrain are taken into consideration.

(D) *Quality*.—1. The Foodgrains Policy Committee had recommended that due attention must be paid to securing adequate quality (Page 68 of the Report). The main problem that was faced in this connection was the time lag between the purchase of the initial stocks and their being actually put into the hands of the retail dealers for distribution amongst consumers. Every attempt has been made to reduce this interval to the minimum so that the quality may not be affected by prolonged storage.

2. This problem of time affecting quality gets resolved as rationing progresses and the continuity of receiving fresh stocks at regular intervals is established.

3. Quality classification of the foodgrains made in several places meets many such complaints. The grains are also now being issued after being cleaned.

4. Inspection by the receiving agent at the railway station of delivery succeeds a prior analysis at the Government laboratory of the Province where the purchases are made. Subsequently, when the grain is stored or distributed, the rationing inspectors go round for constant inspection to guard against adulteration. At the retailers' shops samples are kept in sealed bottles for verification and comparison by anyone who desires to do so.

(E) *Treatment of Children*.—Generally speaking in most of the Provinces 50 per cent. of the adult size of the ration has been fixed for the children and a child has been defined as a person between the age of 2 and 12 years. Several Provinces are now examining the possibility of giving full adult ration to children from 8 years and half rations from 0 to 8 years.

(F) *Use of Substitute Grains*.—1. The Foodgrains Policy Committee has laid down that rationing should cover all major foodgrains in general use in the particular areas concerned and that, as far as possible, the taste and habits of the various communities should be respected; but it is also stated that no guarantee can or should be given to any section of the community that its habitual foodgrains would be forthcoming in the usual quantities. This has been necessitated by the acute shortage of certain foodgrains, chiefly rice.

2. This shortage of rice has greatly accentuated the problem in the South, especially in Travancore, Cochin and Mysore. Efforts are being made to substitute rice by the other grains which are available, e.g., wheat and millets. This involves publicity, practical demonstrations and laying down proportions of the ration for each grain so that these other substitute grains may be taken up by the people. The change in diet cannot be brought about suddenly, but urgent necessity requires urgent methods of treatment. The main problem, is to substitute other foodgrains of equal or better nutritional value for rice.

3. Nutritional experts by devising planned alternative combinations of foods with equal or even better nutritional value, have prepared actual recipes which have been circulated to the Provinces and States concerned for practical demonstration and propaganda purposes.

4. Governments in the Southern parts of the country are trying to persuade the people to realise that by mixing the so-called coarse grains with their diet, they make it more balanced and not one which almost entirely consists of carbohydrates.

5. Cochin State have started a scheme under which free meals consisting chiefly of bajra preparations are served to school children suffering from mal-nutrition.

6. A Nutritional Section has been attached to the peripatetic War Services Exhibition in which actual demonstrations will be given for preparing dishes from nutritional foodgrains which will be served out to the people from an attached restaurant.

(G) *Milk Supply*.—1. The question of milk supply has come to the forefront due to the acute shortage of milk in almost all the big towns of the country. Milk is not only short in quantity but it has deteriorated seriously in quality. In certain towns the poorer section of the people are unable to buy milk for their children due to the prevailing high prices. The question of increasing the supply of milk is not a simple one as it involves the improvement and conserving of cattle, cattle fodder and pasture.

2. Some Provinces have started tackling this problem by distributing milk at subsidised rates to children and/or prohibiting use of milk for such purposes as ice creams, etc. In Bombay, a 17 lakhs scheme has been enforced for supplying $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. milk to the children at subsidised rates on issue of milk cards. In several other places export and slaughter of useful cattle have been prohibited and other measures have been taken to stop the use of milk for non-essential purposes.

3. The problem, however, requires concerted action between the Provinces and the Government of India. The question of increasing the production of milk lies within the area of Education, Health and Lands Department and the distribution with the Food Department. The Food Department is immediately concerned with providing pure milk at reasonable prices to priority consumers like children, hospitals, schools, and maternity welfare centres.

4. The Government of India have asked for information from all the Governments in the country with a view to increasing the present short supplies in big towns and issuing model order for:—

(a) Control of the use of milk in industry for purposes other than food, e.g., plastics and glues.

(b) The control of milk supplies to confectioners, hotels, restaurants and canteens and its use for such purposes as ice cream, cream cakes, and sweets.

(c) The co-ordination and control of fresh milk supplies to the Defence Forces by local purchases.

6. The Education, Health and Lands Department which is responsible for increasing the production of milk has recently appointed a Dairy Development Adviser who will examine the present schemes and put up new ones for actual working.

7. Similar schemes are being prepared or envisaged for the big towns in the country like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

(H) *Subsidisation and Retail Prices*.—1. The question of subsidising the foodgrains sold under the rationing schemes is cropping up now and again. In most of the provisioning schemes in U. P. and Bihar the sales at least in the initial stages have been on subsidised rates, till it has been possible to bring the market prices down. Subsidisation is bound up with the price control schemes and to the extent that the prices are effectively controlled subsidisation may be rendered unnecessary.

2. At present foodgrains are sold at subsidised rates to certain categories of the essential civil personnel, e.g., to the Central Government servants drawing less than Rs. 300 p. m. to Railway employees by the Railway Department through their own distributing stores and to the coal mine labour under what is commonly known as the "Young Plan".

3. In the case of coal mine labour the standard ration is given at the controlled rates and $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of rice per attendance is given free. There is also some extra monetary payment made for attendance according to the size of the family dependants.

4. The policy of the Central Government is to discountenance any increase in dearness allowance in the shape of money as that would retard all anti-inflationary measures. Subsidisation on the other hand, is primarily an anti-inflationary measure and a question to be considered is how far and to what categories of the people should subsidisation be extended, if at all. Its present existence in the case of the essential civil personnel is with a view to ensure that there is no weakening of such categories of workers as are essential to the national and to the war effort.

(I) *Retail Prices*.—1. It is necessary that under rationing these prices should be kept as low as possible to enable every one to buy foodstuffs. At present the prices that are fixed at different places depend upon the cost of the foodgrains procured and the differentials allowed to the wholesalers and the retailers. These differentials differ in various provinces due to the local conditions but the differences should not obviously be very great.

2. There is of course no question of any local Government making a profit out of the rationing scheme but fixation of prices, which are revised at regular intervals, is bound to bring in a certain amount of temporary profit or loss on account of the time lag involved. This in the long run is expected to get squared up. The prices fixed on the introduction of rationing are on the basis of the previous costs of stocks purchased at higher rates. These can be high as compared to the prices ruling at the particular moment.

3. The solution of the problem of keeping the prices as low as possible is, therefore, their periodic revision in conformity with the actual costs; which is being done.

(J) *Heavy Manual Workers*.—1. The idea underlying the grant of a supplementary ration is that it should be given to the heavy manual workers who need a greater quantity of the cereals. Generally 50 per cent. of the basic ration is given as supplementary.

2. One of the main difficulties has been to define a 'heavy' manual worker. In some cases it is not easy to draw a line between the heavy manual worker and the manual worker. The policy is that under rationing schemes there should be no provision for allowing any privileges to any class of persons not enjoyed by all other consumers, with the exception of defined heavy workers.

(K) *Industrial Canteens*.—It has been decided in consultation with the Labour Department that (i) Industrial Canteens should be encouraged, (ii) additional quantity of rationed foods should be supplied to such canteens to be served as cooked foods over and above the supplementary ration for heavy manual workers where such quantities are now permitted.

(L) *The future outlook*.—1. Rationing has brought into the forefront some very important problems that the country will have to face in the near future and also when peace comes. Some of these problems are the increased production of foodstuffs, the development of cultivation of foodgrains and vegetables, the manufacture of chemical manure, of agricultural implements and other consumers goods necessary for the cultivator, the long range production of milk of involving the development of cattle fodder, pasture lands and quality of cattle breeds, the raising of the nutritional level of the diet for the majority of the at present under and mal-nourished populations, the substitution of particular kinds of

foodgrains with a higher nutritive value for those which have become and will remain in acute short supply for a considerable time to come, the introduction of communal feeding not only in the industrial centres but also in the schools and other similar institutions and the popularisation of alternative dishes that could be prepared out of nutritionally superior foodstuffs amongst people who have been used to eating a nutritionally deficient diet.

2. Such problems have been brought into prominence as the direct result of control of foodstuffs by the Government and the introduction of rationing on a large scale. It is obvious that these will require long range planning.

CHAPTER 8.—PRICES

The Food Department set up a Price Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India designed to provide the Government of India with expert non-official advice on prices which would reflect the point of view of producers and of the trade. The first meeting of the Price Advisory Committee was held on the 15th March, 1944 and on the recommendations of the Committee, the Government of India fixed the statutory maximum prices for wheat for the next twelve months at Rs. 9-8-0 at the primary assembling markets in the Punjab, and Sind; at Rs. 9-10-0 in N.-W. F. P. and at Rs. 10-4-0 in the U.P. Maximum prices for barley and gram were fixed at 7/10ths and 8/10ths respectively of the maximum for wheat. The statutory maximum for coarse rice in the Punjab, U. P. and N.-W. F. P. was also fixed at Rs. 13-8-0 per maund. Differentials on basic prices were allowed for deficit districts in the different provinces. The Indian States were asked to fall into line with the British Indian territories.

At the second meeting of the Price Advisory Committee held in August 1944, the Committee recommended that as it was impracticable to fix the prices of pulses on an all-India basis, the Provinces which had not yet controlled prices at reasonable levels should be asked to do so in consultation with the Government of India, keeping in view the controlled prices of cereals. This recommendation is being implemented by the Government of India. The Committee also considered the question whether trading in futures or options in foodgrains should be prohibited. Opinion was divided and the whole question is being re-examined.

The question of fixation of prices for Kharif grains was considered at the third meeting of the Price Advisory Committee held on 9th October, 1944. The recommendations made by the Committee are under consideration and a final decision will be taken shortly.

2. The Government of India also considered the question of fixing minimum prices for major foodgrains and made an important announcement in April 1944 designed to support the wheat market in the interests of the cultivators in which they guaranteed to purchase all wheat of fair average quality offered in the main assembling markets of the Punjab, U. P. and Sind at Rs. 7-8-0 per maund.

In May 1944, in order to support measures to encourage the diversion to foodcrops of land under short staple cotton, the Government of India announced their willingness to purchase all jowar and bajra of the 1944-45 crop offered in the main assembling markets at the floor prices of Rs. 5-8-0 and Rs. 6 respectively throughout British India except Bombay. As regards Bombay, it was felt that special prices would have to be announced in view of the measures which were being taken to compel the cultivation of foodcrops and accordingly the Government of Bombay have announced that the price of the 1944-45 millets crop will not be less than the current statutory prices.

The offer to purchase millets at floor prices was extended to the Indian States.

CHAPTER 9.—BASIC PLAN

In the formulation of the Kharif Plan (1943-44) and the Rabi Plan (1944-45) the Food Department have generally followed the formula recommended by the Foodgrains Policy Committee. The first version of the Kharif Plan was issued in October 1943. A revised version of the Plan was issued to Provinces and States in April, 1944. In view of the admitted drawbacks of Indian agricultural statistics and the difficulty in assessing the requirements of the increase in population, natural or otherwise, it has not been found possible in practice to ask every area to accept the statistical surplus or deficit revealed by the formula. It is of interest to note that the rice surplus increased from the original figure of 768,000 tons to the revised figure of 919,000 tons as a result of efforts made by the Central Government to secure improvement in the declared surpluses in the light of the statistical position.

2. The Kharif Plan operative from November, 1943 to October 1944 and the Rabi Plan operative from May 1944 to April, 1945 cover about 2.9 million tons of Kharif (rice, millets and maize) and Rabi (wheat, gram and barley) grains including the requirements of the Defence Services. Against this total movement target, about 1.6 million tons were despatched under the two plans up to 5th October 1944. Out of the total quantity despatched the shares of the principal deficit areas were as follows:—

Bengal	280,000 tons.
Bombay	334,000 tons.
Tr./Cochin	187,000 tons.

The details of quotas and despatches are given below :—
(In '000 tons.)

Foodgrain	Total quota allotted (15-10-44)	Total despatches up to 5-10-1944	Percentage of despatches to quota
Rice	980	714	73
Millets	271	175	61
Maize	67	55	82
Wheat	1,207	645	54
Gram	357	56	16
Barley	61	26	43
Total	2,943	1,671	57

CHAPTER 10.—FOOD DEPARTMENT

In order to associate public and expert opinion as closely as possible with the Central Government's policy for food administration, the Government of India decided to replace the old Central Food Advisory Council by a more widely representative body specifically to advise and assist the Departments of Food and Education, Health and Lands in the tasks relating to the country's food problems with which they have to deal.

The first meeting of the Council was held in the 3rd. week of July 1944 in which about 40 non-official members participated.

A Sub-Committee of the Council has been formed to look into the question of procurement and to advise Government as to the best methods of ascertaining and securing the surpluses of the growers and linking up production with procurement.

CHAPTER 11.—FOOD GRAINS CONTROL ORDER

As a result of a close examination of the various suggestions made from time to time by the Provincial and State Governments for the improvement of the form of the Foodgrains Control Order, it was decided that the existing Order, which had been promulgated by the Central Government and brought into force by the notifications of the Provincial Governments, should be progressively replaced by new Orders framed by Provincial Governments in the light of their own requirements and adapted to suit local conditions, but based on the existing Order. The application of the Central Order to the particular province will be cancelled by notification simultaneously with the promulgation of the local Order.

The Provincial Governments and Administrations were also requested to consult the Government of India before finally publishing their versions of the Order. Draft Orders from some Provinces have been received and are being scrutinised. The Central Order will cease to be in force in the N.-W. F. P. from 21st October, 1944, on which date the Provincial Order will come into force.

The penal clause of the existing Foodgrains Control Order has been amended so as to make it compulsory for the Court to order forfeiture of stocks in case of a contravention of the Order unless, for reasons to be recorded in writing, it is of opinion that the direction should not be made in respect of the whole, or as the case may be, a part of the property.

The Provincial Governments and Administrations have been requested to make a similar provision in their Foodgrains Control Orders.

States have also been requested through the Residents to take action on the same lines. The functions and duties of Regional Food Commissioners have been reviewed afresh and Food Regions reshuffled in consequence of which the old Rajputana Region has been abolished and in its place following four food regions have been set up with their Residents as Regional Food Commissioners :—

- (i) Rajputana Region.
- (ii) Central India States.
- (iii) Gwalior States.
- (iv) Western India States.

The food regions generally conform to the groups of States with which Residents are in political relationship.

All correspondence between the Central and Provincial or States Governments has to be conducted through the Regional Food Commissioners and Residents acting as Regional Food Commissioners.

The staff of the Regional Food Commissioners has been greatly strengthened and it is proposed to appoint Deputy Regional Food Commissioners at all Provincial Head quarters.

LATEST RICE PRICES IN DISTRICTS OF BENGAL

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Sir, I also lay on the table a statement showing the latest rice prices in the districts of Bengal.

Statement showing the latest rice prices in the districts of Bengal

Districts	Prices (wholesale) (in Rs. per maund).	Date
Jalpaiguri	13 0 0 (R)	31-10-44
Birbhum	11 14 0 (R)	1-11-44
Midnapore	10 10 0	29-10-44
Bakerganj	10 8 0	1-11-44
Dinajpore	11 12 0 (M)	31-10-44
Dacca	9 8 0	31-10-44
	to	to
	10 0 0	1-11-44
Tippera	7 8 0	30-10-44
	to	to
	8 0 0	1-11-44
Chittagong	10 0 0	30-10-44
	to	to
	12 0 0	30-10-44

Prices are wholesale except when (R) is mentioned against the quotation, in which case it is retail.

(M)=Medium quality.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, in view of the fact that there will be a debate now, will the Honourable Member circulate copies of the statement just now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It has been laid on the table.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We cannot read it now. To facilitate the perusal and study of it, will the Honourable Member see that copies are circulated to Members, especially as we are now engaged in the food debate?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How many pages is it?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have just handed it over—it is the only copy I have: it runs into many pages—17 pages of type. I shall have to find out how many copies I have got. I understand there are only six copies.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, is this the way that Government should treat the Legislature—laying a statement on the table while the debate is going on, without supplying copies to the Members?

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the debate on the motion that the food situation in India be taken into consideration. I think Mr. Deshmukh was in possession of the House.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, last time I dealt with the long range policy regarding food which should have been begun long ago, and I pointed out that His Majesty's Government was not co-operating with us in earnest, and I gave an illustration that we were not supplied with tractors which were very necessary to carry out this plan. I also said that the demand for the reduction of prices of agricultural produce was most unreasonable. The amendment which I support says that at present the prices are so uneconomical that they hit the growers hardest: of course it also speaks for the consumers; but I will let the consumers look after themselves—I am more concerned with the producers. At present things are like this: if any tenant wants to take land on lease for the purpose of cultivation—say about 12 or 13 acres—he divides it into cash crop and food crop and fodder crop, in order to meet his expenditure and other necessities. He retains half of the crop for himself and pays the other half to the owner of the land. Out of his 50 per cent. he has to meet the expenses of the cultivation. And in places where land is not cultivated under irrigation, this eventually results in

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

a net loss of two to three rupees per acre. You have merely to make inquiries and you will find it is so; where there is no irrigation and where people carry on dry farming, there is no guarantee that the cultivator will get a normal crop. A shower more or a shower less may dash his hopes. Under such circumstances he is worse off than the person who cultivates his land with the help of irrigation. In either case the lessee who takes the land on lease or the tenant cannot meet the expenses out of the produce which he gets out of the land. Not only that, not only he incurs loss, but he has no reserve to fall back upon. We know the veterinary service is not efficient in the villages: supposing his bullocks die, how can he replenish a pair of bullocks or any other material—for instance, his agricultural implements? He has no reserve or depreciation fund to fall back upon or to look after his children if they get ill. Even on the present basis of prices the agriculturist, an agriculturist, who has no profession either of money-lending or is not a lawyer or doctor or has no other subsidiary means but merely depends on his agriculture,—he is in the worst possible position. Having nothing to fall back upon, he has to borrow from somebody—a co-operative bank or the ordinary moneylender, as the only source of meeting these necessities. Therefore it will be found that prices are most uneconomical even at this stage; and yet what is the procedure followed by the Food Member: Every year when the crops are going to be reaped, he revises the prices and he reduces the prices because the demand is for the reduction of prices.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): For your benefit!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am not benefited. I am an agriculturist. You may be doing it in the name of the consumers. I asked a question—No. 129—yesterday—How do you bring down the cost of living. The answer was 'by reducing the prices of agricultural produce'. You have done almost nothing to bring down the prices of other articles. I cannot go very deeply into that just now, but fortunately for me my question was answered yesterday; and the Honourable Commerce Member said "This is all that I can do". But what has he done? He has brought down the price of rice from the level of 30 or 40 to the level of 20. It is not in the interests of the agricultural producer. You should have brought down the prices of other articles more than you have done. He says to me "You refer to the other departments". In other words, the only remedy to satisfy the demands of the non-producers is to reduce the price of agricultural produce—a very ruinous policy. As I said, there will be no incentive to produce. Are you going to rely on the cultivator whose strength you have sapped, whose life-blood you have sapped, because he cannot even get enough food for himself and his family?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: He cannot get anything to rely on. He has no food to maintain himself, let alone nutritious food—and you expect these despondent and disheartened agriculturists, who have nothing to maintain themselves on, to feed you. I say, therefore, that it is a most ruinous policy to bring down the prices. The present prices are most uneconomical and in the interests of the producer, the prices should not be reduced hereafter. What happens in England and other countries? There they have given a guarantee that the prices shall not be reduced but here the Food Department of the Government of India reduces prices every year when the crops are in sight. This is a very bad policy. (An Honourable Member: "What is the remedy you suggest?") As I said last time, Government should subsidize the agriculturist. You must give something to the agriculturist for the purchase of cattle, seeds, grains and other amenities of life. Your present policy will not do.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot Non-Muhammadian Rural): I have given notice of an amendment. I have given the required notice under the Standing Order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow that at this stage. If I allow it now, I cannot prevent the speakers who have already spoken from speaking again on this amendment.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is open to you, Sir, not to allow them to speak but under the Standing Orders I am entitled to make this motion even after the discussion has begun.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow the speakers who have already spoken to speak again on this amendment. That is the difficulty.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: We have no objection to that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If they insist on speaking, I cannot prevent them. I cannot therefore allow the amendment to be moved at this stage.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I will not speak again.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Under the Standing Orders I am entitled to move an amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This comes too late. If it were a consequential amendment, that would have been a different matter. But if the speakers who have already spoken will not speak again, then I will allow this amendment to be moved.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Very well Sir. I move:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

having considered the same, this House is of opinion (1) that the prices fixed for paddy and other food grains should be revised in view of the present circumstances, and in considering the level of prices of food grains appropriate to a particular area, regard should be had to (a) the cost of articles entering into the cultivators' cost of production; (b) cost of articles entering into his standard of life and (c) cost of cultivation of marginal lands, as it obtains at present cost levels;

(2) that having in view the enormous amount of corruption created by the fact that revenue and other officers have been entrusted with the duty of issuing licences for purchasers and distributors of paddy and rice, wheat and other food grains, these licences in the districts and taluks shall be issued on the advice of the advisory board, attached to the districts and taluks and to co-operative societies wherever available;

(3) that peasants shall be given the choice of supplying food grains either in the shape of paddy or rice, wheat or atta and thus be entitled to eliminate the profiteering now being made by millers; and

(4) that every effort be made to review and reduce the margins of profits now allowed to various agencies of middlemen;

(5) that the responsibility of the Central Government should not cease with mere allotment of food grains but it should extend to seeing that their allotments reach the deficit or needy areas and that no invidious distinction shall be made in distributing rations between civilian population and those who are the relatives of people in the armed forces and also between the urban and rural peoples, and that all needy peoples, whether living in town or villages be granted equal rations.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The remaining portion of para. (5) cannot be moved, as it raises other matters.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I will omit that portion.

(6) that in cases of districts experiencing great scarcity, district-wise and equitable rationing shall be organised;

(7) and that to meet the food deficit in this country, apart from the measures taken to tide over the present difficulties.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That cannot be moved.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why, Sir? This refers to the long range policy. The Food Grains Policy Committee has made mention of this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That may be but this is a different question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: All this is connected with the question of increased production of food. The Honourable Member spoke about all these in his opening speech. He is looking far ahead.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): He is looking very far ahead.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well, I will allow it in that case.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Other measures of a permanent character such as that of new irrigation schemes, manufacture of fertilizers, fixation and maintenance of minimum prices of food grains shall also be taken up as soon as possible.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Chattopadhyaya will now move his amendment.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion: 'In view of the fact that the system of procurement and distribution of essential food-stuff adopted by the Food Department of the Central Government has not succeeded so far to alleviate the difficulties and inconveniences of consumers in Bengal and in other affected provinces as well the co-operative system of production, distribution and consumption be introduced and adopted in the affected provinces specially in Bengal by setting up Co-operative Producer, Distributor and Consumers' Society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act.'"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion: 'Having considered the same, this House is of opinion (1) that the prices fixed for paddy and other food grains should be revised in view of the present circumstances, and in considering the level of prices of food grains appropriate to a particular area, regard should be had to (a) the cost of articles entering into the cultivators' cost of production; (b) cost of articles entering into his standard of life and (c) cost of cultivation of marginal lands, as it obtains at present cost levels;

(2) that having in view the enormous amount of corruption created by the fact that revenue and other officers have been entrusted with the duty of issuing licences for purchasers and distributors of paddy and rice, wheat and other food grains, these licences in the districts and taluks shall be issued on the advice of the advisory board, attached to the districts and taluks and to co-operative societies wherever available;

(3) that peasants shall be given the choice of supplying food grains either in the shape of paddy or rice, wheat or atta and thus be entitled to eliminate the profiteering now being made by millers; and

(4) that every effort be made to review and reduce the margins of profits now allowed to various agencies of middlemen;

(5) that the responsibility of the Central Government should not cease with mere allotment of food grains but it should extend to seeing that their allotments reach the deficit or needy areas and that no invidious distinction shall be made in distributing rations between civilian population and those who are the relatives of people in the armed forces and also between the urban and rural peoples, and that all needy peoples, whether living in town or villages be granted equal rations;

(6) that in cases of districts experiencing great scarcity, district-wise and equitable rationing shall be organised;

(7) and that to meet the food deficit in this country, apart from the measures taken to tide over the present difficulties, other measures of a permanent character such as that of new irrigation schemes, manufacture of fertilizers, fixation and maintenance of minimum prices of food grains shall also be taken up as soon as possible."

The next amendment moved is:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

"In view of the fact that the system of procurement and distribution of essential food-stuff adopted by the Food Department of the Central Government has not succeeded so far to alleviate the difficulties and inconveniences of consumers in Bengal and in other affected provinces as well the co-operative system of production, distribution and consumption be introduced and adopted in the affected provinces specially in Bengal by setting up Co-operative Producer, Distributor and Consumers' Society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act."

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I propose to place before the House the actual food position in Bengal and I shall therefore limit the scope of my speech. The Honourable the Food Member has said that so far as rice is concerned, the food position is now easy over practically all parts of Bengal. My submission is that it is not at all a fair statement of the position in Bengal. It does not bear the true picture of the Bengal food position. My contention is that so far as rice is concerned, there is still at least semi-famine in Bengal and so far as other foodstuffs—other than foodgrains—are concerned, there is the most acute famine in Bengal at the present moment. In fact, it is greater than what it was in 1943. Even now people are dying of starvation in Bengal. The

Calcutta daily papers publish every day the number of people who die of starvation in Calcutta. As regards the rural areas, of course we have not got the figures because there is no machinery for the death statistics of the rural areas. But in Calcutta the figures are published at the instance of the Calcutta Corporation.

Now, Sir, meetings of officials and non-officials are being held all over the province in order to discuss the ways and means to combat the scarcity of rice in several parts of the province. A public meeting of officials and non-officials was held the other day at Bakargunj and it was said by their District Magistrate that people were literally dying of starvation in various parts of the district. As you know, Sir, Bakargunj is the granary of Bengal and if that is the position there, we can well imagine what is the position in other districts.

Now, Sir, the Honourable the Food Member made a statement not long ago—probably it was in July last—speaking of the Bengal situation, that "admittedly the situation was serious in some parts still. I do not deny it". That was his statement. He now says that it is easy practically all over Bengal.

Now, what is the actual position? The ruling market price today is at least four times the pre-war price. Of course, the price of rice has gone down as compared to the one prevailing in 1943. In 1943, the price was Rs. 25, Rs. 30, Rs. 35 and in some cases even Rs. 50 per maund. Now it has been reduced, according to the Honourable the Food Member, to something like Rs. 15. This has given some relief to that class of people whose power of purchase does not go up to Rs. 20, Rs. 30, Rs. 40 and Rs. 50 per maund, but it does not give any relief to those people whose power of purchase is not such as to be able to purchase rice at Rs. 15, and the vast bulk of the population belong to this category. The majority of the people cannot possibly purchase rice at the rate of Rs. 15 per month.

Now, Sir, the whole question is that the price now prevailing in Bengal is not such as to be within the reach of the majority of the population. We have to remember in this connection that even during the normal times many people had to go without a square meal and the price of rice then used to be Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3-8-0 per maund. We also know that the *per capita* availability of rice even in normal times was very low. We have been told by the experts that there is a serious under-nourishment of about one-third of the population of India even during the normal times. Therefore, my submission is that although the price of rice has fallen, the relief has been afforded only to a handful of people and the vast majority has not got any relief. The difference between 1943 and 1944 is this. In 1943 the death was prompt: in 1944 the death is deferred. It is the gradual death, inch by inch. In this connection, I might be allowed to quote the statement of Mr. Amery which he made in the House of Commons some time ago, I think it was in July last. He said: "The number of deaths in Bengal famine exceeded the total casualties through enemy action during the first four years of the war throughout the whole Empire."

The other day we were told by Sir Henry French that there was not a single case of death by starvation in Great Britain during the war.

The Honourable the Food Member has confined his attention and his activity to what is called the cereal food only. He has not given the slightest thought to what is called the protective food. Now, Sir, food in Bengal does not mean rice only. People cannot live on rice only. They must have other food-stuffs which are as essential for a man's life as rice is. For instance, they must have vegetables, milk, fish, meat, ghee, eggs and so on. Now, there is no manner of doubt that the price of this protective food has risen in 1944 considerably over the level of price during the famine time in 1943. A statement is published in the *Statesman* very lately which shows that meat and ghee are now prohibited luxuries, almost unobtainable, and that fish is selling now at a price which is 111 per cent. not above the normal price in normal times but above the price of 1943. The same is the case with vege-

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 tables. On the average the prices of vegetables have gone up by 118 per cent. over the level prevailing during the dark days of the famine of last year. The rise in prices has involved self-denial in a variety of articles of food on the part of many people. The price of almost all foodstuffs other than rice have increased by 120 per cent. and in some cases by 200 per cent. Now what is the position in Bengal? My contention is that taking the two fronts of food, namely, cereal food and protective food, taking the food as a whole, the situation in Bengal is that the distress is far more acute in 1944 than in 1943. Unfortunately for us, it appears that the second food front has escaped altogether attention of the Honourable Food Member. He has not been able to achieve substantially and effectively anything as regards the staple food crop, not to speak of any other kind of food crop. A question was asked the other day and the Honourable Food Member showed his absolute ignorance of the position of other foodstuffs in Bengal. When his attention was drawn to newspaper reports, he said he didn't see them. I do not know if he has really examined the food position in Bengal. The Honourable Food Member was very eloquent and very enthusiastic with regard to future plan not only about cereal food but also about protective food. He says there must be definite plan for production, for procurement, for price control and for distribution not only of cereal food but also of protective food. The present does not seem to worry him at all.

I want to draw the attention of the House to one very important fact, namely, the waste of food that has been allowed in Bengal. Food has been allowed to deteriorate and decompose and reduced to a state absolutely unfit for human consumption. If the deterioration is confined to one or two instances or even to four or five instances, it might not matter so much. But it is clear that there has been waste throughout the country in 1944, not in one isolated instance, and in quantities which are not negligible, in huge quantities. Particularly we have to remember the waste in the Botanical gardens at Sibpur where decomposed foodstuffs had to be carried in about 200 lorries engaged throughout day and night for seven days consecutively in order to clear the decomposed food, to be thrown into the marshy places. A huge quantity was thrown out. We have been told that in the Government storage also a huge quantity of foodstuffs became unfit for human consumption and they are now being sold to people for non-food purposes. What happened in Khulna? In Behar, huge quantities were stocked for export to Bengal, but they were not sent. They got decomposed, unfit for human consumption. There is an interesting story about Narayanganj. Food in the possession of Government became rotten, unfit for human consumption, and the traders in rice were asked to purchase them. They refused to do so because the foodstuffs were unfit for human consumption. The result was that notice was served on the traders to show cause why their licences should not be cancelled as they refused to purchase the Government stock. We have heard the defence and the apologia of the Honourable Member about waste. The Honourable Member said it is unavoidable. My submission is, is this waste really unavoidable? It was said that the Government had no provision for accommodating the foodstuffs, and that there was no place for storage. If you have no provision for storage, why then do you store at all? Why not distribute them to all people who are dying for want of food? Deterioration and decomposition do not take place in the twinkling of an eye. It takes some time. Why don't you take some step when it appears that there is a likelihood of decomposition and deterioration? Why not hand it over to dying people, why not give this food to the dying people before it gets decomposed. Why do you distribute the food that is decomposed at a time when it is unfit for consumption? Is it merely to kill people by making them to eat the consumed food? So, it appears that two things are going on in Bengal, side by side: waste on one side and starvation on the other side. Scarcity in the midst of plenty. I ask why this state of things is allowed to happen. Is there no Government in this country to look after the poor people who are dying in

thousands. Why should the Government allow food to be wasted when people are dying? Is there no Food Department, is there no Civil Supply Department? Is there no civil administration, no military administration? There is a huge army of officers appointed recently on very fat salaries. What are these people doing? I must say that the food administration in this country is inefficient, indifferent, irresponsible, callous, inhuman and as rotten as the rotten food you want to dispose of. It is time that there should be a complete overhaul of the food administration.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Where?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: As I said at the beginning of my speech, I am confining my remarks to Bengal. If there is something rotten in Bengal, the Food Member cannot simply say it concerns Bengal and he has no concern in it.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Does this foodstuff belong to Bengal Government or to the Government of India?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: It comes to the Bengal Government from the Government of India.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): at a profit?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Yes, at a profit here and at a profit there also. The chief reason is the presence of the overseas forces. The whole Bengal is now an armed camp.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: And their purchasing power has produced this state of things. It is very interesting to note that whereas Indian soldiers serving overseas are supplied food by India, the overseas soldiers resident in India are fed by us. The real fact is that the needs of the civilian population have been sacrificed to those of the military.

In conclusion I will say only this that the Bengal situation is still so very grave and so very complicated that I plead for rescue operations there as recommended by the Gregory Committee.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Sir, the subject of our discussion today seems to me on an entirely different plane from that of many other topics which from time to time engage our attention in this House. For with regard to many of those subjects there is room for reasonable difference of opinion, not only as to methods but even as to the aims and objectives which we should set before us. When, however, the issue is the food policy of the Government of India, there can be only one objective and one aim,—that aim is to secure that the people of this great country are fed and that we avoid a repetition of that great calamity which overtook us last year, a calamity which resulted not only in the deaths of many hundreds of thousands of people, not only in untold misery to countless others, but also in a very serious lowering of the prestige and the reputation of this country and its administration in the eyes of the civilised world.

In approaching such a subject we need necessarily do so in a spirit somewhat different from that which animates many of our discussions in this House. We are not here today to score debating points, to bait Government or to wrangle with this or that section of the House. We are here, as I see it, for three purposes; first, to give sober and careful consideration to the food policy of Government; secondly, to examine and appraise the administration of that policy; and thirdly, to suggest those changes which in our view are required both in policy and in administration.

We in this Group have paid the closest attention to the food problem, not only since the shortage became acute but from the days before that, when to the business world, though perhaps not to Government, it was clear that

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths:] trouble was coming. There is a twofold reason for the particularly keen interest which we have taken in this subject. First there is the fact that as great employers of labour we are brought into practical contact with the actual difficulties that arise in time of shortage. In this connection I want to deal very briefly with the criticism which has sometimes been levelled at the Chambers of Commerce and at the other bodies which have thought it necessary to make forward provision for the food of their employees. We have been criticised; we have been told that we have acted unfairly, that we have laid up undue stocks, that we have been prepared to sacrifice the general public for the sake of our employees. Sir, I am not seriously disturbed by that criticism. If in an era like this, the worst charge which can be brought against the capitalist is that of being over-anxious and over-careful for the welfare of the labourer for whom he is responsible, I think no capitalist need be unduly troubled about an accusation of that kind. We do acknowledge our responsibility in the matter of seeing that those upon whose labour our profits are based are adequately fed. But there is a second reason for the particular interest we take in this problem, and that is the knowledge that in our own country, in spite of great shortage of supply, the food situation has been handled in a way which provides a model of good administration. We are impressed with the contrast between the administration of the food situation in Britain and that from which we have suffered in this country. Early in the present year I had the good fortune to pay a brief visit to my own country. I went with some apprehension; I went expecting to find that people were going hungry. I had not been two days in that country before I realised that in spite of great reduction of supplies there was no such thing as hunger; rich, poor and middle classes,—all were being adequately fed. The diet may be monotonous but there was no question of anybody going short. And I was tremendously impressed with the way in which the food administration of Britain had succeeded in bringing about complete equality of sacrifice. You are not better fed in Britain today because you happen to be better off than somebody else. The second thing that impressed me was the great routine efficiency in small matters of the food administration in my own country. Let me give you a small illustration. I went home by plane. I went straight from the aerodrome to the railhead nearest my own town and I arrived at that station at half past nine in the morning. By five minutes past ten I had received my identity card, my ration books for food and my clothing ration book. Contrast that with what happens in this country. Not so long ago I happened to be transferred from one large city to another. The rationing problem did not affect me personally as I was going to live in a club, but it affected my servant. It took three weeks, ten visits of my servant to the office and three personal letters from me before that unfortunate man could get his ration card. And he told me on the strength of his own knowledge of other people's experience, that he considered himself very lucky in getting it in three weeks merely because I had written to some of the people concerned. That is an example of the contrast between the efficiency of the administration of food in one country and another. It does indeed seem to be a paradox that in India which is very nearly self-sufficient in food, where the actual shortage is small in percentage, there has been starvation, chaos and confusion; whereas in Britain where supplies have been very severely reduced these evil features have not occurred. In saying this I am not unmindful of the tremendous difference in circumstances between the two countries. I am not forgetting the fact that it is far easier to control food supplies and distribution in a country where the number of farmers is limited, where most of the supplies depend on imports which can easily be controlled at source, as compared with this country where the food supply depends upon the efforts of millions of cultivators. I am not unconscious of that difference; nor am I unconscious of the fact that it is far easier for Government to administer food policy when it has behind it the support of a keen, alert public conscience, than in this country where,—I say this in no offensive spirit,—that conscience is not yet as highly developed as it will

have to become. (A voice: "That is the fault of Government.") It may be so. I am at the moment not concerned with faults but with facts. Whoever may be at fault, the fact is that in my own country the black marketeer,—and he does exist there as everywhere else in the world,—gets very short shrift from everybody concerned and from Government. When he is hauled up before a court he gets a sharp deterrent sentence; he is not let off with a nominal fine. But apart from the action of the courts he at once finds himself an object of social obloquy; he finds that the other people in his own neighbourhood do not want to have anything to do with him, and he has to go about ashamed of himself for some considerable time to come. In this country that does not happen. On the one hand the administration is lax in enforcing deterrent sentences against those who offend, and, on the other hand, that man does not receive sufficient practical condemnation from the people with whom he has to live. Let public opinion become real and alive on this subject and you will very soon find that administration has to respond. In most matters and in most countries administrations tend to lag behind public opinion. In this matter if public opinion is active, I am certain that the administration will soon be forced into greater and more effective activity.

But in spite of all these differences in circumstances, it is still worth asking the question as to why food administration in this country has fallen short of the standards achieved in Britain. The first and main reason seems to me to be this: That in Britain food policy was thought out, and laid down to its last details, before the onset of the present war. Staff was selected, trained, ready to take up its place the day war was declared. In this country, by way of contrast, we had a long period of hesitation, confusion, vacillation; an experimental period, a period of trial and error at a time when trial and error meant death for many people.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): It is still in experimental stages.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I need only remind you of the different stages through which the policy of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments passed. I may say briefly that first you had what I call the 'comic period', although it ought perhaps to be called the tragic period. It was the period when, at any rate in the some provinces, the District Magistrate was a law unto himself.

An Honourable Member: He is still.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: In some matters he ought to be so, but not over food.

Sir, I toured through some parts of the particular province at the time concerned and in the space of two days I saw three different District Magistrates who held different opinions and acted on them. The first gentleman said that prices must be kept down to ease the situation and help the consumers. The second gentleman said that prices must go up to help the cultivator. Number three was a comfortable man who said, "I think on the whole the best policy is not to bother".

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): That is a recommendation for the I.C.S. officers.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Sir, I cannot stop to answer that somewhat childish interruption.

It is not difficult to imagine what the result of this variation of policy was. Grain was pouring into the district boundaries with no arrangements for its distribution and sale. You had a great orgy of profiteering and speculation which months later began to make its effects felt on the unfortunate people who lived in those districts. That was the comic or tragic period, whatever you may like to call it.

Then you come to the attempt of Government to fix maximum wheat prices without getting control of stock and without any adequate control over movements. That was bound to result in confusion, as the result Government had to decontrol prices. That again led to the period of disaster from which Government tried to rescue us by the Basic Plan. The Basic Plan was excel-

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths]

lent as a plan, but it quite ignored the fact that there is such a thing as provincial autonomy and that provinces might not accept the views of the Central Government as to how much grain a particular province could be expected to contribute. The failure of that plan led us into a stage where Calcutta was on the borders of starvation and many deaths due to starvation had actually taken place. Calcutta was rescued by Government's permitting temporary reversion to free trade. I personally believe that at that particular time reversion to free trade was necessary, but, nevertheless, we all know the disastrous consequences which it brought in its train a little later.

From that stage we came on to the evolution of free trade, to what I may call the New Basic Plan, or the plan which is now in force. There have been, as I said, two years of vacillation, hesitation and experiment. That phase, I am inclined to believe, has now passed. The Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee last year, whatever its drawbacks may have been, did for the first time lay the foundations of a rational coherent food policy. I congratulate Government on at last having managed to evolve a policy of that nature and I would like to congratulate Dr. Sir Theodore Gregory for the part that he has played in it. I go so far as to say that if during his term of office as Economic Adviser he had done nothing else, the laying down of this coherent policy for the first time, would have justified his existence. I need only remind the House briefly of the five main points which comprise the policy laid down in that Report:

- (1) The policy of increasing supply both by trying to step up imports and by increasing home production.
- (2) The policy of making procurement a provincial matter based on an attempt to eliminate all competition and operating equally in all districts, whether those districts happen to be surplus or deficit.
- (3) Extension of rationing.
- (4) Better and more extensive price control was laid down as one of the aims.

and (5) A central foodgrain reserve was to be set up.

In the opinion of this Group, the policy laid down in that Report is sound. Indeed we associate ourselves with what is said in the Report that the ideal would be, under the present circumstances, for Government to take over the whole business of the purchase, distribution and sale of grain and foodstuffs. We recognize that it is not an easy thing to do, we recognize that the difficulties of complete monopoly are particularly great in those provinces where there is no elaborate revenue system, but our view, nevertheless, is that the more closely Government can approximate to the ideal of cent. per cent. purchase and distribution the nearer they will be to solving the difficulties of this country in the matter of food. And it follows, therefore, that we are wholly opposed to those who say that the time has come to remove regional control and to revert to the normal channels of trade. It is our view that any such reversion would be disastrous. The Report of the Gregory Committee really had the last word to say on this subject when it said:

"Free trade under conditions of scarcity on the one hand and fear on the other would be an open invitation for hoarders to hoard and for every rich man and speculator to invest or hoard or to do whatever satisfies him as most likely to be in his own interest."

We believe with that Committee that the policy of free trade might work out its own salvation, but there would be in the meantime an era of starvation to large sections of people in this country. We associate ourselves entirely with the stand which has been taken by the Government of India in this matter and we congratulate them upon having at least evolved a sound and coherent food policy.

I have spoken about policy. I now turn to administration and here, I am afraid, I have no such bouquet to hand out to the Government of India or to the Provincial Governments. We may be satisfied with their policy, but we cannot pretend to be satisfied with the administration. It is very difficult to generalize on this topic, for naturally the standard of administration varies very much from one part of the country to another . . .

An Honourable Member: Not at all.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: . . . and, I suppose, all of us speaking here are prepared to pay a tribute to the excellent administration carried out by the Government of Bombay of the food problem there. Unfortunately we cannot extend the same praise to all other parts of India. We, all of us, know of provinces where there has been chaos, confusion, timidity and resulting loss of public confidence, and we know of other provinces where excessive parochialism has also been a contributory factor in making the food situation worse. It is difficult then to generalize, but I shall try to illustrate my statement that on the whole food administration has been poor, by referring to two or three of the main spheres in which it operates.

Let me take first the sphere of enforcement. I think I can say without fear of exaggeration that in many provinces the controls have become a joke. Not only are they not enforced, but the very machinery for enforcement does not exist. Let me take, for example that most excellent Order—the Foodgrains Control Order—an order which if properly administered is the keystone of the whole of the procurement system. It is not an order which deals mainly with stopping people from doing a particular thing or prosecuting them when they do it, but it is an Order which was issued to enable Government to keep an eye on the stocks—to know where the stocks of grain are—and the intention was that the returns supplied by the dealers of grain would be examined by the department and would be made the basis of the organisation of procurement on the part of the agencies concerned. In practice, Sir, I know of at least two provinces in which those returns are merely filed in the office, examined by nobody, considered by nobody, not worth the paper on which they are written. And then again you turn to the Order in force in some provinces fixing a cordon round surplus districts. I quite understand that you cannot stop the occasional bullock-cart from sneaking across from the boundary of one district to another, but in the cases I have in mind it is not a question of an occasional bullock-cart; it is a question of thousands and thousands of maunds being moved from one district to another in complete defiance and disregard of that Order and with no action of any kind being taken by the authorities to try to bring the offenders to book. So I say that in the sphere of enforcement administration has been lamentably weak.

I now turn to the sphere of increased production. Here we must pay some tribute to what has been done. The Grow More Food campaign has achieved something. (Several Honourable Members: "No, no".) I am sorry.

I must disagree when you say, no, no. I was going to say that it could have achieved very much more but for the weakness of the administration. We know individual cases all over the country where attempts to Grow More Food have failed for lack of seed. Provinces and the Central Government have failed to make seed available at the right time and in the right place and in the right condition and this criticism applies with particular force to the Grow More Vegetable campaign. The National War Front at one time tried to run such a campaign. It had some success but from hundreds of places came the reports that the people had prepared themselves for growing more vegetables but had failed to get the seed. This has been one of the most serious administrative weaknesses in connection with the food situation. Far more serious has been the failure of the Governments themselves to set on foot the large scale cultivation of vegetables by their own agencies. The Army has done something. In fact it has done quite a lot in this respect in certain areas. But the Civil Governments are content to sit back and do nothing. Why should there not be a large scale movement to that end organized and led by every Government in this country?

Let me remind this House of what happened in the United Kingdom in the dark days of the middle of the last war. Britain was being brought near to the verge of starvation by the U-boat campaign. People did not sit down and say "what can we do". Government and the people got together and organized the greatest allotment movement ever known in the whole of history. That

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths] movement through a dark and difficult period was the salvation of Britain. Why don't we do the same?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The Government does not work with us. We do not know the Government.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Then why don't you and I—and even you Mr. President, if presidential duties are compatible with gardening,—determine to take part in a movement like this? It is no use sitting back waiting for Government. Governments will always be supine and particularly in this country. We can not blame Government for this silence if we are supine ourselves. Let us get busy today and see that such extra food as can be produced in this country is in fact produced. I could go on giving examples by the dozen. I could talk of the possibilities of breeding fish in East Bengal. I could remind this House that as far back as 1928 the Royal Commission on Agriculture pointed out that fish culture would be the quickest way of improving the food supply of this country. If only we had carried out 50 per cent. of its recommendations! (An Honourable Member: "You want boats.")—You do not want boats to catch fish from tanks! Then this country would have been in a better position than it is today. (Interruptions.) Don't let us always be talking about what somebody else ought to do. Let us talk about what we can do.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Oh, oh! But who are you? You are not an Indian?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I claim to be as much interested in saving the lives of people in this country as Prof. Ranga. If not, I should be ashamed of talking in this Assembly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Anyone should be ashamed to talk as you do, especially when he repeatedly claims to belong to a foreign country!

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: There is plenty of room for more energy in the growing of more food in this country.

Now to turn briefly to procurement. Wastage in certain provinces has become a scandal. The official figures of wastage are far below the wastage really assessed by those who have expert knowledge of the trade. I am not being unduly critical because I recognise that for officials, trained as I was, trained myself in an entirely different line of life, it is difficult to take over something new of that kind. My complaint against the official world is not so much its failure to do what was required as its failure at a sufficiently early stage to bring in those people who had the expert knowledge. They have started doing it now but they have done it late in the day. So in the sphere of procurement and storage, weak administration has been largely responsible for our troubles.

Then, I come to the sphere of price control. I cannot stop to talk of price control with regard to grain except to say that we have not made much progress towards that ideal of a uniform statutory price control which was set forth in the report of the Food Grains Policy Committee. But I want to talk mainly in the few minutes remaining to me about price control with regard to the non-cereal foods. The facts are too well-known. Everyone knows that in Calcutta today you pay Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 for a seer of fish and everyone knows that fish is passing out of the diet of the ordinary middle class person in Bengal. The Bengali community have been eaters of fish for centuries past. It may be said that to the Bengali fish-eating is as natural as making public speeches. But to-day in Calcutta it is a faculty for the exercise of which, unlike that of public speaking, he is not now being given the opportunity. Fish at Rs. 7 a seer, with no serious attempt made by Government to do anything about it, is in itself enough to condemn the food administration of this country.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Government is not aware of it!

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: The Food Member is listening carefully now. Perhaps he will be aware of it!

I realise that rationing is out of the question. Where rationing is out of the question, there the strictest possible price control is all the more important.

I have spoken about fish. I could equally well have spoken about potatoes. They are selling for Rs. 2/8 a seer in Calcutta. The Government made an attempt to sell potatoes at ten annas a seer. Labourers, coolies and others lined up, bought the potatoes, then sold them to shop-keepers who in turn sold them at Rs. 2/8 a seer. Government must know of this fact. It has taken no deterrent action to prevent that. Even in Bombay there has been a failure in this matter of price control. Again and again the European Association of Bombay has forced on the attention of Government steps which might be taken to deal with the situation which has now arisen. Always the reply has been the same—that the measures suggested are impracticable; that the Provincial Government in consultation with the Central Government has taken all possible steps. This is an old phrase. We have heard it so often. I can only say this. If they have taken all possible steps and if they have failed to achieve any result, then for heaven's sake let them try some impossible steps. It is not so long ago that we were told that rationing would be impossible in India. When the various Governments were forced into it, the impossibility melted away.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: To summarise what I have been saying. While we are satisfied with policy, we are not satisfied with administration. The biggest task lying ahead of the Government of India is to do something about strengthening the food situation at the Centre and in the Provinces in every possible way. If that means getting in more people, then more people must be got in. If these people are not available elsewhere they must be got back from the Army. Indian and European officers should be brought in from the Army to strengthen the food administration wherever necessary. This must be regarded as of paramount importance and an integral part of the war effort.

Finally, one problem to which I do wish to draw attention is the problem of Calcutta. The decision last year to take Calcutta out of Bengal and to supply Calcutta from outside was the greatest step forward in solving the food difficulties. Its effect was not only material but psychological. In my view it is essential that the Central Government should continue its policy of making itself responsible for the food supplies of Calcutta.

I notice the Honourable the Food Member looking worried. Let me assure him that other people will look far more worried if he tries to discontinue that policy.

Food is not a question of laying down a policy. It is a question of seeing that that policy is carried out. If the Honourable the Food Member can do this, if he can build up a sound, effective food administration, he will help to tide over the difficult twelve months that lie ahead and he will earn the gratitude, not only of this House, but of posterity.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): I would be failing in my duty if I do not acquaint this House with the situation with regard to food in the part of the country from which I come, I mean Bihar. Perhaps, Sir, you are aware that this part of the country was so rich and fertile that it was rightly characterised "The Garden of India". Today it is a God-forsaken land. It is not possible for me, at any rate adequately to describe the miseries and sufferings of the people who are living there. They simply beggar description. The District of Darbhanga, which is my home district, was and still is a surplus rice-producing district in Bihar. But what do you find there today? In the last two and a half years a very large population is living on rotten potatoes and roots, which have absolutely no nutritional value and which were formerly consumed by animals only. The result has been that people have lost all power of resistance and they are dying of malaria and cholera like flies. The medical experts are all unanimously of the opinion that the prevalence of epidemics is due to malnutrition and nothing else. You must have read in the papers that epidemics in

[Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha] North Bihar have played havoc and still are playing havoc there. The Governor of Bihar who visited the area recently was constrained to admit that the situation was disturbing. He has candidly admitted at a public conference that the deaths due to epidemics in North Bihar were two lakhs in the course of a few months and who were these people? The poor *kisans* and *mazdoors*. There are hundreds of villages which have been depopulated, hundreds of families have been completely wiped out. The tale of woe will stagger any man who has got a human heart.

Sir, you are aware that in Bengal last year lakhs of people died of starvation and I am told that deaths are taking place still today in that unfortunate province for want of food. I am an officer in charge of the North Bihar Co-operative Relief Committee, which has recently been organised to give succour to the dying people and I tell you from my own personal experience that in that area we distribute medicines and the patients are cured but they would get a relapse if they do not get proper diet. It is not possible for any non-official organisation to provide food for such a large population. It is the duty of the State and State alone. I would like to tell you that this condition has been brought about, in my humble opinion, due to the large purchases of grains made by the Government for purposes of hoarding and exporting them to foreign countries. It is a common secret that in the Government godowns lakhs of maunds of grains have decomposed and have been thrown away, while people have died of starvation. In the last month I had been to Calcutta and at a railway station the terrible stench coming out of the decomposed grains, which were thrown away, one could not easily stand. They could not properly estimate their requirements with the result that the large purchases by Government increased the price of food stuffs so much so that it went beyond the average reach of the ordinary people.

The second thing is this control business. It is my definite opinion, however good and useful the control policy may be, in actual practice in this country I find that it has proved ruinous. Only two classes of people have been benefited by it, viz., the officials who are in charge of control and the agents who have the monopoly of the sale of those controlled goods. But have the real producers got anything? Nothing at all. As soon as any commodity is controlled, it has a knack of disappearing from the regular market and it can be obtained only from the black market at a rate which an ordinary man cannot afford.

About corruption in this Department the less said the better. It is a common talk in the streets that the new class of bribe-takers have beaten absolutely hollow the police of this country who are notorious for bribe-taking. Certain foods which are required first for patients and sick people find their way straight to the officials as soon as they are received in the market and the civilian population suffer terribly for want of them.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Mr. Deputy President, I was talking about this control business when the Assembly adjourned for lunch. Certain foods which are required first for the patients and the sick persons find their way straight to the officials as soon as they are received in the market, and the civilian population suffer terribly for want of them. I would give you, Sir, only one illustration: take for instance Horlick's milk. You know that in certain diseases it is very badly required for the patients, but what happens in our part of the country? As soon as tins of Horlicks which have become very rare are received in the market, they find their way straight to the houses of officials who, I know, use them for daily consumption in the place of milk.

Sir, we are today faced with a situation which is unprecedented in the history of any civilised country. Can you imagine, Sir, this state of affairs

being tolerated in any country except in this unfortunate country of ours? No Government worth the name can exist for a single day where people die in lakhs by starvation and diseases which can be easily remedied and cured. In this country, in the course of the last two years and a half, deaths due to starvation are many times greater than the total deaths of soldiers of the British Empire in this war. I ask if even Mr. Churchill, who is considered indispensable for his country, will be tolerated even for one day if even a thousandth part of the deaths which have taken place in this country take place in England. The old saying is more applicable to this House or rather to the Government of this country than anywhere else—when Rome was burning Nero was fiddling. While people are dying in lakhs, I find the people in charge of the life and health of this country are going on merrily. We know that our voice in this House is a voice in the wilderness. We quite realise our helplessness in this House and I find that the Members opposite feel that they are fully entrenched. It is a fact. But, Mr. Deputy President, we believe in a destiny which rules above everything, and I am quite sure that sooner rather than later the day of reckoning is bound to overtake them and they will have to give account for the deaths of the dumb millions which have taken place due to mal-administration and to callousness on their part. With these words I resume my seat.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths who visited the United Kingdom very recently told this House this morning that so far as that country was concerned the Government there had completed food arrangements before the declaration of the war in 1939. The Government in India did nothing of the kind till 1942. They did not even have statistics as to what quantity of food was available and whether there was sufficient food for the existing population; they never considered that that population might be increased considerably on account of the war. From the very first, I should say, the Government should have realised that owing to the advent of a new consuming class and the arrival of a large army from outside in various branches of the fighting forces, India's economic difficulty would comprise not merely food grains but also such food articles as milk, fish, meat, poultry, vegetables, ghee, butter, etc.

Before proceeding to the point that I have just raised may I bring to the notice of this Honourable House a pamphlet in my possession as to what is the position in the United Kingdom since the declaration of war. The United Kingdom Government are not only looking to the proper quantity of food available for the Britishers but even to the proper quality. So far as quality is concerned we have done nothing. Quality is no consideration with us in this country. Rotten food is sold at prohibitive prices. I am talking particularly of Bengal. In the United Kingdom, apart from eggs, fruits and particularly oranges are being provided to every citizen. Government are providing vitaminised bread and margarine: they are also including some special body-building substance in the bread-flour which is being issued to the bakeries and catering establishments. The result in that country is that the health of the average Britisher today is better than what it was even before the war. Undoubtedly, I admit that a good deal has been done by way of better distribution of food grains throughout India, and particularly planning of transport for this purpose. But the net result in the production and distribution of other food articles is still unsatisfactory. I am putting a question to my Honourable friend the Food Member: Let him say how can a Government official or an assistant, drawing a pay of say, Rs. 100—the vast bulk is under that pay—make his two ends meet under the present circumstances. Sir, in 1943, the then Food Member, the Honourable Sir Azizul Huque visualised the difficulty, as regards food products other than the food grains. During the food debate in this House he specially referred to the question of production of vegetables in Bengal, particularly potatoes and onions. He referred that question to the

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi]

Bengal Government and warned them that it was high time they should try and, as far as possible, grow more potatoes and onions. What was the reply? The Government of Bengal in the beginning of 1943 did not think of taking any steps at all. On the other hand, they informed the Government of India that there was plenty of potatoes and onions in Bengal and that there need be no apprehension about their availability. What is the position today? Potatoes cannot be had at less than Rs. 1/4 per seer. What have they been doing? My friend Mr. Griffiths said that 'grow more food' campaign was a success to a certain extent. I say it is not only not a success but it has completely failed. The reason is this. The Provincial Governments have not taken that matter seriously. Apart from the seeds, what is the propaganda that the Provincial Governments are doing for the 'grow more food' campaign. So far as Bengal is concerned, the propaganda is a lecture or a speech at Peliti's or Firpo's to grow more food. That is my experience of Bengal. Whenever the Honourable Member has gone or even the present Member for Education, Health and Lands has gone to speak on the 'grow more food' subject, the meeting has taken place in a hotel. (An Honourable Member: "It is a call in the Hotel to 'Eat more food'".) Another difficulty which we are experiencing in Bengal is that hundreds of thousands of Americans have gone there—fighting men. They do not regard price as any consideration. Their instruction to their agents is this—we want so much cabbage and so much cauliflower at whatever price you can secure. The result is that a cabbage or a cauliflower cannot be had at less than Rs. 1/8 or Rs. 2. (An Honourable Member: "Do Americans live on cabbage? Are they vegetarians?") Sir, what is the result. So far as food grains are concerned, the position is better but surely man cannot live only on food grains. During the last famine, for want of food grains, we could see people dying in hundreds and thousands in the streets but now for want of protein food deaths are taking place daily at homes of which we have no statistics. Corporation Health Officer in Calcutta, Dr. Ahmad, in the course of a statement to the Press has said that the devitalization of the people in general at present is playing havoc in Bengal. And that is due to want of protein food. (An Honourable Member: "Fish?") Yes. Fish is selling at Rs. 6 per seer. Here is a statement published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 21st of April 1944. The rise in prices of articles of food in Bengal has shown an increase of over 250 per cent. over the level of 1941. It was much cheaper in 1939. It was still cheaper in 1940 but the biggest rise has taken place in 1941. Even these figures are much lower than what we are now asked to pay in my province. I will give one or two instances. Here is what the *Statesman* says. Mutton which was priced in 1941 at 6 annas per seer cannot be had now for less than Rs. 1/8. This figure is not correct, for it cannot be had for less than Rs. 2. That is my information. Then poultry and chicken . . . (An Honourable Member: "This is all rich man's food. Come to the common man.") Yes, I am coming to that, after disposing of the chicken. Eight annas was the price in 1941. It is Rs. 1/4 now. Fowl which was 8 annas is Rs. 3 now. I will not say anything more about this.

I now come to the common people's food. Leave alone vegetables like cauliflowers. Take ordinary vegetables like brinjals, ginger, green chillies, ladies' finger and so on. The price has increased 400 times over the prices in 1941. Take beans. It was 5 annas in 1941. Today it is 1/4 per seer. How can the poor man afford to buy and eat it at that price? These brinjals are ordinary food for the poor people and they could certainly grow more of them but they have not done it. The speeches that they make in the hotels or parties will not grow more food. The price of brinjals in 1941 was 2 annas a seer and before the war it used to be 2 pice per seer but it has gone up to 14 annas per seer. Then, take the case of *palwals*. Their price was 3 annas per seer in 1941 and it is now one rupee per seer. Now, what is the cumulative effect of the shortage of other foods? It is this that doctors have said that not only in Bengal but everywhere people have not got the strength to bear any disease and they will die in hundreds and thousands, of which you will have no

statistics because they will be shown as having died of some disease. But their deaths will really be due to want of protein food which unfortunately they cannot get.

My Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths has informed the House and I agree entirely with him and I would like also to give the same warning. Calcutta and the Greater Calcutta must be fed by the Centre.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Why?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I will tell you why. If you leave it to the Bengal Government . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You have no confidence in it?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Nothing of the kind. If you leave it to the Bengal Government, the result will be that for feeding Calcutta and the Greater Calcutta they will have to purchase rice in the mofassil and it will be sold at a much higher price in Calcutta, and the Greater Calcutta is a suburb of Calcutta where the mills are situated. Therefore, my point is: feed it from the Centre. You buy the surplus grains which are available in Bengal and stock it but do not allow the Province to interfere with the feeding of Calcutta and the Greater Calcutta. I give you this warning that the famine of the type we had in 1943 will come again. But the Government of India can surely buy any surplus food grains that may be available in Bengal.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Very well, I will finish my speech in one minute. What was the population of Calcutta in 1939 before the war? The population of Calcutta then was 18 lakhs and today it is 36 lakhs. It has been doubled. The army and the men who have come to work in connection with the war effort and the increased number of mill hands have doubled the population. On the top of that there is the army which has come.

Sir, I have finished.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I do not propose to discuss at length the points that have already been dealt with. I am certainly glad that my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths has made the position definitely clear as it exists today, and if a man in his position can understand the gravity of the situation, you can imagine what experiences we have to relate here. But I have neither the time nor a desire to dilate on them at length. The only point which I want to bring home is that in the last debate which took place in November 1943 the Honourable the Food Member gave us an assurance that under the revised basic plan they will secure as clear an account as possible of the surpluses and deficits and will move the surplus to the deficit areas without much delay. He did not make any categorical statement of the efforts that were made by his Department to implement the assurance that he gave to the House. Mr. Griffiths has, of course, pointed out that the different provinces were asked to file their lists of production, but there was none to verify them or to find out whether the statements that were filed were even worth the paper on which they were written.

Sir, I want to make out the point that although we have been having the discussion of the food situation for over two years now in this House and at different stages the Government Members had been giving us assurances, yet they have not been able to either convince their own selves or this House that they have acted in the manner in which they proposed to act or they acted in the spirit in which they gave the assurances. Mr. Griffiths has pointed out that in England where conditions are more difficult to manage and where the food position should have been far worse than in a country like India which had been self-sufficient from the point of view of the food supply, things have not been at all very bad. On the other hand, we notice that the conditions in United Kingdom are definitely better. The other day Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque in reply to a question of Mr. Manu Subedar said that in America the index prices have increased by only 26 per cent. whereas in India the index

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman] price today is at the level of 182 per cent. as compared to index of prices in 1939. And this is calculated on the basis of the control rates of commodities that the Civil Supplies Department and the Food Department have published. We all know that probably 90 per cent. of the commodities of civil supplies have had to be purchased in the black markets in spite of all the paraphernalia of staff the Civil Supply Department has got for the so called "Control". The same is the story so far as non-cereal commodities are concerned. There also the black marketeers were encouraged and they have thrived at the connivance of the Government, whether it was the Provincial Government or the Central Government or whether it was the case of a few individuals who were in charge at different places, or whether it was the Sub-Divisional Officer or the District Magistrate or some other officer of a higher status and position; the fact remains that there has not been any appreciable improvement anywhere in the matter of lowering the prices. It may be argued by some people that if a control was not introduced and if the Food Department had not come into existence, things would have been still worse. For arguments sake I may concede that point. But we have got to see what you have been able to do after making such an elaborate arrangement and after having such a big paraphernalia of the two Departments and the control orders issued by the Central Government in Consultation or in Co-operation with all the Provincial Governments. The three essential points are procurement, distribution and,—an important or impertinent point,—wastage. About procurement it was suggested by Sir

3 P.M. Cowasjee Jehangir in November 1943 that it should be made at the base, that is, directly through the agriculturists and at prices which could reasonably be fixed in consultation with the agriculture interests. This was not done. The Provincial Governments were authorised to procure these food grains in any manner they thought fit. There have been definite allegations that they were making profits at the cost of the consumer and of the peasants and there was agitation in the press about it for a long time. This matter was brought to the notice of the Government of India by definite expressions of opinions but Government attitude was that no notice of these would be taken.

The other point is about wastage,—I shall speak about distribution later. As regards wastage, it was brought out only the other day through questions that thousands of tons of wheat flour which were stored in Calcutta and other places had to be burnt or sold for manure purposes. The most pertinent point is that whatever was sold in Calcutta ration shops was in many cases not at all fit for human consumption. And it was not consumed by the public but thrown away. No statistics of that was kept or prepared by Government, although on many occasions letters were sent to the different departments, allegations were made in the press that the quality of rice and flour and pulses was extremely bad. No heed was paid to all that. In a ration shop you were forced to take what was placed for your use; whether it was fit for consumption or not was no concern of that shop or of this Government. The poor man who paid for it had to throw it away or take it at the risk of his life.

My friend Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha has correctly dealt with the situation in Bihar, how malaria, cholera and other diseases prevail as the immediate after-effects of malnutrition, supply of deteriorated and rotten stuff. This is creating far more havoc than the condition of famine would create. There are medical opinions that the quality of the food has deteriorated and it is deficient in the necessary vitamins and proteins on account of the high rates existing for non-cereals commodities like vegetables, etc.

I will now deal with the question of distribution. The cities and towns have got rationing arrangements now and I have experience of two cities, Calcutta and Patna. In Calcutta the quality of food that we get is definitely far inferior to what we get in Patna or Delhi. So Patna is in that respect better off under Rai Bahadur Mazumdar, the Controller; but the point is what price we have to pay in these ration shops. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in London said on the 26th June 1943 that prices in England were only about

15 per cent. over the pre-war prices of 1939. The index price in America is today only 26 per cent. over the 1939 figure but in India it is 182 per cent. higher in spite of controls. The price of food grains has gone up by about 300 to 400 per cent. Hapur wheat used to sell for Rs. 3/4 a maund, and now it sells at Rs. 11. At Patna good quality rice used to be sold at Rs. 4 per maund and now it is Rs. 12 at Ration Shops. The Food Member felt happy in saying that there has been a reduction in the price by a few annas and he wanted to take credit for that. But does he know that even now the consumer is paying 400 per cent. over the 1939 prices? Of course you cannot reduce the price of foodstuffs alone because that will make the condition of the agriculturist very much hopeless and perilous. You must bring down the prices of all other things like medicines, coal, cloth and, etc., and the other essentials of life like kerosene oil, etc. The index price should be brought down to the 1939 level which Government can do if they wanted to do. But there is no honesty of purpose and no sincerity of desire to do so. The whole purpose of control or fixing a ceiling price should be to bring back pre-war conditions, not only in one commodity but in all commodities simultaneously which this country can produce or procure. Of course it may be said that you cannot control articles that are imported and when you are compelled to purchase at the prices demanded by foreign markets. That is not the issue here. The point is that you have controlled all the commodities that this country is able to produce. At what prices have you done so and at what prices are you maintaining them? You are not importing wheat except to a very limited extent. You are not importing sugar, you are not importing cloth. Most of them are Indian produce and Indian manufacture and Indian made and you can very well control them.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Does my Honourable friend suggest that we are not importing wheat?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I said you are importing a very limited quantity of wheat. I want to make it clear that in the case of these commodities the Government have fixed the ceiling price and they are not trying to bring down prices to the normal level by and by. Within these two years have you been able to do something more in the direction of bringing down the prices? Not at all, otherwise they would not have been what they are today. The Honourable Food Member may say that at one time rice was not being available even at Rs. 30 per maund in Calcutta. That is not good enough. It was chaos, it was famine then. It was not a condition expected of any civilised Government. What I want to impress is this. That was an unnatural condition and no reliance can be placed on those conditions or on prices then raging for a few days or few months.

The question of cereals and non-cereals has already been discussed. I would say that not only food grains, but also vegetables and allied articles of food are being sold at exorbitant rates. In Calcutta, mutton is selling at Rs. 3-8-0 a seer. Fish which at one time used to sell at six to eight annas a seer went up to Rs. 10 a seer on a particular day. In Patna, meat which used to sell at four to six annas per seer is now about Rs. 1-8-0. There is no control of any kind and all these commodities are being consumed by the military department, I mean the personnel who are engaged with the military in India. With the inflated currency, the military people are able to purchase at any price, outbidding common people. Under such circumstances, what is the duty of any Government? It is no use issuing ration cards for wheat, rice and sugar only and for nothing else on this earth. That is the ration in Delhi, in Patna and everywhere. Is a man expected to live only on these two or three commodities? They may be essentials of the highest importance, but is it not necessary that if you want to have control and distribution on a wider scale, you should include all the commodities that are necessities of life in the ration list. A word about 'grow more food' campaign.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This question of 'grow more food' has received only lip sympathy. The Government made no arrangement to give financial aid to agriculturists for the procurement of seeds, manures and other things necessary for the 'grow more food' campaign. With these words, I resume my seat.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that the price of food grains should be brought down to pre-war level?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Provided the prices of all other things are also brought down to the same level.

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official): With your permission, I should like to place before this House first of all my actual experience of the conditions I found during my tour of the interior districts of Bengal in September last. I think we are all aware that there is a general deterioration of the food situation in the whole country, and although it is no doubt far more acute in the areas that I visited we must not forget that Assam, Orissa, Malabar, in the areas that I visited we must not forget that Assam, Orissa, Malabar, parts of U. P., and parts of Bihar are almost in the same condition as Bengal. We are apt to come to conclusions and make hasty generalisations about conditions in our country from what the conditions are in cities, or at the most our vision may extend to urban areas. But at the risk of repeating a trite but true fact, I should like to say that we forget that India is a land of villages and the village is the backbone of our economy. Sir, the plight and the condition of the cities or whatever complaints the city dwellers may have in regard to food situation can give no indication of the plight of the villages of India. Enforcement of the Vagrancy Act in Calcutta has made it still more difficult for city dwellers to understand what is happening outside and they will no doubt be protected now from any very harrowing sights of the type they saw last year. The Honourable Food Member told us, and it is no doubt true that there has been daily effective price control in regard to food grains, that rice is selling at Rs. 13 to Rs. 15 a maund. How has it benefited the village population in this country? In the areas and the places that I have visited particularly in villages, I found men, women and children utterly destitute, and these, I may remind the House, are not proverbial beggars about whom we have wonderful complacency. These are village folk who two years back had a definite place in the village structure, who had homestead in the villages, but today they are homeless and wandering. Sir, we see women and children devitalised, emaciated beyond control, wandering in the village homeless, living on rice water, begging from door to door, sleeping under the open sky in rain and storm. As regards the men folk some of them died in the last famine, others were ailing. We heard the most pitiable tales from these women. Many of them have had to sell themselves, or their daughters, so that the family should survive. This is not only true of the villages, but perhaps it is even more true of the urban areas, and this is a problem which has become more and more acute. The shame that covers them is a shame that covers every Indian woman today and the indictment against those who are responsible in the way that they tolerate such things, whether they be the authorities or the richer classes in the country, is a very heavy one indeed. Death by starvation is no doubt on the decline, but death from malnutrition, death from effects of undernourishment and disease, has taken a very heavy toll in the districts. It may be said that when there is bumper crop, bumper harvest in Bengal, why is it not possible for the agriculturist to come to the aid of those who are destitute by giving them employment and thus saving the rural village economy? Sir, the answer lies in the fact that it is only the price of certain foodgrains that has been controlled and prices of other food-stuffs are soaring high. I won't go into details because previous speakers have told you the conditions. Prices in cities, let me tell you, are far worse than in villages, when incomes are compared. You must also remember

that there are very large numbers of these agriculturists who are very small cultivators. The yield of their cultivable land is not very much and leaves very little surplus over their own requirements for sale, and it is not possible for them to meet their own necessities. How can they meet the necessities of others? I think the number of small holdings is 40 per cent. and neither these small cultivators nor the landless labour can be benefited very much by the control of foodgrains in this country. Turning to other articles of food, we find that salt is selling in some places at Rs. 1/8 to Rs. 2 per seer. We know that there is fish famine and milk famine. The condition is even worse in the villages, especially of artisans and of fishermen. Those who know Chandpur in the days of old and how the fishermen flourished there, can tell from a superficial survey of that part of the country that things are very different now. Last year I saw no boats in the rivers of Bengal. This year there were some here and there, but the beautiful scenes of hundreds and hundreds of sailing boats on the rivers of East Bengal are still absent. We hear so much that boats are being constructed, but no one knows how long it will be before we have enough of them and, in the meantime, these people starve and consumers are faced with fish famine.

Sir, we hear a great deal about rehabilitation and we realize its urgency. Let me tell you on behalf of those voluntary organisations and individuals who actually do the rehabilitation work how great the difficulties are. I do not say that it is true only of voluntary organisations, but I have seen officials—responsible officials—both in districts and in sub-divisions who have initiated work and are trying hard to ease the situation and it is not possible for them to do anything until the root causes are tackled and tackled effectively. I will give you an example of one village where we have been trying to work. It is the village of those who make cane products, such as baskets. When things are ready it is very difficult to transport them even to the next village. Marketing is very difficult and transport difficulties in the interior are acute. It is not enough to do rehabilitation work on these lines, although I do not want for one moment to say that those who are undertaking it are not doing something very useful. India, Sir, is a land of vast natural resources, a land which Nature intended as a land of plenty, but for more than a century it has become a land where food has gradually deteriorated and people are starving. I will quote an authority on this subject. A former Director of Public Health in Bengal said:

"That the people of this province are on a diet that even rats cannot survive for more than a few weeks. Eighty millions of the people of India are perpetually hungry."

And this was said in the days which we considered normal times and today in spite of the best efforts that may have been put in by the Government I claim that conditions are very much worse.

Sir, if we turn to the food policies of other countries like the United States and Britain, we find that they have been based on nutritional considerations and a well planned programme of food production and distribution, after an estimation of requirements has been followed. Price control over all commodities since the war began has been effective. Mr. Griffiths spoke this morning and said that these things were more effective in England because public conscience was aroused. Well, that certainly is true, but you have also to consider that that is a country where there is 98 per cent. of literacy. In India the standard of literacy is 8 per cent. How can you expect public conscience of villagers of this country to go up to the level of the United Kingdom? Quite apart from public conscience, let me tell you that even there people alone could not have done anything. The success that they have achieved is due to the fact that Government is giving generous subsidies. We find that huge and generous food subsidies are paid. In so small a country a subsidy of 102 million pounds was paid in 1942 to the growers of food and that naturally makes the Grow More Food campaign a real and a living thing. It is also perhaps the most effective way by which prices can be lowered for the consumer without hurting the cultivator. If

[Mrs. Renuka Ray]
prevents anti-social hoarding, distributes the burden and makes it possible for food to reach all.

Then, Sir, 70 million pounds is paid in Britain for giving free and cheap milk to children. This brings me to the most important problem in this country—milk famine. I would draw the attention both of the authorities and of the public to this, for if the present situation continues—it is becoming more and more acute in villages, in towns, in cities, everywhere—decay and deterioration of our race is certain. It is for this reason that the All-India Women's Conference has placed this as a major item of work for the year. First of all, I think, we must have the slaughter of cattle entirely banned. Cattle farming and care of cattle should be encouraged by giving generous subsidies to farmers. Milk subsidies should be encouraged and the most important point is that there should be strict rationing of all milk available today. Milk should be made available for children, for nursing mothers, and for invalids. Luxury products—food for the rich—should be entirely banned until such time as there is enough food for the babies of India. Distribution should be properly adjusted. There should be a sufficient number of cheap and free milk canteens for children. I would appeal to every Member in this House not to rest content until we are satisfied that we have been able to obtain enough milk so that our children can survive, so that they can be able-bodied, so that they can be healthy specimens and pride of free India.

I would like very much to agree with the Honourable the Food Member when he says that public confidence has been restored. It may be true that panic to a large extent has been alleviated, but if the Government has to restore public confidence they must convince the people that they are working in the interest of the people, and they should get their co-operation, and then alone public confidence will be restored and then we can expect normal times to come back.

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam; Non-Muhammadian Rural):
It is my lot to speak of two provinces. One is Orissa and the other is Andhra because my constituency spreads over the two provinces of old Ganjam and the present Vizagapatam. In my last speech, i.e., on the food debate in November 1943 I expressed the woes of Orissa, how people were suffering from want of food, yet the Orissa Government was exporting rice in large quantities. Perhaps that speech of mine brought down the Orissa Premier from Orissa to Delhi and took Lord Wavell from Delhi to Orissa, that is Cuttack. They have seen with their own eyes the conditions prevailing in Orissa. Something was done but Orissa is still in the grip of a famine and the export of rice is still continuing. It is not a happy sign.

Coming to my district, here is a telegram from a far off place like Sompeta. Perhaps this is a copy of the telegram sent to the Honourable the Food Member:

Two coppers rice taluqa people starving pray sanction more. Sinderi Ram Swami Sompeta."

This shows how appalling are the conditions of the rural areas. How on earth can an adult get on with 1/8 measure? A measure is something like 40 tolas in my district and 1/8 means 5 tolas per head per day. If rationing is on this model let it not be prevailing in India. It may be child's play in England but it is the demon's play in India. If this is the kind of rationing that must be in the rural parts of my constituency, away with it.

The other day one of our friends on the other side asked me: How are the people getting on in your part of the country? I told him we are living on *gajarajaboga*. It has a very big and rough grain. It was given to elephants before the war and is now used by civilians, by gentlemen of your and my stamp. This has been the root of the trouble of cholera spreading like wild fire in Vizagapatam, that famous place which was first visited by the Japs on the

6th April 1942 where the military is very strong. Cholera spread to the military—thank God! At once there was a flutter in the medical world, in the police world, in the military world. There was a great conference of all the medical men in the district. They found out that the supply of this abominable rice was responsible for the spread of cholera. It was stopped and the cholera stopped in a week. *Gajaraja* was sent to the forests!

In the papers we hear of hundreds of villages being depopulated. There is a place called Kottarevu in the coastal belt of Ganjam. It had a population of 2,000 before the war. Now it is near about 1,000. What has become of the other one thousand in four years? They have died of cholera, then malaria and afterwards from a peculiar disease which, in the beginning, is only a skin disease. It then develops into a sore. It spreads throughout the body until the whole of it becomes soft and the man dies within 24 hours of that. Here, Sir, I have got photos to show how appalling are the conditions of the people who are dying in thousands after suffering terribly.

(Exhibits photos to Assembly.)

There are rural dispensaries but they are apologies of dispensaries. They have neither medicines nor doctors. One doctor was telling me that it is impossible to find out what this disease is. He, however, felt that it was due to mal-nutrition that this disease was spreading. This remark was sent to the Health Inspector of the village and through him to the Tehsildar. He did not know what to do so he forwarded it to the District Magistrate. The next morning comes the Fatwa: "No such complaints hereafter. I cannot tolerate them. If there is malaria, there is the rural dispensary. If there is medicine they will get it, or else die." That is the attitude taken by the officials and the truth is not allowed to be given out. The members on the opposite may say 'there are no complaints'. How can you have complaints? If I write a letter from Vizagapatam, even about cholera, it is censored and I am sent to jail for it. And suppose the letter reaches, he cannot make a complaint to anybody else. Even officers are not permitted to make complaints. Such is the maladministration which is rooted deep in the rural administration of yours. You may be proud of it; you may be complacent about it. You may feel very happy for the coming era of plenty. Sir, you are disappointed. You will be deceived. Self-deception is the worst offence that one can commit. Please do not be a victim to it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Hear, hear. Self-deception.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: There are certain villages which are deserted. Here is a photo of a deserted village—not of Goldsmith.

(Exhibits a photo to Assembly.)

These are the conditions. I will now tell you something of the urban areas. I come from a place which is so called urban. There we were getting half a seer of rice as ration. That is 40 tolas in weight. Sometime God knows why, it was reduced to half of 40, i.e., 20 tolas per day per head and 10 tolas for a child under 12.

Sir, we have got instead of one or two Tahsildars—several—1. the Distribution Tahsildar, 2. the Reception Tahsildar, 3. the Construction Tahsildar, 4. the Ration Tahsildar, 5. the Destruction Tahsildar, and so many other Tahsildars, yet the people are allowed to suffer. There is a village called Gajapatinagra, 14 miles away from Vizianagram. People come from that village to Vizianagram once a week to take their ration cards for 1/4 seer, i.e., 20 tolas of rice per day per week. They were sleeping on the road one night. It so happened that I had to pass through that road. I woke up some people there and asked them what they meant by sleeping on the roadside. They said: "What are we to do? The Tahsildar who is in charge of rationing has got to do other business as well and he is absent. We have to wait till the morning". All of them were foodless—For 24 hours—They were sleeping on the hard metalled road without food. They have to go 14 miles up and down to take their ration cards. That is the condition in the rural areas.

[Mr. K. S. Gupta]

Here is another telegram from the producers. The consumers as well as the producers are suffering in the same manner. Perhaps the Food Member has also received a copy of this telegram. The telegram says:

"Andhra Kisans plead higher purchasing power through higher prices for agricultural goods to meet heavy cost of agriculture. Pray two maunds paddy minimum, Rs. 12 at kisan's home. Oppose asking lower prices food grains proletariat professionals may be given more wages but should not agitate lowering food prices. Letter follows: Subbiah, Secretary, Andhra Ryots' Association and Paddy Growers Council, Andhra."

What becomes of the producer and the consumer? They are not taken into consideration. But who looms large between the two? It is the middleman. The Government has created a third class and that is the middleman's. Who is he? He acts as a buffer—between the Government and the producer. He always puts his trust in the Government and the Government trusts the middleman but not the producer. The producer has to part with certain stocks at a price less than what it costs him to produce. In these days when you cry hoarse with regard to the Grow More Food campaign, which is mere bunkum or humbug to expect the peasant to grow more food when he is not given the necessary materials? Not an acre has been added to the paddy-growing area. In Vizagapatam and Vizianagaram we were having beautiful rice, because we are midway between Berhampur and Jaipur. Excellent rice was available in the markets of Vizagapatam but all that is gone. But where has it gone, underground or overground, I am sure not on the ground. That was the question which one of the members on the other side put. I ask the same question. He gives no answer. If he does not know let him quit his post and someone who is better informed and who is in the know of things will take his place. What happened is this. All the goods are purchased by the military contractors and stored. Only rotten stuffs unfit for human consumption is released for civilian consumption. Do you call it humanity or chivalry? Whatever you call it, it is abominable negligence, it is atrocious and outrageous negligence on the part of the Government which permit only things unfit for human consumption to be released for civilian consumption. I read in the *Statesman* the other day that 40,000 tons of spoilt wheat was sold to a military contractor, who got it cleaned and again resold it to the Government for civilian consumption at a profit of Rs. 48,000. Is it not atrocious? Is it not abominable that what is unfit for human consumption should be sold to the civilian population at a price which is Rs. 48,000 higher? Similarly, I heard (of course it is a very reliable information) that 80,000 tons of dehydrated potatoes were sold in the market which was absolutely unfit for human consumption. Who asked the Government to dehydrate so much quantity which was not required by them and then when it got rotten and unfit for human consumption to release it to the civilian population? The other day at Vizagapatam I saw two tins of ghee reserved and preserved for the military being sold in the market. They contained worms 2 to 3 inches. If it had been sent in Burma where they make a feast of these worms I would have understood it. But please do not sell this dirty ghee in Vizagapatam for civilian consumption when it is unfit for human consumption.

Please note that in India there is a lot of disaffection on account of your maladministration. What is the remedy? You say you have planned. When do you start? When are you going to give effect to your plans? Your plans are wrong from the beginning and when they are administered the result is maladministration, and every thing *malafide* and not *bona fide* with the Government. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi in his letters to the Viceroy has suggested a splendid remedy. The real workers are not the Government and their underlings but those leaders and workers, the Congressmen, who are in jail. Release them. They will come to your rescue, to the rescue of the people who are suffering. They will do all the necessary work. If you don't it means that you do not want the people who are suffering to have their

sufferings alleviated and that you do not like that real workers should be out. But remember that does not go well with you any longer.

I will speak about Black market under the white administration. Palasa is a village, which is of course a railway station. There the black market is open and notorious. Officers of the Government know it, they connive at it and they encourage it. These are the conditions that are prevailing in the rural parts. My friend Mr. Sinha said that Bihar is God forsaken. I may tell you that my part of the country is not only God forsaken but man forgotten.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, my principal complaint about the speech which the Honourable Member in charge made last week is that it lacked a realistic background. When the Honourable Member made his speech, it seemed to me that it was intended perhaps to be sent to the India Office to serve as a basis for one of those self-righteous speeches of Mr. Amery in which he assures the world that all is well with India. When I read the few lines which the Honourable Member chose to devote to the position of Bengal, I wondered within myself as to whether the Honourable Member forgot the poignancy of the situation with which we are still faced in that hapless province. I am not going to refer to the tragedy that happened last year when, according to our calculation, 30 lakhs of people lost their lives out of sheer hunger. I know how that figure was sought to be minimised by the official statistical cooking agents; but I should on the present occasion begin by quoting the Governor of Bengal as my authority. The Governor of Bengal in a broadcast which he made about six weeks ago gave the number of persons who were on the dole at that time in one shape or another, as two and three-quarter lakhs. 2½ lakhs of people were on the dole in one shape or another about six weeks ago in Bengal. The Governor took care to add that he did not of course say that many more were not having a hard time of it, but that "the extent of distress approaching destitution is not sufficient to cause serious concern". When the Governor gives this figure, we, from our own experience of the policy of Government,—as also experience of the exact practice that obtains in these matters—know that if 2½ lakhs of people were on the dole, according to the admission of the Governor, a very much larger number were actually on the verge of starvation and destitution, who were not receiving the attention that they deserved at the hands of the Government. The Governor was good enough then to refer to the epidemic situation because he himself admitted that when considering the distress we should also consider the state of public health, and he said that malaria had unfortunately reappeared in an epidemic form in some parts of the province. This statement of Mr. Casey was challenged by no less an authority than Dr. B. C. Roy in a very long statement which I have before me now, in which he pointed out that it was wholly inaccurate to say that malaria had reappeared in Bengal, that if anything it was prevailing all the time and it had only reappeared in a much aggravated form. Furthermore, he made out that the number of people afflicted was almost unbelievably high; he gave certain figures and proportions, from which he came to the conclusion that the situation was indeed very grave. He further pointed out that it was wholly inaccurate to say that malaria had appeared in an epidemic form in some parts of Bengal, and asserted that with the exception of the Himalayan tracts in the north, the entire province of Bengal was in the deadly grip of the malaria epidemic. Dr. Roy further pointed out the difficulties in the procurement of medicines. He is at the head of a charitable organisation that is doing splendid work in Bengal, and he cited several instances to show that quinine was either non-obtainable or obtainable only with great difficulty. Only a few days ago, at a meeting of the upper House in Bengal, even the Leader of the European group complained that according to his information, Government's instructions in regard to the distribution of quinine and other anti-malarial drugs were not being properly carried out. I have another official statement before me to indicate that in the first five months of this year as many as 24,59,000 odd patients suffering from malaria had resorted to hospitals

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and charitable dispensaries of which statistics are maintained by Government. If about 25 lakhs of people actually resorted to public hospitals and dispensaries, how many more people were silently suffering and perhaps dying without any treatment? When this matter came up for discussion a few days ago in the upper House in Bengal, the Public Health Minister said that everything humanly possible was being done; but he added that so long as people could not be supplied with nutritious food, he did not think that it would be possible to solve the problem of malaria successfully.

If I were now to refer to the testimony of a military officer, Major General Stuart, who in a statement issued in January dealt with this situation, the House would observe how the situation has continued from bad to worse, from January onwards. Referring to his own experience in January—or rather the previous few weeks,—he made out that the mortality from malaria was very high; he also referred to the prevalence of small-pox; he complained that quinine was not available and whatever was available was not of the right kind. Then he said that in almost all the households he himself had visited more than one person had died of malaria and some more were down with it.

A few weeks ago there was a conference of medical men in Calcutta in which they came to the view that at least 40 per cent. of the people of Bengal must be suffering from malaria and that the supply of medicines was inadequate. Leaving aside the countryside, what about Calcutta, which manages to get some amount of attention at least, at the hands of Government? There are two wards in the city municipality of Calcutta which are at the present moment in the grip of malaria, and it has been estimated that about 70 to 75 per cent. of the population living in these two wards are afflicted with malaria; and the testimony of the city municipal health officer has already been quoted by my Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi in which he has stated, referring to the prevalence of malaria in Calcutta, that one of the factors responsible is the devitalisation of the people in general.

I should like to refer now to another set of statistics. Honourable Members read every morning in their newspaper the number of sick destitute persons who are either admitted to the hospitals in Calcutta or have died in hospitals. I took the trouble of adding up the number for the month of October day by day; and this is what I find: in the month of October 968 sick destitutes were admitted to the hospitals in Calcutta, and 293 of such destitutes died in hospitals in that month. Sir, these figures relating to sick destitutes show that a large number of destitutes who are to be found in the city of Calcutta are dying every month and every day in the hospitals. From our experience we know that hospitals in Calcutta are not too generous in their treatment of the sick destitutes—I have my own personal knowledge in the matter. The House will therefore be in a position to realise from these two figures the extent of distress that prevails. Let the House not be under a misapprehension that these statistics relate to what are called the professional beggar class. They are people who come from all over the country in search of food in Calcutta, lured by the wealth of the city and the fact that it abounds in charitable organisations and charitably minded citizens. And some of them who fall sick and very seriously sick get admitted to the hospitals and they die in these numbers even today.

From all these figures and statements to which I have made reference, the House will know that there is no room for complacency. The situation in Bengal is very, very grave indeed. I am free to admit that more food grains have moved into Bengal. There has been a bumper crop of late and the prospects of the next crop are not altogether bad but, in spite of all this, we have to meet a situation which never arose in the history of British India. The tragedy of last year has left an aftermath which has not to be grappled with, with courage and fortitude on behalf of Government, and with the full co-operation of the people.

This leads me to the point which my Honourable friend in charge relegated to the end of his speech by way of a peroration. The Honourable Member perhaps thought that his title to be called a Food Member might be challenged in this House. (An Honourable Member: "Not at all. He is so-fat".) So far his responsibilities have not extended beyond food grains. He may truly be described as the Member for food grains. In order that he might justify his official title he referred to a Food Committee of the Executive Council which, I understand, are considering various matters at a very high level. He said that the principal object of the Committee was the co-ordination of policy at a high level. I am afraid that the height of the level may be so great as not to enable the Honourable Members to realise the miseries of the lowly. I am not going to repeat what has been said already by previous speakers regarding protective food, regarding balanced food and better food. I make bold to assert that if the food of the people of Bengal was not balanced last year, it is less balanced this year. If the people of Bengal did not have a sufficiency of protective food last year, the survivors of the famine have much less of protective food this year, and if the people of Bengal did not have food of the proper quality last year, they are having a much worse quality of food this year.

I might make a passing reference to the fact that, apart from the deterioration in the quality of the rice and the wheat stuffs that are supplied to us, we are accustomed nowadays to have a fair proportion of stone chips mixed with the rice that we take, and I am waiting for my Honourable friend to explain the vitamin value of pebbles.

My Honourable friend in his speech referred to the fact that wastage is a normal incident of storage, and that even before Government interfered with distribution and procurement, normally, taking the prewar figures, there was a wastage of about a million tons every year in the foodstuffs. I am prepared to admit the accuracy of the statement. I am very glad that my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths said that figures given by Government as regards wastage have got to be taken with a grain of salt, and that the actual wastage perhaps is much more considerable than what appears from Government statements. But, apart from that, in the past, before Government came to interfere with procurement and supply, the people were at liberty to pick and choose. It was not possible for the private trader to palm off bad quality of food. It was always possible for the consumer to have his say in the selection of the foodstuffs. Now, what is the present position? Due to Government control, and due particularly to rationing in those places where rationing has been introduced, bad food and unwholesome food is being rammed down our throats with the help of the Defence of India Rules. The question arose in several cases in Bengal as to whether the municipalities had their usual authority to inspect samples of food which were issued to the consumers in the Government controlled shops. There were several instances in which there was a tussle between the municipal authorities and the authorities of the Civil Supply Department, and in one instance I understand that the Advocate General of Bengal gave the opinion that if any action is authorised by the Food Control Act and such action is inconsistent with the Municipal Act, then the latter Act must give way. That is why I was saying that unwholesome food, bad food, is being rammed down our throats with the help of the Defence of India Rules. That was certainly not the position in the pre-war days to which my Honourable friend made reference.

Then again, we find how different departments of Government are at variance with each other over this point. The Mayor of Calcutta stated recently that although Mr. Holland, the Secretary of the Public Health and Local Self Government Department of Bengal, had told the Mayor that he had recommended that the Health Department of the Corporation should be allowed to take samples of foodstuffs from the ration shops, the view of the

[Mr. K. C. Neogy]

Rationing Department was that the Health Department of the Corporation could not be allowed to take such samples. The dispute is yet pending and the Corporation has not succeeded in asserting its authority in the matter in the interests of the consumers of the city of Calcutta.

A casual reference was made by my Honourable friend Mr. Gupta to the policy of censorship that is exercised over the publication of matters referring to the food situation. I have my personal testimony to give to this House. On one occasion, on return from a tour, I wanted a statement to be published on my own authority and the newspaper concerned definitely declined to publish the statement. That is the policy of Government. I would not call it censorship, but various instructions have been issued to the Press to be careful about allowing publicity being given to statements regarding the food situation, particularly the food procurement and food distribution system of Government. (An Honourable Member: "Is it a fact?") Yes. It is a fact. Unfortunately I have not got the instructions before me at the moment. I did possess a set of instructions which were issued to the Press in this connection. I have not got those papers with me at the present moment. I speak from recollection. In one of those sets of instructions, the Press Adviser advised the newspaper editors to be careful about publishing statements which may have been passed through the news agencies. That is to say, they did not want any prominence to be given to items of news which may have been even formally passed by Press Censors. Therefore it seems to me.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I would like to wind up my remarks by saying that the Government must make up its mind to act firmly and solve the enormous difficulties that lie in the way of a complete success of their policy. If they hesitate to do so, then perhaps, behind the Imperial shield, millions of people will have to repose in the serenity of a grave-yard whose boundaries may coincide with the boundaries of the province of Bengal.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I listened with great attention to the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths today. He was criticising every act not only of the Administration but also of the organisation of this Food Department and the Food Association. I agree with him so far as he had been attacking the Government and the Government policy. But when he launched in the realm of attacking the public of India, I differed from him entirely. He said that the public ought to co-operate in these food measures adopted by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments. My own assertion is that there are very few organisations in the provinces and I assert it on the floor of this House that the public of the provinces is not being taken into confidence at all. I stand here as a Member of this Assembly and I represent 12 districts of my province and I say it here that they have not approached a single individual who represents the public. This is my charge against the Government and I say it on the floor of this House that it is fact that so long as the Government does not take with it the public of India to organise and help in the organisation of this foodgrains business, it will be impossible to give good grain to the public of India.

Sir, I will quote from the very book which perhaps is under the direction of my friend Mr. Griffiths. It is the *Indian Information* dated the 1st September 1944. On page 202 it is said:

"Much controversy has centred round the question of the quality of foodgrains supplied to deficit provinces by surplus areas."

So far so good. Then, it goes on:

"The recipient Administrations have complained that the grains supplied have generally been far below the average standards and that inspection arrangements have not worked satisfactorily."

My friend on the other side or even the Government Member cannot possibly deny that the foodgrains that have been supplied to the people of India have been below the eatable standard for human consumption. The report goes on to say:

"The Central Government's position as regards the responsibility for inspection was clarified by Mr. B. R. Sen, the Director General, Food, in the Council of State during food debate last month when he stated that the inspection before the despatch of grains from the supplying areas was a responsibility of the receiving Provincial Governments and not of the Central Government."

Now, Sir, this is the state of affairs. The Central Government is shifting its responsibility on the Provincial Governments and the Provincial Governments in their own way are shifting their responsibility to the Central Government. Is this the way in which the people of India are to be fed? I do not object that you should not feed your soldiers. You have to feed your soldiers but not at the expense of the whole of the Indian civil population. Where will you get your soldiers from afterwards, if you do not feed the civil population properly? Is that the way in which the Government of India should manage the food production and the food policy? There may be a policy, but we are not to eat the policy; we have to eat the foodgrains and I have shown how they are being distributed according to your own paper *Indian Information*.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

It may be all right for our friends on the Government side to say that you are getting your rations. My friend Mr. Gupta has shown what is the condition in the villages. You say that you have advanced money to the provinces and they distribute this money for food production to the ryots in the provinces. But you put some money in one pocket of the ryot and from the other pocket you take out from the same ryot to the tune of 25 per cent of his rent for war subscription. Is that the way in which food production is to be developed? It is impossible. How can the poor tenant who has to pay 25 per cent. of his rent in my own province of U.P. thrive? The argument may be that because the tenants are making large profits over the prices of articles of food. If they are making money over the prices of their foodgrains, then they are at the same time paying much more for cloth and other necessities of life, marriages and death ceremonies.

Now, what is being sold in the villages? In my part of the province, Government has control in the cities and in some of the villages of water, light and even our food. The result will be that the people in the villages will die and die.

Now, my friend Mr. Neogy has given an illustration as to how people are dying from cholera. Yesterday I asked Mr. Tyson as to what was the condition in Gorakhpur. Hundreds of people are dying there of cholera. All this is due to the mal-nutrition which has been due to the bad administration in the villages and the cities. I remember the day when His Excellency the Viceroy visited Lucknow and you will be surprised to hear what happened. His Excellency the Viceroy went round Lucknow with His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces. And what was the result? On the streets that the Viceroy or the Governor passes, the police is made to stand up and to guard the route. The moment the people come to know that the police is there to guard the streets, they know for a fact that there is some high official who has to pass those streets. So, the rationing shops make the arrangement to produce good articles for show only because they are not meant for sale. Is that the way in which the rationing shops are to be inspected? The best way for their inspection is not that His Excellency the Viceroy or the Governor of the province should go to inspect these shops. The moment they know that the Governor is coming they are bound to put good things in their shops.

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali.]

So does any of my friends like this inspection to be made by Government officials? The public have no confidence in Government which, as I said, is putting money into one pocket and taking it out from another pocket. Any one who travels on the railways has noticed lands by the side of the railway lines which can easily be cultivated by Government or with the help of cultivators. But that is not done. It is only on land which is already cultivated that they want to grow more food. Why not give good seeds and provide new land for cultivation? We cannot rely on the Agricultural Department and the Collectors about whom we have heard from Mr. Gupta. Mr. Griffiths also spoke about three Collectors whom he saw. Therefore the public must be taken into confidence, at least the members of the Assemblies should be taken into your confidence. The Assemblies may not be sitting now but Government knows them and the district officials can surely approach them as representatives of the people. But when you do not trust the public, how can you expect them to trust you? You may say that you have added new people to your staff on higher pay and imported experts from Europe and America. But they do not know the conditions in India. Have any of my friends in the European Group visited one single village here? I dare say they have not.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): On what basis does the Honourable Member make that statement?

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: You may go for a shoot but not to study their conditions. My Honourable friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer and his friends can pay high prices for their foodstuffs and they do not care for the villages. Does any of them hold one single village? No. Therefore they have no sympathy for the Indian peasant; they only want to have experts from abroad and nothing more.

Sir, in my own town twice every week there is a market and contractors come with lorries and buy up everything for the army. And as a result potatoes sell at Rs. 2-8-0 a seer and tomatoes at one rupee per seer. How can you expect poor villagers or towns people to buy things at such prohibitive prices? Rich people in big places like Calcutta or Delhi may buy anything at any price but it is impossible for poor people.

Now as regards *atta*. Wheat is brought from the village to the towns and then it goes to the city. Now in big cities and towns in my part of the country, there are small mills put up by some contractors. I take 2 or 5 seers of wheat there for grinding and I put my bag there. What is the guarantee that he grinds good quality of wheat. He will always mix it up. Who is to inspect it? If I make a report I have to take the whole bag to the city to prove my case to the magistrate. These are our difficulties. Then in the villages they do not get kerosene oil and cannot light up their houses. With regard to grains also whatever they produce they take to market at once, keeping just enough to last them for one year. Mr. Kirby in a statement made at Bombay said that the responsibility is of Government to supply first-class quality to the consumer. Every one knows of course, that the consumer is helpless and has to take what is offered. He also says that it is the responsibility of the producer and the cultivator. I fail to see how it can be the responsibility of the cultivator. He has to sell good quality to the contractor who would not otherwise take it. So he cannot be responsible. It is the responsibility of the contractor who is enriched by Government contracts. It is also the responsibility of Government who have got their inspecting and organising staff. Sir, I have done.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, from the trend of the speeches of most Honourable Members in this House from this morning, one would get the impression that in the first place, the food situation in India was brought about by the Food Department, whereas the

truth is that the Food Department is actually the product of the food situation, and secondly, that Bengal and Bengal alone is entitled to the consideration of the Government of India in the matter of the solution of the food problem, and further that the situation that existed last year with reference to Bengal continues to exist in Bengal today. Yet another impression was created by the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths, that all the sins that have been committed with regard to the situation in India was committed by the Government of India and that compared to the way that the British Government and the British people have tackled the problem in their own country, the Government of India was a great sinner. I always held the view and still hold the view that the food situation in India was rather sprung upon the Government of India on account of lack of forethought and planning on the part of His Majesty's Government. In the first place, His Majesty's Government were in a position to know and they were the only people to know that there was going to be a war, and that consequently all preparations with regard to food supply and so on could be made earlier by them. I do not suppose the Government of India could have ever known that war was to be declared very soon and consequently the food situation in India was due, according to me, speaking in a way, to the fall of Singapore. The maintenance of the defence of Singapore was the entire responsibility of the British Government. I do not think the then Viceroy of India or the then Commander-in-Chief of India, who now happens to be the Viceroy, would have even foreseen that the Japanese would be practically at the door steps of Calcutta in such a short time and in such a quick time as from December 1941 to April 1942. I attribute this unfortunate position with regard to food in India to the circumstances beyond the control of the Government of India. I rather got the impression that my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths when he attacked with such vehemence the Government of India, he rather wanted to draw a blind as against this primary responsibility which lay upon His Majesty's Government and which responsibility His Majesty's Government did not discharge to the satisfaction of the people of India at all. However, I feel that between last year and now the situation has so considerably improved that the credit for that improvement ought to be given to the Government of India in some manner.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Always.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: It may be that nature has also helped the Government of India in restoring the confidence of the people so far as the question of food supply is concerned. There can be no doubt that the people all over India have now reconciled themselves to the fact that there is shortage of supply, not due to the fault of anybody, but due to circumstances beyond the control of the Government and of the people of India and that steps are being taken, however feeble and however, probably so far, not quite effective, steps are being taken to see that every man gets an assured supply of food. It may be that it is much less than what the authorities will call the minimum necessary for nutritive or healthy diet.

There is a feature about food situation in India also. As has been pointed out by the Honourable Food Member, this is not a problem which is entirely new or which is entirely due to the war. As I already pointed out once before, the fact that it has shifted from the village to the city does not alter the position, namely, that all the time there were a certain number of people in India who never got any food at all, or who got very little food. This is unfortunately due to the structure of Indian society and the Indian economy for years and years. The Indian society has always kept at its disposal a certain section of the population to be offered as a sort of sacrifice whenever there was a terrible strain on its economy, especially food economy. Whenever there was famine, or flood or epidemic, there was always a certain section of people who were sacrificed and they were nearly all the same section of people. That is the people who always bore the brunt of these unfortunate emergencies. It is those people who always lived on the outskirts of villages. Today

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we hear many Honourable friends referring to the condition of the villages and all the steps that have been taken so far have been really to help the people residing in urban areas and the villagers have not been looked after. If that is the condition with regard to the regular people who are called peasants and who hold lands in the villages, then it must be worse in the case of those who happen unfortunately to be on the outskirts of villages, and always live as landless labourers. I appeal to the Honourable the Food Member to see that these people who live below, as I would call, the starvation line, or just above the starvation line are looked after in the first instance in any scheme that he may bring forward now or in the future to tackle the food situation in India. It is very important that those people who have got lower incomes or no incomes at all should in the first place be looked after by the Government of India. I need not say that most of these people happen to belong to the community from which I come.

As a feature of the food situation in India, the Honourable the Food Member pointed out to us that the majority, two thirds of the population in India live on rice, and that the rest of the population live mainly on wheat and that people who have wheat diet live in the wheat producing areas which happen to be surplus areas and that people living on rice live in areas which are deficit areas, practically speaking. From that one can say that rice is in short supply actually. I have a few suggestions to make to the Honourable the Food Member in the matter of attempting to see how more rice can be produced. In the first place, I would suggest to him that in what are called surplus areas, particularly wheat producing areas which also produce rice, the Government of India should formulate a scheme by which they can enlarge the scope of cultivation and increase the acreage of cultivation of rice in those wheat producing areas. Secondly, I suggest that the Government of India should undertake either by all-India legislation or by co-ordinated provincial legislation to see—as I was told it was done in the Bombay Presidency by the Bombay Government—that the lands which are now under what are called cash crops are gradually reduced and more lands are brought under cultivation of rice. In case people should say that they would suffer or lose by converting lands from cash crop cultivation to rice cultivation, the Government should also provide for subsidy by legislation.

The next suggestion that I would make to the Honourable Member would be to see that that even in these cases where lands are cultivated with paddy, the Government can offer to them a kind of bonus above a certain amount of production. For instance, if any person cultivates land and uses extra fertilisers or manure to produce more rice, I think if the Government offers him a bonus, he would attempt to produce more rice even on the existing land. I feel, Sir, that these are some methods by which more rice can be cultivated.

I will also join with the Honourable the Food Member in his appeal to those people who are living in wheat-producing areas and who have wheat as their main diet, to see, as far as possible, if they could not spare the rice that they produce in those areas.

Now, I come to the position in Madras, particularly in Malabar, and in those areas, as the Honourable Member has said, the quantity of food that is given is far below the quantity that they ought to take. I think in Malabar it is only about 12 ounces a day.....

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau—Indian Commerce): Eight ounces.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: It is about 8 to 12 ounces. That is a diet on which I do not suppose any person can live. Government was taking immediate steps to see that rice is taken to Madras, particularly to Malabar and Vizagapatam. In this respect I would appeal to my Honourable friends from Bengal not to overstate their case for Bengal. I personally think and honestly feel that the situation which existed last year does not exist today and as

everybody knows there has not only been bumper crop in Bengal but also quite a lot of tonnage of food has been taken to Bengal. I do hope therefore that both the Members from Bengal and the Government of India will change their attitude in the altered circumstances so far as Bengal is concerned, and send a portion of the food that is now being sent to Bengal towards Madras side where, as everybody knows, the situation is grave. Travancore, Cochin, Malabar and Vizagapatam are all going short of food.

In his speech the Honourable Member I think forgot to mention one other area—the Ceded Districts in the Madras Presidency. The Ceded Districts are notorious for famine conditions which continually exist in those parts. I do not know if by way of oversight he has not mentioned the Ceded Districts of Madras. I would, however, like to know the position with regard to the Ceded Districts. I unfortunately come from one of those districts.

Then with regard to the price. We are all accustomed to hear in this House different groups talking for themselves. The consumers said that prices must be fixed, the producers at once jumped up and said that their prices must be fixed, and the Government, as usual, said that they were trying to effect a sort of compromise between the two in order to arrive at an equitable price. In this country, those who have known the various kinds of land systems and land tenure that exist, are aware that it has always been only one set of people that have benefited by the holding of land, and if it is true that 90 per cent. of the population of this country live for their sustenance upon agricultural holdings, it will also be true that only those who have got the control of land can benefit by the produce of land. What has happened recently? We saw that all those people who are in the control of land, and consequently of the produce of land, withheld the produce from its normal circulation; they reserved something for their own consumption and the rest they sent to the blackmarket. We have all seen that and have tried to stop it. I have always felt that the system of land holding in this country has been such as to make only one class of people get the benefit out of the land and the rest of the population, who have nothing whatever to do with the land and who as a matter of fact are the only people who are responsible for the produce of the land, go without food. It has been so in the past. It is time that the Government of India took this position seriously into consideration and rectified the position. As long as that system exists, there will always be a class of people who will be thrown entirely out of any scheme which will provide food for the generality of the population.

I also want to impress upon the Government of India the necessity for seeing that wages for agricultural labour, whenever they are paid, are paid in kind. They ought to be paid in kind. A cry has been raised in this respect but it looks to me to be a city cry—"what is the use of paying even higher price to the producers or to the labourers; what the use of controlling the price of food-grains because everything else goes up in price." It was very curious that people while talking about foodgrains—rice, wheat and things like that—should also talk in the same breath of Horlicks Malted Milk. I am only surprised that they did not talk of Talcum Face Powder or Cutex! And so, Sir, I feel that now the time has come when the Government of India should reverse its policy of food procurement and distribution. Last year they were perfectly justified in bringing to the cities and the towns the supplies that were available in the villages at a great cost and probably by paying high prices to the producers. Now the time has come for the Government of India to reverse that policy and take the food back to the villages, to see that the villagers, who draw lower income, and people who are landless labourers get their food. For, whatever may be said about these people, the fact remains that they are as much human beings as the Honourable Members in this House, as people in big cities and towns, and, if I may say so, as the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches. The Government of India should also take steps to see that the Provincial Governments follow the principle of first

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settling the landless labourers upon the new land which is being brought under cultivation under the Grow More Food campaign.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Under co-operative system.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: I know my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, is entirely in sympathy with my point of view, and I also generally endorse most of the statements that he has made today, except some of the vehemence with which he attacked the food policy of the Government of India, which I think was equalled only by the vehemence of my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, the only difference being that the latter did not wear a Gandhi cap!

I would request the Government of India to see that if and when the Provincial Governments reclaim new lands under the Grow More Food campaign or give subsidies for bringing more land under cultivation, that the landless labourers in the villages are first settled on those lands and they are given the right to occupy and cultivate those lands.

With these words I congratulate the Food Member for what he has been able to do so far in improving the food situation in the country.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hedge (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I support the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar. The first clause refers to the fixation of price and the attempt that is being made by the Central Government to bring down the prices in the provinces. While I was discussing this matter about a month ago with the Civil Supplies Commissioner, Madras, I came to know that the Regional Food Commissioner, who is a servant of the Central Government in Madras, was trying to bring down the prices now fixed in the presidency of Madras. We all know that the agriculturist class is going to be adversely affected by bringing down the prices. When we remember that the population of this country consists more than 80 per cent. of agriculturist, the price which is ultimately fixed must be a fair and reasonable one so that this large class of people may not suffer. If there is a cry to lower down prices of grains it is the cry of the 20 per cent. of the non-agriculturists, mostly town-dwellers and Government servants. The food policy as it has been followed so far has gone to satisfy in the first place the Government servants, in the second place the town-dwellers who are fortunate to have statutory rationing in their towns, and thirdly such class of vociferous people who could manage to get as much grain as possible. But people who reside in semi-urban areas and in the rural parts of the country are the people who are forgotten and their cries are not heard at all.

While fixing statutory price various factors must enter into proper consideration. The Central Government must give up their attempt to have a common price for the whole country. This is impossible to achieve because the productive capacity of the land in different districts is different and the pressure of population in different districts in this country is also different. Thirdly, the system of land revenue that prevails is different in different provinces, sometimes different in the different districts in the same province. Fourthly, the cost of cattle and the cost of cattle fodder which is prohibitive in these days must also be considered. Sir, it is a well known fact that in my constituency of Malabar and South Kanara the cost of cattle has increased by five or six times, my district was getting cattle from Mysore but for the last two years the Mysore Government has prohibited the export of cattle into my district. The result is the price today is nearly six or seven times the pre-war price; of the cattle fodder, particularly the horse gram, which we were getting from Bengal in pre-war days but which is completely stopped to day, the price has gone up by seven or eight times. Therefore, these are the real factors which should be considered while fixing a fair price for grain.

Sir, there is also the question of the living standard of the producers. Today we know, even in towns, it is very difficult to get medicine. To give you my own personal experience. Some three days back I went for medicine to the

famous Kemp & Co. I was refused the supply. I was directed to a doctor to get a prescription from him. If this is the condition prevalent in the town of Delhi, you can imagine the condition prevailing in the villages of this country. It is almost impossible for rural people to get medicine in the open market. They will have to buy their medicine in the black market and pay very heavily for it.

The second clause deals with the question of procurement and supply and to get rid of the middlemen in the process. I would very much like to recommend the method which we have followed in our district. We started a wholesale co-operative society some two years ago and to-day it is recognised by the Government of Madras and the entire grain available in the district and purchased from other districts by the district authorities is handled by this Society. Their transactions run up to a crore of rupees and no person, whether a trader or otherwise, is permitted to handle or deal with grains. This is a method which ought to be encouraged by the Central Government in all other provinces in the country.

But our experience with regard to distribution has not been happy, the distribution part of the work is being handled by the Revenue Department of the Government, we have found when the stock available in the district was dwindling the Government of Madras at one time refused to supply the necessary amount of rice to my district. You will remember on the last occasion I attempted to move two adjournment motions in this House. At the time of first motion a statement was made that this district was self-sufficient but at the time of the second adjournment motion my district was promised 1,500 tons of rice per month. But the rice due in March came in June and the rice due in June came in August and the rice due in August came in October; and to my surprise I found it was not only the railway that was responsible for the delay in transport but it also showed that the procurement machinery in the surplus districts of the presidency was faulty. What is more, the Honourable the Food Member has admitted that the Madras Presidency has been the second largest importer of rice in the pre-war days and in those circumstances it was a surprise to me when he said that the Government of Madras undertook not to make any demand from the Centre for its needs. I really do not know, especially when the Grow More Food campaign has achieved nothing in that province how the Government of Madras undertook to feed their population without any help from outside. I know they have been unable to do it. When my district had only five days supply I had to seek the protection of the Honourable the Food Member and it was only after his intervention that my district was supplied with two months further supply.

There is a tendency in the Central Government to overlook the question of distribution. If the food administration is going to succeed, 95 per cent. of its work ought to be in the matter of distribution. Procurement to my knowledge has succeeded very well because of the police force and the threat of the process of law that is used at the time of procurement. Today notices are issued to all agriculturists to part with their grain even before the harvest is completed and without any consideration whether what is left behind would be sufficient for him to keep his body and soul together until the next harvest. This policy of procurement without leaving sufficient to the producer is going to be a very dangerous game. You cannot kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Apart from the policy of Grow More Food campaign, the procurement policy which is followed today by the Madras Government is a very faulty one and no attempt is made to see whether the real grower has sufficient to maintain himself and his family until the next harvest.

Sir, I once more request the Honourable Member that the question of distribution must be really attended to by the Central Government. To my surprise I found when I came here that it is only after two days I could get my ration card. In my town where there is statutory rationing, I found that a boarding house consisting of 22 students had to starve three days before they got their rationing card. The rationing system which is followed today is

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definitely faulty and the cry of the semi-urban areas and the rural parts is really a cry in the wilderness. I can give you facts and figures to show that in the village within five miles from Mangalore town where there is no statutory rationing, to a population of 7570 people only 80 maunds of rice were supplied in the month of October. That comes to nearly two ounces per head per day. If this is going to be the kind of food administration we are to have hereafter, let God forbid, we do not want to have it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, there is a general desire from all sections of the House that the question hour may be dispensed with tomorrow in order to enable the House to discuss the Food resolution the whole day. We shall be grateful if you would agree.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that is the general desire of the House I am willing to comply with the request. The questions will be dispensed with tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 9th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 9th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WRITTEN ANSWER

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

204. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above, in his Department, and the number held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Muslims, (iv) Hindus, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others under each category?

Sir Olaf Caroe:

First Part—

(i) nil, (ii) two, (iii) nil, (iv) two, (v) nil, (vi) one;

Second Part—

(i) nil, (ii) three, (iii) nil, (iv) one, (v) and (vi) nil;

Third Part—

(i) one, (ii) one, (iii) one, (iv) two, (v) and (vi) nil;

Fourth Part—

(i) three, (ii) to (vi) nil.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER THE WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

205. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for the War Transport Department please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in (i) the War Transport Department, (ii) the Regional Priority Authorities, (iii) the Coal Control Organisation, (iv) the Country Craft Organisation, and (v) the Major Port Authorities? How many of these posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, and (v) Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I lay a statement on the table which gives the required information.

Statement

	Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Other Communi- ties	Total
I.—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT							
(i) Posts carrying salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750.	..	1	10	..	..	..	11
(ii) Posts carrying salaries of Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000.	1†	..	5	1	..	..	7
(iii) Posts carrying salaries of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500.	1	..	4	..	..	..	5
(iv) Posts carrying salaries of Rs. 1,500 and above.	11+4†	..	2	..	..	1	18

[Note.—The posts against which a double dagger is shown are in the Regional Port Directorate Calcutta.]

†The question hour of today having been eliminated, the answers to starred questions were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of House.—Ed. of D.

	Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Other Communi- ties	Total
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II.—REGIONAL PRIORITY AUTHORITIES.

(a) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (West).

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	..	1

(b) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (North).

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	..	1

(c) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Bombay.

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(d) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Madras.

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	..	1

(e) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Lahore.

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	..	1

(f) Office of the Deputy Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Gorakhpur.

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

III.—COAL CONTROL ORGANISATION

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	3	7	5	1	3	19
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	5	2	6	..	..	..	14
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	4	2	2	1	..	..	9
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	16	..	1	2	..	..	19

IV.—COUNTRY CRAFT ORGANISATION

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Other Communi- ties	Total
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V.—MAJOR PORT AUTHORITIES

(a) Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	2	44	16	1	..	1	64
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	20	36	4	..	1	..	61
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	55	26	6	2	..	..	89
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	19	1	1	..	..	..	21

(b) Commissioners for the Port of Chittagong

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	2	..	1	..	..	..	3
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	..	1

(c) Madras Port Trust

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	2	2	..	..	2	6
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	6	..	1	..	..	..	7
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	3	..	..	..	..	..	3

(d) Bombay Port Trust

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	11	7	12	6	..	10	46
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	6	3	3	1	..	5	18
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	27	..	9	1	..	9	46
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	7	..	1	..	..	2	10

(e) Cochin Harbour

(i) Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	2	1	..	1	4
(ii) Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	2	..	2	..	..	..	4
(iii) Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
(iv) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	..	1

Note.—Figures for the major ports are based on the maximum pay of each post. Information regarding Karachi Port Trust is not available.

SINKING OF THE S. S. "CORMORANT"

206. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway and War Transport Member be pleased to make a statement relating to the circumstances under which the O.T.R. steamer "Cormorant" foundered in September last while on ferry service across the Ganges between Patna and Palezaghata?

(b) Has any enquiry been held into the causes of this incident? If so, by whom and with what results?

(c) What is the number of casualties that occurred in this connection?

(d) When was the S.S. "Cormorant" built, and is the Honourable Member satisfied that its repairs and renewals were being properly carried out during the last few years, and that the vessel was in every way fit for service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). In view of the length of the statement for which the Honourable Member has asked and of the fact that I have already stated the main facts when dealing with the adjournment motion moved by Mr. Mohd. Abdul Ghani on November 3rd, I will, Sir, with your permission and in order to save the time of the House, lay the statement on the table.

(d) S.S. Cormorant was built in 1883 and has been maintained in a good state of repair. The vessel has been laid up for survey every year and dry-docked every four years. The last date of survey was 8th January 1944 and was last dry-docked on 10th December 1942. Government are satisfied that the vessel was in every way fit for service.

Statement

On the 12th September 1944, the *Steamer Cormorant* was proceeding along the usual main channel from Dighaghat to Palezaghat. When opposite the Paleza village and about the 800 ft. from the northern bank of the Ganges the bow of the steamer suddenly struck against some hard substance—supposed to be a submerged tree trunk—there was a severe bump, and suspecting that the Steamer had collided with some submerged object, the Commander ordered the steamer to be stopped and backed towards the bank and, at the same time, sounded the danger whistle. The steamer was moved backward to the northern bank which it not only touched, but the stern penetrated to a distance of about 6 to 10 ft. into the bank. While the steamer was being backed all the pumps had been put into action to empty it of any river water that had got in. It remained in contact with the bank for about 20 minutes during which period the lower deck was on the same level as the bank. This enabled the passengers to land without difficulty. The fact that all the 37 lifebuoys which were on the steamer were subsequently found intact shows that the passengers found no need to use them, and, there was no occasion for any one to jump into the stream. The country boats in the vicinity immediately came to the rescue and were wedged in between the steamer and the bank thus enabling all remaining passengers to get ashore safely. They were later picked up by other Railway steamers and taken on to Palezaghat.

The danger whistle was heard both at Palezaghat and Dighaghat and the Railway, the Police and the Medical staff quickly arrived on the scene and rendered all possible assistance. The only loss of life which has so far been reported was that of a girl of about six years. The girl got separated from her mother in the confusion which followed the accident and fell into the river. The fact that no one has so far come forward to enquire about any missing friend or relation, although several passengers subsequently came in search of their belongings amongst the salvaged property, also goes to show that no one other than the child mentioned above lost life.

S.S. Cormorant had a carrying capacity of 1,000 and, at the time of the accident, was carrying about 600 passengers.

On the 18th September 1944, a joint enquiry was held which consisted of the Divisional Traffic Superintendent, the Divisional Loco. Officer and the Resident Engineer, Gorakhpur. The enquiry was also attended by the Superintendent, Government Railway Police, Samastipur, and the Sub-Divisional Officer, Chapra. The enquiry committee, after inspection of the site of the occurrence and examining a number of witnesses, came to the conclusion that the accident was not due to any rash or negligent act on the part of the Commander. It is reported that there are some submerged tree trunks in the bed of the river. The channel is swept every now and then and dangerous spots are buoyed. These submerged tree trunks gradually roll on, and if the water level is high it is difficult to locate them. There was no such obstruction in the route when the previous steamer had passed. It is believed that the force of the current moved the tree trunk from its position during the interval between the passing of the previous steamer and the arrival of the *Cormorant*. In these circumstances, Government are satisfied that the accident was an accident and no one could be held responsible for it.

TELEGRAPHIC DELAYS.

207. *Mr. C. P. Lawson: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether he is aware of the considerable telegraphic delays which are occurring particularly between Delhi and Calcutta and whether he is prepared to give the House information as to the causes and as to the steps now being taken to improve matters?

(b) Is it a fact that telegrams are despatched through the post during periods of congestion although the full telegraphic costs are collected?

(c) Would it not be correct for telegraph offices to refuse to accept telegraphic charges in cases where the telegram will be despatched through the post and to provide facilities for the posting of the original telegrams by normal means?

(d) Would it be feasible during periods of congestion to divide destinations into regions which could be closed for telegraph traffic according to the extent of the congestion, i.e., bar telegrams for the nearer destinations to which postal communication takes only a few hours more than telegraphic communication?

(e) Would it be correct to say that a very large number of telegrams are now delivered so late that refunds of telegraphic charges on a very large scale would require to be made if demanded, and, if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) I am aware that there have been serious delays in the past but in recent months there has been substantial improvement generally and it is hoped that the improvement will be maintained.

(b) Yes.

(c) The question of suspending acceptance of telegrams during periods of delays on telegraph circuits has been carefully considered from time to time, and it has been decided that such suspension is undesirable except in very special circumstances. The situation fluctuates rapidly and usually telegraph communication is established within a comparatively short period, on a limited scale at least, either directly or by alternative routes. The public is advised of interruptions and serious delays to traffic on all main circuits and more precise information is available at telegraph offices. If senders tender telegrams in these conditions they must accept all risks arising from delay.

(d) and (e). No.

BRINGING OF THE OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY INTO LINE WITH STATE RAILWAYS.

208. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the Bengal Nagpur Railway and the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway which have been purchased by the Government and transformed into the present Oudh and Tirhut Railway, have been brought into line with the other State-owned Railways?

(b) Have the pay and emoluments of the subordinate staff been brought up to the standard of the other State Railways?

(c) How many officers of the old companies have been retired, and how many of them are still in the employment of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Bengal and North Western Railway (not the Bengal-Nagpur Railway) and the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway have been merged in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway. If the Honourable Member means the status of the Railway for administrative purposes, after coming under State-management, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of Mr. N. M. Joshi's Unstarred Question No. 146 asked in this House on the 21st March 1944.

(c) The total number of officers of the two late companies re-employed by Government was 90, out of which five have since retired and the rest are still in service. In addition, Government did not re-employ five officers, who had already attained the age of superannuation.

RAISING OF EMOLUMENTS OF SUBORDINATE POSTAL STAFF

209. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state if there is a scheme under active consideration to raise the pay and allowance of the Subordinate Postal Staff?

(b) Did the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs recommend a sliding scale of Dearness Allowance to these low paid officials? If so, why has it not been given effect to?

(c) Have any provisions been made for such low paid Postal employees to get their supplies of cheap grain and cloth from the cheap grain control shops?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The Director General did not recommend a sliding scale of dearness allowance. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

(c) Wherever Provincial Government employees are getting supplies of grain at concessional rates, the concession has been extended to the P. & T. staff who obtain supplies from the Local Government shops or from departmental shops. Where the benefits of sale of grain at controlled rates are extended to all local residents in any area, the P. & T. staff can of course take advantage of them. It is understood that standard cloth is freely available at all places.

BOMBAY EXPLOSION.

210. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware that the fire and explosions in the Bombay docks in April last were an avoidable tragedy?

(b) Are Government aware that carelessness and ignorance on the part of individual officers resulted in the serious tragedy? If so, what is the action taken by the Government of India against the offenders, and what precautions were taken to avoid such calamities?

(c) Is the Government of India satisfied that there was no lack of co-ordination between the various authorities, and that there was no serious lacunae in the relevant rules and regulations?

(d) Is it not a fact that the burdening of key-personnel with dual responsibilities came in conflict with each other and resulted in the avoidable tragedy?

(e) Is it not a fact that when the fire broke out in hold No. 2 of S.S. "Fort Stikine" on April 14th, neither the N.O.I.C., nor the Commodore, R.I.N., was informed of it all, though the Deputy Conservator of the Port Trust happened to be at the spot at 2-30 P.M., that is, more than an hour and a half before the first explosion took place?

(f) Are not the following serious lapses contributory to the lamentable and avoidable tragedy—

- (i) non-hoisting of red flag on the ship entering the dock,
- (ii) disorder in the fire brigade cutting apparatus,
- (iii) non-observance of rules against smoking,
- (iv) absence of proper liaison between the Civil and the Military police on the one hand and the civilian watchmen on the other,
- (v) absence of arrangements to clear the docks of non-essential personnel or to give general warning of the impending explosion,
- (vi) the absence of the centralised executive control with power to issue paramount orders and co-ordinate the various authorities and services concerned; and

(vii) the presence on board of such a highly inflammable material as cotton that precipitates the accident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to "the First Report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Bombay explosions", copy of which was laid on the table of the House on November 6th.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Resolution of the Government of India dated September 12, 1944, copy of which was laid on the table of the House on November 6th. As regards the precautions taken, the Honourable Member may also refer to the press note issued on October 28th, setting out the main lines of action taken to prevent a repetition of the occurrence.

(c) The rules previously in force were reasonably comprehensive in the circumstances existing prior to the explosion, but the Government of India agree that they might have been better co-ordinated. As a result of the accident, the rules and regulations have been exhaustively examined, revised and co-ordinated.

(d) It is not a fact that this was a contributory cause.

(e) Yes, except that the Deputy Conservator was not on the spot until 3 P.M. Further in view of the fact that scuttling or beaching the ship was proved to be no remedy for the situation, the presence of the naval officers would have been of no value from this point of view.

(f) The Government of India agree generally with the findings of the Commission regarding the inadequacies referred to in this part of the question. Although the Commission have found that the bringing of explosives into docks in war-time was a primary cause of the explosion they have stated that there was, in their opinion, no practicable alternative to it.

DISCONTINUANCE OF DIRECT TRAIN BETWEEN ALLAHABAD AND SAHARANPUR.

211. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that prior to the disturbances of 1942, a passenger train used directly to run between Saharanpur and Allahabad via Unchahar?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that this was the only train which connected Rae-Bareilly with Allahabad via Unchahar?

†Not printed in these debates, but a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—
N. of D.

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that now only one passenger train runs between Saharanpur and Lucknow, and another between Lucknow and Allahabad via Unchahar, but these two trains have not got the old connections?

(d) Are the Government aware that the discontinuance of the direct train between Allahabad and Saharanpur is causing great inconvenience to the public in general and to the litigant public in particular?

(e) Have the Government considered the advisability of restoring the old passenger train between Allahabad and Saharanpur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Without the time tables of the period, which are not readily available, I am unable to verify these statements, but am prepared to accept them as correct.

(c) Yes, one passenger train runs between Saharanpur and Lucknow. There is a connecting train from Lucknow to Cawnpore which in turn connects with the train at Unao for Allahabad via Unchahar. The train from Lucknow to Allahabad via Rae-Bareilly and Unchahar does not provide direct connection at Lucknow with the Saharanpur-Lucknow Passenger.

(d) The curtailment of any passenger service must necessarily entail a certain amount of inconvenience to the travelling public.

(e) No. The discontinuance of the old train is part of the general curtailment of all but the most essential passenger services in the present emergency. I am, however, bringing this question to the notice of the General Manager of the East Indian Railway.

PRODUCTION CESS ON DESPATCHES OF COAL.

212. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the objects with which a production cess has recently been levied on despatches of coal?

(b) What is the approximate annual income expected to be derived from this cess?

(c) What proportion of the income thus derived will approximately be spent on different heads appertaining to the development of the collieries?

(d) To what extent will the different grades of collieries be able to participate in the benefits of the fund?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the preamble and Clause 3(3) of the Coal Production Fund Ordinance, 1944, a copy of which is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Taking annual coal despatches as about 25.6 million tons and the rate of cess as Rs. 1-4-0 per ton, the annual income, under the cess is estimated to be about Rs. 320 lakhs.

(c) and (d). As the cess has only recently been levied it is not possible at this stage to indicate the amounts which will be spent under different heads and the extent to which collieries of different grades will be benefited.

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA.

EXTRAORDINARY

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 26th August, 1944

ORDINANCE No. XXXIX OF 1944

AN
ORDINANCE

to constitute a fund for the financing of activities for the improvement of production, marketing and distribution of coal and coke.

WHEREAS an emergency has arisen which makes it necessary to constitute a fund for the financing of activities for the improvement of production, marketing and distribution of coal and coke;

Now, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 72 of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935 (26 Geo. 5, c. 2), the Governor General is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:—

1. *Short Title, extent and commencement.*—(1) This Ordinance may be called the Coal Production Fund Ordinance, 1944.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Imposition and collection of Excise and Customs Duties.*—(1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf, there shall be levied and collected as a cess for the purposes of this Ordinance, on all coal and coke despatched from collieries in British India a duty of excise at such rate, not exceeding one rupee and four annas per ton, as may from time to time be fixed by the Central Government by notification in the official Gazette:

Provided that the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, exempt from liability to the duty of excise any specified class or classes of coal or coke,

(2) During the period in which a duty of excise is being levied under sub-section (1), the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, levy and collect as a cess for the purposes of this Ordinance, a duty of customs on all coal and coke brought into British India from any foreign country or from the territory of any Indian State, at a rate equivalent to the rate of the duty of excise levied under sub-section (1):

Provided that the duty of customs shall not be levied on any class or classes of coal or coke for the time being exempted from liability to the duty of excise under the proviso to sub-section (1).

(3) A duty levied under this section shall be in addition to any other duty of excise or customs for the time being leviable under any other law.

(4) The duties imposed by this section shall, subject to and in accordance with the rules made under this Ordinance in this behalf, be collected on behalf of the Central Government by such agencies and in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules.

3. *The Coal Production Fund.*—(1) The proceeds of the duties imposed by section 2 shall be credited to a fund to be called the Coal Production Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Fund).

(2) The Fund shall be applied by the Central Government to meet expenditure incurred on measures which in the opinion of the Central Government it is necessary or expedient to take for the improvement of production, marketing or distribution of coal or coke.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (2), the Fund may be utilised to defray—

(a) the cost of administering the Fund;

(b) the salaries and allowances, if any, of Inspectors and other officers who may be appointed to supervise or carry out the activities financed from the Fund;

(c) the grant of bonuses to colliery owners for increased output of coal;

(d) the deficit, if any, on any scheme for establishing and maintaining labour camps in coalfields under the supervision of the Central Government for the purpose of providing such labour for work in coal-mines and for providing for the transport of colliery labour to and from work;

(e) the deficit, if any, on any scheme for the procurement and sale of colliery stores and equipment;

(f) the grant to a Provincial Government, a local authority or the owner, agent or manager of a coal mine of money in aid of any scheme approved by the Central Government for the improved production, marketing or distribution of coal or coke;

(g) the cost of administering any system of control for the time being in force of the production, marketing or distribution of coal or coke;

(h) any other expenditure which the Central Government directs to be defrayed from the Fund.

(4) The Central Government shall have power to decide whether any particular expenditure is or is not debitable to the Fund, and its decision shall be final.

(5) The Central Government shall publish annually in such form and manner as may be prescribed by rules an account of all sums received into and paid out of the Fund.

4. *Appointment and Powers of Officers.*—(1) The Central Government may appoint Inspectors and other officers to supervise or carry out the activities financed from the Fund.

(2) Any officers so appointed shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

(3) Any Inspector may, with such assistance if any as he thinks fit, enter at any reasonable time any place which he considers it necessary to enter for the purpose of supervising or carrying out the activities financed from the Fund, and may do therein anything necessary for the proper discharge of his duties.

5. *Power to make rules.*—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules to carry into effect the purposes and the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, rules made under this section may provide for—

(a) the manner in which the duties imposed by this Ordinance shall be collected, the persons who shall be liable to make the payments, the making of refunds, remissions

and recoveries, the deduction by collecting agencies of a percentage of the realisations to cover the cost of collection, and the procedure to be followed in remitting the proceeds to the credit of the Central Government;

(b) the conditions governing the grant of bonuses from the Fund under clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 3;

(c) the conditions governing the grant of money from the Fund to a Provincial Government, a local authority or the owner, agent or manager of a coal-mine;

(d) the duties of the officers appointed to supervise or carry out the activities financed from the Fund;

(e) the form of, and the manner of preparing, the account referred to in sub-section (5) of section 3;

(f) the furnishing by owners or agents or managers of coal-mines of statistical or other information, and the punishment by fine of failure to comply with the requirements of any rule made under this clause.

CO-ORDINATION OF GRADES OF CERTAIN TIME CHECKERS AND MATERIAL CHECKERS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

213. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that at Jamalpur the grade of the old East Indian Railway Time Checkers and the grade of the old East Indian Railway Material Checkers were Rs. 16-2-30 and Rs. 16-2-40 respectively;

(b) if it is a fact that both the grades were abolished and one co-ordinated grade of Rs. 24-2-40 was brought into effect from the year 1930;

(c) if it is a fact that there is an old East Indian Railway grade V clerks of Rs. 28-4-80;

(d) if it is a fact that there is a co-ordinated grade V clerks of Rs. 28-3-52 from the year 1928;

(e) if it is a fact that the old East Indian Railway grade Time Checkers and Material Checkers when they used to cross their grade on promotion used to go over to the old East Indian Railway grade V clerks of Rs. 28-4-80;

(f) if it is a fact that some of the old East Indian Railway grade Time Checkers of Rs. 16-2-30 who made representation for making their grade equal to that of the Material Checkers were placed in the new co-ordinated grade of Rs. 24-2-40 without being given any choice of election; and

(g) if it is a fact that the clerks were brought to the new co-ordinated grade of Rs. 24-2-40 without their knowledge?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (e). The reply is in the affirmative.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, the staff concerned could, had they so desired, have originally intimated their intention to continue on the old scale.

(g) No.

SINKING OF THE S. S. "CORMORANT."

214. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Oudh and Tirhut Railway's passenger steamer "Cormorant" which was on its way from Dighaghat to Paleza on the morning of the 12th September, 1944, sank while it was nearing the bank;

(b) if it is a fact that many people in confusion jumped into the water to save their lives and several lady passengers and children could not be traced;

(c) the total number of passengers on board the steamer, and its carrying capacity;

(d) what measures of rescue were adopted by the authorities on the steamer immediately and subsequently by the Railway authorities and the Government; and

(e) if the Government have got an enquiry made into the accident, and what the report is as to (i) the cause of the disaster, (ii) the number of casualties, (iii) nature of the effort made to rescue the victims of the disaster, (iv) probable value of the loss; and (v) nature of recommendation for compensation to the losers of life and property due to the accident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

- (b) No.
 (c) *S.S. Cormorant* had a carrying capacity of 1,000 and, at the time of the accident, was carrying about 600 passengers.
 (d) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given to Mr. K. C. Neogy's Starred Question No. 206. As regards part (v) of the question, claims for the loss of property due to the accident will be dealt with under the rules.

TRAVELLING COURTS ON RAILWAYS.

215. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that a Travelling Court has been introduced in the East Indian Railway;
 (b) if such courts have been introduced in other Railways also; if so, in which of the Railways;
 (c) since how long these Travelling Courts are functioning in Bihar, and how many cases have been detected and tried, and with what result; and
 (d) the details of the system of holding a Travelling Court; whether every train contains a Travelling Court?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The system of Travelling courts was first introduced on the Patna-Gaya section and later on extended to the Main line in Dinapore Division of the E. I. Railway.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative so far as the other State-managed railways are concerned. The second part does not arise.

(c) and (d). I have called for certain information and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

TOUR OF RAILWAYS BY ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

47. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) if it is a fact that the Railway Board recently organised a tour of Railways by the Accredited Press Correspondents;
 (b) if it is a fact that the Railway Board did not consult (in the selection of Accredited Press Correspondents) the Department of Information and Broadcasting; if so, the reasons therefor;
 (c) if it is a fact that the Press Association (not registered under any law of the country) was approached to select the Accredited Press Correspondents; if so, whether it is proposed to lay on the table the convention for approaching non-officials, unregistered and non-recognised Associations, Unions and Federations;
 (d) if it is a fact that invitation to the unregistered Press Association was not approved by the Central Government; if not, what the fact is, and who initiated negotiation with a non-statutory organisation;
 (e) the amount of expenditure incurred on the said tour together with the nature of expenditure; and
 (f) if it is a fact that the Central Government have always treated registered and unregistered Unions, Associations and Federations equally and that there is no differential attitude between registered and unregistered organisations; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The Department of Information and Broadcasting was consulted.

(c) and (f). The Press Association was consulted in regard to the selection of correspondents. There is no rule or convention concerning such consultation and Government are free to consult any Associations or persons they may think fit.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the negative; the second part does not arise.

(e) The only direct expenditure incurred was on catering and on the provision of road transport at the places visited. The total expenditure is not yet known as the relevant bills have not so far been received.

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur. Rahim): Further discussion on motion regarding food situation.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, at the outset I must admit that the food question is now certainly receiving greater and closer attention from the Government than it did some time ago. It is refreshing to learn from the Honourable Member that he himself realises, what we all know, that a great deal remains to be done, that a great amount of avoidable distress still exists. I hope that the Honourable Member and his department will be able to cope with it and will tackle all these evils in a very short time.

The feeling in the country that now exists with regard to this question is, I believe, correctly summarised in the amendment that I had the honour of placing before the House the other day. I commend that amendment to the acceptance of the House now.

Before dealing with that amendment I would like to dwell briefly on the state of things that exists in my part of the country, that is, Malabar. It is well known that Malabar suffered a great deal, due to want of availability of food grains in that part of the country. We suffered privations, hunger, pestilence and many other troubles which resulted in the loss of a great amount of life in that part of the country. The Government of India's eyes and the Provincial Government's eyes were opened to this state of affairs in Malabar only after we suffered all these days. But I had called the attention of the Government of India to the grave danger that was looming by a cut motion that I moved in 1943 in which I asked the Railway Member to arrange for the rushing of rice to my part of the country. Even earlier than that, I had had correspondence with the Members who were in charge of this matter in those days. But, as was described in a masterly survey yesterday by Mr. Griffiths, in the tragic period in which the Government was vacillating, indifferent and doing nothing; we in our part of the country suffered and suffered grievously; of course, we did not have the same publicity that Bengal had and therefore we went on suffering. There was a time in the Government of India when food was nobody's concern. For a short time the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar was in charge of it; but by the time he could get to grips with the situation in the country he was whisked away to England. I had then written to him a letter of grave warning as to what was impending in the country; but after his departure nobody appears to have taken any care of what was going on in the country, and the result is before the House. I do not want to go into past history and no good is going to come out of it.

So far as my part of the country is concerned, it is unfortunate, but it is a fact that we use no other foodgrain than rice in Malabar. Barley, jowar and bajra are things unknown to us. Therefore it is only rice that will save Malabar and rice was not forthcoming. There was a time when rice was available, but the difficulty was transport. But later on when the transport situation became a little easier, all the rice available was required for Bengal, with the result that we in the south-west of India went on suffering untold miseries. In those days, we tried our best to enlist the sympathies of the Central Government and the Provincial Government. We clamoured for rationing, but all our attempts were frustrated because of the fear in high places in the Government of India that if rationing is introduced in any part of the country the Japs will be encouraged by the thought that there was shortage of food anywhere in India. That was actually the reason advanced by our district magistrate, when one of the municipal councils, despairing of any Government action, started arrangements for introducing rationing in its area: we actually had a census taken, an enumeration was taken, and then we had cards ready; but suddenly the district magistrate came down and prohibited this activity. That was long before the Government of India ever thought of introducing rationing. However, that phase is over and I am glad to see that we have turned the corner; but the present position as envisaged by the speech of the Honourable Member gives us great anxiety. When first rationing was

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait.]

introduced in the urban areas in Malabar, we were allotted one pound a head a day of rice. It was later reduced to three-fourths of a pound. Now, my Honourable friend says that it is still further to be reduced to 10 ounces of rice per head. When we had one pound of rice per head, it was declared even by Government experts that this quantity was not sufficient for manual workers. Now, we are going to have rationing all over the district even in the rural areas. This 10 ounces of rice that is going to be granted is going to affect the manual workers much more than the city dwellers and the brain workers, and Honourable Members can very well realise the meagreness of this quantity. Under-nourishment in our country coupled with the weak constitution of the people has always encouraged the spread of epidemics. In 1942, in Malabar, the spread of epidemics was wholly due to under-nourishment. The Honourable Member's speech therefore causes great anxiety to us in Malabar. I would here request the Honourable Member to make it clear whether the allotment that now exists in urban cities, that is about 3/4ths of a pound of rice is also to be reduced to 10 ounces or is this ten ounces to apply only to the rural parts? That is the first thing that I want him to make clear. The other is whether the ten ounces that he mentioned is to cover only rice or all other cereals are to be included in this ten ounces, because this is a very serious matter. If he is contemplating the allotment of other cereals, I would like him to make clear what are the other cereals that he thinks are workable in Malabar. I know the people of Malabar well. I come from that district and I have lived in that district. I can assure the House that no other cereal will be of any help in Malabar.

Within the short time at my disposal, I have got one or two matters to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member with reference to Malabar. The only other food that our people know of, and especially the poorer section, is *tapioca*. In the difficult days of 1942, we tried our best to stop its manufacture into starch. Because starch was required by the mill owners of Ahmedabad and Bombay and they were prepared to pay any price for it, much of this *tapioca* was exported in the form of starch. We cried ourselves hoarse to stop its export but our District-Magistrate will not move. Then, later on, when matters became very acute, the export of starch was prohibited. Now I find that there is again an idea of allowing the manufacture of starch and its export. I request my Honourable friend to put his foot down and tell the Provincial Government that on no account should this food stuff be allowed to be turned into use for any industrial purpose.

Then, Sir, the greatest difficulty is, and I agree with the Honourable Member, that rice is not available. He has made an appeal and I hope that that appeal will have a great deal of effect. He has appealed to the wheat eating parts of the country to spare all their rice for such parts of the country as cannot exist on anything but rice. I think this appeal alone is not enough. He has to make a survey and see how much of rice can be spared from those provinces which are used to wheat eating and he must compulsorily take away that rice for the people of the South. In that way alone can this question be solved to some extent.

Then, Sir, he is in the habit of making spasmodic allotments whenever a crisis occurs in our districts. This will not do. He has to set up a definite policy and let us know how much of rice we can expect monthly and that allotment, whatever it is, must reach us in that month. As was pointed out by one of my friends there, the allotment for August is now reaching Malabar and this upsets all the calculations, with the result that rations are further and further reduced.

I will now deal briefly with one or two general questions and the question of black markets. I agree with my friend Mr. Griffiths that in this country there is still want of strong virile public opinion against the black market. I hope, Sir, I will not be misunderstood in any part of the House when I say that a great deal of this want of public opinion is due to the indifference of the newspapers. They certainly can help in creating this sort of public opinion. The Indian Press today is controlled to a great extent by the Congress Party. I hope my friends on my right will not think that I am trying to make a political

point out of it. (An Honourable Member: "That is not correct".) I am sorry used the word 'controlled'. It may not be controlled. It is in sympathy with the Congress Party and the Congress Party today hold such a position that they can direct the Press in whatever way they like. (An Honourable Member: "This is again wrong. I wish we could".) That is right but the point is this. If the Congress Party will make up its mind to give a strong lead in this matter I am sure that much can be done in this respect and I hope that something will be done. When there is a black marketeer, he has to be hounded out of society and if that is to be done, a strong public opinion has to be created and the creation of public opinion is surely in the hands of the Press. That is why I made that point. I do not think that the Press is sufficiently strong on the subject of black marketing. I do not know why, but it is true that our public workers also are not very strong on this subject. I could quote several instances where black marketeers have been caught red handed and yet some man of influence has gone out of his way to recommend to the authorities concerned that the man should be left free or let off lightly for some extraneous consideration. It may be that the man is rich or useful to some party and so on. This has got to be stopped. That is my feeling and I hope my friends of the Congress will not take my remarks amiss.

One more point. There is very little co-ordination between the departments of the Government of India concerned in this question of food. For instance there is my friend the Food Member, my friend Mr. Tyson in charge of Education, Health and Lands and there is my friend of the Planning Department and there is also the War Transport Member and I say that there is very little co-ordination between these various departments. Mr. Tyson is going on in his old merry way, doing things independently in his own way. The other day he brought up a Bill without reference to the Food Department.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Your time is up.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: So, I say there should be greater co-ordination between the various departments.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, Rising first after the Honourable the Food Member spoke, my Honourable friend Professor Ranga said: "We have heard from time to time about more land being brought under cultivation, but how much more food has been produced?" I welcome that question and that is what I propose, in the time at my disposal this morning, to tell the House. In doing so I shall answer my Honourable friend Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi also, who said that "Grow More Food" is a complete failure. Mr. Nauman, who said that Grow More Food "has received only lip sympathy and Government have made no effort to give financial aid to the cultivators or to let them have seed"; Mr. Hegde who said that Grow More Food has "achieved nothing"; Mr. Gupta who said that Grow More Food was "bunkum"; and even my Honourable friend and erstwhile colleague Mr. Griffiths, who was nearer the truth when he said that it has "achieved something" but who finished by damning it with pretty faint praise. I will bombard the House with figures as little as I can, but I must give some.

On the basis of the average of the three pre-war years, which I take deliberately because the year immediately preceding the inauguration of the Grow More Food campaign was a year below the average and I do not want to make any unfair claims,—in the immediate pre-war period the average acreage under rice in India was 73.8 million acres, or practically 74 million acres. After one year of Grow More Food the area under rice was 75 million acres. Last year, the area under rice was practically 80 million acres, that is, 6½ million acres over the immediately pre-war average of 73.8 million acres. And though the first rice forecast is not yet published. I am happy to be in a position to inform the House that the indications at the moment are very strongly that the area under rice this year will be fully maintained, if not perhaps a little increased. I do not say the yield will be the same as last year's bumper crop, but the area is going to be no less.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban). How much more rice has been produced?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am coming to that.

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

Now, take the case of wheat. The area under wheat in the three years' average before the war was 34.7 million acres. We have not been able to increase the area under wheat.

The next figure that I will give the House is the total area under all foodgrains. The total acreage under all foodgrains in the three years before the war was 195 million acres. After one year of Grow More Food the figure was 204.5 million acres and last year it was 206.3 million acres. Thus there is an increase of six per cent. of land under cultivation.

Now, I come to production.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt (Bombay; European): May I ask the Honourable Member what is the increase in population for a comparable period?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not responsible for the increase of population. I have got very little time and I cannot give way.

Now, Sir, I come to the production of foodgrains. The production of rice in the three years before the war was 26½ million tons. In the first year of the Grow More Food campaign it was 24.8 million tons. Now, I would like the House to notice that though the area had increased by over a million acres, the crop actually decreased owing to natural calamities and the ravages in Bengal, of a pest called *Helmintho sporium* last year, with still greater acreage and with a bounteous harvest, the crop was 30.6 million tons. So, from 26.5 million tons, the pre-war average, it went up to 30.6 million tons. This is the highest on record. It is 4 million tons over the production of the pre-war period and it is twice the figure we used to import from Burma. We got an increased crop of wheat in the first year of Grow More Food but we did not get such a large crop last year,—it was below the pre-war average. Now, for all foodgrains the pre-war average was 55½ million tons. After one year of Grow More Food it was 57½ million tons and last year it was practically 61 million tons, an increase of 5½ million tons over the pre-war period.

Now, my point in mentioning these figures—and this is my answer to Mr. Gwilt—is not that this is enough: this is only a beginning. I could give the House, if I had time, many reasons why in the existing circumstances we are worse off now in India with this increased production than we were in the pre-war period and why we still want imports from outside. But what I am concerned with at the moment is to meet the suggestion that Grow More Food has "achieved nothing".

Now, Sir, I know that I will be told that my statistics are not to be relied upon. But we must take them as they are and we are trying to improve them. Nearly all the provinces have got on hand schemes for improving their statistics. We had a very interesting sampling test on mathematically approved lines in the Punjab and the United Provinces this last summer. I have not seen the U. P. results but certainly as regards the Punjab it proved conclusively the accuracy, this year at all events, of the provincial figures of yield.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Have the Provinces accepted these figures?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am sorry I cannot give way because the time at my disposal is very short.

Sir, when I was a Sub-divisional Officer—that is a long time ago—we used to collect income-tax for the Government of India in the provinces. One day I was unsporting enough to compare the returns put in under income-tax with the returns put in by the same gentlemen in applying for gun and revolver licences and I was shocked, but not altogether surprised, to find that the property for the protection of which they wanted the use of a revolver or a gun was considerably greater than the property which was mentioned in the income-tax returns. Applying the same test here,—if it is suggested that in order to placate my own Honourable Chief here the provinces are inclined to "cook" their figures and show a bigger area under crops or a bigger off-take than really they have achieved, they would be on a very dangerous ground for immediately they would be jumped upon by my Honourable friend, the Food Member, for a bigger quota to his "basic plan". There is no reason, therefore, why we should

suspect that the figures have been "cooked". As I said, our statistics are improving. In some parts they are reasonably good and they will be better soon even in permanently settled areas like Bengal.

It may also be said that the bumper crop of 1943-44 was an accident and a gift of Providence. A gift of Providence it certainly was, but it was no accident. The high prices obtaining for rice, especially in Bengal, had led the cultivators to be willing to increase cultivation under rice and that applies, I suppose, all over India. Certainly as regards Bengal, that crop had to be sown at the beginning of the famine and we were told that the cultivators had under the influence of high prices sold their paddy and even their paddy seed with the result that although there was the willingness to sow on a very great scale, there was no seed. The Bengal Government very largely financed the distribution of seed for the *Aus* crop, but they asked us to help them in financing the distribution of the seed for the *Aman* crop and we did this to the tune of 4½ lakhs of rupees in the shape of grants and Rs. 33½ lakhs in the shape of loans to Bengal alone. For that particular crop all over India, we gave 8½ lakhs grants and 50 lakhs loans for the distribution of seeds, and that is, by the way, my answer to Mr. Muhammad Nauman, who I regret to see is not in the House at present. We also gave large sums for reclaiming waste lands in Orissa and Bombay, for irrigation of various kinds, chiefly for rice, in Assam and Bihar the U. P. and the C. P. It was therefore no accident that there was a good harvest that year, though I agree that without a bounteous monsoon, much of our help would have gone for nothing. That is one of our difficulties. It is one that can only be overcome by long-term extension of irrigation. But I venture to say that even if monsoon is patchy and the return per acre for the whole of India is poor, it is better to have an eight anna crop off 80 million acres than off 70 millions. So we go on trying to increase the area under foodgrains. During the current year we are spending even more in helping to distribute seed. We have undertaken a considerable liability,—I have no time to give the figures,—to help the Provinces in the matter of irrigation,—excavating tanks, re-excavating tanks and digging wells. These are particularly long-term—I may say they are permanent—improvements and they should mean a permanent addition in normal years to our food supply. Over and above that, the power-operated schemes for irrigation associated with the name of Sir William Stampe are just beginning to take effect with the *rabi* crop that is being sown now and there will be much more effect next year.

There has been—rightly, if I may say so,—considerable reference in this debate to "protective foods" and we also have had them in mind right from the beginning of the campaign. We had to go for first things first, and the first thing that was brought home to us very forcibly was the shortage of cereals, especially of rice. But we have had this matter of vegetables in the forefront of our campaign right through. Of course, there are two kinds of vegetables; there is the country vegetable, and the position as regards country vegetables has not, I think, been difficult. We have had no complaints regarding them and we have left the matter to the Provincial Governments. The seeds for country vegetables are produced locally, and it is not much good trying to grow in Bengal the kind of country vegetables that grow in the Punjab. What I want to speak about, however, is the European type of vegetables which are consumed by people of all races in the cities and by the armed forces. Now, Sir, the supply of seed for these was very largely imported from abroad right up to 1941. We have been faced simultaneously with the cutting off of these supplies and with the increase owing to the war in our ordinary urban population and by the influx—and I do not hesitate to say that at the time it came, it was a very welcome influx—of armed forces from overseas. In 1942 we started organising vegetable production by Provincial Governments to take up the demand of the armed forces for fresh vegetables and the demand of the Supply Department for de-hydration. This was to be separate production by an agency quite different from those which ordinarily supply the towns, the idea being to take over the supply to the army to a great extent, which would mean that the existing supplies should continue to be available in the towns. Bombay led the

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

way in 1941-42. Madras, Bihar and the U. P. followed. Now most of the Provinces are growing vegetables separately for the army. We have been told that the price of vegetables in Calcutta has gone very high. Calcutta has had no relief from this scheme because unfortunately the Bengal Government did not get their vegetable scheme going and they could not take up the potato scheme for which we offered them assistance. But Bengal is trying again, and if it can succeed in growing vegetables for the army, that will *pro tanto* assist the position in Calcutta. Some Provinces are now growing vegetables under similar arrangements for the civil population, and, again, Bombay is leading the way. The army themselves are growing vegetables and other protective foods to an ever greater extent. Reference was made to the vegetable seed position by my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths yesterday. Now, Sir, when outside supplies failed, we had to organise an almost entirely new industry, and mainly through the Agricultural Departments of Kashmere State and of Baluchistan we got a large acreage put under vegetables for seed production. I am free to confess that there were difficulties of supply in the first year. The growers up there were mainly private growers and they dealt to a great extent direct with seedsmen down here and a large number of seedsmen were caught out by the loss of their foreign sources of supply. They did not get a sufficient supply and there was also a certain amount of adulteration of seeds and high prices were charged. Some seedsmen did not get seeds at all. In the upshot, I am not sure whether there was actual over-all shortage, but undoubtedly there was some difficulty in getting hold of seeds in some areas. That is a point, which, in the language current at the moment, I must "concede" to my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths. This year, we have tightened up the whole thing; seeds are collected in bulk in bonded warehouses in Baluchistan and Kashmere and they are issued from there only wholesale to seedsmen and to Directors of Agriculture and to the army, after germination tests, and they are issued at fixed prices. There is no shortage of seeds this year. In fact, of some vegetables, we have got a surplus of seeds, including cabbages, which I understood yesterday were particularly the food of Americans!

I have to make some short reference to medical supplies.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about milk supply?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I hope I have said enough to show that we have not failed to achieve something in our Grow More Food campaign and I hope that when my Honourable friend Mr. Gupta sees the transcript of his speech in which he has described it as "bunkum," he will eat it!

I have very little time left to deal with other subjects. There has been, naturally enough reference to the epidemic situation. I should like briefly to refer to that as it is a matter which has been causing grave concern in this House. Since the last Session, the epidemic position in Bengal which was then still causing us grave anxiety has shown progressive improvement. The cholera mortality which in January was 3,000 a week had declined to 700 a week in April and to 286 and 232 in the first two weeks of October. The mortality is now considerably below average. Since April when the number of deaths from smallpox was over 2,000 a week there has been a steady improvement but the numbers though low are still rather higher than the normal. What I really want to say here is this, and I hope the House will be interested to hear it, that the Bengal Government have been going on with their campaign against these two diseases and they have been carrying out inoculations on a vast scale. In one year, since November 1943, the cholera inoculations in Bengal have totalled 18 millions; vaccinations totalled 32 millions. That is a colossal piece of work. Thirteen thousand tube wells have been renovated or new ones have been sunk. I need hardly stress the importance of that from the cholera point of view. Twenty thousand beds have been opened in 572 emergency hospitals. In 1943-44 the malaria situation in Bengal was bad and it is of course bad this year, because unfortunately in malaria one bad year tends to lead to another bad year. The Bengal Government have received for dealing with the malaria

situation 100,000 lbs. of quinine and febrifuge and 179,000 tablets of quinine substitute. The two together afford about 21 million treatments.

In Bihar,—and I think within the time left to me I shall have to finish with Bihar,—the last six months have seen a very severe epidemic of cholera,—in North Bihar. It began to develop in April and May; it reached its peak in June with over six thousand deaths in one week. Since then the figures have shown a considerable improvement and for the last two weeks of October they are 597 and 744. But since the cholera mortality began to decline, malaria has given cause for anxiety there. Now the military medical authorities have come to the help of the Provincial Government. They have supplied 22 military medical officers for emergency duties and they have released an I.M.S. officer with public health experience to be Additional Director of Public Health for North Bihar. The Bihar Government have appointed an Additional Commissioner for relief work in the Tirhut Division. They have got adequate supplies of vaccines and anti-malaria drugs; 28 million tablets of quinine substitutes have been supplied to them; they have made arrangements for the distribution of anti-malaria drugs through malaria centres, district dispensaries, village headmen and other village agencies. Voluntary relief organisations are being organised and allotted compact areas and are being supplied with anti-malaria drugs free. The great difficulty that the Bihar Government are having is to get the additional medical staff which they require.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Then, Sir, I am afraid that is all that I can say.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I wanted to deal with the "Grow More Food" campaign in a later part of my speech but having listened to the remarks which fell from the last speaker I am inclined to take that matter up first. He gave us some figures and thereby tried to refute the allegation that the "Grow More Food" campaign had fallen flat and the allegation made from this side of the House is groundless. But his own figures which I am going to quote—and which have been supplied to me just now by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga, will show that the popular belief stands corroborated by official figures. There has been a lot of propaganda in this country in favour of the "Grow More Food" campaign and the Honourable Member told us that the quantity of rice produced has gone up from 26½ million tons to 30.6 million tons. If you look at the official figures of production of rice you will find that in the year 30-31 when a thing like the "Grow More Food" campaign was unheard of, the production of rice in India was more than 32 million tons, and right up to 1934-35 it was something like 30 million tons. This is from the *Statistical Abstract for British India*.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Is that production only or import as well?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member did not give way when I interrupted; my time is also limited.

Then as far as area is concerned, we are told that the area under rice has gone up to 80 million acres. Now with regard to the area under crops and yield of British India,—obviously it could not have included imports,—I quote from the Agricultural Statistics of India

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Does that include Burma which was then a part of India?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: That is not mentioned here. "In India",—that is what is stated. But even then it would not make very much difference.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It would make a tremendous difference.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Even apart from that I have other figures which will show that the area under foodgrains has not increased very much even leaving Burma out of consideration. In the year 1937-38 the area under food crops was something like 15 crores and 43 lakhs of acres, and in 1942-43 it had only risen to 16 crores and 2 lakhs of acres, which shows that the progress made is very poor indeed.

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

However, leaving this "Grow More Food" campaign for the time being, the point made by Government against criticisms from this side of the House is that most of the criticism from this side is not based on facts and figures and that we have not got the wonderful secretariat which Government have at their disposal. Assuming for the sake of argument that this charge is true, that the Government of India have got machinery at their disposal from which they could have collected information about the state of things in India as regards food. They could have easily found out that long before the war India was not self-sufficient in the matter of food; and any one who had seen the countryside and the state of physique of the people would have easily found out that there were millions of people in this country who were not getting one square meal a day. With all these facts and figures at their disposal it is really surprising that this wonderful Government of India had no plan and no policy when the war began. If they had no facts and figures and had been groping in the dark one could have excused them. But they knew very well that in the matter of food, India was not self-sufficient. In spite of all this there was no policy, and when they came to have some kind of policy, that policy has been very erratic and halting,—a policy which has been changed from time to time, a policy which has not been governed by any principles, a policy which has been very inconsistent and has caused a tremendous amount of loss to the people of this country. When this country was overtaken by a terrible calamity like the Bengal famine, when lakhs and lakhs of our countrymen were dead, and when millions are even now going about as victims of the mal-nutrition and bad food which, as press reports clearly indicate, has resulted in widespread epidemics throughout the length and breadth of this country,—epidemics like malaria, cholera, dysentery, etc., which are the result of the bad food supplied to the people,—it was after all these terrible things had happened that this Government of India awoke to the realities of the situation and began fumbling round for some sort of plan to be put into execution.

My Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths from the European Benches made a very good speech yesterday and it seems he has taken a lot of trouble to study the subject. I listened to his speech with great attention. One remark that he made was that the conscience of the people of this country had not been roused sufficiently and that there was no active public opinion in this country to bring under control all such dreadful things like black markets, corruption and other things which go with the administration of food control in this country. I will frankly concede that to some extent our people can be blamed for the absence of a proper and sufficiently strong public opinion in this country. But at the same time it cannot be denied that the Government of India, constituted as it is in this country, have got absolutely no conscience and utterly lack the public support without which no Government can function in any part of the civilised world. Mr. Griffiths was giving us the analogy of how things had been worked out in Great Britain, how much more effective and efficient was the machinery that was set up in that country. One of the main reasons for the difference in the condition of things in Great Britain and in India is that there they have a Government which represents the will of the people and here the same Great Britain has forcibly thrust upon us a Government every act of which is contrary to the well-known wishes of the people of this country. Imagine, Sir, a Government in England during war time which had shut up all the members of the present British Cabinet and the Leaders of various political parties. What would be the state of mind and the state of public conscience in England as regards any measures which such Government wished to put into execution? This makes all the difference, and it is for this reason that there is no public opinion behind the acts of the Government of India, and therefore the measures which they have in preparation for dealing with the problem of food have not succeeded sufficiently enough.

The Honourable the Food Member was talking of the Basic Plan—some wonderful plan which the Government have evolved—which will bring all our troubles under control. I tried to read that Basic Plan in the Food Grains

Policy Committee Report. The Basic Plan is very modest. It comes to this: They have taken the full production of foodgrains in India for a period of five years before the war, they have added to it the imports into this country and subtracted from it the exports from this country, and they have satisfied themselves that that amount of foodgrains was sufficient for feeding the population in India.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): That is not the Basic Plan.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: That is the Basic Plan as laid down in the Foodgrains Policy Committee Report. This will not do. Even with the production and the imports which were coming in before the war, it is a well known fact that our people were not being fed sufficiently enough and this sort of Basic Plan therefore will not do. Bolder and far-reaching measures will have to be advocated. You will have to go to the source of things—the actual production of foodstuffs in this country. You will have to set up some sort of a planning committee—call it a planning committee or by any other name, as you like—which will decide what class of foodstuffs should be produced in this country taken as a whole, what should be the area under each particular crop, and then you will have to do something much more than the Government of India has been doing in the past.

The Honourable Member said in his speech that they were trying to suppress black markets. I think that by their refusal to buy up all the available surplus foodgrains in this country, the Government of India have aided and abetted the establishment of black markets. After all how do these black markets come into existence? People prefer to sell their foodgrains to certain dealers—who indulge in these malpractices, in preference to public bodies. If some such measures could be devised whereby the State will take all the available surplus—and that can be done; it cannot be said that such a thing is impossible; it can be done very easily—believe me it will end all our troubles. We have two kinds of producers in this country: We have got small farmers with small families to look after, and big landlords with a surplus. The policy should be such that the small farmers' requirements should be fixed and as much food as is necessary for the requirements of his family should be entirely left to him. But we have got large producers—big landlords—who keep back much more than they really require. And what do they do with it? These are the people who are the victims of and succumb to the temptations of the black markets. The State can easily fix a reasonable and legitimate price which will give them a fair return for the produce of their lands, and at the same time some sort of law should be devised whereby all this surplus should be taken over direct by the State without the intervention of these horrible middlemen who have come into existence as a result of the present system of control which has been set up by the Government of India. These are the people who are dealing in what I should call the black market and the white market. Simultaneously they sell to people who have got ration cards, and at the same time these are the very people who, under the eyes of the Government officials, are indulging in malpractices known as the black market. Why don't you stop supplies so that these people will not have anything to sell. Make it impossible for big landlords and people with surplus to sell to any one but the State. This is one of the methods whereby you can entirely eliminate black markets.

There is one thing more. In view of the tremendous rise in the price of necessities of life which the poor agriculturist has to purchase, for instance cloth and other necessities of life, the Government cannot be blind to the fact that he has to pay much more for these things, and in fixing the price for foodstuffs it should be seen that a reasonable amount should be paid which will cover the cost of his production and at the same time leave him with a reasonable margin of profit.

Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about the administration of the Food Control in this country. Anyone who has seen the Food Control at work in

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.] This country will realize—I am not trying to score a point against the Government—that there is a lot of corruption going on in this department. In the matter of Food Control, I think the Government and the public can very well co-operate in stamping out corruption. But I do not approve of the attitude of the Government of India in this matter. When any criticism is levelled against them and it is pointed out that a lot of corruption is rampant in this department, they try to dismiss it by a blank denial that anything of the kind exists and that the criticism is irresponsible. First of all, you must be very careful in the selection of your staff; no favouritism should be allowed. It is only when incompetent people are taken in the establishment dealing with Food Control, people who do not know even A, B, C of work, that it leads to corruption and incompetence. At the same time, Sir, I think it is not beyond the competence of the Government of India to set up a special Crimes Investigation Department to track down all those officials of the Food Control Department who are suspected or are well known to be corrupt. A special department should be set up in the interest of public good and in the interest of a cleaner and more efficient Food Control in this country whereby all such persons can be tracked down. And while we have this middlemen system still in existence, it will also be seen that the people who corrupt these officials are generally these middlemen who are favoured with permits to sell stuff to the poor people. These middlemen are the people who try to corrupt these officials because they are the people who stand to gain. This Crimes Investigation Department will aim at tracking down these middlemen as well as the corrupt officials and will bring about the desired reform which I think the Government and the people both desire to see brought about in this country.

Now, Sir, a few words more about the Grow More Food campaign. I have got some figures which I have taken from a book I was studying only last night. I will read out:

"In the year 1937-38, 154 million acres were under food crops in this country and in the year 1942-43, for which latest figures are available, only 160 million acres were under food crops."

That shows that not more than 6 or 7 million acres more have been brought under food crops in this country. It is obvious that the drive under the Grow More Food campaign has not brought about the desired result. I would like the Honourable Member for Food to tell us whether there are any cultivable State lands in India which have been brought under the Grow More Food campaign, and whether he would give us some facts and figures,—and it will not be impossible for him to do so—in regard to the total area of cultivable State lands and what percentage of this has been brought under crops as a result of the Grow More Food campaign?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I am finishing, Sir. There are other matters like the proper supply of seed, the proper supply of improved agricultural implements, the setting up of machinery for manufacturing manures and other things with regard to which the agriculturists experience great difficulties. I will end up by saying that my criticism is not with a view to run down the Government of India, but to bring it to their notice that there is a lot of corruption and that the system can be improved a lot if only the Government will turn their proper attention to it. Sir, I support the amendment.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): **Mr. President,** Sir: I would like to join my friend, Mr. Essak Sait, in paying a tribute to the Government for their energy in tackling this matter and also, I may say so, for the regularity with which they bring this matter before this House for debate. I do not think anybody can complain that food matters have been insufficiently debated in this Honourable House, and I congratulate the Honourable Member on his courage and his wish to share his troubles and his joys with us.

The Honourable the Food Member made four claims, as far as I understood him, when he spoke the other day. He said that his all-India food policy had been accepted by the provinces, that prices had been controlled, that Government stocks had been established to prevent local shortages, and confidence had generally been restored. Now, Sir, I think, as far as in him lies, and with the constitutional and administrative difficulties that he has to face, that that claim is largely justified. But I must point out that he is very largely still in the hands of provinces and that provincial administration and provincial policies still very largely control the effectiveness of his actions.

May I point out, Sir, to begin with, that the figure that the Honourable the foodgrains can be reduced very considerably if provinces generally decide upon Secretary for Education, Health and Lands have given us of 60 million tons of a motto of "safety first" and there is no doubt in my mind whatever that all provinces without exception are adopting a policy of "safety first": and, indeed, who is to blame them; the safety of their provinces is their main concern. But if they wish to provide a margin of safety of say 10 per cent.—and I apply this not only merely to the provincial administration but to every district and every person within a province—no less than 6 million tons of foodgrains can be removed from circulation. Where then, Sir, is the increase that the Grow More Food campaign has produced? It is already cancelled out by the margin of the safety that these provinces may demand. Again, Sir, what authority has the Honourable the Food Member, who is responsible for the distribution of food and all the details that occur in this great problem, to tell the provinces what they are to grow, where they are to grow it and so on. He has, in fact, no authority at all and the provinces can grow what they like, where they like and how they like. So, Sir, I think it is fair to say that the criticism which is levelled at the Department of Food is largely levelled on provincial administrations: and here, Sir, I will mention particularly the question of quality. We in deficit provinces know perfectly well that we are getting bad quality and the province sending this stuff to us takes no responsibility and really does nothing to see that we get something better than what Mr. Neogy yesterday described as "pebbles". Now, Sir, I am a little surprised that in the various inter-provincial meetings which have taken place this problem has not been more adequately dealt with. Surely it is possible to tie the quality to someone. In normal times we know very well that ordinary business practice makes it inadvisable for a dealer to sell somebody else bad quality. The "somebody else" won't accept it and when it goes to arbitration he is liable to lose very much more money than he has gained by adulterating his supplies. But when you are faced with a situation in which the reply is 'you can take that or nothing', a very difficult situation arises, and I will go to this length, Sir, and say that as long as this state of things exists it will be impossible to prevent the adulteration which is undoubtedly occurring in the Government rationing shops. A Government rationing shop-keeper will sell bad quality and he will say "this is the stuff I received" and there will be no one to say him, nay. So, Sir, my advice to the Government of India is this: that they tie the quality of these supplies to someone. The trade practices in different parts of India differ and the guarantee of other method may be useful in some parts but not in others. But I would advise the Honourable the Food Member with all respect to apply this policy of tying the quality of the grain supplied to somebody so that there may be recourse either by arbitration or other means to people who supply bad quality.

Now, Sir, the prices of foodgrains in India today are high. They are high in comparison with other prices; there may be many who will oppose a reduction because of the effect of such reduction on the countryside. But the duty of Government in this respect is to examine the general cost of living and to fix prices at a level which they consider fair and which will form a suitable level and a universal level. Sir, at the moment there are various prices ruling all over India for foodgrains and the result is that there is juggling between provinces, between districts and so on, where the prices vary. If in a certain district your price for rice is Rs. 12 and in another district it is Rs. 14 a man will

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soon shift his rice somehow into the part of the country where he gets a better price and your arrangements are upset. I think that as soon as it can be done universal prices must be established all over the country and when that happy state of affairs is arrived at, I would strongly advise Government to make those prices fixed for a number of years so that the cultivators may know with a degree of certainty what they are going to get for their crops in time to come. Then when any measure of uncertainty is removed we can go ahead with measures for improvement and for the improving of yields, etc., about which I shall speak a little later.

There is another aspect of this price question which I must mention and that is what I would describe as a transfer of inflation. I do not quite know what the complete remedy is, because as long as partial control exists in this country there will always be a measure of inflation thrown on to articles which are not controlled and that, Sir, is happening to a very large extent in the province from which I come. As an example, I would quote the case of an uncontrolled article, namely meat. We have started in Calcutta two meatless days a week and what was the effect? Immediately the burden of demand was thrown on to fish and fish prices jumped by Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 a seer almost at once. The jump was totally unjustified but there was no control over fish and the meat had been removed from the market. Even the coarse fishes like *Rohu* and *Katla* jumped Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 a seer. Now, Sir, that has occurred practically in every article of food that is not controlled. Milk, eggs, vegetables, fish, etc., have all gone up and they have practically gone outside the scope of the purse of even the middle classes. The only possible remedy for this, and it is an inadequate remedy, is stricter price control: and I am in entire sympathy with those who have to administer this problem when they tell me that strict price control drives articles underground. I know it is true and, to a large extent, I know it will be hitting a brick wall. Until we can enlarge the rationing field, and I am rather doubtful whether that field can be much enlarged at present (certainly in the case of perishable articles), until we can enlarge the rationing field and until we can control supplies more adequately, we must concentrate on administration and upon enforcement. I know that it will bring with it a lot of ancillary troubles. I know that there will be a certain amount of bribery here and there: but I still maintain that a strong public opinion and with men, say in the Legislatures, banding together to make certain that malpractices are brought to light and are punished, something more could be done and, apart from anything else, it seems to me to be the only possible solution.

I would like to say a word, Sir, about public health, which has loomed large in this debate. I know from personal experience that public health is declining. Our own office staffs, of which we keep a careful record, are definitely more frequently absent and they are getting ill very easily. That, Sir, I think, is undoubtedly due to the absence of those foods, which the Honourable the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands called 'protective'. They are not getting eggs, they are not getting vegetables and I was surprised to find how much the potatoe has become a normal item of diet. All these things are now practically unobtainable and there is no question in my mind that the health of the people is declining as a result. I think that this matter of non-cereal foods demands the Government's most urgent attention, because if attention is not soon given to it there will be a definite and serious decline in the health of the people.

I was very glad the other day to hear from the Secretary of the Education, Health and Lands Department that over the question of rice there was a proposal to go more for production than increase in acreage. I know that it is very easily and frequently stated by critics of the Government that there are 150 million acres of cultivable waste in this country. That, Sir, is a figure which is totally misleading. Most of the culturable waste in this country is not cultivable land at all and much of the rest depends on the communications that can be established. There is no use telling a cultivator to go and culti-

vate a piece of land that has no roads, no railways and no water. Therefore, Sir, we must undoubtedly go as far as we can for an increase in yield per acre and there is no earthly reason why that yield per acre should not be increased. I have little faith in statistics, particularly in Indian statistics, but I have seen it stated that the yield of rice per acre in China is double that in India and in Japan it is three times. I know, equally well, from personal experience that there are parts of India, which produce rice yields per acre as large as any in the world. Unfortunately there are other parts which bring down the average with a bump and the trouble is mainly seed. As the Honourable the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands Department stated the other day only about 6 per cent. of improved seeds is used in rice cultivation in this country and I am glad to hear from him that an effort is to be made to increase that.

Sir, I want to point out at this stage that while the position, as regards rice has improved very considerably, I do not regard the future with anything like complacency. I think, to a large extent, the troubles of the Honourable the Food Member are still to come and let me tell him why I think so. In the first place, to provide for the increase in the population of this country this country has got to produce every year half a million tons more of food grains. The calculation is open to argument but I think it may be even more than that. Now, Sir, the Government is working to meet this increasing demand. They are bringing in imports but, if I may say so, they are working 'blind'. They do not know what the production of the country is. Their information regarding the stocks that exist is largely coloured by the provincial policies and as regards consumption in the country they have no information at all. The Government at the moment do not know what the people are eating. In the United Provinces, where in the winter months the cultivator ate pulses, millets very largely, I now understand that he is eating wheat and I am very glad that that is so, because it is a better food and better for his health. But how will this affect the wheat stocks that the Honourable the Food Member thinks he has?

And let me add another warning regarding prices. Unless these prices are stabilised reasonably soon, you are going to be in very great difficulties. There are, I believe, one hundred thousand tons of gram found in excess in this country now and if there is a drop of Rs. 2 a maund on that supply of gram someone is going to drop half a crore of rupees. It may be the Government, it may be the stockists, but somebody is going to have to pay and in this country there must be millions and millions of tons of stocks held in various places. Let the price go down, apply a drop of one or two rupees a maund to these various stocks that are held, I wonder how many of the small mofussil banks and co-operative societies will survive. This is going to be a matter which the Government will have to watch extremely carefully and the sooner they stabilise these prices, believe me, Sir, the happier I shall be. That brings me to the end of my time and I must stop.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Mr. President, we have heard from every Member on the Opposition Benches a tale of woe, and I am inclined to believe with my friend Mr. Lawson that that tale should have been voiced in the provinces more than in this Honourable House. A great deal of the administration of the policy of food control lies with the provinces, and unless this agitation which we rightly hear in this House is carried more effectively into the provinces, I am afraid the Honourable Food Member will not be of much avail to us from the Centre.

There are only two or three issues to which I desire to draw your attention. The first issue is the very important one of distribution which affects my province. There are three or four notoriously deficit provinces in India: they are said to be Travancore, Cochin, Bombay and Malabar. Government have laid down a policy whereby in their opinion one pound a day per head, or 3½ seers per week, is the minimum quantity that should be rationed for an adult. There are many parts of my province which do not get that minimum. The whole of Cochin and Travancore perhaps do not get that minimum. Malabar

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or parts of Malabar may be in the same category; but Mr. President, there are provinces in India where the individual citizen is getting much more than the minimum. Is it because those provinces will not come into line with the Government of India's policy, or is there some other reason? Will the provinces who have this surplus and who are giving out much more per individual than the deficit provinces, see reason? Can they be tempted—I will not say forced, but tempted—to come to a compromise with those provinces which are having less than the minimum—and by no means is that minimum liberal, it is a real minimum to keep body and soul together? Will these provinces be made to understand that India as a whole has to live and that if some provinces today are much worse off, a time may come when they themselves may be worse off in other directions? They want cloth; they demand that the Government of India should give them not only quantity but quality. We supply that. The Government of India makes us supply that and we do so.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): We did not get much of cloth in Bengal.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I really do not understand that. There is no reason why Bengal should not get sufficient quantities of standard cloth. I am not going to be diverted into that issue just now; but I may say that if you do not get standard cloth in sufficient quantities it is up to you to agitate to get it. Those provinces who do not make cloth, want it and it is given to them. That is only one example. In return I do believe they could be made to understand that all peoples in India should be given an equal quantity of food.

Now, I will come to the very encouraging figures given to us by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson. I am not by any means elated with those figures, for let me frankly tell him that I do not believe them. He told us that compared to the three years before the war, in 1943 we had 4 million more tons of rice. His department has presented India with 4 more million tons of rice. The imports from Burma before the war were, I believe, 1½ million tons. So he has presented this country with two and a half times the quantity that Burma sent us before the war. Does he ask us to swallow that? And if he does, I will ask the Honourable Food Member to distribute that 4 more million tons of extra rice to the rice-eating provinces, such as Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. In these deficit provinces there is one very great difference which the Honourable Member surely knows. Cochin, Travancore and Malabar are accustomed to eat rice. It is very difficult for them to take wheat, *bajri* or *jowari*. I believe the Governments of those provinces are trying their best but you cannot educate a people to eat something which they have never been accustomed to eat: it affects their health. I sympathise with them. But we in Bombay, who are also a deficit province can eat wheat, *bajri* and *jowari*. We have that advantage, and therefore I would ask the Honourable Food Member, while he considers this question of distribution, to keep this point in view. We can eat everything.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Including pebbles!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: We have had to do that. While Malabar, Cochin, and Travancore may deserve a greater portion of rice and I am prepared to admit that, give us wheat, *bajri* and *jowari*; do not deprive us of the minimum quantity of food; of course a certain portion of rice must be supplied. With regard to these figures of the Honourable Member, I am afraid they do much more damage than good, because if we have got 6 more million tons of food now than we had in the three years before the war, where is it? With whom?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: With the producers to some extent.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Did they eat nothing at all before the war? Are they consuming all these extra 6 million tons? I ask the Honourable Food Member—where is it?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Bunkum!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Statistics are very dangerous things to play about with, and I think the Food Member realises that more than anybody else. One department says that it has given the Food Member 6 more million tons a year and when we cross-examine the Food Member not only here but in other places he has got nothing to say about those six millions and I will ask him this direct question—in which pocket has he got these six million tons of extra food? If he will tell us, we will raid it. Statistics are a dangerous thing and if Government are to be deceived, do not let them try and deceive us because it will only increase the discontent in the country. It will only increase agitation and rightly so. It will only give a handle to others to say that there must be something rotten in the Kingdom of Denmark if after getting 6 million extra tons of food in this country, as compared to the three years previous to the war, we are still starving.

Now, Sir, I will not take up the valuable time of this Honourable House. I will only say that I quite agree with the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party when he emphasized the principle that provinces should buy direct from the agriculturist and cut out the middlemen. That policy is being adopted in my province of Bombay and let me tell the Honourable Members it is not so easily done as said. There are many complaints. The Agriculturists feel that they are being compelled to part with a commodity for which in the black market they could get more. They feel that *gulum* is exercised on them by the subordinate officers. There are complaints of corruption on the part of these officials. Notwithstanding all these complaints, I agree, and I have said in this House time and again, that that should be the policy of provinces. It cannot be enforced from the Centre. The Centre is helpless. It is the provinces that are all powerful in this question of food and each province must suffer or gain according to the administration of that province. There are provinces that are better off than others. There are two reasons for it. One is the better administration, and the other, and the much more important reason, is the people themselves who are ready to help themselves. If the people are not ready to help themselves, well, they must suffer. There are two reasons why some provinces are better off than others. I will repeat that—better administration and the spirit of the people themselves. I am proud to say, Mr. President, that at least in the city of Bombay, we have seen some public spirit and people, men and women, never accustomed to work of this kind, volunteered for it before rationing came into existence, which set an example, which made not only rationing possible but rationing a success to a certain extent. I do not claim perfection for it and if the province of Bombay, being a deficit province, being a province that ought to be really starving, has done a little better than other deficit provinces, it is due to the spirit of the people and to the uncomplaining attitude of the millions who starve and suffer. There are millions in the province of Bombay, outside the city of Bombay, where, believe me, people are getting less than your most uncharitable minimum and still we are told and complimented on the condition of Bombay and that is why, Mr. President, I desire most earnestly to draw the attention of the Government to see that all provinces get per head an equal quantity of food and that some provinces should not be allowed, because they happen to be surplus provinces, to give their people much more than that minimum, while, we in the deficit provinces should be compelled by you to give our people much less than the minimum.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao (Government of India: Nominated Official): Mr. President, I have been listening most carefully to the speeches which have been made from the other side of the House and it appears to me that the main substance of the speeches falls under two categories, a review of what the Government India has done so far in the matter of food policy and food administration, and a recital of what should be done in extension of their existing food policy. It is not my purpose, Sir, to answer the charges which have been made against the administration of the Government's food policy as it exists at present and as was decided largely by the foodgrains Policy

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Committee, which, I may remind the House, pertained very largely to the supply of foodgrains and related mainly to the urban areas.

There have been, Sir, a number of detailed complaints about the administration of food in the various regions from which Honourable Members come and whose interests they represent in this House. It is obviously not possible for me, within the short space of time that I have at my disposal, to deal with those complaints, but I would like to assure the House that every one of those complaints is now under the active examination of the Food Department and if any Honourable Member has got any detailed matter on which he would require urgent inquiry and action to be taken by the Government in the Department of Food, I am authorised to give him an assurance on behalf of the Food Department that if only he will let me have the facts at the end of this debate or some time later, we in the Food Department shall take the most immediate steps to have them attended to.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I gave some facts to the Food Member about Sind and he has not replied.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: During the course of the debate, a number of points have been raised regarding extension of the food policy; if I may say so, this concern with new matters perhaps implies that the House is not now so much concerned with the criticism of the food policy as it was formulated last year which pertained mainly to foodgrains in urban areas, but that the House is now passing on to further problems which have been raised by the comparative success of the existing food policy of the Government of India. The new problems to which reference has been made are things like the extension of rationing in rural areas, the effect of procurement on producers, the question of Government monopoly purchase, the question of the basic protective foods and non-cereal foodgrains, and also the question of subsidy.

As regards procurement, Government monopoly procurement is only now being extended in considerable parts of British India. The Department has already appointed a special officer who is an expert in the grains trade to visit all the provinces where a Government monopoly purchase system prevails, particularly to examine the manner in which the grain is being procured from the producer, the price that the producer obtains, the amount that is left to be retained by the producer and the effect of such procurement on rural areas. The report is now in the possession of the Food Department and copies of it are being printed and will be sent to all the Provincial Governments. This report is now under the active consideration of the Department of Food.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Circulate it to all the Members.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I shall convey that suggestion to the Department. As soon as the Department has considered the report and obtained the views of the Provincial Governments, I am sure the Honourable Food Member would be able to come forward before this House and tell them what we intend to do regarding a number of problems such as those which my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga, who represents the Kisans, is particularly interested in.

Then, Sir, a very much larger question has been raised in this House, the question of subsidy. There have been two voices on the subject of the price of foodgrains. There have been some Members who have been saying that the prices of foodgrains are not particularly high at present and they should at least be permitted to be retained at their existing levels otherwise the producer will not produce, there will be no incentive to grow more food and there will be distress among the producing and agricultural classes. On the other hand, voices have also been raised in this House to the effect that the prices of foodgrains are high and it is not possible for many persons to purchase such quantities of foodgrains as are required for their nutritional requirements on account of the high prices of foodgrains and that something

of compromise and as a way of reconciling these two opposite points of view—high prices for the producer and low prices for the consumer—a suggestion has been made in this House that Government should examine the principle of subsidy as far as the prices of foodgrains are concerned. I would like to tell the House that this principle of subsidy is under the active examination of the Food Department and it has been under their examination for some time past. It is not possible for Government to come to a decision on a complicated subject like that of subsidy without due consideration nor, I am sure, will the House expect from me any declaration of decision on the part of the Government as regards subsidy. But I think perhaps the House may be interested to hear from me a brief account of some of the enormous complications which arise from the question of subsidy and I shall do so not only from the point of view of giving information but also in the hope that subsequent speakers who shall follow me will take up this point and let the Government of India have some idea of how they themselves feel on these complicated problems.

It is important to realise—I know one Honourable Member in particular waxed eloquent on the subject of the analogy of the United Kingdom and I have not got the time to answer him here but shall be glad to do so outside this House—that the analogy of England giving a subsidy of 150 or 200 million £ is all very good, but we must remember that we are not dealing with England but with India, a country even whose total national income is lower than that of the United Kingdom. Now that we have reached the stage when the prices of foodgrains are already high, the question whether subsidy will have an anti-inflationary effect will very much depend upon how it is going to be financed.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is the agriculturist making any money?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: That is a question which I am not prepared to answer on the floor of the House. All that I can say is...

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is he not responsible for inflation to a certain extent?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I shall refer the Honourable Member to the speech that was made by the Prime Minister of Bengal and which was reported in yesterday's papers. He said that the cultivator in Bengal is very much better off than he was before and he was advising them as to what he should do with the surplus money that he has got.

But to come back to the question: What is going to be the amount of subsidy that the House would like to give? I would just give an illustration. If the idea is to introduce a subsidy and if the idea is to bring back the prices of foodgrains to what they were before the war—and the difference between the prices now prevailing and those before the war is Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per maund of foodgrain, it must mean that the amount which will be required will run into hundreds of crores. I do not want to stagger the House with figures, but the amount will really run into hundreds of crores. And I should like to ask the House to consider how that money is going to be raised. If it is going to be raised by means other than taxation, it is not going to be of the slightest help as far as the bringing down of the prices of commodities in general and the cost of living are concerned. If it is to be obtained by methods of taxation, the House will consider on whom the incidence of it will fall and how far the incidence of this tax will leave the cultivator unaffected. Then again, my friend Prof. Ranga will say that the subsidy should be such that the benefit goes to the producer and that it is not taken away by the middleman. I entirely agree with him that the benefit of the subsidy is for the producer but what is going to be the technique that we are going to have for this purpose. If there is a Government monopoly purchase system where the Government buys grain directly from the producer—and I am very glad the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party has lent his support to this and this is also the policy of the Food Department,—then it would be possible to institute this system of

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subsidy. But the House knows that, excepting in some parts of the country, the crop is not directly purchased from the producer by the Government. And what is going to be the machinery which is going to be devised for the purpose of seeing that the subsidy reaches the producer and is not intercepted on the way.

Then, Sir, there is also the question, if you are going to institute a subsidy, what are going to be the grains which will be subsidised? Are we going to subsidise only the cereals, such as, wheat, rice, barley, bajra, maize or are we also going to subsidise milk and milk products, vegetables, poultry, eggs and other foodstuffs? I am not saying that they should not be subsidised, but I just want to say that these are problems which require consideration and which cannot be answered on the spur of the moment. They have already been under the examination of the Food Department and they require a very long and exhaustive examination before it is possible for the Government to have a firm policy on the subject of subsidy.

Then, there is also the question of the consumer. As my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi pointed out, and quite rightly, because he represents the working classes, the benefit of the subsidy should be such that the consumer today is able to get foodgrains or other commodities at prices lower than what he is having to pay at present. Here, again, there are a number of complicated questions which have got to be answered. When we talk of the consumer, should the subsidy be given to all consumers or should it be given only to a certain class of consumers? And if it is going to be restricted to a certain class of consumers only and not to all consumers, then what is going to be the principle of restriction? Is it going to be on the basis of income or is it going to be on some other basis?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur Nellore; Non-Muhammadan Rural): It should be on the basis of income.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: If it is going to be on the basis of income, what should be the levels of income at which the subsidy should stop? Then, Sir, there is also the question, the moment you talk of income groups, about what would be the position regarding industrial workers. As my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi knows, quite a large number of industrial workers are getting a dearness allowance which is based on the existing cost of living. If the Government of India decides to have a policy of subsidised foodgrains for industrial workers and give them food at lower prices, will my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi be prepared to advise his friends to accept a reduction in the dearness allowance which is based on the cost of living, and which is based on the present high prices of foodgrains? I am not saying that he should, but I am only showing that that is a difficulty. The question as to what is going to be the position of industrial workers and all those consumers who have had the benefit of a higher income directly as a consequence of the rise in prices has got to be considered. Then again I do not know how my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga did not make an interjection and say: "What about the rural people? Are you going to confine the benefit of the subsidy only to urban workers?" During the debate in this House I gathered the impression that the House has been very much concerned with the interests of the rural people. What then should be the position of the rural masses in a scheme of subsidy? What about particularly the classes with which I have the greatest sympathy and to which my Honourable friend Rao Bahadur Siva Raj referred, the landless labouring class, the class who has borne the strain of every economic stress in India? What is going to be their position in a scheme of subsidy? What is going to be position of the non-producers in rural areas and what is going to be the position of the inadequate producers in rural areas in a scheme of subsidy? What is going to be the position of producers who produce non-food crops? There are many complications.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Therefore the solution is, do nothing in the matter.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I can assure the Honourable Member that I am

stating these facts for his consideration, and not with a view to show the impossibility of anything being done in the matter of subsidy. It is only to show that the problem is vast and complicated, it has got all sorts of implications, and financial implications are the biggest of all. Apart from the question of the amount that a scheme of subsidy of any reasonable character will cost, there is the question of who is going to bear the subsidy? Is it going to be the Central Government? Is it going to be the Provincial Government? If the subsidy is going to be met by taxation, then on whom should the incidence of taxation fall? My only point is that the whole question of subsidy is one that bristles with difficulties. It is not that the Food Department is oblivious of the fact that there are large classes of people in this country who do not get as much food as they should get. The Food Department is anxious that not only should the price of food grains be brought down and adequate supplies rushed to places where there is scarcity; but also that the people who are in need of food do actually get it. That is why we are investigating this question of subsidy. Apart from the question of income groups, rural groups, urban groups, etc., what is to be the position of pregnant mothers, nursing mothers and children? Would it be possible to have free or subsidised milk canteens all over the country? Is it desirable to have a system of subsidy on the basis of industrial canteens for the benefit of industrial workers?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: May I ask the Honourable Member to tell me either inside or outside the House how this question has been solved in other countries?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: The Honourable Member knows that I am entirely at his disposal outside this House, though I may not be within the precincts of this building. I have very little time left. All that I want to say is this. We, in the Food Department, have been considering this question of subsidy. It is under our most active examination. As soon as we come to a stage when it is possible to put forward any concrete suggestion, we may have to refer it to a inter-departmental Committee consisting of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, a representative of the Finance Department, of the Food Department and of the Department of Education, Health and Lands for the purpose of going in greater detail into this question of subsidy. Sir, this question of subsidy will also be one of the problems which will be immediately investigated by the planning section of the Food Department to which the Honourable Food Member referred in his opening speech.

I should like to conclude my speech by saying one thing. A number of suggestions have been made on the floor of the House, some by way of detailed criticism of the food administration of the country. On all these matters any information given to the Food Department will be immediately investigated and whatever the Government of India can do by way of communicating to the Provincial Governments will be done. In the matter of new suggestions regarding policy which have been made, almost all of them, if I may say so, are suggestions which are well known already, which have been under the examination of the Food Department for a considerably long time and on which I hope the Food Department would be able to come forward before this House within a reasonable measure of time with concrete suggestions and policies. In the meanwhile, if Honourable Members opposite will forgive me, I do very much wish that some little credit had been given to the Food Department for the work that they have done in managing the food problem, at least as far as cereals and food grains are concerned.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong; Non-Muhammadan): Mr. President, I shall not deal with the long statements given by the Government time after time to show how they have been carrying out the food policy and the food programme. I shall only refer to two or three points which will throw a flood of light on the administration of food problem in the different Provinces. The policy of procurement, distribution and control of prices, all these have failed in their effect on the people of this country. No

[Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam.]—doubt the Government have been giving long statements, but the fact remains that their effect on the people of the country is most unsatisfactory. Regarding procurement policy, I shall show one instance. Government have given monopolies to contractors. In Assam paddy is being purchased by Government contractors at Rs. 5 a maund though the gazetted rates are Rs. 7-12-0 to Rs. 8-4-0 a maund. There are purchasing centres to which these poor cultivators have to take their produce. The Government contractors, in order to hoodwink the poor cultivators say "Oh! the Government have stopped the purchase of rice. Go to such and such people". These people are all their middlemen. The poor cultivators are sent to these middle men. These middle men say, the Government are not purchasing, how, so you had better give the rice to us. They compel the cultivators to part with their rice at a low price i.e., Rs. 5 a maund. Thus these cultivators do not at all get the price which the Government have fixed in their communique or in the Gazette. The Government are simply anxious to get at the rice by some process or other. I brought these facts to the notice of the Chief Secretary of Assam Government, I also wrote to the Government of India, but no reply has been vouchsafed to me on this matter till now.

I will now take up the case of salt. Salt at one time was selling at twelve annas per seer in the sub-division of Maulvi Bazaar in the district of Sylhet under the very nose of the Sub-Divisional Officer. When the people complained and brought it to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, no redress was given. Not only that. An officer went to Balaganj a big market in the district of Sylhet and he detected a large quantity of salt hoarded by a merchant. The Government did nothing in the matter to punish the hoarder. The result was that the particular officer who detected this was transferred elsewhere. Even licensed merchants hoard salt. The people were starving for want of salt, and yet Government did nothing to bring out the hoarded salt to the public. I sent to the Government of India all this news published in the local paper the *Sylhet Chronicle*, I sent cuttings in the month of August, and now we are in November, I have not yet got any reply from the Government of India whether any enquiry has been made by the Government of India or not. This is the procedure of the Government of India. This is the policy they are pursuing in this country, to give relief to the people. The Food Department says, it has done much. I say they have done nothing at all. I can give a large number of instances of maladministration and really no credit is due to the Department, on the other hand, they deserve the condemnation of the people.

Now, I will take another point. There is the Fresh Fruit Ordinance in Assam. As the House is aware, Surma Valley is known for its oranges. Oranges are required for military purposes. The contract for purchase of oranges is given to people who are in the good books of the Provincial Government. Some people say they are all relations of the Provincial Ministers. I do not know about this. It is the talk of my town. As I was saying this Fresh Fruit Ordinance prohibits the export of oranges outside Assam. If they are not exported all of them are bound to perish. You can imagine the plight of the orange garden owners. The idea underlying this ordinance is that if the orange growers are not allowed to export, they will be compelled to sell them at low price to Government contractors. Otherwise the oranges will all perish and become unfit for human consumption. These contractors are thus able to purchase at a low price and sell at high prices to the military. The Fresh Fruit Growers Association in Surma Valley have written to the District authorities that they can sell the oranges at Rs. 9. But the contractor who is now supplying it is getting Rs. 11/8/-. Of course I am not concerned with the contractor or any one else. What I want to know

1 P.M. is why this fresh fruit Ordinance was passed. Instead of improving the situation it has only made it worse, because these perishable things will have to be sold at a lower price. Therefore I say that the Government of India are callous towards the interests of the agriculturists in spite

of their professions to the contrary. This is a big problem before the country. If the price of consumer goods goes up and the price of the agriculturists' stuff goes down, what will be the condition of these poor people? These people whom I mentioned a few minutes ago are selling their paddy at Rs. 5 and they have to buy their salt, kerosene and other essential commodities at a price which it is beyond their capacity to pay.

Sir, I will not take up much time of the House; I only want to say that I gave these instances of corruption and maladministration to the Government of India, but they did not favour me with a reply as to what they are doing. I cannot thank this Government for their indolence, for their inactivity and for their want of sympathy with the people for whom they profess so much sympathy.

Mr. N. C. Ghunder (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, on a point of order, what is the use our speaking when no one from the Food Department is in the House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): The Food Member has just gone out and will be back very soon.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the production, consumption and distribution of food is at present a divided responsibility. One is in charge of the Food Department and the other in charge of the Agriculture Department. Agriculture is in itself a very big subject and it should not be tagged to a department which is responsible for everything from childbirth to the grave.

The shortcoming of the Government of India lies in the absence of farsightedness and imagination. We lost the import of rice from Burma and immediately action should have been taken to make up for this deficiency. My Honourable friend Mr. Tyson gave some figures about increase in production and my Honourable friend Mr. Gwilt quite cogently pointed out the increase of population during the same period, i.e., about 6 millions. Therefore increase of production should be correlated with the increase of population. Another thing is that the Food Department take the total production of cereals, forgetting that in certain provinces people eat nothing but rice. I have evidence that when *bajra* was sent to Travancore and other parts of Malabar, they did not know how to make bread and how to eat it. We all know that *bajra* cannot be eaten in the hot weather but can only be taken in cold countries and in the cold weather. Therefore it is useless to send it to Travancore and other rice eating provinces.

We recently appointed a Famine Commission. But the real problem in India is not so much the investigation of famine conditions but of growing more rice for the rice eating people. We have recently condemned the pegging system in South Africa but we have the same thing in the line system of Assam which is primarily responsible for the rice shortage in Bengal. I have figures with me. The total cultivable land now available in Assam valley is 5,747,736 acres, and according to the figure given by the Minister in Bengal they have got about 200,000 persons who are quite willing to go and cultivate this land. We have got the land, the men and the resources. Then why are we not able to produce the rice necessary for Bengal? People say that the acute condition does not exist; it may not exist at this moment, but Bengal is not out of danger and a slight variation in the crop will make the situation very acute. The other day there was a deputation of very influential men representing Assam waiting on Famine Commission and a Resolution was passed in which they said that the abolition of the line system will go a long way to permanently solve the problem of food shortage in Bengal inasmuch as it will bring under cultivation about 60 lakhs of bighas of arable land at present lying fallow in the Assam valley. Therefore this should be tackled at once. But who will do it? If I speak to the Food Department they say it is no business of theirs; the Agriculture Department say the same thing and refer me to the Home Department, who will perhaps say that they cannot interfere with provincial autonomy. But will the Government of India shirk their responsi-

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

bility simply on account of the obstinacy of few individuals in Assam, when people in Bengal are dying of hunger and people in Travancore, Malabar, and other places are suffering so badly?

One thing has to be remembered that the quality of rice in the different places is different. The rice that is taken in Bengal grows only in Bengal and Assam and in damp climate and the rice grown in Upper India will not be consumed by the people of those provinces. Therefore simply to talk of growing more rice is meaningless; the quality of rice actually needed by famine province, has to be considered.

As regards this shortage of food and the removal of the line system, I find that Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to Sjt. Gopinath Bardoloi, the then Premier of Assam, that the present line system was wholly undesirable and he also said that:

"Every effort should be made to avoid giving prominence to the communal aspect of it; essentially it is an economic question and should be tackled in an economic manner."

Miseries don't come alone. Another point in Bengal is that you took away their boats in pursuance of the denial policy. For the people of Bengal there are two essential articles of food, rice and fish. Unfortunately both of these things were taken away. Another factor which created difficulty was the influx of a large number of non-Bengalees in the departments of the Government of India and in military personnel, English and American. And they have to be fed very largely on the production of Bengal. These two additional factors—namely, influx of a large number of outsiders, and the taking away of boats—do not exist in Malabar, Cochin and Travancore. Therefore the conditions in those parts of the country were not so acute as in Bengal. Therefore, I strongly recommend, in order to avoid any future acute famine condition in Bengal—and I take it for granted that food shortage in Bengal has subsided only temporarily and may be revived at any time when there is slight failure in crop—(1) that Government should take steps to grow more rice in the cultivable land which is now available in Assam. (2) The Government should immediately provide boats to help the people of Bengal in fishing and transport. In certain parts of Bengal boats are the only means of transport and in order to facilitate that and also to provide some kind of living to people—for catching fish—Government should provide boats liberally. (3) The third thing which Government ought to realize is the fact that it is the responsibility of the Central Government to feed Calcutta. It is not the responsibility of the Bengal Government to feed Calcutta, as in Calcutta itself we have a large number of outsiders, mostly military who can afford to pay fancy prices for articles consumed by middle and higher class people. They can afford to buy all they want, and it is for this reason that prices have gone up abnormally as compared to Bombay and Delhi. And, therefore, unless the Government of India would take on themselves the responsibility of feeding Calcutta, it will not be possible for the Bengal Government, I am afraid, to do so. I would very strongly recommend to the Government of India to take action in the matter in order to avoid future famines. The troubles are not over; they are still there, and if the Government keeps silent over the matter, famine may recur. I say that the responsibility will be entirely ours and not that of the Government of Bengal. We have been hearing eloquent speeches, and we have had many debates on the food situation, there have been many committees and conferences also, but no action has been taken to relieve the people who are dying of starvation.

Then, I come to the question of distribution. First of all, distribution was in the hands of merchants and businessmen. Businessmen, unfortunately, have identified themselves with black markets. Therefore the responsibility shifted from the businessmen to officials. The officials are identifying themselves with the Defence of India Rules, and they are proving as inefficient as those who identified themselves with black markets. Both have failed. We have

now to try another method. You ought to associate a larger number of consumers themselves—non-official members—and they must work under the supervision of officials and with the help of businessmen. With the general supervision of officials, and with the advice of businessmen in actual work, consumers themselves should control distribution. Co-operative methods wherever possible may be tried.

Here is the Gregory Report. It says 'the Government ought to take full responsibility of the purchase'. The Government instead of taking the responsibility have changed the name; instead of calling the 'purchasing agents' they now say 'clearing agents'. Change of name does not make the scheme more efficient. Government ought to take direct responsibility of procurement. I gave notice of a Bill in which there were three points which I mentioned. One was about procurement. I say that the procurement of food is the responsibility of Government. The second thing was that price should be fixed by the Government and everything should be sold within limits, and the penalty should be very heavy for those who do not observe the rules properly. The Food Member did not permit me to introduce the Bill.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Rao discussed the question of subsidy. I could not possibly consider that Government is in a position to give subsidy to the growers and cultivators in this country. It requires three times the present income of the Government of India to do so. You can only give subsidy to those persons who try to cultivate virgin soil but to give money to the growers in this country in order to reduce the purchasing price is a very novel method and I am surprised that an economist should propound this theory. The details are so many as Mr. Rao himself pointed out, we will not come to any conclusion till five years after the war.

Sir, there is one thing which has not been done by the Food Department. They have fixed the price at which Government would purchase food grains from the producers, but they have not fixed the price which consumers shall have to pay. They should see that the difference between the two prices is not very great. At present we find that the difference is sometimes as much as Rs. 2/-, which is really very great.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now Quarter Past One. The Honourable Member has five minutes more and he can finish his speech after Lunch.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is a general desire in the House that, you would kindly give us another half an hour after Five of the Clock today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If this meets the convenience of the Members, the House will sit till Half Past Five of the Clock today.

Some Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Before lunch I submitted that the situation of rice in Bengal had not become stable. It is still precarious and we should make every attempt to grow more rice in the Assam Valley. Secondly we ought to provide as many boats as we possibly can to the people of Bengal to help them in fishing and in transport. Thirdly we have got in that area a very large number of Military personnel specially who require good food. The prices in Calcutta as quoted by two Honourable Members on the floor of the House are abnormally high as compared with other towns. To give relief to the people of Bengal, the Government of India ought to take responsibility to supply food to Calcutta and they should have large poultry farms, cattle farms and also vegetable farms and import livestock under

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:] - lend-lease arrangements from America. It is very fair to the people of Bengal otherwise the prices will not come down however much you may subsidize. The next thing I suggested was procurement. I said we follow the Gregory Report. If the Government will take the direct responsibility for purchases from the producers the complaints of large discounts to purchaser will be over. I do not see any difficulty in compulsory purchase. We follow the practice initiated by the Madras Government.

As regards prices, they ought to be stabilized. There is no question of giving a subsidy to growers. The prices should be economically fixed and there ought not to be any abnormal variation in prices from province to province and from district to district, and if a subsidy is necessary it ought to be given to stabilise the prices all over the country as we subsidise for stabilising exchange. Uniformity in prices and easy transport will close down black markets.

No doubt the situation has very much improved but the power behind the Food Department is still the combine of the grain dealers. They are a powerful body and I do not know whether the Food Department will ever be strong enough to break this monopoly. In the case of gram, it was declared by every province as an article not wanted. The moment the Food Department declared it open to free trade every province purchased it. It seems that this was arranged by the combine of the grain dealers.

The next thing is the question of distribution.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute more.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: ... in places where we have the rationing card. The system prevalent in Delhi is hopelessly inefficient. If a person happens to come on a Saturday evening he will have to go without food for two days. He will not be able to get his card till Monday. There are so many other difficulties, the consumers must have their say. The officials don't appreciate the needs of consumers. The consumers should regulate the distribution. If you leave it to businessmen alone.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: ... there will be dishonesty. If you leave it to officials alone.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran Non-Muhammadan): There will be greater dishonesty.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: ... constant application of Defence of India Rules. But leave it to the consumers under the advice of the officials and the help and experience of businessmen. I shall discuss the difficulties of transport on other occasion.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: No one doubts the great business experience that the Food Member brings with him or his genuine sincerity to tackle the problem entrusted to him. But he must excuse non-officials if they take the food policy and the food administration of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments as a whole during the last five years. Sir, the figures given by Mr. Tyson this morning were really very reassuring though why he takes credit for the Grow More Food campaign I do not know, as I have got here the Report of the Marketing of Rice in India and Burma published in 1941, page 482, in which in the years 1937-38 the acreage under rice was above 79 million acres and the production of rice was 31 million tons and 29½ million tons. But I would rather rely on what he said this morning and what he said means that there is enough food in this country and if that is so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: ... the responsibility for the distress in any part of the country will be that Government's. On the other hand the European Group is in the habit of trying to confuse and brow-beat the Indian side and the cry of population has been raised. Let me dispose of it in a minute. On

the one hand over 3 millions have been taken away as combatants and non-combatants. Perhaps 1 million of them are dead. Two to three millions are dead on account of famine and diseases and in any case the new births since the war are infants and they are not likely to consume even the very limited ration which the Food Member offers. Therefore the problem is a problem which should be and could be considered without bringing the red herring of population across it, which has been attempted. The wisest remark which was made on the whole of this debate was by my friend Mr. Siva Raj, when he said that the entire food difficulty arose on account of the war. Mr. Siva Raj wanted to exonerate the Government of India and he said it was due to the war and what could the Government of India do? As a matter of fact the trouble started with the denial policy in Bengal when 26,000 boats were confiscated and actually grain was exported from Calcutta in Bengal. It was taken away from the villages. Since the beginning of the war the entire concern of this Government has been to get the necessary military supplies. They have left the civilian population to fend for itself like chickens in a coop or sardines in a tin. This lack of foresight on their part is responsible for the various troubles we are experiencing. The Honourable the Food Member would have served Government as well as the country much better if he dwelt a little more on the lack of power of himself and his Government and their unwillingness to exercise this power at the proper moment.

Sir, in this country we are always at war. We are at war with poverty, hunger and disease and in this war all the people through this country, irrespective of party politics, are at one. Even Mr. Griffiths had to say that the food problem ought to be now considered as important as the war itself! This is our war and if the Honourable the Food Member would only exercise the powers which he has or ask for more powers which he has not and if the Government were really active, the position would be very much better.

Now, Sir, I shall dwell on some of the mistakes, and some of the omissions on the part of the Government which have really accentuated the trouble and from the nemesis of which we are not still free. For one thing, Sir, Government have got an enlightened doctor, an economic Adviser who has produced a prescription for them. But what has happened? The report is probably going between the various Departments. Probably the Finance Department had something to say, the Agricultural Department had something to say or the Political Department had something to say and by the time they have made up their mind as to what could be done, much precious time is lost and it is a pity that even now Government have failed to act up to their own report, to the advice given by their own doctor. Why have the Government, may I ask, failed to import the quantity of food which is necessary and which was recommended and for which public bodies pressed on all sides? Because they have not the spine, they have not the will, they had no desire, they had not the humanity to see what would happen to the civilian population in this country. They were entirely concerned with the war. In the beginning of the war there were people who were war-mad, who thought of nothing but the war, who would not allow anybody to say a word outside the war issue. I have heard, Sir, from an officer who was returning from Syria that he had a fight with a British Officer on the boat in the docks of Bombay as the boat was entering, because that British officer said that famine will help recruiting and this was before the Bengal famine. There were, as I said, people who were war-mad and so they entirely ignored the requirements and the necessities of the civilian population of this country.

Take the position of the Government of India vis-a-vis the Provincial Governments. Sir Homi Mody came to our Chamber, so did Mr. Sarker, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and other Members in succession including the Honourable the Food Member. We always raised the question: When you could, why don't you do something with the Provinces which have a surplus

[Mr. Manu Subedar.] and see that there is a just and proper distribution throughout India? They said that there was the difficulty of Provincial Autonomy. I do not know (because the number now exceeds many hundreds) the number of Ordinances which have been issued and which have cut across not only the legislative authority of this House but also the legislative and administrative authority of all the Provincial Legislatures and the Ministries. I cannot understand, Sir, how the Government of India came to regard the food position as not important enough to enable them to exercise the powers which they have exercised in less important fields, according to some of us in most obnoxious fields.

The Food Member was congratulating himself that the surplus Provinces are now falling into line so far as rationing is concerned but have they fallen into line so far as the release of their surplus produce is concerned? Is it not a fact that very many of them indulged in open profiteering, some of them added to the price of the food, which they permitted to be exported, several crores of rupees and dispensed with an old outstanding debt and they set such a bad example that several Indian State administrations in various parts of the country found this a golden opportunity. They, in their turn, robbed their own peasants of the food produced and they exported it at a very heavy price. This did not end there. If the Government of India had shown strength all these evils would not have arisen. In the surplus provinces there was a very strong tendency towards hoarding. Merchants held back commodities in the expectation of a rise in prices. Lorry-drivers, station masters, coolies, porters and others were threatened that if they helped in the export of food from that particular place they would be penalised. The Government of India did not act in time and a great psychological harm was done, first by the denial policy in Bengal and afterwards by the speculation, the hoarding and the holding back in the expectation of better prices, which took place in the various provinces.

The Government of India showed themselves weak with regard to His Majesty's Government. They did not convince His Majesty's Government of the necessity of the importation of food which was urged from all quarters. They are still in communication with His Majesty's Government and though Sir Henry French has come and gone, I hope the Honourable the Food Member will be able to tell us whether there is going to be a pleasant and welcome outcome of this mission.

Sir, they could not get shipping for food: that was the excuse. May I ask what was the necessity for whisky in this country, whisky which the Commerce Member said was food to some people! May I ask why have cosmetics and soaps arrived in Bombay in such large quantities and why are steel and iron and piping and other things arriving in Bombay in steamer loads. Does this House know that under the plea of consumer goods whole steamer loads have arrived in Bombay of various classes of goods which may be needed in this country but some which are not needed, such for example as 2 million kerosene lamps. Kerosene lamps have been imported into this country when it is well known that the people have not got the kerosene to burn them and they are lying there on somebody's account. They have eaten up valuable shipping space. What were the Honourable the Food Member and his predecessors doing when all this was occurring. Why were they so spineless?

Take the next point. When they convinced His Majesty's Government that some food was wanted for India what did they get? They got barley, which the Government of Bombay was compelled to buy. That barley was only barley in the sense in which some scientists would say that it belongs to the same generic family. It was not barley and it was not eatable by human beings. Its entire cost was debited to the Bombay Government who were compelled to purchase it and of course in their turn the Government of India argued "What can we do, we have been compelled to purchase it".

That was not all. Then came what is known as the small red wheat from Canada. Those are products which human beings never consumed in the past and which they will never consume in the future but which my unfortunate province had to accept at full value and dispense to the population. The Government of India had not the courage nor the strength or spirit to resist that offer and to tell His Majesty's Government that this would not do. We made a suggestion at one time that Indian wheat should not be sent out to Russia, Middle East, North Africa and Italy. We suggested that instead of importing from Australia for India and sending out Indian wheat why don't you do this way, *vis.*, making a prohibition of the export of Indian wheat and let Australia supply these things directly; but the Government of India would not accept, they were not willing, they did not see the humanity, they did not see the wisdom of the suggestion. Sir, even very late, even in the course of this year we have been urging the complete prohibition of the export of ground-nut, which is in substitution for other foods a very valuable food product. What is the position? The Government of India could not do anything. Why? Because the U. K. C. C. was concerned. It was the U. K. C. C. who took the food from here for Russia; when the Ukraine was gone it was the U. K. C. C. which took ground-nut from here—very badly needed for the population of Malabar and elsewhere. It would be a most wonderful substitute for other foods and as an ancillary food.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And manure also.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My friend reminds me that even now the Government of India and the Department of Agriculture is so slack, so negligent of its normal duties that it permits the export of agricultural manure, when on the one hand it tries to grow more food—more food can be grown in the country if more manure was made easily available; but the manure is taken away from this country at a time when it is most needed in this country.

Sir, Government missed the psychological factors, as I said. What is the use of the Food Member congratulating himself that Rs. 13-12 is the stabilised price in Bengal? Does he know that even when Rs. 2-8 was the price per maund, there were millions in this country on the margin of starvation, barely making a living, barely getting food? If they were starving on Rs. 2/8 a maund, does he not imagine what the state of starvation would be when the price is Rs. 13-12? And this is the price which has been brought down! My Honourable friend will not dispute with me that the price reached as high as Rs. 50 and Rs. 70 in Dacca and Chittagong during the worst troubles. The psychological factor therefore is that the prices must be brought down. They must be brought down, not in a manner to hurt the cultivator, but they must be brought down from the inflationary factors which have affected it. Who is the greatest culprit with regard to inflation? I do not merely refer to the note printing by the Honourable the Finance Member; I also refer to the railway charges. I refer to the profiteering over materials supplied to Bengal, indulged in by the Government of India themselves, about which, when Mr. Subhawardy made a big fight, the Honourable Finance Member said he will disgorge and make good. Government profiteering of every description by anybody should stop; they should set the example. I as representing the commerce of India in this House will say without hesitation that they should set an example which others can follow; and if there is anybody not willing to follow that example in the matter of food, down with him. Take any measures you like and we shall be with you.

Time does not permit me to deal with numerous points which my friend Dr. Rao raised. They are of course important points; but the question is whether the points were raised by my friend, Dr. Rao, in order to come to a solution, or are they merely raised in order to tell us that you are thinking about them. What is the use of your continuing to think if the harm happened in the interval?

I have two or three suggestions to make and I say that I am addressing myself in this not merely to the Food Member but to the committee of the

[Mr. Manu Subedar.] Viceregal Council which is going into this at higher levels. Let it be remembered that I am speaking on higher levels also and with every desire that the policy of the Government of India in the matter of food should succeed. We are not here out to deflect you from the policy you have undertaken. We are here to support you and to make suggestions both here and outside, at any time when you need it. The Centre should bear the cost of supplying food at the same price to consumer as it purchases from the farmer, the freight, deterioration and administration. The first thing I would suggest is, that instead of conundrums which my friend Dr. Rao has expounded, I would suggest that when food moves from a surplus to a deficit province, it should move down on railway material rates: this will be some small assistance in the matter of freight. The railway revenues are now swollen to unnatural figures and this would be a very legitimate and proper use, particularly as the railways of India are even now giving concessions.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have got two minutes more.

Mr. Manu Subedar: They are giving concessions to military movements to your war. There is no reason why for this purpose the Honourable the Food Member if he showed strength and if he had, as I believe he would have, the support of all his Indian colleagues, why he should not get this.

I would say a word briefly about milk and animals. It is my belief—and I challenge the Government to produce figures to the contrary—that more animals are slaughtered in this country than are being produced by the natural process. You can only supplement them by importation. If not, the grow-more-food campaign and the powerful array of figures quoted by Mr. Tyson would next year be a very sorry tale. This is the catastrophe lurking, in my opinion, and I think it merits and deserves complete examination and I should have brought to light many more facts here if I had the time.

The next question is about corruption and profiteering. By whichever door it enters your house, that is, this country, it is bad. It is a bad heritage and it will take years for our people to overcome this; and I say, whether it is in the central departments, in the people who give permits for transport, people who handle procurement, people who concern themselves with distribution, whether central or provincial, the blame comes to this Government and this Government ought to arm itself with powers as my friend Mr. Abdul Qaiyum suggested. About the subsidy which is wanted, it is not difficult to find out who are the most fit people to whom you should give it. Start with common humanity: you will soon discover the man who cannot pay for his food, not only at 13-12 which he cannot pay but at pre-war prices. Give him first the food he requires. Do not argue about it—as to which department will do it or from where the funds will come; give him food. It is a tragedy and it is a blight on British rule in this country that human beings should die for want of a little food; and I hope the Honourable the Food Member and his colleagues would wake up and would show strength, would make up for their past omissions and would put the matter right.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, I listened with due attention the speech made by the Honourable Food Member a few days ago. I rise now to point out some of the omissions and errors in that speech and to make a few observations on the food policy of the Government. The Honourable the Food Member did not say anything about the magnitude of the great disaster which was the greatest in India since 1771. Nor did he make even a passing reference to the after-effects of the famine of last year. It is known to careful observers that the famine of last year not only carried away millions of persons from the unfortunate province of Bengal, but left the remainder of the population in a debilitated and devitalised condition: The result is that this year this devitalised population is unable to resist the onslaught of diseases like malaria and cholera, and are falling easy victims to them. Thus we find

that the famine took a heavy toll of human lives last year and is taking another heavy toll this year.

But what is the Government doing to prevent further loss of life? Very little. Medicines are not available in many parts of the country and where they are available the prices are so high as to be beyond the reach of the poor people. The policy followed by the Government of Bengal is the old policy of callousness and complacency and their criminal negligence is as great this year as it was last year.

Sir, the devastation which has been caused by the famine can be gathered from the reports of persons who have visited the villages during the last few months. I am one of those who paid visits to some of these unfortunate villages and I found that most of the mud huts in which the poor people live are in a state of ruin and the poor people find it difficult to protect themselves from rain or the cold wind. In the riverside villages, the people have no occupation left to them because their boats were taken away. In the villages where weavers predominate, there is no occupation for them because of the high price of yarn. I could multiply instances, but time will not permit me to do so. In a word, I must say that it is a mistake to suppose that the famine is over. If technically, deaths from starvation are no more, deaths from the after-effects of starvation are still there and in very large numbers.

Now, coming to the figures given by my Honourable friend with regard to the prices of rice, I say that they are only partially but not wholly correct. It is true that the sub-divisional average of prices of rice is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 13 but the prices which prevail in some of the deficit areas are higher than those mentioned by my Honourable friend. I may point out that, even if you take the figure of Rs. 13 per maund all round, it is needless to tell anybody who has even a very nodding acquaintance with the economic system of the country that the price level is today nearly four times as high as that of the pre-war normal year. I do not want that the price level of rice and other foodgrains should go back to the pre-war level, but certainly further substantial reduction in prices is urgently called for. Otherwise, the poor people will not be able to get a sufficiency of food and there will be more deaths either directly or indirectly.

What about Calcutta? My Honourable friend failed to mention the case of Calcutta. In that city, the price fixed is Rs. 16/4 per maund. What is the justification for maintaining the price of rice at such a high figure in Calcutta? The residents of Calcutta are not all rich people. There are manual labourers, small artisans and the poorer sections of the middle-class. These are being hit very hard by the high price of rice which prevails in Calcutta.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend does not mention at all the prices of other articles of food, mainly what is known as protective food—milk, milk-products, fish and vegetables. The prices of these articles are 4 or 5 times higher than they were last year. Now, what are the causes of the high prices of these articles of food. Let us take milk first. Pure milk is not available even at the price of one rupee per seer in any part of Bengal. Now, the real reason for this is the great slaughter of cows. In fact, the slaughter of cows in Bengal was greater than in any other province of India. And what was the object—to feed the military. Then, in the case of fish, there also the demand of the military has a priority over the demand of the civil population. As regards vegetables, the same thing happens. Now, taking all kinds of food together, it is clear that the total cost of food at the present day is much greater than that of last year. The question is: How long can the people suffer from this state of things? The remedy must come, and a remedy can come if the Government make separate arrangements for the supply of food for the military and their entourage. If that is not done, the situation in Bengal will become even more serious in future than it is at the present day.

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 problem was being tackled. I wonder if he really realised that he was in fact putting the blame on the Britishers inasmuch as the Governor General of India who has all the powers is a Britisher, and the Governors of the Provinces, who are really the persons who administer those Provinces, in spite of the Ministries that may be functioning, are all Britishers. If this administration of food has failed in this country, it shows the bankruptcy of statesmanship and administration on the part of the British people. My Honourable friend may think that as there are so many Indians in the Executive Council and in the services, therefore, really the blame would be or at least most of the blame would be shared by them. With due respect to the great powers and the great influence that the Honourable Members of the Executive Council of the Governor General of India enjoy, let me say that all the key posts of the administration are in the hands, not of these gentlemen, but in the hands of the "steel frame" to which my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths belonged once upon a time. It is true that in that steel frame, we do find some men who are made of Tata steel, but it goes without saying that it is the "British steel" that is ruling this country, and if there is any defect in the administration of food in this country, the blame lies on the British people and the British Government.

Sir, let me dispose of the speech of my Honourable friend Dr. Rao to whom I listened with great attention. I congratulate him on the torrential eloquence of his speech. He put to the Honourable Members of this House a number of posers. I thought that it was for the experts to answer difficult questions, and it was for laymen to put before them their difficulties. But in this case, Mr. Deputy President, the process was reversed. Surely he does not expect me to give him an answer to all the questions he put in the short space of time that is at my disposal. But let me tell him that on his own confession he realises that the question of giving subsidy is a matter which cannot be ruled out. He himself admitted that this matter was not only under consideration, but under active consideration, of the Food Department. Therefore it was that a proposal was made from this side of the House that the question of subsidy should be considered and that subsidy should be given to bring down the high prices now prevailing which are beyond the reach of the poor people. There are of course two ways of doing it. One method is to bring down the prices of foodstuffs and the other method is, before doing that, to bring down the prices of all those things which are required by the cultivator. You cannot bring down the prices of foodstuffs if the cultivator has to buy all his requirements at fabulous prices. My Honourable friend was referring to the case of industrial labour. My Honourable friend is an economic expert and I hope he will forgive me for saying that there was something in his mind which he left unsaid. But he said, "Will industrial labourers be willing to accept less wages than what they are getting at present?" I will tell my Honourable friend Dr. Rao, with the limited knowledge of economics that I and other Members on this side possess, that it is not the amount of money that you give to a man which really matters but it is the purchasing power of the money which is important. Therefore, Sir, I am afraid, the speech of my Honourable friend Dr. Rao has not been very helpful. We expected that an expert would give us the benefit of his expert knowledge instead of putting posers to us.

Sir, I read the speech of the Honourable the Food Member with great attention. He has tried to take credit for his department and for himself for what Government have been able to achieve, which in my opinion is mighty little, and wherever there has been an uneasy situation he has glossed over it. He referred to the question of wastage and he admitted that there has been a lot of wastage. I think the House would have appreciated it still more if he had given us some figures of the wastage that has taken place during the last year. We want to know what is the quantity of foodstuffs that has been wasted due to the inefficient manner in which the Government of

India have administered this department. I looked at the speech most carefully; I read it more than once, but I did not find any figures with regard to the quantity of foodstuff that has been wasted due to the negligence of either the officials or the agents of the Government.

Of course the Government of India are past masters in the art of appointing committees, holding conferences, and importing experts. They always appoint a committee to inquire into a matter when the situation no longer requires it. We are told that they have imported an expert from the Middle East to help the Government of India in the matter of avoiding wastage of foodstuff. Sir, this reminds me of a story. In the olden days,—and I suppose even now,—in every village you have a *buj-bujakar*, a man who knows everything, master of all. Once upon a time a young boy climbed up to the top of a tree; he had done this for the first time in his life and he did not know how to come down. So there was great confusion and the villagers did not know how to bring that boy down from that tree. The whole village collected there and at last word was sent to this wise man of the village, the expert, to come and make a suggestion as to how that boy was to be brought down. He came, scratched his head, rubbed his eyes and said, "Yes, it is a difficult situation, but please bring a rope". So a man brought a strong rope. The expert said, "Throw it up to that boy". So they did it and asked the boy to catch hold of it. The boy did it and the men below told him to tie it tightly round his waist. The boy did that also and this wise man asked about half a dozen men to pull the rope. The men pulled the rope, the boy fell down and died. These people then said to this wise man, "What have you done?" He looked very sad and said, "My friends, this boy's time had really arrived because in hundreds of cases I have pulled out men by the same method from wells". Sir, they have imported an expert who knows nothing about the conditions of this country, nothing about the climate here, and he is going to advise the Government of India as to how to save all this wastage of foodstuff. I may tell the Honourable the Food Member that in this country agriculture has been and is the chief industry of the people, and for thousands of years they have done nothing but cultivate the soil. The villager knows how to protect his foodstuff; of course the agents that the Government of India employed were not expected to know it. Therefore instead of importing experts from outside it would have been much better if the Government of India had made use of local talent and village talent in this respect.

Sir, in this amendment moved by Mr. Essak Sait we have criticised the policy of the Government of India in the matter of procurement. Sir, their procurement has been not only ineffective but wasteful; and I hope the Honourable the Food Member will correct me if I give any wrong narration of a case which has come to my knowledge. I understand that the Government of Bengal arranged with the Nepalese Government to procure in Nepal one hundred thousand tons of rice. A certain price was fixed—I have got all the figures and if my Honourable friend would ask me I will give further details, but I do not think at this stage it is necessary—a certain price was fixed for rice as well as for paddy. The Central Government, with all the authority that it possesses and which it always uses in the wrong direction, ordered the Government of Bengal to take their hands off this deal, and they appointed their own agent to buy this rice in Nepal, who bought this rice at a price which was Rs. 2/12 per maund higher in the case of rice, and about Rs. 1/8 per maund higher in the case of paddy. Thereby, Mr. Deputy President, the Government suffered a loss of nearly 40 lakhs. Then what happened? That is not the end of the story. This man had never dealt in such big quantities of rice,—he had probably got this contract for reasons which are either unknown or too well known,—he had never handled such big quantities in his life before. There was a big amount of wastage. I understand that the value of wastage of the rice amounts to nearly 30 lakhs of rupees, and now the Government of India are trying to see that this loss is not borne by this "innocent" man but by either the Central Government or the Governments to whom the rice has been or will be supplied. Apart from this loss in money, I suggest that it is criminal that such big

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amounts of foodstuff should be lost when people are dying of starvation, when people are suffering from various diseases due to malnutrition. This is, Sir, only one instance, and I dare say that there are hundreds within the personal knowledge of a number of members of this Honourable House.

As regards distribution, Mr. Deputy President, it is the same tale. I do not have to give any instances in this respect because the Honourable Member for Food himself admits the difficulties that they are still experiencing with regard to the carriage of foodstuffs from the surplus to the deficit areas.

With regard to price control, I submit that if you control the price of only certain cereals and do not control the price of other foods that are required for human consumption, you are really not dealing with the problem effectively. My Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, gave some instances from Calcutta, but let me tell him what is happening under the very nose of the Honourable the Food Member—in New Delhi. We see that in the *Statesman* certain prices are published, the prices of various articles of food including meat, eggs, fish, fruit and so on for the next week. But nobody is selling those articles at those prices; nobody can get them. So, that is no remedy. Of course it serves one purpose. If and when public raises a cry, Government will come forward and say that there is control. They will take cuttings from the *Statesman* to whom, I suppose, they pay a handsome amount for publishing these, attach those cuttings to the files and they will say, 'look here, we have fixed the prices'. Sir, it is really the most inefficient manner in which this problem is being tackled. Everybody knows that cereals are not the only food that is consumed by people in this country. It is supplemented by so many other articles and unless you are able to control all articles of food, you will not be able to solve this problem which is facing the country. Sir, the Honourable Member for Food gave us some figures with regard to the quantity of ration that is being given in various areas. He told us that in Cochin it was 6 ounces or 5½ ounces. 6 ounces really means so little that even I think my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths' dog would eat more than that. What is the use of giving so little food to people and then feeling complacent about it. All the disaster that we hear of prevailing in the various parts of the country is due to the fact that the amount of food which is being given to the people even under the ration scheme—I am not talking of those poor people who cannot get any food whatsoever—is so little that it is really impossible for a human body to resist any infectious germs. My Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, stated that they have grown, I think I am right in saying, 6 million tons of rice more than what they used to do before the war.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: All food put together.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have got two minutes more.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, according to the Gregory Report, I understand that what was required was only about a million tons from outside India and according to the figures that my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, gave us India used to import only 1½ to 2 million tons of rice from Burma. So, in fact, we have got much more rice in India today than what we had before.

An Honourable Member: Where does this go?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend asks where does it go. I can only think that probably all of it or most of it goes in wastage which figure the Honourable the Food Member has not given us.

Sir, the negligence with regard to food is indeed criminal in this country. There are indeed a number of other matters which could be dealt with by me, but as you have just said I have very little time at my disposal, I will wind up by saying that as far as the question of solving the food problem in this country is concerned, there is no party and no individual who has refused his co-operation to the Government. If you have not been able to take advantage of that offer the fault does not lie with us; the fault lies with you.

The fact is that your officials who are "the nests of corruption" do not want any outside examination of their administration and that is the reason why they neither welcome nor do they encourage any public co-operation in this matter. Sir, it is a well-known fact—everybody knows it, may be that the Honourable the Food Member does not know it, or would pretend not to know it—that as far as the Food Department is concerned, it is rife with corruption and nothing effective is being done by the Government of India or their agents, the Provincial Governments, to eradicate this evil. Unless and until there is a marked change in your outlook and in your policy, this situation would continue to be serious and the hundreds and thousands of people will continue to suffer for want of food and from disease and deaths from starvation will go on;—the blood of all these people, the miseries of all these people, will be on your heads.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, Sir: I rise to support the amendment which in collaboration with my Honourable friends, most of the Non-Official Members of this House, we have placed for the consideration of this body. For it is not uncommon that the Government instead of saying positively what their policy is, bring in a most neutral and non-committal motion before the House. When the question of South Africa was before us the Honourable Member moved that the situation may be taken into consideration. When an equally important question comes before the House relating to food, the Honourable Member in charge says the question may be taken into consideration, as if it is no part of their responsibility formally as to what their policy of case is. But notwithstanding the fact, that is the manner in which they want it to put before the House so that ultimately they may be able to defend themselves by what you may call a mere argument and not a question of policy or principle. Hence it is that in future I do commend to this House that they will demand that whenever the Government puts forward a proposal it should be in terms definite, it should be in terms affirmative and it should be in terms in which one is able to say to what extent there is an alternative to that policy. What we are left with is this: that you are asked to say that this is a matter to be considered. Of course, who denies it? And therefore we are obliged to put forward an amendment in the form in which we have done—that all you say is that it should be considered: we say, having considered we are of this opinion which we have put forward and embodied in that amendment. So much, Sir, for the form and manner in which questions of this grave and pre-eminent importance are being dealt with on the other side of the House.

There is the first and foremost observation which I wish to make. Even during war time, side by side with fighting the war, it must be the duty of the State, if it wants to fight the war efficiently to see to it that the health, the strength and the morale of the rest of the population is maintained side by side with those who are fighting in the actual front. That is the accepted duty of all the States who are now fighting the war. But unlike them all, so far as the Indian administration of today is concerned, they are, as the Honourable the Food Member put it, in a stage of experiment, and there is no greater condemnation of the manner in which the matter is dealt with in that during a period of some two to three years there have been three successors in this office. Can you imagine, Sir, that a problem of this magnitude, a problem of this importance, is merely handed from man to man because I believe, following the traditions of the steel frame, so long as a man can affix to his name the letters I.C.S. as he sees himself, he is fit for every subject on earth. That is the manner in which this problem has been tinkered with during the last three years, at least from the time it was perceived that it became a real acute problem in this country. It is a subject of the first and foremost importance to be considered. The Honourable the Food Member could not have selected a better *nom-de-plume* for himself. The Honourable the Food Member told us it is time to ring the curtain down on what has happened in the past in Bengal. I quite agree. It suits him to say so. It suits him to ask everybody else to think so, but can this country consider

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the question today except in the background of what has actually happened? You have had many speeches from this side of the House regarding the condition of the provinces from the Members of the constituencies to which they belong. You have been told that the ration now—wherever there is any rationing at all—varies from anything like six ounces to a pound. In other words, on their own admission, the amount of food they are able to supply with all the Herculean efforts they have made cannot maintain body and soul together. I think it is commonly accepted now that for a man or a woman who is a manual labourer, it is not possible to live, at all events live with any hope of doing any work for which they are intended, for anything less than a pound of cereal. If that is so, it is somewhat of a hardship for this Government to tell us, 'Oh, consider the problem which I am putting before you. All I have been able to do, with all the expert advice in my command is to be able to show that the amount of ration varies from six ounces to 16'. If that is the situation in which we find ourselves today, I do not think it requires any eloquent words to point out in what state we find ourselves in so far as this country is now concerned.

The next, Sir, we cannot forget the immediate background of this situation: that during the last year there has been a famine of an unprecedented character in this country. It has now been followed by epidemics which are not merely just an aftermath of that famine alone but the aftermath of the actual under-nutrition of this country during the last century. For indeed it is admitted by the spokesmen of Government themselves that 80 millions out of 400 millions are hungry in this land. It used to be also a commonly accepted fact that a large number of manual workers, landless labourers and the smaller farmers never get more than a meal a day, and still we are told that that is the only situation that has to be perpetuated in the future. That is not the problem: that is not the way to look at the problem. But indeed, if the under-nutrition is to be carried on, apart from the mal-nutrition that prevailed during the period of the famine, it is quite obvious that to call it a food policy is to insult the world, insult ourselves and insult the very language itself. If the policy is that those who starve should continue to starve, do you call that a policy of the Government? Can you have a greater condemnation of the Government itself?

On the other hand, it is now time—and the time came long ago, if there had been a popular Government in this country, the first great question in the scheme of any reconstruction whatever is to bring up the standard of life of the Indian man and woman in the street, in the factory and in the fields to a level certainly of two meals a day. And therefore it is that the problem of problems before the country is not merely a question of what is described as the Basic Plan. My Honourable friend took exception to what Mr. Abdul Qaiyum said as to what was the Basic Plan and I shall read out to you, Sir, from the papers circulated by the Department (page 9, paragraph 80) and this is their Basic Plan:

"In place of the formula still employed the Committee recommends that the following formula be adopted. Normal consumption requirements should be taken at the average of the estimated harvests of all the foodgrains over a five year period ending 31st March 1942 plus minus the imports and exports of the same period. Surpluses and deficits should be calculated on the basis of this normal consumption."

In other words the basic aim of those who are now in charge of this Department is to do no more than merely strike an average of the last five years. If that is their basic aim, they cannot expect us to congratulate them. My Honourable friend told the House that it was not a matter of self-complacency, it was not a matter of self-congratulation or, to be more accurate, self-advertisement. I would like him to choose what word he likes. The House will have to find out whether what he said coincides with any of those three words or all of them. But the fact remains that the Basic Plan is merely to reach what he calls the average of the last five years plus/minus the imports and exports, so that you do not know what it is on a particular item, because it varies with the desire to please our neighbours. We have to fight a war, we

have to be friendly with the Central part of Asia and even a little further off and therefore it is that whatever may happen to our children it does not matter but we have got to feed our friends and, as some people said, in a manner which does not commend itself I think even to those who set it. But we have to see that we create a market in the friendly countries. Those were the excuses given for the export of food from this country at a time when not only, at any rate, the same condition was prevailing here, namely, not one square meal a day for the average man but it was getting less and less from time to time. So that in the background of a famine, when more people died than people have died in many other countries in the actual fighting of the war itself, the sacrifice that the Indian people were made to make is something for which this Government is answerable. For indeed, not only have we fought in the fields of warfare contributing two million and more of men in the matter of depleting the Indian population, but also in the matter of war time food policy we have had to pay a price equivalent, (as we now know, nearly two million people died in famine and more than three million died in epidemics), so that if you have five million deaths to be accounted for by reason of this policy, you cannot afford to be complacent, unless you have reached the beatitude which the Honourable friends on the other side have done. Of course it is a beatitude which is their only shield, for, indeed, otherwise they could not face this House with the kind of problem which they have placed before us. Therefore it is that we are very sorry that the other side of the House cannot possibly ring down the curtain on the loss of five million lives so lightly as they seem to think. But whoever has thought of Indian life as life at all! They have always thought that so long as administration went on, so long as taxes were collected, so long as an enforced peace was reigning in this land, that was enough for the purposes of those who are ruling in this country. However, the time has come when the administration of this country must be in the hands of other persons who have a double claim to that situation, claim not merely because it is their inherent right but claim in order only that they may fulfil their responsibility to those for whom they labour and for whom they have got to labour. We cannot continue to have a Government which is entirely detached—they are completely detached. They have neither the popular support nor have the faith that they have any popular support or sympathy. They are carrying on an administration merely on paper as if in a kind of laboratory. That is the kind of administration that is bound to produce the results which we see today in this country.

You are all aware that the great Pusa Farm is no longer Pusa except in name. It has now been removed to somewhere in the neighbourhood of great Delhi. But what is the object of that experimental station, not merely the farm but all its little sisters spread out over the different parts of India. The object was that the yield in India of every kind of commodity that is produced should improve. You have here the figures officially authenticated and the result which you have today tells its own tale. "The crop of yield in pounds per acre: rice in India is 988, rice in China 2,433, rice in Japan 3,070, rice in the U.S.A. 1,680; and wheat 811 in India, 981 in China, 1,350 in Japan and 990 in the United States." We are at the lowest rung of the ladder in the matter of production in so far as the yield from our fields is concerned. During a period of one hundred years surely they were not waiting for a famine to come. It was their obvious duty to see to it that in so far at least as the stability of Indian life was concerned, even if they had done nothing in this country, they could at least have brought about one standard of life for the average man, so that when the day dawns and when he has had his labour and the sun goes down he would be able to say, at all events, that he has had one standard of life given to him. Standard of life is a matter to be cared for every where. The standard of life in India is what you are condemned to. That is the standard here. As against that here is an extract which I shall read out from your own records. Dr. MacLagan Gowrie, Director of Surveys in India, estimates that with large scale planning and in concert with the Central and Provincial Governments some 170 million acres of Barani land, i.e., land which is dependent on rains alone, could be brought into full cultivation.

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In other words, the problem is not merely giving us figures as to what my friend travelling to Lahore was able to get from a little surplus province: the problem is the real basic problem. The basic plan ought not to have been merely to cast the average of five years' production. The basic plan ought to have begun years and years ago, to bring a larger quantity of land under cultivation and a larger yield per acre, if they had only taken the trouble to do so. So far as these farms are concerned, I have visited one in Surat and I find they are merely luxuries. They carry out what are called experiments but I have never seen one of them reach the cultivator of the district at all. I have always felt that if this Government was at all concerned even with just the bare life of the people, the bare actual nominal proper existence of the people, we would not have been in the condition in which we are today. It is perfectly absurd for any Government to come and say "Oh, yes; but we did not anticipate this; we did not anticipate the famine". If you could not anticipate what is likely to happen, all that you can do when famine comes is to hold up your hands and say the famine has come: then why do you administer the country at all? Contrast that with the statement which Sir Henry French himself made on his departure from this country. The newspaper reporters asked him "Sir Henry, you have been here; you have made inquiries; did you find that there was a famine in this country costing millions of lives. Are you aware of that?" The only answer he gave is: "Such a thing is unthinkable in Britain". Imagine a country that does not produce enough food to supply its own population, and that country is fighting a war. India is fighting under conditions more or less laid down by the other side. In that country, while fighting a war, it was unthinkable that any single man will die of hunger. That is the situation there after six years of war. That is the pronouncement of the expert, the Secretary of the Food Department there, who came and told us here. Yet it is actually taken by the other side as if the war was a sufficient excuse for millions of deaths either from famine and hunger or from the subsequent effects of it, namely, malnutrition and under-nutrition and, therefore, of epidemics. The prime duty, therefore, of the Government is not merely just to govern, merely to maintain the steel frame and take taxes—88 crores a year budget used to come before this body year after year, apart from the 300 crores that will come now, if not, 400 crores, under the stress of the war; and we used to be told at the end of the year "Oh; 56 or 55 crores will be required for the army; and so much for the services; and as to the feeding of the children of this land, do what you like". That is how this administration has gone on; it is not a case of mere individual efficiency; it is not a case whether A is able or B is able; it is a case of entirely overhauling the manner in which the conditions of this country have got to be looked at, repaired and repaired immediately. Unless, therefore, the basic plan is that all available land which is culturable is brought under cultivation and the increase of yield per acre is brought up to the standard—if not of Japan because it is three times ourselves but even twice what it is now—I have not the smallest doubt that such a government would deserve well of their country. But a government that merely tells us "We will find a little from here and a little from there; and if it cannot be moved and if you starve we are very sorry",—that is a kind of empty sympathy which has absolutely no value; it does no credit to the giver and gives very little solace to the taker.

I come then to the next part of the problem I hope and trust that the Honourable the Food Member, when he rises to answer, will be able to tell us what his basic plan is. I have read out the document which he has promulgated; and we have put forward what we believe ought to have been done by this Government years and years ago. In England I am told and I found it from their documents that were published three years before the war began, they began to conserve food; they made it a problem of their own; so that countries which do not grow food make additions to their food production, get from elsewhere, and make it a matter of their duty in order that their population may be maintained by them in the matter of physical and ethical morale. But whose

business is it in this country to care either for the physical or the ethical morale of the Indian people? It is that which is the root cause; it is that callousness and that indifference, because this Government has gone on to no other purpose except merely to govern from the top.

To give you an illustration of the way in which my Honourable friends look at this matter. The Honourable Mr. Griffiths got up and said—he delivered undoubtedly as we have always accepted it a very glib speech, but he was very particular about saying one thing, and I would like the House to examine that in order that you may see what is the mind behind it. He said "Oh, yes; I agree your policy is good enough though your administration is bad and corrupt; but take care that the duty which the Central Government has undertaken, the task of feeding Calcutta—that should not be disturbed". So far as the yield of rice in Bengal is concerned, I do not see that the 36 lakhs of people in Calcutta are any different to the rest of the population of Bengal. But I know why this demand is being made. It is this. "It does not matter what happens to you and the rest in the rural areas of the country, but we who live and who trade and who have industrial factories in and around Calcutta, we must be first fed, whatever happens to the rest of the land."

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): On a point of personal explanation; my industrial constituency is in Assam—not in Calcutta.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: So far as the Europeans are concerned, I hope my learned friend absolutely understands that this quibbling is to no purpose. I was not talking of Mr. Griffiths personally—I suppose he will find food wherever he goes; he has not much difficulty about it. But the question was: Why was it he said it? I turned it over in my mind yesterday, why Calcutta was singled out for this particular purpose of a soft corner in the heart of the Central Government? Yes. It is of course the jute mills, it is the jute trade; it is the residence of the bulk of the Europeans who have very well prospered in this country—I do not object to their prospering, but I do object to any discriminatory treatment which they require for themselves and those by whose sweated labour they are probably hoping to make profits. It is that which has my objection. I have no objection to Calcutta as Calcutta: they are as good friends of mine as anybody else; but the point is that the rationing of the cities should have a better purpose than the purpose which one cannot help arriving at—not by any suspicious mind but by a process of reasoning. The reason why the cities are being rationed, and particularly the principal ones, is: "Oh, yes; we are fighting the war; we have got our industries situated there—what they call the essential industries—round about a few cities. What will happen if the labourers were not fed and the factories came to a stand still?" So that, while I admire the policy, I do not have the least objection to it if the rural areas were equally well treated with the cities. Who objects to it as a mere matter of administrative convenience? But if there is anything more than mere administrative convenience, that the cities may be preserved along with the industries which feed the war, and the rural areas may look after themselves, that is a matter that I am not prepared to accept. Hence it is that we come to the real cause of the problem, the problem of rationing the cities—on which one may congratulate one Member or the other—whoever devised it ought to know what happens in the rural areas today. Even in those areas which are supposed to be self-sufficient, if not deficient, even there the distribution is extremely poor. The administration is very much typified as Mr. Griffiths frankly admitted. In other words, one Collector says: "Oh, yes; my area has a certain amount of surplus; but I am administering this district; what do I care for the neighbouring one." And the neighbouring one starves while this district probably has some sort of surplus which they can easily spare. But the actual reason is this, that in the matter of the administration of food policy and food distribution, there is no policy at all. There is no policy of any real attempt to raise a greater yield, out of greater land and better land and better manured land and better cultivated land and better seed. That is the way to increase the

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yield, not by merely talking about it in newspapers or giving interviews for three or four days.

That cannot be achieved, but you come to distribution. I regret to find that so far as the movement of the crops of this country are concerned, even from a surplus to a deficit area, there is not that attention to their movements which the problem deserves. True, you can make the efficiency of the war as an excuse for it. I am told for example, and I take the figures from their own published records, that out of 100 trains, 60 trains now run on what is called military purpose. The other 40 carry goods for the civilian population and civilian traffic. That is the situation to which we have been reduced. In other words, the fact comes to this. Nobody says that you should not fight the war but if the efficient fighting of the war means that the rest of the country, at the end of the war, will find itself in a state of starvation and epidemic, you would have fought the war in vain so far as we are concerned, because it is no longer a mere political problem. You may very well remember—and I believe it is writ large even in British history—that hunger is the most potent instrument of revolution anywhere in the world and you are driving the country into the jaws of hunger. There are causes sometimes which rise into flames, go down and allay themselves but a permanent hunger of the kind that you have created in this land is something which ought to be eradicated, even at the cost of other things. Hence it is that we make the appeal that so far as the movement of crops, particularly food crops, is concerned, greater facilities ought to be given than we have hitherto been able to see. We find that the distribution in certain areas is so unequal, that we find that there is less there than what is sufficient for the people. You begin with that initial disadvantage but even with that disadvantage, what little remains is not evenly distributed. You can easily understand what happens.

That brings us to the third part of the amendment which we have put forward before this House—that is the corruption which is rampant in the matter of the administration of this policy. I agree that it is possible for my Honourable friends on the other side to say: after all the subordinate officials in that particular hierarchy to which they belong are men drawn from this land and that, to that extent, the lower standard of morality is probably as much to blame as anything else. It is true, but what answer is there to this question. You have undertaken to administer this country. You have taken away every initiative from everybody and having done that you now say 'Oh, the agents whom we employ being Indians, we do not have any blame to bear'. That will not do. The fact remains today that in the matter of the food policy, the inequalities of life that are experienced, the sufferings of the poor man that are to be seen, you cannot just merely wave your hand and say, in the language of my friend Mr. Griffiths, that there is not that patriotic sense. The remedy was entirely in the hands of Britain. I would not say 'in your hands'. If there had been in this country, among the men who administer this country, men who really represent the country, you would not find the spectacle that you find today. You have got men who are paid to do a job, who have not that anxiety for the well-being of the people that we should like to see. You cannot blame if that machinery goes into the condition into which it has gone now and hence it is that the whole system of Government in this country has got to be overhauled. We have said it so often in the past. I do not say it on any political ground whatever, nor on any racial ground. We are saying it on one and one ground alone—that as long as you do not have an administration in this country which responds to the people and to which the people respond, you may be quite certain that you will never be able to tackle the problem that has come before this House and you cannot solve one iota of it at all. Hence it is that we have moved this amendment. The Honourable the Food Member simply says he will consider it. We thank him very much for this sop and you will never give it

the consideration it deserves unless the pinch that is now felt by the poor man is transferred to you. The helplessness of the situation was well known, well appreciated and well felt—that the administration is in the hands of men whom we cannot influence to the extent and in the manner in which we should like to be able to do it, and it is true to say that whenever there is a famine, whenever there is any popular problem to be solved, the Government of the day, as it now exists, always fights shy of popular machinery. I have read some of the circulars of Government. They think, "These agitators will get into touch with the people, they will do good to them, they will bring about some equal distribution, will persuade those who otherwise may not be persuaded by us. The result will be that people will be with them and where shall we be". Hence it is that it is an insidious political idea that has often taken hold, at all events, of the district officials in this country. They will not allow any popular machinery to get into touch with the people at large. They do not want to use them, lest ultimately they may find themselves isolated in the condition in which they are and want to be. Hence it is, as I said, that we say that people must respond to them and they must respond to the people. Here there is a complete cleavage of that situation which has resulted in the condition in which we find ourselves. We cannot therefore forget the lesson that Bengal has taught us. We cannot forget the lesson—that in Malabar and other parts of that area you have got about a third of the ration that a human being can subsist on. We cannot forget all that. You can do something for the solution of this problem even while you are in office. Unless you enlist popular association and unless you enlist it in a wholehearted manner, without any mental reservation, you may be quite sure that the people will not respond to you. Unless you do that, as my Honourable friend here eloquently put it, the blood and the miseries and the death of thousands of these unfortunate people will be on your heads. We have not moved this amendment in any spirit of antagonism. We have moved this amendment with a view to helping you so that you may recognise the errors and the difficulties of the situation but if you dare to oppose it, let the House and the country decide it.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Sir, one of the principles which I have adopted in replying to the debates of this kind is that truth must be told and faults must be owned, and I am going to answer to this debate on those lines.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Sir, I am happy to say that although bouquets and coconuts have both been thrown at me during this debate, nobody has thrown rotten eggs at me.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: They are very expensive: 5 annas per egg.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I was going to say that perhaps because eggs have become too expensive. I do not say that the charges which have been made against us have stunned me or even dazed me. In fact, I feel that my main speech at the opening of the debate holds the field. I have not heard one definite criticism of the policy which I enunciated in that speech. There has been a great deal of criticism in matters of detail, but the policy remains unassailed and I am happy to say that the House as a whole recognises—I feel that way, I may be wrong—that the policy which the Government is now following is the right one.

An Honourable Member (from the Congress Benches): You are wrong.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am very sorry to say that politics have been imported into this debate. I have kept food out of politics all the time that I have been in charge of the Department. I have been very anxious that no political considerations should be brought into food and I think I have succeeded to a large extent. I have received in places the co-operation from all sections of the people, people belonging even to the political institutions to which my friends over there belong. I have congratulated myself on this fact and I would expect this Assembly which consists of the chosen representatives to follow that example.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Not that side: not the 39!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Now, Sir, I will deal with some of the main charges that have been made against us. The first charge which has been made is that the war caught us napping and that we were not prepared before the war broke out or soon after the war broke out to deal with the food situation as it might have arisen. I do not know whether I am expected to put up a defence on behalf of the Government of India tonight here. I have been in charge of the Food Department for only a little over 15 months, but I have looked up some of the records and I would like to give to the House some facts as to what happened in the beginning of the war.

The Government of India soon after the declaration of the war, that is to say, in September 1939, decided to impose price restrictions on all primary commodities. The provinces were delegated with emergency powers in this regard. In October 1939 a Conference was called by the Government of India to discuss this matter, especially with reference to food prices. This Conference was attended by the representatives of the Provincial Governments and the States, and amongst those attending the Conference were the representatives of the provinces where Congress Ministries functioned. This Conference unanimously opposed the imposition of any restriction on food, either price control or anything else. The Congress in those days thought that the agriculturist must be allowed to make the most out of foodgrains and there should be no restriction on foodgrain prices. The Congress were very definite in their views. In my own province of the United Provinces, as an employer of labour, I myself approached the Congress Ministry to think of the future when there may be shortage of foodstuffs, but they sent me away saying that I had some ulterior motive in asking for restrictions to be imposed on foodgrains. They thought, at that time that there was no necessity to check the prices of foodgrains, like my friend Prof. Ranga who is still of the same view. The Congress, who could have started price control in the beginning of the war, did not do it deliberately. It was their belief that any restriction imposed on prices would not be in the best interests of the country. I do not blame them for that. Nobody could foresee the circumstances which arose later, and I am sure that even if the Congress were in power for the next 12 months or 2 years, they would have continued with that policy. They were convinced that in the interests of the cultivators no lowering of prices and no restriction of prices of foodgrains was desirable. Therefore, I say that we were all caught napping.

The Government of India again called another Food Conference in January 1940. That was about four months after the declaration of the war and that Conference also unanimously resolved not to impose any price control on food grains.

An Honourable Member: Was the Congress there?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to say so. It is a pity they disappeared all too soon. What happened actually was that the price of foodgrains rose sharply soon after the declaration of war. Then because of the war, because of the course which the war had taken, prices became stabilised and then they started falling actually and they fell very nearly to the pre-war level.

An Honourable Member: Why blame the Congress?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not at all blaming the Congress. I am praising them. Let my Honourable friends disabuse their minds of this.

Now, Sir, nobody could have thought of imposing price control of food grains until actually the war situation became much worse and that was in December 1941 when Japan declared war. The real trouble in India so far as the food situation goes arose after the entry of Japan into the war. This contingency, I submit could not have been foreseen by anybody, whether it is this Government or it was the Congress Government or the Muslim League Government. However, I do not think it is much use crying over spilt milk. As I say, none

of us was an astrologer and the course of the war could have been foreseen only perhaps by Nazi astrologers or the mad men of Tokyo. You and I could not have foreseen it. That being so what did the Government of India do? As soon as the war against Japan was declared, and when we foresaw that there was a chance of our losing Burma rice, we called a conference and we imposed price control, and ever since then we have been working to get the better of the food problem in the country. We have made mistakes, I am free to confess. But so would you have if you were doing the job. Perhaps you would have made worse mistakes. Anybody tackling a problem of that kind and of that magnitude is bound to make mistakes. The wonder is that we have not made more mistakes. I think, Sir, that on the whole, we have done extraordinarily well. I remember, Sir, that last year this time when there was a food debate, nobody talked of chickens, poultry and eggs and those kinds of things or of cabbages. They only talked of rice and wheat. The fact that they have forgotten those cereals now and are today talking of protective foods, such as poultry, eggs, chicken and milk—I admit my Honourable friends are more interested in those things which contain vitamins—this change in their topic for discussion shows that really the food situation of India has vastly improved. There is no special shortage of foodgrains. I admitted in my original speech that there were local shortages in some parts but I think I have dealt comprehensively with the main deficit areas and the steps we have taken to relieve those shortages. But there is no major catastrophe anywhere however you may like to misrepresent things. Sir, the main proof of the success of our policy is that prices have fallen all round. Wheat and rice are the two main staple grains. As I told the House in my initial review, the prices of both are rapidly coming down.

An Honourable Member: With what rapidity?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member will read my original speech, he will find the figures. I do not want to repeat them and thus take up the time of the House. Sir, it is gratifying that prices have gone down as they have done. There is no doubt about it that the situation in the country is much better. I do not say there is no room for further lowering of the price and to that extent, I am in full sympathy with one clause of one of the amendments. At the same time, I would like Honourable Members of the House to decide among themselves as to what is the right course in regard to prices to be adopted. Some of the Honourable Members have impressed upon me that we are trying to ruin the growers. Another set of Honourable Members have said that prices are still too high. Now, Sir, judging from the speeches made this afternoon and yesterday in the House, I have a feeling that we are somewhere in the right. In any case, Sir, I wish to assure the House that the Food Department are most anxious to fix prices which will be within the reach of the poorest consumer and will at the same time be not unfair to the producer, leaving him with a reasonable margin of profit. We realise and sympathise with those who stand up for the cultivator. We know he is the backbone of the country, but at the same time who must remember that there are poorer people in India than the cultivator who must be fed and it is the duty of the Food Department to feed them.

Sir, I will now turn to some remarks made by my very old friend Mr. Griffiths. I was very glad to hear his eloquent speech—but I felt somehow that he mistook the forum; he thought he was speaking in the Bengal Legislative Assembly and that he was not Mr. Griffiths but Mr. Fazlul Huq. Anyhow we have taken a note of many of the points raised by him and I wish to assure him that they are mostly provincial and there is no difference of opinion between us and him in regard to them. The only point that I should like to enlighten him on is in connection with the "Grow More Vegetables" work which is being done by the Government of India. My Honourable friend Mr. Tyson has given you an account of what his department is doing in this direction. I am not going to enlarge on that but I should like to say that in the matter of control of prices of these articles my department is exercising every vigilance. Of course I admit that we started a little late in this, for the simple

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reason that all our energies were absorbed in the matter of foodgrains. We took first things first and we are now devoting our attention to this in right earnest and I should like to tell the House of what is being done by the Government of India. We fully realise its importance and we consider that the shortage and high prices are due very largely not so much to the army demand as to other contributory factors which exist at the present moment. Sir, the main difficulty in controlling the prices of these articles is the difficulty of securing control of production and stocks. They are not like foodgrains where we can procure large quantities and keep against a rise in the market. However, Sir, what the Government of India have done is that they have stimulated action by the Provincial Governments in close collaboration with the military authorities to take certain basic steps, such as, to survey and ascertain local resources, to increase and co-ordinate local production, divide the resources available, to allocate them to priority consumers, co-ordinate the demands and, above all, reduce or eliminate the element of competitive purchasing. For this purpose, Sir, we have formed area and provincial co-ordination committees on which the Centre, the Provinces and the defence forces are represented. In addition, in Southern India we have formed in consultation with the E., H. and L. Department a special committee to deal with cattle movement. Apart from these measures, whenever the Government of India receives information of the imposition of a ban which involves other provinces or States, we inquire into the merits of the case and endeavour to secure the necessary co-ordination of supplies by discussion and agreement. Finally, we are in constant correspondence with the provinces and States as to the importance of securing the distribution of non-cereal foods to those sections of the population which most need them. I am glad to say that I believe that Provincial Governments are now fully alive to these problems.

The case of Calcutta appears to be a special one. It is a pity that the Provincial Government of Bengal did not move in the matter early enough, but I wish to assure the House that they have now got down to the job and I hope the situation in Calcutta will soon be relieved. In addition, Sir, the House is probably aware that the Government of India have imported large quantities of tinned milk which has come as a boon to many places where women and children have been suffering from mal-nutrition.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: A mere drop in the ocean.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, it is a fair quantity. I admit it is not sufficient but still it is very useful. I have seen this milk distributed in areas of Cochin and Travancore with very good results.

Sir, I wish to assure the House that so far as protective foods are concerned, they are now our main anxiety and I hope this time next year Honourable Members will move on to something else and not take up protective foods.

An Honourable Member: You think the war will go on till then?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The next thing that I should like to talk about is this question of feeding Calcutta. I know many Honourable Members are keenly interested in this problem but they are aware that last year we agreed to feed Calcutta in very special circumstances. There is an over-all shortage of rice in the country; there is not enough rice to go round and the needs of other parts of India have to be taken into account. Last year on account of the famine we decided that we should take Calcutta out of the hands of Bengal in order to restore confidence, and I am glad to say that we have done this successfully. The time is not yet ripe for announcing any definite decision on this matter because we are still collecting the figures. But my present feeling is that once we have received all the surplus and deficit figures from the provinces we should treat Bengal and Calcutta in the same way as any other province for the purposes of the basic plan, that is to say, if it is found that Bengal including Calcutta is deficit in any particular grain we shall try to meet the deficit, subject to our overall supplies. If it is surplus it is up to the Provincial Government to

get grain from within its own boundaries. That is my personal inclination. I do not say this because I have got anything against Bengal or Calcutta—

that has been our main concern during the last twelve months—
5 P. M. but I find that the needs of other parts of India are far greater. They have been neglected in the past because we had Bengal on our hands. I think it is time now that we did something for them. When I say this, I would like to correct a misstatement by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. He thought that the total scale of ration in Travancore or Cochin was six ounces. That is not so.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I took it from my friend, Mr. Seth, who belongs to Malabar.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is not so. The ration there is 12 ounces out of which six ounces is rice. It has always been so.

An Honourable Member: That one cannot eat. It contains worms, pebbles and what not.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Do you think that 12 ounces are sufficient?

The Honourable Sir Jwalaprasad Srivastava: I am not saying anything of the kind. That is why I am appealing to Bengal and to other parts of India to give us more rice to increase the ration of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. I have just been there and I feel that the people have undergone terrible strain during the last three years and now it is time that we gave them more rice. The difficulty is that people in those areas will not eat either millets or even wheat. They are used only to rice, and so it is necessary for us to find more rice for them and as the Honourable Members would realize that the resources of the Government of India in rice are meagre.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I correct one discrepancy.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Let me finish my speech. I am sorry, I cannot give way.

Another matter which has been dwelt upon is the question of rural areas. Last year people were anxious that even cities should not be rationed. Why cities have been chosen for rationing first is not because of any military or imperialistic reasons, but for the simple reason that cities don't grow foodgrains and the people there have got to get foodgrains from villages. In conditions of scarcity the cities starved. That is the only simple reason why we started with the idea of rationing in cities, and I am glad we have very largely succeeded. We have now under ration 42 millions of people and I think the number of towns is 420 as I said in my speech. This is no mean achievement for 12 months because at one time people were all opposed to rationing. They thought it was an imposition which they did not want to tolerate. I am glad now that people are asking for an extension of rationing.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Which people?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: People living in the cities.

About rural rationing, as I have told the House, we are starting an experiment in Malabar. It is a very complicated and difficult matter. It is accompanied by compulsory rural procurement. The district which imposes rationing has got also to procure all the available supplies within the district and then if there is a deficit it has got to arrange additional supplies from outside. Malabar is the first district in British India where rural rationing is being started. I am watching the experiment with great interest and if it succeeds, as I hope it will, then I think it ought to be extended to other deficit areas. I have already suggested that Vizagapatam should be taken next.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long will it take?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In these things you cannot go too fast. It depends on the people themselves; it does not rest with the

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Government at all. The people have got to get used to it, and we have got to learn by experience what pitfalls we have to avoid. I do not wish to say more on this subject beyond assuring the House that the Food Department is alive to the needs of the rural areas and is doing whatever it can.

Another matter which has been prominently dealt with in the debate is the question of corruption of Government officials.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Rampant everywhere.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware to what extent corruption is rampant but that there is some corruption I have no manner of doubt, but as the House knows how very difficult it is to eradicate corruption in such matters. The Government is most anxious to catch out all misdoers and I would ask for the assistance of the Members of this House in eradicating corruption. As Mr. Griffiths pointed out, it takes two to make corruption: The giver and the recipient are both to blame.

An Honourable Member: What about the intermediary?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: And I am sure the Members of this House will assist us in encouraging the giver to come to us and tell us of any such cases.

I have only one point more to deal with. Mr. Griffiths said that the performance of Great Britain in the matter of food had been so much better than that of India. I entirely agree with him but what are the comparative circumstances? They started on food administration there seven years ago.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Why did not your Government do so?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have explained that. You too never pointed out that there was any need for food control in India. You have been a Member of this House for many years. I do not seem to have read any of your speeches to that effect.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I pointed out six months before your Food Department was set up.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We started off in right earnest on a co-ordinated policy 18 months ago or even less than that. Great Britain has got to cater for 40 millions of people. We have to cater for ten times that number. Great Britain has the advantage of organised trade channels for distribution. We have not got that advantage. Great Britain's problems of procurement are nothing; they get all the stuff supplied to them in convenient parcels which come from overseas.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: No, no.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Most of it. And every bit of agriculture, which is not much, is controlled. We have to secure our supplies from millions of small producers. Then, Sir, take into consideration the transport problem. The distances in Great Britain are nothing as compared to mine. Still these considerations have not made us lose heart. We have gone on and done whatever we could. Sir, I am glad to be able to say that Sir Henry French when he visited this country paid us a great compliment.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: How much rations did he get?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: . . . on what we had been able to achieve within fifteen months. Sir, he came as a partial critic. His opinion is worth something.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Did he dine with you?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I think I have dealt with many of the points which were raised in the debate which call for a reply from me. There is one point left in the speech of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan

when he referred to Nepal paddy purchases. I think he has got his facts all upside down.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Why didn't you challenge me then so that I could have given you a reply.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: He had better verify them. (Interruptions from Muslim League Benches.)

It is not correct to say that the agent who bought the rice bought it at a price above that arranged for by the Bengal Government. He did not do it.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): When was the enquiry made?

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): At what price did he buy? At the same price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I cannot give all the prices from memory.

(Several Honourable Members interrupted.)

He bought at the price fixed by the Bengal Government. That is the main basic fact.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): How was this calculation made?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know. As regards loss by deterioration the assertions are much exaggerated.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: What are the true facts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no question of not holding the agent to the terms of his contract. That again is not correct.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: What are the correct facts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Some loss inevitably takes place. I have not the exact quantity.

(Several Honourable Members again interrupted.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: But the way it has been put is not right.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He does not tell us the right way and still he says it is wrong!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, I have told you the right facts.

Some one raised the question of Canadian wheat not being fit for human consumption. I do not know whether he has tried it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have tried it and I have suffered by it.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: But palates differ. I have tried it and I like it. It is very nice. In any case I tell you a sample of this wheat was approved by the Bombay Provincial Advisory Committee, who I believe tested it. They must have cooked it and eaten it and they were quite satisfied with it and I have the authority to say that Sir Purshotomdas Thakurdas found it absolutely right. My friend Mr. Manu Subedar might make further enquiries into the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: You were too weak. You could not resist His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: You can stomach anything!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A number of amendments have been moved. I will now deal with them. By the trend of the speeches they have not traversed my main statements with regard to the policy and achievements of the Department of Food and yet it is thought fit to condemn us for a number of things of which we are not guilty on the admission of the other side of the House. Not a word has been said about the inadequacy of

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transport. I am glad to say that there is complete understanding between the Food Department and the War Transport Department and thanks to my Colleague on my left, things are working very well indeed. No Member had one word to say against the War Transport Department and yet in one of the amendments that Department has been brought in. (Interruptions.) I would appeal to the House not to be carried away by emotion or by...

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum ... logic or good sense!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: First of all I would deal with the amendment of Dr. Zia Uddin. I regret that Government cannot accept the amendment as it stands. It must vote against it although some of the points which the Mover has advocated already form part of the Government policy. On the specific points raised by the Honourable Member the attitude of the Government of India is as follows: The Government do not admit that no effective measures for growing more rice have been adopted. Production is a matter for the Education, Health and Lands Department who have already dealt with the details of the Grow More Food campaign, particularly the question of increasing the production of rice. The House is however aware that a great deal has been done by the Army already in order to reduce its demands on the stocks available for the civil population in the establishment of poultry, cattle and vegetable farms.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: In what portion of the country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Food Department particularly agree with the Honourable Member in his advocacy of steps to utilise the resources of Assam for growing more rice and this is one of the things which I have been chasing for some time. This problem is under active consideration between the Food Department and the Department of Education Health and Lands and certain proposals will shortly be made to the Government of Assam.

Now with regard to the control of prices and the black market. The Food Department is at one with the Honourable Member in believing that the control of stocks is an essential feature for the control of prices. The aim which Government has effected in its procurement machinery in the past year, combined with the assurance which it has had of imports, has enabled the Provincial Governments to build up stocks with the result, as has been amply shown, that confidence has been restored and prices, particularly in the Eastern Region, have shown a marked and continued fall. I take note of the particular methods which the Honourable Member has advocated for the control of individual stocks. I may say that it is the policy of the Government of India to stimulate Provincial Governments and Administrations to improve both the procurement machinery and their administration of the Foodgrains Control Order to the stage, where they have both effective knowledge of the location of stocks and the means of controlling or acquiring those stocks if required. That also deals with the objection raised by my friend Mr. Griffiths. As regards statistics, I agree with the Honourable Member that the improvement of statistical information is an essential part of the improvement of food control. We already have a scheme for distribution from surplus to deficit areas on the lines advocated by the Honourable Member. No food grain can move except on Government account and Government's view is that the necessary priorities for the transport of food grains already exist. We are, however, constantly watching the situation in consultation with the War Transport Department and wherever we find that the priorities allotted are insufficient we shall not hesitate to press for such higher priorities as may be necessary. It is already the policy to fix maximum prices for the whole of India by statute. We have proceeded a very long way towards this goal. In the case of rice we have not yet been able to realise an all-India maximum on a single all-India basis. We hope to be able to do so in the course of the next twelve months.

We fully agree with the Honourable Member in the desire to associate non-official Members of the Legislature with the Food Administration at every stage. So far as the Centre is concerned the House realises that I have established a Central Food Advisory Committee and Price Advisory Committee, in addition to the Standing Committee of the Legislature, whose assistance and advice I have constantly sought and gratefully acknowledged.

As for rationing, I am afraid that I cannot agree with the Honourable Member that rationing should be confined to towns with a population of 150,000 or over. Our policy first of all is to extend rationing to all towns with a population of 100,000 and then to extend it where necessary to smaller towns. My information is that wherever rationing has been introduced, in spite of complaints which we have received on certain aspects of rationing, there is developing a general public demand not only for the extension of rationing so far as food is concerned but for its extension to other commodities outside the range of food, pure and simple.

I agree with the Honourable Member in deploring wastage of food wherever it has occurred and could have been prevented. At the same time, we must acknowledge the great difficulties which Provincial Governments have to face in setting up the organisation necessary to prevent this wastage.

Sir, this is as far as Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's amendment goes.

As regards Prof. Ranga's amendment, I am unable to accept it, as it stands, although I have very considerable sympathy with many of the points which the Mover seeks to make. These points are already engaging our attention and I will not give the detailed facts, which I have already stated in my speech.

Then, Sir, there is an amendment moved by my friend Mr. Essak Sait. Government do not accept this amendment and must oppose it. The Food Department does not accept that the defects pointed out by the Mover existed in the working of the Food Department at the Centre. I have stated the true facts in my speeches and I cannot accept a censure of that kind. In fact that censure is not justified at all by the speeches made in this House or by the mover of the amendment himself. His speech was appreciative of the work which has been done by the Food Department. That being so, I think it is a little hard that an amendment of that kind should be moved.

Sir, as regards Mr. Chattopadhyaya's amendment, we are in general sympathy with the object of it but we cannot accept it as it stands. The facts show that a very considerable improvement has been effected in the Bengal situation and the Bengal Government is already taking advantage of cooperative societies.

As regards Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's amendment I have considerable sympathy with many of the points which the Mover seeks to make but I am unable to accept the amendment.

Before I sit down I would like to thank my friends, the non-official Members of this House, for the many valuable suggestions that they have made. As was assured by Dr. Rao, we shall examine every one of them and give our best consideration to them. In fact what I detected was that many of the criticisms were levelled not so much against the Centre as against certain acts of omission and commission of the Provinces.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging once again the continued guidance and constructive suggestions which I have received from the Honourable Members. Whatever may be our differences in matters of detail, our main objective is one and common—Food for all, on which the life of the community depends. Whatever Government may be in power, it cannot have any other objective. Politics as such are entirely outside this sacred sphere. So let us bend our energies to real, honest constructive work for the common good. Without your support, the support of the chosen representatives of people like yourselves, my Department cannot achieve anything worthwhile. With your help nothing is impossible, I am quite sure of that. We have

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set a great and noble task in an hour of unprecedented crisis in the history of our nation. Let that task be not marred by political rivalries. That is my wish and fervent appeal.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order order.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): On a point of information, Sir. I want to be informed on certain points. Neither the Honourable Member nor Mr. Tyson have dwelt upon the very important question raised in the debate, that is, regarding the line system in Assam. I want to be informed about it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Food Member has made his reply.

The motion moved was:

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration."

The first amendment is in the name of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I do not press it to division.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member wish to withdraw it?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next one is in the name of Mr. Essak Sait. It is:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the co-ordination of procurement and distribution between surplus and deficit areas is entirely wanting; that the transport in that behalf is not adequate and timely (even considering the priority for war purposes) and that the prices are beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country; and that the steps taken by Government for exercising vigilance over eradication of corruption among those engaged by Government in the matter of the execution of food work are poor and ineffective."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—61.

Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.

Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—45.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. D. S.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.

Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur
Lalljee, Mr. Hooseimbhoy A.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sethna, Mr. D. P.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Muhammad.
Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:
'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that grain prices in most places are uneconomically low for producers and that the failure of Government to subsidize the food consumption of the poorest consumers both in towns and villages is hitting hard both the producers and consumers of food.'"

The Assembly divided:

AYES—58.

Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.

Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Caroe, Sir Olaf.
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
 Gwillt, Mr. E. L. C.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.
 Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
 James, Sir F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
 Joshi, Mr. D. S.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
 Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur
 Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Miller, Mr. C. C.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A. Ramaswami.
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Sethna, Mr. D. P.
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
 Muhammad.
 Shoober, Mr. W. H.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Pra-
 sad.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Thakur Singh, Capt.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next Amendment is in the name of Mr. Chettiar.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I do not press it. I want to withdraw it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

'having considered the same, this House is of opinion (1) that the prices fixed for paddy and other food grains should be revised in view of the present circumstances, and in considering the level of prices of food grains appropriate to a particular area, regard should be had to (a) the cost of articles entering into the cultivators' cost of production; (b) cost of articles entering into his standard of life and (c) cost of cultivation of marginal lands, as it obtains at present cost levels;

(2) that having in view the enormous amount of corruption created by the fact that revenue and other officers have been entrusted with the duty of issuing licences for purchasers and distributors of paddy and rice, wheat and other food grains, these licences in the districts and taluks shall be issued on the advice of the advisory board, attached to the districts and taluks and to co-operative societies wherever available;

(3) that peasants shall be given the choice of supplying food grains either in the shape of paddy or rice, wheat or atta and thus be entitled to eliminate the profiteering now being made by millers; and

(4) that every effort be made to review and reduce the margins of profits now allowed to various agencies of middlemen;

(5) that the responsibility of the Central Government should not cease with more allotment of food grains but it should extend to seeing that their allotments reach the deficit or needy areas and that no invidious distinction shall be made in distributing rations between civilian population and those who are the relatives of people in the armed forces and also between the urban and rural peoples, and that all needy peoples, whether living in towns or villages be granted equal rations;

(6) that in cases of districts experiencing great scarcity, district-wise and equitable rationing shall be organised;

(7) and that to meet the food deficit in this country, apart from the measures taken to tide over the present difficulties, other measures of a permanent character such as that of new irrigation schemes, manufacture of fertilizers, fixation and maintenance of minimum prices of food grains shall also be taken up as soon as possible."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next Amendment is that of Mr. Chattopadhyaya. The question is:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

"In view of the fact that the system of procurement and distribution of essential food-stuff adopted by the Food Department of the Central Government has not succeeded so far to alleviate the difficulties and inconveniences of consumers in Bengal and in other affected provinces as well, the co-operative system of production, distribution and consumption be introduced and adopted in the affected provinces specially in Bengal by setting up Co-operative Producer, Distributor and Consumers' Society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question now is that the following motion be adopted:

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration:

(a) and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the co-ordination of procurement and distribution between surplus and deficit areas is entirely wanting; that the transport in that behalf is not adequate and timely (even considering the priority for war purposes) and that the prices are beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country; and that the steps taken by Government for exercising vigilance over eradication of corruption among those engaged by Government in the matter of the execution of food work are poor and ineffective;

(b) and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that grain prices in most places are uneconomically low for producers and that the failure of Government to subsidize the food consumption of the poorest consumers both in towns and villages is hitting hard both the producers and consumers of food."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 10th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 10th November 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REPORT ON TOUR OF MR. SARGENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

†216. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay before the House the account of the tour of Mr. Sargent in the United Kingdom?

(b) What changes, if any, are Government contemplating to introduce in the educational system of this country?

(c) Are Government contemplating to bring a Bill for discussion in the Assembly? If so, what?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No formal account of Mr. Sargent's deputation will be prepared but he will report separately on various matters with which he dealt during his tour, as listed in a statement laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The lines of Post War Educational Development in India which Government are considering are those embodied in the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education, of which there are copies in the Library.

(c) Not at present.

Statement

Matters dealt with by Mr. Sargent during his recent deputation to the United Kingdom includes:—

(1) Attendance as observer on behalf of India at the Conferences of Allied Ministers of Education, which were held in London during the summer under the Presidency of the British Minister of Education.

(2) Discussions with the India Office, the High Commissioner for India, Universities and other Institutions for Higher Education regarding the best arrangements for the future admission of Indian students in view of the conditions likely to obtain at the end of the war.

(3) Exploring with parties concerned means of strengthening cultural relations between learned bodies in Great Britain and this country, including the following up of certain suggestions made by Prof. A. V. Hill during his recent visit to India.

(4) Discussing with the appropriate Authorities the possibility of securing training in Great Britain for teachers and other persons who may be deputed for that purpose by the Central and Provincial Governments in the event of its being decided to proceed with the Scheme for Post-war Educational Development prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education and now under consideration by the Government of India.

Mr. Sargent also took the opportunity of his visit to England to discuss with persons there a number of other outstanding educational matters.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

217. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 and above in his Department including the Income Tax Appellate Tribunals in each Province?

(b) How many of these posts are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement

(a) The total number is 33, comprising 22 posts in the Secretariat and 11 in the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (5 in Bombay and 2 each in Madras, Bihar and the United Provinces).

(b) (i) four; (ii) three; (iii) twenty; (iv) four; (v) none; (vi) two.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

218. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in his Department including (i) office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, (ii) the Department of Commercial Intelligence, and Statistics, (iii) the Trade Marks Registry, Bombay, (iv) the office of the Chief Controller of Imports, (v) the office of the Controller of Enemy Firms and Enemy Trading and Custodian of Enemy Property, and (vi) the office of the Tea Controller of India?

(b) How many posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the House.

Name of Department or Office	Monthly Salary	Number of posts	Number of posts held by					
			Europeans	Anglo-Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others
1. Commerce Department	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	9 1 1 5	1 1 1 1	2 1 1 1	7 1 4 5	1 1 1 1	8 1 1 1	9 1 1 1
2. Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India.	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	2 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
3. Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
4. Trade Marks Registry, Bombay.	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
5. Office of the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi.	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	3 1 2 2	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
6. Office of the Controller of Enemy Firms and Enemy Trading and Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay.	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	4 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
7. Office of the Tea Controller for India— (i) Calcutta	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	2 1 1 2	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
(ii) Coonoor	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	1 1 1 2	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
(iii) Cochin	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if he can give me the percentage of the Sikh representation in any of these services?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have not had time to calculate the percentage, but I will supply it to the Honourable Member.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

219. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in his Department including (i) the office of the Controller of Coffee, (ii) the office of the Paper Production Commissioner, (iii) the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and its Director's office, (iv) the office of the Steel Controller, (v) the office of the Rubber Production Commissioner, (vi) the office of the Textile Commissioner, and (vii) the office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies?

(b) How many posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Grade	Total number of posts in each grade	Europeans	Anglo-Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Department of Industries and Civil Supplies</i>								
500—750	14	..	..	9	3	1	1	Indian Christian.
750—1,000	5	1	..	3	1	..	..	..
1,000—1,500	10	3	1	3	3	..	..	..
1,500 and above	5	..	..	2	2	..	1	Parsce.
Total	34	4	1	17	9	1	2	..
<i>(i) Office of the Controller of Coffee</i>								
500—750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
750—1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,000—1,500	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	Indian Christian.
1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
<i>(ii) Office of the Paper Production Commissioner.*</i>								
500—750	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	* Transferred to the Department of Supply from 1st April 1944.
750—1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Deputy Director of Paper.
1,000—1,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,500 and above	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	{ 1 Director of Paper. 1 Deputy Director of Paper.
Total	3	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
<i>(iii) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and its Director's Office.†</i>								
500—750	..	..	..	5	1	..	..	† Transferred to the Department of Planning and Development from 18th August 1944.
750—1,000	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
1,000—1,500	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..
1,500 and above	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	12	..	..	10	2	..	..	..

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(iv) Office of the steel Controller (Now Civil Steel Licensing Authority)									
500—750	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
750—1,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1,000—1,500	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1,500 and above	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
(v) Office of the Rubber Production Commissioner									
500—750	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
750—1,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1,000—1,500	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1,500 and above	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
(vi) Office of the Textile Commissioner									
500—750	20	13	12	8	5	4	2	1	1
750—1,000	13	12	8	5	4	2	1	1	1
1,000—1,500	8	5	4	2	1	1	1	1	1
1,500 and above	53	7	7	26	11	11	9	9	9
Total	53	37	31	40	20	20	13	13	13
(vii) Office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies									
500—750	9	1	1	6	2	2	2	2	2
750—1,000	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3
1,000—1,500	5	5	5	4	2	2	2	2	2
1,500 and above	8	1	1	4	2	2	2	2	2
Total	23	8	8	13	7	7	7	7	7
(viii) Office of the Paper Controller, India†									
500—750	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
750—1,000	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1,000—1,500	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1,500 and above	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	10	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
GRAND TOTAL	136	16	16	70	31	31	2	16	16

† Created from 15th May 1944.

1 Parsee.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER THE FOOD DEPARTMENT

220. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Food please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in (i) the Food Department (ii) the Directorate General of Food, (iii) the office of the Sugar Controller of India, (iv) the Regional Food Commissioners, and (v) the Group Liaison Officers (Food)? What number of posts is held under each category, by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

(b) What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to remove this serious grievance of the Sikhs in this respect?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i). The Food Department has been reorganised and is now composed of three Divisions, the functions of the Directorate General falling largely into Division III. The number of posts in the categories specified in Divisions I and II of the Food Department are 17, 4, 6, and 13 respectively.

(ii) The corresponding figures for Division III are 11, 6, 12 and 9 respectively.

(iii) The figures are 1, 2, 1, and 1 respectively.

(iv) The figures are 4, 4, 2 and 5 respectively.

(v) The figures are 1, 2 and 1 for the first three categories and nil for the fourth category.

As regards the second part of clause (a) of the question, the number of posts held in each category by members of different communities is given below:—

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
(i) Europeans	Nil	2	5	15	22
(ii) Anglo-Indians	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1
(iii) Hindus	26	14	9	10	59
(iv) Muslims	6	1	6	Nil	13
(v) Sikhs	1	1	Nil	1	3
(vi) Others	1	Nil	1	2	4
Grand Total					102

(b) The Food Department are always anxious to take in members of minority communities when candidates with adequate qualifications are available for the vacancies which occur.

Sardar Sant Singh: Do I understand from the Honourable Member that the three posts held by the Sikhs are really held by them or Hindus describing themselves as Sikhs are also included in them?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I rise on a point of order. My Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh has been asking questions of a similar type for oral replies for which, in my humble judgment, there is nothing to be answered orally. I would like you to guide us whether such questions are suitable for oral reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is difficult to make that sort of distinction. It is left to the discretion of the Member. I have got to see whether a question whether it be starred or unstarred is in accordance with the Rules and Standing Orders. But whether the question should be started or unstarred is left to the discretion of the Member himself.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I wanted to point out our difficulty. If questions of this kind are put for oral replies, then those questions which really deserve oral replies are kept back. That is the difficulty which I have been feeling.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is for the Members themselves to decide. Besides, I must state that most of the answers to most of such questions are laid on the table.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I submit as a personal explanation on this point that Mr. Joshi has become unnecessarily nervous on this subject because I

and that such questions have been asked in the past and replies have been given.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, Order: I have given my ruling.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he has assured himself that these three posts are held by the Sikhs and not by the Hindus describing themselves as Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As far as I know, they believe in *kais, kara and kirpan*. I cannot say anything more.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member give me the names of these gentlemen? They are only three and he can easily give me the names.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not got the names with me, but I shall gladly give the names to my Honourable friend.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask the Government Members whether in the interests of the time of the House it will not be better if they prepare a list of their officers arranged according to the communities so that these questions may be avoided altogether and the time of the House may be saved? May I ask the Honourable the Home Member or any other Honourable Member who is responsible for this to give me a reply?

(No reply)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his suggestion. Next question.

STATISTICS ~~AND~~ UNEMPLOYED LABOUR

221. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh**: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state:

(a) if any statistics about unemployed labour in India is available; if so, what the number is, and how it is classified;

(b) if no statistics are available, when the Government intend to collect the same and classify it according to industries and under the heads "educated" and "uneducated";

(c) if the Government are aware that the United Nations are taking steps to maintain a high level of employment in their countries; and if so, when and what steps this Government intend to take to keep pace with them?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative; the latter part does not arise.

(b) Government at present collect statistics about employment in certain industries and they propose to take steps to improve and expedite such statistics. It is not however possible at present to collect statistics about unemployment.

(c) Government are aware that some of the United Nations are making plans to sustain a high level of employment even after the war. The reconstruction plans of the Government of India will also take into consideration the necessity of maintaining as high a level of employment as is available.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask if the Honourable Member is alert that in the post-war reconstruction he should see that every person in India should get an employment?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not follow the question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member for Labour in the post-war scheme of reconstruction watch the interests of the labour and see that no person is out of employment?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That should be our ideal, I accept.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the difficulty about the collection of statistics? I thought I had said set this Department in motion by asking a question about statistics a year ago. May I ask if the work of the collection of statistics has not yet begun?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have just begun and I think we have made a good beginning.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I ask what had he been doing for the last one year? When did he make a beginning?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We had many other things to do besides this. We have made a good beginning.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask if early steps be taken to initiate the gathering of statistics about unemployment in different industries?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have already said that we have initiated the policy of collecting statistics.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if anything has been done in carrying out the promise made to me last time in collecting statistics?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have already said a beginning has been made.

POST-WAR SHIPPING POLICY

222. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh**: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce please state if he is now in a position to make a statement on post-war shipping policy of the Government of India? If so, will a statement be laid on the table?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The matter is still under consideration and Government of India will await the results of the deliberations of the Post-war Shipping Policy Committee recently appointed by them, which is meeting early next month.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether on this Post War Shipping Policy Committee, there are any representatives of seamen?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are considering the question of seamen separately.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the seamen are not interested in the policy of the Government of India as regards shipping and why they should not be placed on these Committees?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Frankly speaking, every one is interested in the other in this world. But there are certain specific matters which have to be dealt with in a specific manner, and the question of seamen is of such importance that I would not like to make it subsidiary to any other question of importance, and that is why I am considering the question of seamen quite separately.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What stage has been reached in the matter of sketching out this shipping policy? Has any beginning been made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It depends upon how you look upon it. But I can say that certainly a beginning has been made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Honourable Member expect this portion of the planning to be completed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have been trying to quicken the pace, but there are so many difficulties in this country that it takes a long time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the plan refers only to actual putting the plan into force or whether the Government have made any beginning at all?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not able to answer that question.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know when this Committee which he made mentioned of is going to hold its next sitting?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The first week of next month as the programme stands at present.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if in this important business scheme, the Honourable Member will take the representations of seamen into consideration at any stage?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult for me to answer a problematical question.

POST-WAR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

223. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh**: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce please state:

(a) if any decisions have been reached by the Government on the question of India's post-war trade and industrial policy; and

(b) if a decision will now be taken by the Government to reserve Indian coastal trade for Indian vessels on account of the circumstances arising out of this war; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Government of India has appointed two Committees to advise on questions connected with post-war trade and industrial development. Government's policy in regard to these matters is under consideration.

(b) The future of Indian coastal trade will be considered by the relevant Policy Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How long will it take?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As soon as the situation will arise?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: At what time?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: God alone knows.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What do you know?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Have any steps been taken by Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have taken preliminary steps to make a start as soon as the situation is ripe for it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Have the Government of India made up their mind that in the conduct of industries like shipping and also in the conduct of trade, those who are employed in that trade and industry are not going to have any voice at all?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I am not able to answer a general question like this. In any case, that is a matter which will have to be considered very carefully in connection with post war planning development.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are not these seamen going to have any voice? Are they not going to look into the matter of policy as regards shipping and trade in which they are to be engaged?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that the question of shipping policy *vis-a-vis* the different sections of the employees is a matter which is still under consideration and it is too early for me to say anything about this matter.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Government of India bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government and consider this matter seriously and quickly inasmuch as the expansion of the Navy depends on mercantile marine shipping?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are very much alert about the situation and we are trying to do our best. There is one point which I might mention as the last supplementary question arose out of seamen. I was referring only to representation of seamen on the Shipping Policy Committee. But as far as I know in both Industry and the Trade Policy Committee, there are representatives of labour in there. We have been quite alert in this matter.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (a) what are the two Committees that he mentioned, and how many sittings of these have been held? Is there any report published of the proceedings of the Committee?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is a Committee on Trade and another Committee on Industries.

†224. *

POST-WAR CONTROL OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

225. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether the Government of India are contemplating to control the import and export of all principal articles in this country even after the cessation of hostilities?

(b) Will the sale of the imported and Indian manufactured articles be limited to those persons who hold the license which will be given at the will of the District Magistrates? In case the answer is in the affirmative, what safeguards have been provided that these licenses not only in number but also in quantity are distributed among various communities in equitable manner?

†This question has been postponed to be answered on the 15th November, 1944.

(c) Will the export and import for India be confined to few British Companies which will have branches in this country, or the Government will allow open competition in the interest of the consumers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (c). The matter is under consideration. But I may say at once that the answer to the first part of (c) is in the negative.

(b) The sale of articles included in the schedule to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944 will be made, if the Controller General of Civil Supplies considers it to be necessary, through dealers approved by him. The appointment of the approved dealers will be made ordinarily from amongst established representatives of importers, and the claims of these will be disregarded only when there is reason to believe that they cannot be relied upon to abide by the conditions, subject to which the distribution of the goods in question has been approved by the Controller General of Civil Supplies. The basis being the maintenance of normal trade channels, the question of selection by communities does not arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If as the Honourable Member said the answer to part (c) is in the negative, then what is there to be considered?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I said that the points which the Honourable Member raised in parts (a) and (c), except in the latter part of (c) are under consideration. I have put it quite mathematically. (a) *plus* (c) *minus* the latter part of (c).

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it is not a fact that on account of the ingenious method of deciding quota, as a matter of fact larger quotas have been allotted to British firms because they were dealing with British countries and the Indian exporting firms have been cut out?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to accept that as a general statement of the situation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member ascertain whether it is not a fact that Indian exporting firms which were trading with Germany, Japan and Italy and other countries have been cut out on the ingenious plea that they were not exporting to certain remaining countries now and that the British firms who were exporting . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: No, Sir, I am merely enquiring whether the Honourable Member would look into it and tell this House if Indian firms have been cut out on the plea I have mentioned.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have been looking into the whole question. It is difficult for me to explain the multiple ramifications of the Import and Export Control policy in answer to supplementary questions. There is no doubt about this that to a certain extent, those who had been dealing in the past with enemy countries have not been able to get it as against those who have been dealing with Allied countries, but that is without any consideration as to whether they are British or Indian firms.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member lay a full statement on the Import and Export policy, if he is not prepared to answer it in reply to a supplementary question.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If there is a relevant Resolution, I shall certainly try to discuss every matter before this House. But I may inform my Honourable friend that control of import and export involving the whole continent of India and involving millions and millions of rupees is a matter which is rather difficult to bring down within the four corners of general principles within a few hours.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it necessary to control at all after the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: On that question, opinions differ. The Opinion which we have got for the time being is that left to absolute free trade and free dealings, there might be quite an economic chaos in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the Honourable Member's statement that he is agreeable to place all the material at his disposal before the House if there

is a relevant Resolution on the subject, will he be good enough to take an early opportunity to move an official Resolution on the subject?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I should be glad to do it but I think it will be unfair to the Department to place an official Resolution on the agenda without knowing the points on which my Honourable friends want elucidation. I can quite frankly say that it is difficult to get information from different places like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Karachi, Rangoon, Chittagong, etc., without knowing the specific points on which information is required.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the total export trade of India was not divided out fairly between all the pre-war exporters instead of giving a larger share to British firms?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is a point that I do not accept.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member considered that restriction of the type contemplated by him will lead to unthinkable corruption?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think so.

†226. *

STEPS FOR MAKING UP THE LOSS OF BURMA RICE

227. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the quantity of rice which used to come from Burma and the supply of which was stopped on account of the loss of Burma?

(b) What steps did the Food Department take to make up the loss of rice on account of the loss of Burma?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that there exists in Assam over 5½ million acres of land?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that plenty of labour is available in Bengal and elsewhere who are willing to cultivate the land and increase the production of rice?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the staple food in Bengal is rice and that the people of Bengal cannot easily assimilate the foodgrains normally consumed in upper India?

(f) Is it the function of his Department to procure food? If so what steps has he taken for increasing the quantity of food and in making up the loss of food supply on account of the loss of Burma?

(g) If the replies to (a) to (f) above are in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the Department which deals with the procurement of food?

(h) Did the Honourable Member ever have any consultation with the Honourable Member in charge of procurement about the necessity of increasing the question of rice in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The average import of paddy and rice from Burma for five years (1937-38 to 1941-42) was 42,000 tons and 13,60,000 tons respectively.

(b) The following are some of the steps taken by the Government of India to make up for the loss of rice which used to be exported from Burma.

(1) In March 1942 the 'Grow More Food Campaign', which includes increased production of rice, was started. Financial assistance has been given to the Provinces in the form of loans and grants for financing various food production schemes which include distribution of improved seeds at concessional rates, multiplication of improved strains of paddy seeds, distribution of manures at concessional rates, reclamation of waste lands and construction of irrigation works. Steps are being taken to import fertilizers from abroad.

(2) At the instance of the Central Government several provinces have issued orders regarding the undermilling of rice with the object of increasing the total quantity of food available.

(3) Exports of foodgrains have been prohibited and imports arranged.

(c) The cultivable waste in Assam is over two million acres.

(d) Steps are already being taken to accelerate the extension of the food producing area in Assam and to increase the production of rice.

†This question has been postponed to be answered on the 15th November, 1944.

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, people generally find it easier to assimilate foodgrains to which they are accustomed than those to which they are not accustomed.

(f) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative but the production of food is the responsibility of the Education, Health and Lands Department.

For the answer to the second part of the question the Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (b) of his question.

(g) and (h): Food Department deals with procurement of food.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Will the Honourable Member explore the possibility of importing rice from Egypt which, according to my information, has surplus rice available for export, and to which, I believe, we export cloth at controlled rates?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already taken up the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (c) will the Honourable Member be pleased to state how much of these two million acres of waste land has been brought under cultivation under this 'Grow More Food Campaign'?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have stated, the question of that waste land is under examination. It is not free from difficulties; labour has got to be arranged for and the land has to be made fit for cultivation before it will produce rice. The whole matter is being examined.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My Honourable friend gives this figure as two million acres, but is it not 5½ million acres?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is a mathematical mistake somewhere. The total area under rice in Assam is 5½ million acres. The cultivable land not under cultivation is two million acres.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Arising out of part (f), will the Honourable Member state whether there is any co-ordination between the two Departments of Food and Agriculture and whether there is any plan for co-operation between the two?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, we work together all the time.

IMPORT AND EXPORT QUOTA FOR MUSLIM TRADESMEN

228. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state whether the Government of India have fixed a share for the Muslim tradesmen in the import and export quota fixed by his Department?

(b) Will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table of the House giving the number of those persons to whom the import and export quotas have been given with the value and the quantity in both import and export trades?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war-time.

EMBARGO ON EXPORT OF LUNGIS FROM MADRAS.

229. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state whether the export of cotton textiles of India has been totally stopped? If not, what are the reasons for putting an embargo on the export of lungis from Madras?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Exports of cotton textiles including lungis are regulated according to a quota scheme. There is no embargo on the export of lungis from Madras.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that there was an embargo on the export of lungis from Southern India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not so far as I am aware, but whether those lungis should go to Bengal or to the U. P. was a matter that depended on the exigencies of the local situation and the transport difficulties.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am talking of an embargo on exports. Was there a prohibition on the export of handloom cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of it, but if my Honourable friend will write to me I will look into it.

EXPORT OF LEATHER, ETC., TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

230. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state whether the export of leather, raw hide and skin has been stopped except in the case of United Kingdom? If so, why?

(b) Is it not a fact that the United Kingdom is not buying raw hide, leather and skin at the current prices but at the prices which existed in October, 1939?

(c) Is it not a fact that the difference in the market prices and the prices at which the Government sells these things to the United Kingdom falls on the consumers of India, and the price of leather is consequently much enhanced?

(d) Is it not a fact that export of raw hide and skin which used to be in the neighbourhood of 60 million pieces before the war has now been reduced to one million?

(e) Is it the policy of the Government of India to transfer the entire trade of hide and skin from persons who could afford to sell at cheaper rates to persons who would charge high prices? If not, how will he explain the existing facts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Exports of certain varieties have been prohibited to all destinations, including the United Kingdom, for the purpose of conserving supplies required in the country. Exports of other varieties are allowed under licence to several countries including the United Kingdom.

(b) *Raw hides:* Exports of raw hides to the United Kingdom and in fact to any country are now negligible as the available supplies are almost wholly utilised within the country. The fixation of reasonable ceiling prices for hides sold for export as well as for indigenous utilisation is under active consideration.

Leather and skins: The prices paid by the United Kingdom for these commodities have been advanced from time to time above the pre-war level, to the extent necessary to obtain supplies from the trade.

(c) Sales of raw hides, leather and skins to the United Kingdom are not effected by the Government of India. Ceiling prices for several varieties of leather have been fixed by the Government of India in recent months and these are applicable both to sales for export and for internal sales in the country.

(d) Exports of raw hides, as explained against part (b), are now very small. Exports of raw skins during 1943-44 were only about 17 per cent. less than the pre-war average.

(e) The point raised by the Honourable Member is not understood. The reduction in exports is due, among other causes, to greatly increased consumption in the country and the policy of the Government of India is to fix ceiling prices for raw hides and leather and to organise equitable distribution as far as possible.

EXTENSION OF APPELLATE POWERS OF THE FEDERAL COURT

231. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state if it is a fact that the present Honourable Chief Justice of India paid visits to the various High Courts of India, and everywhere he found that the opinion was unanimously in favour of the extension of the appellate powers of the Federal Court?

(b) Are Government aware that from the trend of the speeches delivered by him and of the talks he had, the general impression was that he was in favour of the extension of the powers of the Federal Court so as to comprise the power of hearing appeals from the High Courts?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that the Government have also been considering the question of extending the powers of the Federal Court? If so, since when?

(d) At what stage are the preparations for extending the powers of the Federal Court for hearing appeals from High Courts?

(e) What are the chief difficulties in the way of the Government for extending the powers of the Federal Court in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) It is a fact that the Chief Justice visited all the High Courts in India. On my information, it is not a fact that the opinion disclosed in favour of the extension of the Federal Court's appellate powers was unanimous.

(b) I cannot say what the general impression was, but the Chief Justice has authorised me to say that he is in fact in favour of the extension.

(c) to (e). The Honourable Member is referred to my predecessor's reply to his starred question No. 151 asked on the 19th February, 1943. The question still forms the subject of correspondence with the Secretary of State and I am not in a position to furnish any further information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if any consultation is going on with the British Government in regard to the extension of these powers?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I have said that the question still forms the subject of correspondence with the Secretary of State.

REVIVING OF THE 'CRIPPS PROPOSALS'

232. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether he has seen the press reports about a prolonged exchange of opinions and consultations between Qaid-i-Azam Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi in connection with the solution of the political deadlock and the future constitutional reforms in India, which has unfortunately failed at least for the time being?

(b) Have the Government considered the general situation in the country after this failure, and have they under contemplation any schemes for the future constitutional reforms for India?

(c) Have the Government considered the advisability of taking steps for giving practical shape to the Cripps proposals and working them in the country with the help of the parties who are prepared to co-operate with the Government in that behalf?

(d) Have the Government considered the advisability of ascertaining general opinion in the country under the present circumstances regarding the Cripps proposals? If so, have they taken any steps in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The Government's policy in regard to the constitutional future of India has been made clear on more than one occasion in the past and, as late as the 15th August, in His Excellency the Viceroy's letter to Mr. Gandhi.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In view of the failure of the talks between Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah will Government recommend to His Excellency the Viceroy that these leaders should be called together and the deadlock removed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have nothing further to add to my reply.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if the Government of India will release the Members of the Congress Working Committee in order to facilitate talks on communal unity between the representatives of the Muslim League and the Indian National Congress?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That question, I submit, does not arise.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: With regard to the reply of the Honourable Member to parts (b), (c) and (d) of the question, may I ask whether the situation has not changed at all and time has not lapsed between the speech which His Excellency the Governor General made and the present time and whether the changed situation does not require some changed action on the part of Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have nothing further to add to my reply.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member whether, after the breakdown of negotiations between Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah, Government has considered the question of taking an initiative in the matter of bringing together all the communities of India on somewhat the same lines as the

Round Table Conference, and to see if anything can be done in bringing about a compromise between the different communities?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, the same question is being put in different language by different members.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: May I suggest that this policy of inaction on the part of Government can be of no use either to the Government or to the country?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is the same question which another Honourable Member has put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

AUTHORITY FOR SCRUTINIZING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONFERMENT OF KNIGHTHOOD

233. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if there is any authority appointed by the Government who scrutinizes the qualifications of the persons who are to receive the title of Knighthood? If so, what is that authority?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The conferment of knighthood is a prerogative of the Crown and the Government of India are not concerned.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: His Majesty confers Knighthood. Who removes them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Obviously the Crown.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: May I know whether the Government of India or the Provincial Government have any hand whatsoever in making recommendations for the title of Knighthood?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question was 'who scrutinizes the qualifications'. It has nothing to do with recommendations.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Do any of these whom I have mentioned in my supplementary question scrutinize the qualifications of these gentlemen?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not in a position to answer that because this is a prerogative of the Crown, and the Crown is entitled to have the advice of anyone that the Crown pleases.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Have the Government of India any information whatsoever in respect of the conferment of Knighthood?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: They have got all sorts of information with respect to many things in this world, but I do not know whether I can add usefully to the answer that I have already given.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if Members of the Government are given a power to recommend their own favourites and whether the Honourable Member has got any reservations?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, not favourites.

CRITICISMS AGAINST ENCOURAGING IMPORTATION OF CONSUMERS GOODS

234. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether criticisms have been made by or on behalf of Indian industrialists of the present policy of encouraging the importation of consumers goods as having a prejudicial effect upon the indigenous industries? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the general lines of such criticisms, stating at the same time what steps are actually taken in the case of each indigenous industry likely to be affected by the importation of any particular type of consumers' goods for the purpose of finding out whether and how such industries are likely to be prejudiced by the importation of such goods?

(b) Is it a fact that different organisations of Commerce and Industry have suggested the establishment of a suitable machinery for the purpose of working as a liaison between the Department of Industries and Representatives of Indian manufacturing interests so as to ensure that legitimate interests of the existing and potential indigenous industries are not jeopardised by the Government's policy of importation?

(c) Do Government possess complete statistics of the production of each indigenous industry in the country which has been or may be affected by the

present policy of importation of consumers' goods, and are Government in possession of all facts relating to any handicaps from which they may be suffering in the matter of maintaining or increasing their production? What is the policy of Government in regard to rendering these industries necessary assistance for the purpose of removing such handicaps?

(d) Is it a fact that foreign manufacturers of consumers' goods are, in some instances, in receipt of State assistance in the matter of supply of controlled raw materials so as to enable them to manufacture finished products for export?

(e) Which indigenous industries in this country engaged in the manufacture of consumers' goods, which do not fall within the category of war materials, have been assisted by Government in the matter of obtaining any controlled raw materials?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes. Certain trade organisations representing Indian manufacturers have represented that the import of Consumer Goods is likely to have an adverse effect on Indian industries, especially those which have been created since the war to make goods shortages in imported Consumer Goods, owing to the higher cost of the Indian made articles. The suggestion has been that Indian industries are hampered in meeting such competition owing to the difficulty of obtaining raw materials, fuel, etc. In fact, however, Government import Consumer Goods only when it is established on the basis of information received from trade sources and the Government Departments concerned, that even after the grant of all possible assistance, adequate supplies cannot be indigenously manufactured to meet the immediate need.

(b) Yes. Two trade bodies have made this suggestion.

(c) Neither Government nor the trade associations concerned nor any other body possess complete statistics of the production of indigenous industries. Government made full use of all information available with trade associations and other bodies regarding the disabilities of Indian industry, which is assisted in every way open to the Government of India having regard to the difficulties of transport, fuel and similar shortages and the over-riding priority accorded to Defence projects.

(d) Factories established in India by non-Indian manufacturers receive the same degree of assistance as other industries. Requests for export of their goods are dealt with on the same lines as requests from other industries.

(e) There is no industry of any importance in this country which has not at one time or another received assistance in the provision of fuel, transport, raw materials or similar assistance.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the second part of clause (a) of my question, may I know whether an enquiry is made in each particular instance as regards the way in which an indigenous industry may be prejudicially affected by the policy of importation followed with regard to a corresponding article from abroad?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I might say that before any consumer goods are imported, it is decided from time to time as to what quantity of the different goods are to be imported. When that is done, each case of imported goods which is manufactured in this country is taken into consideration together with the quantity, and a complete list is prepared showing how far they are available and to what extent there is likely to be any shortage.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if it is not a fact that the nature and quantity of goods exported from the United Kingdom to India is decided not by any authority in India but by authorities in England?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir. We decide as to how much we will import. Thereafter it is for the exporting countries to say whether they can supply. It never depends on the other side to say as to how much they can send, but if there is a demand for an article and they can send it, we certainly accept.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member take steps to see that the consumer goods imported or, if I may say so, dumped in this country from

the United Kingdom are not sold at a price which is prejudicial to corresponding goods produced in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In the present economic condition of India, there is no chance of either dumping some of the consumer goods which we are importing, or any disturbance of the price structure of the manufactured goods in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the conception of the Government with regard to indigenous industries include the cottage industries also. If so, are they keeping the interests of the cottage industries constantly in their mind when they import consumer goods from other countries into India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: About Government's conception or the conception of anybody else I do not know, but I can say that so far as cottage industries and handloom goods are concerned, they are constantly before us, and I have personally looked into this case whenever there has been any suggestion that it affects the cottage industry.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member received any representations from Surat and Burhanpur handloom weavers that they are not getting yarn from Bombay?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have received a telegram only three minutes ago.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I understand that Government have no proposal under consideration for the purpose of obtaining complete statistics of production in respect of indigenous industries.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

BICYCLE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

235. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the general position of the bicycle manufacturing industry in India and the Government policy, if any, in the matter of assisting the industry in any way;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Hind Cycles Company, Limited, have been forced to stop the manufacture of bicycles owing to Government's failure to grant necessary facilities for the importation of steel;

(c) whether such facilities were granted in the past to this company, and the reasons for their discontinuance;

(d) whether it is a fact that an assurance was given by a previous Commerce Member that the cycle industry will receive all necessary assistance from the Government; and

(e) whether bicycles of British manufacture are being imported into India under the present policy of importation of consumers' goods, the number of such bicycles imported during the past one year or so, together with their current prices in the United Kingdom and their selling prices as fixed in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) There are at present two firms manufacturing cycles in India (excepting certain components which have to be imported). Their combined capacity can meet less than half of India's estimated requirements. Government's policy is to give them all possible assistance.

(b) The Hind Cycles Co. have suspended production of complete cycles because of the lack of certain raw materials which the U. S. A. refuse to release. The Government of India are trying alternative sources for the supply of these.

(c) The answer to the first part is "Yes". The second part does not arise.

(d) No such assurance has been given with special reference to cycle industry.

(e) (i) Cycles are imported under the Consumer Goods Programme.

(ii) It would not be in public interest to give recent figures of imports.

(iii) The average f.o.b. price in U. K. is about £4-9-0 per cycle.

(iv) The wholesale selling price of imported bicycles as fixed in India varies from Rs. 99 to Rs. 123 according to the make.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the Honourable Member's statement that the United States refused to release certain raw materials which were used to be

supplied to this industry, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether ever since that refusal the firm concerned has not made several indents for the supply of the raw materials and what has happened to all those indents?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Four indents are still outstanding with the Steel Import Controller. Government are prepared to issue necessary licenses but if the authorities on the other side are unwilling to release this material it is no use granting the licenses. The question of obtaining this material from alternative sources is under consideration and as soon as we can get it we shall issue import licenses from those countries.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the alternative source the United Kingdom or any other country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot say offhand but it must be the United Kingdom or Canada or some other country from which we can get it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member made a statement that it is not in the public interest to give the figures of the cycles imported. May I ask which section of the public he referred to—the users or the producers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am referring to all concerned.

COTTON TEXTILE MILLS TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT.

236. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to make a statement giving the names of cotton textile mills that have been taken over by Government for management under total or partial Government control, together with the maximum manufacturing capacity of these mills?

(b) What are the reasons for assumption of Government control over the management of these mills?

(c) Has any increase in the production been achieved as a result of such assumption of control, and, if so, what has been the rate of such increase, as compared with any general increase that may have taken place in the rate of production of cotton textiles in the country as a whole during the same period?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (c). The Shree Ram Mills and the Seksaria Mills. The other information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

(b) For attempting to break the Control.

SLAUGHTER OF BOVINE CATTLE.

237. *Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether Government have assured themselves that more cattle of the bovine species are not slaughtered in India than are being produced? If so, on what basis and on the strength of what figures?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Exact figures of the number of cattle produced or slaughtered in India every year are not available. But it has been estimated, on the basis of the female bovine population that 44 million calves are born every year. The cattle census of 1940 showed that the number of calves under one year of age was 28½ millions, indicating that about 35 per cent. of those born die in their first year. The number of bovines slaughtered, according to the report on the marketing of hides in India is of the order of 6.6 millions a year. These figures show that there is a big margin between the number produced and the number slaughtered.

(As Mr. J. D. Tyson read through the answer)

Mr. Manu Subedar: There has been too much noise on this side of the House and I have not been able to hear the answer.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will read it again.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

(Mr. J. D. Tyson read the answer again.)

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that owing to the complete agricultural liquidation in Bengal in rural areas a large number of female bovine included in his figure have been killed and that after their death they cannot produce further calves?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not admit the correctness of the first part of the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken to prevent this infantile mortality among cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. That is of course the concern of the Veterinary Department in all the provinces, to try to decrease "infantile mortality" in cattle.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the contribution that is being made by the Government of India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We maintain a Research Institute at Izzatnagar.

RISE IN PRICE OF MILK, MEAT AND CATTLE.

238. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Food Member noticed the phenomenal increase in the price of meat and milk, and the price of cattle throughout the country?

(b) Have Government considered that owing to the increased price of replacement of farm bullocks the "Grow More Food" campaign might fail and actually less food may be grown because of the inability of the farmer to replace a bullock which dies a natural death?

(c) Have Government received complaints that rural transport has been seriously affected owing to the shortage of bullocks and, in its turn, this is having effect on the movement and prices of food and other commodities?

(d) Have Government considered the desirability of stopping the slaughter of all bovine cattle for a period of three months until they get the situation in hand and they know exactly where they are in the matter of cattle?

(e) What steps, if any, have Government taken for the importation of cattle from outside and for the strict prohibition not only of export but of supply to ships in docks of cattle from India and the export of cattle or meat for the military outside India?

(f) Are Government in a position to give any assurances to the public on this issue?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government are aware of the fact that the prices of milk, meat and cattle have increased. Although no reliable figures are available it is probably correct that prices of livestock have increased in sympathy with the general trend of prices and in excess of that trend in some areas.

(b) Enquiries made some months ago showed that except in a few localities in the United Provinces the campaign had not been adversely affected by bullock shortage.

(c) No such complaints have been received by the Government of India.

(d) As I informed the House in reply to Mr. Neogy's question No. 137 on the 7th November, 1944, Government have already issued instructions about the slaughter of useful cattle.

(e) No cattle have been imported from abroad, but their export has been restricted to the 1941-42 level which is 1,824 p. a. The export of the following classes of cattle is prohibited:—

(i) cattle in milk, pregnant cattle, and female young stock which have not yet calved,

(ii) all male cattle fit for being used for ploughing, or transport purposes,

(iii) breeding bulls.

The proper provisioning of ships is necessary and it is not feasible to prohibit the supply of cattle to ships in docks for use during the voyage. Beef in the form of cattle on the hoof or fresh is not exported from India by the Defence Services.

(f) The Government of India are carefully watching the situation and taking steps to conserve and improve good breeding stock.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (e), i.e., dislocation of rural transport, will the Honourable Member make an enquiry from all the provincial administrations on this subject whether rural transport has been dislocated?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member further find out whether the report that in Hissar district owing to the shortage of plough cattle women had to take the plough is correct or not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We did enquire into it sometime ago and I think it was denied by the Punjab Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member enquire from the Bengal Government whether it is not a fact that the next harvest crop is 1½ million tons less and the principal reason is shortage of plough cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will make an enquiry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of appointing an official enquiry to examine the whole question of the effects of the slaughter of cattle upon the "Grow More Food" campaign and to investigate the ways and means by which this loss can be minimised?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: On our present information, we see no reason for an official enquiry.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN UNDERGROUND IN MINES.

239. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the employment of women underground is against the Geneva Convention accepted by the Government of India?

(b) Is Government aware that no such employment has taken place in the United Kingdom in spite of the stress of war requirement?

(c) When did Government make this relaxation, and why?

(d) How long do Government expect to keep it open to employ women in coal mines?

(e) How many women are so employed?

(f) What is the wage earned by women underground, and how does it compare with the earnings of women employed in other trades?

(g) What steps have Government taken to safeguard the health and morale of women underground in coal mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) August 1943 in the case of coalfields in Central Provinces and Berar, November 1943 in the case of Bengal and Bihar and December 1943 in the case of Orissa. Owing to severe shortage of male labour in these coalfields.

(d) The Government are most anxious to re-impose the ban as soon as the production of coal reaches a figure which makes possible such re-imposition.

(e) An accurate figure of the total number of women employed underground cannot be given as this figure varies from day to day. It is however estimated that about 16,000 women are at present employed underground in all coal mines in Bengal, Bihar, Central Provinces and Orissa.

(f) Women employed underground are entitled to the same wages as men on similar work. The wages of women employed underground vary from annas 0-12-0 to annas 0-15-0 a day exclusive of the free rice concession. Up-to-date information in respect of wages of women in other trades is not readily available.

(g) Women are not allowed to be employed underground in galleries which are less than 5½ feet in height. They are also entitled to the benefits of the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941. For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Act and rules made thereunder, three Inspectors have been appointed. In addition, three Welfare Officers have also been appointed and a Lady Welfare Officer for mines is being appointed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member seen the report in the United Kingdom about women in coal mines in which it is stated that no woman should work with any clothing above the waist-line?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of this fact that neither in the United Kingdom nor in the United States of America, nor in any country in the British Commonwealth of Nations, are women employed underground in spite of the stress of war, will the Honourable Member say why he has been a party to this humiliating practice?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: On account of the shortage of coal.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member stated that a woman is entitled to the same wage as a man and he said that a woman on an average gets twelve annas. I do not agree with your figure. In the coal fields to the best of my knowledge a man and woman are paid jointly for joint production. How does the Government of India make sure what portion of the joint earning the man gives to the woman?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is easy to arrive at the figure by distributing the gang wages.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I again ask the Honourable Member how does he make sure that the woman gets the same wages as the man?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said that a woman is entitled to the same wages as a man for the same work.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: How does he make sure that the man gives to the woman half the wage and does not take more for himself and give less to the woman.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know but I feel that the man and woman who work together are husband and wife and I wonder whether they would be very much interested in exact mathematical distribution of their joint wages.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member stated that he did not know, may I ask the Government of India to withdraw the statement which they have made that a woman is entitled to equal wage with the man. Is not the Honourable Member proclaiming that the woman is getting equal wage with the man? Unless he can make sure how the woman can get equal wage with the man, he is not entitled to make a statement which, in my judgment, is misleading.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is only a quibble on the part of the Honourable Member.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask whether the Government, according to the assurance given by them during the last Session have reviewed the position and satisfied themselves that it is absolutely necessary for them to continue this cruel custom of employing women in mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Government have been reviewing the position.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there is any restriction upon pregnant women going underground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is very difficult to put any such restriction, because, as my Honourable friend is aware, it is extremely difficult to discover the state of pregnancy in many women.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Surely the Honourable Member realises that it is not such a difficult matter. It is done in other trades. Why can't it be done here as well? Why can't a restriction be placed at least in theory, if not in practice, that no pregnant woman shall go underground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I might assure my Honourable friend that the matter is under active consideration.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Have the Government made any arrangement for the care of infants and children of these women workers?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There has been established a Coal-miners' Welfare Fund and the care of children will be one of the duties of this Fund.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I want to know whether the Government have made any definite arrangement for the care of the infants and children of these women?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is a statutory organisation and one of its obligatory duties would be to look after the infants and children of the women workers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether Government have taken effective steps to reduce the number of women working in the mines and increase the number of men to be employed there?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is also under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Steps are being contemplated.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Besides the statutory provision, do Government know of any arrangement that should be made to safeguard the welfare of these pregnant women and children?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sure the Honourable Member will allow me to say that intelligence is not the monopoly of himself.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Neither is it the monopoly of the Government.

SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN COAL MINES.

240. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that shortage of labour in coal mines was due to higher wages offered by Army contractors for the construction of aerodromes etc.?

(b) What were the wages in coal mines before the war, and what have been the wages during each of the five years of the war?

(c) Is it true that the falling off in the output of coal mines was due to the reluctance of coal mine-owners to pay proper wages, having regard to the rise in the cost of living?

(d) What steps have Government taken to deal with the situation created by (i) shortage of labour, and (ii) shortage of coal?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Employment of labour at higher rates by Army contractors was a contributory cause of the shortage of labour in collieries.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) It is a fact that wages of colliery labour were not for long sufficiently adjusted to meet the increased cost of living. This was one factor in the falling off of the supply of labour.

(d) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the replies given in the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Member for Supply to parts (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) of Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 17. This describes the various steps taken by Government to deal with the situation created by the shortage of labour and the shortage of coal.

The representatives of the industry also agreed at Dhanbad in December 1943 to increase the cash wages of colliery labour and grant concessions in the supply of foodstuffs.

Average daily earnings in Coal Mines in December for the years 1938 to 1943.

	Miners	Loaders	Skilled Labour	Unskilled Labour	Females	Miners	Loaders	Skilled Labour	Unskilled Labour	Females	Unskilled Labour	Skilled Labour	Females
Jharia Coalfield (Bihar)													
1938	0 9 6 0	8 3 0 10	9 0 7 6	0 7 6	..	0 8 9 0	0 7 0	0 8 9 0	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 10 6	0 6 9	0 4 6
1939	0 9 9 0	8 9 0 11	0 0 7 9	0 7 9	..	0 9 0 0	0 7 3	0 8 6 0	0 6 6	0 5 6	0 10 3	0 5 0	0 4 6
1940	0 9 6 0	8 6 0 11	6 0 7 9	0 7 9	..	0 9 9 0	0 6 6	0 9 3 0	0 6 9	0 5 3	0 10 9	0 7 3	0 4 3
1941	0 10 0 0	9 0 0 11	9 0 8 3	0 8 3	..	0 9 3 0	0 8 0	0 9 0 0	0 6 9	0 5 6	0 11 0	0 7 6	0 5 0
1942	0 11 0 0	10 0 12	6 0 8 9	0 8 9	..	0 10 9 0	0 8 6	0 10 6 0	0 7 9	0 6 3	0 12 0	0 8 3	0 5 3
1943	0 13 9 0	12 9 0 14	9 0 11 0	0 11 0	0 11 6	0 13 6	0 12 0	0 14 6 0	0 9 3	0 8 0	0 14 0	0 9 9	0 6 9
Ranigum Coalfield (Bengal)													
1938	0 9 3 0	7 9 0 10	0 0 6 9	0 6 9	..	0 8 6 0	0 5 9	0 7 3 0	0 7 9	0 5 3	0 9 6	0 6 3	0 4 0
1939	0 9 0 0	7 9 0 10	0 0 7 0	0 7 0	..	0 8 6 0	0 6 3	0 7 6 0	0 6 3	0 4 3	0 9 6	0 6 3	0 4 0
1940	0 8 9 0	7 6 0 10	0 0 7 0	0 7 0	..	0 7 0 0	0 7 3	0 7 9 0	0 7 0	0 4 0	0 9 3	0 6 3	0 4 0
1941	0 9 3 0	8 0 10	6 0 7 3	0 7 3	..	0 8 6 0	0 7 9	0 9 6 0	0 6 6	0 4 6	0 9 6	0 6 6	0 4 3
1942	0 10 9 0	9 3 0 11	6 0 8 0	0 8 0	..	0 11 9 0	0 6 9	0 13 3 0	0 11 3	0 6 6	0 11 0	0 7 3	0 4 9
1943	0 14 3 0	12 6 0 14	0 0 13 0	0 13 0	0 9 9	0 14 0	0 12 0	0 15 0 0	0 11 0	0 10 6	0 13 6	0 9 3	0 6 0
Siridih Coalfield													
1938	0 9 9 0	11 6 0 12	9 0 8 0	0 8 0	..	0 3 0	..	0 5 3	..	0 2 6	0 13 6	0 7 9	0 4 0
1939	0 10 0 11	9 0 13	3 0 8 3	0 8 3	..	0 6 0	..	0 7 6	..	0 3 0	0 14 6	0 8 0	0 4 0
1940	0 9 3 0	10 9 0 13	9 0 8 3	0 8 3	..	0 6 0	..	0 7 6	..	0 3 0	0 14 6	0 8 0	0 4 0
1941	0 13 6 0	10 9 1 2	3 0 10 6	0 10 6	..	0 6 0	..	0 6 0	..	0 4 0	1 2 3	0 10 9	0 6 3
1942	0 14 6 0	11 3 1 3	6 0 11 6	0 11 6	0 13 9	0 8 0	0 9 0	0 9 6	..	0 4 6	1 3 3	0 11 3	0 7 6
1943	0 13 0 0	7 3 0 9	6 0 7 3	0 7 3	..	0 9 9	0 6 0	0 7 3	0 6 3	0 3 6	0 9 3	0 6 9	0 3 9
1939	0 12 0 0	7 6 0 10	0 0 7 6	0 7 6	..	0 10 0	0 6 3	0 8 0	0 5 3	0 3 6	0 9 0	0 6 9	0 4 0
1940	0 14 0 0	7 6 0 9	9 0 7 9	0 7 9	..	0 11 0	0 5 9	0 8 9 0	0 5 3	0 3 6	0 9 9	0 6 3	0 4 0
1941	0 14 3 0	7 9 0 10	3 0 7 6	0 7 6	..	0 10 3	0 7 3	0 7 9 0	0 5 6	0 3 6	0 10 6	0 6 6	0 4 0
1942	0 15 9 0	9 9 0 11	6 0 8 0	0 8 0	..	0 12 9	0 7 9	0 10 6 0	0 6 3	0 4 9	0 11 6	0 7 6	0 4 6
1943	1 1 3 0	10 3 0 12	3 0 8 9	0 8 9	0 9 6	0 14 3	0 8 0	0 9 9 0	0 6 0	0 5 3	0 11 6	0 8 9	0 5 9
Pench Valley Coalfield (Central Provinces)													
1938	0 13 0 0	7 3 0 9	6 0 7 3	0 7 3	..	0 9 9	0 6 0	0 7 3	0 6 3	0 3 6	0 9 3	0 6 9	0 3 9
1939	0 12 0 0	7 6 0 10	0 0 7 6	0 7 6	..	0 10 0	0 6 3	0 8 0	0 5 3	0 3 6	0 9 0	0 6 9	0 4 0
1940	0 14 0 0	7 6 0 9	9 0 7 9	0 7 9	..	0 11 0	0 5 9	0 8 9 0	0 5 3	0 3 6	0 9 9	0 6 3	0 4 0
1941	0 14 3 0	7 9 0 10	3 0 7 6	0 7 6	..	0 10 3	0 7 3	0 7 9 0	0 5 6	0 3 6	0 10 6	0 6 6	0 4 0
1942	0 15 9 0	9 9 0 11	6 0 8 0	0 8 0	..	0 12 9	0 7 9	0 10 6 0	0 6 3	0 4 9	0 11 6	0 7 6	0 4 6
1943	1 1 3 0	10 3 0 12	3 0 8 9	0 8 9	0 9 6	0 14 3	0 8 0	0 9 9 0	0 6 0	0 5 3	0 11 6	0 8 9	0 5 9

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the increase in wages that the employers are compelled to pay as compared with the prewar rates.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sorry I cannot give the figure but I have got a statement here which is pretty full and I am sure the Honourable Member will find what he wants there.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps have the Government taken to see that the women forced into the mines in this distressful manner get at least a little more pittance than women working in other trades above ground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I can assure my Honourable friend that the wages in coal mines have increased by more than 50 per cent.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps have the Government taken to coerce the coal mine owners? The Government pay for coal Rs. 9-8-0 now instead of Rs. 3-8-0 before the war. If you give so much more for coal, have you made any condition that this part of the extra will go to the women workers whom you have disgracefully forced into the mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think we have taken all the steps necessary.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is it not a fact that the Government of India are taking measures to prevent miners being employed by military contractors in order that the miners may be forced to go into mines for work at the risk of being starved?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That does not arise out of this question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do these 16,000 women possess any special qualification or skill so that they are thus forced to work in the mines, which qualifications could not be acquired by males in this country?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are neither asked nor forced. They are only permitted to offer themselves for their traditional occupation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether it is not a fact that the coal production today is less than the prewar period and whether this shortage of coal production is not due to the smallness of the wages paid to the miners?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend is entitled to draw his own inference.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

241. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the frequent complaints in this House, in the Press and amongst the public that the Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited, are being singled out for the bestowal of special favours by the Government of India;

(b) whether the Honourable Member and his Department have examined the numerous instances of such preferential treatment to this concern by the Government of India since the commencement of the war; and

(c) whether he is aware that the entire stock of an enemy Corporation, "Chemdyes", has been handed over to the Indian Branch of the Imperial Chemical Industries, and that all the trade done by Chemdyes has been treated as the trade done by the Imperial Chemical Industries for the purpose of assigning quotas?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have carefully examined the complaints brought to their notice.

(c) The stocks of Chemdyes Limited were sold to the Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Limited, Bombay after calling for public tenders. The answer to the second part is in the negative.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS PLACED WITH IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

242. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the scope and nature of the special contracts placed by the Government of India with the Imperial Chemical Industries in this country;
 (b) whether pressure was brought to bear on the Government by the Secretary of State for India or any other highly placed personage in order to grant this company special favours; and
 (c) the nature of concessions, prospective rights, long-term leases and other facilities granted to the Imperial Chemical Industries during the years 1936-1943?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

POLICY re PURCHASE OF FOODGRAINS BY INDIAN STATES FROM BRITISH INDIAN PROVINCES.

243. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Food Member please state what part his Department plays in the matter of Indian States purchasing foodgrains from British Indian Provinces?

(b) Does his Department keep note of the ultimate destination of foodgrains supplied to Indian States, and the prices obtained for the same by such States?

(c) Are the Indian States who acquire foodgrains from British Indian Provinces permitted to re-sell such foodgrains or products therefrom again to British Indian Provinces at a considerable profit to themselves?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Food Department allocates quotas of foodgrains to deficit States from surplus Provinces and States under the Basic Plan, just as it does in the case of British Indian Provinces.

(b) Yes, in a general sense but not in detail.

(c) No.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if any instance of an Indian State offering its surplus quantity of wheat flour to a British Province at a price higher than its own purchase price in British India has been brought to his notice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered the question. If the Honourable Member has got any specific case in mind, will he let me know?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I have got a specific case in mind, that is why I am asking the Honourable Member this question.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member let me know the case?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I can tell you. Madras approached Hyderabad for some flour which was stocked at Hapur, and the Hyderabad Government asked for 50 per cent. more than the price ruling at Hapur. I think the matter must be known to the Honourable Member. I would like to know from the Honourable Member what he is going to do about it.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I know the case. We allowed Hyderabad to resell certain wheat products to Madras, and the question of prices to be charged is still under examination.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Does the Honourable Member mean to say that the scandalous profits claimed by the Hyderabad Government is matter for examination?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not suppose so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Can the Honourable Member assure this House that the Indian States which have got surpluses are really co-operating with Government as fully and as satisfactorily as he and I could wish?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a large question to answer. As far as I know they are co-operating with us.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

NAGARJUNA-KONDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS.

244. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far spent on Nagarjuna-Konda on, (i) excavations, (ii) museum, and (iii) communications;

(b) its historical importance to the Indian nation and to the Andhras;
 (c) when the English Archaeological Expert visited Nagarjuna-Konda;
 (d) what his recommendations were about the finds there and when they were made;

(e) the improvements since made at Nagarjuna-Konda and at what cost;

(f) whether there is any "Visitors Book" at that museum, and since when it has been kept, and whether the number of visitors has been on the increase;

(g) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Guntur District Board led an excursion of 250 high school students in 1939-40 and the Guntur colleges, an excursion of undergraduates in 1943-44 to this place;

(h) if it is a fact that Government have under contemplation any scheme to disorganise the Nagarjuna-Konda finds and collection and museum, and if so, when it was initiated and with what objects;

(i) whether Government have received any protests from the Andhra Mahasabha Literary Association and Andhra Itihasa Sansodhaka Mandal (Guntur) and such other organisations;

(j) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a widespread and prolonged agitation in Andhra Province against any such proposed policy;

(k) whether they have seen the editorial in the October number of Journal of Andhra Historical Association; and

(l) whether Government propose to abandon their scheme and to offer to increase the facilities now available to the public for appreciating the glories of the Indian civilisation as indicated by Nagarjuna-Konda finds?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) Rs. 19,064.

(ii) Rs. 23,766.

(iii) Nil.

(b) The sculptures which relate to the Buddhist period are of considerable historical importance.

(c) Sir Leonard Woolley visited Nagarjuna-Konda in 1938.

(d) In his report of 1939 Sir Leonard Woolley pointed out that an archaeological museum has three functions, firstly the housing and preservation of antiquities, secondly to further the advance of science and thirdly to serve as an educational centre for the instructions of the general public. As regards the museum at Nagarjuna-Konda in particular he said "The *reductio ad absurdum* of the 'Local Archaeological Museum' policy has been reached at Nagarjuna-Konda here in a place correctly described by the Director General as 'almost inaccessible' a museum is being erected at an estimated cost of Rs. 27,000 to house, or rather to keep out of public sight a collection of magnificent stone sculptures of a type which is not represented in any museum in India. I may add that both the excavations and the sculptures have been open to view for years past and so far as I was able to learn I was, apart from members of the Department, the first person to visit them for more than two years". He recommended that no further expenditure should be incurred on the museum except on certain minor works and that actually the museum should be closed.

(e) Since Sir Leonard Woolley's visit the Museum godown has been completed and a gate fixed.

(f) There is a visitors' book at the Museum. It is understood that there has been no increase in the number of visitors.

(g) The Archaeological Department are aware of the excursions of students to this site.

(h) Government have no such scheme under consideration.

(i) and (j). On the mistaken assumption that a decision had been taken in the matter, protests were sent to the Archaeological Department by the organisations mentioned.

(k) No.

(l) The question does not arise.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION SCHEMES IN KISTNA AND GUNTUR DISTRICTS.

245. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken (i) to further excavate the old or promising sites at Joggarrapettah, Ghantasala and Gudivada of Kistna District, Bhattiperdhu, Amravati, Garikapadu, Goli, Chinaganzana of Guntur District; (ii) also to protect the finds already found there, and (iii) to acquire from the local private persons golden or silver coins, etc., that had come into their possession; and

(b) what other schemes of excavation are proposed to be taken up during the next two years?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) No steps are at present being taken to excavate the sites mentioned in the Kistna and Guntur Districts.

(ii) Most of the sites mentioned are already protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, and all possible measures have been taken to preserve finds from them.

(iii) The safeguarding of discoveries of gold and silver coins is a provincial responsibility under the Indian Treasure Trove Act.

(b) The partial excavation of one of the sites at Taxila has been started where a training class in practical archaeology for students throughout India has been inaugurated. The explorations and recording of prehistoric sites in South India is also in progress. A small scale excavation at Hadappa and the partial excavations of a site in South India are also contemplated. Owing to the war however excavation operations in the immediate future must necessarily be on a restricted scale.

POST-WAR PLANNING FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

246. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if the development of the work of Archaeological Department, such as (i) the further excavation of the sites of old finds and the excavation of new and hitherto unexplored but promising sites, (ii) the organisation of central museum for each linguistic provincial area, and (iii) the re-transfer of our archaeological finds now kept in London, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras to the Central Museums of the respective linguistic provinces will form a part of the post-war planning?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The development of the work of the Archaeological Department will be considered in connection with the post-war programme.

REMOVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUITIES OF BUDDHIST ERA FROM NAGARGUNA HILLS MUSEUM.

247. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have issued orders to the Archaeological Department for the removal of the architectural antiquities of Buddhist era from the museum of Nagarguna Hills, Pulanad Taluq, Guntur District, Madras Presidency? If so, what are the reasons? And after removal, where are they going to be kept? Is it in India or anywhere abroad in any country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The remaining parts of the question do not arise.

AID TO HANDLOOM INDUSTRY.

248. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether there is any scheme in hand by the Government of India to give substantial aid to the handloom industry? If so, what is it? Would it be laid on the Table?

(b) Is an All-India Handloom Board formed? If so, what is the personnel? What is the kind of work entrusted to such a Board?

(c) If such a Board has not been formed, do the Government of India propose to hasten the constitution of such a Board in view of the disabilities of the handloom industry?

(d) Are the Government of India aware of the unemployment of several lakhs of handloom weavers for want of adequate supply of yarn?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is proposed to set up an All-India Handloom Board. The proposal has been referred to Provincial Governments and non-official bodies. The proposed functions of the Board include:

(i) recommendations as to what proportion of the yarn available from Indian production should be supplied to Provinces and States interested in handloom weaving;

(ii) assistance to handloom weavers in obtaining dyes, chemicals and other necessary stores at fair rates;

(iii) consideration of the best means of marketing Indian handloom products;

(iv) directing research measures, which would be mainly concerned with market researches rather than laboratory researches;

(v) administration of the Government of India's grant-in-aid.

(b) As I have indicated in my reply to part (a) of the question, the Board is not yet formed. The proposed constitution of the Board is that it should include representatives of Provincial Governments and of the Handloom Industry, representatives of States, and representatives of mills and of the yarn trade.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

FERTILISERS MISSION.

249. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether the Mission which came to deal with fertilisers has returned? If so, when is its report going to be published?

(b) Is it a fact that the men connected with this Mission were present or past employees of the Imperial Chemical Industries?

(c) Did Government receive any applications from Indian capitalists to be permitted to set up this industry, and, if so, why have these applications been rejected?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: With your permission, Sir, I will take up Question Nos. 249 and 250 together.

These relate to the Supply Department and will be answered by my Honourable Colleague the Supply Member.

PURCHASE OF NITROGEN INDUSTRY PLANTS FROM AMERICA.

250. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that there are several plants for Nitrogen industry set up by the Government of the United States of America for the purposes of the war, which will be out for sale?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, is there any reason why these plants should not be purchased for India instead of paying heavily for second-hand plants from the United Kingdom?

(c) Have Government put this matter before the Standing Advisory Committee connected with any of the Departments or before any members of the Legislature?

(d) Do Government propose to make a complete statement of their policy in connection with the fertiliser industry?

INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION FUND.

251. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether the Government of India have agreed to make any payment to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration on behalf of India, consequent upon India becoming a party to this Agreement; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, the amount contributed by India towards—

(i) the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Fund, and
(ii) the administrative expenses of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I propose to bring this matter before this Assembly, viz., the amount of a contribution to the U. N. R. R. A. So far only a sum of 400,000 dollars has been paid as India's share of the administrative expenses.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO RADICAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

252. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether office bearers or any individual of the Radical Democratic Party or of the Indian Federation of Labour receive monetary help from the different Provincial Governments besides Rs. 13,000 per month from the Central Government;

(b) whether he is aware that these two organisations receive a sum of Rs. 75,000 per month from the Government of the United Provinces;

(c) the object of the Government in giving monetary help to these two organisations only; and

(d) which the other labour organisations are which receive monetary help from the Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government has no information. The grant of Rs. 13,000 is made not to the Radical Democratic Party but to the Indian Federation of Labour and not to any individual member or office-bearer of the Federation. The letter in which assistance from Government was offered was addressed both to the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour. In their reply the All India Trade Union Congress did not ask for any assistance.

(b) I am not aware of any grant made to the Federation by the Government of the United Provinces.

(c) This Department is concerned only with the grant to the Indian Federation of Labour. The object of this grant is to enable the Federation to do propaganda to keep up the morale of industrial labour.

(d) There are no other labour organisations receiving monetary help from the Central Government.

SHORTAGE OF AGAR AGAR DUE TO AGAR CONTROL ORDER.

253. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Secretary for the Education, Health and Lands Department please state:

(a) whether he is aware that pharmaceutical manufacturing concerns engaged in manufacturing various types of vaccines are facing a serious situation owing to the shortage of agar agar to be used as a medium for the culture of micro-organisms due to the Agar Control Order of 1942;

(b) whether he is aware that a serious black market has been created in agar agar and what steps have so far been taken to control stock and distribute same to the pharmaceutical concerns engaged in manufacturing vaccines of various types; and

(c) which are the firms or persons so far listed under the Agar Control Order of 1942 to be approached by the pharmaceutical concerns for getting supplies of agar agar?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The answer is in the negative. Permits for the sale of agar have been issued by the Director General, Indian Medical Service in all cases where the applicants required the material for the culture of micro-organisms.

(b) Government have no reason to think that a black market has developed. The manufacture, sale and use of agar are controlled under the Agar Control Order, 1942.

(c) No list of stock-holders is maintained under the Agar Control Order, 1942, but the Director General, Indian Medical Service is always prepared to give information regarding available sources of supply.

EXPORT OF COTTON CLOTH AND YARN FROM DELHI.

254. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that export of cotton yarn and cloth from deficit areas is prohibited;

(b) if it is a fact that export of cotton cloth and yarn from Delhi is prohibited from the 14th of October, 1944;

(c) if it is a fact that between 14th October, 1944 and 31st October, 1944, cotton cloth and yarn was transported by road from Delhi market to Pilkhwa Railway station on the Delhi-Moradabad Section of the East Indian Railway within the Meerut District of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh;

(d) if it is a fact that between those dates several hundred bales of cotton cloth and yarn was transported by rail from that Railway station (Pilkhwa) to stations within the United Provinces and Bengal;

(e) if it is a fact that the senders of these goods as per Railway receipts are merchants of Delhi;

(f) if it is a fact that Railway Forwarding Notes were signed by the brokers of Delhi;

(g) if the replies to (a) to (f) or any of them be in the affirmative, the nature of the action taken against the person or persons who violated the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order, 1943, as amended from time to time; if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(h) if the replies to (a) to (f) or any of them be in the negative, what the true fact is, and whether the transport by road of those goods were within the knowledge of the Director, Civil Supplies, Delhi, or his subordinate staff?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is not quite correct to say that export of cotton cloth and yarn from deficit areas is prohibited. The actual position is that under the Cotton Cloth Movements Control Order movements of cloth by rail from only two Deficit Zones, viz., the Punjab and Bengal Zones, are prohibited. Movements of yarn are not prohibited nor the movement of cloth by road.

(b) When he speaks of the date 14th October, I take it the Honourable Member is referring to a notification which issued on that date, by which the former Delhi Surplus Area was included in the Punjab Deficit Zone. It would therefore be true to say that as from the 14th October the export of cotton cloth from Delhi by rail is prohibited.

Government have no information as to whether the facts stated by the Honourable Member in the remainder of his question are correct or not. But the Honourable Member will appreciate from my reply to parts (a) and (b) of this question that, even if these facts are correct, they constitute no offence.

HIGH PRICES OF POTATOES, FISH, ETC., IN DELHI AND OTHER CITIES.

255. *Sir F. E. James: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if he is aware that the prices of potatoes, fish, eggs, vegetables, milk, butter, mutton and beef in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and elsewhere are scandalously high with resulting distress to the middle and poorer classes of the population and that in some cases this is due, in part, to restrictions on the export of these commodities imposed by neighbouring Provinces?

(b) What steps are being taken by the Central and Provincial Governments directly or by co-ordination and consultation, to control the prices of non-cereal foods?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my closing speech in the food debate yesterday.

DISSATISFACTION OF TELUGU POPULATION INCLUDED IN ORISSA PROVINCE.

256. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Leader of the House aware of the dissatisfaction prevailing in the Telugu speaking people which forms the majority of the population of Koraput, Pottangi, Padwoa, Nowrangapore, Teypore,

Rayaghada, Gunupur, Berhampur, Chatrapur and Parlakimedi Taluks, due to their unjust amalgamation of these parts into the Orissa Province?

(b) Would the Government of India see its way to remove the disabilities of the predominantly Telugu speaking population of the areas abovementioned by re-amalgamating them into the Telugu speaking area of the Madras Province?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). The present boundaries of Orissa were laid down after prolonged and careful consideration in which the views expressed by all sections of opinion were taken fully into account, and it is not proposed to reopen the question. Government are not aware of any such dissatisfaction as is suggested in the question.

SHIPPING AVAILABLE FOR CIVILIAN GOODS.

257. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state the amount of shipping, as compared with the two years before the outbreak of the war, available for civilian goods in connection with (i) overseas trade, and (ii) coasting trade?

(b) What steps have Government taken to increase the tonnage available for these purposes?

(c) What is the basis on which available shipping space is assigned to various firms and various classes of goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to give the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

(c) So far as the overseas trade of India is concerned, the allocation of available shipping space between various firms and various classes of goods is regulated chiefly through the import and export licensing systems. As regards the coasting trade, the Government of India lay down from time to time the order of priority in which certain essential commodities are to be moved between the various ports, and the Coastal Shipping Committee at Bombay, the composition of which was announced in a press communique issued on the 1st October 1943, allocates shipping space for such commodities in that order of priority. Any balance of shipping space which still remains after meeting the requirements of such commodities is left to be allocated between different firms and different classes of goods by the shipping companies themselves in accordance with their normal practice.

PROPAGANDA BY MEMBERS OF THE VICEROY'S COUNCIL.

258. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if it is not a fact that the members of the Viceroy's Council tour about India at the public expense?

(b) Are they allowed to carry on propaganda—personal and party?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that Dr. Ambedkar carried on propaganda for the Scheduled Caste Federation?

(d) Is it not a fact that Dr. Ambedkar started the propaganda that scheduled castes form a separate nation? If the answer is in the positive, is it the collective and considered opinion of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). I do not know which speech or statement of the Honourable the Labour Member is characterised as "propaganda" in the question. I can only say that in any statement or speech made in regard to the Scheduled Castes on their future, my Honourable Colleague was speaking for himself alone and Government are not thereby committed in any way.

SHIPPING AVAILABLE FOR CIVILIAN GOODS.

259. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) in view of the easing shipping situation, what the present available tonnage for articles of civilian consumption is; and

(b) the main articles for which Government are giving permits?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is regretted that for security reason the information cannot be given.

(b) The main articles of civilian consumer goods for which import licences are being granted are drugs and medicines, toilet requisites, paper, stationery, books, artificial silk fabrics, woollen fabrics, glassware, crockery, hardware, cycles, photographic goods, hurricane lamps, clocks and watches.

ARTICLES UNDER PRICE CONTROL.

260. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the articles which have been brought under price control since the last session; and

(b) till now what the total number is of articles for which there is price control?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) A list of the articles is placed on the table. I must, however, remind the Honourable Member that all articles except Foodgrains and those which are under specific controls come under the purview of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943.

(b) 70.

List of Articles brought under price control since the last Assembly Session.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Electric bulbs. | 19. Cinema Equipment and spare parts. |
| 2. Imported Woollen goods. | 20. White English Crockery. |
| 3. Antenna Wire. | 21. Used Motor Cars and Cabs. |
| 4. Tinned Provisions. | 22. Wheat. |
| 5. Imported Silk fabrics. | 23. Gram. |
| 6. European types of vegetable seeds. | 24. Barley. |
| 7. Toilet articles. | 25. Cement. |
| 8. Battery cells. | 26. Indian Woollen goods. |
| 9. Sissoo Timber. | 27. Footwear. |
| 10. Condensed Milk. | 28. E. I. Keps (leather). |
| 11. Vegetable ghee. | 29. Drugs and Medicines. |
| 12. Camphor Powder. | 30. Paper. |
| 13. Camphor Tablets. | 31. Raw Jute. |
| 14. Westclox clock. | 32. Jute Goods. |
| 15. Imported Thermos Flasks. | 33. Shellac. |
| 16. Brass Utensils. | 34. Cotton Yarn. |
| 17. Watches. | 35. Iron and Steel. |
| 18. Electro-depositing material. | 36. Machine Tools. |

PAY OF INDIAN SEAMEN SERVING ON BRITISH COMPANY SHIPS.

261. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the pay that Indian seamen receive in ships managed by British Companies;

(b) how it compares with the pay of seamen of British and other nationalities employed by them; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to safeguard the interest of these Indian seamen employed by British and other foreign companies?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information.

(c) The matter is under negotiation between shipowners and Indian Seamen's representatives.

Comparative Statement showing the rates of basic wages paid to Indian, European and Chinese Seamen in ships managed by British Companies
(These rates are exclusive of War bonus paid to each rating)

Basic wages of Indian Seamen			Basic wages of European and Chinese Seamen		
Ratings	Bombay	Calcutta	Ratings	British Seamen	Chinese Seamen*
Dock Department			Dock Department		
Serang	£9/15	£9	Able seamen	£14	£7/12
Tindal	£6/18	£5/11	Store-keeper	£14/10	£10/2
Cassab	£4/16	£4/10	Quarter Master	£8/10 to £10	£6/15 (Sailor)
Seacunny	£9	£8/5	Ordinary Seaman	£15	£12/10
Lascar	£3/6 to £4/10	£2/14 to £3/15	Winchman	£17/5 to £21/5	£10/10
Winchman	£5/2	£4/4	Carpenter	£16/5 to £18/5	£10/10
Carpenter	£18	£18	Carpenter's Mate	£15	£12/10
Carpenter's Mate	£9/15	£18	Water Tender	£14/10	£12/10 (plus £2 bonus)
			Painter	£16 to £18/5	
			Bosun		

Engine Room Department

Serang	£9/15	£9	Fireman Steward	£14	£12/10 (plus £3 bonus)
Tindal	£6	£5/5	Store-keeper	£15/10	£13/5
Cassab	£5/5	£4/4	Donkeyman	£15/12	£8
Donkeyman	£5/5	£4/4	Greasier	£15	£7
Greasier	£4/16	£3/18	Lamp Trimmer	£14/10	£8
Lampman	£4/16	£3/9	Fireman	£2/10 to £15	£6/15
Fireman	£4/1	£2/14	Trimmer	£9 to £14	
Trimmer	£3/3	£2/4	Pumpman	£15/10	
Paniwala	£5/5	£4/4			
Pumpman	£9/6	£4/4 to £4/13			
Ice-man or Freezer	£5/11				

Saloon Department

Butler	£12/15	£10/10	Chief Steward	£19/10 to £21/10	
Second Butler	£9/15	£7/10	2nd Steward	£13/10 to £16/10	
Chief Cook	£10/10	£10/10	Saloon Steward	£13	
Second Cook	£6	£6/15	Cook Steward	£17/10	
Third Cook	£4/4	£3/15 to £4/10	Chief Cook	£17/10 to £19/10	£12
Baker	£10/10	£10/16	Second Cook	£13/10 to £14/10	£8/12
Butcher	£7/10	£7/10	Third Cook	£13 to £13/10	£6/15
Pantryman	£6/15	£5/11 to £6	Baker	£14/10 to £15/10	
Store-keeper	£9		Butcher	£14/10 to £15/10	
General Servant	£5/2	£4/10 to £4/16	Pantryman	£14/10	

Saloon Department

Chief Steward	£19/10 to £21/10	
2nd Steward	£13/10 to £16/10	
Saloon Steward	£13	
Cook Steward	£17/10	
Chief Cook	£17/10 to £19/10	£12
Second Cook	£13/10 to £14/10	£8/12
Third Cook	£13 to £13/10	£6/15
Baker	£14/10 to £15/10	
Butcher	£14/10 to £15/10	
Pantryman	£14/10	
Store-keeper	£14	
Mess Room Steward	£13	
Assistant Steward	£11/2 to £13	£6/15
Assistant Baker	£13/10	
Second Cook and Baker	£14 to £15	
Assistant Butcher	£13/10	
Sailor's Cook and Fireman's Cook (Chinese)		£6/15
No. 1 Boy (Chinese)		£7/12

N.B.—1 In addition, Indian seamen receive war risk money equivalent to 50 per cent. of their present basic wages.
 2. British and Allied Seamen (including Chinese Seamen) receive war risk money = £10 per month.
 * A further increase of £1.2s. has been sanctioned for each Chinese rating from the 1st April 1944.

**EXPLORATORY AND PROSPECTING LICENCES TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN FIRMS
RE POTENTIAL OIL RESOURCES.**

48. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement bringing up-to-date the information supplied in the statement that was laid on the table on the 2nd August, 1943, relating to mineral concessions (including exploratory and prospecting licences) granted to British and American firms in respect of potential oil resources in British India?

(b) Is it a fact that licences for carrying on geo-physical explorations have been granted by different Provincial Governments? If so, did the Provincial Governments concerned consult the Government of India before granting such licences?

(c) To which firms have these licences been granted; in respect of which areas, and what are their terms?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

WHEAT AND SUGAR PURCHASED BY REGIONAL FOOD CONTROLLER, MEERUT.

49. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and sugar, separately, purchased by the Regional Food Controller, Meerut during the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and to date for each year;

(b) the stations of the Railways at which the said quantity was brought for transport to stations outside;

(c) the local area from where the said quantity was collected; and

(d) how that quantity was disposed of by the said Regional Food Controller?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the U.P. Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SURREPTITIOUS OPENING OF PRIVATE LETTERS BY THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice from Mr. Kazmi of his intention to move the adjournment of the business of the Assembly, in order to censure the Postal Department of the Government of India for the surreptitious opening of private letters and thereby interfering with the civil liberties of the people of India, as exemplified by the opening of the letter addressed to Dr. Katju, ex-Minister of Justice of the U.P. Government and by mistake enclosing in it another letter which was intended for some other person.

He has appended a letter from Dr. Katju which cannot be treated as part of the motion. I should like to know whether the Honourable Member is referring to censorship, because that has been in existence for a long time.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Sir, censorship so far as certain letters which are opened and marked by the censor as "opened by examiner". So far as that is concerned, it is a legitimate thing if Government wants to have it done. But then there is another kind of censorship in which letters are opened secretly and then re-pasted; to show that they have not been opened at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are these letters opened by censor?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: This letter was opened by the censor. As will appear from Dr. Katju's letter, some friend of Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit sent a letter to her friend—it appears that both letters were opened at one and the same time and the contents of the letters were interchanged.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot say that an individual case is necessarily a question of public importance. Is there a general practice to open letters other than by censor? Is that what the

Honourable Member intends to say—that letters are being opened generally without authority of the censor?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Yes; if it is done generally under the rules, then they must have the decency, as they are doing in some cases, of writing on it "Opened by censor". But here there is no sign that it has been so opened.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I would like to know from the Government Member what the facts are.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Letters are intercepted in accordance with section 26 of the Post Office Act, but I am taking up this matter because the orders regarding the said letters are issued by either the Provincial or the Central Government, i.e., by the Home Department of the Government of India or Home Departments in Provinces.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How long has this practice been in existence?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Since 1898.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The special point in this particular case is that the letters have been interchanged, and that has not been the practice since 1898. This particular case has been brought to your notice because it is particularly bad. In any case, will the Honourable the Home Member say that the practice of interchanging letters has been going on since 1898? This particular incident happened only the day before yesterday; and we received notice of it only this morning. A lady's letter is put in the place of a gentleman's. It is addressed "My dearest Nan". It is a scandal.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I am afraid I must rule this motion out of order on the facts as stated by the Honourable the Home Member who says, this practice has been in existence since 1898 under the Post Office Act. As regards the individual case, that is not a matter for discussion before this House.

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 386 AND 539-B]

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, (Amendment of sections 386 and 539B) be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, (Amendment of sections 386 and 539B) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[INSERTION OF NEW SECTION 93-A]

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (Insertion of new section 93-A) be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (Insertion of new section 93-A) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTION 60]

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, (Amendment of section 60) be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, (Amendment of section 60) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE MUSLIM PERSONAL LAW (SHARIAT) APPLICATION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural):

Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, (Second Amendment) be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, (Second Amendment) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 162, 488 AND 496]

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural):

Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, (Amendment of sections 162, 488 and 496), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

This is a Bill which is intended to amend three sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. The first is section 162. The object was this: according to section 162 statements of witnesses recorded by an investigating officer in the course of inquiry would be relied upon by the defence and could be put to the witnesses who were examined by the investigating officer in cross-examination as to whether they made such statements or not. After the coming into force of this provision in 1923, some of the investigating officers started a new practice of recording the evidence of two or three or four witnesses jointly. When such cases came up before the courts and the counsel for the defence applied for copies of the statements, they were found to have been recorded jointly and it was held by the High Courts that such joint statements cannot be the statement of any one of them and therefore none of those witnesses could be contradicted by the copy of the statement that was given to the counsel for the defence. This practice practically nullified the provisions of section 162. The amendment that was moved by me has now been accepted by the Select Committee. It is to the effect that if a police officer wants to record both the witnesses' statements, he will record the statements separately.

The other section was section 488 of the Criminal Procedure Code but after a full debate in this Honourable House, this Honourable House did not agree to the principle of that amendment and therefore it is not dealt with in the Report of the Select Committee.

The third amendment contemplated was of section 496. The intention was that in the case of a bailable offence, when a person is convicted by a magistrate, then the magistrate should be allowed to have the authority of giving bail to that man till he obtains an order from the appellate court. As a matter of fact, in all cases of bailable offences, appellate courts gave the bail but the difficulty was that sometimes the appellate authority used to be at a distance from the trial court and a copy of the judgment was required before the appellate court could be moved. The result was great expense on the part of the accused, when he was convicted and great trouble was felt in getting bail for the pendency of the appeal. This was the intention of the Bill, that necessary changes should be made in section 496 of the Criminal Procedure Code to meet that end. In the Select Committee, the question was gone into and they have found that the insertion of these provisions would be more appropriate in section 426 of the Criminal Procedure Code and they have adopted the necessary amendment to that effect in this Bill. So, I move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee may be taken into consideration.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, (Amendment of sections 162, 488 and 496), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I support the motion. I was a member of the Select Committee to consider this Bill.

Originally what was intended was this, that police statements which are taken at an earlier stage of the case and are considered always to be very important, were given by the Police under section 162 of the Criminal Procedure Code by writing down those statements for use at a later stage of the case. Subsequently they followed a method which virtually took away the concession that was given under section 162 to the accused persons to cross-examine and bring out contradictions in the evidence at a later stage. The Mover of this Bill wanted that those statements should be written down wholly of what the witness says. The changed practice of the police was that they used to make small notes, sometimes in the diaries, which were not shown to the accused. Subsequently some notes used to be shown. Now, the object of this Bill was that those statements may be actually written down and those statements should be given to the accused for cross-examination as required under section 162. So far as that concession is concerned, the Select Committee has approved of it and it has to be put into the statute book.

With regard to that, however, I submit that another question should be considered now by the Home Member and by the departments in the provinces as to why in every case the police officer should not be bound to record the statements. At present as this amendment has been made, it is left to the police officer to make the statement or not and nullify the object of this Bill. I suggest that a circular should be issued to ask the police officers to record these statements in every case so that justice may not be cheated and the accused may have sufficient justice by referring to those statements and having them for the purpose of contradiction. The other concession that was asked for, was under section 496 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Now, it has been found that it would be more appropriate to make that amendment in section 426. Now, that provision is this. When an accused is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment by a Magistrate, then the Magistrate is not seized of that case any further for the purpose of giving bail until an appeal is preferred. Generally appeals are made when persons are convicted, but the conviction and sentence are also subject to final decision of the Appellate Court. Therefore hardship was noticed and recognised also in many cases that the trying Magistrate who decided the case was handicapped by leaving no power to give bail until the time an appeal was filed. Of course there is no provision in Criminal Procedure Code giving power to the original court to give bail. So far as that is concerned, in respect of bailable offences only, this Bill now provides that in such cases the Magistrate will have discretion. But what about the non-bailable cases? Very many non-bailable cases also come before the courts, where they are very petty and yet the Magistrate gives imprisonment. Why should not discretion be left to the court in such non-bailable cases also? There are very many cases on the border line.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Non-bailable cases are not within the scope of this Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I know bailable cases only are included in this Bill and that is why I am asking about non-bailable cases.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss the question of non-bailable cases now.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am only throwing out a suggestion for consideration of the Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must confine himself to the provisions of this Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I have already covered the provisions. I have said that it is all right so far as bailable cases go, but as regards non-bailable cases, the Government should issue a circular.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not relevant to this Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In that case, I shall give notice of a separate Bill for that purpose. So, the two concessions that were asked for have been examined and granted. Sir, I congratulate the Honourable the Mover of this Bill and I lend my support to the measure.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, there is only just one point to which I desire to refer in lending my support to this motion. Honourable Members will remember that when the Bill was referred to the Select Committee on 11th February 1943, my predecessor indicated that in the Select Committee, the Government would endeavour to secure the omission of clauses 3 and 4 of the original Bill. In the result, the Select Committee decided to omit clause 3, and to retain the substance of clause 4, which is now clause 3. In deference to the opinion of the House, as reflected in the Select Committee, Government decided to acquiesce in the Select Committee's view. I hope, Sir, that the House will allow us some small measure of credit for this manifestation of responsiveness.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, (Amendment of sections 162, 488 and 496), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed."

Sir, in making this motion, I have to express my feelings of gratefulness to the Members of the Select Committee and to the Honourable Members of this House and especially the Honourable the Law Member who has been very sympathetic throughout the discussions in the Select Committee. As a matter of fact, it was with his help that we were able to carry the amendments regarding the bail of persons who are convicted in bailable offences. It was with his help, again, that we have succeeded in bringing that amendment also before the House. All the Members worked very sympathetically and they have all done something which may go to relieve persons who are often tried by Criminal Courts. Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed."

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I take this opportunity of congratulating the Honourable the Law Member for the liberalising influence that he has brought to bear on the Government of India when Bills moved by non-officials are concerned. I wish I could have given notice of some of the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code which I had been sponsoring without much success in his predecessor's time. It encourages me now to give notice of some of them in the hope that the time will come when he will extend the same liberal influence to my suggestions as he has done in the case of my Honourable friend Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi. With these words I support the motion for passing the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu law in respect of marriage between Hindus be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Kailash Bihari Jall, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Huseinbhai A. Lalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh, and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Whenever I come up with a motion to refer this Bill to Select Committee there is always a request from the Law Member. I have often accepted that

request but there are so many hurdles in the way, like the promised Revised Hindu Code, that I cannot help moving this motion. The facts briefly are that first there was a request to withdraw the motion because the Marriage Bill was to come up before the House; next time it was said that the new Code was coming up; then we were told that the draft Code was not ready because a revised Code was to come after taking evidence of witnesses, etc. So one does not know where one is and this motion becomes necessary. My Honourable friend wants me to play a waiting game even now but one cannot wait indefinitely. Even now if the Law Member can give me an assurance that the revised Hindu Code will be brought forward at the beginning or middle of the next Budget Session, I may accept his request.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): No, I shall give no further assurance to my Honourable friend, because I find that if I give him an assurance and I implement my part of the bargain he does not stick to his part of the bargain.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I have already stated the facts. I am sorry to hear the charge that I am not playing the game. I have played the game and would have continued to play the game if the revised Hindu Code was coming after a definite period.

Sir, it will be gathered from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that I have brought forward this Bill because Hindus suffer from the disability of marrying between different sub-castes of the same caste and also among parties belonging to the same *gotra* or *pravar*. This Bill is a permissive Bill which says that such persons can marry; there is no compulsion on any body or restriction of anybody's legal rights. So the objection raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Bajoria that this Bill is unfair to Hindus and it interferes with their religion, is not correct. Clause 2 which is the operative clause runs thus:

"Notwithstanding any custom, rule or interpretation of the Hindu Law, a marriage which is otherwise valid shall not be invalid because—

(a) it is between Hindus belonging to the same *gotra* or *pravar*; or

(b) it is between Hindus belonging to different sub-divisions of the same caste."

So restrictions of other kinds, like prohibition of marriages among *sapindas*, are not affected. Persons who are not *sapindas* but belong to the same *gotra* or *pravar* should be able to marry and have their marriage recognised as valid. That is the object of the Bill. I have mentioned in my Statement of Objects and Reasons about the usual practice of getting a daughter adopted by a man of a different *gotra* and then giving her in marriage to a man of another *gotra*, in order to avoid this difficulty. But I have also said that such adoption is not valid because under Hindu law there can be no adoption of a female. Therefore such marriages would be held invalid by any court of law and the children of such marriages would in law be illegitimate and succession to property would take a different course. Therefore in order to get over this difficulty I have suggested a positive law instead of resorting to subterfuges. Now objection is taken on the ground of eugenics by some people that *gotra* refers to blood relationship and blood relatives cannot be allowed to marry. But in other communities you find that cousins and other blood relatives are allowed to marry and there has thereby been no deterioration in the race. From the eugenic point of view you cannot say that they have suffered in any way. However I am prohibiting marriages even among *sapindas* to the seventh degree. Again, this argument would be valid if the blood ties continued indefinitely. But after the seventh degree no Hindu observes mourning for a dead relative. The Shastric injunction is not to observe the tie of relationship after the seventh degree. I do not see therefore, even when it is not harmful from the eugenic point of view, why on the ground of blood relationship the *sagotra* (tie of blood, if it is at all—of thousands of years) marriage should be prohibited.

So far as marriages among different sub-castes are concerned, they are not illegal but a false belief persists and priests emphasise that such marriages are illegal. It will be gathered from public opinion to which I referred in my speech on 21st March, 1941, pages 1744 and 1748 (Vol. III) and in March 1943 (Page 1492) that 80 per cent. of public opinion is in favour of removing this

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bar to *sagotra* and *saprarav* marriages, 10 per cent. are indifferent, and 10 per cent. are from different branches of the same organisation which means only one opinion. If we take this percentage into account we find that there is a mass of public opinion in favour of this change which is desirable from every point of view. One should not expect that there would be unanimous opinion in favour of any law. As a matter of fact, one finds that in the case of Hindu Marriage Bills which have been drafted and circulated for eliciting Hindu public opinion by the Rau Committee that there is a large section of public opinion which is against them. If it is said that we should wait till the whole law is changed and not go in for piecemeal legislation, I would say that to get the Code through in this Assembly is like breaking one's head against the wall; my fear is that this Code may not see the light of day for many years to come and it may not become law. So it is both convenient and desirable that a Bill like the one which I have brought forward should be passed although it is piecemeal. Sir, I have shown in the Statement of Objects and Reasons what the advantages would be in modifying the law and introducing the system which I am suggesting. It enlarges the scope of selection for desirable bridegrooms; a person who has a daughter will have a wider scope of selection of a bridegroom from persons of the same as well as from different *gotras* or *pravars* and different sub-castes. The Hindu Society must look at this Bill from the point of view that this Bill will consolidate the Hindu Society. As it is, there are so many divisions, sub-divisions, sub-divisions of sub-divisions. There are not only what one may call religious or customary restrictions, but there are territorial restrictions—in Bengal for instance. Persons from South Bengal are not allowed to marry persons in North Bengal and of East Bengal with West Bengal. In a place where the Hindu community is only 10 or 15 per cent. one can imagine what difficulties the father of a girl would have to face to find a desirable bridegroom, and one is not surprised to find as a consequence of these restrictions that the dowry that is demanded by the bridegroom or his father and guardians is becoming higher and higher and girls in most cases are not married at their proper age. One always reads about suicides by girls as a result of such consequences in newspapers.

I was given to understand from some speeches which were made by the Opposition that there were only few *rishis* and only one of one name who are supposed to be related even to the present generation. Sir, I find from the speech of Mr. Aney which he delivered in this House on Friday the 21st March 1941 that this theory one *rishi*—one name does not hold good. We were all under the impression that there were different sets of *rishis* only one by his own name and there were no two *rishis* of the same name, but I find from Mr. Aney's speech that that is not so. In other words, it could not, therefore, be said that there was a definite set of *rishis* to whom all the Hindus are related. Sir, I will now quote from Mr. Aney's speech:

"If the principle of this Bill is to be accepted there is nothing to be done so far as the Select Committee is concerned. Either it should be accepted or thrown out. That is the position. But we have to see whether, if we do that, there will be a fair support to this kind of reform which my friend wants to bring about in the existing marriage system of the Hindus. Among what are considered as the essential ingredients of the Hindu marriage, there are three conditions laid down by the Smritis from the days of Manu to the present day; notwithstanding various other changes in the marriage form these three conditions have been regarded as of paramount importance, namely, the boy and the girl must not belong to the same *gotra*, they must not have the same *pravara* and they must not be of the same *sapinda*. These are the conditions laid down there—that they must not have the same *gotra* and the same *pravara*. One of my friends asked the question of my friend, Mr. Deshmukh what is this *pravara*? I do not know if the time is enough to explain this thing to my friend—it will take a good deal of time, because there are few among the Brahmins themselves who are in a position to explain clearly what difference this *pravara* makes and how it is to be distinguished from the *gotra* but one of the tests given is this, and that is laid down in one of the text books; it defines *pravara* as:

'Gotra pravartakasya risheh Vyabartakoyam rishiganah.'

Group of *Rishis* distinguishing the *Gotra-Rishi*, i.e., the propositions of the clan from another.

Those names of *rishis* which enable a man to distinguish definitely one *gotra* from another. Each *gotra* has got three or four *rishis* or five *rishis* as *pravaras*: if these *pravara rishis* are the same, then the *gotra* may be considered to be the same; but if the names of the *pravaras* themselves are different then the *gotras* although they may have the same name must be understood as different."

So, one cannot say that there was only one *rishi* by that name and from that particular *rishi* the present generation amongst the Hindus, who are governed by *pravaras*, descends. To distinguish the two *rishis* of the same name there are *pravaras*. This fact I would especially like to emphasise because I myself was under the impression, and some other members of this House were also under the same impression, that there were certain *rishis* each one by himself. For instance, a Kasyap *rishi*, and there was no other Kasyap. But according to Mr. Aney there were two Kasyap *rishis*, so that it cannot be said that the descendants of Kasyap were the descendants of the same Kasyap. While I was arguing my case on the last occasion I overlooked to mention this point, and that is why I wish to emphasise it today. Mr. Aney then proceeds:

"The *pravaras* have been mentioned with a view to enable a man to see whether what appears to be an identical *gotra* is really identical or is a separate or a distinct *gotra* or not; and so an artificial system has been created in order to distinguish a seeming identity between *gotras*; and the reason was that the importance of ascertaining the *gotra* was extremely essential for the sake of permitting one girl to be married to another man. The greatest emphasis was placed upon this point, that no woman, belonging to the same *gotra* . . .

. . . Sometimes the name of the *gotra* appears to be the same. It may be that the girl comes from the Gautam *gotra*, and it may be that the boy also comes from the Gautam *gotra*; but whether the Gautam *gotra* from which the girl comes is the same Gautam from whom the boy claims descent or not is to be known from the fact whether the *pravaras* of the Gautam of the girl are the same as the *pravaras* of the other Gautam. If there is a difference between them, then we can take it that these two Gautams are two different entities and not the same and the marriage between them is legal."

That is why a list of *rishis* is appended to each *gotra*. This is a very complicated matter and certainly the Select Committee cannot come to one opinion easily. Further on he says:

"It is true that facilities are already provided for on account of the passing of the Special Marriage Act and so on; but even in that case if a man is a party to a special marriage he has to dispose with all the Vedic and ceremonial rites which have to be performed in accordance with religion. Therefore there is an earnest desire amongst people that they should be able to observe all these ceremonial and religious rites at the same time without observing these rigid conditions. A system of compromise is gradually cropping up. My friend, Mr. Deshmukh, belongs to that school which wants to stand for those who want to compromise religious practices to satisfy the exigencies of society. My friend, Mr. Bajoria, stands for the rigid school—no compromise with anything at all—the *shastras* are there: either follow them or say 'I owe no allegiance to them'."

Mr. Aney goes on:

"My friend (Mr. Deshmukh) wants to kill two birds with one stone. He not merely wants to bring about a little reform by removing the difficulties of *pravaras* and *sagotra*, but he wants to bring about reforms in order to introduce inter-marriages in the higher classes who have got something to do with the *gotra* and *pravara*, but there is another large class of Hindus who have nothing to do with *pravara* and *gotra*. Those who do not belong to the twice born classes have nothing to do with *gotra* and *pravara*, while the second thing will affect them most, because each caste has within its fold several sub-castes. . . ."

"There is no question of religion. If any reform is to be introduced, it will be difficult to say how it will be received by them. We have to ascertain their opinion."

We have found that 80 per cent. of the public opinion which was gathered is on my side, and as Mr. Aney says, I seek to have a compromise by bringing in this permissive Bill. I do not take away anybody's right and as Mr. Aney has put it, I am trying to find out a way to meet these two views. There are persons who wish to get over their difficulties by finding suitable brides and bridegrooms and in order to expand the sphere of selection they want that this restriction should be removed. My view is that if you wish to observe restrictions observe them: those who do not wish to observe them need not. If you wish that under the Hindu law, by accepting this amendment, the marriage should be considered valid—and I have given you the compromise formula—it will be so upheld. There is one thing which I should like to bring very prominently before I conclude. Those who are labouring under the impression that there are no two *rishis* of the same name but only

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one, and that the present generation of that *gotra* are the descendants of that *rishi*, for them it is high time to consider how could any person who belongs to a particular *gotra* and lived in Kashmere in the good old days have any blood relationship with the person of the same *gotra* who lived say in Madras. In the opinions which I have cited in the previous debates in most of the provinces these restrictions are not observed and I have given the opinion of the Government Advocate of Orissa that it was good that this sort of restriction was not observed in Orissa otherwise the Brahmins there would have been extinct long ago; and that all these marriages although they take place in the same *gotra* are valid. In provinces like the Punjab and the United Provinces this system is not observed. If it is observed, it is really in Bengal, the Bombay and C. P. and Madras, and to those who live in Madras I would say: 'If you really consider that these persons of the same *gotra* are related and they should not marry and that from the eugenic point of view it is not good, how is it that you allow marriages between a maternal uncle's daughter and the paternal uncle's son. Having regard to these facts and the arguments I have advanced, I move that this Bill, which is a most essential Bill, be referred to Select Committee.'

Sir, I move:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu law in respect of marriage between Hindus be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Hoosenbhooy A. Lalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh, and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We in our country seem really to be a museum of customs and of ceremonies; and because some particular custom was good at some particular stage, it becomes, in the course of time, accepted as part of our religion. Thus every time when it seems necessary to change any particular rite or ceremony or custom there is a cry of religion being in danger. I am not one of those who get frightened by such cries, and, to say honestly, I should be glad if all religions got into danger and we left to live in peace. I think, Sir, that it is wrong to suggest that whenever a custom has been followed for a long period of time, it should invariably become a part of religion and must be so followed till the end of time. I think, Sir, customs grow because of the exigencies of the situation; they grow because of the necessities of the hour; and as soon as those exigencies and those necessities exist no more, I feel that, religion or no religion, those customs must be changed if humanity is to live and to progress. As things are, the set of people known as Hindus—and, as you know, it is very difficult to define what exactly a Hindu is—have endless manners and customs on all sorts of things; and the manners and customs of one Hindu differ from the manners and customs of another Hindu even to the extent of shocking each other, I doubt if there are such marked differences among the followers of other faiths.

Among the Hindus they have a system of castes. I am told that at one time it was ordained that there would be only four castes and that there could not be a fifth caste. Now, if the census reports are to be believed, we have about four thousand castes, and innumerable sub-castes that have come into being through the centuries do not exactly know under what main caste to array themselves. They therefore regard themselves as separate castes altogether. It is said that from different parts of Brahma different castes were born. It is a difficult proposition for a non-medical person like myself to investigate, but my friend, Mr. Manu Subedar seemed to think that there were both natural and unnatural processes for the birth of cattle, and if it can be believed that different parts of the

body of Brahma (who, I believe, is a male person) could have given out the four castes to the world; then I take it that human children like Mr. Subedar's cattle, can also be born from various parts of the body. We have thus four main castes, but sub-castes are four thousand in number; and it so happens that members of the same sub-caste or sub-sub-caste alone can marry each other. This has created a great deal of confusion.

While the humble members of the community, the so-called "*sudras*", are not worried with differentiations of *gotra* and *pravaras*, the higher castes are constantly being worried by these considerations. So long as the system prevailed that parents arranged the marriages of their children, so long they took into consideration the *gotras* and *pravaras* of the families with whom they wanted alliances. Even they were greatly inconvenienced on many occasions when they had to give up very desirable alliances, because of the accident of a common *gotra* or *pravara*. And therefore, as my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh said, a ruse was sometimes resorted to by which the girl was supposed for purposes of marriage, to be the daughter of some relative who was in another *gotra*, because the parents wanted that desirable marriage. They adopted this subterfuge, which was scarcely honest. When even parents find it difficult to arrange suitable alliances in conditions as they are, and have to give up many desirable matches (one instance in my own family is before me as I speak, where we had to give up what we thought would have been a very desirable alliance because of a common *gotra*), the problem becomes very much more difficult, when under the stress of modern thought and in imitation of the customs of the West that have come to us, many young folks desire to have what are called love marriages. When a young man and a young woman happen to like each other to such an extent that they would like to marry, then they are not very much worried about the *gotras* and *pravaras* of each other.

Thus if we insist on the continuation of the old ideology, we are bound to get into many complications and difficulties, and I feel that when a custom has got stratified as a part of religion and when it seems that it would be right to change that custom, there is no other method except legislation that can come to the rescue. I think that the time is ripe when in the matter of marriages, our legislatures should interfere actively, because I think a great deal of harm is done to our race by marriages that are improper and ill-assorted. However orthodox we may be, we are all very careful about the breed of cattle, of plants and of fruits. We have cross-fertilisation. We undergo a great deal of trouble to transplant grafts from different places in our gardens and villages in order to have better rice, better wheat, better flowers and better fruits. But when it comes to those for whom all these processes are undertaken, when it comes to the welfare of human beings themselves, we are absolutely indifferent. I think it is a crying shame that we should neglect a better assortment of marriage alliances among human beings, when we are so keen on proper alliances among our cattle, our fruit trees and our flower plants. I therefore think that legislation should come to the rescue of a community that is hopelessly devitalised, that is almost committing suicide, because of its wrong alliances; and unless the Legislature comes to our aid, I do not think that this community has any very great chance of surviving the struggle for existence.

Sir, it may be news to many Members of the House, even Hindu Members—it was certainly news to me when I first learnt about it—that down South, in Madras maternal uncles marry their nieces, their sisters' daughter. On this side, this is a shocking procedure. The Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri told me that a father-in-law, in Tamil Nad, is usually called 'Nana', that is grandfather, because he is the father of the maternal uncle, who, in turn, is the husband of the grand-daughter. Among the Andhras it is not only customary but almost obligatory for maternal cousins to marry. That I found out from an Andhra friend of mine to my great surprise.

Now, Sir, such marriages should be barred by law, even if they have the sanction of religion, because I do think that they go counter to the very

[Mr. Sri Prakasa]

healthy rule that prohibits marriages within certain degrees of consanguinity. Such marriages should be barred as they are against the law of eugenes, and even if the whole of the province rises in rebellion, I think we ought to have sufficient strength to be able to suppress that rebellion. Government is always very keen about suppressing all sorts of political rebellions. They are very brave when non-violent politicians are concerned; they are very grand in their condemnation of anything that they think is wrong in the political sphere; but they gladly accede to wrong doing in the social and the religious spheres. I think it is time that Government woke up to their duties. They are not only a police government whose one purpose of existence is to keep what is called law and order. I think any decent Government has, as one of its paramount duties, the welfare of the people under its charge.

Whenever we talk of having good laws in order to reform Hindu society socially, they say it is a matter of religion; and they cannot interfere and the people concerned should themselves take interest in such matters. But how are the people concerned to take interest unless the law comes to their rescue; and what is the use of law unless the Government is prepared to use the force at its command to see to it that the law is observed. It is a fact known to you and to me and to all Members of the House, that though we have made it a cognisable offence for minors to marry, heaps of minors still continue to be married, and the marriage processions go on public streets, and every one knows from the very size of the bride and bridegroom walking in them that they are not of the legal age to marry. The authorities are indifferent. If that is the attitude of the Government, of course, nothing can be done. If they feel that the only purpose for which they are here is to see that everybody keeps quiet and everybody pays his taxes and that there is no hullabaloo of any sort, then, of course, it is for them to do what they think is best in their own interests; but as a normal student of political science, I do think that that is not the sole purpose of government.

There are many marriage customs that have to go; there are many new marriage customs that have to come; and while I feel that marriages, such as I have mentioned, that are extant in the two parts of Madras—Andhra and Tamil Nad—should be abolished, there are other systems that should be introduced, and even if a permissive Bill like the one before the House is passed there is no doubt that it will be taken advantage of by large numbers of persons. A person like me is not usually very much afraid either of the wrath of Government or of society. Just as Government put me in jail for about three years for political crimes and misdemeanours, so has my particular sub-caste ostracised me for the last thirty years for the simple crime of crossing the seas. I did not care for this and I did not care for that; but I must say—and I confess it with sorrow—that I am very nervous when it comes to the marriage front. I always yield on that front. I want to marry my sons and my daughters into other communities, but I dare not do that. I faced the *lathi* blows of the Government quite cheerfully. I even faced ostracism from my particular caste without a tear, though it meant a great deal of inconvenience. But I am always nervous lest my grandchildren should be regarded as illegitimate.

When I feel like that, humble as I am, I know others must be feeling it more: others who are always anxious not to offend either the Government or their social authorities would be feeling far more nervous than I do. Therefore I think that it is in my interest, and in the interests of all those who feel like me, that some reforms must be introduced. I know many friends say: "You can have civil marriages". But civil marriages do not satisfy the soul. I may be wrong; but I also feel like many others that I should like to have those beautiful ceremonies at the time of marriage. It gives me some soul satisfaction.

An Honourable Member: You can have both!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Then I also find a little bound by the ties of the joint family. I do not like my family property that happens to be almost impartible in its nature, to be forcibly divided up because one of my children has to undergo a civil marriage on account either of my desire to marry him outside the community or his falling in love with a person who is not of my particular community. In these circumstances I do think that a reform of the nature promulgated in this Bill should be accepted by this House.

The Bill, as I find it, is divided into two parts. One part says that Hindus belonging to the same *gotra* or *pravara* should be allowed to marry, provided of course they do not come within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity. The other part is that marriages between the different sub-divisions of the same caste should be legally recognised. As regards the first part, I feel I have said enough. I will only add one thing. It sometimes happens that persons have migrated from one part of the country to another. Many migrations, for instance, had taken place from Rajputana to United Provinces and Bihar in the olden days; and it may happen that two families belong to the same *gotra* or *pravara* or both; but a marriage alliance between them both is desirable. One family resides, let us say, in Rajputana or the Punjab, and the other in the United Provinces or Bihar. There cannot be any possible harm physiologically if a marriage is contracted; but if they happen to be of the same *gotra* or *pravara*, such marriages are banned. So, I feel that the House would be doing good service to the Hindu community if it permits such marriages.

The second part of the Bill says that members of subdivisions of the same caste should also be allowed to marry. There is no law about it. Many people feel that they cannot marry. Lawyers give conflicting opinions on this subject. There are, I understand, conflicting rulings of various High Courts on this subject. Some High Courts feel that marriages like that are permissible; other High Courts feel that such marriages are not permissible. Moreover a further difficulty arises very often. No one is sure as to whether two particular sub-castes belong to the same caste. Then there are common names of castes that cause confusion. For instance, there is a large class in the U. P. that is called Kayasth. There is a large class in Bengal which is also called Kayasth; but lawyers are not sure whether the Kayasthas of Bengal can marry the Kayasthas of U. P., even if both go by the name of Kayasth. Then no one is sure, Sir, whether the Kayasth belongs to the Brahmin caste as I think he does because he is a man of the pen; or whether he is a Kshatriya, as many U. P. Kayasthas claim to be or whether he is a Sudra as many people specially in Bengal, recognise him to be. Because of this difficulty, Sir, you may be interested to know, or perhaps you know it already—you know much more than I do—that the Kayasthas regard themselves as a separate caste altogether. They say the Brahmin was born from the mouth of Brahma, the Kshatriya was born from the arms of Brahma—a curious anatomical process—the Vaishya was born from the thigh of Brahma, the Sudra was born from the feet of Brahma; but the Kayasth was born from the whole *kaya*, that is, the body. *Kaye tishthati iti Kayasthah!* That is why according to them it can safely be said that the Kayastha was born from the whole body of Brahma. That is another difficulty; and there may be many other castes or sub-castes who may be claiming other parts of Brahma's body as their originators.

When there are these difficulties, the law should permit legal marriages between the various communities; and if as things stand they cannot immediately allow marriages among all the communities of India, they at least should permit marriages among the sub-castes of the same caste; and if, Sir, we pass this Bill into an Act, we should be reforming Hindu marriages and trying to improve the very race of the Hindus at one stroke. I understand, Sir, that there is a Code on the legislative anvil. My Honourable friend the Leader of the House has already moved one part of that Code. I understand that other parts are also now ready; and I see in the newspapers that a big

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book has been circulated to various persons in different provinces. It has been my complaint in this House,—and I repeat what I said at the time of Sir N. N. Sircar—that while all these books are circulated to all manner of persons, they are not supplied to Members of the House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): They have a contempt for the Legislature.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I wish they were supplied to us even for payment. I have been anxious to get a copy of this volume. I understand it is a fairly bulky one. I have not yet succeeded in having a look at it. I have seen the Bill that was introduced by the Honourable the Leader of the House; and I am very much in sympathy with that Bill; and I am sure I should be in sympathy with the Code as now drafted by the Honourable the Law Member, if only I had a chance to look at it. It is not in the market. It is not supplied to us. I do not know where I can find it. I know that some persons have received it and when I asked those who have got copies to lend it to me, they love the Code so much that they would not part with it. I got a copy of Sir Sultan Ahmed's Bill from the Legislative Office. I wrote for it; but the other thing is not in charge of the Legislative Office and therefore it cannot be delivered to me and I do not know where I am going to get it. I believe that before long I shall get a copy with or without payment.

Now, Sir, I do not know what exactly that Code contains and I can give no opinion on it; but I take it that it is intended to reform Hindu society in various other spheres; and though I was not able to catch the exact purport of the *tete-a-tete* between the Honourable the Law Member and my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That was hardly a *tete-a-tete*.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Was it a sort of *marpeet*? I gather that each was accusing the other of something that the other had not done! But in any case I did gather that the Honourable the Law Member felt that the House should wait for the coming in of that Code and not hurry up matters, but the difficulty is that men on the verge of marriage cannot wait. They are proverbially in a hurry. They do not even wait for their parents' consent, let alone the Code of the Honourable the Law Member! The Honourable the Law Member himself and his colleagues have passed beyond that stage; and so, they can wait till they are born again, if they are born again.

An Honourable Member: They have children.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They have children, but evidently they want the children to go the way they themselves have gone and so they are in no hurry. In any case I am in a hurry, because I have my children also. And I do not want to get into trouble and I want them to keep to the joint family; and not rebel from me; and I want to have nice daughters-in-law in the house. Because of these considerations, I very strongly support the Bill of my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh and commend it to the unanimous acceptance of the House.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. Chairman, although I am a healthy old man of 75 years of age, I can speak on this subject for hours together if time is given to me.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: There is no time-limit.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I am an orthodox Hindu who reads every day Bhagwat Gita and performs his Puja. I am a Hindu of the same type as my Honourable friends Mr. Bajoria and Mr. Dam. But, I have always been very keen on the reformation of the Hindu society. There are so many evils present in the Hindu society today that it is going down and down every day.

If we, the Hindus, do not come forward from today to reform our society in the near future, there will be no sign of Hindu society in India. Sir, this is the most important, simple and harmless Bill to the society. Among the Hindus in different parts of India there are different customs in respect of marriages. The customs of marriages in south India are quite different to those prevailing in other parts of India.

Sir, there are four castes amongst the Hindus. In Bhagwat Gita it is said:

"Chaturvarnyam mayā śrishtam Gun Karm vibhāgshah."

Lord Krishna said that there are four castes—the Brahmins, the Kshatriyas, the Vaishyas and the Shudras. I do not know who is the Shudra now, who is the Brahmin now and who is the Vaishya now? Everybody is doing business. Even the business which is prohibited for a Brahmin is now being done by a Brahmin. The hotels are being run by Brahmins; the Aiyars and the Aiyangars are there. Even the shoe shops are being run by the Brahmins. The business of the Brahmin is to read the Vedas and the Upanishads. But the Brahmin who is running a shoe shop is not a Brahmin. The Brahmin who is selling food is not a Brahmin. Even whisky is now being sold by Brahmins. How can they claim to be Brahmins? So, I say there are no Brahmins in the whole of India now.

Then, there is no Vaishya. The Vaishya's business is now being done by everybody. I am not a Vaishya; I should be called a Shudra. But I am not even a Shudra because I am doing cultivation. I am a born agriculturist. But the business of a Shudra is to serve others belonging to the three castes. So, I am not serving either the Vaishyas or the Kshatriyas but I am serving the whole country by means of cultivation. I am feeding everybody, from Brahmin to ant.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But this is a marriage Bill.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I am coming to that. Without food how can you have marriage? First you must feed everybody and then you can marry.

Sir, the Hindu society has now become a very corrupt society. Some superstitious gentlemen and some orthodox gentlemen still say that marriages should be restricted. They seem to suggest that the old custom should be adopted even by those who have been entirely Westernised and who have been eating in hotels without discrimination. There is no discrimination in hotels; everybody is eating on one table. . . .

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I would like to hear my Honourable friend very much, but there is so much noise going on that I can't hear him at all.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: There is always noise at the time of marriage.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: In these days, unless the Hindu society comes forward to remove all evil customs and reform the society, it will go to dogs within a period of 10 to 15 years. The Hindu society will disappear from this land of Aryas, if orthodox people should resist reform in the society. In my part of the country, there is a custom to marry sister's daughter or the maternal uncle's daughter. In my own family, my sister was given in marriage to my maternal uncle and her daughter I married. We were born and brought up in the same house, and in my case, it was a love marriage. There may be other customs in other parts of India. For instance amongst Muslims, they have their own customs. In order to bring solidarity among the Hindus, in order to remove all disabilities for the sake of future development of the country and the society, we must come forward and accept such measures as the present one. I may tell the House that much stronger measures are coming at the next Session—the Civil Marriage Bill. It may give a rude shock to my orthodox friends like Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam and Babu Baijnath Bajoria. If my daughter is given in marriage to a Sikh, no objection should be raised to it. The present Bill is a harmless Bill. *Sagotra* marriages are permissible, but *sapinda* marriages are objectionable. Supposing there is a man in Nagpur and a man

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with the same *gotra* lives in Madras. What objection can there be for an alliance between these two families. Amongst Muslims, they can marry father's brother's daughter. Different customs prevail among different communities. This is *Kahyuga*. Our friends want to stick to *Shastras* which were written several thousand years ago. The *Manu Smriti* was composed in *Krit Yuga*. Who is *Manu* to dictate to us in this twentieth century? It is laid down in *Manu Smriti* that if a *Sudra* listens to the recital of *Vedas*, then molten lead should be poured into his ears. Can we do this now under the British Raj? It is impossible that any *Brahman* can take courage to pour molten lead into the ears of a *Sudra* for the simple fault of the *Sudra* listening to *Ved* recital. So, we must change society according to the spirit of the times. I do not change our customs according to the needs of the times, we shall never become united. Take the European community. They have been in India for the last nearly 200 years. Have they changed their national customs? They do not wear a *dhoti* like me, they do not wear a shirt like me, they do not wear an upper cloth like me. They do not put on caste marks, like *namam* and other things. Simply because they have stuck to their own customs and habits, they are united in this land and they are able to rule over us. They go to foreign countries as a united nation and rule over the natives of those lands. They do not adopt the customs of the land where they rule. Therein lies their strength. For the same reason, they have been exploiting this country. They have been exploiting so many colonies on account of their united customs and united strength. But we are not so. If we go beyond India, we are dubbed as outcastes. We are asked to do *prayaschit*, we are not taken into society. The first question that is put to a man who has returned from overseas is:

Yeh badmash vilayat jakar aya: Karo ise bahishkar. Hindu samaj is tarah kahta hai. Vilayat jane se admi kya kharab hua, kuchh nahin. Yeh sirf samaj ki bevakoofi hai.

So, Sir, I make an appeal to my orthodox Hindu friends not to throw obstacles in the way of reform of the society. I appeal to all my Hindu friends to pass this measure unanimously, without any opposition. I want you all to support not only this Bill but any other similar measure which may be brought forward at the next Session or at any future Sessions for the sake of reforming Hindu society. Unless there is legislation, the Hindu community will not be able to settle things among themselves.

In olden days, there was *rajasashana* for anything. When Indian *Rajas* ruled over our country, they used to issue *rajasashanas* or edicts bringing about reform in society. There was a *rajasashana* for everything. Now, we can have such *sashanas* only through the legislative enactments. I therefore appeal to all Honourable Members that for the sake of the advancement of the Hindu society, reforms measures should be brought and passed in this House.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh on not withdrawing his Bill by yielding to the threats and cajoling of the Law Member. For, what was the meaning of this. The Law Member says the Honourable Member has not implemented something that passed between the two of them. What I want to know is this. When a thing concerns the welfare of society or the nation at large, is it a concern of two Members of this House and can there be any contract or agreement about it? And supposing a Member who represents the public refuses to yield to the threats and bullings and cajolings and the third degree of the Law Member, is it to be taken that there is a breach of contract? What was the idea of the Law Member in asking him to withdraw the Bill without the knowledge of the House? He knows very well that not only this House but the whole of Hindu society is interested not in this reform only but in all social reform. Sir, on the faces of my European friends here I see a smile. It may be a smile of satisfaction and in the case of better educated

and better cultured Englishman it may be a smile of sympathy. All I can say is that whenever the social laws of any nation are discussed we can take it for granted that we will find many ridiculous things which have been incorporated in the law or the religion by the legal system. I cannot forget how when I was a student in England and the Bill for marriage with the deceased wife's sister came up before the nation at that time, in the opinion of many of us it was a perfectly ridiculous measure. But all the same it touched the nation to the quick and they did not take it quite so lightly. Therefore my request to those friends who sympathise with us as well as to those who laugh at us is that they should have patience and sympathy when we of our own accord and by our own efforts try to improve our society.

Sir, why should not this be discussed by this House? Whenever these measures of social reform are brought up, we usually have one or two objections. One is that it is piecemeal legislation by which nothing can be achieved. I am sorry to say that the legal profession in general is a party to this kind of opinion. I have long come to the conclusion, having been interested in this social reform for a long time, that so far as the legal profession is concerned, however admirable it may be and however necessary it may be, for anything creative this profession is absolutely useless.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Certainly better than the medical profession!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will come to that presently; there is no cause for resentment on the part of my legal friends at this remark, for the simple reason that I thought I was paying them a compliment. On account of their training they have to see whether a certain thing comes within the framework of the existing law, and as long as you want that and as long as you only see how the thing will be disposed of in the courts, I say anything creative is impossible for the legal profession. My Honourable friend the Leader of the House drew a comparison with the medical profession. Sir, I do not claim that the doctor's profession is a very creative profession, but I must say that his training is such and his environments are such from day to day and he has to work in such surroundings in society that he cannot help creating something which is not absolutely within some framework. Time was when I might have agreed with my Honourable friend the Leader of the House that the medical profession merely consisted in routine of purging and bleeding. But that time has long passed. I am sorry to say that the legal profession has not got over its old prejudices and old habits and going through one rut of law all the time.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): May I remind my Honourable friend that we have a better sense of values at the bar than in any other profession?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I agree, that is just the point that I am driving at. My Honourable friend talks of the sense of values. I know they have so much sense of values that they will not get out of the values we have. But we want to create values and these creative values it is not possible for them to understand. That being so I do not see why the discussion of this question should have been systematically and from session to session prevented in this House on the pretext that this is piecemeal legislation and we must do something wholesale. In connection with this I cannot also refrain from charging some of the leading women's associations in this country. Some of these leading women's associations in this country are so frightened of these legal men that as soon as anything is sent to them they will go to their respective lawyers in the different provinces,—very decent lawyers,—because they want to know where they stand.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Very natural.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Quite correct. I hope my Honourable friend will go on interrupting like this which will be of great help to me. If it is of course natural. If there is a legal measure before the House I personally would not

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be ashamed to consult my lawyer friends,—including Sardar Sant Singh if he is available,—as to the implications of the measure. But what happens is really this. These lawyers, I regret to say, either on account of the wisdom that they really have or otherwise, put things in such a fashion that these lay women who after all are anxious to secure something for themselves are actually frightened out. I will give you an instance that happened in the Bombay Presidency which I hope my Honourable friends, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, are not ignorant of. When the question of adoption was on the anvil of the local Council, distinguished lawyers of that Presidency known for their social reform advised them not to accept that piecemeal legislation because that would prevent them from getting larger rights. I regret to say that the women folk of this country, particularly the educated ones, have fallen victims to this legal advice. I daresay the legal advice is quite honestly given but without taking into consideration the circumstances of the country and the environments in which they are. Therefore it is that you find opinions in this House given by women's associations saying that they do not want piecemeal legislation but want comprehensive legislation including marriage, divorce, intestate succession and a hundred and one things put together. I have had the honour of speaking individually to some of these women. When I pointed out that they should not go by what the law wants or what the legal luminaries tell them, but they should go by what they themselves want, nearly all of them admitted that they would be satisfied with whatever they could get and after they got it they would ask for something more. As in politics, so in the case of social reform, this is a thing which might be followed.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about divorce?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Even divorce. I can tell you a lot more about divorce than you know, or hope to know.

Therefore, what I say is this. Don't say that such and such Women's Association have said that they will not have piecemeal reform because if we have piecemeal reform it will interfere with our having larger reforms. Then, Sir, if we suggest larger reforms, what happens. The position, as we have repeatedly seen in this House, is that you have only to suggest a radical reform and the whole house and country is in flame, including the Law Member. They say, if there is so much opposition to the Bill that is proposed, how can they go against the public opinion. I do not know whether I can bring this charge against the present Law Member because, so far as I can say, from the time he has come he has not put his foot into it. He has always preferred to avoid everything of the kind. He has not taken any active steps to introduce social reforms, but I admit that he has not opposed any social reform, either.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am waiting for you to do something.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Quite right. I have come here to do that, and I have been here for a long time. I should have much preferred some of his predecessors who although they objected to some of the reforms, wholeheartedly supported some of the measures. I cannot forget Sir Nripendra Sircar. Although a good deal of credit has been given to different people—Chairman of the Rao Committee, and so on—I make bold to say but for the presence of Sir Nripendra Sircar on the Treasury Benches or in the position of Law Member, that Bill of social reform, which has been the source of all agitation—would never have seen the light of day. It was due to his concessions, due to his sympathy and active support that it went through. Although he did not agree with everything that was suggested, but all the same I do say that when he was convinced his was not the supine attitude of *laissez faire*; he did not let things pass, but as soon as he thought that the Bill was right he actively supported it and gave even official days to put it forward.

I cannot also forget one other predecessor of the Honourable the Law Member—Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan. When I put it to him about the divorce

reform, it was he who again supported by giving official days and by making every concession so far as the Divorce Bill was concerned. It does not mean that the Honourable the Law Member should necessarily agree but I do say that if he agrees he ought to give us his active support and should help us in this social reform, and if he disagrees he should frankly say, 'I will not support this, and I will have nothing to do with this'. Even his predecessor, Sir Nripendra Sircar, was not against divorce, but in those circumstances over which neither he nor we had any control he had to say no, although actually on the floor of this House he was good enough to say "... although I agree with the principles of the Bill." We would like the Law Member to give us an active support and to take an active attitude towards the Bill instead of trying to squash discussion. Besides why should the discussion be squashed? After all, what has the Government done? They have turned round and round and so far as I can see, there is only one idea behind it, and that is that it will arouse public opinion. I give full credit to the Government for the position that they want to create—namely, public opinion with regard to this measure. Otherwise, I do not see why Select Committee's Report should be sent round to the public. Does this not create public opinion? Matters are discussed in this House and that creates public opinion; this is the only platform left to us now. My Honourable friend Sri Prakasha could not open his mouth to speak on any subject during the last four years. Today is the first day when he got the opportunity to speak, and I say that this is the privilege of this House—whether on politics, or on the social reform side, or economic measures, whatever the subject may be we can have a full debate and discussion and that contributes to the creation of public opinion in this country. If not from that point of view, at least from the point of view of educating, the Honourable the Law Member should not have put forward the plea that he put forward, or the plea that he puts forward every time private Bills are moved. Allow me to tell him that but for the private Bills—and I am glad to say they were moved mainly by the Congress Party,—the position of the Hindu Society would not have been what it is today. What happened in the case of reforms in respect of succession and property. At the time when we came to this House every widow was having a morsel of food in tears. Thanks to the women's rights under the Property Bill now every widow in every household is having her morsel of food not at the mercy of her relatives but as a matter of right. That is the result of piecemeal legislation. It was not the result of wholesale reform at that time. In a huge mass of Hindu Society as it is and with the prejudices and superstitions and the linking up of law, social customs and religions that has gone on in the society, it is necessary that we should proceed from one reform to the other. As soon as you have taken one step forward, you carry on to the next step. But I am perfectly willing to yield my ideas to any Government, to any authority who says 'I will not have piecemeal legislation; I want to have the whole thing radically changed'. I will support them in so far as it lies in my power, but don't let them make that as an excuse not to proceed with piecemeal legislation. But I cannot put up with the present attitude. If you suggest piecemeal legislation, they say it should be total reform; and if you suggest total reform, they say they cannot proceed with it because public opinion is against it. I saw these evasive ways will not do. Therefore, I am very glad that Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh did not yield to the third degree of treatment of the Law Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I tell my Honourable friend that 'third degree' is associated with the Police. It can be the Honourable the Home Member, not the Law Member.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: What I understand by 'third degree' is bullying and cajoling.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Caoling is a very poor third degree.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The Bill before the House is a very modest measure; it is such a measure that it really has nothing to do with the Codification Committee, although it has been included in codification. No less a person than

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Sir Reginald Maxwell was hesitating and was very doubtful whether this Bill should be sent to this Codification Committee. I see the Law Member shaking his head!

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: You can ignore me!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Thank you. But I cannot ignore you altogether because I will want your active support in the cause of the social reform now before us.

Suppose this Bill is taken. How does it interfere with the Codification Committee report? Let me tell you something about it as we Indians are a very grateful people. I might as well tell you exactly how this Committee came and how all the social Bills were transferred to this Committee.

After the Women's Right to Property Bill was passed in this House and we accepted many of the amendments that Government itself suggested many of the provisions in the Codification Committee originally existed in our Bills, viz., of giving the right of absolute property to women etc. The then Law Member, Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar, said that it would be impossible to push the whole of this measure, so please be satisfied with what we can do now. So all those things about giving the right to widows were accepted by us not as a full measure but as a compromise. When subsequently our Bills were before the House after the passage of this Act, different reports came from different High Courts to say that the different High Courts were interpreting the provisions of this Act in different ways and therefore to make it uniform this Codification Committee was instituted.

Since then, unfortunately we had taken a different attitude and we thought rightly for the then circumstances that no useful purpose would be served by our party coming to the House. You must remember that the primary object of our coming to this House was political. Since we thought no object would be served in the political field we ceased to attend. The result was that many of our social Bills were merely lying and there was never any chance of their being brought before the country.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj (Nominated Non-Official): Awful blunder!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will answer Mr. Mortimer. What is the blunder in it? When our best leaders were in jail, did you expect us to come to this House? When our Jawahir Lals and Patels were in jail is it consistent with the dignity of even a second-rate leader to come to the Assembly? From our point of view we were correct. Your justice was meted out in a spirit of vengeance and not as justice, and yet will you please say that we were wrong? We were absolutely in the right. Mind you, Sir, if Mr. Mortimer

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): On a point of order, I did not say anything.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): You are getting away from the subject of the Bill.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I do not care whether it is Mr. Mortimer or his neighbour. In the then circumstances we did not think it advisable to come here. When we did happen to come in the medical, I mean political field (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir can afford to laugh. It is neither in the medical nor economical field!) . . . I suggested to Mr. Maxwell that now that you are appointing this Committee why not send these Bills to the Social Reform Committee. Let it be said to his credit that he did send them. It is not my habit to disown anything that might be done for the welfare of the country. It was the then Home Member, Mr. Maxwell, who sent this Bill to the Committee for consideration. Although he sent the other Bills, he himself expressed the view that so far as this Bill was concerned, he was very doubtful whether it could be sent to that Committee.

The whole argument is that our Codification Committee's report is coming when we will be able to deal with the whole question and not piece-meal and therefore all these questions must not be taken before the House. These arguments cannot be substantiated by the Law Member. They do not come in the

way of your Codification Committee. In that Committee, what are the objections? If you change one part of the Hindu Law it has repercussions on the other parts of the Hindu Law and therefore you cannot change one part of the law and not the other. That is the argument put forward by my legal friends. In this particular Bill there are no such repercussions. After all those who are married and those who are going to marry, whether they belong to the same *Gotras*, *Pravaras* and *Sagotras*, the object is to make their children legitimate and to make their succession valid. All that it wants is that those who belong to the same *Sagotras* and *Pravaras* should be allowed to marry.

Let me here request the Law Member to do something which the Congress Party has done and let him take a leaf out of our book. In a question like this we have allowed a free vote and free discussion to all members of our Party. Is Government prepared to do that? I speak in respect of their Nominated Members.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): He may like to vote with us.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I could not understand what I am expected to do.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The consequence of marriage is carrying!

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: You do not expect me to do that!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: In a matter of non-political subject like this we have allowed free opinion to our members. I for one will not be for curtailing any particular opinion whether on the religious side, or the political or economic side.

With this introduction to it, let me come down to the Bill.

I say the Law Member should never have prevented the discussion of the Bill and I hope that in future when some other such Bills are being reviewed he will not come in the way of free discussion in the House, for the simple reason that if it serves nothing else it serves the purpose of educating the country, an object which is as much to the heart of the Government as it is to the heart of we people who are their elected representatives.

I say from the legal point of view this Bill does not interfere with the codification of your other Bills. It can have no repercussions on the other side of the Hindu Law. If two people in different parts of the country happen to marry and by ignorance they happen to belong to the same *Gotras*, why should their marriage not be valid? After all, whoever knows what *Gotra* means in these days! We are bringing in all kinds of religious texts from various authorities and saying these are our *Shastras*. Even in Mahabharata the great Hindu King, Dharma Raj said: "*Smriti Vibhanna ne eko Rishirasya Vaccha Pramanam*", which translated is: "There is not one *smriti* which is like another. There is not a single *rishi* whose authority or sayings can be taken as authoritative." Therefore we are not going to have less number of opinions and thought in these days than what was expressed by the great Dharmaraja, the founder Hindu King, one of the greatest kings, who was nicknamed the King of Religion. If that was the view expressed what is the good of my friends here who are talking about Sanatanists and orthodox people who are making *yagnas* at Benares with 35,000 offerings, saying that this is all against religion and therefore there must be a religious movement against this social reform. I say that this question can be discussed from two points of view. There is the religious point of view and there is another point of view, which I would like to discuss if the House would allow me, viz., the scientific point of view or the eugenic point of view. Sir, from the religious point of view, as I said whenever the scriptures are quoted as authority for the present system we cannot rely on any one author, because as soon as one author is quoted you have half a dozen other authors who are quoted against him. When there are so many opinions quoted against one another how can you rely on any one of them? This has been the experience in this country about religious opinions for a very long time. At the time of the *Sati* opinions were quoted in favour and against. At

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the time of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, religious opinions were quoted both in favour and against. At the time of the Women's Right to Property Act the *smritis* were quoted in favour and against. On those occasions the opinion was expressed that these legal measures would uproot Hindu society. Hinduism would topple down and that the legislative measures would mean the destruction of Hindu society. But what has happened? Has the abolition of *Sati* led to the destruction of the Hindu society? Has the Child Marriage Restraint Act led to the destruction of Hindu society? Or, even in my own sphere of legislative endeavour, has the Women's Right to Property Act led to the destruction of Hindu society? I say that Hindu society has become stronger and more vigorous on account of these measures than it would have been otherwise.

Therefore, Sir, you cannot rely on any of the older opinions or *Smritis* as authoritative opinions on *Sagotra* and *Sapindas*. What does *Sagotra* mean? Even on a more intimate word than *Sagotra*, I mean *Sapinda*, we have differences of opinion. Some religious commentators say that it means belonging to the same flesh and blood. It might have been thought that so far as a word like *Sapinda* is concerned there could not be any differences of opinion but it is not so in fact. There is also another opinion, which is quite different and which says that *Sapinda* means not blood relations but those who offer rice balls to the ancestors in Heaven and those who have that right. You have only to look through the discussions and comments with regard to the giving of right to property to women to see how this controversy has waged and how different commentators and different texts have been brought in. I say that if that is the position with regard to a word called "*Sapinda*", which means of your own flesh, blood and bone, can you expect any unanimity on a word like *Sagotra*? One of the modern commentators goes to the extent of saying that *Sagotra* means those who had the same pasturage or common drinking ground, because in the olden days all these communities had a common pasturage and a common drinking ground. Now you can understand that at that time, when there were small nomadic communities they were feeding their cattle on the same common ground and having the same water supply. It is just possible that a religious injunction might have been issued that the same community should not marry within themselves. Those of you who have read the book by Dr. Freud "*Totem and Taboo*", wherein he deals with the question of exogamous marriages will easily see that it is not impossible that that might be the origin of *Sagotra*, that one community did not like to marry within the same community and therefore they wanted to have marriages outside their own community. Therefore I myself think that *Sagotra* has very little or nothing to do with religion or religious practices. To my Hindu friends, who say that *Sagotra* means some kind of blood relationship and that prohibition has been instituted to prevent Endogamous marriages or marriages within blood relationship. I say that when you talk about *rishis* being our ancestors you are doing nothing but defaming them. So far as I know many of the *rishis*, whose names have been handed down to us were bachelors and ascetics. What do you mean by saying that this means blood relationship? I am not prepared to defame our *rishis*. After all like every society my society also has produced ascetics and venerable men to whom I do bow my head and whom I look upon with reverence. There is only one other explanation, if you do not accept the explanation of *Sagotra* on the basis of a communal grazing ground and that is this. These *rishis* being the teachers and givers of instruction his pupils coming to him from all parts of the country and these pupils or disciples belonged to the same *gotra*, that is to say the same common school. Here again, where does the claim of blood relationship come in? Therefore I say that whether you look at it from the religious point of view or any other, the cry that is raised that *Sagotra* is meant to prevent Endogamy and preserve the purity of blood (I have my own views on this which I will presently offer to the House). *Sagotra* has nothing to do with religion nor with blood relations. It only means that people belong to a

particular school. Otherwise, how can you explain the same *gotra* amongst the Brahmins, how can you have the same *gotra* among the Kshatriyas and Vaisyas? Those who are learned in the Shastras and scriptures will tell you that it was usual for the Kshatriya clans to accept the *gotra* of the priest or the Brahmin who was at their courts. Even then I say that blood relationship cannot come in. Therefore let us forget in deciding a matter like this that we are dealing with religion or blood relation. Like all ancient things superstition and religion have gathered round *Sagotra* to make things look in the dark darker, and I am surprised that even this Hindu Code Committee, where I expected that modern thought would prevail, seem to have gone

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down before these gods of clay with reverence bowed their knees and brought their heads down in these days. I have not seen the Committee's report—my complaint like my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa's is that everybody else seems to have got it but I have not got it yet; but I read something from the newspapers and I am giving notice that if I am not correct, the Honourable Member will correct me. I say that with regard not only to this *sagotra* and *sapinda* relationship—that they cannot marry for five degrees or seven degrees—let some thinking prevail; let us have some thinking on this subject; let us dissect and analyse and bring to bear whatever knowledge we can on this subject, so that we shall not perpetuate the same blunders which have been perpetrated for an untold number of years. From the religious point of view there is absolutely nothing in this *sagotra* business; there is absolutely no objection why *sagotra* marriages should not be allowed.

Sagotra at least you can understand; but when you come to *sapraravas* I defy anyone to say—and I may say my Honourable friend Mr. Aney who is no more in the House also said that there are many Brahmins who will not be able to explain to you what really *saprarava* means. In one place you will find that the *sapraravas* are less in number than the *gotras*, in the other case you will find that *gotras* are less in number than the *sapraravas*. When there is a jumble like this, what is correct and what is not correct? My Honourable friend's explanation seemed to say that if the two members are of the same *gotra* then, although they belonged to the same *gotra*, they could marry because their *pravaras* may be different; and he puts down as *pravaras* to distinguish and discriminate between two children, boy and girl, of the same *gotra*. Mr. Deshmukh in his discussion before the Assembly says that there are four *gotras* and 49 *pravaras*; and so far as I can see—and I have had a talk, when I was an active participant in these measures in the House I took the trouble of inviting a few *Sastris* to learn from them what actually this *pravara* and this *gotra* mean; and I very much regret to say that the explanations were just as confusing as they have been on the floor of the House. Nobody seems to know what *pravara* is, and nobody seems to know quite definitely what the *gotra* is.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How are we to legislate then?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I know that the only qualification for legislating is not to know anything. I say I was no wiser after consulting these learned people as to what the *pravaras* are and what the *gotras* are. If *sagotra* marriages cannot be supported, then *pravaras* can be still less supported or still less prohibited because *pravaras* according to this it means—at least this is what I am inclined to believe: that these *gotras* come first, and the *pravaras* come afterwards. I believe that the *pravaras* are a higher classification, not a lower classification than the *gotras*; and I think I am entitled to give my own explanation on the subject to this House.

I say that this *sagotra* business had come to be a difficulty with our older thinkers; not having any legislative assemblies then, they tried to solve it in their own way. If a boy and girl of the same community had to come together and there was difficulty about the marriage—that their children would be legitimate, they solved it in their own way, and to my mind it was a very beautiful way. To get over the difficulty of the boy and girl being of the same *gotra*,

[Dr. G. V. Deshmukh] they brought in these *pravaras*, to say, that although they may belong to the same *gotra*, if they belong to different *pravaras* then they could marry. That was a very clever way of getting over the difficulty, so far as *sagotra* marriage was concerned. You can understand that in those days the interpretation of the law was not as rigid—it might have been good, bad or indifferent—but it was suited to the circumstances. Learned people of the community came together, interpreted the laws and they made it in conformity with the conditions of the society and the circumstances of the time. With the institution of rigid courts, the law has been crystallised and you do not have the same liberty of interpretation as we used to have in the olden days. Even more so now. I really pity those Sanatanists and orthodox gentlemen who say that they are following the Hindu law. What is the Hindu law today? Is it the Hindu law as interpreted by Hindus only? No. It is Hindu law as interpreted and on which the final seal has been put by Englishmen—foreigners who are not born to the law: and although they have tried their best to understand the law, they cannot understand the implications of it and they follow the legal methods which are in conformity with the legal traditions of their own country. Necessarily therefore we suffer from the advantages of the method as well as the disadvantages of this method. If Hindu society had advanced and did not need any progress, I can understand the advantages of a method like this. But with a society like this and a government when it was not popular having taken up the attitude that they do not want to interfere with the laws of the people, social progress of the people became absolutely impossible. What I say is this. The Government now must take courage in both hands. It cannot be contradicted that this is foreign Government but now it can change the laws of the country. If it is a change, they are only assisting, they are only helping and the main brunt, the main responsibility of changing the laws of the country is on the heads of the representatives of the people. Therefore there is no justification for the same attitude on the part of the Government as it was before. From the religious point of view this *pravara* business has no standing, and I do not see how it can be allowed to weigh with us. As I have said, these *sagotras* also, if not as unimportant, cannot be considered to be of paramount importance.

This Bill does not have any repercussions on other parts of Hindu law. Why should there be any difficulty, then, about accepting this Bill by this House and the Law Member supporting it. I do not really understand. Supposing I grant to the Sanatanists that this Bill interferes with the blood relations. From the eugenics point of view, I say, who has made the experiments with regard to eugenics? After all the exogamy or marriages out of the same circle—has it been always as advantageous and is marrying within the blood been so harmful? Let me give you the instance of Darwin. If marrying within the blood can produce Darwins, it can be good enough for any community in the world. Darwin came of father and mother who were intimately related to each other both from the father's side and from the mother's side; and this in-marrying of blood did not lead to any degeneration on the part of the product. On the other hand, Darwin has been one of the world's greatest thinkers. If you do not want to go to Europe, I will give you another instance. Before I come to a modern instance, of this marrying within the blood, I will cite the case of the royal dynasties of Egypt in the olden days. They went even to the extent of brother marrying sister. And if we are not concerned with kings, let us come down to the in-breeding of the Bedouin Arabs. Well, can you get a race which is more brave, more honest and better in every way than the Bedouin Arabs whose qualities of head and heart have been praised all over the world?

Therefore, my point is—don't go straight in for this marrying-in of the blood. I do not recommend that but I say—don't all at once be so superstitious as to think that this in-breeding is something atrocious, something horrible and something not good for the race of Hindus. This is the scientific view and I know that there will be lot of opposition to these views but I cannot think in any

other way but the scientific way so far as my training is concerned and thinking in a religious way so far as my upbringing as a Hindu is concerned. I want to combine both, if both can be combined. That will explain my alluding to the science of eugenics to a certain extent. I say—why should we think that in breeding in the same *gotra* will lead to degeneration of the race. It is quite likely that it might even lead to an improvement of the race. After all, what have the experiments shown? It has not been proved that inbreeding leads to degeneration. There is no Mendel's law about it. Nobody has tried to experiment Mendel's law with regard to inbreeding experiments so far as human beings are concerned. On the other hand, so far as proof is concerned, it is the other way round. Take the instance of Darwin and the Bedouin Arabs; from the eugenic point of view we do not and we cannot support any resistance to the passing of this Bill.

Coming down to the sub-castes. One of the provisions of the Bill is that you can allow sub-castes to intermarry. My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa told you that originally—and there cannot be any doubt about it—so far as the religious books are concerned, there were only four castes in India—the Brahmin, the Kshatriya, the Vaisya and the Sudra. Quite apart from the region of the body where they sprang from what do we find? The four castes have been multiplied by geometrical progression. There are today four thousand castes in India. Is this religion or is this society? Is the Hindu society going to keep up its position in the future struggle in this world? Even so far as the old religious scriptures are concerned, what is the justification for *pratiloma* and *anuloma vivahass*. Even the great God Creator himself in my religion says that the 'Brahmins came from the mouth'. True! It was then their business to attend only to learning. I am not ashamed of it. It was like the Professor class in every modern State. Since it was their duty always to teach and receive instruction, naturally, metaphorically their status was put in the mouth of God, the Creator. So far as the warrior class is concerned, they seem to have come from the arm. If he is a warrior, he always fights with the arm. I say there is a metaphorical basis for the origin of the four different castes in my society. So far as the Vaisyas are concerned, my strength has come to me from my thighs and so far as my foundation on Mother Earth is concerned, well, I have got to use my feet. Otherwise I will be a lame creature. It is true that this was twisted and was made to suit their own purpose by the priestly class but I am not dealing here with the priest class. I am concerned with my religion and I say there is nothing laughable or nothing degrading in this idea of the creation of the four castes. After all, if you read the modern psychologists, men like Jung and Froude and many of the mental psychologists say that after all so far as the division of labour is concerned, you can only divide the communities into four classes—the learned class, the fighting class, the trading class and the serving class and we have what another psychologist Jung—I forget his name—calls the "personas", if I remember rightly. So, what I say is that instead of anything being there to laugh at in this classification of society, there is something in it which every Hindu might be proud of. At the same time he has every need to be ashamed of the twisting and the degeneration that was brought in by the priest class. What religion is there which has not been degenerated and degraded by the priest class and made it to suit its own advantage. Take the case of Christianity and the case of Islam. I say that there is no religion which has not been degenerated and degraded by the priest class belonging to that religion. Therefore my request to my Hindu religion and religious scriptures by the priest class. So far as I am concerned, I do not yield my powers of thinking to anybody. I may be wrong but I do not yield, whether it is in the political field or the economic field or in the religious field.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In the medical field also?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I should have thought that you took that for granted. That being the case, my request to my Hindu friends is—why go by the interpretations of your priests, which have been put on the scriptures for thousands of years. Now, you have had the benefit of education. You have the interpretation of the thinking men of both the East and also what is more important—and I say this advisedly—and of the scholars of the West. If you are in doubt about any point, they have interpreted many of the scriptures impartially, not being interested in any particular interpretation. Under these favourable circumstances, it is the duty of everybody concerned to interpret in his own light. He should not stop at that. It is his duty to instruct his countrymen at the same time.

Now, take the interpretation about the origin of the four castes. I do not call the feet untouchable, because they happen to be my feet. Nor do I consider my hands to be of less importance or my thighs to be of lesser importance than my tongue and mouth, because I can speak for a little while in the Assembly.

I am very glad to see my friend Mr. Bajoria just coming into the Assembly. I have never found anybody more reasonable than Mr. Bajoria and what is more, if things had been left to ourselves, to Mr. Bajoria and myself, and if the Law Member had not butted in with his Codification Committee—I am not speaking of the present Law Member—I can assure you that by this time the condition of Hindu society and of women in particular would have very much improved.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): You are applying third degree to Mr. Bajoria.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: He is so very reasonable.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I am sure when he gets the opportunity to speak, he himself will say the same thing about me. (*An Honourable Member:* "Wait and see.") What I say is this, that since the head, the hands, the thighs and the feet belong to the same organism and are of equal importance so far as the vitality of the society is concerned, where does the question of caste and sub-caste and much less the question of touchability and untouchability comes in? I say it is absolutely a wrong interpretation which has been put. I am very sorry I have got to repeat the same thing, but I cannot help it because I feel so badly about it. It is very unfortunate that the members of my society should go on with these interpretations and leave the wheat behind and be satisfied with this wretched husk. I can explain the historical reason for all this hair-splitting and for the multiplication of castes and sub-castes. We did not have anything better to do than to sit down and spin threads. Not having much of an ambitious programme so far as this country is concerned and not being able to involve ourselves into adventures of a magnificent kind, all our energies were wasted in producing castes and sub-castes and whether I should dine with you or marry with you. After all, nourishment and reproduction are the necessities of life and it is no wonder that the energies of the human race should be incessantly and perennially engaged in considering these two questions. I do not blame my ancestors for all the things which have been created, but I do blame the present generation for not taking the right view of things with all the favourable circumstances of research and education at their disposal. That is where my heart bleeds and I am surprised that even at this time we should have these distinctions of *pratiloma* and *anuloma* marriages. Will my brother Mr. Govind Deshmukh tell me whether in the marriage laws the same has not been given effect to with regard to these marriage laws of the Hindus? If it has been done away with, all glory to them. The upper class man can marry the lower class woman. That is the *anuloma* marriage. I do not know whether there were profiteers in

those days even in the matter of marriage. A Brahmin could have four legitimate wives. He could have a Brahmin wife to whom the position of importance was given. Secondly, he could have a Kshatriya wife, who was second in importance. Thirdly, he could have a Vaishya wife and fourthly a Shudra wife. All the four wives were legitimate because they were *anuloma* marriages. Similarly, a Kshatriya could have three wives and a Vaishya could have two wives and a Shudra could have only one wife. Do not forget there were capitalists and profiteers even in those days with regard to the marriage. If that order was followed, then they were valid, but if the reverse order was followed, then the fat was in the fire. Then, they were invalid. And so far as the marriage from a low class man to the upper class woman was concerned, the issue of that marriage was considered illegitimate and branded with all kinds of disqualifications.

Only the other day while reading the debate on South Africa I was reminded of the South African situation today. I do not want to import politics in the social question.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): This is an anecdote.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I think Sir Syed Raza Ali will tell us if it is a fact that the South Africans do not like the native population to marry the European girls.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: They are bitterly opposed to it.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The only point why I wanted to say that was that almost every community does that. But, then, now we have been here for thousands of years irrespective of the fact where we came from. It matters not whether we came from Palmirs or we came through Afghanistan or we sprang in the soil here. Whether we are Aryans or Dravidians, we have all been so long on this soil and this soil has given us nourishment and food and has formed our blood and our brains and bones. Is it worth while, therefore, to keep all these differences? Have we not been merged into one nation? Have we not been merged into one type of individuality? Any Indian—I do not care who he is—who goes over to the foreign countries can immediately be found out across the crowd on the opposite side of the road even in London and in Paris. You can say: Here is my countryman who is going across the road. I do not care whether he is a Parsi or a Muslim or a Christian or a Hindu of a depressed class or a high class Brahmin. I can always spot an Indian because there is something very distinctive about him. That means that nature has not failed in its attempt to hammer us into a type of nationality however much to our conceit we may say that we belong to this blood or that blood. After all, we have become Indians now. That is so far as all the Indians are concerned. So far as the Hindu society is concerned, is it necessary that we should observe these castes and subcastes? From four castes you have come to 4,000 castes with regard to dining and marriages. Now, dining is a social side and I do not deny that marriage is also a social side. But what does the Bill do? Does the Bill say that you shall marry? No, as has been repeatedly pointed out, it is permissive. You need not marry, but if you do marry, no law should come in and say that the children of this marriage shall be illegitimate. Look at Russia. Because of the ignorance of the parents, the children shall not be branded. Therefore, I say that where marriages do take place, there should be a permissive law. Not to accept the child as a legitimate child of the marriage is a moral wrong and it should not be a legal wrong so far as we can help it. Therefore, I say that the provision that has been put forward with regard to the subcastes is very wise. I do not think it goes as far. My complaint against my own brother's Bill is that it does not go as far as I would have liked it to. The way he has curtailed it that only *sagotras* should be covered by it does not satisfy me. It cannot satisfy any intellectual person. Why not have *sapindas* as well. After all, as some of my friends themselves have suggested, a maternal cousin can be a legitimate bride and I suppose it must be admitted by a Hindu,

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at any rate, that if a *sapinda* marriage in certain sections of the Hindus cannot be looked upon as illegitimate, how can you say that a *sagotra* marriage can be illegitimate? Therefore, in my opinion he has gone along the path of least resistance.

One thing I have learnt from my experience in this House. It is useless and hopeless to convince my Hindu brothers by proving to them that any measure is according to religion and that whatever you are suggesting in this House is according to the tenets of the Hindu religion. It is a hopeless task and I hope no future reformer will waste his time on it. When you were in the Chair, Sir, and when many of the social reform measures were propounded in this House, I then, being a tyro in social reform, had the idea that all that I had to do was to convince my Hindu brethren that a thing was in the Hindu scriptures and it will be followed. Then all that I had to do was, at great personal inconvenience, I do not say expense, to get hold of the Shastris and Pandits. I wanted them to explain things to me as to what the real position in the Shastras was. I must admit that even among orthodox classes at the present day there are many people who hold advanced views, and in my opinion, right views. I was fortunate enough to come across them and they explained to me that this was the right explanation. With a childish faith, I came to this House thinking that all that I had to do was to show these things in our scriptures and tell them that these are the authorities and they should abide by them. Imagine, Sir, my disappointment when I saw Honourable Members of the House, educated, learned, representing intelligent section of my community coming forward and saying that the scriptures were misapplied. They did not dare to say that the scriptures were wrong. When that would not stand the ground, then they said it did not apply to present day circumstances. If it does not apply to present day circumstances, well then, suggest something which will be applicable to present day circumstances. No, Sir, that was not done. Even an intelligent person like Mr. Aney gave some explanation in this House which was heart-breaking. When the Bill for women's right to property and divorce, residence and maintenance Bills came before the House here, my friend Mr. Aney adopted the usual policy which the Government of India follows. When I brought the residence and maintenance Bill for women, Mr. Aney said, why bring in such a piecemeal legislation, we must have wholesale legislation. I remember very well in this House when I said, very well bring wholesale legislation, he said, what are you doing? Are you thinking of uprooting the whole Hindu society? How can the Hindu society continue? This was the case of an intelligent person like Mr. Aney. I am not making any charges against him, because he is not here to answer them. It is in the Legislative Assembly Debates and any one can refer to it. I can understand my Honourable friend Mr. Bajoria. So far as he is concerned, I was amazed at the progressive opinion held by him considering the number of Sanatanists who were egging him on to put forward their views on the subject. He did not however allow himself to be their mouthpiece. Indeed if I remember rightly, it was Mr. Bajoria who agreed to my residence and maintenance Bill for Hindu women. Mr. Bajoria agreed when so many Sanatanists and orthodox Pandits did not agree.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): No, I did not agree with your Bill.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: You agreed to the idea underlying the Bill which comes to the same thing.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: The Honourable Member is misrepresenting me.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will ask my Honourable friend to point out in the Assembly Debates themselves whether he agreed to or opposed the measure. When Sir N. N. Sircar could not go to the length of accepting my Divorce Bill, and when he was good enough to appoint a Committee at my suggestion for

residence and maintenance Bill, my friend Mr. Bajoria unanimously agreed to it. Is that correct or not?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Not to the Bill, but to the motion that there should be residence and maintenance for women.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I honour men like Mr. Bajoria for their honest and robust opinion. I can understand it is merely a matter of convincing them. I promise the Honourable the Law Member that if he finds that the whole codification of Hindu law will not go through on account of opposition from the Hindu community, all that he has got to do is to come forward with me and Mr. Bajoria and we will see that some of the measures go through. I feel confident about Mr. Bajoria. I will give you another instance. Just now as regards this Intestate Succession Bill, I can tell you that there is a lot of discussion going on in some of the vernacular papers. I read in one of the Marathi papers and naturally in some of the English papers also,—I do not know what is happening in other parts of the country, there is a lot of discussion going on about this Bill. I find the Sanatanists are opposing this measure saying that it would lead to breakage of property, as if human beings are meant for property, and property is not meant for human beings. But that is beside the point. I submit that these orthodox men are now writing that so far as women are concerned, the Property Bill of 1937 has been very good, very just and it gives women substantial rights. What was then condemned by them is now praised.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Question.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I do not know what is taking place in that part of the country from which Mr. Bajoria comes. Mr. Bajoria may question as he likes, but in my part of the country, this is what is going on. I do not know about Marwari community. Whatever Mr. Bajoria may say, I still maintain that the orthodox men approve the 1937 Bill. They actually praise the Bill. I say to the Honourable the Law Member, take courage in your hands, proceed with the social reform legislation. You have all the intelligent opinion behind you in this country and the very persons who will be condemning you today for some of this piecemeal legislation, if you cannot make wholesale reform, will be the very persons who will praise it at a later date.

With regard to the provisions of the Bill so far as marriage between sub-castes are concerned, why should objection be taken for it? After all is said and done, everybody would like to be classified under the four castes. Should you really not help in the merging of all sub-castes into each other and reduce it to its pristine purity of four castes. I want to put it to the Sanatanists, do you not want the Hindu society to go back to its original pure form? If the sub-castes marry among themselves what is going to be the effect of it? All will be merged and there will be only four main castes. Can there be a more desirable piece of reform from a religious point of view to take back the religion to its pristine pure form? Is that not an object for which my Honourable friend Mr. Bajoria and others should contend for, including the Law Member, which is to produce pure Hindu society? It is the duty of every Hindu to go back to pure form. I always said in this House that I am very proud to have been born a Hindu. That is not a blind statement based on superstition. I find in my study of Hinduism that it contains every provision that will satisfy my conscience, and that no Hindu need look to any other religion either for the satisfaction of his heart or the satisfaction of his head or even for the law. What is it that it does not contain? Even as regards the daughter's inheritance, she will get one-fourth of the brother's share. I admit that my Muslim friends also have been very advanced in that respect.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: You are misleading the House.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: My Honourable friend says I am misleading the House. I defy him to prove that I am wrong. And what is more, I will tell him how that share of the daughter was converted into dowry by a low kind of trick. And it is not we only who are condemning this transformation of the legitimate share of the daughter. Manu himself says that the share of the

[Dr. G. V. Deshmukh] daughter should be one-fourth of the brother's share. And even so early a commentator as Medatithi who lived about the year 700 condemned this changing of the daughter's share into dowry. It was a finesse, cheating the poor daughters who were then ignorant and uneducated. And they were kept pleased by saying that they were being given dowry, by the pomp and show of marriage. What does that mean if it is not cheating?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Sir, on a point of order how do these point arise on the Bill now under discussion?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I think the point does arise. I say it is the priest-craft that has done this. And if you allow marriage among sub-castes, I say you are not going beyond Hindu religion; you are only restoring Hindu religion to its old form. Therefore the comments you find in the papers in regard to clause 2 of the Bill are useless. I have heard comments even in this House that this is an attempt to get a social measure passed which is not before the country. Nothing of the kind; all these provisions are in the Hindu law and the Hindu scriptures, only one commentator after another in trying to show off his own knowledge put on different glosses on the text. And that is how my friends like Mr. Bajoria and their followers put forward all kinds of excuses to interrupt the progress of social reform. But it is not against Hinduism at all. One argument is advanced that the public have not demanded it. But can there be better proofs than facts, so far as the public is concerned. I suppose in law they say that one fact is worth more a hundred rules or laws; and I say that one fact in public life is better than any amount of so-called public opinion expressed in the papers. What is happening among better class Hindus? If a girl wants to marry a boy or the parents of a girl want to marry her to some boy and they belong to the same *gotra*, they try to circumvent that by giving that girl in adoption to some other parents, a thing illegal in itself, because no girl can be taken in adoption under Hindu law. And those who are proud of Hindu law and accept Hindu law at the hands of European judges of the Privy Council keep quiet over it and do not say one word. But when taking all these facts into consideration some poor legislator comes to the House and wants to change or modify the law so that individuals may be fitted to the circumstances or the circumstances may be fitted to the individuals, there is a howl and uproar from one end of the country to the other that religion is being uprooted and society is being destroyed. But one fact is enough; and this kind of thing is happening not among ignorant people or people who only want to make money. It comes out of better human sentiments, sentiments of devotion and love and regard, and when two youthful hearts want to fulfil their destiny by marrying, here are these rigid artificial impediments and you force them to circumvent them by all kinds of devious methods. Is it not right that this legislator should notice these facts even if they happen rarely and among educated people? When the question of separate residence and maintenance was put forward I pointed out that the circumstances are changing. You find many of these so-called educated men possibly after their return from Europe at the expense of their fathers-in-law marrying other girls. It is for you to say whether this should be made legal or otherwise, but why should you force his first wife to live under the same roof with the second wife? Does it not hurt her? But there again opposition came in and unfortunately we could not succeed due to many circumstances. Does the Law Department of the Government of India want that there should be applications from hundreds of thousands of people that they want to marry outside their caste and therefore the law should be changed? Soon after we came here there was an instance which occurred . . .

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Why not marry under the Civil Marriage Act?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will come to that; I will tell you why. Sir, an instance happened of a marriage in Bangalore between a European gentleman and a lady, and there was some question as to its validity, whether

it was in the cantonment or outside it. And the then Home Member,—I think it was Sir Henry Craik,—brought forward a Bill to rectify that. That is how societies are kept together and built up. You cannot say that because members of my society have not put forward petitions for enacting this law therefore you will not do it. It is for the legislators and the Government Department to see what things are necessary and suitable to the environments and changing circumstances in the country. They say there is no demand. I say there is a better demand than sending petitions. There have been scores of instances in my own part of the country where daughters have been given in adoption so that these marriages may be performed. That is a fact which ought to strike the legislators and the Law Department and the representatives of the people. Instances like that are daily multiplying; all that is wanted is that you should have some measure for the relief of these people. By education, by culture and by instruction they have come to a stage when although belonging to the same *gotra* they should marry. There should be permissive legislation for it. A point has been made, "why do you not marry under the Civil Marriage Act?" Who are you to tell me that? Why should I marry under the Civil Marriage Act. I am as much a Hindu as you are . . .

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Whom are you addressing?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I have heard this cry all over the country. They put it forward as an argument, and I think it is something like an argument which an Honourable Member from the European Group put forward the argument of the war effort when we were discussing the South African situation.

An Honourable Member: No politics.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: All right. They say those who are willing to marry they should marry under the Civil Marriage Act. I am as much a Hindu as you are, perhaps I am a better Hindu than you are . . .

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Who is you?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I may have made better attempts to keep the Hindu society solid, than merely spouting *mantras* and *slokas*. What right has anybody to say that I should marry under an Act which does not belong to me. It is my duty as a member of the Hindu society . . .

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Laljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): And a Brahmin as well.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Yes. I am proud to own that for the time being. In the olden days it was Brahmins—my ancestors—who used to make the law, and it could not be Mr. Bajoria's; they would not have any say in that.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Are you a Brahmin?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Yes, blue-blooded Brahmin and my *gotra* is *kashyap*. What right have they to tell me that I should desert the Hindu fold. I am born a Hindu, and will be a Hindu and nobody has as a right to take away my hereditary heritage of being born a Hindu. You may tell that to somebody who is ashamed of his religion. I am proud of it. It is not for you to tell me that I should give up my own fold and marry under the Civil Marriage Act . . .

An Honourable Member: Not under the Gour Marriage Act.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Whether it is Gour Marriage Act or Civil Marriage Act, it is my duty as a Hindu to see that Hindu law is improved . . .

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Then you admit that a marriage under the Civil Marriage Act is not a Hindu marriage?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I have very little time and if I can, I would like to finish it today, but if my Honourable friend, Mr. Baijnath Bajoria, keeps on interrupting me I will have to carry on.

Sir, this point has been raised by certain non-Hindus and those sections of Hindus who have given up the Hindu fold—I am talking about Arya Samajists and Brahma Samajists; I have nothing but respect for them; I am all for liberty of opinion. You must have seen that I voted for the motion with regard to the Satyarath Prakasha. After you declared from the Chair that it was a question of the application of the Defence of India Act. I thought here was an opportunity that I should give my opinion that we shall not go back to the dark middle

[Dr. G. V. Deshmukh.]

ages, that we must have liberty of opinion, liberty of press and liberty of printing our opinions in whatever way we like. Otherwise progress is impossible.

If I detach myself from the Hindu community and make things easier for myself it will not be creditable to me. Why? Any third-rate man can do that; you need not tell him that. I want to dig my toes in the Hindu Society and I want to see that Hindu Society is improved. And what is of still greater advantage to me is this: that in trying to improve the Hindu society I need not have any innovations. Those who know the Hindu law only by proceedings in the courts may perhaps be amazed at my assertion, but I do say that if you want to renovate and purify the Hindu law you need not go to any modern legislature for that, you need not go to any other society for bringing the Hindu law in conformity with the circumstances of the society today, or the society in conformity with individual progress.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): What are the practical disabilities of a person who marries under the Civil Marriage Act? I want to be educated on that point.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: My Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasha, I think, told you that to a certain extent. When he gave his individual instance he said 'I do not want to break myself away from the Hindu joint family; I don't want the Hindu joint family to be broken up; I want to have my daughter-in-laws according to my choice'. The greatest disadvantage is that you are supposed to have ceased to be a member of the joint Hindu family.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: It is very very bad.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I do not say that the joint Hindu family is a live thing today, it exists on paper,—it exists for evading income-tax!

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Are you 'joint' with your brother?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: We are both joint and otherwise. We have arranged in such a way that we conform to the modern society.

An Honourable Member: What about income-tax?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am not backward in that respect. We have modified the Hindu Law without going to any other law.

Sir, when they say 'why don't you marry under the Civil Marriage Act', I say I refuse to do so. Personally I think how often I may change in my opinion, I do not see how I can cease to be a Hindu. I am born a Hindu, and one of the tenets of Hinduism is that you are born. You must be born a Hindu. I do not see how human beings can change what is created by God. When these priests come forward and say he is a convert, he has gone over to the other religion, all I can say is that they do not understand the grand principles of Hindu religion. If I am born a Hindu how can a priest's water or recitation of *Mantras* turn me into some thing else, into a race horse? How any human agency can change me into anything else? Therefore I am not going to give up my hereditary heritage. The less we hear of this silly talk of 'go and marry under the Civil Marriage Act' the better for all concerned. My duty is that I should see that Hindu society is reformed and that it is brought in conformity with the changing environments of the time. This is what I think I owe to myself and to the society to which I have the proud privilege to belong.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member concluded his speech?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I have many more things to talk about. The Hindu society is such a very big thing.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech on the next day allotted for Bills. The House stands adjourned till Monday, 11 A.M.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 13th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 13th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICERS UNDER THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT.

262. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,500 and above in (i) his Department (Information and Broadcasting), (ii) the National War Front—Central Organisation, (iii) the Advertising Section, (iv) Song Publicity Organisation, (v) Exhibition Section, (vi) the Counter Propaganda Directorate, (vii) the office of the Chief Press Adviser, (viii) the Information Films of India, (ix) the Bureau of Public Information, and (x) the office of the Controller of Broadcasting?

(b) How many of these posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans; (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table.

Statement showing the number of Officers drawing Rs. 500 per mensem and above under the administrative control of the Information and Broadcasting Department and the communities to which they belong.

	Euro- peans.	Anglo- Indians.	Hindus.	Muslims	Sikhs.	Others.	Total.
<i>Main Department (including Simla Office)</i>							
<i>Officers drawing salaries from—</i>							
Rs. 500 p. m. to Rs. 750	..	1	3	3	1	..	8
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	2	..	3	..	..	..	5
Rs. 1,500 and above	2	..	1	1	..	..	4
<i>National War Front</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	2	..	1	3
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	2	1	..	..	3
Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
<i>Advertising Branch</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Song Publicity Organization</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>War Services Exhibition</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	1	2	..	..	3
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	3	..	1	..	1	..	5
Rs. 1,500 and above	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Counter Propaganda Directorate</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	3	1	..	2	6
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	..	..

	Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
<i>Chief Press Adviser</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	1	..	..	2	3
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Information Films of India</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	10	1	..	2	13
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	..	6	..	..	1	8
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
<i>Bureau of Public Information</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	8	2	..	..	10
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	1	3	1	..	1	7
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	2	1	..	..	3
Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
<i>All India Radio</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	..	2	1	..	..	3
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	..	..	3	..	..	1	4
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	..	1	1	..	1	3
Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
<i>Summary</i>							
From Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	..	1	26	10	1	5	43
From Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	2	1	16	7	1	6	33
From Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	8	..	9	5	1	2	25
From Rs. 1,500 and above	5	1	3	3	..	1	13
Total	15	3	54	25	3	14	114

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

263. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state if all the Reconstruction Committees intended to be constituted in February, 1943, are now constituted; if so,

(i) the number of meetings held of each of the Reconstruction Committees, and the conclusions reached, if any, by these committees;

(ii) the decisions taken by the Government as a result of the conclusions reached; and

(iii) the steps taken to give effect to the decisions taken by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir. I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of meetings held of the various Policy Committees.

(i) The function of these Committees is to advise Government on any matters placed before them and this advice is taken into consideration by Government when formulating its plans.

(iii) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the second report on Reconstruction planning.

Statement giving the names of Policy Committees and the number of meetings so far held

Name of Policy Committee	Number of meetings so far held
General Policy Committee	3
Policy Committee No. 1 on Re-settlement and Re-employment	1
Policy Committee No. 2 on Disposals, Contracts and Government Purchases	Nil
Policy Committee No. 3A on Transport	Nil
Policy Committee No. 3B on Posts and Aviation	1
Policy Committee No. 3C on Public Works and Electric Power	1
Policy Committee No. 4A on Trade and Commerce	3†
Policy Committee No. 4B on Industries	1
Policy Committee No. 4C on Shipping	Nil
Policy Committee No. 5 on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	1

(A meeting is being called on the 7th December.)

†Includes two meetings held by Commerce Department before April 1943.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: No answer has been given to the latter part of (i), namely, "the conclusions reached, if any, by these Committees"?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: May I explain to the Honourable Member that definite issues on which decisions of Committees are required are not placed before them. What happens is that discussion on general lines takes place and the views of the Committee are noted by Government and taken into account in formulating their policy.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: There must be a report of the opinions noted down by the Government.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The proceedings of the Committee are taken down by the Government.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: And published?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That will be replied to in answer to a further question.

Sardar Sant Singh: How are the reconstruction committees constituted?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I do not quite follow the Honourable Member. They are constituted of people whom we regard as representative of public opinion on such matters.

Sardar Sant Singh: How is the personnel formed for these committees? Is it on the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce or the industry concerned or is it merely nomination by the Government of India, and if it is nomination, then on what principle nomination takes place?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The non-officials are nominated by the Government of India on the basis of their own knowledge of such gentlemen. Apart from that, there are representatives of Provinces and also some representatives of States on that Committee together with the representatives of the Central Government and representatives of the Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government is aware that on these Committees, labour is not adequately represented at all and whether Government propose to take any steps with regard to representation of labour?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. The Honourable Member for Labour is very keen on the representation of Labour on these Committees and as a matter of fact labour Members are represented on all of them.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is there any representation of agriculturists on these Committees?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir, definitely.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Does the list give information only for one year, that is, 1944 or does it give a list from the commencement of War?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There is a complete list.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the relation between these Committees and the Reconstruction Committee of Council?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Reconstruction Committee is the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council of Government.

INSTALLATION OF BROADCASTING STATION AT NAGPUR.

264. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if he is aware that a demand for a Broadcasting Station at Nagpur, C. P., has been constantly made and brought to the notice of the Government of India, and that they have made promises more than once to establish it there? If so, having regard to the circumstances mentioned below will the Government establish it now:—

(i) rapid expansion of Nagpur, the capital city of the Province; and

(ii) the city's importance from the point of its situation, being a central place and on the air routes of trade, industry and administration?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes. As promised before, the claim of Nagpur to have a broadcasting station will be considered as part of the next programme of development to be undertaken. At present it is not possible to establish any new broadcasting station owing to the difficulty of importing the requisite equipment from abroad in the present war conditions.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the circumstances mentioned in parts (i) and (ii) and the fact that there are aerodromes round about Nagpur, will this Nagpur Broadcasting Station be considered an emergency war measure and priority given to it?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. I regret that it is not possible to consider it as an emergency war measure, notwithstanding the circumstances mentioned by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Is the Honourable Member aware that many more promises were given as regards Karachi and is the Honourable Member aware that Karachi is much more important in all respects and will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of taking up the construction of a Broadcasting Station at Karachi sooner than Nagpur and before the war ends?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

STABILIZATION OF PRICES.

265. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is not a fact that the prices of nearly all the articles in the United Kingdom in the year 1944 are the same as they were in October, 1939?

(b) Why did the Government of India not attempt to stabilize the prices when these prices have been stabilized in England?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Government of India in order to stabilize its prices purchase commodities in London at the price of 1939?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Government of India have attempted to stabilise prices but, the conditions in India and England being different, the methods and procedure adopted for the stabilisation of prices as well as the time of their adoption have necessarily also been different. There was moreover a considerable body of opinion that prices in India before the war were undesirably low.

(c) It is not a fact.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that price index in the United Kingdom has risen about 28 per cent., and in most cases much less than 28 per cent., while the rise in price index is sometimes 300 per cent., and 400 per cent. in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information before me shows that the increase in wholesale price in the United Kingdom since August 1939 for all articles is 71 per cent., for food, tobacco, 76 per cent. and for industrial materials and manufacture, 68 per cent. That is a good deal more than what the Honourable Member has been suggesting.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What are the corresponding figures for India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The corresponding figures for all articles, 142 per cent., for food, tobacco and other agricultural commodities, 162 per cent., for industrial materials and manufactures 131 per cent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from the official figures of rice in prices which the Government get, is the Honourable Member aware that actually in the market, people have to pay more?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am aware that owing to local conditions and difficulties, prices in particular areas are sometimes even higher than these.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what percentage of price of industrial commodities have come to be stabilised by Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I cannot say that in answer to a supplementary question. I am not sure I understand the question at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What percentage of industrial goods have come to be stabilised in their prices?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If what the Honourable Member means is what part of the whole field has come under control quantitatively, then I require notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the admission of Government that the index figures are under-stated, will they take steps to get the real figures of the rise in prices?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: These figures represent the average position; in local areas you may get a higher index or a lower index than these.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have the Government of India taken any action to reduce the price index and bring it down to the level of the United Kingdom? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It has been the constant endeavour of the Government of India to moderate the rise in prices that was taking place. They could not set themselves a specific target such as that in the United Kingdom, or if they did, they would not have been able to achieve it owing to the different conditions in India.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the process or the method that they have adopted in order to reduce the price is that they want to take away by force or by various other methods the notes under circulation? And does he think that by this method the prices will be lowered?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India have not concentrated simply on an attempt to mop up surplus currency. They have at the same time pursued other lines such as direct control of the prices of goods and control of supplies.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

266. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to explain the number of new appointments which have been made in the Planning and Development Department of the Government of India?

(b) What is the total number of persons appointed in this Department—

(i) whose salary is above Rs. 750; and

(ii) whose salary is below Rs. 750?

How many of these are Mussalmans?

(c) Why was the Resolution of 1934 by the Home Department reserving 25 per cent. places for the Mussalmans not followed in this new Department?

(d) If the Resolution of 1934 is not applied on the ground that posts in this Department are considered to be technical, will the Honourable Member name some posts which are not technical?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The Department was constituted on the 1st August, 1944 by the absorption of the staff of the War Resources and Reconstruction Committees of Council. The appointments made since then are—

(i) Officers (all drawing over Rs. 750)—three, of whom one is a Muslim.

(ii) Ministerial staff, including Superintendents (all drawing less than Rs. 750)—12, of whom three are Muslims.

(iii) Stenographers—three, of whom none is a Muslim.

(b) (i) Officers—seven, of whom one is a Muslim.

(ii) Ministerial Staff—34, of whom eight are Muslims.

(iii) Stenographers—seven, of whom none is a Muslim.

(c) and (d). The Home Department Resolution of 1934 which, as the Honourable Member is aware, applies only to direct recruitment and not to recruitment by promotion was followed as far as practicable in making appointments in my Department. Unfortunately no qualified Muslim stenographer was available.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If the Department was opened in August last how does the question of promotion arise? Every appointment would be a new appointment and transfer from other Departments would not constitute promotion, which usually takes place in the same Department.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is correct.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then how can my Honourable friend avoid the Resolution on the ground that these appointments are promotions?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: But we appointed as many Muslims as we could.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Apart from that, the Honourable Member said that the Resolution of 1934 cannot be applied to promotions, but as far as his Department is concerned the question of promotion does not arise.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is correct.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Do Government propose to accept the suggestion recently made by me that they should publish an annual report giving the number of officers and other employees in the various Departments and sections arranged according to communities, so as to avoid these questions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member will look into the library of the House he will find a statement of a somewhat similar nature.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is there any publication in the library which gives information for each Department community-wise of the posts occupied by them along with emoluments, apart from the General Civil List?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member may kindly put down a question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have people been taken in this Department from other Departments or new people have been recruited?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I have explained what new recruitments have been made since the Department was constituted and what has been taken over from the War Resources Committee of the Reconstruction Committee of the Council. But technically as they were taken over in a new Department the Honourable Member is correct that they must be regarded as new appointments.

DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNT OFFICES.

†267. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that permanent staff in Audit and Account Offices in India has not been afforded any relief except Rs. 14 per month as Dearness Allowance up to Rs. 200?

(b) Is it a fact that unlike other offices of the Central Government men in Audit and Account Offices have been afforded no opportunities to officiate as Superintendent in their offices?

(c) Is it a fact that in all the Audit and Account Offices in India there is more than half temporary staff and that the permanent staff has to discharge more duties and undertake responsibilities on this score?

(d) Do Government propose to afford more generous and immediate relief to the poverty-stricken permanent staff in the Audit and Account Offices in the shape of more Dearness Allowance or in revising the existing scales of pay? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) No. In common with other Central Government servants the permanent staff in Audit and Accounts Offices are eligible for the war allowance and concessional travelling allowance, details of which were given in my reply to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 176 on the 8th November 1944. In addition, ministerial Government servants in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, whose pay does not exceed Rs. 500 a month, are now eligible for a house rent allowance, and those in Delhi for a conveyance allowance as well.

(b) Promotions to the grade of superintendents in Audit and Accounts offices are normally made only from amongst men who have passed the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination.

(c) Temporary staff in all offices of Audit and Accounts average a little less than a half. In order to relieve the additional burden inevitably thrown by war conditions on permanent staff, a training reserve has been sanctioned

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

by the Auditor General in all his offices. This training reserve has been in existence for some time and will be continued for so long as circumstances require it.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d) of his Starred Question No. 176 of the 8th November 1944. I do not consider it appropriate to undertake the revision of permanent scales of pay at the present time.

DESIRABILITY OF PLACING POSTAL AUDIT OFFICES UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF AUDITOR GENERAL.

†268. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that all the Civil and Military Account and Audit Offices in India are under the direct administrative control of the Auditor General of India?

(b) Is it a fact that barring the above offices, only four Postal Audit offices in Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur and Madras are in the administrative control of the Auditor General through the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Simla?

(c) Why should the above four offices, in the interest of economy and better administration be not placed directly under the Auditor General of India?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to consider the propriety or otherwise of abolishing the Office of the Accountant General of Posts and Telegraphs, Simla, and placing the four Postal Audit Offices under the direct control of the Auditor General by having a separate section to deal with their affairs, with an extra Assistant Auditor General to cope with the increased work? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The Indian Audit Department is under the administrative control of the Auditor General of India. Military and Supply Account Offices are under the administrative control immediately of the Military Accountant General, and ultimately of the Financial Adviser War and Supply; their work is test audited only by staff under the Auditor General.

(b) In addition to the four Postal Offices, the Railway Audit Offices and the Offices of the Audit Department, Defence Services, are also administered by the Auditor General of India through officers of the rank of Accountant General.

(c) and (d). Government do not consider that it would be in the interests of economy and good administration, or even practicable to absorb the office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs in the office of the Auditor General and abolish the post of Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs which is one of the heaviest charges in the Indian Audit Department. The work done in Postal Audit Offices requires the day to-day administration of a very senior officer with special knowledge of the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

REFUSALS OF LEAVE IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

†269. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that in Audit and Account Offices men have to wait long for the grant of leave on average pay for want of a leave reserve?

(b) Is it a fact that men actually sick are refused leave for want of a leave reserve and when they produce medical certificates in support of their leave they are sent to the Chief Medical Officer for countersignature of their Medical certificates even for a month's leave on Medical ground?

(c) Do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the heads of all Departments to grant leave freely to all those who apply for leave on account of their own illness or the illness of their family members and to stop sending medical certificates for less than a month's leave to the Chief Medical Officers for countersignature?

(d) Will the Government be also pleased to consider the feasibility of raising the leave reserve in Audit and Account Offices from 10 per cent. of the sanctioned strength to 15 per cent. as before to facilitate the grant of leave freely to the most needy people? If not, why not?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) A leave reserve exists in all Audit and Accounts offices. Government are not aware that staff in these offices have to wait unduly for leave, though war conditions undoubtedly preclude the grant of leave as freely, or for such long periods, as in normal times.

(b) Government are not aware that medical leave has been refused or deferred except in cases where malingering is suspected.

(c) The Auditor General has already issued instructions that short annual leave should be freely granted. No instructions can expediently be issued precluding heads of offices from obtaining the countersignature of the competent medical officer on medical certificates if they have reason for doubting the necessity or extent of the leave recommended in them. Government have no reason to believe that Heads of Audit offices have abused their discretion in this matter.

(d) No. The leave reserve in Audit and Accounts offices is 12½ per cent. of the sanctioned strength of each grade and not 10 per cent., and this in the opinion of Government is adequate.

REST AND RECREATION ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

†270. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India have recently sanctioned the grant of travelling allowance up to a maximum of Rs. 300 to Government servants not drawing dearness allowance of Rs. 14 per month?

(b) Is the Central Government aware of the fact that in most of the Audit and Account Offices the maximum of the clerical grade is up to Rs. 200 and that very few members of the clerical grade in any Audit and Accounts Offices have been benefited by the above recreation measure?

(c) Do Government propose to extend the above concession to all the non-gazetted staff of the Audit and Account Offices, as a special case, as in their category neither any emergency cadre has been introduced, nor has any other relief measure (except the dearness allowance) been sanctioned for the permanent staff of these Offices? If not why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to his starred question No. 176 on the 8th November 1944.

UNIFIED SCALE OF PAY FOR TEMPORARY STAFF IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

†271. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that unified scale of pay has been recently sanctioned for the temporary staff in the Audit and Account Offices in India?

(b) Is it a fact that although this unified scale of pay will afford some relief to those getting less than Rs. 100 as their pay it affords practically no relief to those getting above Rs. 100 and to those who have reached the maximum of their old scale of pay?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the feasibility of revising the existing scales of pay for all such old employees of the Audit and Accounts Offices who have grown grey in the service of the Department or to grant some other compensatory allowance till such time their scales are also revised?

(d) Is it a fact that the scales of pay in the Audit and Accounts Offices are lower than those in vogue in the Imperial and Provincial Secretariats?

(e) Why should the existing low scales of pay in the Audit and Accounts Offices not be immediately revised as requested by the Audit and Accounts Offices Conference in its Session held on the 5th and 6th June, 1944, at Karachi which are as under:

Subordinate Accounts Service—Rs. 400—30—700;

Divisional Accountants—Rs. 280—20—500;

Upper Divisional Clerks—Rs. 150—15—450;

Lower Divisional Clerks—Rs. 100—5—150—10—300; and

Sorters Class in Postal Audit Offices—Rs. 60—4—160.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. Permanent staff may also elect the unified pay scale sanctioned for temporary staff for the period it is in force.

(b) The introduction of the unified scales of pay was primarily intended not to afford relief, but to facilitate recruitment and to prevent drift of staff from one Central office to another. A certain proportion of clerks in Audit and Accounts Offices will, however, on qualifying, be promoted to 'A' grade the scale for which rises to Rs. 200 per mensem.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have given to-day to part (d) of his starred question No. 267.

(d) The scales of pay in the Imperial Secretariat are higher, the relative position in the provinces is not uniform.

(e) The existing scales of pay were fixed having regard to the relative responsibilities of the work to be done, and, as already indicated. I do not consider it appropriate to undertake the revision of permanent scales of pay at the present time.

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD IN INDIA.

272. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of South African gold sold in India from the 1st April, 1944 to the 1st October, 1944?

(b) What is the purchase price of an ounce of gold from South Africa?

(c) What is the sale price of an ounce of the same in India?

(d) What is the agency by which the above said gold is sold in India?

(e) What is the total profit accrued by the sale of South African gold in India during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943?

(f) Is England or India to enjoy the profits by such sales?

(g) If India is denied the privilege of enjoying the profits, why?

(h) Did the Government of India make any representations in the matter? If so, would they be placed on the table? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (e). As I said in reply to Starred question No. 191 asked by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari on the 8th November, 1944, gold sales are made by the Reserve Bank on behalf of the Governments of the U. K. and the U. S. A. The Government of India are not aware of the origin of this gold and cannot say what quantity of the gold sold in India on behalf of these two Governments came from South Africa.

(f) to (h). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my remarks during the Budget debate on the 7th March, 1944, in reply to Mr. Krishnamachari's criticism regarding the alleged profit on gold sales.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the sale price of gold is fast going down and Government expect it to go down still further at the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a fact that the price of gold has been declining recently. As regards the future, I would prefer not to make a statement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the National War Front has been telling people that the price of gold is likely to go down at the end of the war and therefore people would be better advised to contribute to war loans rather than invest their money in gold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I believe they have been advertising to this effect.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the present tendency of the price of gold to come down will the Honourable Member take steps to stop the sale of gold to private individuals who would otherwise suffer a loss?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Nobody is compelled by the Government of India to buy gold and the individuals in question are presumably quite as capable of judging the trends as my Honourable friend or myself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that there is no private sale of gold by Government in England or America arranged for the doubtful benefit of private individuals there?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have not got detailed information but I believe my Honourable friend is correct.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have the Government of India given authority to the Reserve Bank to sell gold at prices higher than world parity prices? If so, where does the additional profit go?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As regards the first part, I cannot disclose the instructions, if any, given by the Government of India to the Reserve Bank. As regards the second part, I have already dealt with that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In whose pockets does that go and in what way is that excess profit paid? Is it not by the reduction of our one thousand crores credit in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already replied to a large number of questions on that point.

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD IN INDIA.

273. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware of the bitter comment in the Union about the flagrant case of profiteering by Britain by making a middleman's profit of sixty per cent.?

(b) Does the Union claim that this profit should legitimately go to South Africa?

(c) What is the view of the Government of India in the matter of enjoying the profits?

(d) What is the object of selling South African gold in India? Should not the margin between the London and Indian prices go to India?

(e) Is it a fact that the British Government agreed to give the Union facilities for sharing in the sale of gold on the Indian market to the extent to which the Union's import requirements justified this?

(f) Are the Government of India aware of the feeling in India that it has done nothing so far to safeguard Indian interests and that it is high time the India Government did something to secure a fair deal for themselves?

(g) Is the agreement between the Treasury of the Union and the Bank of England available for the Government of India? If so, would it be laid on the table? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I have seen some press reports from South Africa criticising the fixed price paid for gold purchased by the U. K. Government from South Africa as compared with the prices prevailing in India, and claiming that South Africa should get the benefit of the higher prices.

(c) The Government of India are not concerned in the arrangements between the U. K. and South Africa.

(d) As I have stated in my reply to question No. 272 today, no gold is sold on behalf of the South African Government. As regards the object of sales by H. M. G. and U. S. A., I would refer the Honourable Member to para. 48 of my speech on the Budget for 1944-45. As regards the latter part of the question I have nothing to add to my remarks on the 7th March, 1944, during the debate on the Budget (pages 941-42 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. II, No. 6).

(e) The Government of India are not aware of the arrangements between H. M. G. and the South African Government.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

(g) The Government of India are not aware of any such agreement between the Treasury of the Union and the Bank of England.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the special reasons that have persuaded Government to start this sale of gold to private individuals in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already explained that in my Budget Speech. Broadly speaking, the reasons were anti-inflationary.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know from the Honourable Member what is exactly meant by the agreement which he has referred to in reply to part (g) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said in reply that the Government of India are not aware of any such agreement. In reply to part (c), I said the Government of India are not concerned in the arrangements between the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the Honourable Member mean that there are some arrangements with which the Government of India are not concerned, or does he mean that there are no arrangements?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have said that the Government of India are not aware of any such agreement between the Treasury of the Union and the Bank of England.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is there any agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of South Africa?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The question I was asked is about an agreement between the Treasury of the Union and the Bank of England. I do not know about any other agreement, either.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (c), the Honourable Member replied, if I have heard him correctly, that he is not concerned with any agreement between the United Kingdom and the South African Government.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said I am not concerned in the arrangements between His Majesty's Government and the South African Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does he mean that there is an arrangement with which he is not concerned?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware, and I am not concerned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Neft question.

SECURING SILVER FROM AMERICA.

274. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India decided to secure 100,000,000 ounces of silver from the United States of America?

(b) When was the decision taken, and for what purpose?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government of India to make use of the metal to serve as an anti-inflationary device? Has the purpose been served? If so, what are the effects on currency and prices in the country?

(d) How many crores of rupees worth of silver have been sold by the Government of India since the beginning of the war?

(e) Is the sale of silver carried on in order to finance their programme of repatriation of sterling debt?

(f) What is the price realized by the sale of an ounce of silver in the manner above stated? Is it not a fact that the Indian purchaser had to pay at that time twice the amount for the same quantity?

(g) Is it not a fact that the silver sold by the Government of India accumulated over a series of years by paying not only the market price but also a special duty on silver on every ounce imported ranging from two annas to seven annas?

(h) Is it not a fact that something like eight annas in the rupee was lost by such sales by the Government of India?

(i) What is the total loss sustained by the Government of India by the above transactions?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communiques dated the 15th June and 11th July, 1944, issued on this subject. I am, however, not prepared to disclose the date on which the decision was taken.

(c) Yes, partly. Sales of silver tend to reduce the volume of currency in circulation and to lower silver prices.

(d) Information regarding the total sales of silver is published in the Central Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for each year, copies of which are supplied to

Honourable Members. In conformity with their past practice in the matter Government are not prepared to disclose their recent silver transactions.

(e) to (i). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies I gave to parts (a), (b) and (d) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 62 on the 16th September, 1942.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why are the Government of India purchasing large quantities of silver?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This question relates to a large quantity of silver which the Government of India have obtained from the Government of the United States of America.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it in return to the purchases that the United States of America are making in this country or is it a part of the Lease-Lend transactions?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a separate Lease-Lend transaction.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the answer to part (i) of this question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In answer to part (i), along with other parts, I made a reference to certain replies I gave to a previous question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In pre-war days the Government of India have themselves been in possession of large quantities of silver for the disposal of which they did not know what to do. Will the Government of India consider the advisability of stopping any further purchase of silver which is accumulating in this country and which they will have to dispose of again at the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As my Honourable friend is aware, I think circumstances alter from time to time. There have been times when the Government of India was embarrassed by an excess of silver and there have been times when the contrary was the case. The Government of India consider that at the present time the possession of large quantities of silver may be extremely useful to them in assisting to control the economic situation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

LAND LEASES EXECUTED IN ALMORA CANTONMENT.

275. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state whether the house proprietors of the Almora Cantonment executed any leases for the land they occupy within the present limits of the Almora Cantonment?

(b) On what date or dates and in what year or years were these leases executed, and were the same registered?

(c) What is the period of these leases, and on what annual rent, if any, have these been granted?

(d) What is meant by "old grant" under which the Almora Cantonment land is said to be held by the fourteen proprietors of the houses?

(e) When were these grants applied for, and when were these granted? Is there any notification of these grants having been made?

(f) Who were the original grantees?

(g) Which are the two cases where the land within the Almora Cantonment is privately owned?

(h) From where can the copies of these old grants be obtained?

(i) What were the terms of the old grant?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), (b) and (c). Of the 17 sites held by private persons for residential purposes in the Almora Cantonment, 16 are held on "Old Grants" and one on lease. This lease was executed in May of this year and was registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Almora District. The period of the lease is 30 years renewable to 90. The annual rent reserved is Re. 1 only.

(d) The sixteen sites for which no leases exist are presumed to be held under the terms of Governor General's Order No. 179 of 12th September, 1836. This

tenure is commonly known as an 'Old Grant' under which Government retain their proprietary rights in the land.

(e) There are no records traceable to show when these Old Grants were applied for or granted.

(f) A statement showing the names of the original grantees as far as they are known from the records available is laid on the table.

(g) The two cases are—

(1) Survey No. 40—A *Dharamshala* owned by one Sukhdeo.

(2) Survey No. 88—A *Takia* owned by one Musammat Naziran wife of Chotea Sakhawat.

(h) and (i). The terms of what is known as "Old Grants" are contained in General Order of the Governor General in Council No. 179, dated the 12th September, 1836, published on page 9 of the Book entitled "Rules, Regulations and Orders issued from time to time by the Governments of the Bengal, Madras and Bombay Presidencies and the competent military authorities between the years 1789 and 1899, in respect of the grant of sites of lands and the occupation of lands and houses in Cantonments in British India". This publication is available for inspection at the offices of the Cantonment Board, Almora, and the Military Estates Officer, Lucknow Circle, Lucknow Cantonment.

Statement showing the names of the past and present grantees of sites on Old Grant terms in the Almora Cantonment

Serial No.	Survey No.	Description	Name of present owner.	Name of Previous Grantee.
1	4/1	Butt Cottage	B. Har Singh	
2	28	Bungalow	B. Badri Dutt Joshi	
3	31	House	L. Jagannath Sah, Basant Lal Sah and Pyare Lal Sah, sons of L. Ishwari Lal Sah.	L. Ishwari Lal Sah.
4	35	Becket House	Jugdish Chandra Joshi, Mohan Chandra Joshi, Nabin Chandra Joshi, sons of Pt. Lachmi Datt Joshi and Pt. Hari Datt Joshi.	Pt. Laxmi Datt, Jamna Datt and Hari Datt Joshi.
5	55	Bungalow	R. S. Lala Anti Ram Sah & Sons	
6	57	Bungalow	Lala Lachmi Ram Sah Thulgaria, S/o Bhawani Das and Lala Gopal Sah S/o Amar Nath Sah.	Lala Gobind Lal Sah, S/o Late L. Moti Ram Sah.
7	74	Bungalow	Nazir Ahmed, S/o Nabi Bux	K. S. Sheikh Mohd. Husain and Nazir Ahmed.
8	107	No. 4 "The Plaisance"	L. Dwarka Persad Sah, L. Shrikrishan Persad Sah and L. Shanker Lal Sah, sons of L. Gopal Sah.	L. Eshwari Lal Sah.
9	111	Bungalow	Lala Debi Lal Sah	
10	115	Bungalow	Pt. R. D. Bhatt	
11	119	Bungalow	Jugdish Chandra Joshi, Mohan Chandra Joshi, Nabin Chandra Joshi, sons of Pt. Lakshmi Datt Joshi and Pt. Hari Datt Joshi.	Pt. Lakshmi Datt, Jumna Datt and Hari Datt Joshi, sons of R. B. Pt. Badri Datt Joshi.
12	133	Bungalow	Pt. Durga Datt Joshi	
13	136	Bungalow	Jugdish Chandra Joshi, Mohan Chandra Joshi, Nabin Chandra Joshi, sons of Pt. Lakshmi Datt Joshi and Pt. Hari Datt Joshi.	Pt. Lakshmi Datt, Jumna Datt and Hari Datt Joshi, sons of R. B. Badri Datt Joshi.
14	142	Bungalow (River View)	L. Debi Lal Sah, S/o L. Keshab Lal Sah.	Lala Keshab Lal Sah and Mr. Inder Lal.
15	145	Bungalow (Brighten Lodge).	L. Debi Lal Sah, S/o L. Keshab Lal Sah.	Lala Keshab Lal Sah and Mr. Inder Lal.
16	149	Bungalow	Lala Inder Lal, Nand Lal Durga and Pursi Sah.	

POLICY RE OWNERSHIP OF TREES STANDING ON CANTONMENT LANDS.

276. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state whether the Government of India, Army Department Notification No. 81434/5-A.D., dated May 28, 1926, regarding the policy of the Government on the ownership of trees standing on cantonment lands still holds good?

(b) Has there been any fresh notification in case the policy of the Government regarding the ownership of trees standing on cantonment land as laid down in the above notification has been revised or changed?

(c) Do the Government still stick to their answer given to starred question No. 591 (d) asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, M.L.A., and answered on the floor of this Assembly on September 11, 1936? If not, what have been the considerations compelling Government to revise the instructions mentioned as having been issued in the reply to starred question No. 591(d)?

(d) If fresh instructions have been issued, when were they issued, and were any objections from the persons affected or likely to be affected invited before issuing them?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Yes. The policy of Government is still the same, although in order to cope with the acute shortage of firewood that is general throughout India, these instructions were amplified but not superseded by the issue of further instructions under which Military Estates Officers and their Agents (Cantonment Executive Officers) were directed to market, without interfering with the occupier's use and enjoyment of growing timber, all dead and useless trees in cantonments. These instructions have been recently modified to the extent of directing that dead and useless trees in the compounds of bungalows are not to be cut down without the consent of the bungalow owner.

(c) Yes. The latter portion of the Honourable Member's question does not, therefore, arise.

(d) The instructions were issued in 1943 and 1944. Objections were not invited.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Whom do the trees that are in the compounds of private owners belong?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The trees belong to Government unless the terms of the lease contains a provision to the contrary.

CHARGES FOR TREES FELLED IN ALMORA CANTONMENT BUNGALOW-COMPOUNDS.

277. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Defence Member been drawn to G.O. No. 390/XI-30C, dated April 15, 1937, Municipal Department, Government of the United Provinces, to the G. O. C.-in-Chief, Eastern Command, Nainital?

(b) Has this G. O. been superseded by any fresh G. O. *vis a vis* making charges for trees felled in the Almora Cantonment bungalow compounds with the permission of the Cantonment Authority?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). No. Neither the Government of the U. P. nor the G. O. C.-in-Chief, the late Eastern Command, referred the matter to the Government of India. Government is not, therefore, aware either of the contents of this document. Cantonments, however, do not fall within the scope of the functions of the Provincial Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the United Provinces Tenancy Act, according to which these trees in compound of a bungalow belong to the owner of that building or the land and not to the Government or any Cantonment Board, applicable to these cantonments?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The United Provinces Tenancy Act so far as I know—I am speaking subject to correction—does not apply to bungalows in cantonments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Government of India are not prepared to extend to the owners of these bungalows at least the same rights that the tenants of land in the United Provinces are enjoying under the United Provinces Tenancy Act?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That question does not arise. The United Provinces Tenancy Act does not apply to bungalows.

SHORTAGE OF FIRE-WOOD IN ALMORA.

278. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state whether there is any considerable shortage of fire-wood in Almora?

(b) Has it been decided in the case of Almora too that in all cases where Government consider themselves the proprietor of any land, all trees, dead or surplus standing thereon within the Almora Cantonment bungalow boundaries, should be sold to the bungalow-owners at a concession rate?

(c) How many trees standing within bungalow compounds of the Almora Cantonment have been sold at concession rates or otherwise during the years 1940 to 1944? What was the revenue derived from the sale of these trees? Who was the person who fixed prices for these trees? On what basis were these prices fixed?

(d) When desiring to sell or selling these dead or surplus trees, do the Government satisfy themselves that these trees were planted by their agency or were grown through any efforts on the part of the Government?

(e) Is any opportunity given to the person who possesses the compound to prove whether the tree sought to be cut and sold was planted and cared-for by him?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No, Sir. There is no shortage of firewood in that Cantonment.

(b) Yes. General instructions to this effect which apply to all Cantonments in India, including Almora, have been issued.

(c) Only one tree standing in the compound of Bungalow No. 11/35 was sold during the years 1940—1944. This tree was sold to the bungalow-owner at the nominal price of Rs. 2. The price was fixed by the Executive Officer, Almora Cantonment, in his capacity as Agent to the Military Estates Officer of the Circle, on the basis of the size and quality of the tree and in conformance with the concessional rates laid down by the Government in the instructions alluded to in my reply to part (b) of the Honourable Member's question.

(d) and (e). These lands are Crown property and the trees standing on them belong *prima facie* to the Crown, but it is open to the occupier to show that he is entitled to the trees under the terms of the grant of the land to him.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Am I to understand that all fruit, all vegetable and other products that are produced inside the compound of a bungalow belong to the Government? Or does it belong to the private owner? This is very drastic.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not been able to follow the Honourable Member's question. Would he mind repeating it?

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: He says the trees belong to the Government. Then do the vegetables, the flowers and the fruits also belong to the Government or to the private owner?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The flowers are not trees.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Suppose there is fruit, say, Apricots or Apples. To whom do they belong?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So far as I know the lessee or licensee is entitled to enjoy the fruits of the trees.

LAND LEASES OF BUNGALOW-OWNERS OF ALMORA CANTONMENT.

279. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Defence Member been drawn to the Army Department letter No. 1010-A.D.4, dated the 10th December, 1928, to the G. O. C.-in-Chief, Eastern Command, desiring to grant land to the present bungalow-owners of the Almora Cantonment since their holdings were held by them without any lease having been executed?

(b) If these holdings were held under what is said to be old grant, why were the holders thereof desired to execute leases under rule 13 (13) of the Cantonment Land Act Rules 1925?

(c) Were any leases executed subsequent to the above communication from the Army Department? If not, what reasons were adduced by the holders thereof against the execution of such leases?

- (d) Was any survey of the Almora Cantonment land made?
- (e) Were the holders of the land given an opportunity to refute the allegation that they held the land under any grant?
- (f) Were such rights as are now being claimed by the Government ever admitted by the holders of the Almora Cantonment land?
- (g) Under what circumstances has the remark 'Government rights admitted' been noted in the General Land Register, Almora Cantonment?
- (h) Was this admission of Government rights obtained in writing? If so, when?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) In the letter quoted by the Honourable Member the Government of India stated that they had no objection to the grant of leases to eight residents of the Almora Cantonment who had expressed their desire to take out leases for the land they held on "Old Grant" terms.

(b) I am unable to say what guided these eight gentlemen in wishing to take out leases. We have no information on the matter.

(c) No leases had been executed. Government has no information on the point raised by the Honourable Member.

(d) The Special Lands Officer prepared the General Land Register and plan of the Almora Cantonment in the year 1929. A detailed survey of the Cantonment was carried out by the Survey of India in 1931-32.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Special Lands Officer in 1929 examined the whole question of tenure in this Cantonment and from his report it appears that he discussed the matter with certain individual holders of the land. In May 1913 a test case was instituted in the Civil Court against Pt. Raghubar Datt Joshi and Pt. Krishna Nand Joshi, owners of bungalows Nos. 5 and 6, who along with certain others refused to acknowledge Government's proprietary title in the land. The case was decided in March 1914 declaring Government to be the owners of the sites in dispute.

(f), (g) and (h). The Special Lands Officer, as a result of his investigation in 1929, reported to Government that only one person, the occupant of Survey No. 28, out of the 17 holders, disputed Government's title to the land. Three such written admissions on stamped paper exist; they were made in 1940-1941. The remaining 13 entries in the General Land Register alluded to by the Honourable Member were made on the Special Lands Officer's report, and it is presumed that these admissions were made to the Special Lands Officer were made orally.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it the intention of the Government to sell this Almora Cantonment to a private owner after the conclusion of the war? Is there any decision like that?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am sorry I cannot hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Has it been decided to sell the Almora Cantonment after the conclusion of the war?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: This does not arise from the question.

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD IN INDIA.

280. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how much gold has arrived in India from South Africa since the beginning of the war, and on whose account?

(b) Is it a fact that the Reserve Bank of India have, at the instance of the Government of India, sold this gold in the market? If so, how much was sold during each quarter since the sales began?

(c) Is it a fact that the entire profits on the sale of gold have been transferred to South Africa?

(d) Have the Government of India represented that a portion of these profits should come to them?

(e) Do they propose to make such representation in the future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (e). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to question No. 272 asked by Mr. K. S. Gupta to-day.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (a) my question is, how much gold has arrived in India from South Africa since the beginning of the war? This is purely the figure as recorded by the Customs people and I think the Honourable the Finance Member ought to give a reply to this. How much gold has been imported into India from South Africa? If he does not wish to answer the second part I do not want it. But how much gold has arrived since the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the total amount could be disclosed without public detriment, it would already be included in the Customs returns.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India made any profits on account of the sales of this gold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

281. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the number of committees and/or sub-committees constituted for the purpose of economic planning and development of India?

(b) Will he be pleased to lay on the table the details of the personnel of these committees?

(c) What is the number of reports submitted by each of these committees?

(d) Will the Members of the Legislature have access to these reports?

(e) Will the House be presented with a report of the work done by the Honourable Member's Department till now, together with a report of the work done by these committees?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the desired information.

(c) and (d). No reports are submitted by the Policy Committees, but a summary of the proceedings of each meeting is printed and circulated to members of the Committee. These proceedings were not intended for publication and were marked 'Confidential'.

(e) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the First and Second Reports on Reconstruction Planning.

Statement giving the number, name and personnel of Policy and Official Committees.

Name of Policy Committee—

1. General Policy Committee.
2. Policy Committee No. 1 on Re-settlement and Re-employment.
3. Policy Committee No. 2 on Disposals, Contracts and Government Purchases.
4. Policy Committee No. 3A on Transport.
5. Policy Committee No. 3B on Posts and Aviation.
6. Policy Committee No. 3C on Public Works and Electric Power.
7. Policy Committee No. 4A on Trade and Commerce.
8. Policy Committee No. 4B on Industries.
9. Policy Committee No. 4C on Shipping.
10. Policy Committee No. 5 on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Personnel.—A list is given below.

Official Sub-Committee—

There are official sub-committees corresponding to the Policy Committees except in respect of General Policy.

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

List of Members of the Various Policy Committees.

- NOTE.**—1. Representatives of the Government of India will be nominated with reference to the agenda for the meeting.
2. Representatives of Provincial Governments will be nominated by these Governments for each meeting.
3. The names and addresses of representatives of Indian States and non-officials on each Policy Committee are given below.

(a) States' Representatives

1. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.,
2. Sir Mirza Ismail, K.C.I.E.
3. Mir Maqbool Mahmood.

(b) Non-Officials

1. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, C.I.E., M.B.E.,
2. Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta, M.L.A.,
3. Sir George Morton, O.B.E., M.C.,
4. Mr. G. D. Birla,
5. Mr. G. L. Mehta,
6. The Honourable Sir Rahimtoolah Chinoy,
7. Sir Robert Menzies,
8. Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, K.C.I.E.,
9. Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh,
10. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A.,
11. The Honourable Sir K. Ramunni Menon,
12. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam,
13. Mr. N. R. Sarker,
14. Chowdhery Mukhtar Singh,
15. Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, K.C.I.E.,
16. Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, M.L.A.,
17. Mr. M. A. Ispahani,
18. Sir Muhammad Nawaz Khan, M.L.A.,
19. Mr. C. S. Rangaswami,
20. Begam J. A. Shah Nawaz,
21. Mr. A. D. Shroff,
22. Kumararajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad,
23. Mr. F. R. Anthony, M.L.A.,
24. Sir Joseph Bhore, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 1—RESETTLEMENT AND RE-EMPLOYMENT

(a) States' Representatives

1. B. A. Gaekwar, Esq.,
2. Syed Bashir Hussain Zaidi, C.I.E.,
3. Captain R. G. Wreford.

(b) Non-Officials

1. Mr. S. C. Joshi, M.A., LL.B.,
2. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, C.I.E., M.B.E.,
3. Mr. E. S. Miller,
4. Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, M.L.A.,
5. Mr. Sakarlal Balabhai, M.L.A.,
6. Mr. W. A. M. Walker, C.B.E., M.L.A.,
7. Lala Lakshmi Pat Singhania,
8. Mr. A. H. Bishop,
9. Mr. Ratanchand Hirachand,
10. Piere Lall Kureel Talib, M.L.A.,
11. Mr. Zahur Ahmed Choudhary, M.L.A. (Bengal).
12. The Honourable Maharaja Srischandra Nandy of Cossimbazar,
13. Nawab Sir Muhammad Yusuf, Bar.-at-Law, M.L.A.,
14. Raja Sri Ram Seth, M.L.C.,
15. Sir Muhammad Nawaz Khan, M.L.A.,
16. Mr. V. B. Karnik, Advocate,
17. Major Nawab Jamshed Ali Khan, M.B.E., M.L.A.,
18. Rai Sahib Captain Sunder Singh Bahadur, O.B.I., I.A., (Retd.),
19. The Honourable Sir A. P. Patro, K.C.I.E.,
20. Rao Bahadur Hony. Capt. Choudhuri Lal Chand, O.B.E.,
21. Raja Jagannath Baksh Singh,
22. The Honourable Sirdar Sir Buta Singh, Kt., C.B.E.,
23. Sardar Raghubir Singh Sandhanwalia, O.B.E.,
24. Mr. F. R. Anthony, M.L.A.

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 2—DISPOSALS, CONTRACTS AND GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

(a) States' Representatives

1. Mr. Ghulam Muhammad,
2. Maharaj Shri Birbhadra Singhji of Dungarpur,
3. Sirdar K. M. Panikkar.

(b) Non-Officials

1. Sir Shri Ram,
2. Sir Bernard Pratt,
3. Mr. J. C. Lancashire,
4. Mr. W. A. M. Walker, C.B.E., M.L.A.,
5. Mr. W. R. Watt, C.B.E.,

6. Mr. C. A. Innes,
7. Mr. J. C. Mahindra,
8. Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai,
9. Sir Padamji P. Ginwala,
10. Nawab Sir Syed Maratab Ali,
11. Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee, M.L.A.,
12. Mr. M. A. H. Ispahani,
13. The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sobha Singh, O.B.E.,
14. Mr. G. D. Naidu,
15. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi, C.B.E.,
16. Rai Bahadur Rameshwar Prasad Bagla,
17. Mr. S. K. Sen.

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 3A—ON TRANSPORT

(a) States' Representatives

1. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh,
2. Sir Manubhai Mehta, C.S.I.,
3. Sirdar D. K. Sen, M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.), Bar.-at-Law.

(b) Non-Officials

1. Mr. R. R. Bhole, B.Sc., LL.B.,
2. Sir Henry Birkmyre, Bart.,
3. Mr. Nur Mahomed Chinoy,
4. Mr. D. R. Gadgil,
5. Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal, M.A., Ph.D. (Lond.), M.L.A. (Bengal),
6. Mr. W. W. Ladden,
7. Mr. G. C. H. Kent,
8. Sir Biren Mookerjee,
9. Mr. K. Santhanam,
10. Malik Sohan Singh,
11. Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, C.I.E., M.L.A.,
12. Rai Bahadur Sant Ram,
13. The Honourable Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, K.C.I.E., M.L.C.,
14. The Honourable Mr. R. H. Parker,
15. Sir Renwick Haddow,
16. Mr. M. A. Master,

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 3B—ON POSTS AND AVIATION

(a) States' Representatives

1. Nawab-Khusru Jung,
2. Mir Maqbool Mahomood,
3. Mr. Kishenpuri.

(b) Non-Officials

1. Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai,
2. Mr. J. R. D. Tata,
3. Mr. A. F. T. Cambridge,
4. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, M.L.A.,
5. The Honourable Sir Rahimtoolah Chinoy,
6. Mr. G. L. Mehta,
7. Mr. R. C. Lawson,
8. Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, M.L.A.,
9. F/Lt. Rup Chand.

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 3C—PUBLIC WORKS AND ELECTRIC POWER

(a) States' Representatives

1. Sir Mirza Ismail, K.C.I.E.,
2. Mr. N. Madava Rao,
3. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.,

(b) Non-Officials

1. Mr. B. R. Kegal, B.E., M.I.E., M.R. SanI.,
2. Mr. H. W. T. Hain, C.B.E.,
3. Mr. Dharamasey Mulraj Khatau,
4. Mr. N. N. Iengar,
5. Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal,
6. Mr. D. Gladding.

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 4A—TRADE AND COMMERCE

(a) States' Representatives

1. Mr. Ahmed Mohiddin,
2. Pandit Amar Nath Atal,
3. Mr. Abdul Kadir Mohammad Hossain.

(b) Non-Officials

1. The President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry,
2. Mr. G. D. Birla,
3. The President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India,
4. Mr. W. K. M. Langley, C.B.E.,
5. Mr. B. S. Dabke, B.Com., F.R. Econ. S., F.S.S., (Lond.),
6. Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, M.L.A. (Central),
7. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam,
8. Mr. D. L. Subbiah,
9. Sir Chunilal B. Mehta,
10. Mr. K. C. Neogy, M.L.A. (Central),
11. The Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú,
12. Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, C.I.E., M.L.A., (Central),
13. Sir Swetachalapati Ramakrishna Ranga Row Bahadur Varu,
14. Dr. J. P. Niyogi, M.A., Ph.D.,
15. Dr. John Mathai, B.A., B.L., B.Litt. (Oxon.), D.Sc., (Lond.),
16. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, M.A., Ph.D., Bar-at-Law,
17. Dr. A. Krishnaswami, M.A., Ph.D.,
18. Kumararaja Sir Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad.

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 4B—INDUSTRIES.

(a) States' Representatives.

1. Sir Mirza Ismail, K.C.I.E.,
2. Mr. Ghulam Mohammed.

(b) Non-Officials

1. Sir George Morton, O.B.E., M.C.,
2. Sri Dewan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, C.B.E.,
3. Sir Shri Ram,
4. Mr. Bishen Das Basil, M.I.E., (Ind.),
5. Sir Padampat Singhania,
6. Mr. Dwarka Basi,
7. Sir Frederick James, O.B.E., M.L.A.,
8. Mr. G. L. Mehta,
9. Dr. John Mathai, B.A., B.L., B.Litt., D.Sc. (Lond.),
10. Mr. M. A. Isphani,
11. Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, M.L.A. (Central),
12. President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries,
13. President, Associated Chambers of Commerce, Royal Exchange,
14. Mr. J. R. D. Tata,
15. Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar,
16. Sir Padamji Ginwala,
17. Mr. N. R. Sarkar,
18. Mr. G. D. Birla,
19. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, C.I.E., M.B.E.,
20. Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai,
21. Mr. Walchand Hirachand,
22. R. A. Khedgikar, M.L.A.

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 4C—SHIPPING.

(a) States' Representatives.

1. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.,
2. Mr. S. V. Mukerji.

(b) Non-Officials.

1. Mr. Walchand Hirachand,
2. Mr. M. A. Master,
3. Mr. W. L. A. Radcliffe,
4. Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi, M.L.A. (Central),
5. Mr. K. C. Neogy, M.L.A. (Central),
6. Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Mohd. Shahban, J.P., M.L.A. (Central),
7. The Honourable Mr. A. Z. M. Rezai Karim,
8. Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, K.C.I.E.

POLICY COMMITTEE No. 5—AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.

(a) States' Representatives.

1. Mr. M. J. Narasimhan,
2. Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, K.B.E.,
3. Mr. K. S. Sursinhji.

(b) Non-Officials.

1. The President, Associated Chambers of Commerce,
2. The President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce,
3. Sir Swetachalapati Ramakrishna Ranga Row Bahadur Varu,
4. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam,
5. Sir Frederick James, M.L.A.,

6. Sir Chunilal B. Mehta,
7. Khan Bahadur M. A. Momin, C.I.E.,
8. Mr. F. I. Rahimtoola, C.I.E.,
9. Mr. P. N. Singh Roy,
10. Mr. Roger Thomas, C.I.E., J.P.,
11. Sirdar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh,
12. Dr. L. C. Jain, D.Sc. (Econ.) (Lond.),
13. Chowdhery Mukhtar Singh,
14. Sir Manilal Nanavati,
15. Prof. J. N. Mukherji, C.B.E.,
16. Dr. Sam Higginbotham,
17. Sardar Vivek Singh Majithia,
18. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi, C.B.E.,
19. Sri Rao Bahadur N. R. Samiappa Mudaliar, M.L.C.,
20. Sri Rao Bahadur R. V. Ramasundaram Pillai, B.A.,
21. Dr. A. Krishnaswami, M.A., Ph.D.,
22. Mr. R. L. Biswas.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member with regard to (a) whether it means that the reports will not be available for Members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: They were not intended to be available to Members of the Legislature, but if the Members of the Legislature desire it, I would have no objection to laying them on the table of the House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Copies could be placed in the Library.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any committees or sub-committees to plan for livestock improvement in this country, for agriculture and also for forests?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any steps been taken by Government to see that people actually engaged in raising and looking after livestock and engaged in agriculture, fisheries and cottage industries have been taken into consideration?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: They will have adequate representation on the Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied with the amount of representation they have given and the kind of representatives they have selected so far?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS.

282. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the relationship between his Department and similar Departments that exist in the Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraph II of Part I of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning.

The Departments in the Provinces prepare their own plans for subjects within their responsibilities under the general guidance of the Centre. The plans will then be co-ordinated by the Centre subject to the agreement of the Provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any committee to co-ordinate the efforts of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments in this matter of planning?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not necessary to establish a Co-ordination committee so that it may be possible for the Honourable Member to know what the Provinces are doing and for Provinces to know what the Centre is doing and also to co-ordinate the plans as they are being developed by the Provinces as well as by the Centre?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The centre is aware of what the Provinces are doing and the Provinces are aware of what the Centre is doing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But what efforts are being taken by the Government of India here to see that their plans are being developed in co-ordination with the Provincial Governments and that Provincial Governments are satisfied with the development of the Central Government's plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is one of the principal objects of this Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if Government is aware that some Provincial Governments have already published plans for reconstruction and whether these plans are a part of the co-ordinated whole or that these parts will be co-ordinated afterwards?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Government of India is aware that some Provinces have already published the first report of their plans. The co-ordination is to come at a later stage after reports from the various Provinces are received.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Has the Government of Bengal started a Planning and Development Department?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Is it working in co-ordination with the Centre?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: We have not yet received any report from the Government of Bengal.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS.

283. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether planning and development activities for Central Government and the Provincial Governments have been demarcated; and

(b) whether Provinces and Indian States as such are represented in the Committees functioning under his Department?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The Provinces will prepare plans for subjects within their own responsibility but in order to secure a balanced economic development of the whole country the Centre will co-ordinate the plans. The matter is one of agreement and mutual adjustment with Provinces.

(b) Provinces as such have been represented on the Policy Committees, certain State representatives have been nominated to each of these Committees by H. E. the Crown Representative to speak not only for their own States but also for other States when so required by them.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he is aware that Sir Shanmukham Chetty, a member of the General Policy Committee stated at a meeting of the Reconstruction Committee, Madras, that he was not aware of the limits of interference by the Centre in matters Provincial, since they were not properly demarcated and therefore he was not in a position to enlighten the Madras Reconstruction Committee?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I am not aware of what Sir Shanmukham Chetty said.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member kindly make enquiries?

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Laljee: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the Indian States will place before the Central Government their schemes of planning?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Many of the major Indian States are preparing their schemes of planning.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Laljee: Will they place them before the Central Government. We are taking them into confidence with regard to our plans and I want to know whether they will return the courtesy.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I cannot speak on behalf of the Indian States but, as far as I am aware, the States are very keen on co-operating with the Centre in the matter of industrial development.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: May I know whether the Honourable Member is aware that the officer placed in charge of Planning and Development in Bengal has taken six months' leave?

POSITION OF INSURED PROPERTY

284. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the position of the property—movable and immovable—insured in different companies?

(b) Is it a fact that these companies are making an attempt to absolve themselves from the payment of the damages of insured property?

(c) Was the Government approached on this question, and, what was its decision?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). If, as I presume, the Honourable Member is referring to property covered by insurance, which was damaged in the Bombay explosions, I would invite his attention to the Government of India Press Communique, dated the 30th May, 1944, outlining the scheme of compensation to the victims of the Bombay explosion and to Section 14 of the Bombay Explosion (Compensation) Ordinance, 1944, which is published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated the 1st July, 1944.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether people whose properties were insured have already received payment from Government and from the insurance companies?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Quite a number of claims have already been settled: that is my information.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Has any compensation been paid so far or will it be paid after the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Compensation is to be paid before the end of the war. It is being paid as and when claims are examined and settled.

RADIO LICENCES AND RADIOS IMPORTED UNDER LEND-LEASE.

285. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the total number of radio licences in India at the last available date?

(b) How many radios have been imported into India under the Lend-Lease from the United States of America?

(c) How many of them have been sold?

(d) Is it a fact that these radios have come under the Lend-Lease, i.e., free of cost to the United Kingdom, but that full value is realised in India for them and the money credited to the Government of the United Kingdom?

(e) At various stations in India what percentage of the total time that the radio is operating is devoted to war news, war reviews, relays, discourses relating to war from other countries, and generally to topics connected with the war?

(f) What is the increase in the expenditure of the All-India Radio per year since the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The number of radio receiver licences in British India on 30th September, 1944 was 1,89,945.

(b) 40,917.

(c) 27,701 sets have been sold through commercial channels.

(d) All the sets were sent originally on Lease-Lend but Lease-Lend was withdrawn in regard to all sets sold to the trade. These were on cash reimbursible basis i.e., dollars have to be paid to the U.S.A. Government for 27,701 sets. The reference to the Government of U.K. does not arise. It is the standing practice to realise the rupee cost of all articles received on Lease-Lend which are issued to the Public or to a Commercial Department of Government.

(e) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(f) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the increase in expenditure of All-India Radio since the beginning of the war.

Year	Expenditure	Increase over previous year
	Rs.	Rs.
1939-40.	25,46,700	
1940-41.	30,24,000	4,77,300
1941-42.	33,40,900	3,16,900
1942-43.	38,55,800	5,14,900
1943-44 (Revised† Estimates)	47,86,000	9,30,200

†Actuals not yet available.

Mr. Manu Subedar: After the rupee part is realised from the Departments, who receive these goods, how is the rupee part converted into dollars for payment to the United States of America?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is through the Reserve Bank of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: From what source were the private bills paid to India for goods sold by us to the U.S.A.? I was told that all these dollars go to the pool. I want to know whether Indian requirements for these payments are made out of the pool?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are made out of the pool.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What profits are fixed on these radios when they are sold by private agencies?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is fixed by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department under the provisions of the Anti-Profiteering and Anti-Hoarding Ordinance.

EQUIPMENT IMPORTED FOR THE ALL-INDIA RADIO

286. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what additional equipment has been imported for the All-India Radio since the beginning of the war?

(b) From which country was it imported, and what was the price paid?

(c) In how many languages is the All-India Radio now operating?

(d) How many of them are non-Indian and foreign languages, and which are they?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the "Indian Listener" copies of which are available in the Library of the Legislature.

Statement showing the equipment imported for All-India Radio since the beginning of the war, the country from which imported and the cost of the equipment.

Detail of the equipment	Country from which imported	Cost of the equipment (roundly)
Transmitter equipment		Rs.
1 100 k. w. shortwave	United Kingdom	9,89,000
1 10 k. w. medium-wave	U. S. A.	1,64,000
1 5 k. w. " "	United Kingdom	1,19,000
Studio equipment		
4 sets	U. S. A.	3,50,000
Miscellaneous spare parts		
for various stations of All-India Radio.	U. S. A.	1,45,000

(including stores worth Rs. 85,000 imported under Lease/Lend terms).

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (d), viz., broadcasting in foreign languages, may I know whether this is considered as part of the war effort?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, in that case, whether India gets any credit from the Allied Nations with regard to the money spent in this manner?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: India is in the war and it is part of its war effort.

EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

287. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state when the Empire Dollar Pool was formed, and under whose auspices?

(b) If it has been formed, what is the constitution? Are the Government of India consulted before its formation? If not, why not?

(c) Are the Government of India in a position to give authentic information regarding the credits in the Empire Dollar Pool and allocation therefrom made to India so far?

(d) Is it a fact that India's dollar credits have been credited to the Empire Dollar Pool?

(e) Why has no information as to the manner in which these dollars have been utilized not been made available in this country? Would the Government of India see to the publication of the information at an early date to allay public suspicion?

(f) Is it not a fact that the suggestion of the Indian Delegation to secure convertability of at least a portion of India's Sterling balances into International currency in the transition period was turned down at the Bretton Woods Conference?

(g) Do the Government of India realize even now the urgent need of independent dollar resources of her own for her post-war development?

(h) Do the Government of India propose to secure the dissolution of the Empire Dollar Pool and allocation of dollars to India on a *pro rata* basis?

(i) What percentage is now being credited in dollars in favour of this country, and how much dollar balances have accumulated?

(j) Are the Government of India prepared to make arrangements for all the dollars accruing to India's credit out of her favourable trade balances or out of the expenses and purchases of the American Army in India which should forthwith be put in a separate account and made available to this country till the allocations from the Empire Dollar Pool are complete?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The arrangement to pool foreign exchange resources of countries of the British Empire in the event of war was made in London in 1939 on a suggestion by H.M.G. and the Bank of England.

(b) Under the pooling arrangement H.M.G. was given control of all foreign exchange resources of the sterling area. Members agreed to introduce parallel systems of exchange control and in return they were entitled to obtain their foreign exchange requirements from the Bank of England. The answer to the 2nd part of the question is in the affirmative.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) I have already explained previously and also stated recently in reply to Mr. Neogy's question No. 27 of 3rd November, 1944, that the dollars in the Common Empire Pool are used for meeting the essential import requirements of the sterling area countries. Further information cannot be given without detriment to the public interest.

(f) Yes.

(g) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to para. 52 of my Budget speech for 1944-45.

(h) and (j). The prosecution of the Common war effort renders necessary the continuance of the present arrangements.

(i) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the arrangement mentioned in para. 52 of my Budget speech. I regret I am not in a position to give any further information.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the essential requirements for which this dollar pool is used, as the Honourable Member said, relates not only to munitions and war materials but also to the requirements of the civilian population of the sterling areas?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They refer largely to the first item but they also include the latter categories, because unless the civilian population can be maintained in a satisfactory manner munitions production, etc., cannot go on.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask why the dollar requirements of the civilian population of India are being stinted and why dollar exchange is not given to private parties when they ask for it, even in a reasonable measure?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This is a question as to what is regarded as reasonable. Some of the objects which my Honourable friend mentioned the other day are not objects which can be given a high priority in war time but the requirements of the civilian population of India are entitled to consideration in this matter just as much as the requirements of other civil populations.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member promise to consider that there are numerous factories, industrialists and those who are producing essential goods in this country who are in need of some essential parts, some lubricants, replacements or equipment? Will my Honourable friend promise to look into these numerous applications which have been rejected?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If these requirements are for purposes which are essential at the present time I consider that they should be given reasonable priority but it depends entirely on the competing claims.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is an apprehension in business quarters that Government is trying to divert the demand for goods from the U.S.A. into the United Kingdom and that they are discouraging people from taking their essential requirements from the U.S.A. and one of the methods of such discouragement is the refusal to give dollar exchange?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not the correct way of stating the position. The fact of the matter is that the supplies of dollars are inadequate for the demands which might be placed on the U.S.A. and the only cure for that situation is to ration the supply of dollars and to divert demands which cannot be satisfied from America to other sources of supply.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That might be the case with the United Kingdom; but is it not a fact that India, if her own share of export was considered, has got more than enough, and that in spite of the fact that we export so much to the U.S.A. we are not given the benefit of these dollars?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The developments of the war may throw up an extra accretion of dollars in one or other part of the empire at different times.

Mr. Manu Subedar: We want our own dollars.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They may be your own dollars, but the position is they arise partly from the fact, for instance, that the whole of the productive population of Britain is engaged on producing munitions of war and cannot be engaged on activities which would result in the earning of dollars; but those munitions of war are also used on India's behalf. The only way in which all these factors can be taken into account is by treating the whole as one unit. It is true that at the present time there is on balance an accretion of dollars to India; but it would not be possible to carry on the war if factors of that kind were to be given predominating influence.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (f) of the question, the Honourable Member referred us to his last Budget speech. May I know how he could anticipate the decisions of the Bretton Woods Conference which was held later, in his Budget speech which was given much earlier?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reply to part (f) was "Yes".

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (i) of the question, the Honourable Member promised in his Budget speech that they will set apart a dollar pool for India: may I know if it is coming about?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I stated the other day, that is already being carried out.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any steps be taken to see at least before the next Budget is introduced, that some action will be taken.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

REPRESENTATION re INDO-BRITISH FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT.

288. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether there is any representation or communication to the Government of India by the Indian Chamber of Commerce on the Indo-British Financial Settlement regarding allocation of military defence expenditure as between His Majesty's Government and India?

(b) Is it not a fact that the following observation has been made by the Indian Chamber of Commerce "When the poverty of the people, their low standard of living and their extremely limited general taxable capacity are taken into account India has been made to pay towards the cost of war out of all proportion to her ability and her actual sacrifices have to be calculated in terms of scarcity, privation and suffering of the people"?

(c) What have the Government of India to say about the facts stated therein?

(d) Are the Government of India aware that the Indian public has all along been dissatisfied with the Indo-British Financial Settlement, and that they express their strong sense of resentment at the efforts that are still continued to be made by responsible people in the United Kingdom to minimise India's financial contribution to the war and to urge enhancement of the burden imposed upon her?

(e) What have the Government of India done to resist the attempts that are being made to increase the incidence of defence expenditure on India?

(f) Is it not desirable to have a rigid distinction between a measure for local defence of India and one for imperial defence?

(g) Is it not a fact that India has made a substantial contribution to the common war effort through reciprocal aid under lease-lend to the United States of America?

(h) What is the present position of India with regard to lease-lend question?

(i) Is there any financial benefit received by India as a result of lease-lend supplies from the United States of America? If so, what is the total benefit derived by India in the years 1942 and 1943 or as a whole up-to-date?

(j) Do Government propose to see that India should be made responsible only for such portion of the American expenditure in India as is directly incurred for India's legitimate defence, and that it should not exceed the value of such lease-lend aid as is actually received by India for her own defence purposes?

(k) Are the Government of India prepared to make an authoritative declaration on this subject? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The observation stated a point of view.

(d) The Government of India are aware that a section of the public has given expression to the views mentioned.

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to my last Budget speech.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to my Budget speeches and the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee for an account of the manner in which measures for the local defence of India are determined.

(g) Yes.

(h) and (i). The position is indicated in my last Budget speech.

(j) and (k). The scope of Reciprocal Aid given by the Government of India was indicated in my last Budget speech. Reciprocal Aid to the United States Government has not so far exceeded the value of Lease-Lend benefits received by India for her own purposes. Should this happen the policy of the Government of India would have to be again considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Government of India have departed from the ceiling obligation of India in the matter of military expenditure, both in the matter of army and navy and aircraft, and that India is now burdened with a much larger share of the costs?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is not a fact that the Government of India have so departed: there was no ceiling arrangement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Under the Chatfield scheme there was a ceiling arrangement.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I do not understand to what the Honourable Member is referring. The Government of India have not departed from the principles of the settlement.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

†289. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no Muslim officer in the Office of the Deputy Accountant General of Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that four Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks were brought to work in the above office from Madras?

(c) Do Government propose to replace these Madrasis by Muslim officers?

(d) Are Government servants of the above office provided with free quarters outside Delhi and Simla?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me on the 3rd November, 1944, to part (c) of his starred question No. 80 and part (b) of his starred question No. 81.

(c) No. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given by me to part (d) of his starred question No. 80 on the 3rd November, 1944.

(d) As no portion of the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, is located outside Delhi, this question does not arise.

REST AND RECREATION AND WAR ALLOWANCES

†290. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India had sanctioned the grant of travelling allowance up to a maximum of Rs. 300 to Government servants not enjoying the Dearness Allowance?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have now sanctioned war allowance equal to 10 per cent. of pay to officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 with marginal adjustment up to Rs. 1,100?

(c) Will the above travelling allowance also be paid to all the officers now in receipt of the war allowance? If so, do Government propose to extend this concession to the entire non-gazetted clerical staff in Audit and Accounts Offices in India who are also paid 10 per cent. war allowance from the 1st July, 1944? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to parts (e), (f) and (g) of his starred question No. 176 on 8th November, 1944.

DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNT OFFICES

†291. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that in all Audit and Accounts Offices in India there is more than half temporary staff and that the permanent staff has to discharge more duties and responsibilities on this score?

(b) Do Government propose to afford more generous and immediate relief to the poverty-stricken permanent staff in Audit and Accounts Offices

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

in the shape of more Dearness Allowance or in revising the existing scales of pay? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me today to parts (c) and (d) of his starred question No. 267.

REFUSALS OF LEAVE IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNT OFFICES

†292. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that in Audit and Accounts Offices men have to wait long for the grant of leave on average pay for want of a leave reserve?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in affirmative, what arrangements do Government propose to make for it?

(c) Is it a fact that the scales of pay in Audit and Accounts Offices are most low and inadequate than those in vogue in Imperial and Provincial Secretariats?

(d) If the answer to (c) above is in affirmative, what do Government propose to do in the matter of revising their scales?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me today to part (a) of his starred question No. 269 and parts (d) and (e) of his starred question No. 271.

DETENTION OF MR. MADHO SHRIPAD GOKHALE

293. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Madho Shripad Gokhale was arrested on the 26th March, 1944, under the Defence of India Rules under orders of the Government of India;

(b) whether his case has been examined by the Government of India with a view to his release, and, if so, what the result is;

(c) whether Mr. Gokhale has been denied interview with his relatives for important personal business;

(d) whether the Government of India was informed by one of his relatives that his insurance policy could not be revived unless a medical certificate from the Oriental Company's doctor could be produced;

(e) whether the Government of India had refused to allow the Insurance Company's doctor to examine Mr. Gokhale, and, if so, whether the Government of India would be responsible for compensating the Company for the loss which will be caused on account of such a refusal; and

(f) whether the Government of India propose to reconsider this question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) He was detained by order of the Central Provinces Government on the date mentioned and subsequently by the Central Government.

(b) to (f). For security reasons certain special restrictions had to be imposed in this case. I myself kept in close touch with it throughout and as soon as I was satisfied that these restrictions could be removed they were removed and Mr. Gokhale released.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I thank the Honourable Member for this one act of justice which his Department has promptly done?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if this was due to a change in policy towards the detainees and if so will it be followed up towards other detainees?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

NAMES OF WEEK DAYS CHANGED BY AWAZ

294. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to say whether he knows that the fortnightly *Awaz* edited by his Department has now changed the names of the days of the week to Urdu words, such as "Peer" for "Sunwar", "Jumma Rat" for

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

"Vrispat" and "Haftah" for "Sanichar"? If so, why have these names been adopted instead of those commonly in use and are understood by both Hindus and Muhammadans?

(b) Are the words "Peer" and "Haftah" Urdu or Hindi or Persian words, and have they ever been used for "Sumwar" and "Sanichar" by Hindus?

(c) What is the policy of the Information and Broadcasting Department for the selection of words to be used for broadcasting?

(d) Is it a fact that to remove the controversy regarding Urdu and Hindi the Honourable Member sometimes stated on the floor of the House that only Hindustani words which are understood by both Hindus and Muslims, would be used?

(e) Who is the editor of this *Awaz*? What is his other position in the Department? Under whose instructions has he used the aforesaid words?

(f) Do Government propose to change these words to the original words in use or to such words which could be understood equally by both Hindus and Muslims? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No. These words were always used in the *Awaz* which is an Urdu journal; Hindi equivalents are used in *Sarang* which is a Hindi journal.

(b) For the origin of these words, the Honourable Member should refer to an Etymological dictionary. They are used by many Hindus.

(c) and (d): The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 8th November/ to Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh's Starred question No. 170.

(e) *Awaz* is edited by Mr. Ghulam Abbas, who holds the post of Sub-Editor in the office of the Editor, *Indian Listener*. The office of the *Indian Listener* produces all the three magazines: *Indian Listener*, *Awaz* and *Sarang*. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(f) No. This is not necessary in view of the reply to part (a) of the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member has ever heard the word "Peer" used for Monday?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes; it is very extensively used in that part of the country from which I come.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it the policy of the Government. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

MODIFICATION OF INDO-BRITISH FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

295. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Does the Honourable the Finance Member propose to give particulars to this House of the agreement regarding the apportionment of Defence expenditure incurred by India between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government?

(b) Has there been any change in this agreement since these terms were given in 1941?

(c) When did the British Government press for its revision?

(d) Did the Government of India at any time put forward a ceiling figure for Defence expenditure to be borne by India and the entire balance to be borne by the United Kingdom?

(e) Was such a representation received by the Government of India from any public body?

(f) Are Government aware that a much larger share than India should bear is being thrown on the Indian revenues and the existing burden of Defence expenditure is beyond the capacity of this country?

(g) What is the total Defence expenditure of India in the year 1943-44?

(h) Is it not a fact that it has exceeded the estimate as given in the Budget speech by the Finance Member?

(i) In addition to these charges being borne by the Indian revenues, is it not a fact that enormous amount of materials are purchased at controlled prices

for the Government of the United Kingdom for which the latter does not propose to make immediate or definite and certain payment?

(j) What do Government propose to do for safeguarding India's true interests?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my Budget speech for 1940-41.

(b) No.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my Budget speech for 1943-44.

(d) No.

(e) Yes.

(f) The answer to this, in so far as it is not a request for an expression of opinion, is in the negative.

(g) The revised estimates for 1943-44 provide for a sum of Rs. 300.94 crores to be borne by India as her share of the defence expenditure.

(h) Yes.

(i) While His Majesty's Government themselves make purchases of certain items in India, certain other items are purchased by the Government of India on account of His Majesty's Government at the best prices that can be secured. For the latter class of purchases His Majesty's Government afford sterling credits to India.

(j) Government are continually doing all in their power to safeguard India's true interests.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What was the share of the United Kingdom? India's share was mentioned as 344 crores; what is the United Kingdom's share of war expenditure incurred in India in the year 1943-44?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I have not got that with me; but I must point out that most of the questions are directly answered in the Budget speech in some detail.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have departed from the salutary practice and from the point which was represented by so many associations and the public of India that there should be limitation on the cost of the war, which India can bear, and that the whole of the rest should be borne by the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is a large question, but in my opinion it is not possible to place a ceiling in terms of rupees on the amount of any country's war effort.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Government of India agreed to the expenditure of Rs. 80 crores on aerodromes which nobody is using and nobody will use and which the taxpayers of this country cannot bear?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware of aerodromes which nobody has used and nobody will use.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was Rs. 80 crores spent on aerodromes or not?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing. Next question.

THE UNITED KINGDOM COMMERCIAL CORPORATION.

296. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the U.K.C.C. is a company registered in the United Kingdom, or is it working under a special charter?

(b) Is it a fact that the U.K.C.C. is making very large profits by sale to India and by purchase from India and sale in other markets?

(c) Is it a fact that they have refused to disclose their operations to the Government of India from time to time?

(d) Since when has the U.K.C.C. operated in India and on such operations what attempt has the Finance Department made to recover income-tax on their profits, as in the profit of every one else who is operating in India?

(e) Is not the activity of the U.K.C.C. coming under the Government Trading Taxation Act, 1926?

(f) Why has the Finance Department been slack in the matter of recovering income-tax from the U.K.C.C.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The United Kingdom Commercial Corporation is a Company registered in the United Kingdom under the United Kingdom Companies Act, 1929.

(b) No. The Government of India understand that this is not true of the Corporation's activities as a whole.

(c) No. The transactions of the U.K.C.C. are reported to the Government of India every month.

(d) The U.K.C.C. has been operating in India since 1941. As regards the latter part of the question, the Income-Tax Department have, as in other cases, started assessment proceedings.

(e) No.

(f) There has been no slackness. Time has had to be allowed for the preparation of detailed figures.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: In view of the misgivings created in the public mind by the activities of the U.K.C.C., will the Honourable Member secure a copy of the articles of association of the U.K.C.C. and lay it on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That really is a question for my Honourable colleague the Commerce Member.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD IN INDIA

297. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Reserve Bank is acting as an agent for the South African Government for the sale of gold in India? If not, on whose behalf is this gold being sold?

(b) With regard to profits made on the sale of gold in this country, what attempt has been made by the Finance Department to recover the income-tax thereon?

(c) Is this not a trading transaction within the scope of the Government Trading Taxation Act, 1926?

(d) What commission is charged by the Reserve Bank on this operation?

(e) Have the Government of India asked for a share of the profits? If not, why not?

(f) In any case, are all profits earned in India liable to tax?

(g) Why are these particular profits allowed to escape?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative. For the 2nd part I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to question No. 272 asked by Mr. K. S. Gupta today.

(b), (c) and (e), (f) and (g). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave to Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari's starred question No. 191 on the 8th November 1944.

(d) The information is not available.

ORDINANCE NO. 45 OF 1944

298. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware of great dissatisfaction with regard to Ordinance No. 45 of 1944 to remove doubts as to the validity of certain notices under the Indian Income-tax Act of 1922 and Excess Profits Tax of 1940?

(b) Is he aware that this Ordinance seeks to give retrospective effect?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government to bring a Bill in this House in substitution of this law?

(d) Could it be said that the purpose for which this Ordinance was passed, is a legitimate purpose connected with the war?

(e) Are Government aware that by this Ordinance elementary rights of taxpayers as provided in laws passed by this House, have been wiped out?

(f) What is the period during which this Ordinance will be in operation and what do government propose when that period expires?

(g) Will Government give an assurance that before these provisions expire and if Government want these provisions to continue, they would bring a Bill in this House and not renew the Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) No.

(b) I am aware that the Ordinance seeks to validate notices issued before the commencement of the Ordinance.

(c) No. The relevant forms of notices under the Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax Acts have been amended and those that are now being issued are in accordance with the law as lately interpreted by the Bombay High Court. In point of fact therefore the Ordinance is operative only in respect of notices already issued. It is therefore not necessary to enact any fresh legislation.

(d) The ordinance does not purport to be a war measure and, if the Honourable Member intends to suggest that the Ordinance-making power is not exercisable save for a purpose connected with the war, he is mistaken.

(e) No.

(f) There is no limit to the period for which the Ordinance is valid. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

AMENDMENT OF DEFENCE OF INDIA RULE 4

299. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state whether Rule 4 of the Defence of India Rules relating to 'saving' of public servants for acts done in the course of duty has been amended in April, 1944? If so, what is the significance of the amendment and what were the reasons for amending the rule?

(b) Did some cases of misuse of the saving Rule by public servants come to the notice of the Government? If so, will the Honourable Member please give brief particulars of them?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes. I must leave the Honourable Member to form his own opinion of the effect of the amendment. Its object was to empower the Central Government or an officer specially authorised in this behalf to render the saving inapplicable in relation to a particular order or direction made under the Rules by the Central Government or such officer.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The latter part does not, therefore, arise.

SALE OF AMERICAN GOLD IN INDIA

300. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the quantity of gold sold by the United States of America on the Indian market through the Reserve Bank since November, 1943;

(b) whether for some months past the gold sold by the Reserve Bank is entirely of American origin; and

(c) whether the proceeds of the sales of this gold is used for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the Government of the United States of America for its troops in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to starred question No. 35 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on 8th February 1944.

I am not prepared to add to the information given in that reply.

POLITICAL DETENUS AND CONVICTS

301. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the number of political detenues and convicts in the whole country, province-wise?

(b) Are Government aware that important and influential Congressmen have been released and majority of those who are detained, constitute the rank and file?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for this inconsistency and incongruity?

(h) Are the Government of India aware of the untold sufferings of fishermen whose main occupation was fish catching and sale of fish by such wanton confiscation and dismantlement?

(i) Is it not a fact that several people lost their lives when the coastal areas were recently flooded for want of adequate supply of boats to escape?

(j) What is the number, if any, under construction or repair to be returned to the owners from whom they were confiscated?

(k) When are they to be returned?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (a) of Starred question No. 136 on the 7th November 1944.

(b), (c) and (d). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given to parts (c) and (d) of Starred question No. 733 on the 31st March 1944.

(e) I have no information on this point, but will call for a report from the Bengal Government, asking them to give such information as is readily available.

(f) and (g). Boats which could not be rendered serviceable after repairs, have been sold as timber, but I have no information as to the number of such boats or the weight of timber so sold, I have also no information regarding the amount realised by such sale. I am asking the Bengal Government to give such information as is readily available.

(h) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (e) of Starred question No. 733 on the 31st March 1944.

(i) I have received no information from the Provincial Government, but I am calling for a report.

(j) and (k). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (c) of Starred question No. 136 on the 7th November 1944.

REORGANISATION OF INCOME-TAX SERVICES

306. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether any decision has been arrived at recently to reconstitute and classify the existing Income-tax Services? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the principal features of such reorganisation?

(b) What are the reasons for the aforesaid decision? What will be its financial effect, and how will the position of the present incumbents in the different classes of officers concerned be affected?

(c) Is it a fact that the reorganisation is likely to prejudice a number of officers in the Bengal Circle who have been working as "Examiners", or having been recruited as Examiners initially or promoted to the rank of Examiners have been officiating as Income-tax Officers? If so, in what manner are they likely to be prejudiced, and what is the number of officers of the two above categories, respectively, who are thus likely to be prejudiced?

(d) In what circumstances and when was the appointment of "Examiners" decided upon? What are the duties with which they were entrusted?

(e) Has there been any change in the policy of the Government in regard to the continuance of "Examiners"? If so, what is the nature of such change and to what circumstances has it been due?

(f) What is the number of Examiners of the two categories mentioned in (c) above, who have put in a service for (i) five years, (ii) eight years, and (iii) ten years and above? Is there any proposal under the consideration of Government to absorb the above officers in the permanent cadre under the Reorganisation Scheme?

(g) Is it a fact that several new officers are being posted to the Bengal Service from outside the Province? If so, what are the reasons for this step? What appointments did they hold prior to these postings in Bengal, and what will be their duties hereafter? Will these new appointments affect in any manner the possibility of any of the two categories of Examiners mentioned in (c) being absorbed into the permanent cadre under the Reorganisation Scheme?

(h) Is it a fact that a number of senior permanent officers at present holding responsible charges and drawing a monthly pay of Rs. 500 and above each, are likely to be treated as "supernumerary" under the Reorganisation Scheme? If so, what will be the reasons for such treatment, and on what considerations will the selection of such "supernumerary" officers depend? Has any decision been arrived at in regard to the selection of such "supernumerary" officers? What will the probable number be of such officers and what proportion do they constitute of the total number of existing officers drawing a monthly pay of Rs. 500 and above?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the press communique issued by the Central Board of Revenue, a copy of which I place on the table of the House. This indicates the principal features of the reorganisation.

(b) As stated in the press communique, the reorganisation has been undertaken with a view to improving the efficiency of the administration of Income-tax and the morale of the personnel. The financial effect of the reorganisation cannot yet be ascertained with any accuracy, but when the reorganisation is complete, the extra expenditure involved will be of the order of Rs. 1,50,000, annually, on an average cost basis. No incumbent of any class of post will be adversely affected in regard to his substantive rights.

(c), (d), (f) and (g). The detailed information sought is not readily available but I am making enquiries and replies will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(e) No decision has yet been taken to change the policy in this behalf.

(h) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The rest of the question does not arise.

NOT TO BE BROADCAST OR PUBLISHED BEFORE SEPTEMBER, 30, 1944

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Reorganisation of Income-tax Services

In recent years income-tax has become the most important source of revenue; and its administration has become increasingly difficult. With a view to improving the efficiency of administration and the morale of the personnel, the Government of India have decided to re-organise the Income-tax Services.

Till now, the backbone of the Service, namely, the Income-tax Officer, was borne on the Class II Service of the Central Government and recruitment to this grade was almost entirely by promotion from subordinate executive grades. Hereafter, nearly 50 per cent. of the Income-tax Officers will be borne on the Class I Services of the Government of India. These Class I officers, who will be divided into two grades and who will be transferable all over British India, will be recruited on the results of an annual competitive examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission on the same lines as for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

Recruitment to the Class I Service, except for 20 per cent. reserved for promotion from the lower grades, will initially be into grade II from which promotions will be made by selection to grade I, strictly on the basis of merit in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission. The remaining posts of Income-tax Officers will be classified as grade III and will as heretofore be borne on the Class II Service of the Central Government. Promotions to posts of Assistant Commissioner and Commissioner, except where they are reserved for officers in the "Pool cadre", will again be made by selection from grade I Income-tax Officers.

The Federal Public Service Commission have agreed to select the first ten candidates for the re-organised Income-tax Service on the results of the examination they will be holding in October 1944.

CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE;
Simla, September 29, 1944.

REORGANIZATION OF INCOME-TAX SERVICES

307. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the proposed reorganisation scheme of the Income-tax Services contemplates recruitment of some of the officers through any All-India entrance examination? If so, what are the reasons for departing from the present practice in view, particularly, of the opinion expressed in the Income-tax Enquiry Report, 1936, against the advisability of such recruitment?

(b) Is it proposed to make the aforesaid recruitment on the result of the All-India examination that is now held for the recruitment of officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Services, etc.? If so, how do the scales of pay admissible to the officers of the various services now recruited as a result of the said examination, respectively, compare with the rates of pay proposed for those officers of the Income-tax Department who are to be recruited from the same source?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. It is Government's experience that the present practice does not produce a sufficient number of officers of the requisite calibre. I do not find that the Income-tax Enquiry committee disapproved of this form of recruitment.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. In answer to the second part I place a statement on the table of the House.

Class I

Indian Audit and Accounts Service	Rs. 250 } 1st year Rs. 275 } 2nd year } of probation. Time scale Rs. 300—25—600—35—950.
Military Accounts Service	Rs. 250 } 1st year Rs. 275 } 2nd year } of probation. Time scale Rs. 300—25—600—35—950.
Indian Railway Accounts Service	Rs. 250 } 1st year Rs. 275 } 2nd year } of probation. Time scale— Rs. 300—25—400. Rs. 450 in the 7th year. Rs. 500 in the 10th year. District Officers— Grade III Rs. 750. Grade II Rs. 850. Grade I Rs. 950.
Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways.	Rs. 250 } 1st year Rs. 275 } 2nd year } of probation. Time scale— Rs. 300—25—400. Rs. 450 in the 7th year. Rs. 500 in the 10th year. District Officers— Grade III Rs. 750. Grade II Rs. 850. Grade I Rs. 950.
Imperial Customs Service	Rs. 250 } 1st year Rs. 275 } 2nd year } of probation. Time scale Rs. 300—25—600—35—950—50—1,050.
Postal Superintendent	Rs. 200 } 1st year Rs. 220 } 2nd year } of probation. Time scale Rs. 240—20—480—15—600.

The scales of pay sanctioned for the Class I Income-tax Officers are :—
Rs. 250—275 (Prob.)—300—25—750 for Grade II, and
Rs. 400—25—600—35—950 for Grade I.

SPECIAL PERMISSION FOR JOINING COLLEGES OR SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS CONVICTED OR DETAINED

308. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in certain Provinces students who had been convicted or detained in connection with the political unrest prevailing since 1942 August have been told that special previous permission should be obtained from the Director of Public Instruction before they are entitled to join their College or High School studies? If so, in what Provinces, and why is such a condition prescribed?

(b) How many students have applied for such special permission, and to how many were they granted?

(c) Is it a fact that this condition is imposed in pursuance of Defence of India Rules and under the instructions of the Government of India?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to advise or instruct the concerned Provincial Governments to waive this condition?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The matter is one that lies within the discretion of the Provincial Governments concerned. The Government of India have no information nor have they issued any instructions on the subject.

STUDENTS CONVICTED OR DETAINED

309. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state how many students were convicted and detained since August, 1942?

(b) How many are still in jails as convicts and as detenus or in both categories?

(c) Have Government taken any special steps to cater to their educational needs, i.e., by providing special libraries or allowing them to prepare and appear for examinations?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, in what Provinces and in what way were any such special facilities provided?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of releasing the students who are still in jails to enable them to resume their studies?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). Government have no separate statistics with regard to students and the work involved in collecting them would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(c) and (d). Provincial practice varies and can be ascertained from the different Security Prisoners Rules and Jail Manuals which are in the library of the House. I imagine that in all Provinces students who have been detained or convicted are allowed educational books and in one (Bengal) Province at least I know that security prisoners are allowed to take certain examinations.

(e) No student is detained under the orders of the Government of India: no doubt their youth is one of the consideration that would weigh with Provincial Governments in considering the release of students detained by them.

DETENTION OF CONGRESS MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

310. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) who ordered the arrest and detention of the five Congress Members of the Legislative Assembly in the North West Frontier Province;

(b) whether the Central or the Provincial Government is responsible for the detention without trial of these five Congress Members of the Legislative Assembly; and

(c) if the Centre, then in what respects the case of these five Members of the Legislative Assembly differs from that of the five other Members of the Legislative Assembly who were recently released?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The Central Government took no action in the matter and accepts no responsibility.

(c) Does not arise.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS WITH DETAINED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE

311. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether any restrictions have been placed on interviews between Members of the Congress Working Committee in detention and their relatives; if so, the nature of the restrictions;

(b) whether any such members have refused to interview their relatives; if so, the reasons for such refusal; and

(c) whether his attention has been invited to the news under the caption "Congress Leaders refuse to see relatives", published in the *Hindustan Times Evening News*, page 4, column 1, dated the 30th October, 1944; if so, why

Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant's children were not allowed to converse with their father in their own mother tongue?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I would invite attention to the answer given to part (a) of Sardar Mangal Singh's Starred question No. 199 on the 8th November.

(b) I gather from a letter recently sent by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to the Camp Superintendent that he and his colleagues are not prepared to take advantage of the facility now offered on the ground that they have been denied interviews for so long.

(c) Yes. The news item about Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant's children is unfounded. No interview by them was either sought or refused.

DETENTION OF KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

312. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was arrested and is being detained under orders of the Central Government or the Provincial Government of the North West Frontier Province; and

(b) if under the orders of the Central Government, whether he will please supply the latest information about the state of his health?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No such order was issued by the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

DESIRABILITY OF RELAXING RESTRICTIONS ON REMITTANCES TO BRITISH SUBJECTS AND OTHERS IN FRANCE

313. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) if, in view of the formal recognition by the United Nations of the Committee of National Liberation as the provincial Government of France and the transfer to that Government of the administration of the greater part of France, the present restrictions on remittances from India to British subjects and others in France will be relaxed; and

(b) whether France will be included in the sterling area for purposes of exchange, etc., in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The Government of India will follow the same policy as the United Kingdom in the matters referred to. Pending receipt of full information of what H. M. G. propose to do in this connection I regret that I am not at present in a position to answer these questions.

HOUSE RENT AND CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS DEBARRED FROM GETTING GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN DELHI

314. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that those Government Servants who have been debarred from getting Government accommodation in Delhi for unauthorized subletting are not allowed to draw House Rent and Conveyance Allowances recently sanctioned; if so, whether the fact that they cannot get Government accommodation for three long years is not enough punishment; and

(b) if it is a fact that those Government Servants who sublet their quarters but were not involved in profiteering, have also been debarred from getting House Rent and Conveyance Allowances; if so, whether the Honourable Member now propose to amend the orders, in view of the great hardship to those Government Servants who did not gain by subletting their quarters, to enable them to draw the House Rent and Conveyance Allowances with effect from the 1st July, 1944; if not why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is that such Government servants were previously not permitted to draw these allowances; these orders have, however, since been withdrawn. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

(b) Does not arise.

INVITATION TO THE PRESS ASSOCIATION FOR APPOINTING TOURING PARTIES

315. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) if his attention has been invited to a Resolution adopted in a meeting held at Lahore on the 28th October, 1944, of the Standing Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference reading as under:—

"Invitation by the Government of India to the Press Association to appoint parties for visits to various places should be properly addressed to the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, if the object of the invitation was to secure press co-operation."

and if his attention has not been invited to the said Resolution, the reasons therefor;

(b) if it is a fact that the Press Association to whom invitation by the Central Government was sent for appointment of parties to visit various places was a body registered under the law of the country; if not, what the position of the Press Association is; and

(c) if it is a fact that the Accredited Press Association is registered under the law of the country; if so, was any invitation of the kind referred to in the Resolution sent to this Registered Association; if not, the reasons for the discriminatory treatment?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) I am informed that such a resolution was before the committee, but its consideration was postponed.

(b) The Press Association is not a registered body and no invitation was sent to it to appoint parties to visit various places. The Press Association is a non-official organisation.

(c) Yes. The remaining parts do not arise in view of the reply given to part (b) of this question.

APPLICATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION OF NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES

316. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the number of applications received from the Editors of Newspapers for accreditation of their representatives to the Headquarters of the Central Government during the preceding one year; and

(b) how those applications were disposed of?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) 34.

(b) Twenty-two applications were accepted, two were rejected. The rest are under consideration.

APPLICATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION OF NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES

317. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) if it is a fact that applications from the Editors of Newspapers appointing representatives at the Headquarters of the Central Government, if and when received by the Central Government, are, as a matter of policy, referred to the Press Association for approval before they are accepted by the Central Government; if not, what policy and procedure were prescribed for it before 1943 and after 1943, respectively; and

(b) if it is a fact that the Central Government have vested in the Principal Information Officer the powers to call upon any association registered under the law of the country to change its name; if so, whether he proposes to lay on the table of this House the order of the Central Government giving such powers to the Principal Information Officer?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes. The reference to the Press Association is a matter not of policy but of expediency. The second part of the question does not arise.

(b) No. But since accreditation is subject to certain conditions approved by the Government of India, P. I. O. is competent to bring to the notice of any association connected with the Press or the Press Correspondents the necessity of observing these conditions. The latter part of the question does not arise.

AGE OF SUPERANNUATION FOR MILITARY SERVICE

318. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the age of 45 years has been prescribed as the old age for retention in military service in any capacity;

(b) if it is a fact that literate persons between the ages of 42 and 45 years were given Emergency Commission during the present war;

(c) if it is a fact that the persons between the ages of 42 and 45 years who are given Emergency Commissions are required to serve the Military in any capacity for the duration of the war;

(d) if it is a fact that the terms for the grant of Emergency Commission do not permit the Central Government or any other authority to call upon a Commissioned Officer to resign his Commission or appointment on attaining the age of 45 years; and

(e) if the replies to (a) to (d) be in the negative, what the true fact is?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (e). There is no such age limit. An officer is retained so long as his services are required.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir.

ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

319. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to root out corruption and bribery; and

(b) the number of cases instituted by the Central Government against officers employed by the Central Government for bribery and corruption in the course of this year?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The following are the replies to the Honourable Member's question on the assumption that it refers to the activities of the Special anti-corruption organisation set up under the War Department.

(a) In June 1941, a special police staff was set up, which was later constituted as the Special Police Establishment, War Department, under Ordinance No. 22 of 1943. The primary object of this Special Establishment is the investigation of corruption in departments and branches engaged in purchasing in contracts of all kinds, in transport and in inspection of goods and works for the Defence Services.

In the beginning cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment were sent for trial to the ordinary courts but it became increasingly clear that the machinery of the ordinary law was inadequate to cope with the evil and that special tribunals were needed to try such cases. Accordingly three Special Tribunals have been constituted by the Central Government under the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943, with headquarters at Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow, to try cases allotted to them in the First Schedule to the Ordinance. Government have under consideration the question of increasing the number of Special Tribunals.

The convictions awarded by the Special Tribunals and the ordinary criminal courts in cases investigated by the Special Police are given wide publicity in the press.

(b) During the period from the 1st of January to the 31st of October 1944, the Special Police Establishment, War Department, took up 174 cases in which Central Government employees were involved. Of these, 48 cases have been sent up for trial by criminal courts, 30 cases have been handed over to departments for departmental action, and 96 cases are still under investigation.

PROFITS MADE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

320. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the amount of profits made by the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation through its activities in the internal and external trade of this country for the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44; and

(b) whether he is aware that this Company has paid any income-tax, super-tax or excess profits-tax in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The information is not available. Moreover, if and when it is furnished to the Income-Tax Department its disclosure will be forbidden by section 54 of the Income-tax Act.

(b) No. The income-tax and excess profits tax assessments of the Corporation for the relevant years have not yet been completed.

DETENTION OF PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND OTHER WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

321. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state when the last order of detention was made on Pandit Jawaharlal and other Working Committee members?

(b) When is the next review due?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the other detained Members of the Congress Working Committee are detained under orders issued by the Provincial Governments concerned. The orders must have been extended some time before July 15th, i.e., six months after the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, came into force, and will expire on January 15th, 1945, unless previously cancelled or extended. There is no fixed time for reviews.

POLICY re IMMIGRATION OF JEWS TO INDIA

322. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to make a statement as to the policy of the Government of India in regard to immigration of Jews to India with particular reference to the following matters:

(i) was the policy initiated by the Government of India or was it done by His Majesty's Government; and

(ii) did the Governor General in Council consider this matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The policy originally followed by the Government of India in common with several other countries was to give refuge and protection to the members of the Jewish community who were subjected to persecution on account of anti-Semitic laws. Subsequently when the number of Jews seeking entry into this country began to increase, the Government of India were constrained to restrict the number of future immigrants. The present policy is to admit only those who can undertake work of national importance, and those whose cases present special features, e.g., dependents of Jews who are already in this country, and those who would otherwise be in danger of falling into enemy hands.

This policy was decided by the Governor-General in Council, but His Majesty's Government were kept informed throughout.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INCOME-TAX DEDUCTIONS re INTEREST ON BOMBAY PORT TRUST BONDS OF HOLDERS IN UNITED KINGDOM.

50. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether interest is deducted at the source on Bombay Port Trust Bonds held by a non-resident holder in the United Kingdom of the Bombay Port Trust Loan? If not, why not?

(b) What steps are taken for the recovery of income-tax on such interest and on similar items of income of a non-resident in the United Kingdom earning rent, interest or profits in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to deduction of income-tax at source from interest payable on Bombay Port Trust Loans held by non-resident holders in the United Kingdom. Income-tax is deducted at source from such interest on all such loans except sterling loans issued for public subscription before the 1st April, 1938. Deduction of tax at source has been waived in the case of such sterling loans because of the hardship that would be caused to the payer by the enforcement of the law, the payer, viz., the Bombay Port Trust not being in a position to pass on the tax liability to the payee, who is entitled under the United Kingdom law to receive the interest without any deduction.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the provisions of sub-section (3), (3A), (3B) and (3C) of section 18 and sections 42 and 43 of the Income-tax Act which provide the machinery for the collection of tax in the type of cases referred to by him.

EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

51. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the constitution and the amount of the Empire Dollar Pool at the last available date?

(b) Where is this money kept and under whose control?

(c) What is the share of India in this Dollar Pool?

(d) Has the position been modified since the last budget speech of the Finance Member?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The Empire Dollar Pool is an arrangement by all the Empire countries in the sterling area to pool under the control of H. M. G. all their foreign exchange resources under parallel systems of exchange control, each country being entitled to obtain its foreign exchange requirements from the Bank of England. Information regarding the amount of the Pool is not available and in any case could not be published without detriment to public interest.

(b) United States dollar balances of the Empire Dollar Pool are maintained in the U. S. A. and are under the control of H. M. G.

(c) No specific share is allotted to India. Like other Empire countries India gets her essential requirements of dollars from the pool.

(d) No.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

52. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the latest available figure regarding the Indian sterling resources in England;

(b) whether there have been discussion between the two Governments regarding the liquidation of these resources; and

(c) whether any agreement has been arrived at between the two Governments; if so, what the clauses of the agreement are?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The sterling resources owned by the Reserve Bank of India on the 27th October, 1944, amounted to Rs. 1,169 crores.

(b) No. I would, however, invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to starred question No. 66, asked by Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad on the 3rd November, 1944.

(c) No agreement has been arrived at.

COST OF WAR ON INDIA

53. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the total cost of the war on India up to date as far as available;

(b) if this amount is met by taxation, contribution and debts; and

(c) the guiding factors in the allocation of expenditure between India, England and America in the war expenditure on India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). India has borne as her share of Defence expenditure under the Financial Settlement with His Majesty's Government a total sum of Rs. 494.22 crores to the end of 1942-43. The Revised estimates for 1943-44 and the Budget for 1944-45 provided for a further sum of Rs. 602.15 crores being borne by India up to the end of 1944-45.

These amounts are covered by the proceeds of taxation and borrowings.

(c) As regards the allocation of expenditure between India and His Majesty's Government I would refer the Honourable Member to my Budget speeches. So far as the United States of America is concerned, a reference is invited to the answer given in the Council of State to the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam's question No. 138 on the 12th August, 1943, and the press note on the subject of Reciprocal Aid published on the 3rd September, 1944.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO GIVE RELIEF TO WEAVERS IN BURHANPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice 12 Noon of an adjournment motion from Nawab Siddique Ali Khan who wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, i.e., "the forced unemployment and the consequent starvation of thousands of weavers in Burhanpur and other places in the C. P. owing to the lack of yarn supply and the failure of the Textile Commissioner to give relief to the sufferers (partial report of which is published in *Dawn* of 11th November, 1944).

When did this failure take place?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): This was published on the 11th November.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I want to know when the failure took place. It does not matter when it was published.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Recently, last week. It came to my notice on the 11th.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does this mean that before last week, the supply of yarn was adequate?

(No reply.)

This motion is certainly not urgent within the meaning of the Rules. It is disallowed.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgris: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That the word 'four' be substituted for the word 'two'."

I expected my Honourable friend to explain what this Board is for and whether these members are in addition to the ordinary two members that we have. So far as I remember, we usually elect members to this Board in the Budget Session. Does this motion mean that we are to have two extra members?

I thought that this Board is going to be reconstructed in view of the big schemes of reconstruction in education. If that is so, then we should claim

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more representation than we usually have. I am sorry I am handicapped because my friend said nothing with regard to this motion. Considering that this Assembly represents the whole country, the representation provided is very inadequate. I should think that even four may not be found to be sufficient by many in this House but I am modest and I propose that we should elect four on this Board.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That the word 'four' be substituted for the word 'two'."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to oppose the original motion. My reason is that this Board of Education is not a representative one. There are no Labour representatives on it. I cannot approve of the Legislature sending representatives to a Board which is not a representative one. I would like to know whether the working classes of this country are interested in the promotion of education for which this Board is to be appointed. I would also like to know if the Board is interested in the education of the working classes of this country, the kisans and peasants and landless labourers. If the Board is interested then this Board must contain representatives who will voice the interests of these people. At present there is no labour representative and I insist that before the Legislature votes for this motion the Legislature should take a promise from the Honourable Member that labour will be adequately represented on this Board.

There is another smaller complaint on account of which I do not propose to vote for this motion. This Board, I think, publishes some reports. It is engaged in some important work of reconstruction and the Legislature is not provided with reports of what this Board does. I would like the Legislature to refuse to send its representative to a committee the report of which is not circulated to Members of the Legislature. I suggest, therefore, that unless the Honourable Member promises that the reports of this Central Board of Education will be circulated to the Members of the Legislature, they should not agree to the nomination of members as representatives. I therefore oppose this motion, unless I receive a satisfactory reply from the Honourable Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions; Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Joshi has opposed the motion on the ground that the report is not circulated among the Members. I agree in principle that all reports of committees to which representatives of Legislature are elected should be supplied to its Members but I do not agree that this Board should be singled out for attack because...

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Who singles out? I want all reports to be supplied.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I agree with Mr. Joshi there. The Central Legislature should have an opportunity of knowing what its committees are doing but my point is that this particular Board should not be singled out.

Another thing is that the report of this Board will interest very few persons in the Assembly. (Interruption.) Let me finish my remarks. It will be less interesting than the reports of many more important committees such as the Supply Committee, Defence Committee, Coffee Cess Committee, Tea Committee and so on. If Mr. Joshi wants the reports of all the Committees to be supplied, then I agree. His remarks should apply to every committee.

As regards the point raised by Mr. Essak Sait, I am not aware whether the Government of India have got a scheme for reorganisation of the Central Board of Education and expanding it. If that is the case then it is fair that the quota of the Legislative Assembly should be increased. At present the quota of each province is fixed at two and no province can have more than two. The point was raised in the past. Certain persons wanted to bring their Advisers and Directors of Public Instruction but it was decided that no province will have more than two, for this reason that if one man is absent, the province may go unrepresented. The increase if it is allowed in the case of the Assembly will have to take place all round. Other constituencies will want their quota to be increased. It is not a Committee of the

House. Then the number will become very unwieldy and it will be difficult to obtain quick decisions. As it is, the Board, as its name implies, is advisory and its decisions are not operative. It is only advisory to the various Academic bodies and Provinces who have got powers to act and I know that in this case their advice has been in several cases exceedingly good.

As I am a member of this Committee representing the Assembly, I think it will not be out of place if I mention a few facts, demanded by some Members. Take, for instance, the case of examinations. There has been a definite complaint from every quarter that there is something wrong with the system of our examinations. Maulvi Abdul Ghani raised the question of compartmental examinations several times. Then, we have also raised the question that the examinations are not the real test of merit. This question has been examined very minutely by this Committee and they have recommended a number of definite changes and the lead given by the Central Advisory Committee is now being followed by various Universities and other examining bodies. As a result of this, I know that half a dozen Universities have introduced the system of compartmental and supplementary examinations. Then, we have the method of examination, that is, replacing the numerical marks by means of symbols.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All that is not relevant to the motion before the House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, it is necessary to mention here the work that this body has been doing and this information has been demanded by some of the Members. If the constitution remains as it is and the quota is not increased for any province, then, I think, this question cannot be taken up as an isolated factor.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am rather surprised at the attitude taken up by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. I do not know whether he knows quite well on which side of the House he happens to be. He has come today as a sort of an apologist for the Government of India and he even claims to know much more about the work of this Committee than the Honourable Member who is supposed to be in charge of this subject. If my Honourable friend is pleased with Dr. Zia Uddin's espousal of the cause of this Committee, then he ought to be more enthusiastic about accepting my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait's amendment, because, if there is such a demand for his Committee, then it will be more profitable for himself and the Government to have more Members of the House on this Committee so that there will be more people to speak in addition to the Government spokesman.

Then, Sir, I appreciate the interest displayed by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi in regard to the Kisans. I like his championship of the claims of the Labour for representation on this Committee and I would like him as well as every other Member of the House to remember that it will not be enough if the agriculturists, both landed and landless, are clubbed with labour.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, I would like to have separate representation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I quite see that my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi is one with me in feeling that the agriculturists deserve independent representation, but I know also that some of the people who today claim to represent the Indian Trade Union Congress and who happen to be in England now are going about giving the impression to the English public that by 'labour' they mean not only the industrial labour in the towns but also the agricultural labour as well as the labouring proprietors of land, and I certainly dissent from that view-point.

Sir, this is a very important Committee and I do not know why my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad does not want more representation for this Committee from this House. He says it is unwieldy; it may be so. He says that the quotas for various provinces have been very carefully fixed; it may be so. But that is no reason why this House should not be given better representation on this Committee, so that this House should be able to satisfy itself representing as it does all interests in this country that

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

this Committee does justice to all sections of the people and also is doing its work properly.

Recently, we had the spectacle of the Adviser to the Government of India, Mr. Sargent, going to the United States and making such statements in the name of this Committee and also in the name of this Government to which several sections of the country have taken objection. Therefore, this Committee must be strengthened by adequate representation from this House, so that it will be possible for this Committee to control the Educational Adviser and other officers of the Government. Therefore, I support this amendment.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I intervene in this debate only because I have heard an expression from Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad that the Members of this House generally would not take much interest in this matter if they were to represent this House on this Committee. I know that he is a very great educationist, but sometimes he becomes too competent and thinks that he alone can read these reports and give proper attention to them.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I said that there were other subjects besides this which were really more important and there should be more representation of this House on those Committees.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member ought to know that on the question of education, Members of this House have been taking very keen interest.

Then, Sir, I know that in these days, the interests of the labour cannot be ignored. We know how strong they are both in Europe and in other parts of the world. Their interests, therefore, should be fully guarded. Therefore, I do not think that the demand of my Honourable friend is in any way unreasonable. I would therefore agree with him that there should be the representation of labour on this Committee. Even if he wants a separate representation, that question ought to be considered. But so far as this motion is concerned, I think the amendment that has been moved should be accepted. The number of Members should be increased and the labour may be given separate representation. To have only two Members from this House as is the case now is a mere mockery. In educational matters like this there should be full representation of this House. We do now know what this Central Board of Education is actually doing. In this House I have several times put questions to find out if they had been tackling such and such matter. I have, for instance, asked about the uniformity of education in all the Indian Universities because the candidates are affected when they appear before the Federal Public Service Commission for various examinations. There is a prejudice against those candidates who belong to certain Universities. So, questions of this nature have got to be considered by this Committee and therefore there should be full representation of this House on it. Sir, I support the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, this Board is called an Advisory Board but I find from its working that it is not advisory. Its decisions are enforced upon us without the matter being brought to the notice of this House. As an instance, I would cite the case of the Wardha scheme of education. It was forced upon us notwithstanding the vehement opposition of the Muslims from all over the country. It was enforced in Bihar on the advice of this Board.

Kunwer Hajee Ismael Alikhan (Nominated Non-Official): Are you opposing the motion or supporting the motion?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am making suggestions. As regards the supply of copies of the proceedings of the Board, I am at one with my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi. This point has been resisted on the ground that other Committees do not supply copies of their reports to Honourable Members of the House. But I say that the reports of important Committees, like the Public Accounts Committee, the Standing Finance Committee, and the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, are supplied to Honourable Members

of the House. These are all important Committees. The Central Advisory Board of Education is the foremost of all, because it affects everybody in the country. It deals with education of all kinds. I wholeheartedly support the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Are there any ladies on this Central Advisory Board of Education?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): There are two lady Members.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is there adequate representation of ladies? If not, I hope the matter will be taken into consideration and more seats allotted for ladies on the Board.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Perhaps I had better tell the House, though this is, no new Board, what the constitution of it is. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department is the chairman of the Board, and the Educational Adviser to the Government of India is a member. There are twelve Members nominated by the Government of India, of whom four shall be women. At the moment, I think, there are only two lady members on it, but the Resolution was amended only recently and there will soon be four. The other members are: Two Members of the Legislative Assembly elected by the Legislative Assembly, one Member of the Council of State elected by the Council of State, three Members of the Inter University Board nominated by that Board and a representative of each Provincial Government who should be either the Minister in charge or the Director of Public Instruction or such other person as the Provincial Government may nominate; and finally five Members to be nominated by the Government of India in consultation with the Crown Representative to represent the Indian States. Now, Sir, it is with respect to the two Members of this Honourable House that I have made this motion today. The term of office of the two sitting Members expired, I think, in September. There has been no meeting of any Committee in the meantime, but we should like to have the election at once as meetings are due in the very near future. This is not an addition to the Board, but just the two seats for which the Resolution constituting the Board provides. Nor is there, so far as I am aware, any intention at the moment of changing the constitution of this Board because of reconstruction or for any other reason. We have every cause to be satisfied with the present composition, and as a matter of fact with the work that this Board has done. It has been an exceedingly active Board, and I think it is significant that one of the Members representing this House on the Committee has spoken strongly in its favour this morning, the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh University. Speaking off-hand, I do not think that there is any representative of labour on the Board. What we try to get on this Board is eminent educationists who represent educational interests. But I am perfectly prepared to examine and see whether it is possible to have an eminent educationist, among the nominated Members of the Board, who could be regarded as specially interested in, and competent to speak for the labouring classes, whether urban or rural. Primarily, however, it is an educationists' Board and merely because a man was a good labour man, we would not care to have him on the Board. We want educationists, first and foremost.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What about Legislature's representation?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am coming to that presently. I have already said that this is a very active Committee. It has been our practice to publish its Reports for some years, though I am not quite sure that we had not to cut down a little owing to paper shortage, lately. But I know some of these reports are in the library of the House. Some reports of the bi-annual—(twice a year)—meetings are in the Library of the House. I myself put into the Library of the House a number of copies of the Report of the Central Advisory Board on educational reconstruction. The Board has no desire to hide its light under a bushel. In fact Honourable Members of this House, who are interested in the recommendations of this Board on educational reconstruction, will have an opportunity this evening of meeting the Educational Adviser

[Mr. J. D. Tyson] in the Library of the House. The Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands has arranged a meeting for an informal discussion of that report which is a report by this particular Board.

I may say that as regards the publication and issue of these reports to Honourable Members of this House, the parallel sought to be drawn by my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani is not strictly a correct one. He referred to the reports of the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee. These are both Committees of this House and the House proceeds to consider the reports of its own Committees, and it is therefore necessary that these reports should be in the hands of all Honourable Members of this House. The Central Advisory Board is not a Committee of the Legislature. I confess we have not circulated to every Honourable Member of the House the reports of this Central Advisory Board. I should be perfectly prepared to consider that, as soon as the paper shortage position eases a little. We are only too glad that the House is taking an interest in the work of the Board.

Now, Sir, as regards the point that this Board is not in fact an Advisory Board, but that its decisions are being forced upon various bodies, I am afraid that I did not quite catch the instance that my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani gave. In fact it is an Advisory Board and it cannot enforce its decisions upon anybody.

On the merits of the amendment, I should like to say this. that the constitution of the Board itself ensures representation of educational interests through eminent educationists and Government try to see that educationists of all communities find a place on the Board. I should like to emphasise that the Government value, and so do the Board, the link which the representation of the Legislature gives the Board. It so happens that this Honourable House has in the past sent eminent educationists to the Central Advisory Board. But this is not the prime object of this representation because we can get educationists through other elements on the Board. The primary object is to have representatives of the House; if they are eminent educationists that is no doubt helpful; but that is not the special object of representation of this House. It is only to secure a link with the Legislature. This is a comparatively small Board, composed as I have outlined. I do not admit it is a large Board at all. The essence of it is that it is rather a small and compact body. We think that for the purpose of having the House represented there, so that the Board may know what the House thinks about things and so that in due course the House may be informed about the Board by its own representatives, two from here and one from another place is a good and sufficient representation, and I would deprecate any addition to the numbers which does not seem necessary for the purpose we have in mind. The discussions of this body are very informal and intimate; they sit round a table, and it would be unfortunate if we started a process of increasing the numbers of this body so that its present intimate character was imperilled. Nor do I think would it be right to increase the number of Members from this House with a view to giving representation to any particular community, because that would not in itself ensure that that community got representation; and I think that can be done, if it is desirable, in other ways. I therefore regret that I cannot accept this motion and I would request the Honourable Member who moved it to withdraw it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the word 'four' be substituted for the word 'two'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):

Sir, I move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Indian Coconut Committee under section 4(g) of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (X of 1944)."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Indian Coconut Committee under section 4(g) of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (X of 1944)."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. When this Bill was under consideration of this House I suggested to the Government of India that a representative of the workers who are engaged in this industry as employees should be on that Committee. Unfortunately neither Government nor this House accepted my proposal. I feel that the Government of India in forming this Committee and in not giving representation to the employees engaged in this production of coconuts have made a mistake; and if this mistake is to be corrected I think the only pressure which I can bring upon the Government of India is to refuse the nomination of the Legislature on this Committee.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): You must have an amendment of the Act itself.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes, I entirely agree, but unfortunately that is not in my hands. I must therefore enter my protest, which I do in this manner.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I first of all object to the financial basis on which this Committee has been financed. Funds have been raised at the cost of these people engaged in this industry of raising coconuts.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, on a point of order. Is the financial basis on which the Coconut Committee is to work relevant to the present motion?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When I oppose the present motion it is relevant so far as it relates to finance as well as the conducting of this Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss on this motion questions of policy which have been already decided.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This Government do not want to do anything, specially for the benefit of this section of agriculturists. But that is wrong. It is the duty of Government to do everything possible, financial and otherwise, to help these people. They used to do a little before this Committee came to be constituted or at least it was expected. But now after this Committee has come anything that Government may have to do, which is expected to cost anything at all, is shoved on to this Committee, and it is considered to be a responsibility of this Committee to finance it. I take strong objection to this basis of the Committee and to this idea of Government. That is not the way in which this cess has been collected and this Committee has been functioning.

Much trouble has been caused to the people engaged in coconut growing. Coconut growing takes a long time and by the time people are able to realise the coconuts and pay the cess, it takes such a long time that at any one stage if Government or the Committee are not careful, the peasants are likely to be made to pay much more and also on crops that have been realised much earlier but the financial results are realised later on. In particular, there is grievance felt by the people concerned and they made a representation to the Honourable Member some time ago that the cess that was being levied on them on the crop of 1943-44 was really being realised on the crop that they had realised in 1942-43.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss that now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am discussing the way in which the Committee has been acting. But that representation has been made to the Honourable Member and I trust he will try to go into it in detail and, if necessary, appoint a departmental committee and see that justice is done to the people concerned in this matter. I hope that before the Honourable Member comes again to this House with a motion like this next year this question will be settled satisfactorily to all concerned.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As regards the point made by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi, that point was considered at the time the Bill was before the House and no way was found of giving representation to labour. The element of labour represented by the growers is, of course, represented, and what I have come to the House for today is to ask the House to elect representatives to represent the consumers' interests. As regards the points raised by Prof. Ranga, of course any difficulty that may have been caused to the growers is certainly not the fault of the Committee, for the Committee has not yet been constituted. The States had to pass legislation and there had to be nominations from States and from Provincial Governments. These have now nearly all been received and it is with regard to the future constitution of the Committee that I have come to the House today with this motion. If, however, in the collection of the cess under the Act difficulties have arisen and Prof. Ranga will let us know about them, I will certainly be very glad to look into them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Indian Coconut Committee under section 4(g) of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (X of 1944)."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Before I move may I have your permission to make a slight change in the motion standing in my name, namely instead of three non-official members I would like to have six non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee. Sir, there is a general desire in the House that the number of non-official Members should be increased, and after discussion with the different sides we have come to an agreement that the number of non-official Members from this House should be six. May I move it, Sir, with your permission?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, may I have some more information about the functions of this advisory body and what it is expected to do?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All I can say is that it will have the same functions as the Advisory Committees for other departments. I will be quite prepared to place before the Committee any matter of importance which any member of the Committee may desire to discuss for the purpose of getting their advice.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Member has increased the quota of members from this House.

With regard to the functions, I am not very happy about the reply which he has given to my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshmukh. He said that this Committee will have the same functions as other Advisory Committees. Our experience in connection with other Advisory Committees is not at all satisfactory. Meetings are held very seldom; very small and unimportant matters are placed before them because it is for the Honourable Member to say what should be placed before the committee. The functions of this committee and powers of members are not defined, whereas we in this House feel that our representatives are having full powers and are functioning very well. Therefore my Honourable friend should take a warning today. If he is going to deal with this Committee as other departments deal with their committees, then probably next time when he comes with such a motion before the House we may not be very lenient.

The other point I wish to make is this: He has not mentioned whether the election to this committee is for one year or for how many years. He has not mentioned any period. I would very much like him to come to this House every year so that we may review the work of this department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I would like the Legislature to consider the question very seriously, namely whether they should send their representatives to committees which are not only advisory but which work in secret, and which do not make any report to the Legislature. I feel the time has come for the Legislature to consider this question very seriously whether they should send representatives to committees which do not report to them and therefore the Members who are sent to the committees are not responsible to the Legislature. We do not know what advice they give. We send them there and we receive no report. My own view is that such committees instead of strengthening the control of the Legislature over the executive weaken the control of the Legislature, because these members get committed to certain policies of the Government in secret without the Legislature knowing in what way they have voted in the committee. I feel, Sir, that the Legislature should consider whether they should send representatives to committees which are not responsible to the Legislature.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I must confess I misunderstood the point last time. I am rather in favour of the reports of these committees being circulated amongst the Members of this House. What I objected to was that one particular committee should not be singled out for that. It should be extended to all such committees. I think, Sir, it is only fair that reports of these committees ought to be circulated among the Members of this House. I would like to go one step further and say that they should not only be circulated, but we should have an opportunity to discuss them on the floor of this House, so that we may be able to express our opinion on them and examine what our representatives have done. I have had this complaint with regard to several committees that although they were appointed by this House we had no opportunity to discuss their reports. Therefore, I request that the Government should consider this proposal and in future they should print the reports of these committees, excluding of course any information of confidential and secret nature which due to war conditions it may not be advisable to publish, and circulate them among the Members of this House, and we should have an opportunity to discuss those reports.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): So far as I understand, the functions of these committees are as follows: That a certain number of Honourable Members elected by this House should be in a position to know more of the subjects of the department that come before this House, and they should be in a position to cross-examine the Honourable Member or

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]
any representative of his departments in these committees. No vote I presume is taken and they come here better informed in order to inform this House of their point of view on questions that come before us. That I understand is the function of these committees. Since no vote is taken.

An Honourable Member: Votes are taken.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: So far as I know, no votes are taken.

An Honourable Member: They are taken, if necessary.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I am not talking of Statutory Committees. I am talking of committees such as may be appointed by this Honourable House at a request made by an Honourable Member for having an advisory committee with regard to his department. In such committees no votes are taken. And therefore it was considered advisable that at least a certain number of Members of this Honourable House should be better acquainted with the working of the department and with the subjects that come before this House. If that is the object, then if Members of the Committees would themselves ask the Honourable Member in charge of the department to place certain subjects before the committee, he would, I think, be bound to do so. But if they always leave it to the Honourable Member to place before the committee whatever he may like, then it is the fault of members of the committee themselves. I understand that no Honourable Member would refuse to bring a particular subject before the Advisory Committee if he was requested to do so, but he is not in a position always to know what is the subject that any particular member of the committee would like discussed. If that is the understanding—that the Honourable Member will bring forward such subjects as any individual member of the committee may require and have it discussed so that the committee may be better prepared to give us their advice when the matter comes before this House,—I think that committee will be doing a useful service.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur com Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I take strong objection to the suggestions that have fallen from the lips of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. Sir, if the House is to accept his point of view, it will seriously curtail the powers and also the utility of the Members who are to go and serve on these committees. They are not to go and get themselves educated through the good graces of the departmental members concerned, but also to communicate the general sense of this House on those questions that are brought up for discussion, and see that even in advance of the member coming to this House the Member concerned of the Government will be able to know what is likely to be the attitude of this House, therefore his proposal may be suitably amended and developed before he comes to this House. Sir, I have always understood it to be the English practice—and here I speak subject to correction—that these committees are not only expected to give the benefit of the general attitude of this House to the Member concerned but also to try, as far as it is possible for them even through their advisory capacity, to influence the policy and activities of the department and the Member concerned and also help him in shaping his own views and his own activities in regard to the business of his department. Now, Sir, if we are to accept the views of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, the powers of the members of these committees as well as the committees themselves will be considerably restricted.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have not disagreed in whatever I have said with a word that you have said up to now. I do not know what you are going to say in the future.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am glad he is in agreement with me. He thinks votes ought not to be taken in these committees. If he really means that votes ought not to be taken or are not taken, I disagree with him. If he means that as far as possible they should try to express their views unanimously then there can be no disagreement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question has been raised before more than once, when it has been explained what are the functions of these committees. These general questions which have been dealt with before cannot be discussed over again on every motion like this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If they have been already dealt with and the House is expected to know what has been decided upon and the House is not expected to agree with what my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, has said today, I have nothing more to add.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have said nothing contrary to what you have said.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I agree with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin's statement that no single Department should be singled out for the purpose of criticism. Most of the points are of a general nature. I have some experience of Standing Committees. There are often peculiar difficulties which I hope my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, will realise. A little while ago a very important question was placed before that Committee. We were very anxious to know the views of the members. I had several meetings but unfortunately quite a number of members said: 'we cannot give any view just now: we do not know our Party's attitude.' It makes the Standing Committee's work extremely difficult if a member after getting all the pros and cons and after being able to discuss threadbare all the issues, says, 'I cannot give my view till my Party's opinion is known'. I am anxious to call these committees at a time when the Legislature is not in Session but it is difficult because I cannot get the different Parties at the time. Yet I can assure my friend that there is not a single member in the Government Department who is not anxious to place any matter on any question of policy or administration which the Members of this House may desire.

I have nothing more to say as it is in the nature of an Advisory Committee only. I do not know the procedure of other committees, but I take it that the nature of an Advisory Committee is what has been stated.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Will this Committee meet frequently?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That depends on the matters which will be placed before the Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise or subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and for holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination.	Date for election.
1. Central Advisory Board of Education in India	14th November	16th November.
2. Indian Coconut Committee	14th November	16th November.
3. Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	15th November	17th November.

The nominations for all the three Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary room in the Council House, New Delhi, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

THE INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Legislative Business. Sir Azizul Huque.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, be taken into consideration."

There are certain modifications brought about by section 42(6) of the Defence of India Rules. They are not sufficient to cope with the war time conditions. Under section 21 of the Indian Patents and Designs Act, the Government could only use or exercise an invention which was needed for the services of the Crown and they could sell any articles made in pursuance or such rights if they were surplus. When the Defence of India Rules were changed large powers were given as regards the use of any drawing, model, plans, specification or other documents. But it has been found necessary to extend these powers so that inventions can be used or exercised or even sold for any purpose necessary or expedient for the efficient prosecution of the war or for the maintenance of civil supplies or services or for such other purposes for which the Indian Patents and Designs Act is intended.

There is another difficulty about agreements which had been entered into between applicants, or patentees, and third parties and it is necessary that some provision should be made to make inoperative any agreement or licence subsisting between the applicant or patentee and the third party.

The last difficulty will be about the rights of persons to whom the articles made by Government as a result of such inventions are sold. It is necessary to protect them.

It is to meet these three minor matters that I have brought forward this amending Bill. Sir, I move:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, be taken into consideration."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): I have an amendment, but I want to ask a question and if the reply is satisfactory I will not move it. Why does my Honourable friend want to give retrospective effect to the provisions in the Act? He says that this is to come into force from the 3rd September 1939.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Because in the meantime certain transactions have been entered into: certain patents have been taken over and unless they are made inoperative, Government will not be able to protect the rights of the third parties. So it is necessary to safeguard their interests.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I am not moving the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion is now open for discussion.

(No Honourable Member got up to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Azizul Huque.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE COFFEE MARKET EXPANSION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942 (Second Amendment), be taken into consideration."

The main purpose of this Bill is to make legal research work within the scope of the activities of the Coffee Market Expansion Act. Certain funds came in and it was thought desirable to spend them on coffee research. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942 (Second Amendment), be taken into consideration."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I very much appreciate the work that is being done by this Government through the Coffee Cess Committee; but, at the same time, I think it is desirable, as I pressed last time, that we should

have an annual report from this Committee and, if necessary, we should have the opportunity to discuss the matter in the House. It is quite possible that the non-official Members may be able to make suggestions, for there is always the possibility of improving even the best. The best can always be made better. In spite of the fact that good work is already being done by the Committee I think it is desirable that we should have an opportunity to consider the matter. I would ask the Honourable Member to assure us that an annual report of the Committee will be printed and circulated among the Members of the House so that we may know what the Committee is doing instead of, as at present, the Members getting their information from private sources.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I see, Sir, that this amending Bill seeks to credit what money is left out to be added on to the general fund. All the money of the pool comes from two sources, the pool gets all the sums realised by the Board from the sale of coffee as also the surplus in the fund. The section specifies the ways in which the money may be spent. May I know how they get this surplus which they want to put to the general fund? Has it been received by the sale of coffee? The Coffee Houses which are working in various parts of the country are working at a profit. May I know whether any part of this fund is from the coffee houses? May I know whether these coffee houses were intended to be worked at a profit or as a means of propaganda. If the coffee houses were intended to work for a profit, I must submit that that was not the intention when these coffee houses were opened. Let us know how this fund has been arrived at.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think I might explain the circumstances in which this pool has arisen. A duty of Rs. 14 a hundredweight was imposed. On the date the excise duty on coffee was imposed there happened to be 7,200 tons of coffee in the pool which, having been cured before the imposition of the duty was not dutiable but for the sake of administrative convenience the duty was realised, because otherwise it would have been very difficult to distinguish between that coffee and the coffee that had been cured. That has resulted in a gain of approximately Rs. two lakhs and it is not intended that this should go to the profit of the plantations but should be devoted for specific research purposes, which were imminently necessary. I do not think I have got anything more to say. It is not the profit of the coffee houses and I am quite prepared to look into the question of coffee houses. I have never been to a coffee house in my life but I shall try to do it next time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it a fact that this pool bears the loss sustained by the coffee industry, which has to sell coffee at a lower price to the U.K.C.C. and also the Defence Services?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think that is correct in any case. It is not fair to ask a question regarding the U.K.C.C. in this connection.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The question is with regard to the coffee pool.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It has nothing to do with it. I explained that because of the duty which was imposed there was a certain stock which had been cured before, on which duty had been realised.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is too late in asking his question. He should have risen in his place at the proper time. He cannot make a speech after the Member in charge has replied to the debate.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942 (Second Amendment), be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE DELHI JOINT WATER AND SEWAGE BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration."

The purpose of this short amending Bill is fully set out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I do not think the House will expect from me much further explanation. The present Bill seeks to amend the parent Act to allow of the inclusion of authorities like the Fort Notified Area Committee and the West Delhi Notified Area Committee among the constituent bodies, which are set out in section 2(c) of the parent act. We are anxious to have power to do this at once, because, as regards the Fort Notified Area Committee, they are already in receipt of water from the Board,—in all probability illegally,—and, as regards the West Delhi Notified Area (which is a recently constituted area and which includes the industrial area of New Delhi) it is becoming more and more urgent that water-supply should be made available to that area.

The second thing that the present Bill seeks to do is to take power to allow the Board to supply water by agreement to places which are under authorities which are not likely (because they are not urban authorities) to be brought within the list of constituent bodies. Already one area within Kilokri, which is under the District Board, has been given water for good and sufficient reasons, but probably without any legal basis, and we may have another area in the near future, which may have to be given water for the same reason. And there are certain areas which are springing up outside the urban areas of Delhi under the District Board of Delhi, to whom it may be desirable to extend the facilities of the water-supply. We propose that that should be done by *ad hoc* agreement with persons interested in the locality.

The Bill is a simple measure designed to meet these two objects. Sir, I move:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): To avoid waste of time on my motion I would like my Honourable friend to tell me why he wants to charge twice the usual rate when with the sanction of the Government the supply of water is extended to outside areas. When it is agreed that a particular area is to be supplied with pure water, I do not know why my Honourable friend should penalise them and charge them twice

what he is charging the Delhi area. If he will explain that—I hope he has considered any amendment and that he agrees with the rate I have suggested in it.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, I confess there was not much basis for taking any particular figure. If the facility is extended outside the Delhi urban area, it is fair that the people who get it should pay at least as much for the water as the people within the urban area and we thought that twice what is called the "final issue rate" would be a fair basic figure; but it is a minimum figure that is being fixed here and it can all be arranged under the agreement. I am not disposed to quarrel with the amendment; and if he moves his amendment in due course, I shall not stand in his way.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want to make only a little suggestion on this. I have found sometimes that Bills of the kind just moved are brought forward, or sometimes a kind of Ordinance is passed at a time when the Assembly is not sitting, without consulting the people who are going to be affected. I would like the Government to keep in view that no Bill of any kind or law in the shape of an Ordinance should be passed without giving due consideration to the views of the people actually going to be affected by that Bill. Otherwise it all becomes quite one-sided. It may be that the committee or company supplying this water may like to have the charges increased; but the people who are going to be affected must be allowed to have their say. I do not find that this procedure has been adopted in the present case. I also find that a similar thing in the shape of an Ordinance was passed in the Delhi area, which has created a great deal of row in the whole city and a lot of litigation has started, and I would request the Honourable Member to advise the authorities concerned that before they send a proposal to any department of the Government of India for bringing up a Bill of this nature, where the public is going to be affected, they should consult all sides and not one side alone. There is the payee and there is the man who charges. Both sides should have their views put before the House. I have found that this principle is ignored in many cases; and in this case also there is no evidence that it has been complied with. Only yesterday I received a lot of complaints about this, that the people were going to be very adversely affected. I would like my Honourable friend to say how far this procedure has been followed in this case because I know that in every Bill which is introduced here consultation is made: when you ask for circulation the opinion of all sides is collected and placed before us; but in this Bill whether the people have had any say or not ought to be made clear before this House.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 5, in the proposed second proviso to the proposed section 14A, for the word 'twice' the words 'one and a half times' be substituted."

I need not detain the House long over this, because I explained the purport of this amendment when the motion for consideration was being discussed. My Honourable friend seemed inclined to accept this amendment because he said that this was limiting the minimum. That is true. The minimum provided in the clause is "twice the final issue rate payable". I want to reduce that so that if the Government wish to charge less than the minimum provided in the Act, they may do so. At the same time, I want my friend to meet the wishes of the House and see that except in very exceptional cases the

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait]

rates are not high, the idea being that pure and good water should be made available as cheaply as possible. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 5, in the proposed second proviso to the proposed section 14A, for the word 'twice' the words 'one and a half times' be substituted."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Though I cannot give any undertaking as to how individual cases will be met, I have no objection to this amendment. This will only arise in the cases where water is supplied under an agreement and each case will have to be taken on its merits.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That in clause 5, in the proposed second proviso to the proposed section 14A, for the word 'twice' the words 'one and a half times' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Sir Jeremy Raisman.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, before my Honourable friend moves his motion, I have a point of order to raise. Under Standing Order 44 (1) (a) the report of the Select Committee has to be made available to the Members for 7 days. The Select Committee's report in connection with the motion that is now going to be moved was placed on the table on the 7th and it was circulated on the 8th evening. So, for only 5 days the Members have been in possession of the Select Committee's report. Therefore, this motion which the Honourable Member is going to make contravenes this Standing Order. But if the House is inclined to waive the rule in his favour, I won't object provided some of us who have given notice of amendments this morning are also allowed to move our amendments, otherwise this motion will be unfair to the non-official Members.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, if the House agrees to proceed with the Bill, I have no objection to the amendment which my Honourable friend wishes to put in.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): We have not got those amendments yet.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): In view of the opinion expressed by both Parties, I think the Standing Order in regard to the time limit may be waived and is waived.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The Select Committee went carefully into the criticisms which had been elicited in the course of the circulation of the Bill and they came to the conclusion that very few amendments were necessary. In fact, most of the changes made in the Bill, as it now comes before the House or several of them, are merely corrections of printing errors. In clause 8 of the Bill there is a change of language owing to the criticism which was made of the phrase "a Government security held by two or more persons severally". It was decided that this was not perhaps appropriate language and instead of that the Select Committee went back to the language of the present Act which

speaks of a Government security payable to two or more persons severally. Then, a good deal of care was devoted to the question which so many critics raised in regard to clause 9, which was also a point to which my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani drew attention. It seemed to the Select Committee, and, if I may say so, quite rightly, that the criticism of this clause is based on a misapprehension. There was a feeling that unless more time is given for the production of probate or letters of administration or a succession certificate, hardship would be involved to the public. The exact opposite is the case. The position is that on the death of the holder of a security, unless you make provision for some fairly prompt decision, the small investor will not be able to draw the interest on his bond until he has gone through the processes of obtaining the probate or letters of administration or succession certificate. Now, the object of the Bill, as of the existing statute, is to provide relief for the small investor by enabling him to begin to draw the interest on his bond as soon as possible, and for that purpose I suggest this House should be more concerned to see that the period is not too long. During the period when the Reserve Bank does not make a summary adjudication of the matter, the small investor is suffering the hardship of being kept out of his money. Although at first sight it appears otherwise, the fact of the matter is that this provision actually works the other way and is intended to provide relief to the small investor. I may say in support of this that similar provisions have had to be made in other statutes, for instance, under section 3(1) of the Post Office Cash Certificates Act, 1917, and under section 4 of the Government Savings Bank Act. The time-limit in these cases is three months. I suggest that the period of six months is appropriate in the present case, that it should not be shortened and that certainly in the interests of the small investor it should not be increased.

Another clause which has attracted some attention is the clause providing for limitation. That is clause 24 of the Bill. The clause, as originally framed, provided for the liability of the Central Government in respect of a Government security and of any interest due on it terminating on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due on the security or by way of interest became payable. There have been various criticisms of this provision, and it was suggested in some of the opinions that there may be cases where the persons entitled to the payment of the security or the interest, would be unable to present their claims within six years. But after some discussion, the Select Committee decided to extend the period to 12 years, which, they felt, should be ample for all purposes, and this period has been embodied in the Bill.

The only other point of substance is the one which my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari, who served on the Select Committee, has raised in his minute of dissent on clause 7 of the Bill. His contention is that a certain concession given to Hindus governed by the Mitakshara law, which at present exists as a proviso to section 12 of the Indian Securities Act, 1920, should continue in their favour. Sir, the Committee felt that in preparing new legislation of a simplified and, may I say, of a more rational character, it was difficult to justify the provision of this somewhat unusual exception. I am no lawyer, but I understand that in certain other respects, the law on the subject is the same as that which we embodied in the Bill. For instance, in all properly drawn Articles of Association of Joint Stock Companies, and again I believe in the Acts and Rules relating to the Reserve Bank Act and the Imperial Bank Act, the position there is that title is determined on the same basis as we propose to embody in this statute. Clause 7 seeks to provide that executors or administrators of a deceased sole holder of a Government security and the holder of a succession certificate issued under Part X of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, shall be the only persons who may be recognised by the Bank as having any title to the Government security. The members of the Hindu joint family governed by the Mitakshara law, are already in this position in respect, as I understand, of the shares of Joint Stock Banks and such securities as the Reserve Bank shares or Imperial Bank shares. I have not been able to understand what injustice is involved or what hardship is

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caused in requiring members of such a family to undergo the same procedure when establishing title to a Government security. In fact, I am informed that they are actually in a better position than other classes because other classes have to pay probate fee when they seek to obtain a Probate or Letters of Administration, whereas by a ruling of the High Courts, in the case of Hindu Joint family governed by the Mitakshara law, no such probate fee is payable. They, therefore, are not only in a position to comply with the requirements of the Bill as easily as anybody else, but they actually enjoy the advantage that in producing the necessary documents, they are not liable to have to pay the fee which other members of the community would have to pay in order to obtain such a document. On general grounds, it was felt in the Select Committee that whatever might be the history of this curious exception, there was insufficient justification for, shall I say, disfiguring a simplifying measure with a rather long winded and complicated proviso relating to a special case of that kind. For these reasons, the Committee decided to adhere to the Bill as drafted. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural):
Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I should like, with your permission, to begin with a word of apology. I have not been a frequent visitor of this House for the last four years, and I must confess that I have got rather out of practice, both with the art of speaking in this House and with the procedure that has to be followed. If I make any mistakes, you, Sir, with your usual generosity will pardon me, and so will, I have no doubt, the Honourable the Finance Member who is in charge of this Bill.

Sir, in our country, the executive being the *de facto* legislature also, all laws seem to me at least to be enacted with a view to making the task of the Government and its officers as easy, and the work of the general public as difficult and complicated as possible. I have not to go far for an illustration. The Honourable the Finance Member himself has just said that a very necessary—it appears to me to be very necessary because it touches me personally and it touches the habits of many people in our country—a very necessary amendment to one of the sections, with which I shall presently deal, would involve a very complicated process. He thinks the language of the proposed proviso would be very complicated. He wants a simple Act; but he forgets that when he is saving himself from a complication, he is introducing a lot of complication in the lives of millions of people in our land. I would rather have a complicated law—and, as a matter of fact, all laws are complicated—and as a result thereof have a simple process of life for the general mass of the people, than have a simple law which creates a lot of confusion in our lives outside. It is no doubt a very simple rule that the Government can imprison anybody it likes for an indefinite period of time. The old Rule 26 of the Defence of India Act, used to be only of about eight or ten words; and it got so mixed up with the other rules of the Act that nobody knew about it at all, till everybody was being caught and imprisoned without charge, without trial for the end of time. Therefore, I would rather have a complicated or complex set of words here which simplifies our lives outside than have a very simple law here which makes our lives not worth living outside.

Now, Sir, there are three points on which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member and the House generally in connection with this Bill. I have no doubt my Honourable friends from all sides of the House will assail this Bill in various other parts. But I want to concentrate on just these three. I want to draw the attention of the House, to

begin with to clause 6 that deals with trusts. Trusts are facts and trusts are created by charitable persons for charitable purposes. They are in the nature of corporations such as societies registered under Act XXI of 1860. But trustees seem to be driven from pillar to post whenever they want to invest their money in safe securities and see that no harm comes to themselves or to their trusts. They are anxious to fulfil the objects of the trust but at every step trustees are troubled by one law or another. I happen to be a trustee of two trusts, one for educational purposes and the other for the care of widows and orphans. Both these trusts were created by charitably disposed persons who thought that creating these trusts would be the best way of fulfilling the objects which they had in view. I had very strange experiences in the matter of investing the money of these trusts. In the educational trust we had, as a part of its property, Government securities of the face value of one lakh of rupees. For urgent purposes we had to sell this paper. Because of various troubles we had already experienced, we also, on the advice of lawyers, turned ourselves into a charitable society under Act XXI of 1860. But the name 'trust' still stuck to us; and after all the transactions were completed, the final payments were refused. The papers were hung up and there were urgent telegrams to me from Bombay and elsewhere to expedite matters, otherwise various penalties were in store for me. Sir, if I had not happened to know the then Governor of the Reserve Bank, Sir James Taylor personally,—whose premature death I mourned as much as any other friend of his could have done,—and if I had not worked with him as representative of this Assembly in the first Central Board of the Reserve Bank, I do not think I could have got out of the mess. Sir James Taylor came to my rescue and expedited matters and I got the money. If you go to the Imperial Bank and want to deposit your money as a trust, they say they recognise no trusts. I do not see what harm there is in recognising a trust. If it is a valid trust, if it functions properly, if it has got an office, a Secretary and President and other functionaries, where is the harm in the bank recognising a trust?

Sir, I have had similar experiences with the other trust also: the trust which holds properties for the welfare of widows and orphans. Lawyers advised us in that case also to transform ourselves into a charitable society under Act XXI of 1860. We did that; but still we met with a lot of difficulty whenever we wanted to buy or sell securities or to make other transactions in the interests of the trust. I hope, therefore, that my Honourable friend opposite will accept my amendment of which I have given notice only today and for the admission of which I must thank my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait. I had almost feared that the amendment would be ruled out of order for want of sufficient notice. I hope my Honourable friend will accept my amendment; and if he thinks the language is not clear—I must say I am no draftsman—he may suggest changes in the language, so that valid trusts, trusts which are on a par with charitable societies, might be accepted as corporations within the compass of this Bill so that trustees may not have any difficulty and that a whole horde of trustees may not be required every time to walk up and down to put their signatures severally before they can complete a transaction. I do hope I am clear in my meaning; and that the Honourable Member opposite will come to the rescue of trusts in the manner suggested.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend was at pains to tell us that clause 7 should stand as it is. He does not see why particular people with particular methods of life should have any particular privileges. When it comes to the taking of income-tax, he is not prepared to recognise every adult member of a joint Hindu family as a separate entity. In that matter, I am sorry to say that assurances given on the floor of this House when the amendment of the Income-tax Act was being discussed are not being given effect to. The Income-tax Department is taking unfair advantage of a ruling of a High Court—and Courts do not recognise assurances given in this House and go only by the letter of the law—and are not giving such facilities for the recognition of

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separation in an undivided Hindu family for purposes of assessment of income-tax, as was assured to us in this House when I moved an amendment on this subject, by no less a person than the then Law Member Sir Nripendra Sircar. Now, Sir, when it comes to taking, no privileges are to be given, no special customs are to be recognised; and similarly in this case also they want that holders of Government securities, on behalf of undivided Hindu families, should also be regarded as individuals; and they must also undergo various processes before they can safely get those Government securities transferred to the rightful owners.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member knows very well that in an undivided Hindu family governed by the Mitakshara law, we become proprietors by the very fact of birth. We, with our brothers, cousins, fathers, uncles, etc., hold the property from our very birth as a joint concern as coparceners. We are joint holders from the start; and when a special provision is being made in section (a) for the right of survivors of joint holders and several payees, I do not see any reason why Government is not accepting the joint holdership of joint Hindu families governed by the Mitakshara Law, and agreeing that the survivor is to get the Government security *ipso facto* after the person in whose name they were held passes away. Sir, I really have very little hesitation, as you and the House knows, to say the exact facts on every situation. I have not much prudery about me and I call a spade a spade and do not mind being charged with indecency or vulgarity. What happens in such cases is this: When a poor old man in whose name Government securities are held, is on his death-bed, all the persons concerned—sons, cousins and others—who have a right to these securities after the dear one has departed, gather round him; and in his shaky hands thrust pens and make him sign his name in the brackets on the back of these Government securities, so that all the annoying legal formalities may be avoided later. In the Mitakshara Hindu families at least we were saved from this horror of having to force our dying parents to sign these forms before the end, lest there should be any difficulty afterwards. The processes of taking a probate and letters of administration are lengthy and expensive, and the system of transfer of Government securities is a fairly simple one because naturally the Government have made it very simple for itself. I say, Sir, that the Honourable Member opposite should save large masses of people in our country from the degradation, the humiliation and the vulgarity of forcing dying parents to sign these Government securities in order to avoid various formalities afterwards. I therefore think, Sir, that my Honourable friend opposite will accede to the general request of this House, for I find there are amendments to this effect from various persons, and let the undivided Hindu families enjoy the right that they have done so far. I am very glad to see my Honourable friend, Mr. Baijnath Bajoria, in the House: I was sorry he was not here when I began. That is the one point on which he and I stand on common ground—the support and preservation of the joint Hindu family. On all other points, I fear, we disagree; and I am sure this particular amendment will find even a greater champion in my friend there than in me.

The third point that I want to deal with is with reference to section 24. Section 24 seeks to put a limit of 12 years within which payment shall be made of capital and interest on Government securities. After that, I take it, the Government securities lapse. I think one of the most shameful things that have been introduced in our country by its foreign masters is this—hateful law of limitation. When a man has taken something from another, it is up to him to pay it; but as the law is, the debtor starts counting from the very first day that he signs his pronote and wishes that three years may elapse somehow and the creditor may forget about the debt before then so that the payment may lapse. This law has made an otherwise honest people exceedingly dishonest; and it has given rise to an amount of litigation which is terrible to behold. Now, Sir, the Government also want to eat up the money that it has borrowed under the cover of this law. We know that not all

investments in Government securities are necessarily voluntary. Those who know how war funds are collected, those who know how people are forced to pay, will agree with me when I say that the securities purchased are not always in the nature of voluntary transactions; but I do not say that heaps and heaps of crores out of the seventeen or eighteen hundred crores that the Government have gathered as securities or promissory notes, are not in the nature of voluntary transactions. When the Government has got this money—and means to be honest about it—why is it anxious to refuse payment in case 12 years happen to elapse before the demand for it is made. I think that it is very necessary that this period of limitation should be extended to a very great extent or this section deleted completely in view of other provisions in this Bill.

There is at present the necessity of taking a probate or letters of administration; and all that is bound to take a lot of time. Even when in some cases, as the Honourable the Finance Member pointed out, there are no stamp duties to pay, there would still be lawyers' fees to pay. No law has yet been made—and I should welcome the day when such a law is enacted—that lawyers' services shall be placed at our disposal free of all cost. Till then, we have to take into consideration not only the expenditure that is actually mentioned as legal expenditure on stamp duties and other things, but you have also to take into consideration the lawyers' fees which is very often far in excess of the prescribed fees, and you must not forget the actual payments made to various chaprasis, and clerks and other persons before you are through with a case. Sir, I think, law—if it is a decent law—should be able to save the general public from such exactions. My proposal is that instead of 12 years, a period of 60 years should be the limitation. If for 60 years, namely for two generations, no claim is made, then the Government may eat up the money if it likes. I should like the Government honestly to fork out the money even then and find out the successors itself; but if it is very anxious to make profits in underhand ways—it is already making a lot of profit by eating up unclaimed balances in post offices, where I understand it holds about 12 crores of such money—it should at least give a longer lease of life to the holders of securities and their successors.

I should also like to say another thing in this connection. Joint families with their many advantages have one great disadvantage from which many of my friends, including Mr. Bajoria despite his lynx eyes, could not be free. There is a great amount of secretiveness among the various members of the family. A member does not want another member to know exactly how his personal accounts stand lest there should be any difficulties of a domestic nature. If a member of a joint family—I take it from the smile of the Honourable the Law Member that he knows this very well—has some securities which he or she had been secreting, 'she' even more than 'he'—and he or she dies without leaving any instructions—it may be that on his or her death-bed there were too many people about him or her to enable her to leave instructions behind—and if these securities are discovered in some box after many many years—may be after 12 years—as ornaments and cash are very often discovered—then Government should, I think, not refuse to pay money because a claim is being made after the lapse of 12 years. But if Government agrees to make it 60, namely when all possible persons who could have known this particular individual who had these securities have in the nature of things passed away, then it does not matter if the Government takes the money because it would then break no heart. I therefore think, Sir, that I should press these three matters before the House and I should like the Honourable the Finance Member, with the immense power that he possesses, to look at this problem sympathetically. If he really understands and appreciates the actual system of life in which we in India live; if he does not for the purposes of legislation believe that people in India live the same individualistic lives as he and his own countrymen do; if he realises that he is legislating for a people with customs and manners different to his; and that those customs and manners have come through the centuries and that have to be respected whether he likes them or not; if he realises the strength of the feeling in the land on

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such social and semi-religious matters, I am sure, Sir, he will not refuse to think along the lines I have ventured to lay down and will accept suitable amendments to these three sections which I have discussed before the House.

I want him first of all to accept and recognise Trusts as actual facts of our lives, as charitable institutions created by charitable and generous hearted persons for the public good; and to see to it that Trusts are able to invest their money in safe securities and draw their interest on these monies at reasonable intervals in a reasonable manner; and that the bank and all banks—and by the bank I mean the Reserve Bank as mentioned in this Act—recognise Trusts in the same manner as they recognise charitable institutions. Then I want him, and all Members of this House, to give a little thought to the conditions of undivided Hindu families. I shall be told that no exception can be made for one set of people and that they must also undergo the same difficulties as all other persons have to. But first of all, it is not necessarily right to add disabilities on a particular set of persons simply because other persons do not enjoy the same facilities. Then, Sir, the numbers affected are very large and that also should be taken into consideration. I should be glad if similar facilities are given to all persons. I do not like these letters of administration. I do not like the necessity for taking out probate and things of that sort. These were not known to us before and I should like all communities to be saved from these difficulties. But if they cannot be for some reasons or other, at least those that had been safe so far should continue to be safe in future also. I should say one thing more. If a small privilege is being asked for the undivided Hindu Mitakshara family, we must not forget that there are a number of disabilities also from which they suffer. For instance, in the Dayabaga School of Hindu Law, the man who possesses the property is, if I am not mistaken, the absolute holder of that property. His sons, his cousins, his brothers cannot come and stop him from spending money in a manner which these people do not like; but in Mitakshara families we can hold up the hands of the father or the head of the family, the Karta, and prevent him from spending money in the way he likes. If the younger folk think that he is not spending it in the proper way he can be prevented from doing so; and that is why it is said that the Dayabaga son bends far more before his Dayabaga father than the Mitakshara son before his Mitakshara father. The Dayabaga father has absolute right over his property; but the Mitakshara father has not. Therefore it is not true, as my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, tried to make out—and I am sorry that he is not attentive to what I am saying . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, I am.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It is not true that a special privilege is being given to the Mitakshara families without any attendant disabilities. I therefore think, Sir, that he should be considerate to these Mitakshara people, and not force them to undergo the processes which he is forcing on other people who enjoy far more privileges in other directions than the Mitakshara karta of the family does.

Lastly, I once more repeat, that in all honesty he should increase the period of limitation and not try to swallow up money only because it is not claimed for 12 years. In Bihar which perhaps is our most litigious province . . .

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadian): Question!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I do not think the truth of what I say can be questioned. I have something to do with Bihar, being married there.

Patna, the capital of Bihar, is now a town of only lawyers who have enriched themselves at the expense of the children of the soil, and if the Honourable the Leader of the House were here, he certainly would not have questioned what I am saying. In Bihar very often a case takes twenty years and more to finish: in between of course not only Sultan Manzils but many more manzils arise in Patna. A little objection is made on a little point and the person concerned goes

on fighting from court to court and would not stop till he has got the judgment of the Privy Council for or against him. That takes twelve years. Then another point arises which takes another 12 years and so on. In the meantime my Honourable friend may eat up the government securities. Therefore, I say, Sir, that the period of limitation should be extended to sixty years, if he is not prepared to abolish the period of limitation altogether. Sixty years is not too long. In the U. P., for instance, if I am not mistaken, limitation does not run against zamindars in certain matters for sixty years. In any case, I feel that at least in this matter a similar provision may be made so that we may be saved from possible losses.

Sir, I appeal for the support of all sections of this House. The misfortune is that very often different sections of the House seem to feel that as a particular matter does not concern their particular community, therefore they need not worry about it. I think this is wrong in principle. Every part must help every other part. The whole must support the part, the part must support the whole. We all really belong to one community. Even in matters of social legislation, I am always surprised why members of one community are asked not to speak or bother about any Bill or piece of legislation that affects some other community. Why should I not bother? They are our brothers. They are our people. Anything that affects them will affect us. Anything they do inevitably reacts upon us; and therefore each part must support every other part. If Honourable Members think that in making a vigorous plea for the Hindu undivided Mitakshara family I have only dealt with a part of the community, I beg them not to think so, but to feel that in supporting that part they are really supporting the whole, and they are inviting that part to support other parts when their turn comes. Let us not forget, Government is going to eat us all part by part; and it is in its interests to put one part against another, to put one community against another community, to put the Dayabhagas against the Mitaksharas. The Government gains in the end. When anything affects the Dayabhaga man, the Mitakshara man must sympathise with him, otherwise we shall be enriching and helping the Government at every stage, while we will be harming ourselves part by part. Therefore, I say, Sir, I commend my opposition to this measure, to the various sections of the House; and I commend my amendments to the unanimous approval of the House. If we must have a measure, let us have a decent measure, worthy of us and of our Statute Book.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural): This is not such an innocent measure as it seems. Neither can it claim that it merely codifies the existing law and merely makes an enactment for the Centre where there is an enactment for both the Provinces and the Centre together. If I may say so, it vitally affects the existing rights of the people and you must consider this against this background. There was a time when government securities were held by only the industrialists, by the rich people and by the mill-owners. But today it is the common holding of the common man. People have been forced to purchase government bonds, whatever the amount may be and so a measure like this affects the common man in the street, in the town and in the village and so it is up to us to see that his rights are not affected. Remember he is not an educated man and he does not know the law and so we should see at least that the existing law is preserved and that no inroads are made against it.

In my opinion the most important clause in this Bill which affects the existing rights of government security holders is clause 24. May I, Sir, read to you section 18 of the present Act, that is the Indian Securities Act 1920, which is the law today. According to that there is no limitation for the principal amount of a government security. Any number of years may pass but "save as otherwise provided in the Act on payment of the amount due on a Government security on or after the date on which payment becomes due, or when a duplicate security has been issued under section 10 or when a renewed security has been issued, the Government shall be discharged from all liability in respect of the security or securities so paid or in place of which a duplicate, renewed, or new security or securities has or have been issued". But when there is no payment

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made in any way whatever, there is no discharge of the liability of the Government and the liability still ensues after a number of years. Under the law as it is today there is no limitation for the holding of a government security. There is limitation only as regards interest as is shown in section 18 (a) of this Act. But today the Government comes with provisions in this Bill and says that this liability shall be confined to 12 years. Even the Limitation Act in Article 60 says:

"For money deposited under an agreement that it shall be payable on demand, including money of a customer in the hands of his banker so payable."

Where there is a deposit in the hands of a particular banker, if it is not claimed, then how does limitation arise? The limitation arises only 3 years after the demand is made. If I do not make the demand there is no limitation. If I make the demand after 25 years, it is limited within three years after the 25 years. Under the existing Limitation Act, in the case of a deposit, the limitation runs only 3 years after the demand is made, and virtually and essentially government securities are in the nature of deposits. They are made as deposits for the future well-being of the people, and today it is proposed to change the entire law on the subject and to say that within 12 years not only will the interest be affected but also the principal—if the Members here will note it, it says:

"Where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law for the time being in force, the liability of the Central Government in respect of a Government security and of any interest payment due on it shall terminate on the expiry of twelve years from the date, on which the amount due on the security or due by way of interest on the security, as the case may be, became payable."

That is, against the principal itself there is a limitation of 12 years sought to be placed under this clause. So this Bill is really not so innocent as it looks. It affects the existing rights of the people and the rights of thousands and lakhs of people throughout the country; and this House should consider this matter before passing this Bill as it is.

Now, I would not like to labour the point on which Mr. Sri Prakasa dwelt exhaustively, about the Mitakshara family, but I shall point out the law. I refer to section 211 (2) of the Indian Succession Act. Mulla in his Hindu Law says—(page 440)—section 375 (2)—

"Where a Hindu dies intestate, it is not necessary in any case to obtain letters of administration to the estate of the deceased to establish a right to any part of the property of the deceased."

And he continues—

"No probate or letters of administration can be granted in respect of joint family property."

Why? Because the property is already vested in him. He already shares the property and so there is no probate necessary to vest him with the joint family property. Following this up, section 211(2) of the Indian Succession Act says:

"When the deceased was a Hindu, Muhammadan, Buddhist, Sikh or Jaina or an exempted person, nothing herein contained shall vest in an executor or administrator any property of the deceased person which would otherwise have passed by survivorship to some other person."

Where it would have passed by survivorship, it is not necessary for probate or succession certificate to be taken out at all. That is the law as it obtains today. It is not only the general law, but also as contained in section 12 of the Indian Securities Act which is the existing law on this matter. It is the existing law for Government securities. Section 12 of the Indian Securities Act of 1920 says:

"Subject to the provisions of section 13, a person claiming to be entitled to a Government promissory note, may, on applying to the prescribed authority, and on satisfying it of the justice of his claim and delivering the promissory note receipted in the prescribed manner.

Provided that, when application is made for the renewal of a Government promissory note which appears to the prescribed authority to stand in the name of a deceased member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law, a renewed promissory note shall not be issued to the applicant unless he furnishes a certificate signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to the effect that the deceased belonged

to a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law; that the promissory note formed part of the joint property of the family, and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family."

So, the existing Hindu law, the law as set out in the Succession Act, and the existing law under the Indian Securities Act all say that a succession certificate is not necessary for a member of a Mitakshara joint Hindu family. If that is the case, may I know what is the reason for the Government coming forward with an amendment-like this? I think that in a matter like this, the Government would be wise if they codified the existing law, leaving existing rights untouched, and enact a law which presents the law as it exists today. I do not think the Government will be wise in curtailing people's rights in a matter like this.

These are the two important matters which I thought should be raised in this House. Amendments have been tabled and may I suggest to the Finance Member that he will be serving the interests of the people of this country if he does not seek to impose a limitation which did not exist before and also if he supports the existing rights of the people in so far as they do not conflict with the existing laws of the country.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy-President, but for the fact that some doubt was entertained by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, that we would not make common cause with our Hindu brethren in espousing causes like this, I would not have participated in this debate. I may assure the House that we will not be the last to come forward to support any reasonable or any charitable cause which may be advocated by others. So far as the question before the House is concerned, though the joint family system does not exist among the Muslims and though the limitation question will not at all be tolerated by us,—I may in this connection inform the House that even the limitation of sixty years is not recognised by Islam as there is no limitation whatever so far as our religion is concerned, it is under the compulsion of this Government that we have been subjected to such limitations—not to speak of 12 years or 3 years, and we have no other go but to submit ourselves to such laws as are enacted and are being enacted by this House under this foreign and irresponsible Government. I may assure my old friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, who I know is a gentleman of cosmopolitan views, that we also hold the same views as he. Therefore we would wholeheartedly support the amendment proposed by our Honourable friend and supported by another Honourable friend of my province, I mean Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, on the last occasion when the Bill was being circulated, I made certain suggestions, and I was assured that those suggestions would be considered in the Select Committee. I find that excepting one opinion almost all the opinions have supported those suggestions of mine, particularly about the period of six months in clause 9. You know, Sir, that when a party applies for succession certificate or probate, the civil courts are too busy and their procedure is protracted and lengthy; and if there is any delay, beyond the control of the party concerned, in securing the new certificate of succession, for no fault of his he will be penalised, as the clause of the Bill stands. All the opinions support this and I hope the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill will consider this question and that the amendment tabled to this effect will be accepted by him.

As regards trusts, I want to say a word. The provision says that trusts will not be taken into consideration but sub-clause (2) of clause 6 says:

"With out prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Bank may, as an act of grace and without any liability to the Bank or to the Central Government, record in its books such directions by the holder of stock for the payment of interest, etc."

There are many charitable institutions and religious institutions which have purchased Government securities. In case this provision is passed into law, what will be the fate of those charitable institutions? I think there is no harm in giving this facility and right to the charitable and religious institutions which are in possession of securities, because such securities as are held by the charitable institutions are always in the name of the institution. No person can

[Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani]

claim as the owner or proprietor of that security. So there will be difficulty, and opinions have come supporting this view that the trusts should not be beyond the scope of this Bill.

As regards clause 10, it is said there that the "Bank may make such order as it thinks fit for the vesting of such security or securities in such person as it considers represents the minor or insane person". This provision is about minors and insane persons. They are quite helpless in putting forward their claims and there are many dangers that their rights may be usurped by some interested persons. Therefore some sufficient safeguard should be provided in the Act. It may be said that under the rule-making powers of clause 28 some adequate safeguard will be made in the matter. But after all, rules are rules and they cannot have the force of law. I think an amendment has also been tabled in this respect and I hope that the Honourable Member in charge will kindly consider and see his way to accept that amendment.

In clause 12 also, there is a provision for a period of notice of six months. This period is quite inadequate and should be raised to one year.

When I come to clause 17, I find that the notice required to be given by the Bank may be served by post. My friend here tells me that this is covered by the General Clauses Act; so, I leave it there.

Then as regards the right to administer the oath, there is no exception provided. Section 6 of the Indian Oaths Act makes some exception in the matter of administering and taking oaths. It says:

"Where the witness, interpreter or juror is a Hindu or a Muhammadan, or has an objection to making an oath, he shall, instead of making an oath, make an affirmation."

So, it is not obligatory under the Indian Oaths Act for the Hindus and Muslims to take oath. The only thing they have to do is to make the affirmation. I think this point should be clarified when the time comes.

As regards clause 28, this provision about laying the rules framed under the Act on the table of this Legislature has been accepted. In this case, the rules should be laid before the House in the next Session. With these observations, I resume my seat.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural) After the Bill has come from the Select Committee and the amendments before us; I do feel that many important matters have been made clear but still I wish to say one or two things. The Honourable the Finance Member assured us that clauses 8 and 9 are really for the benefit of the poor. But I do feel that nowadays—and it will be for some time—poor people, after death in the family, will not be able to realise the responsibility of getting what the deceased was worth within the period of six months. This period is not adequate and I hope that the amendment proposed by my friend Mr. Chettiar raising the period to one year will be accepted.

Then another thing to which I really feel I ought to draw the attention of my Honourable friend the Finance Member is this. As I said the other day, I do want that the taking of evidence must be done by some responsible people. While advocating the appointment of responsible people, I made it clear that I would be only too glad to have Government officials and not because, as my Honourable friend put it, some people are really admiring the services of the Government servants. I said then, and it was not admitted by my Honourable friend at that time, that the actions of the Government officials are always subject to be discussed in this House.

Then, the authority is being given to the Bank. I do not know what is meant by the Bank; whether it is the Managing Governor or Deputies or is it the Directors of the Bank that is meant. Anyhow, it is the responsibility of the Finance Member, who puts the responsibility on the Bank, to find out the responsible person or party who will make the appointment of an officer, further although the Bank has been authorised to appoint an officer to take evidence and to make a vesting order, no qualifications of that officer have been laid down anywhere. He will be appointed at the sweet-will of the Directors of the Bank. My Honourable friend has taken so much trouble

to lay down in clause 14 that "a District Magistrate so requested may himself record, or may direct any Magistrate of the first class subordinate to him or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him and empowered in this behalf by general or special order of the Provincial Government.....". If the Government has to take only evidence, he must be either the District Magistrate or the first class subordinate Judge and the second class subordinate Judge if he is so authorised. This is what the Government does when things are carried on by it which is subject to the approval of this House or subject to criticism of this House. But so far as the Bank is concerned, my Honourable friend does not make any provision. I do not know what is this Bank, and who are these great persons who are going to appoint this officer to take evidence and make a vesting order. It is this very officer, who is entitled, if he thinks fit, will work as a District Magistrate in order to take evidence, and still no qualifications are laid down for him, this is my point. Is this consistent with the safety of the public? How can you leave the public moneys in the hands of an officer of a Bank, which is not really the Government Department and whose affairs you cannot discuss here? Nor can you discuss the attitude of this officer of the Bank. It has not been mentioned even whether this gentleman's pay will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000. The Directors may choose a poor man like myself and appoint me and I may do whatever I may like. It comes to this:

When I said the other day that I would like to have a Government official, my Honourable friend the Finance Member said: "My friend Mr. Lalljee wants a Government official". My object was that if a Government official was appointed, then, howsoever low paid he may be or low position he may have in services, his actions we can criticise here and ask the Honourable the Finance Member to tell us about his responsibilities. But with regard to the officer that is contemplated here, we cannot do anything nor do we know what powers were and are going to be given to him, by the Directors.

Then, Sir, I quite agree with the amendment that has been tabled with regard to clause 24 in which a period of 12 years has been provided for. I entirely agree with the remarks that have fallen from my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. Nowadays people subscribe to Government loans liberally and handsomely. Government should not tell them that for the sake of the adjustment of the accounts or for the little trouble that the Reserve Bank will have in making out the accounts, they are putting a time-limit of six or twelve years. This is not fair; this is not businesslike; this is not diplomatic. Once people come to know that for some reason or other there is going to be a limitation, the great question will arise with regard to investing in the loans. Therefore, it is not proper that any limitation should be fixed, and I seriously draw attention also to this point.

With regard to the question of trust, I entirely agree with my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. In fact, I had a bitter experience of it. We had to go to the High Court and we know what trouble we had. Furthermore, who has to decide as to all kinds of title to the property? My friend has only spoken about Patna, but here is a gentleman standing before you who has been dragged in the courts by clever lawyers for more than 24 years, and the cases are still going on and new ones are being created. I do not know how long I will be in the hands of this great lawyer community. I hope they do not claim to be as noble a community as the doctors. They do come to us often, but only for our goods. That is all I can say. Let me tell one thing to my friend Mr. Griffiths. It is the definite opinion of many people that, in the first instance, it was the policy of some people to give education of the type which would make young and intelligent Indians good clerks. Then came a further policy that this intelligentsia may agitate and trouble the Government. Therefore, the law courts and the procedure that has been adopted were introduced. These lawyers could do a lot for the country, but unfortunately that is not the case. I hope they will not misunderstand me and I hope they will come to afford help to me for my good and not for my goods!

There is one thing more that I want to say. I do want the Honourable the Finance Member to consider the position so far as the succession certificates are

[Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee.]

concerned. I think so far as the Muslims are concerned, they are also excluded. Mr. D. P. Sethna (Government of India: Nominated Official): They are not.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: But there is no necessity for them to take out the probate duty. Of course, I am not a lawyer but I do want the protection of the Honourable the Finance Member to make it clear that nothing in indirect form in the shape of the probate duty will have to be paid by the Muslims. Now is the time for you to assure the public that in buying the Government securities they are going to buy negotiable and marketable securities without incurring other liabilities. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will kindly take into serious consideration what I have said and all the amendments that have been put before the House.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Sir, I do not wish to take up much time of the House, but I do wish to say this at the outset that if the Honourable Members had read the opinions which had been received when the Bill was circulated to the country, they would have seen that the principles underlying the Bill have been approved of by the Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, the Government of Madras, the High Court of Madras, the Advocate-General, Madras, the Indian Bank Limited, Madras, the Exchange Banks Association, Bombay, the Imperial Bank of India, Bombay, the Karachi Indian Merchants Association, the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, the Chief Commissioner, the District Judge and the Munsifs of the Court of Coorg and the Bar Association of Coorg, the Government of the Central Provinces, the District and Sessions Judge, Delhi, the Secretaries, Punjab Chamber of Commerce, New Delhi, the Government of the Punjab, Justice Muneer of the Lahore High Court, the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore and many other institutions, persons and associations.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. I am told that the Honourable Member is not in his proper seat.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Sir, this is my seat for the purpose of this debate.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, for the purpose of this debate the seats of Mr. Sethna and myself have been changed. Under the arrangement which now prevails seats in the Government block are arranged by Government, and I have given the usual intimation that during this debate Mr. Sethna's seat and my seat will be changed and that Mr. Sethna will occupy my place.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Now that the position has been explained, the Honourable Member may go on.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Sir, I do not wish to say much at present on the clauses because they will be considered by this House when the time comes; but as regards, the two or three points made by Mr. Sri Prakasa and Mr. Chettiar, particularly as regards clause 7 on which there are half a dozen amendments I wish to say something.

The first point raised by Mr. Sri Prakasa was about trusts. I suppose he is aware that under section 3 of the existing law, it has been provided as follows: "Save as otherwise provided in or under this Act no notice of any trust in respect of any Government security shall be receivable by the Government."

In the present Bill a further step has been taken and a concession has been given in that it has been provided that—

"Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the bank may, as an act of grace and without any liability to the Bank or to the Central Government, record in its books such directions by the holder of stock for the payment of interest on, or of the maturity value of, or the transfer of, or such other matters relating to, the stock as the Bank thinks fit."

Sub-clause (e) of clause 28 provides that rules shall be made for—

"the holding of Government securities in the form of stock by the holders of offices other than public offices, and the manner in which and the conditions subject to which Government securities so held may be transferred."

There is therefore no point in the complaint that trusts are not recognised under the present Bill, when the present law definitely is that no trusts are to be recognised and the Bill as framed gives an extra concession.

As regards clause 7 on which so many amendments have been tabled, this clause follows the provisions of the rules laid down as regards the Imperial Bank shares, the Reserve Bank shares and the shares of every company in which the solicitors know how to draft the articles of association of the company. It is the commonest form to use in the articles of association of a company. And the reason is obvious, viz.: that the company does not wish to go into complicated questions of succession or survivorship when the sole holder of a share dies. I submit it ought to be the same as regards Government securities. Why should Government or the Reserve Bank as agents of Government be asked to investigate into questions of succession and survivorship? The ordinary procedure is that a man, if he wants to prove his title, has to produce a probate or letters of administration or a succession certificate. Mr. Lalljee stated that if a Muhammadan dies would his heirs be bound to produce a succession certificate? Undoubtedly, Sir. What is the alternative suggested? If a Muhammadan sole holder of Government security dies leaving a lakh of rupees worth of securities and there are 20 claimants to it, whom is the Reserve Bank going to recognise? Suppose there are ten sons, why should one son be preferred by the Reserve Bank to the other? The reason is obvious. As to the complaint that a concession given to Hindus governed by the Mitakshara law is being taken away by this clause, I wish to say that the proviso to section 12 of the Indian Securities Act has been put in, I submit, rather illogically and quite inconsequentially in a section which dealt with the renewal of promissory notes. The section reads thus:

"Subject to the provisions of section 13, a person claiming to be entitled to a Government promissory note, may, on applying to the prescribed authority, and on satisfying it of the justice of his claim and delivering the promissory note receipted in the prescribed manner, and paying the prescribed fee, if any, obtain from such authority a renewed promissory not payable to him."

You will see that there is no question here of the death of a single holder who held promissory notes. Then the proviso says:

"Provided that, when application is made for the renewal of a Government promissory note which appears to the prescribed authority to stand in the name of a deceased member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law, a renewed promissory note shall not be issued to the applicant unless he furnishes a certificate signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to the effect that the deceased belonged to a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law, that the promissory note formed part of the joint property of the family, and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family."

Rule 21 provides that the certificate shall be given by a District Magistrate. The present clause 7 provides that the executors or administrators of a deceased sole holder of a Government security and the holder of a succession certificate shall be the only persons who may be recognised by the Bank as having any title to the Government security.

This, Sir, is a comprehensive Bill intending to codify the existing law and dealing not only with Government promissory notes but with all types of Government security including stock. I submit there is no prejudice in asking a member of a joint Hindu family to obtain instead of a District Magistrate's certificate a succession certificate from the proper civil court.

In this connection, Sir, I will read to the House a few paragraphs from the head note of a case reported in 1942, All-India Reports and decided by a Full Bench of the Lahore High Court only a couple of years ago. The case related to the shares in a Bank, the Imperial Bank and the Reserve Bank, purchased with the funds of a joint Hindu family and this is what the learned Judges said:

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order, Sir. May I ask if any question of validity of transfer of shares in the Imperial Bank or Reserve Bank is relevant to the question before the House?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): He is only giving an authority in support of the view he propounds.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Because it lays down the law applicable to joint Hindu families, whatever the nature of the property may be:

"Where shares in a Bank (Imperial Bank of India and Reserve Bank of India) purchased with the funds of the joint Hindu family and belonging to it stand in the sole name of the *karta*, the legal title is in the *karta* while the beneficial interest vests in all the coparceners. On the death of the *karta*, no change takes place so far as the beneficial interest is concerned. It continues to be as it has always been in the family. The legal estate, however, does not pass by survivorship to the other coparceners and consequently an application for grant of Letters of Administration by the surviving coparceners limited to the shares in question is competent even though the beneficial interest had, on the death of the *karta*, vested jointly in the other coparceners and his widow under the Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act."

Then the important question of court fees comes in. As regards all other persons except those governed by the Mitakshara law, they have to pay probate duty, an *ad valorem* duty for obtaining succession certificate, but the Hindus governed by the Mitakshara law under these circumstances have not got to pay probate duty:

"Sections 19D, 19(viii), 19 and 19K of the Court Fees Act make it clear that *ad valorem* duty is not payable on probate of a will or Letters of Administration relating to property held by a deceased person wholly or partially in trust, but that the exemption does not extend to property held in trust beneficially or with general power to confer a beneficial interest. The shares in a Bank purchased with joint Hindu family funds but standing in the name of one of its members (deceased) is property held in trust by that member for the joint family and hence no court fee is payable on Letters of Administration limited to such shares."

"On the death of a Member of a joint Hindu family in whose name alone property purchased out of joint family funds is standing an application for letters of administration would make the position much clearer if it began by setting out that the deceased was a member of a joint Hindu family, who had in consequence died possessed of no personal estate of his own except that shown in Annexure A of the prescribed form, under Schedule 3, Court Fees Act, and that the whole or most of this property was merely held in trust for the benefit of the whole family for which exemption was accordingly being claimed as shown in Annexure B under Schedule 3 of the Court Fees Act."

You will thus see, Sir, that under that Ruling, the Hindus have not got to pay probate duty.

As regards the reference from Mulla and the sections of the Succession Act cited by Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, I have here a direct authority reported in I. L. R. 52, Allahabad which says:

"There is no legal bar to the granting of a succession certificate to a Member of a joint Hindu family who gets the property by right of survivorship and not as an heir, if he chooses to apply for a certificate as legal representative of the deceased person's estate."

Instead of asking the Hindus to produce a District Magistrate's certificate, all that the present Bill requires is that they should produce a probate or letters of administration or a succession certificate from the proper civil court authorised to make an order in this behalf. This is asked for in order that the Reserve Bank may not be troubled with all these complicated questions of survivorship and succession.

As to the other point raised by Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee, namely, which Officer of the Bank is to deal with these matters and who is to take evidence, may I say that clause 28(n) lays down that there shall be rules for regulating the procedure to be followed in making vesting orders. I am sure the criticism made on the floor of the House will certainly receive attention of the rule-making authorities. As to the question of limitation, I do not wish, at this stage, to make any statement, because the Honourable the Finance Member is the proper authority to make a statement on behalf of the Government on that important question. As to the point made by Mr. Abdul Ghani and repeated by Mr. Lalljee, that in clause 9 the period of six months provided for obtaining probate or letters of administration or succession certificate would be inadequate, may I say, Sir, that this point was very carefully considered by the Select Committee in view of the opinions received which were to the same effect in many cases. It was felt by the Select Committee that the opinions missed the real point of the clause in that the clause laid down a summary procedure for dealing with securities on the death of a holder when the securities did not exceed Rs. 5,000.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the exact point in fixing the limit up to Rs. 5,000 and not more.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Because in the existing Indian Securities Act, the same limit has been fixed and this Bill follows the same. I do not know if the Honourable Member wants a higher or a lower limit to be fixed.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Let there be no limit. Naturally I want a higher limit.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: I have nothing more to say, Sir.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I listened with great interest to the speech of the last Speaker from the Government Bench and the plea which he has taken against the points raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. Sir, I take it from his speech that the line which he followed is, that what suits the Government take that. Whatever is suitable to the Government in the existing law, keep it. Whatever does not suit the Government, then change it. The result may be that it may be convenient for the Government, but it may be most inconvenient for the general public or the holders of securities. Well, Sir, the Government do not care for the inconvenience to the public or the holders of securities. They mind only their own convenience. Sir, I am not a lawyer. I have not been able to follow the exhaustive rulings which Mr. Sethna, the previous speaker, quoted. What I am concerned with is not the rulings but with holding of shares.

Sir, the first point which I object to in this Bill is the question of trusts. The Honourable Member who spoke before me pointed out that the present Act does not recognize trusts for the purpose of government securities. It may be so, but may I ask him whether there are no valid trusts, no responsible trusts, no well-organised trusts in which men of the highest standing are trustees? Do the Government mean to say that these trusts—educational trusts, charitable trusts and other trusts—are not at all trustworthy? I think they should take a more businesslike view in this matter. At present because the Government do not recognize trusts, the property of trusts is vested in the individual names of a few office bearers. If one of the individual office bearers dies, letters of administration have to be taken by his survivors. That is a very undesirable state of affairs. I am quite prepared to give the power to the Government to discriminate between a sound trust and a trust which they do not consider to be properly constituted, but in the case of those trusts which are properly constituted and are in capable hands, Government must see their way to recognize them. I do think the Reserve Bank will not get into trouble if they did so.

The second point which has been raised is about the Mitakshara joint Hindu family. I know that the Finance Member has got stepmotherly affection for the Mitakshara joint Hindu family. I know how members of joint Hindu family have been treated under the Income-tax law. Sir, Income-tax law has been the cause of disruption of many joint Hindu families.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

There was some concession which was enjoyed by the members of the Hindu joint Mitakshara family and after all what is this concession? Government securities were the property of the joint family; they were held in the name of the *karta* of the family and so after his death they should be vested in the name of the sole surviving male member of the family or in the name of the managing member or the *karta* of the family. What objection have the Government in this respect? May I ask if there has been any serious trouble over this matter in the past? Has the Bank encountered any serious difficulties about this concession to the joint Hindu family? Nothing has been said so far about any difficulty and if there has been no inconvenience to the Government in this matter and it is a matter of so much convenience to a large number of people in this country, I don't see any reason why the Government should take away this concession.

Sir Gomasjee Jehangir: What is the exact concession that the Bill deprives you of?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: It has been very aptly described in the Minute of Dissent by my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari:

"The Act of 1920 contains a section, No. 12, which confers a special right on Hindu undivided families governed by the Mitakshara Law, by which the managing or the sole surviving member of such a family can get his title to Government securities standing in the name of a deceased sole holder who was a member of the family, recognized by a simple process of obtaining a certificate—after due enquiry—from the District Magistrate of the district in which the family ordinarily resides, that he was the managing or sole surviving member of the family of which the deceased sole holder was a member. This obviates the parties having to resort to costly judicial process."

In the present Bill it has been provided that instead of getting a certificate from the District Magistrate, he will have to get a succession certificate, or a probate from the civil court of law.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Obtaining a certificate from a civil court is just as simple as obtaining a certificate from the District Magistrate.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: If you knew what it means to get a probate or a succession certificate, you would not say that. Litigation goes on for an indefinite period.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: There is some misunderstanding somewhere. There is no difficulty in getting a certificate from a civil court.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: I wish it were so, but I am afraid my Honourable friend, the great business magnate of Bombay, does not know the actual position.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: This is not what I say; I have heard it from the Honourable Member who has spoken on behalf of the Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This sort of conversation should not go on. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: He will now have to go to a civil court and get a probate and a succession certificate. This will take more time and mean more expense.

The third point which has been raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, is that the limitation of 12 years should be increased. I entirely agree with my friend. Government should not try to eat up this money. There may be many instances in which more than 12 years may elapse. After all, Government is liable to pay the money and it should pay to the legal owner if it can be proved. If sixty years, as proposed by my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa, is too long a period, I think that some compromise may be arranged.

Again, the period of six months, which has been mentioned in clauses 9 and 10, is too short, and I think that 12 months should be accepted.

With these words, I would request the Government not to be arrogant in this matter, but they should accede to popular wishes of this House and accept the amendments which will be moved later on.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): It had not been my intention to intervene at all in the general discussion of this Bill as it seemed to me on the whole a measure which was entirely uncontentious. But in view of the course the debate has taken, and more particularly after what my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa had to say, I feel that it is my duty on behalf of our Party to say a few words.

Mr. Sri Prakasa and other speakers are concerned about three main points in the Bill: the first is clause 6, "Notice of trust shall not be receivable". The second is with regard to the position of Mitakshara families and the third, is the period of limitation in clause 24.

Now, Sir, with regard to the question of Trusts. I am perfectly certain that no one in this House who knows anything about the activities of trusts in this country and in other countries would like to see banks, and more especially as in this case the Reserve Bank, dragged into the kind of complicated proceedings to which trusts frequently give rise. As a matter of fact I feel that the discussion in regard to this point has arisen mainly because of a misunderstanding as to the true nature of the proposed section. What the section says in effect is briefly this. It says "if you are trustees you may register your names with the bank as trustees A, B and C, but we will not recognise that trust

as such and you three trustees must arrange among yourselves to whom we are to pay the interest which is payable by Government on the specified securities". Now there is nothing complicated about that. There is nothing unreasonable about that. On the contrary it is a practical and essentially reasonable method of safeguarding, in this case, the Reserve Bank and in other cases normal business houses, banks and so on who are dealing with securities. The proposal simply is that the Reserve Bank shall not be dragged into legal proceedings connected with the trust, and I cannot imagine that if that point is once understood by Honourable Members in this House there would be any question of their pursuing the line of argument that my Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa advanced. I do feel, Sir, that he himself was in this case under a misapprehension. I know that he is a lawyer and knows a great deal more about law than I do and I have always looked upon him as a man who brings to bear balanced and reasoned judgment in regard to these practical, financial and legal matters. But I cannot help feeling that in this case he really has been, as we say, barking up the wrong tree!

The second point he raised related to this contentious clause 7. Now I should like to draw the attention of the House to very important words in that clause and these are the words with which it opens: "Subject to the provisions of section 9". Look at section 9. You will find that that section is the one that deals with the case of the small holder of Government securities. When I say small holder I do not necessarily mean the very poor, because we know that the very poor in this country do not hold securities of Government even to the value of Rs. 5,000. It merely means that in a case where some estate passes at death and has a sum invested in Government securities of a less amount than Rs. 5,000, in such cases the special provision will apply and that special provision is that the bank will be allowed to exercise summary procedure. Now, Sir, the moment that point is clear in the minds of all Honourable Members, I feel certain that they will see at once that all these suggestions that have been made of the terrible hardship that will come to thousands and thousands of poor Mitakshara families are nonsense.

An Honourable Member: Who said poor?

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: One Honourable Member did. He said hundreds of thousands of poor Mitakshara families would suffer because of this proposal. So we have disposed at once—by looking at clause 9—of that argument.

Now we come down to the real bone of contention, namely, the position of Mitakshara families who in fact are really well off and in some cases very very well off. If I may be forgiven for introducing a personal note, it so happened that for some time last year I was in charge of the department in our firm that looks after securities and I assure the House that I learnt more in that short time about some of the troubles in this country—both of the troubles of Government and the troubles causing so much hardship—than I learnt in all the previous time in my existence in India, and one of the things I learnt was the highly privileged position into which Mitakshara families have worked themselves during the last twenty years. The position I found was this: that if it was the case of a member of a Dayabaga family he had to produce a succession certificate. If it was a Muslim or a European or a Parsi, each of them also had to produce a succession certificate. But when it was the case

An Honourable Member: Poor people.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: No. I am not talking about the poor people. Rich people. If it was the case of a person who claimed to be the male heir or senior member, the *karta*, of a Mitakshara family, he would come along and say: "I do not see why I should have to produce a succession certificate. You see, I do not have to do so in regard to Government securities". Well, Sir, as my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna has very clearly pointed out already, many companies provide in their Articles special provision to cover this case of persons who come along and say they are not required to produce a succession certificate; and the reason for the provision is exactly the same reason that Government seeks to introduce it into this Bill, namely, that companies

and Mr. Hon. Chapman. Mr. Chapman's argument is that the law should be made so that the legal troubles that are involved if they make a mistake in the recognition of the headship of a family or the proper person to whom the estate or the dividends have to be paid.

It is all that this clause seeks to do though we have heard harrowing tales of injustice to Mitakshara families. I am the last person in this world to suggest that all injustices should be done to any community or any section of any community. I should like to see very many reforms to remedy some of the injustices that go on in this country today, but the proposal of my Honourable friend Sri Prakasa and his friends that section 7 should be amended in the manner they desire, so far from being a proposal to remedy any injustice is merely a suggestion that one particular section of people in this country should be placed in a position of privilege, and I, Sir, am opposed to that.

I do not want to enter further into this argument because I feel myself that there is no doubt that what is proposed by Government, and what the Select Committee has proposed, is in fact the right and proper thing to do. Before I came to listen to this debate I was satisfied about that. Since I have heard the arguments of those who talk to the contrary I am more than ever convinced that what Government wish to do is not only right but necessary.

Now, Sir, with regard to the last question of limitation in clause 24. It has been argued that the period of 12 years, which I may say, was originally six years, and which the Select Committee altered to 12 years, is unreasonable and shows very little regard to the practical affairs of life. Mr. Sri Prakasa was very emphatic on the question of increasing the period from 12 years. I think he suggested as an alternative 60 years. Well, Sir, I cannot believe that he seriously meant it and if he would look at clause 12 he will find that in fact Government and the Reserve Bank have thought of some of the difficulties which he advanced as arguments in favour of his own suggestion of 60 years instead of 12. In clause 12 it provides that the bank in certain cases may determine summarily in whom the title of a security vests. That has been put in precisely to cover special and difficult cases such as my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa had in mind. He argued quite rightly, that cases arise where legal proceedings drag on for years and years. I know of such cases myself. They are frequent and we all know that. It is precisely to cover such cases that clause 12 has been inserted in the Bill. I believe that if Mr. Sri Prakasa and other speakers who have opposed this Bill (at any rate certain clauses of it) had been present in the Select Committee and had heard the arguments advanced there in the somewhat cooler atmosphere of a Select Committee, I am quite certain that a great many of the misapprehensions which are now in the minds of so many Honourable Members would not in fact be there at all. They would recognise this Bill to be what it is, a consolidating measure to remedy a state of affairs that is not serious but has given rise to a good deal of trouble to the Reserve Bank. I am sure that the whole House agrees that a consolidating measure of this kind is both right and necessary. The only difference between us is that some of us say that one or two clauses should be amended in a manner that they desire and others of us think that these clauses should remain as they are. I have given my reasons why I think the clauses should remain in exactly the form in which they have emerged from the Select Committee.

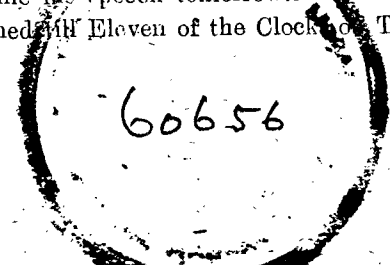
There is one exception to that, which I should like to mention very briefly and that relates to clause 24 to which there is an amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar. Mr. Chettiar has proposed an amendment about which, frankly, I am not quite clear as to what line is right to adopt. I know what he wants to achieve and I sympathise entirely with him. At the same time in measures of this kind what we have to consider is first and last very careful wording, because if we do not adopt very careful wording in a Bill of this kind we merely defeat the very object that we have set out to achieve. Therefore, though I feel sympathetic to amendment No. 12 on the list of amendments we have received, I am still of an open mind as to whether in fact it will do as

much good as the Honourable the Mover of it no doubt believes that it will. But with that exception I do believe that this Bill is essentially one that is necessary and useful and need not, in fact, have given rise to the sort of debate that we have had in the last two hours. I am not suggesting of course that we should all express one hundred per cent. agreement with anything that the Select Committee recommends. I am not so stupid as to suggest that. But I do feel in this case there has been a good deal of misunderstanding, simply because Honourable Members have heard one point advanced by somebody, who is thinking of some special case which he had in mind, or another point by somebody else, who was not quite clear as to how the various sections would be read together. I could wish, Sir, that the House reconsiders the attitude which we have seen this afternoon and that it comes to the conclusion, as we in this Group have come to the conclusion, that this in fact is a useful and necessary measure and one to which we can give our wholehearted support. Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the main question which we have debated today is with regard to clause 7 of the Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee. The main point contained in this clause is that in case of a government security the Bank will not be compelled to give the money of the security without a certificate of the court. This is being required as a safeguard or as a protection to the Bank for the purpose of giving this security to any person and to save themselves from any liability thereafter. That is the main question which is contained in clause 7 which says that the title of the security will be recognised by the bank only on production of a succession certificate. So far as the succession certificates are concerned, besides these there are other ways also by which the Bank can get protection and that is, as I will presently show, a certificate by a District Magistrate. I will confine myself with reference to the cases I will cite, principally to deposits in the Post Offices. In the case of a joint Hindu family, when there is any dispute between the parties, it requires more protection than when there is no dispute at all. Therefore what I am submitting is that Government instead of asking the surviving coparceners of the deceased to secure a certificate from a court the security can be obtained by giving a certificate issued generally after an enquiry by the District Magistrate. Of course there is a difference in the enquiry that is made by a court. It is laborious and costly but similar enquiry made by a District Magistrate takes very little time and his is as good as a succession certificate by a court. The amendments that have been moved by my Honourable friends Messrs. Sri Prakasha and T. T. Krishnamachari both require that in the case of a joint Hindu family, where there is a manager, the bank should not insist upon getting a court certificate before giving the amount of the security to the surviving coparcener, who as I said will occupy the place of the manager. In a joint Hindu family they elect a manager, the eldest member is generally the manager, and they have all faith in him: all transactions are made by the manager, and that manager carries on on behalf of the whole family and all the members of that family. Therefore he is the authorised man; and if that authorised man, on behalf of the family and having the supremacy of a manager, goes to a bank and secures government securities, why should it be that it should not be given to another survivor who will occupy the place of the manager, and that man will have the same status and same authority as that of the former deceased manager.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahman): It is now 5 o'clock. The Honourable Member can resume his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned at Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944.



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