

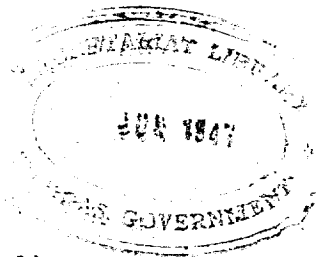
THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume V, 1944

(14th to 21st November 1944)

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th 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

POSTAL EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATION *RE* INADEQUACY OF PAY, ETC.

323. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if any representation was received by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, complaining against:—

(i) the inadequacy of the present scales of pay to meet the bare necessities of life in these days;

(ii) the slowness of the flow of promotion in the department resulting in thousands of employees of the Postal department stagnating at one grade for years and over; and

(iii) the insufficient increase in dearness allowance?

If so, are the complaints justified? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remove these grievances of their employees?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (i) Yes;

(ii) Only in individual cases.

(iii) Yes.

Such complaints are carefully examined and steps are taken to redress grievances where they are established. Rates of dearness allowance were revised for the fourth time early this year.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member has received very many general complaints from the Conferences of the Postal employees and from the Postal Department staff themselves in regard to the increment, the revision of the scales of pay and the dearness allowance? Is it so or not? Is the Honourable Member yet thinking of grievances only in individual cases?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That is a double question. The answer to the first part is in the affirmative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is there not a class of employees called Branch Post Masters who are receiving Rs. 6 per month even today?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The class of employees the Honourable Member has referred to are what we term extra departmental agents. These are men who work on postal duties only for a portion of the day and have their own subsidiary profession. In fact, the postal duties are a subsidiary profession to their ordinary duties. Rs. 6 per mensem to which the Honourable Member refers is only a part time payment.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do Government give any dearness allowance to them?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Dearness allowance has been given to these men.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How much?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The dearness allowance for these men has just been revised and I am not quite sure of the figure. I think it was Rs. 3 until recently. I am not sure what the present figure is.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know from what date this dearness allowance of Rs. 3 comes into effect?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the scale of salaries adequate, considering that the purchasing power of the rupee is only five annas?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: My reply to that question must be to inform the Honourable Member that we have taken numerous steps to supplement the scale of salaries in order to meet the extraordinary conditions under which we

are now living. Besides dearness allowance, we also give various other forms of relief.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The only step is to treble the salaries.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: In view of the fact that the Department is making lot of profit from the sweated labour of the low paid officials, is it the intention of the Government to appoint a small committee to go into their pay and allowances?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That again is a double question. We do not admit that the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is sweated. My answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government is aware that there is a great deal of unrest among the employees of the Postal Department as regards their dearness allowance and the low salaries and may I know whether Government propose to take any steps to allay the unrest?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Government is aware that there has been some indication of unrest in the manner of conferences and various representations which have been made to Government and Government has the matter under consideration.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the postal employees have asked for adjudication and whether Government propose to give them adjudication. If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is understood that certain sections of the postal employees have applied for adjudication but Government has already taken numerous steps, which I should be very glad to give the Honourable Member information about, for the relief of difficulties felt by the staff and it is not proposed to go to adjudication in the matter.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know how many representations the Honourable Member has received upto November and from what parts of India. Has the Honourable Member received telegraphic complaints about dearness allowance and its inadequacy?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: When I last received the figure, which was about six weeks ago, the number of representations received was in the region of about three thousand and they came from all over India.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: On what principles has the dearness allowance been given?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The principle on which dearness allowance has been granted has been to do the best to afford relief to the Posts and Telegraphs staff as well as to the other staff of the Central Government. I think I might mention, for the information of Honourable Members that in the shape of dearness allowance, and war allowance, but excluding good conduct allowance we are paying something in the nature of 2 crores, or 20 million rupees, in a year, which I feel is no small sum.

(Several Honourable Members rose to put further Supplementary questions.)

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

NAGPUR PLAN OF ROADS.

324. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please lay on the table of the House the plan of the road usually called "The Nagpur Plan Of Roads"?

(b) Have the Government of India prepared a plan as a part of the Post-war reconstruction planning of roads?

(c) What would be the total cost of these roads?

(d) Has the Department of Communication calculated whether the transformation of Kuchcha roads into pucca ones is an economic proposition?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Copies of the Proceedings of the Conference of Chief Engineers of Provinces and States held at Nagpur in December 1943, to which the Honourable Member is presumably referring are available in the Library of the House. The Report has been generally accepted as a working basis by the Provinces who are preparing project estimates

on that basis. Consultations with provinces are also going on and it is hoped that within the next six months it will be possible to set out what the plan for British India is likely to be.

(c) The Nagpur Chief Engineer's Report (para. 114) estimated that the post-war road programme as contemplated therein would cost Rs. 450 crores.

(d) The question would depend on what Kutch roads are proposed to be raised to a higher standard. Provincial Governments are expected to examine the traffic and economic needs in respect of all such projects before a decision is taken.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I ask if any independent Board has been constituted as suggested by this Conference at Nagpur because they made the recommendation that it should be constituted immediately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir; not at present.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the Government thinks of putting their suggestion into effect? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am answering a question on that subject later.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: May I ask if any Honourable Member of this Assembly makes a proposal to the Honourable Member about the roads, will he consider it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will consider it.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I ask what would be the cost of converting the Kutch roads into Pucca roads?

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

CAPITAL AT CHARGE ON STRATEGIC LINES.

325. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state the capital at charge on strategic lines? Did these strategic lines during the peace time pay the interest charges?

(b) Is it not a fact that these lines were constructed in the interest of defence services?

(c) Is it not a fact that military authorities cannot run the Railways as a department of their own?

(d) Do the Government of India propose to consider the desirability of writing off the capital against the defence expenditure and leave the Railways to run the strategic lines without demand for interest?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The capital at charge at the end of the year 1943-44 is Rs. 32.65 crores. The reply to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is asking for an expression of opinion and not for information on a question of fact.

(d) The principle of the Convention adopted by the Assembly Resolution dated the 20th September 1924 is that Railways are entitled not only to an adjustment of the interest charges on the Capital cost of strategic lines, but also to a refund of loss, if any, on their working. In peace times revenue from strategic lines not only failed to cover interest on capital, but also, fell short of working expenses. The total loss has been adjusted against the share of the Railway surplus creditable to General Revenues, and the existing procedure fully safeguards the Railway finances. It will be open, however, to the Committee which the Assembly will in due course appoint to review the Convention, to examine the question raised by the Honourable Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is contemplating in the reorganisation scheme of the railways to allot the working of these railways to one of the Groups? Will he run the strategic lines independently or will he hand over their working to one particular Group?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The strategic lines, I think I am right in saying, are all in the North-Western Railway Group.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If all these strategic lines are run by one Railway, where is the necessity to keep separate accounts? Why not amalgamate all the accounts in the general revenues?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is the question which the Convention Committee to which I have referred will consider in due course.

GRIEVANCES OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES OF MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE.

326. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) what action has been taken hitherto by the Government of India to redress the grievances of the postmen and lower grade staff of the Madras Circle that were submitted to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, during his visit to Madras in a memorandum on the 4th February, 1942?

(b) Is there any proposal now before the Government to revise the scales of pay and grant war allowance at the rates demanded by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union before the end of October, 1944? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The Director-General, to whom the Memorandum was addressed, considered the suggestions in it. As the result of his proposals to Government, an increase in the out-station allowance for Railway Mail Service staff was granted.

(b) No. Government do not find any justification.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the lowest pay that they pay to any servant under the Postal Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The lowest pay for any permanent servant under the Postal Department, excluding task work peons, who receive a certain payment on every message which they deliver, is Rs. 12, but that, of course, is increased by various other allowances.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the lowest pay of the Extra Departmental Service under the Postal Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The lowest pay in the Extra Departmental Service, I believe I am right in saying, is Rs. 5.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the Government think that Rs. 5 or even Rs. 12 is sufficient for any family to live on?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can draw his own conclusion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the facts they have taken into consideration to determine the lowest pay necessary as a basic pay for any servant under them?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The factor taken into consideration when the pay was fixed was the pay on which a man might decently maintain himself and on which we could obtain the necessary staff. But I would explain to the Honourable Member that this pay has been considerably increased by various allowances.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the increment they have given to the Extra Departmental officers as well as the lowest staff in that body?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have already told the House that Extra Departmental agents receive Rs. 5 but then they have some other profession also; some of them are schoolmasters, cattle pound keepers or zamindars.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I wanted to know what is the dearness allowance they have given to these Extra Departmental officers and other servants whose basic pay is Rs. 12?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have already informed the House of the dearness allowance given to Extra Departmental agents. The dearness allowance given to men on Rs. 12 depends upon the area in which they are serving; in some areas it may be as much as Rs. 14.

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

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL-INDIA POSTMEN'S UNION AT MITRA-CLARKE ENQUIRY.

327. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased place on the table the record of evidence given by the representatives of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union at the enquiry held by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra and Sir C. R. Clarke in 1925?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: No, as a record of the evidence is not available.

GRIEVANCES RE FIXATION OF PAY OF MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE POSTMEN.

328. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is not a fact that Sir B. N. Mitra accepted the view points of the Madras witness V. Balasubramaniam, the General Secretary of the Madras Union, in regard to fixation of pay and upon which the Member Sir N. Mitra immediately ascertained that a sum of rupees three crores would be required to give effect to the proposal?

(b) Was not the promise held out that, in view of the exorbitant cost, the grievances would be redressed in the course of succeeding years?

(c) What action was taken during the interval of eighteen long years to implement the promise?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) and (b). Government regret that no definite information on the points raised is available at this distant date.

(c) The scales of pay of the staff have been suitably revised since 1925.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that there have been several Conferences of the lower grade subordinates and postmen asking for the revision of their pay? Is the Honourable Member going to consider their proposals or to ignore them?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is correct that there have been various Conferences and there have been demands for a revision of pay. The view of the Government is that the present extraordinary period is not the time for introducing revised scales of pay. But Government has adopted various other means of helping the staff during this period of high prices.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What are those other means?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: So far as the staff which the Honourable Member has in mind is concerned, there is a good conduct allowance, and dearness allowance and there have been grain concessions in various places. In some places we have given house rent allowance also and we have other matters also under consideration. There may be other measures which have slipped my memory but, in any rate, I have given the Honourable Member three.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government under consideration any scheme to increase the basic pay of the lowest paid employees of the Postal and Telegraph Department during the post-war era?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is rather early for us to consider what to do in the post-war period because we have no indication of what the trend of prices and at the cost of living is likely to be in the post-war era.

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

MINISTERIAL POSTAL OFFICIALS IN MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE.

329. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the strength of the ministerial postal officials not lower than clerks in 1925, and their present strength in the Madras Circle?

(b) If the number has increased, what are the reasons for it?

(c) Has there been a corresponding increase in the number of postmen and lower grade staff on account of very same reasons?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The strength in 1925 was 3,848 and the present strength is 4,573.

(b) The number has increased on account of increased business.

(c) There has been an increase in the number of postmen and of other lower grade staff except runners whose number has been reduced on account of the replacement of many runners' lines by mail motor services. The percentage of

increase in the two cases is not, and need not necessarily be the same as the basis for the creation of additional posts differs in the various cadres.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: May I know if postmasters and clerks in *mufassal* areas, hill and highland areas, are given compensatory allowance of Rs. ten?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is a fact that compensatory allowance is given in certain areas where such allowance is justified. But the figure of that allowance varies in different places.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Is the allowance given to postmen also in the lower grade?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: In some places, it is given, and in some other places it is not given.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: What are those places in which the compensatory allowance is given to postmen?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Madras Presidency is a vast place. I am afraid I cannot answer that question without notice.

ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL OFFICIALS IN MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE.

330. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state what the various kinds of allowances (excluding the dearness allowance due to war) drawn by officials above the rank of postmen in the different parts of the Madras Circle are?

(b) Are those allowances also paid to the postmen and the lower grade staff? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The information required is given in Appendix 10 of the Manual of Appointments and Allowances of Officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (2nd Edition), a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House.

(b) Such allowances are also admissible to postmen and Lower grade staff, wherever justified, at suitable rates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What proportion of these postmen and lower grade staff get these increments and dearness allowance?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid I cannot give you that figure now. I can ascertain it if necessary.

RESERVE POSTMEN AT POST OFFICES.

331. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that in Post Offices where there are six or more clerks, one reserve clerk is attached to each office?

(b) Are reserve postmen similarly attached to those offices? If not, why not? What other alternative arrangements exist to enable postmen to get casual leave on emergent occasions?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The facts are not, as stated.

(b) Reserve postmen are not attached to post offices because there is no necessity for such an arrangement. When postmen are absent on *casual* leave their work is distributed among the remainder of the staff on duty, or in certain cases the vacancies are filled by employment of substitutes at departmental expense.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK ON GRANT OF CASUAL LEAVE TO POSTMEN.

332. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if there is a rule that in offices where there are only four clerks, casual leave is granted to one on the condition that his work is distributed among the remaining clerks?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the negative, what is the justification for the Director General's circular imposing that condition in regard to postmen?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member's question refers to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. There is in that

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Department a general convention of the nature indicated which is applicable irrespective of the number of clerks in an office.

(b) Does not arise.

SCALE OF PAY TO NEW ENTRANTS OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

333. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the new entrants to Postal Department subsequent to 1931 are given less responsible and less onerous duties than, or are their duties altogether different from, those who entered before 1931 to justify the introduction of the new scale of pay? If not, what are the other reasons?

(b) Do those reasons hold good now, when the prices of food-stuffs have risen four times?

(c) Do Government propose to revise the scale of pay as a time scheme for the duration of the war and grant dearness allowance at the rates demanded by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) There is no difference in the nature of the duties performed by the old and the new entrants. The revised scales of pay were based on a general principle which was to pay enough to secure the type of official required for efficient discharge of the duties of the posts to be filled. At the time of introduction of the new scales of pay, officials already in permanent employment were allowed to remain on the old scales as a concession.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) of the question. Dearness allowance has been granted and other measures have been taken to afford relief in view of the rise in the prices of food and the other commodities.

(c) No.

PILGRIMS TAX COLLECTED AT CERTAIN CITIES OF UNITED PROVINCES.

334. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how much money has been collected as "Pilgrims Tax" by the Railway Department for the last three years for the following pilgrim cities in the United Provinces:—(i) Hardwar, (ii) Golagokarannath, (iii) Soron, (iv) Muttra, (v) Benares, (vi) Ajodhya, (vii) Allahabad and (viii) Lakarmandighat?

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.

LACK OF INTER CLASS ACCOMMODATION FOR LADIES ON CERTAIN SECTION OF OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

335. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that there is no Inter-class accommodation for females in the composite bogies of First, Second, Inter and Third of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway that run between Kasganj and Kathgodam and Bareilly and Lucknow?

(b) Is it a fact that the absence of such accommodation for females has been keenly felt by the travelling public of that sex?

(c) Is it proposed to remedy this defect? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Separate Inter class accommodation is not provided for females on the trains that run between Kasganj and Kathgodam and Bareilly and Lucknow.

(b) The Railway Administration concerned, has not, I understand, received any representation on this matter.

(c) It would not be practicable to provide Inter class females compartments between the stations named during the war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know whether it would not be more desirable for the Railway Department to refer to human females as "women" in order to distinguish them from the females of other species? I do dislike the word 'female'.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a first class composite car running between Lucknow and Kasganj in which there is a third class compartment. Cannot one of that be converted into a Ladies Inter class compartment?

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I suggest that the Honourable Member should raise the matter before the Local Advisory Council.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: But the Local Advisory Council never answers our letters.

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

REPATRIATION OF MR. L. N. KHANNA'S FAMILY FROM GERMANY.

†336. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state if any attempt was made to repatriate the wife and daughter of Mr. L. N. Khanna from Germany since he gave his reply on the subject on the 19th November, 1940? If so, what steps were taken, and with what result?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Government of India and His Majesty's Government have made every effort to repatriate the wife and daughter of Mr. L. N. Khanna from Germany. It was hoped that it would be possible to arrange for them to travel to India *via* Istanbul and Syria, but it seems that Mrs. Khanna was unable to obtain in Germany transit visas for the German-occupied Central European and Balkan countries and could not therefore reach Istanbul. Her case has been brought again to the notice of the Protecting Power for such further action as may be possible.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' MEMORIAL RE REVISED STATE RAILWAY LEAVE RULES.

337. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the reply to starred question No. 64 given on the 9th February regarding the North Western Railway employees memorial to the Governor General in Council on the misapplication of Revised State Railway Leave Rules to them, will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the same has since been received by the Governor General through proper channel; if so, how it was disposed of;

(b) if the reply to (a) above be in the negative, who has withheld the same from the Governor General in Council and why, giving reference to the rules under which the power of withholding was exercised;

(c) whether it is a fact that the memorial raised several points including the interpretation of Fundamental Rules; if so, why it was kept back since the power of interpreting rules was reserved in the Governor General in Council *vide* Fundamental Rule 8; and

(d) whether Government propose to call for the memorial and take action thereon; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, the memorial was duly considered and rejected.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Who considers them? The Governor General in Council or the Governor General?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Governor General in Council.

RATION VANS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

338. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether mobile vans carrying rations for Railway employees run on Indian Railways and that it is now proposed to discontinue their running? If so, why, and to what extent?

(b) Is it a fact that employees who used to be served by mobile vans shall have to go to stationary shops at other stations? If so, what would be the extent of extra travel by employees for this purpose?

(c) Is it a fact that when discontinuance of mobile vans is complete on all Indian Railways, about one crore of free travels annually by about four lakhs of Railway employees stationed at road side places and huts will be necessary at least twice a month for purchase of rations, and would it be desirable to

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

reduce public travel accommodation to that much extent which is already limited at present owing to war conditions?

(d) Do Government propose to continue running of mobile vans or stop supply of rations and allow that much relief by cash payment? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Railway Department's policy is to run mobile vans where these can give the employee satisfactory service. Where this cannot be done, Administrations arrange static shops at convenient centres, from which employees in the vicinity draw their rations once a month. The number of mobile shops is now 167 compared with 163 in April last.

(b), (c) and (d). In view of the reply to part (a), parts (b), (c) and (d) do not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if representations were made that the way of giving the stuff through several shops in the rural areas is not adequate and that the number of shops should be increased?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is why we are opening more static shops.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GENERAL MANAGER, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, LAHORE.

339. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the post of the Assistant Secretary to the General Manager, North Western Railway, Lahore is held by a Senior Scale Officer? If not, what class of officer holds this appointment?

(b) If the post is held by an officer lower in status to the Senior Scale Officer, why has he been delegated with powers of a Senior Scale Officer in disciplinary matters under Chapter XVII of the State Railway Establishment Code Volume I?

(c) Is it a fact that the Assistant Secretary, Railway Board, exercises limited powers *vide* Schedule 1 on page 171 of the State Railway Establishment Code Volume I? If so, why has the Assistant Secretary to the General Manager been allowed wide powers? Is it proposed to curtail the same? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that Divisional Assistant Officers like the Divisional Assistant Electrical Engineer or Assistant Signal Engineer exercise powers of Assistant Officers only, and in all matters of disciplinary action powers of Senior Scale Officers are exercised in respect of the staff in Signal and Electric Branches by the Divisional Executive or Mechanical Engineers? If so, why cannot the same principle be adopted in case of Assistant Secretary?

(e) What action do Government propose to take to ensure that very wide powers are not conferred on Assistant Officers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The post of Assistant Secretary to the General Manager, North Western Railway, is not held by a Senior Scale Officer, but by an officer of Assistant rank.

(b) The Assistant Secretary has not been delegated with all the powers of a Senior Scale Officer in disciplinary matters, but as there is no Senior Scale Officer to deal with establishment matters of the General Manager's Office, he has been delegated with certain powers which are not ordinarily exercised by other Assistant Officers.

(c) The reply to the 1st part is in the affirmative. The reply to the 2nd part has already been given in my reply to part (b). As regards the last part, the matter is within the discretion of the General Manager and Government do not propose to interfere.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative although there are a few other Assistant Officers who are exercising the same powers as the Assistant Secretary. As regards the latter part, the reason has already been given in my reply to part (b).

(e) The rules regulating disciplinary matters already define the limits to which powers can be delegated to Assistant Officers, and no further action is considered necessary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to part (b) may I know how long will this Assistant enjoy the privilege of dealing with matters which belong not to him but to the higher officers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So long as he is required to do so.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How long is he going to be required? Can you not fix some time?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As long as it is necessary.

PUBLICITY ORGANIZATION ATTACHED TO INDIA'S AGENT-GENERAL IN AMERICA.

340. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether there exists a publicity organisation attached to the office of the Agent-General for India in the United States of America;

(b) the nature of its personnel;

(c) what its duties are;

(d) whether the determination of the type of publicity carried on by this organisation is in the hands of the Agent-General or the Government of India;

(e) whether the Government of India has satisfied themselves from time to time that the publicity carried by this organisation is in the best interests of this country?

Sir Olaf Caroe: This question will be answered by the Honourable the Leader of the House in due course.

REPORT OF THE FERTILIZERS MISSION.

341. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state:

(a) whether the mission for investigation into the prospects of a chemical fertilizer industry in this country has submitted its report to the Government of India;

(b) whether the Government propose to publish the same;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy with regard to the development of this industry in India in the matter of the agency to be employed and the control to be exercised; and

(d) whether the Government have received applications from private industrialists for installing Chemical Fertilizer plants, and with what result?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Government propose that, if on consideration of the report they decide to set up one or more factories, such factories should be State-owned and State-operated.

(d) Some general enquiries have been received regarding Government's plans for the production of Fertilizers, indicating, in a few cases, the readiness of applicants to invest money in the operation of such plants as Government might import. The primary interest of Government is to secure a supply of cheap fertilizers to cultivators and to that end, but not otherwise, they have no objection to the establishment of commercial profit making concerns.

Consent has been given for the issue of capital by nine companies (in all cases for the amount applied for) and no applications have been refused.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government seen the large Industries Committee's report of the Bihar Government in which the calculation was made by a Professor of the Benares Hindu University, according to which the total cost of the proposed plan will not be ten crores but only five crores and that the most economic unit is 100,000 tons and not 350,000 tons?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir. I have seen a letter to that effect in the Press.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member seen the report of the Bihar Government which the Mission also saw and praised? Why is there such discrepancy in the cost as put down by the Mission of ten crores and the cost which they estimated at five crores.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: This is the opinion of a professor of a University. These questions will be considered at

a conference which I propose to hold early next week when the representatives of the Bihar Government will meet the technical expert committee and representatives of other Governments and the Government of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government considered this report and come to any conclusions in the matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are considering the report. Conclusions cannot be arrived at till the conference that I have referred to has met.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (c), will Government, before deciding on a policy, give an opportunity to this House to consider the question?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The matter is very important and the policy has to be decided not merely by the Government of India but the Provincial Governments also. It is a conference of all the Governments and some of the State Governments also which is ultimately going to decide the policy.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will Government invite this professor, who has been writing on this subject and claims to know something about it, to give his evidence or to be present in the committee and give his views on the economic side of the question?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have seen a great deal of literature by many estimable gentlemen on the subject, and it is not possible to invite to the conference every one of them. But I am perfectly certain that the Bihar Government which has examined this professor's credentials and his recommendations will put forward the views of this professor after they have considered them.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that at one stage the provinces, or some of them, desired the establishment of this industry on a provincial basis?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Some of them do still desire to establish it on a provincial basis.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Am I to take it then that the proposed conference is mainly for the purpose of coming to an agreement between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments in this matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The conference is for the purpose of seeing what is the best way in which this urgent demand for 350,000 tons of fertilisers can be manufactured.

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

STEPS FOR PREVENTING PASSENGERS TRAVELLING ON THE TOP OF TRAINS.

342. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the A. P. I. news of the 31st July, 1944, that for want of accommodation in any of the third class compartments three passengers eventually met their death by striking against the Arc Bridge on the Ghaghra and another passenger near Manjhi in the Ballia District who were all on the top of the trains; and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Railway Administration to prevent passengers to get on the top of trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The Railway Administration has issued special instructions to its staff and the assistance of the Railway Police has been requested.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what further steps have been taken in the matter? The practice is dangerous and must be stopped. I have myself seen men on the top of trains.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered that in reply to part (b).

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member sure that these instructions are being carried out and that there have been no further complaints in the matter? I ask this because the practice is still prevalent.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly. The complaint, if I may say so, is largely on the side of the Railway Department who have to deal with these people who climb on to the roof. But they are doing their best to prevent people from getting into dangerous situations.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are these people who travel on roofs of trains in possession of tickets? If so, are not the railway administrations themselves responsible for selling these tickets when they have no room?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That raises a very difficult question which I cannot deal with in reply to a supplementary question.

POORLY PAID CLERKS OF RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

343. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in Delhi pays its clerks a basic pay of Rs. 40 as compared with Rs. 60 which is the salary of a third division clerk elsewhere;

(b) whether he is aware that these clerks' dwellings are not fit for human habitation and that sometimes in a room of 11 feet by 11 feet three of these clerks cook their food, sleep and live;

(c) whether he is aware that these rooms have tin walls on both sides and there is no ventilation; and

(d) whether Government propose to improve the lot of these poorly paid clerks who look ragged and undernourished?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No; in the subordinate and attached offices of the Government of India stationed in Delhi, the minimum pay for clerks under the Government of India's orders of the 19th August, 1944, is Rs. 45 and Rs. 60 respectively.

(b) and (c). I have no information regarding the details referred to in respect of the private dwellings of the clerks concerned.

(d) Government have already given suitable relief to their employees including these clerks.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN 'A' AND 'B' ZONES OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

344. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place before the House a comprehensive statement showing the percentage of Muslim representation in the A. and B. Zones of the Bengal and Assam Railway Administration with the following particulars:

(i) in all offices, section by section, and

(ii) in outdoor appointments with all cadres—such as T.R.I., C.M.I., Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Controllers, Goods Clerks and Parcel Clerks?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place on the table a comparative statement to show the development in the percentage of Muslim representation in compliance with instructions of the Railway Board issued in 1942 directing appointment of adequate number of Muslims to make up the deficiency?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). There are no 'A' and 'B' Zones of the Bengal & Assam Railway and it is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the Zone comprising the area formerly known as the Assam Bengal Railway. Government have no information regarding the detailed number of Muslims in the various categories. The representation of Muslims in the non-gazetted establishment of the A B Zones increased from 35.8 per cent. on 31st March 1941 to 37.2 per cent. on 31st March 1942. The latest figures available pertain to the Bengal & Assam Railway as a whole and are given in Appendix C-I of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1942-43, Volume II.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Do the American administration which is now in charge of the B. and A. Railway observe the proportions laid down?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The staff continue to be under the General Manager of the B. and A. Railway.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Who makes the appointments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The General Manager.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that the quota fixed for Muslims on this railway is 45 per cent., whereas the Honourable Member gives a much lower figure?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is for recruitment.

INSTRUCTIONS RE RESERVATION OF BERTHS FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL ASSEMBLY.

345. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware that the instruction of the Railway Board in respect of reservation of berths for Members of the Central Assembly in class (I) are not followed by the Railway Officers who deny existence of such instructions, and

(b) whether the Honourable Member proposes to issue necessary instructions to all the Railways directing strict observance of the Circulars of the Railway Board already issued in that behalf when Members of the Central Assembly proceed to attend the session and return therefrom?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). It was recently represented to the Railway Board that some Railways were not observing the instructions issued in January 1943 and re-iterated in January 1944, in regard to reserving accommodation for Members of the Legislature. The Railway Board accordingly, in a circular dated 2nd September, 1944, drew the attention of all the principal Railways to their previous orders, and directed that they be brought to the notice of all the staff concerned for compliance.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a regular tariff for these reservations, even if they are made a few days in advance, of Rs. 5, and that on one occasion I had to pay Rs. 10?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Did I understand the Honourable Member to say that he entered into a connivance with the reservation clerk?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that people who have to travel on a particular day on account of important engagements are black-mailed by the railway officials and that there is no question of connivance but that we are made to pay and no choice is given to us?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. If the Honourable Member instead of encouraging the practice of which he complains will kindly report the matter to the senior staff of the station they will see that the matter is properly dealt with.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Railway Department has failed to cope with this situation and have not shown competence to bring this thing under control?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Because the public including, it appears, certain Honourable Members, will not co-operate.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it a fact that the instructions issued to station masters and superintendents on the platforms regarding special facilities for Members of the Legislature are not carried out?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I thought I had already answered that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My point is, are these circulars, which Government have issued, actually followed? I can say that they are not followed.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I believe that as a rule they are followed. But if Honourable Members will draw my attention to specific cases where they are not acted upon, I shall be glad to look into them.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Do the instructions cover cases of Members coming to attend meetings of Committees also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Members will make proper arrangements in advance I do not think they will find any difficulty.

LEASE-LEND (CONTROLLED) VEHICLES ALLOTTED TO PROVINCES.

346. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Lease-Lend (Controlled) vehicles allotted to each Province for the period ending the 31st March, 1944; and

(b) the conditions under which the vehicles mentioned in (a) are allotted to the Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A statement showing the number of new controlled transport vehicles released by this Department for essential civil use, to which the Honourable Member apparently refers, allotted to Provinces to end of March, 1944 is laid on the table.

(b) The conditions laid down are:—

(i) that the vehicles will be employed on war work or essential civil work connected with the war or to relieve conditions brought about by the war;

(ii) that the vehicles will be properly maintained and will not be overloaded or driven at excessive speed;

(iii) that a producer gas plant will be fitted to them, if required to do so by the Provincial Motor Transport Controller;

(iv) that the vehicles will not be sold without the permission in writing of the Provincial Motor Transport Controller; and

(v) that the vehicles will be surrendered to Government at a valuation, if demanded.

Statement showing the distributoin of 3-ton and 15-cwt. controlled Motor Vehicles released to various Provinces for essential civil use end of March, 1944.

Serial No.	Province	3-ton vehicles	15-cwt. vehicles	Total
1.	Madras	911	42	953
2.	Bombay	776	55	831
3.	Bengal	1,720	470	2,190
4.	United Provinces	600	101	701
5.	Punjab	274	...	274
6.	Bihar	627	108	735
7.	C. P. & Berar	420	...	420
8.	Assam	1,090	100	1,190
9.	N. W. F. P.	216	10	226
10.	Orissa	125	27	152
11.	Sind	229	31	260
12.	Delhi	151	2	153
13.	Ajmer-Merwara	36	4	40
14.	Baluchistan	158	...	158
15.	Coorg	22	...	22
16.	Central P. W. D.	680	...	680 (a)
17.	Other Central Government Departments	164	...	164 (b)
Total		8,199	950	9,149

N.B.—(a) For airfield construction works in Eastern India.

(b) (i) Mainly for operation in Bengal and Assam for M. E. S. works 150

(ii) For various ordnance clothing factories in various Provinces 14

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Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the congestion of passenger traffic on particular sections in the provinces is also taken into consideration in allotting these vehicles?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. The Provincial Motor Transport Controller goes into such matters.

LEASE-LEND (CONTROLLED) VEHICLES ALLOTTED TO RAILWAYS.

347. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state the number of Lease-Lend (Controlled) vehicles allotted to Railways and the conditions laid down thereon, if any?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: About 200 controlled vehicles have so far been allotted to railways under the usual conditions laid down in civil Motor Transport Vehicles Control Order, 1944.

INSTRUCTIONS RE EMPLOYING MUSLIMS AS OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS AND HEAD CLERKS:

348. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Railway Board have issued instructions to the General Managers of the State Railways to keep in view the desire of the Board for employing adequate number of Muslims as Office Superintendents and Head Clerks?

(b) Did the Railway Board make any enquiries in respect of the extent to which their desire was given a practical effect? If so, what was the reply from the General Manager, North Western Railway? Did the Railway Board further emphasize the desirability of carrying out the instructions referred to in (a) above? If not, why not?

(c) When was the last selection held by the North Western Railway for filling posts of Head Clerks and Office Superintendents for Divisions and Headquarters?

(d) Were the instructions of the Board referred to above kept in view in recent selections? If so, how many Muslims were selected for appointment as Office Superintendents and Head Clerks and how many non-Muslims?

(e) What is the present strength of Muslim Head Clerks and Office Superintendents on the North Western Railway and their percentage to the total number of sanctioned posts?

(f) Do the Government realize that the number of Muslim Head Clerks and Office Superintendents is still meagre and how do they propose to improve the percentage?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his Starred Question No. 197 asked on the 4th August, 1943.

(c) and (d). I lay a statement on the table which gives the required information. As regards the first portion of part (d), Government have no reason to believe otherwise.

(e) The required information is as follows:—

4 Superintendents	25 per cent.
16 Head Clerks	21.6 per cent.

(f) As promotion is not based on communal considerations, the distribution of appointments in these grades must depend very largely on the communal distribution of the senior most in the ranks from which promotion is made.

Statement showing selections held by the N.W. Railway for the posts of Superintendents and Head Clerks and the number of Muslims and non-Muslims selected for these posts.

Category of staff	Date of selection	Total Number of men selected	
		Muslims	Non-Muslims
Headquarters Office			
Office Superintendent	May 1943	1	4
Superintendent, Works	February 1942	1	1
Superintendent, Personnel	July 1944	1	2
Superintendent, Commercial	February 1942	1	5
Superintendent, Stores	August 1944	1	2
Superintendent, Purchase (Stores)	August 1944	2	3
Superintendent, Drawing (Engineering).	April 1943	...	1
Assistant Superintendent, Personnel.	July 1944	1	4
Assistant Superintendent, Way and Works.	November 1943	...	3
Assistant Superintendent, Works (Mechanical).	November 1943	1	...
Assistant Superintendent, Commercial.	March 1944	1	2

Category of staff	Date of selection	Total Number of men selected	
		Muslims	Non-Muslims
<i>Headquarters Office—contd.</i>			
Assistant Superintendent, Purchase (Stores).	August 1944.	2	4
Assistant Superintendent, Operating.	February 1942	...	2
Head Clerk, Personnel	October 1944	3	5
Head Clerk, Stores	September 1944	2	3
Head Clerk, Budget	November 1943	1	2
Head Clerk, Way and Works	November 1943	5	9
Head Clerk, Commercial (Miscellaneous).	March 1944	3	1
Head Clerk, Compensation	February 1944	2	2
Head Clerk, Commercial (A. L. Section).	December 1943	2	2
Head Clerk, Operating.	February 1942	2	5
Head Clerk, General Branch	July 1943	...	1
Head Clerk, Copying Branch	June 1943	1	1
<i>Divisions</i>			
Office Superintendent	February 1942	5	8
Head Clerk, Operating	September 1944	...	8
Head Clerk, Commercial	July 1943	...	4
Head Clerk, Stores	May 1944	1	1
Head Clerk, Personnel	February 1944	3	6

MUSLIM ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

349. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number, communitywise, of Assistant Controllers on the North Western Railway?

(b) Are Muslims adequately represented in this category of staff?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the negative, do the Government propose to ensure that in the next selections for Assistant Controllers a sufficient number of Muslims is selected and placed on the approved list to make up the deficiency? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have no information, and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the North Western Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

SELECTION FOR POSTS OF ASSISTANT CLAIMS INSPECTORS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

350. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the posts of Assistant Claims Inspectors on the North Western Railway are selection posts?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, when was the last Selection Board held?

(c) What qualifications are required of candidates called for selection for Assistant Claims Inspectors?

(d) What was the total number of candidates recommended by Divisions for selection and how many of them were Muslims?

(e) What was the number of those called for selection in the Headquarters Office and the number of those selected from each community, separately?

(i) Is it a fact that the number of selected Muslims was too meagre as compared with non-Muslims? If so, why?

(g) Do the Government propose to issue orders to the effect that the Department concerned should take steps to call for adequate number of Muslims for these selection posts? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) On the 21st December, 1943.

(c) The candidates should have passed in the coaching and goods examinations at the Walton Training School.

(d) Out of a total number of 31 recommended by Divisions, nine were Muslims.

(e) The number called to the Headquarters Office for selection included eight Muslims, 19 Hindus and two Sikhs, out of whom five Muslims, six Hindus and one Sikh were placed on the selected list.

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

(g) Does not arise in view of the reply (f) above.

CANDIDATES FOR SENIOR ASSISTANT STATION MASTER COURSE

351. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of candidates by communities who appeared in the (Senior Assistant Station Master) Course in the year 1944?

(b) What is the total number of men by communities recommended by Divisions to the Headquarters Office and what is the number of the men nominated for this course?

(c) Why was such a small number of Muslims recommended by Divisions and still a smaller number was selected by the Headquarters Office?

(d) Will the Government please see that Muslim employees get their due share in this respect as this course is a stepping stone for the advancement of employees?

(e) Will the Government please state how they propose to select and train an adequate number of Muslim candidates in the above course in future? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member has not specified the railway or railways to which the question relates.

RAWALPINDI SELECTION BOARD FOR RECRUITING FOOD INSPECTORS

352. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the composition of the Selection Board held in the Rawalpindi Division in the year 1944 for selecting candidates for the posts of (i) Food Inspector, and (ii) Assistant Food Inspector?

(b) Is it a fact that the Muslim Officer who was a member of the said Selection Board was a Junior Scale Officer while others were of the Senior scale?

(c) Was no Senior Muslim Divisional Officer in the Division on the day the selection was held?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative, what were the specific reasons or not including one of the Senior Divisional Muslim Officers in the Board?

(e) Will the Honourable Member please furnish the number of men selected by communities in the above mentioned selection?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). No regular Selection Board was held because these posts have not been declared as selection posts; but three officers, of whom two were of senior scale and one in the junior scale, were directed to nominate suitable men. The junior scale officer who was a Muslim was not directly subordinate to the others.

(c) A Muslim senior scale officer was available.

(d) It was not considered necessary under the circumstances.

(e) Of the three men selected as Food Inspectors, one was a Hindu, one a Muslim and the third a Sikh. As regards Assistant Food Inspectors, two were Hindus and one a Muslim.

COUPON SELLERS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION

353. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the present strength of Coupon Sellers by communities in the Rawalpindi Division and the percentage of Muslims to the total number of posts?

(b) How do the Government propose to take steps to increase the Muslim percentage in those ex-cadre posts filled generally by selection?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government understand that these posts have now been abolished.

1354.*

RESTRICTIONS ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTIONS.

355. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state when restrictions were placed on building construction by the Civil Departments of the Government of India, Provincial Public Work Departments, Municipalities, Port Trusts, District Boards and other public bodies, and why they were placed?

(b) When was it found necessary to requisition not merely cement but bricks, tiles and all other building material including timber?

(c) Have the reasons for these restrictions not abated now and have Government considered the desirability of relaxing these restrictions?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the serious overcrowding in Bombay, the harassment to civil population whose places of residence are requisitioned at the instance of the Government of India, and the desirability of permitting some buildings to go up, which will provide accommodation for different classes of people?

(e) Have Government considered that the explosion has dishoused a large number of people for whom it is their duty to provide with housing?

(f) Have they received any representations from provincial Governments generally and particularly from the province of Bombay for relaxation of the restrictions on buildings of all classes or of any particular class?

(g) If Government are not prepared to relax these restrictions and permit necessary buildings to go up, will they explain on the basis of the latest available materials and the needs of the Army for such materials, why permission for buildings that will accommodate civil population should not now be given?

(h) Do Government propose to appoint a Committee including Members of this House to go into this question to advise them?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) In January 1943 the Government of India decided to restrict their own building to such work as was inescapably necessary. They asked Provincial Governments to do the same and to discourage capital works by private parties.

(b) Allocations of cement, bricks, etc., have been made throughout the war according to military necessity.

(c) No.

(d) Government are aware that the accommodation position in Bombay is acute and that considerable inconvenience has inevitably been caused to the civil population. Government propose to build accommodation for Central Government officers in Bombay to relieve congestion as soon as materials can be made available.

(e) The Government of Bombay are taking steps in this matter.

(f) I am not aware of any representation from Provincial Governments suggesting the removal of restrictions on building generally. But the Bombay Government had asked for increased allocations of certain controlled materials for re-building the areas damaged in the recent explosions.

(g) For military reasons, the availability of building materials continues to be short.

(h) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give this House such information as will not be of use to the enemy with regard to the military reasons? Will he explain why even for the Government officers' accommodation in Bombay building materials cannot be released?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Because they are required for more urgent military operational purposes.

*This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member say whether these buildings which are required for Central Government officers in Bombay are of a temporary or permanent character?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I require notice of that question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: At any rate, will the Honourable Member see that they are not to be of a temporary character but of a permanent character and built in localities where they will be useful for other purposes after the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I will draw the attention of the Honourable the Labour Member who is in charge of that particular subject to this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member assure this House that, in view of the very serious discontent that the needs of the civil population are neglected particularly in Bombay after the explosion which is naturally the result of war, that some special action will be taken to release building material and if it is a question of capital—i.e., finance—that private parties will be permitted to build?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, so far as the damage caused by the explosion is concerned, the Government of Bombay have asked for certain materials and every effort has been made to give priority supplies of these materials. They have asked in particular for steel, Asbestos, Corrugated sheets, coal-tar, timber items, and cement, and the requirements of the Bombay Government for these materials have been generally met.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that not a single building which would re-house not one of the one-hundred-thousand people who were thrown out have yet been put up seven months after the event, and that the urgency is really great and could not be evaded by merely urging military needs?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, I may point out that in every country which is under war conditions, people who have been bombed out, houses which have been destroyed on account of such catastrophes, Governments have not been able to re-house them or to build new houses for them under existing conditions. The requirements of all Departments, particularly of the Military and the operational needs have to be taken into consideration in releasing as much materials as possible for the civil population, and that is the constant care of the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member have the question examined by a Committee?

(No reply was given)

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

MACHINERY AND PRINCIPLE FOR FIXING PRICES OF MATERIALS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

356. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the machinery and the principle for fixing the prices of materials taken by Government in the case of (i) factories whose total supply is taken, (ii) factories from which partial supplies are drawn, and (iii) merchants, middlemen and contractors from whom material is taken without any reference to where it is manufactured?

(b) Have Government received complaints of wholesale requisitions from different merchants and others at prices lower than what was paid by them?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have requisitioned motor-cars at arbitrary prices and in some cases at half the price paid by the man from whom the car was taken?

(d) Is it a fact that excessive requisitions have been made in commodities frozen in the hands of merchants and Government have never taken delivery nor released those commodities?

(e) Have Government received any representations on these lines?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Prices are normally fixed by negotiation with the supplier and in consultation with the Finance Department (Supply). The general principle adopted is to arrive at prices that are fair to Government and the supplier in the circumstances of each case.

(i) and (ii). There is no single principle governing negotiations, but the more important types of contracts are—

(1) those in which actual costs are payable with a fixed amount of profit per unit,

(2) those based on actual costs with a ceiling price, and

(3) those in which the prices paid before the war or those thrown up later by competition are accepted as basic prices.

In the few cases in which negotiations fail, prices are fixed according to Undertakings (Charges and Accounts) Order, 1941, subject to an appeal.

(iii) In the case of merchants, middlemen and contractors, the attempt always is to base the price payable on the actual cost to the seller *plus* a margin of profit varying with the class of goods, subject to the provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance. When the seller's actual cost represents an unreasonable or speculative price and for this reason an agreed price cannot be arrived at, Government determine what a reasonable price should be and in doing so take into consideration the prices thrown up by competition and/or those paid by Government at the beginning of the war *plus* a reasonable extra to cover the subsequent increases in imported or manufacturing costs.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. There have been some representations against the compensation awarded in particular cases on the ground that the amount awarded is less than the price paid by the previous owner.

(c) No.

(d) There have been a few cases in which stores somewhat in excess of outstanding demands have been frozen or requisitioned, as also some instances of delay in taking delivery of or releasing frozen goods.

(e) Yes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (d), will Government look to it that the Military and the Supply Department do not follow a dog in the manger policy, i.e., freezing material which is required urgently by the civil population and whether they will not try to release more material for the civil population?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: As far as possible instructions have been issued to release requisitioned materials at the earliest convenient stage.

DELAYS IN FIXING PRICES OF MATERIALS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

357. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is a fact that in fixing prices from factories whose whole output is taken by Government, there have been long delays and arbitrary rules and factories are called upon to accept prices which they have represented as unfair?

(b) How many such cases have occurred and in what industries?

(c) Do these cases come to the notice of the Honourable Member and, if so, has he considered the advisability of Government paying a fair price and of avoiding action which would appear confiscatory?

(d) Are Government aware that the normal legal remedies to business firms, merchants and industries are suspended through the operation of the Defence of India Rules and there is need for constant watchfulness if serious injustice is to be avoided?

(e) Is it a fact that arbitrary decisions are made with regard to a fair price that there are firms and contractors who have received ten and twenty per cent. over the cost and that there are others who are denied a minimum fair return of six per cent. on their capital?

(f) Can Government explain the very large range and variety of prices fixed for different firms for different articles?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Delays in price-fixation do sometimes occur, but in all cases in which they are likely it has been usual to pay provisional prices, pending a final decision.

As to the principles governing price-fixation, the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to my reply to the previous question asked by him today. When prices are negotiated, there can be no question of an unfair price and there has been no instance hitherto of price-fixation under the Undertakings (Charges and Accounts) Order in the case of a factory whose whole output is taken by Government.

(b) This does not arise as regards prices in view of my reply to part (a). As regards delays, I regret that it is not possible, without undertaking a laborious examination, to say in how many cases they have occurred.

(c) All important cases of price-fixation come to my notice. The latter half of the question does not arise in view of my reply to part (a) above.

(d) If as I presume, the Honourable Member is referring to price-fixation under the Undertakings (Charges and Accounts) Order, I would point out that an appeal is provided for under that Order. I am aware of the need for constant watchfulness.

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. I have already said that the price paid has always been an agreed price and the question of an unfair return does not, therefore, arise.

(f) In negotiating prices, the circumstances of each case must be taken into consideration and differences as regards these must necessarily lead to slight variations in the prices finally fixed. But it is not correct that there exist a very large range and variety of prices.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When the Honourable Member said that one of the basis on which price was fixed for material taken by Government was the actual price *plus* profit per unit, did he mean by that the actual price as given in the accounts of the company, or an imaginary, arbitrary or constructive figure?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, it is difficult to answer that question in reply to a supplementary.

1358.*

MATERIALS ENJOYING CONCESSIONAL TARIFF RATES

359. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state whether there is any class of material which is enjoying a concession in rates, apart from classification, and which is carried at a lower rate than the fixed tariff?

(b) Is material belonging to the U.K.C.C. being carried at concession rates or is the concession to them only confined to priority in point of time for wagons required by them?

(c) Have Government considered the desirability of giving a concession on food carried from surplus Provinces to deficit Provinces and to distress areas having regard to the fact that most of this food moves in bulk?

(d) What is the nature and extent of concession to war material that moves from one place to another?

(e) What is the nature and extent of concession to (i) army personnel, Indian Army, (ii) army personnel, British Army and the Armies of the United States of America as compared with the rates charged to civil population?

(f) Are special charges collected for special trains run for the Army on the basis on which such charges would be taken if a special was ordered by a member of the civil population?

(g) Since when has the special arrangement with the Army to run goods and men at concession rates come into operation?

*This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

(h) Will all papers in connection with this be laid on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The maximum permissible charge and the minimum permissible charge for the carriage of commodities by rail have been fixed by the Railway Board, and railways are permitted to quote rates within these limits according to the circumstances of each individual commodity. All the rates thus quoted are included in the tariffs published by individual railways. These tariffs are available for sale to the public and, in accordance with section 60 of the Indian Railway Act, the rate books or other documents in which the rate is authorised by the administration or administrations concerned shall be shown to any person at his request at all reasonable times and without payment of any fee. Certain railways have been empowered to charge, for certain commodities, rates higher than the maximum provided for in the general classification of goods, and details of those charges will be found in the goods tariffs of the railways concerned. The only class of material enjoying a rate lower than the minimum class rates fixed by the Railway Board is coal, for which a special rate is in force.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, there is no favoured priority assistance given to the consignments belonging to the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation.

(c) Foodgrains are carried at relatively low rates and the need for any reduction in these rates is not apparent.

(d) The rates charged for war material and the application of those rates are contained in the Indian Railway Conference Association Military Tariff No. 1, 1943, a copy of which will be found in the library of the House.

(e) The nature and extent of the concession to (i) army personnel, Indian Army, (ii) army personnel, British Army and the United States of America, are contained in the Indian Railway Conference Association Military Tariff No. 1, 1943, whilst the basis of fares charged to the civil population is given in appendix K/I of the Indian Railway Conference Association Coaching Tariff No. 14, in force from the 1st May 1943, a copy of which is also in the library of the House.

(f) No.

(g) The first special arrangement between the railways and the Army dates back to the year 1868. Since that year there have been sundry modifications both in the scope and in the basis of charges.

(h) In view of the reply to part (g), my refusal to lay all the papers on the table of the House will be appreciated.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to carriage of food from surplus provinces to deficit provinces, when the carriage is made on Government account, whether Central or Provincial Government, which latter is a deficit province, why are Government refusing to consider concession rates or low rates or free carriage as a subsidy? Why are they merely adding to one side of the account and debiting the other side of the account?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Well, Sir, the railways are a commercial undertaking and they are charging low rates for the carriage of food. They have not increased the charges for carrying foodgrains by 12½ per cent. by which the rates of most other commodities have been increased.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that concessions to military transport exist in spite of the fact that the railways are a commercial concern, may I know when famine conditions threaten in many parts of the country—I do not want the answer now—whether he will assure us that Government will consider giving an additional subsidy to food in order to stabilize prices by reducing the charges on the carriage of food from the surplus provinces to deficit provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. These rates are one of the few things in this country which have not been increased since the war began.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What was the answer to clause (f)? I did not hear it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I heard the Honourable Member to say that some concession was given to food in the way of low-freight rates. If they have been given, who gets the benefit, the consumer or the buyer?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The person who gets the benefit is the person who pays the freight. Whether it is passed on to the consumer or not is another question. In the present circumstances I very much doubt whether the benefit gets to the consumer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Frederick James.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL ROAD BOARD

360. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable Member of War Transport be pleased to state:

(a) if he has considered the recommendations of the Indian Roads Congress held in October, 1943, and of the Conference of Chief Engineers of Provinces and States in December, 1943, relating to the establishment of a Central Road Board to assist in planning, co-ordinating and organising post-war road development; and

(b) if he has taken or contemplates taking in the near future any steps to establish such an organisation which is urgently necessary in view of the plans for road development which are now under active consideration by various Provincial and State Governments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The recommendations referred to by the Honourable Member are under consideration in consultation with the Provincial Governments.

(b) The scope and nature of the proposed Road Board is under active consideration, and in the meantime work in connection with planning is proceeding. A recently appointed Chief Controller of Road Transport and Development and his colleagues have started extensive tours with a view to bringing Provinces into the closest consultation with the Government of India on the post-war road plan. It is hoped that within the next six months it will be possible to set out what that plan will be.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask whether the answer that my Honourable friend has just given includes the establishment of the Central Road Board which was recommended by this conference?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. The setting up of the Road Board is one of the subjects under discussion with the Provincial Governments and I may add that this question was also discussed by the Standing Committee for Roads which met the other day.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the development of rural road transport is very essential and is going to figure very prominently in post-war times, will Government consider the advisability of providing adequate representation on this proposed Board for the representatives of Local Boards in this country?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The constitution of the Board is one of the questions which is under discussion. If the constitution is to follow anything like the recommendations of the Indian Road Engineers then it will be a technical body and will not contain representatives of particular interests.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has said that the matter is "under consideration" in reply to part (a) and "under active consideration" in reply to part (b) of the question, may I know the difference between mere "consideration" and "active consideration"?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In the first case I have said that it is "under consideration in consultation with the Provincial Governments" but in the second, where it concerns the Central Government alone, I have said "active consideration", since the latter acts more speedily than when the matter is concerned with the Provincial Governments.

DELAY IN TRANSIT OF POSTAL ARTICLES POSTED IN MADRAS

361. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Will the Honourable Member for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postal articles posted in Madras are subjected to delay in transit;

(b) whether it is due to the manning of the Central Sorting Office at Madras with postal hands displacing trained R.M.S. Sorters;

(c) whether it is not a fact that the efficiency of service in the Post Office in the Madras City has deteriorated due to the manning of the Post Office with R.M.S. Sorters;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Central Sorting Office has been taken away from the control of the Presidency Postmaster, Madras, and is now placed in charge of a R.M.S. Divisional Superintendent; if so, whether the R.M.S. trained Sorters have been transferred back to the Central Sorting Office; if not, why not;

(e) in view of the war conditions and the necessity to avoid delays to mails whether it would not be advisable to immediately man the Central Sorting Office with experienced and trained Sorters who are now working in the Post Office;

(f) whether it is not a fact that the Post Office men have sent their representations both direct and through their Unions to be sent back to the Post Office; and

(g) whether it is not a fact that these problems were being considered by the Postmaster-General, Madras, for the past several months, and, if so, why the change of staff was not effected?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) No, except on rare occasions due either to late arrival of trains or to the receipt of an unusually heavy bulk of mails.

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

(c) It is not a fact.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, in selecting officials for transfer to the Madras Sorting Division preference has been given to those volunteering to work in that Division. To fill other appointments in the new Division, officials already working in the Sorting Branch of the Madras General Post Office have been transferred as a temporary measure. The question of transfer to this Division of officials who were originally recruited as sorters and subsequently absorbed in the Madras General Post Office Group is under examination.

(e) The matter is under investigation by the Postmaster-General.

(f) Yes.

(g) The matter is complicated. It is under the careful consideration of the Postmaster-General.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many more months will it take before any definite decision is reached with regard to this very trivial matter.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I feel that to the staff concerned the matter is not so trivial. I am afraid I am unable to say how many more months it will take: perhaps the Honourable Member will be able to find that out from the Post Master General, Madras.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FORCIBLE EVACUATION OF CIVIL PASSENGERS FROM COMPARTMENT BY NAVAL PEOPLE AT SAMAL KOT STATION

362. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that a Bengal Nagpur Railway carriage No. 2581, about third from the engine had two third class compartments (accommodating 30 passengers each) attached to the mail from Madras to Calcutta which arrived at Samal Kot by about 10-20 A.M. on the 24th July, 1944;

(b) Is it not a fact that one of the two above compartments was reserved for B.O.Rs., wherein there were four of them sitting whereas in the other there were about 60 civilian passengers including women and children while the accommodation was only for 30?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that about twentyfive naval-military people who were waiting on the Samal Kot platform came to the compartment occupied by civilians as above mentioned and demanded the evacuation?

(d) Is it not a fact that these naval people rushed into this civilian compartment as the civilian passengers did not obey their orders and having made a forcible entry began to push out the passengers male and female even through windows of the compartment, in spite of requests and persuasions on the part of the underguard of the train, the Assistant Station Master and the Railway Police?

(e) Is it not a fact that the Chief Guard who came later at the request of the navy men encouraged the navy people to push out the civilian passengers and so they did with redoubled violence?

(f) Is it not a fact that one Mr. M. Subha Rao, an advocate of Vizagapatam, happened to be there requested the Chief Guard to accommodate the passengers left stranded and divested of their legal accommodation in one of the compartments Inter and Second Class running almost vacant, though some of the poor passengers had Second Class tickets, but the Chief Guard paid no heed to the request on the pitiable cries of the stranded passengers?

(g) Was there any representation made to the Government of India by the gentleman about the most regrettable and the highly reprehensible conduct of the Chief Guard and the navy men? If so, what is the action taken? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (g). A representation from Mr. M. Subba Rao, Vakil, Vizagapatam, was received by Government in July, regarding the incident referred to in the question. This representation was taken for necessary action to the General Manager, M. & S. M. Railway, who is competent to deal with such matters.

CONCESSION RE POSTING TO OFFICIALS RETURNING FROM FIELD SERVICE.

363. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be asked to state whether it is a fact that in his general Circular No. 41, dated 8th December, 1941, he has allowed some concession in the matter of posting to the officials on their return from field service?

(b) Is it a fact that contrary to the above orders liens of several Postal officers in the Punjab have been shifted from one place to another and in some cases from one Division to another in the absence of the officers concerned who were away on war services?

(c) Do Government propose to issue orders to remove the anomaly and to show the gratitude of the officials?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes. The circular referred to by the Honourable Member has since been replaced by circular No. 13, dated the 30th June 1942, with the same effect.

(b) No. The above orders allow officials who have proceeded on field service, on option under certain conditions to choose the station at which they would like to serve, only on their return from field service. Any transfer of liens while the officials are on field service, temporarily made to suit administrative needs, does not contravene the orders cited by the Honourable Member. It is not in fact affect the officials concerned as they can ask to be posted to the station of their choice on their return from the field.

(c) Does not arise.

PANEL OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

364. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944 a panel of Apprentice Train Examiners was formed for absorption in the existing vacancies after the completion of prescribed training?

(b) Is it a fact that no communal ratio was observed in the formation of panel?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 364, 365, 366 and 368 together.

I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PANEL OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

365. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the month of July, 1944, the Bengal and Assam Railway detailed as trainees the first twenty candidates out of the panel of Apprentice Train Examiners formed in the year 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that not a single Muslim was included in the said batch of trainees?

(c) Is it a fact that in these initial recruitments stated in (a) and (b) the fundamental formulae for the observance of communal ratio was violated?

RECRUITMENT OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

366. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to give the following information about the recruitment of Apprentice Train Examiners on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944;

(i) the number of Muslim candidates who applied for the said posts in response to the advertisement for the appointment of Apprentice Train Examiners;

(ii) the number of Muslims called for interview; and

(iii) the number of Muslims selected for appointments?

SELECTION BOARDS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

367. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in Selection Boards for recruitments held on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1940-44 officiating Lower Gazetted Service Muslim officers were included in those Boards?

(b) Is it a fact that the Selection Boards mentioned in (a) were constituted against his assurance given in his speech in the debate of the Central Legislative Assembly, dated the 24th February 1943?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no definite information but there may have been occasions on which officiating Lower Gazetted Service Muslim Officers were included in Selection Boards for recruitment.

(b) The rules governing recruitment of subordinates are those referred to by the Honourable Member and as far as is known to Government the mandatory provisions of these rules have been complied with on the Bengal and Assam Railway in spite of the exceptionally difficult conditions under which the Railways have been working in recent years.

MUSLIM QUOTA OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

368. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the methods to make up the quota of Muslims in the recruitment of Apprentice Train Examiners in the year 1944 on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

TEMPORARY POSTS IN CERTAIN CADRES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

369. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of temporary posts created in the Junior Scale and the Lower Gazetted Service in all the Departments on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January 1940, to September 1944, and the number of the subordinates promoted to officiate in these posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: According to the information readily available with the Government, the number of temporary posts referred to is 141 and that of subordinates promoted to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service is 138.

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 364.

OFFICIATING STAFF IN CERTAIN CADRES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

370. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a tabulated statement community-wise showing substantive posts, academic and departmental qualifications of all the subordinate staff promoted to officiate in the posts of Junior Scale and Lower Gazetted Service of all the Departments on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January 1942, to September 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

OFFICIATING OFFICERS IN LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE SENIOR SCALE ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

371. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a tabulated statement community-wise, before the House showing the number of officiating officers in the Lower Gazetted Service promoted to officiate in the Senior Scale on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January 1942, to September 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I lay on the table a statement showing the required information readily available with the Government.

Statement showing community-wise the number of officiating officers in the Lower Gazetted Service promoted to officiate in the Senior Scale on the Bengal & Assam Railway during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944.

Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans	Hindus	Muslim	Total
7	9	1	17

LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE SELECTION BOARDS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

372. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if any Selection Boards were held on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January 1940, to September 1944, to select candidates for the Lower Gazetted Service?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what are, academic and departmental qualifications of Muslims who appeared before those Selection Boards and were not approved?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) According to the information readily available with the Government, two such Selection Boards were held during the current year.

(b) Information is not readily available and Government regret they cannot undertake to collect it.

LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE SELECTION BOARDS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

373. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the subordinates who had been promoted to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from the year January 1940, to September 1944, prior to their approval by the Selection Boards, were subsequently approved by the Selection Boards?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There have been some such cases when posts had to be filled urgently, but this has not happened recently.

RECRUITMENT OF CLERICAL STAFF ON ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

374. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a statement showing recruitment of clerical staff in the Establishment Sections of all the Departments in the Districts of the

Bengal and Assam Railway bearing the following information during the period from January 1941 to September 1944.

- (i) the total number of vacancies temporary and permanent, separately,
- (ii) the number of non-Muslims employed direct,
- (iii) the number of non-Muslims employed by transfer,
- (iv) the number of Muslims employed direct,
- (v) the number of Muslims employed by transfer,
- (vi) the total period or periods for which non-Muslims were employed in the cases of temporary vacancies; and
- (vii) the total period or periods for which Muslims were employed in the case of temporary vacancies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 374 and 375 together.

Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

RECRUITMENT OF CLERICAL STAFF IN ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

375. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state—

- (i) the number of vacancies filled by direct recruitment, community-wise; and
- (ii) the number of vacancies filled by transfer, community-wise among the clerks in the Establishment Section on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from 1941-44?

CLERKS TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL BRANCH OF HEAD OFFICE OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

376. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of clerks in all grades transferred from District offices to the Personnel Branch of the Head Office of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the financial years 1940-1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: According to the information readily available, not more than three such clerks were transferred.

PREPONDERANCE OF HINDUS IN WIRE SECTION OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

377. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Wire Section opened directly under the management of the Deputy General Manager (Tele-Communication) of the Bengal and Assam Railway has been monopolised by Hindus?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what is the number of the personnel of the said Department? Were they recruited directly or through transfers from other Departments?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, does he contemplate keeping up the Muslim quota in the said Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The Wire Section is a comparatively small section of the Chief Transportation Manager's Office and is not a department. Government have no information regarding the number or communities of the staff employed therein.

(c) Such postings are not made on a communal basis.

'D' GRADE POSTS OF OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PAKSEY, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

378. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that all the posts sanctioned in "D" Grades in the office of the Executive Engineer, Paksey, Bengal and Assam Railway, during the year 1944 were filled by non-Muslims?

(b) Will the Honourable Member make a statement about the method adopted for recruitment to this sectional office at Paksey on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 374.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

NON-NOMINATION OF MUSLIMS ON COMMITTEE OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

379. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the General Manager of the Bengal and Assam Railway has never nominated Muslims in the Committee of the Co-operative Credit Society, Junior Co-operative Credit Society and the Staff Benefit Fund so far?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what are the names of Muslims nominated in the said Committee specifying the particular period?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, does he contemplate nominating Muslims in the said Committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government have no information regarding the particulars of such nominations which, however, are not made on a communal basis.

(c) A copy of the question will be sent to the General Manager, Bengal & Assam Railway, for such action as may be deemed necessary.

NON-ADVERTISING OF REORGANIZATION INSPECTORS' POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

380. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that non-Muslims from the Munition Productions and Supply Department, Calcutta, who were exclusively requisitioned temporarily as Re-organisation Inspectors by the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944 to re-organise the Administrative offices were permanently absorbed in the newly sanctioned posts carrying the pay of Rs. 600 per month without advertising or circularising the said posts and examining candidates by Selection Board?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state (i) the date when the posts of Re-organisation Inspectors were sanctioned; (ii) the date when the said posts were advertised or circulated; (iii) the Selection Board held to examine candidates for the said posts; and (iv) the names of Muslims examined?

(c) Is it a fact that no suitable candidates for the said posts were available in the Bengal and Assam Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DISCONTINUANCE OF DIRECT RECRUITMENT OF SPECIAL INSPECTORS AND SPECIAL CLERKS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

381. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Bengal and Assam Railway have discontinued direct recruitment of Special Inspectors and Special Clerks in the Traffic Department which have tended to defeat the purpose of the Home Department's Resolution No. F14/17-B/33-Esta., dated the 4th July, 1934, since 1942?

(b) Is it a fact that suitable Muslims of high academic qualifications were available for the said categories?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 381 and 382 together.

I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

VACANCIES OF SPECIAL INSPECTORS, ETC. ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

382. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of temporary and permanent vacancies which occurred in the categories of Special Inspectors, Special Clerks, Claims and Commercial Inspectors on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from 1942 to 1944 and the number of non-Muslims and Muslims who were absorbed in the said vacancies through promotions and direct recruitment?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 381.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS FOR CERTAIN POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

383. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Bengal and Assam Railway have not considered the claims of the qualified Muslims for the following posts in the same way as the claims of the members of other communities were considered during the year 1940 to September, 1944:

- (i) District Controller,
- (ii) Assistant Traffic Controller,
- (iii) Supervising Station Masters; and
- (iv) Supervising Assistant Station Masters?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what are the number of the staff, community-wise, who were promoted to the said posts during the said period?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information under the present conditions.

SUBORDINATES ABSORBED IN LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE IN STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

384. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the numbers of Muslim and Non-Muslim subordinates absorbed in the Lower Gazetted Service in operative vacancies in the Stores Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One subordinate was permanently promoted and twelve were appointed to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service. All of them are non-Muslims.

PROMOTIONS TO CERTAIN GRADES IN HEAD OFFICE, ETC. OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

385. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims promoted to "D" "E" "F" and "G" Grades in the Head office and in the office of the District Controller of Stores, Calcutta of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from 1942 to 1944 and the substantive posts held by them during these years?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

NON-SELECTION OF MUSLIMS IN STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY FOR LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE.

386. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that Muslims in the Stores Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway have never been examined by Selection Boards for the posts in the Lower Gazetted Service of the said Department?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative will he be pleased to state—

- (i) the number of candidates who appeared before the Selection Boards during the period from 1942 to 1944;
- (ii) their substantive pay and officiating pay in case any candidate who was officiating in higher grade at the time of Selection;
- (iii) their academic qualifications and the total length of service; and
- (iv) the number of Muslims left over with greater experience, and longer service and higher rates of pay than the non-Muslim candidates called for?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PROMOTIONS IN HEAD OFFICE OF STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

387. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that out of the candidates declared unsuitable by

Selection Boards held in the year 1944 in the Head Office of the Stores Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway for the selection of candidates for promotions to different grades only non-Muslims were promoted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DEPOT STAFF OF STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

388. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Controller of Stores of the Bengal and Assam Railway does not post Muslims in the Depot side?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative what is the present strength community-wise of all the Depots in the following categories:—

- (i) Chief Assistant,
- (ii) Store Keeper Class I,
- (iii) Store Keeper Class II,
- (iv) Assistant Store Keeper,
- (v) Ward Keeper Senior, and
- (vi) Ward Keeper, Junior?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

BALES OF COTTON PIECE-GOODS RECEIVED AT PILKHA RAILWAY STATION FOR TRANSPORT.

389. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of bales of cotton piece goods received by the Pilkha Railway station on the Delhi-Moradabad Section of the East Indian Railway for transport by rail between the 14th October, 1944, and the 31st October, 1944; and

(b) the number and date of the Railway Receipt together with the quantity and weight shown on the Railway Receipt and invoice under which those bales of cotton piece goods were booked or transported by rail?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 890 bales.

(b) Government consider that the time and labour involved in compiling the information will be incommensurate with the results to be obtained.

VISIT OF ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS TO RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, ETC.

390. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Central Government (Railway Board) have invited the Press Association (not registered under any law of the country) to nominate the Accredited Press Correspondents to the Government of India to visit Railway Workshops and other places; if so, what workshops and places were visited by them; and

(b) if it is a fact that those correspondents also submitted a report of their visits to the Central Government (Railway Board); if so, whether it is proposed to lay that report on the table of the House; if not, why not; and if not what the correct fact is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. I lay on the Table a list of the workshops and other places visited.

(b) No report was expected from the correspondents and none was submitted to the Railway Board. I understand, however, that several of the principal newspapers published accounts from their accredited correspondents of their experiences during their tour and of the various activities of the railways at the places visited.

List of Workshops and other places visited by Press Correspondents on their tour of inspection of railway activities.

Lohore—	Manipur Rd.—
Clothing Factory.	L. of C. Railheads.
Workshops.	Ledo—
Civil Training Centre.	L. of C. Railheads.
Divisional Control Office.	Amingaon—
Walton Training School.	Wagon Ferry
Bhusawal—	Parbatipur—
Locomotive Shed.	Transshipment Yard.
Carriage & Wagon Repair Sidings.	Saidpur—
Indian & European Institutes.	Workshops.
Kalyan—	Kanchrapara—
Electric Overhauling Shops.	Workshops.
Bombay—	Calcutta—
Control Office.	Calcutta Port.
Power Cabin.	Howrah Station.
Matunga—	Burn & Co. Wagon Building Works.
Workshops.	Asansol—
Madras—	Marshalling Yard.
Madras Harbour.	Control Office.
M. & S. M. Railway Control Office and Head Office.	Allotment Office.
Regional Controller of Railway Priorities Office.	Hirapur—
Kharagpur—	Steel Works.
Workshops.	Rathardihi
Schools.	Kusunda } Collieries.
Institutes.	Kargali
Grain Shops.	Jamalpur—
Hospital.	Workshops.
Chittagong—	Technical School.
Port.	Apprentices' Hostels.
	Mokameh Ghat—
	Transshipment points.

STATEMENT IN HOUSE OF COMMONS RE SHORTAGE IN THE RAISING OF COAL IN INDIA

391. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to refer to his reply to my starred question No. 17 and state:

(a) whether the statement made recently in the House of Commons regarding the shortage in the raising of coal was based upon information supplied by Government;

(b) whether the raisings made in September and October last were so satisfactory as to enable the bad months of November and December to be tided over for the purpose of maintaining sufficient quotas for different classes of consumers within the country;

(c) whether there was no last attempt at organising the office of the Coal Commissioner till it was transferred to the control of the Honourable Member's Department;

(d) whether the target fixed at one time by the Coal Commissioner had to be revised later so as to reduce it;

(e) in what proportion of cases, the targets fixed for individual collieries producing superior grades of coal have been reached or exceeded;

(f) in what proportion of cases the targets fixed for individual collieries producing lower grades of coal have been reached or exceeded;

(g) the reasons for the failure of any class of collieries to achieve the targets fixed; and

(h) the extent to which the collieries producing superior and the lower grades of coal, respectively, are likely to benefit from the financial inducements indicated by the Honourable Member in his reply to part (d) of the aforesaid question?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes, I think so.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given by me to part (d) of his question No. 15 on the 1st November 1944. In

that reply I have described the various stages by which the office of the Coal Commissioner was organised.

(d) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the target fixed for the purposes of the E. P. T. free bonus payable at 6 monthly intervals. This target was not fixed by the Coal Commissioner, but by Government. It has not been reduced.

(e), (f) and (g). Information is not available at present.

(h) It is too early to indicate the extent to which various collieries will be benefited.

REVIEW OF WORK OF COAL CONTROL BOARD.

392. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a statement reviewing the work of the Coal Control Board ever since its constitution in the spheres of production and distribution, respectively?

(b) Has any complaint come to the notice of the Honourable Member that the constitution of the Board is not sufficiently representative of different shades of interest and that the duties and functions of the Board as originally conceived have been abridged in practice?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Coal Control Board held its first meeting on 3rd May, 1944. The purpose of the Coal Control Board is to advise Government on all matters connected with the working of the Colliery Control Order, 1944, in general and in particular of certain clauses of that Order dealing with the fixation of prices of coal, distribution and stacking of coal and the question of Government issuing directions to any colliery owner prohibiting or limiting the mining or production of any grade of coal or coke. Its members include representatives of the principal mining associations, the Associated Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Indian Coal Merchants' Association.

(i) The Coal Control Board has held seven meetings. The principal matters upon which it has tendered advice to Government are as follows:—

- (1) the fixation of prices of coal and coke;
- (2) the issue of orders regarding middlemen's commissions;
- (3) the question of prohibiting or limiting the mining or production of any grade of coal;

(4) the possibility of increasing coal production by the adjustment of inter-colliery boundaries;

(5) the question whether Government should protect a particular colliery owner against a land lord if in any case Government orders a colliery to produce coal in a manner to which the land lord objects;

(6) the supply of consumer goods to colliery labour;

(7) the procurement and distribution of mining stores and equipment;

(8) the manner of dealing with complaints about the quality of coal supplied to consumers;

(9) the Coal Commissioner's distribution scheme;

(ii) The advice of the Coal Control Board on these and other matters has been of considerable assistance to Government.

(b) Altogether three representations have been received asking for seat on the Coal Control Board. One from Messrs. Tata Iron and Steel Company is still under consideration. The request from the All-India Trade Union Congress was turned down as matters affecting colliery labour do not directly arise out of the functions allotted to the Board under the Coal Control Order. They were asked to bring any matter affecting labour to the notice of the Government of India in the Labour Department. Certain colliery owners who are not members of one or the other of the recognised Associations wanted a seat on the Coal Control Board, but their request was not granted.

NEW COAL MINES OPENED.

393. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state how many new coal mines have been opened since the control scheme came into operation and in which different areas?

(b) Has any order been issued or is proposed to be issued prohibiting the opening of any new mine otherwise than with the concurrence of Government?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) As far as I know 14 new mines have been opened, most of which are situated in Bihar and Bengal area.

(b) No, Sir.

COAL MINES ACQUIRED FOR WORKING.

394. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether Government have acquired or propose to acquire any coal mine for being worked by it? If so, in which areas, for what reasons and on what terms?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Government have not so far acquired any mine. They are considering the question of taking over one colliery on lease. The terms are being negotiated.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF BASIC QUOTA FOR IMPORTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

395. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Controller of Imports on October 18, 1944, to the Andhra Chamber of Commerce that the basic quota for imports from the United Kingdom is proposed to be increased from 12½ per cent. to 50 per cent. in the case of certain goods?

(b) Has his attention been also drawn to the statement of the President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber at its quarterly meeting in Bombay in August last protesting against the present import policy of Government?

(c) Is it a fact that considerable quantities of textiles have been imported from the United Kingdom, and, if so, what has been the total of such imports so far?

(d) What has been the increase in the percentage of quota for imports of soaps, toilet requisites, liquor, bleaching powder, caustic soda, soda ash, sodium bichromate, sodium sulphide and other chemicals, separately?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that the increased imports of such goods may force several industries producing these chemicals or using these chemicals for production of consumer goods to close down? Is it a fact that specific assurances of protection or continued Government assistance were given to some of these industries when they came to the Government's aid at the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Honourable Member for Commerce will answer this question.

FERTILIZERS MISSION.

396. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply 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 Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Technical Fertilizer Mission has not yet returned to England. The report of the Mission has been received by Government and published.

(b) Mr. G. C. Gowing, the head of the Mission and Mr. Rigg, one of the members, are employed by Imperial Chemical Industries. Mr. T. H. Riley, the third member, is from the Power Gas Corporation Limited, and represents the British Chemical Plant Manufacturers' Association.

(c) Yes.

I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (c) and (d) of question No. 341 just answered by me. No applications have been rejected.

PURCHASE OF NITROGEN INDUSTRY PLANTS FROM AMERICA.

397. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply 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?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Government have no information to this effect, and are not interested in second-hand plant in any case.

(b) Government have no intention of buying second-hand plant from anywhere.

(c) As above.

(d) Government are about to discuss their urgent short-term policy of manufacturing a substantial quantity of badly needed artificial fertilizers with a representative All-India Committee, and with Provincial Governments. They will decide their short-term policy in the light of these discussions.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DISMISSALS, ETC., ON CERTAIN DIVISIONS OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

54. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees (i) removed from service, and (ii) dismissed on the Karachi, Quetta, Multan and Ferozepur 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 on each Division, separately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A statement giving such of the required information as is readily available in respect of subordinate staff only is attached. 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 on the Karachi, Quetta, Multan and Ferozepore Divisions of the North Western Railway.

Division	Removed from service			Dismissed from service		
	Number of subordinates removed from service	Number of staff who appealed against their removal from service	Number of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal	Number of subordinates dismissed from service	Number of staff who appealed against their dismissal	Number of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal
Karachi	27	2	1	2	2	...
Quetta	3	1	...	2	1	...
Multan	4	...	...	...	...	...
Ferozepore	1	1	...	1	...	...

BENEFIT OF PASSING SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICE EXAMINATION EARLIER THAN SENIORS IN RAILWAY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS.

55. Mr. K. G. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that the benefit of passing "Subordinate Accounts Service Examination" earlier than seniors is granted to the comparatively junior incumbents in all the Accounts and Audit Departments of the Government of India in one form or another, and that no such facility is conceded in the Railway Accounts Departments?

(b) Is it a fact that in March, 1942, a representation was submitted to the Financial Commissioner of Railways to extend the said facility to the Railway Accounts Departments as well, and that final orders thereon have not yet been passed?

(c) When are orders likely to be passed on the above representation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. Some benefit for earlier passing of Subordinate Accounts Service Examination is being conceded in the Civil and Railway Audit Departments but not in the Railway Accounts Department.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the representation received from the N. W. Railway Accounts staff in March 1943. The matter which involves detailed examination from different points of view is under the consideration of the Railway Board but it will be some time before final orders can be issued.

VISITS OF REGIONAL OFFICERS MEERUT, TO CERTAIN STATIONS ON SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY.

56. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Regional Food Controller, Meerut and the Regional Marketing Officer, Meerut, visited the Railway stations at Bhagpat Road, Baraut, Kandla, Shamli, etc., on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway between the 1st August, 1942, and the 31st October, 1943; if so, on which dates and with what result, if not, what the true fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the Inspector under those Regional Officers also visited those stations twice in a week during that period; if so, with what result, and, if not, what the true fact is; and

(c) if it is a fact that between the 1st August, 1942, and the 31st October, 1943, no prejudicial act against the movement by rails of goods has been reported by any of the Regional Officers and their Inspectors to the Railway Administration or to the Railway Board or to the Controller of Priorities; if not, when and to whom it was reported?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A reference has been made to the Provincial Government concerned and a reply will be laid on the table on receipt of a reply from that Government.

PROHIBITION OF MOVEMENT OF SODA ASH AND FULLER'S EARTH ON CERTAIN STATIONS OF RAILWAYS.

57. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that the movement of soda ash and fuller's earth by rail for a distance beyond two hundred miles on stations on the East Indian Railway, from stations on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and from stations on the North Western Railway is prohibited? If so, under whose orders and for what reasons? If not, what is the correct fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESERVATION OF BERTHS FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

58. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay a statement on the table of the House of the instructions for the reservation of berths for the Members of the Central Legislature from stations on the North Western Railway, particularly from Delhi and Lahore Railway stations? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All Divisional Superintendents on the North Western Railway have received instructions to arrange to give all reasonable assistance to Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly for the reservation of accommodation for their journeys to and from Assembly Sessions. The Divisional Superintendent, Delhi, has authorised the purchase of tickets by Honourable Members in advance of the date of the commencement of the journey, earlier than it is admissible to the general public, so as to enable Honourable Members to purchase their tickets and secure reserved accommodation with the minimum difficulty.

PROCEDURE RE BOOKING OF GOODS TRAFFIC.

59. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please place on the table of the House a statement of the procedure prescribed and in force on Railways for the forwarding and booking of the goods traffic? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The general rules prescribed for the booking and forwarding of goods are contained in Chapter I of the Indian Railway Conference Association Goods Tariff No. 26, a copy of which is in the library of the House.

In regard to the actual supply of wagons, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply I gave in this House on 9th August, 1943, to Iajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan's Starred Questions Nos. 258 and 59.

REFUSAL OF RESERVATION OF BERTHS FROM LAHORE STATION FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE.

60. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that reservation of berths from the Lahore station and when desired by the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature, as a rule, was refused on the ground that there was no room? If so, why; and what useful purpose is served by giving notice of travel a week earlier?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the first part is in the negative. The Administration state that no specific complaint to this effect has come to their notice. The second part does not arise.

DISTRICT MAGISTRATES' DIRECTIONS TO CERTAIN RAILWAY STATION STAFF IN UNITED PROVINCE RE MOVEMENT BY RAIL OF COMMODITIES.

61. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the dates on which the Railway staff at stations within the Meerut and Muzaffarnagar Districts of the United Provinces received directions issued from August, 1942 to date under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Act Rules of the District Magistrates for the movement by rail of commodities mentioned in the direction?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I am not prepared to ask Railways to compile it, as such compilation for the large number of stations involved and for a period of some 27 months would entail an expenditure of time and labour which is not justified in present war time conditions.

MEETING OF REGIONAL FOOD CONTROLLER MEERUT, PRICE CONTROL OFFICERS MUZAFFARNAGAR ETC., AT DELHI.

62. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that a meeting of the Regional Food Controller Meerut, Price Control Officers Muzaffarnagar, a representative of the North Western Railway and the Superintendent, Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway took place at 5, Underhill Road, Delhi, on the 15th June, 1943; if so, what the proceedings of that meeting were, if not, what the true fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the loading of through traffic by the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway to the North Western Railway is limited to an outside average of forty wagons per day; if not, what the true fact is;

(c) if it is a fact that the Regional Food Controller, Meerut, wrote to the Government for an increase in the "load off take" by the North Western Railway from the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway; if so, with what result; if not, what the correct fact is; and

(d) if it is a fact that a meeting of the Regional Food Controller Meerut, Superintendent Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and the Assistant Transportation Officer, North Western Railway, Delhi Division, was held on or about the 2nd September, 1943, in the office of the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division; North Western Railway; if so, what its proceedings were; if not, what the correct fact is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part the proceedings are confidential.

(b) The daily quota allotted to the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway is 26 N. G. wagons *via* Delhi Shahdara and 25 N. G. wagons *via* Saharanpur.

(c) The Regional Food Controller, Meerut is an Officer of the Provincial Government and I am not aware what correspondence he has had with his Government.

(d) As regards the first part, there is no record of any such meeting having been held in the office of the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi. The latter parts do not arise.

CHECKING AND AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS OF SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY.

63. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the arrangements of checking and auditing the accounts of the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway in 1938 and 1943;

(b) who is the person responsible for the Central Government for the accuracy of those accounts and their correct auditing;

(c) what the qualifications of the Auditors who audited and checked the station accounts in 1943 of that Railway were; and

(d) whether the staff of the Auditor General in India also made the statutory check and audit in 1943 of that Railway; if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Information is being obtained and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as received.

AMOUNT PER HEAD PAID IN KIND IN THE RAILWAY GRAIN SUPPLY SCHEME.

64. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the amount per head paid in kind in the Grain Supply Scheme, to Railway servants, stating *inter alia* the expenditure of establishment and miscellaneous added to the actual cost of the grain purchased per maund?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Bhai Parmanand's Unstarred Question No. 37, asked in the Legislative Assembly on 6th November, 1944.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST HINDU REFRESHMENT ROOM AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION

65. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table a list of the complaints received against the Hindu Refreshment Room at the Delhi Railway Station on the North Western Railway during the preceding two years and the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Ten complaints were made against the Hindu Refreshment Room at Delhi Station, during the period from 1st November 1942 to 31st October 1944, of which five were, on enquiry, found to be unjustified and in the other five, the Contractor was warned.

REDUCING THE CAPACITY OF TEA CUP ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY BY MESSRS. BALLABHDAS ESHWARDAS.

66. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the reasons for reducing the capacity of tea cups from 10 ounces to 5 ounces against the increase in prices of a cup of tea on stations of the East Indian Railway vended and contracted by Messrs. Ballabhdas Eshwardas?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and the reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

INCREASE OF PRICE OF TEA CUP ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY BY MESSRS. BALLABHDAS ESHWARDAS.

67. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the rate for a cup of tea sold by Ballabhdas Eshwardas on the East Indian Railway was increased from 0-1-0 to 0-1-6 whereas the North Western Railway refused to increase for the reasons that the present rate admitted of a large margin of profit (Item 10 of the Minutes of a meeting held in Lahore on the 27th May, 1944, of the Sub-committee of the North Western Railway Advisory Committee)?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. But the increase has not been confined to articles sold by Messrs. Ballabhdas Eshwardas, as the prices of articles sold by other vending contractors have also been generally increased on the E. I. Railway. As regards the second part, the N. W. Railway have not agreed to increase the rate for tea because it was advised by its Local Advisory Committee that no increase in rates for tea was called for.

PROSECUTION OF ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS OF RAJPURA STATION.

68. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that during the preceding six months two Assistant Station Masters of Rajpura station on the North Western Railway were prosecuted by the Government Railway Police Sub-Inspector, Ambala Cantonment under Section 353/332 of the Indian Penal Code; if so, whether any enquiry was made by the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway, before they were suspended from their office on demand by the said Sub-Inspector; if no enquiry was made, the reasons therefor; if not, what the correct fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that during the preceding six months one Permanent Way Inspector, one Sub-Permanent Way Inspector and three or four Gangmen of Ambala Beat on the North Western Railway were prosecuted by the Government Railway Police Sub-Inspector, Delhi, under Section 353/332 of the Indian Penal Code and on the 30th October, 1944 they were discharged as the charge was not established against them by the Cantonment Magistrate, Ambala Cantonment; if so, whether the Divisional Superintendent made enquiries before they were made over to the Police for presentation in that court; if no enquiry was made, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway made the necessary arrangements for the defence of the Railway servants accused in those cases for offences alleged to have been committed while on duty against the police constables who were in uniforms; if no arrangements have been made, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount re-imbursed to those Railway servants who incurred expenditure for their defence and for securing acquittal; if no amount has yet been paid, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, no enquiry was considered necessary.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Unstarred Question No. 19 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali on 1st November, 1944. No enquiry was considered necessary.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, it is not obligatory to do so, nor was it considered necessary.

(d) No claim for disbursement of expenses has so far been preferred by the staff concerned.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

FORCING THE KOLHAPUR DURBAR TO ACCEPT DETERIORATED FOODGRAINS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received from 12 Noon. Mr. G. V. Deshmukh a motion for adjournment of the business of the Assembly relating to "the action of the Government of India in forcing the Kolhapur Durbar to accept foodgrains much of which was unfit for human consumption".

Has the Honourable Member obtained the consent of the Governor General to his motion?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): No, Sir. It came to my notice only last evening.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When was this done?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: A statement was made on November 6th at Kolhapur by the Judicial Minister, who is connected with the Food Advisory Council, to the effect that "nearly two lacs of bags of foodgrains were in stock but much of it was unfit for human consumption. The Durbar had no choice but to accept whatever grain was supplied by the Government of India".

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to have obtained the consent of the Governor General first.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The matter may be adjourned and taken up tomorrow. How is it possible to obtain prior consent when one learns about a thing the same morning?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Honourable Member ought to know what the rules are. The Honourable Member should have applied for the consent of the Governor General and if there was delay in obtaining it, could have explained to the House that the delay was due to that. That would have been the proper procedure. The motion under the circumstances is not in order.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the discussion of the Motion moved by the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to continue my speech of yesterday. The question before the House is whether the securities could be given by the bank on presentation of a certificate from a District Magistrate or whether the bank should insist upon getting a certificate from a court. I have shown and the Honourable Members who moved their amendments have shown that it will be quite sufficient if the District Magistrate certifies that the person who applies for the certificates after the death of the original holder is a member of the joint family and is also its manager. Then there should be no objection in giving him the securities. This is a question which affects the joint Hindu family and I fully sympathise with my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa for his pleading that those customs and manners of the Hindu joint family which have held good for so long should not be disturbed. I am glad to note one thing that in spite of the Western wave that has come in, my Honourable friend has not been carried away by it. My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa in spite of his sojourn in England has not been swayed away from our customs and manners in spite of this Western wave. But does he know that there are other friends of his, like Dr. Jayakar and Dr. Deshmukh, who profess to be Hindus now and Hindus even after death, are responsible for disintegrating this society of the joint Hindu family. Dr. Jayakar had put in a Bill to say that if a member of a Hindu joint family has secured his professional career by the

help of the joint family property, his earnings should not be considered to be the income of the joint family.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must confine himself to the Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In like manner the Hindu customs and manners are being disintegrated. Now what I am submitting is this: So far as this Bill is concerned a question has been asked by my friend, the Honourable Baronet, as to what is the prejudice against giving a certificate from a court. My Honourable friend has been a member of the Executive Council and also belongs to commercial societies but perhaps he does not know what is happening in courts and therefore does not recognise the cause of the prejudice against courts. For a certificate of a court you have to go to a lawyer and you know how his clerks and others will fleece you first. Then come to the fees of the lawyer and in the court you have to pay stamp duty. They say that there is no stamp to be paid but that is afterwards, not until the certificate is received. But in the first place he pays all costs and also all other things that he has to pay before he gets a certificate. And then there is the delay, which takes away the very purpose or object of the measure. Therefore there is so much of difference between getting a certificate from a District Magistrate and one from a court. In the former case the procedure is very simple. The District Magistrate is supposed to know the joint families in his jurisdiction and as such there will not be much difficulty in getting a certificate from him. So far as that certificate is concerned, if it is obtained, then the responsibility of the bank has gone, because if there are rivals, it will be a question between those rivals. But if satisfactory guarantees are given to the bank and the bank gives away the money, then the question will be between those rivals and they will naturally go to court to establish their own interests. In that way it is most prejudicial to go to court.

It has been said that no court fees will be paid on the certificate when it is obtained from the court. My friend Mr. Sethna quoted one authority; but there are several authorities to show that court fee has to be paid; in practice actually it is being paid in several courts. But apart from that, what does the Succession Act itself say? In that Act there is no provision that the certificate has to be obtained in a joint family by the manager or a member of the family and the practice is also the same. When we go to the civil court asking for a certificate the reply is that the Act does not apply and that the joint family does not require any certificate. If that is so, the Succession Act requires to be amended. What we get is this: we get an order from the court that no certificate in a joint family is needed. Then when we get that order to any authority or any person and show that, we get our money and the transaction is done. In the like manner there should not be much difficulty in doing so.

Then I would like to say a word with regard to limitation. It has been shown that if this is a trust, then certainly section 10 of the Limitation Act which says that no time bar will be recognised in case of trusts will apply; but then I must say very clearly that that section refers to specific trusts. If it is a specific trust, then no limitation can apply. But in any other case, if it is a deposit then article 60 of the Limitation Act applies; and until and unless you make a demand it remains a deposit even for any number of years. It is only when you make a demand—it is three years from that date that are required for coming to court. Therefore there is no question of limitation also involved in this matter. The matter is very simple. We want convenience; we want there should not be any prolonged or protracted proceedings to obtain a certificate and then to receive our own money. It is nobody else's money; if the manager has died, then another manager must have it; the members of the family should have it without any inconvenience; otherwise it will be that people will not invest their money in securities and that will be detrimental to the banks and to the Government. Therefore I hope these amendments that have been tabled will be accepted.

Mr. N. C. Chunder (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, several amendments have been suggested to this Bill. Just at the present moment I do not think other clauses need our attention more than clauses 7

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and 44, because to my mind they do show a departure by Government from the principles which have hitherto been accepted as principles guiding the relation between the Crown and its subjects.

First, let me take clause 24. There is nothing in the Indian Limitation Act which prevents Government from pleading limitation and therefore there is no question that even now Government can plead limitation.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): How many years can they plead now?

Mr. N. C. Chunder: Any time; just as you and I can plead limitation, Government can plead limitation.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Three years?

Mr. N. C. Chunder: Three years, yes, where three years rule applies; six years where six years rule applies and twelve years where twelve years rule applies. It is only when the Government brings the suit they get sixty years. So far as Government is concerned, as against Government any suit is barred within the ordinary period of limitation. So it is not that they are going to add anything new; but as you are aware, limitation does not end the right; it merely bars the remedy; it does not extinguish the right; and so it has always been that when the Crown deals with its own creditors, the Crown never plead limitation; for after all limitation has to be pleaded and the Crown never pleads limitation for the simple reason that the Crown does not say, "Yes; the right may be there, but your remedy has been barred; therefore I will not recognise your right." That is a position which the Crown never takes and that is why clause 24 is being sought to be introduced today, because there they will create a sort of prescription; they will say, "it is true that it is almost ridiculous for Government to plead limitation, but what can we do? Here is a statute which says that after 12 years we are not to recognise any claim on this security." That is why clause 24 is being brought in. It is to create a sort of prescription in favour of Government; and that, I think, is a departure from the principle which has hitherto been accepted not only in this country, not only in the United Kingdom, but all over the world, so far as the relation between the state and its subjects are concerned. I do not know whether that is the real motive underlying it; but save on this ground I cannot conceive of any other reason why clause 24 has at all been brought into this Bill.

Then with regard to clause 7, the rule was there. In the first place, this proviso was there. It has been said that it was with regard to renewal of a promissory note—it was not for substitution, but it was in case of renewal. But after all the difference is a difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee, and Tweedledee is easier to pronounce than Tweedledum, perhaps, because after all you get a renewed promissory note in the name of the new manager. So much the better. Nobody is affected with notice of anybody's prior right. So much the better for the family. So, whether it is renewal or whether it is substitution, the difference is merely academic and it did not at all make any practical difference one way or the other. But the rule was there. After all that was the principle which Government has hitherto accepted, and I will give you the reason why Government accepted that. It is said "Well, you can take out letters of administration at no cost". Supposing I do take out letters of administration I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna, that there is no bar in the sense that there is no question of jurisdiction. The court can grant me the letters of administration even though the property belongs to a Mitakshara family. But they have not looked into the effect of section 211 which my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar read out to the House. I shall read it out and I will put my own interpretation on it. This section 211 had never fallen to be considered for the simple reason that it had not been to the interests of Government, it had not been to the interests of anybody, unless he would be a member of the Mitakshara joint family to raise this question; but the question is, assuming that you do get letters of adminis-

tration entitling you to recover the amount on the promissory note, can you get it lawfully? Does it confer on the administrator any title to that money? I say—decidedly not, on section 211. If you read section 211, it says:

"When the deceased was a Hindu, Muhammadan, 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."

Nothing, not even the grant of letters of administration would vest in the administrator any right to the Government promissory notes, if they actually belonged to the Mitakshara joint family. So this clause was put in. In those days, I must say that legislation used to be conducted more carefully. In these days, they are conducted in a very haphazard way. It may be our fault. But some how or other, people who framed laws in those days considered that they were responsible, it may be, because they had no popular criticism until the Bill actually became law. You, Sir, have very much wider experience than any of us can ever hope to attain. You must have seen that most of the Bills drafted now would suffer very much by comparison with the previous legislation. In fact, there have been taunts made by courts off and on. They say 'We do not know what the legislature meant but we have to give the section some sensible meaning. So let it be so and so'. Things like that have happened. You see that that is one of the reasons why Government in order to protect itself more than to protect the joint family provided that. It is not the case reported in A. I. R. 1942 Lahore which decided for the first time but there were earlier decisions that so far as the joint Mitakshara family is concerned, if the Government promissory notes had passed by survivorship, then they would attract what now has become section 250 of the Indian Succession Act but which in those days was in the Probate and Administration Act. So far as that section is concerned, section 250 or its corresponding section in the Probate and Administration Act, when that Act was in force, would be attracted and so no duty would be payable. In fact, section 19D of the Court Fees Act also says something to that effect. It means this—that even if you leave aside in your affidavit of assets these Government promissory notes it would not harm you. Even then the executor or administrator can recover the money. But leave that aside. That is not the point that we are considering. Why is it that even in 1920, when the Indian Securities Act was passed this proviso was retained. It was for this reason that even with letters of administration you may be safe or you may not be safe. Possibly the courts may say "Well, it does not matter. Here is a third party who has paid the money in accordance with the letters of administration. He being an innocent party is not responsible for it. He cannot be made liable to pay over again." That may be so or that may not be so. That is a point, however, which it would be difficult to express any opinion on the floor of this House, as you yourself will realise and there may be points of view which may be urged against this view—that even though an innocent party, if he had noticed that somebody was claiming, he would not be safe. That is a point which does not arise now. These difficulties may arise and that is why this protection was made. Let there be some authority which Government appoints. Let him go into the matter. If that authority says—so and so is the representative of the joint family, let the money be paid to so and so, and there is an end to it. So, when Government thinks that that was for the benefit of the Mitakshara joint family, Government ignores that it was more for the benefit of Government itself. For these two reasons, I shall certainly to the extent of any influence that I have in this House, resist the passing of clause 7 and clause 24 in the form in which they have been brought before this House.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I would like to be brief and to be practical in dealing with the points which have been raised in this debate on the consideration motion. I must admit that a good deal more has been said than I anticipated, and I wish to assure the House that it was no part of Government's intention to make any important change in the existing law. Our main object was to produce a simple codification of the present provisions and to adjust them only to the extent necessary to meet

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the changed conditions arising from the greater extent to which Government debt is now held in the form of stock certificates.

The three main points on which interest is concentrated are those which were raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. I may say straight-away that I am perfectly prepared to maintain the existing position in regard to all those three points. It follows from that that as regards the first point, namely, receiving of notice of trust, I shall not be able to make any change. That is the present position and as far as I am aware it has always been the position, that notice of trust is not receivable in respect of a Government security. It is not merely a matter of the extreme inconvenience to the agent who is to manage the public debt if he is liable to be involved in litigation regarding the exact beneficiaries of the property in question, but it is also, I believe, the case that, if a notice of trust were receivable, it would militate very greatly against the negotiability of securities. It would mean that the purchaser of a security would never know with whom he has to deal; it would mean that the purchaser of a security might be involved in having to go behind the actual individual in whose name the security is held, and that would be a serious disadvantage to the community at large as well as to the owners of Government securities.

It has been pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna that such abatement as is possible of the rigour of this provision has, in fact, been provided in sub-clause (2) which enables the Bank as an act of grace and without any liability to record in its books such directions by the holder of the security for the payment of interest on or the maturity value of or the transfer of the security as the Bank thinks fit. That means to say that for all practical purposes the Bank can accept instructions so long as it is not involved thereby in the legal consequences of having accepted notice of a trust.

On the other two points—clauses 7 and 24—I am prepared to reproduce the position as it actually exists today. But I must point out that that means that the amendments which have been proposed will have to be carefully considered. Even the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari will require some slight change because the existing concession relates only to the renewal of a promissory note, and it also provides for the acceptance of a certificate after such inquiry as may be prescribed. Those two features are not contained in Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment.

Mr. N. C. Chunder: Have you noted Mr. Neogy's amendment?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, I have noted that amendment and I shall make a suggestion in a minute or two.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly Non-Muhammahan Rural): So far as your latter objection is concerned, it is stated in the amendment—by such authority as may be prescribed—and then you can prescribe the method of inquiry also.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not think that is quite correct. The power to prescribe the authority would not connote the power to prescribe the inquiry. However, as I shall suggest in a moment, these amendments will require a little time for consideration. I am going to ask, if you will agree, Sir, that we do not today proceed to the clauses but we go on with the other business so as to enable me to prepare amendments which will be, I hope, agreeable to the House and will thus expedite the business of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I would agree unless there be any objection on the part of Honourable Members. Some Members might say that they have been taken by surprise as they expected the Bill to go on. If there is no objection, further consideration of the Bill will stand over and the House will proceed to the next motion on the list.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask whether

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not yet finished. I have got to deal with clause 24. Since I have been asked some questions on this clause, I had better explain what I have in mind at this moment. As regards this

clause, the simple position, as I understand it, is that at the present moment there is no specific limitation with regard to the amount payable on the maturity of a security. There is no limitation in fact, in regard to the principal of a security. There is at the present time a limitation in regard to claims for interest: the limitation is six years. Well, Sir, the Select Committee was prepared to have a simple limitation for 12 years applicable to both principal and interest but that has been widely criticised in the House and, as I said a little time ago, Government has no desire to make any substantive change in the rights of holders of securities. I am, therefore, prepared to amend clause 24 so as to preserve the existing position, that is to say, to remove any provision for a limitation of the principal amount and to restrict the limitation of claims for payment of interest to six years, which is the present position.

The last speaker very rightly pointed out that legislation of this kind has to be drafted with great care and although I have already with me drafts which would carry out the amendments which I am prepared to put before the House, I suggest that it would be very much in the public interest that we should not proceed immediately to the clauses. But if time could be given tomorrow, I think I can explain these amendments to Honourable Members who have studied the matter and secure that the measure is dealt with in a suitable form tomorrow.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North-Arcot: Non-Muhammahan Rural): Does not amendment No. 12 meet the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, it does not meet the situation because part of the ground covered by that amendment has now been absorbed into clauses 12 and 19. The only thing that is left is the point of limitation, which can be dealt with more simply by an amendment of clause 24.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member whether, in connection with the point of recognising trusts, any change can be made in this Bill, even if the Honourable Member was willing and the House wanted it? So far as I can make out, you could not make that change in this Bill.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The only thing that could have been attempted in this Bill, I suppose, was to remove from the Public Debt Authority the freedom which it has enjoyed up to this time, not to receive notices of trusts. That is all that could be done; no more positive provision than that could be made.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That would not meet the point of view of the Opposition.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, it would not.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): If there does exist a provision about limitation regarding interest, and if it is the desire of the Government not to bring about any change, would it not be advisable to leave out this new clause altogether, and be content with the law as it is?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In order to reproduce the existing position, it will have to be provided that the limitation is to six years, because this Bill will supersede the present Indian Securities Act in which that limitation is embodied.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask whether the limitation of six years is applied now for the payment of interest?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: So far as I can remember, I got interest for 25 years on a piece of paper which I had forgot all about. How is it that I got that interest?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is possible that *ex-gratia* payments have been made. As my Honourable friend Mr. Chunder pointed out, Government do not always stand on their legal rights.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But such a provision would make them stand on their legal rights.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is already the position under sections 18 and 18A of the Securities Act. There is that limitation:

"The Government shall be discharged from all liability in respect of the security. . . . (a) in the case of payment—after the lapse of six years from the date on which payment was due."

Sir Gowasjee Jehangir: They can do it if they want to. I hope that power will not be taken away.

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, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have no objection to the consideration of the Bill clause by clause being postponed and the next item on the agenda being taken up if that is the general desire on the part of the House.

Several Honourable Members: Yes, the consideration of this Bill clause by clause can be postponed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next item is in the name of the Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): I do not propose to make the motion* that stands in my name.

THE INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce, Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. H. A. Sathar H., Essak Sait, Sir Mchammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer Mr. E. L. C. Gwillt, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Mr. Hoosein-bhoy A. Lalljee, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, in view of certain amendments which have been tabled, let me explain the purpose of this Bill. The Insurance Act was passed in 1938. Some substantial amendments were made in the Act in 1941. But the administration of the Act brought to light several flaws and defects and lacunae. We tried to change it by an Amending Act of 1944 to remove only two of these defects. But in the meantime, the war, the financial structure of the country and the wealth which has accumulated in certain sections have brought about a situation in which the insurance business has fared exceedingly well and there are now many more policy holders with many more companies and in a much stronger position. As a result of that, we feel that the other defects which are vital should not be allowed to remain on the statute book, but that some changes should be made in the law existing for the time being. As Honourable Members are aware there is an Insurance Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of insurance interests in the country and also of persons nominated from among those connected with insurance business and others which have been provided for in the Act. We consulted this Committee and this Committee is in substantial agreement with most of the provisions which are now brought before the House. They aim firstly at affording more protection to the policy holders, secondly, making the insurance companies financially more stable thirdly, eradicating some of the unhealthy practices which

*That this Assembly do recommend to the Council of State that the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, be referred to a Joint Committee of this Assembly and of the Council of State and that the Joint Committee do consist of Members."

hamper the healthy growth of insurance business in the country. The House will see that the important amendments provide for:

- (i) separate investment of assets in the life insurance fund;
- (ii) raising the life fund to an amount equal to the liabilities under life insurance policies before registering an insurance company for other classes of insurance business, e.g., fire, accident, marine;
- (iii) restricting the amount of commission payable to employers of insurance agents, e.g., Chief Agents, and the terms of their contract;
- (iv) assessing solvency or otherwise of a life insurance company or provident society without taking into account its uncalled capital;
- (v) cancellation of registration of an insurance company or provident society which delays beyond a certain period payment of a claim after it has been adjudicated in a court of law;
- (vi) preventing insurance companies and provident societies from remunerating their executive heads, managers, managing directors, etc., on a commission profit sharing basis;
- (vii) taking away from the scope of Married Women's Property Act, 1874, nominations in favour of wife and children made under section 39 of the Insurance Act; and
- (viii) the transfer and amalgamation of provident societies with the sanction of the Superintendent of Insurance.

These are some of the main features of the Bill. I will not take up much of the time of the House except to explain a few features which we are finding at present difficult. For example under the existing law a foreign insurance company has to submit annually a statement showing the assets held by such insurance company in India and audited by a person duly qualified under the law of the insurer's country. Similarly, clause (b) requires the revenue account of such an insurer to be audited by such an auditor. There is no provision by which any statement of account of a company operating in India being audited by an auditor qualified only under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act. The result is that, as we have seen in war time, if it is a Canadian company or a New Zealand company or any other foreign company outside India, its account is to be prepared in India and sent to the countries of those companies being audited by their qualified Accountants.

This means inevitable delay for a very long time. I feel, Sir, that it is inconsistent with the present position of India that Indian auditors qualified under the Indian Companies Act should not be allowed to audit the accounts of foreign companies as they are able to audit the accounts of big Indian Insurance companies in this country. Similarly there is a provision applicable to a non-British Indian insurance company requiring them to submit revenue account in respect of Indian business in the form set forth in the Third Schedule. On a comparison with section 11 (1) (c), the corresponding section applicable to British Indian insurers, it is found that the words "in accordance with the regulations contained in Part I of the Third Schedule" do not find a place in section 16 (2) (b), though they occur in section 11 (1) (c). This has been taken advantage of by some U. K. and foreign insurance to whom section 16 applies and interpreted to mean that they are not bound to follow the regulations in Part I of the Third Schedule and that only British Indian insurers have to follow them. The result is that information regarding gross premium income under regulation 7 and statements in Forms DD, DDD and DDDD are not supplied by some of the foreign insurers.

From the debates in the Legislative Assembly during the passage of the original Insurance Bill, it appears that Members then understood that the information under Regulation 7 regarding gross income was to be given by U. K. and other insurers also. After the Bill was passed by the Assembly, it was examined in this Department and the discrepancy was noticed. An amendment to bring in line was suggested but the amendment was overlooked and not introduced in the Council of State. I feel today that we should try to rectify this omission and bring it in line with the intention of the Legislature as when the Insurance Act was passed in 1937.

[Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

Then, Sir, there is one difficulty which we are experiencing in the administration of the Insurance Act. Section 29 prohibits the grant of loans and advances to any other company or firm if there are common directors. In other words, one insurance company cannot grant a loan or advance to another company with a common director. Somehow or other, as the legal interpretation stands, it satisfies the law if exactly at the time when the loan was granted there was no common director. And we have seen a case in which there was a common director who retired for some time, the loan was granted and very soon after he came back. (A voice: "After one hour.") One hour or one week is all the same for the purpose of the Act. I feel that that is not desirable and it should not be allowed in the interest of insurance business in this country.

Again, in connection with winding-up proceedings, the Superintendent of Insurance, where he is satisfied that a company is not able to manage its own affairs, can prefer an application to the relevant court for winding-up proceedings. Against any decision the party concerned can file an appeal; but if for some reason or other the Superintendent of Insurance is not satisfied with the decision of the lower court he has no power of appeal. The result is that in many cases owing to some legal defect it is not possible for the Superintendent of Insurance to take proper action.

Then again there are cases where under the present law the managing agent or manager or other officer of an insurance company who properly obtains or wrongfully withholds or wilfully misapplies any property belonging to the insurance company can be prosecuted; but for the purpose of this prosecution, it can be done only by the insurance company or by a policy holder. There was some time ago a case where the managing director of an insurance company misappropriated the funds of the company to the extent of one lakh of rupees. When this misappropriation was discovered the managing director was able to square up with all concerned near about him and no further proceedings were taken against him. We feel that the Superintendent of Insurance should have power to file a complaint, in the interest of the insurance companies and also in the interest of the large body of policy holders concerned. The present law does not give him that power and we feel that it is time when he should have that power, in a proper case where private proceedings are not taken, to take action against the managing director of a company. After all it is necessary to safeguard the interests of the large bulk of policy holders who have no organised opinion of their own for the time being in many cases.

Then we want to take power to see that the managing director should not be able to nominate his successor. We have come across a case where a company entered into a contract with its managing director for a term of 15 years on a very liberal remuneration basis. He was allowed to retire during the term and nominate his successor for the balance of the term on the same remuneration. Now human nature being what it is, one may not be able to find out a successor of the same calibre as the managing director himself; but surely it is not right in the interest of the insurance financial structure of this country that the managing director should have the power to nominate his successor, specially in cases where very liberal terms are offered to him.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): May I know the date of that particular incident?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: About three years ago.

Sir, there are other provisions in the Bill which go into the structure of insurance business of this country. I will only add one word with regard to section 10. At present an insurance company carrying on life insurance business is not obliged to keep the assets corresponding to life insurance fund separate from its other assets. Keeping of separate assets belonging to the life insurance fund is, however, necessary in the interest of holders of life insurance policies. It is therefore proposed to insert a provision making it

obligatory for insurance companies to keep such assets as distinct from other assets.

Again we have seen cases where an insurance company is not able, or has not enough finance, to pay its policy holders. There have been cases in court and judgments passed, yet no payment has been made; but the company is still merrily functioning and issuing new life policies. It is not in the interest of the financial structure of this country that insurance companies which should take immediate and prompt steps to pay a policy holder should not pay him and yet continue to function and issue new policies.

Then there are other detailed points as regards the paid-up capital and what should constitute paid-up capital and what capital, for the purpose of considering the solvency of the company, should be taken into consideration. One main feature of this Bill is to bring about a demarcation between provident fund societies and insurance companies, and the Bill seeks to provide this no man's land.

I do not think I need narrate the other circumstances. I propose that all these matters and questions of principle should be carefully considered by the Select Committee. I have no intention of hurrying this thing through. I am quite prepared to consider any point of view which may be raised, but I believe the time has come when all these questions of principle should be properly considered in a Select Committee of this House.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. H. A. Sathar, H. Essak Sait, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Mr. Huseinbhoj A. Lalljee, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan 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. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1945."

I should like to make it clear at the outset that this is not intended to be a dilatory motion. I have no intention of staying the hands of Government in this matter. But I think the House is aware that on this question of the Insurance Act Government have not been able to evolve an Act which will meet any situation as and when it arises. On the last occasion, in 1941, the then Commerce Member when he brought in an amending Bill in this House said that the House would probably be seeing the last of these amendments. But the Honourable Member now in charge of Commerce has again to bring in another amending Bill. So far as the Bill itself is concerned, I am assured by the interests concerned that there are many provisions which they would probably be welcome with suitable amendments. But on account of the very nature of this amending Bill which seeks to cover a very wide field, I think the Select Committee, unless it is going to be fortified with the opinion of the interests concerned, will not be able to adequately deal with the various provisions of the Bill before us. I should like to state that there are certain clauses which are perhaps very necessary but they are very ambiguous. Take, for instance, clause 16 on which the Honourable the Mover laid stress. Perhaps it is very desirable but at the same time it seems to serve to lay an embargo on the appointment of a successor to a manager or a managing director altogether in so far as the man who retires has some voice or any say in it. It is rather vague as it stands today.

Again, there are provisions like clause 20 which would need very careful examination. I am glad, Sir, that the Honourable Member has mentioned that he will not hustle the Select Committee and perhaps he will also allow the Select Committee to take evidence provided the interests concerned are prepared to give evidence before the Select Committee. But I think on the

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

whole the interests will be best served by a postponement of this Bill to 31st January, 1945 by which time, I believe, the interests concerned can send in their opinions, and for the Select Committee to meet thereafter.

I do not know if the Honourable Member will have something to say about this aspect of the matter, but I have moved this motion for the purpose of telling this House that so far as the interests involved are concerned, they have not made up their mind and though they welcome many provisions of the Bill they feel that great scrutiny is necessary and their interests will best be served by a circulation motion rather than by allowing the Select Committee to consider it straightaway. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1945."

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, whenever a motion for circulation is moved; my instinct is always to support it, but in this case I believe and I know that the Commerce Department especially the Honourable the Commerce Member has taken particular care to have previous consultations with all interests concerned who have made a special study of this highly technical question.

Sir, I am not at all 'at home' with all the technicalities of the matter, but my information is based on the advice given to me by certain insurance experts from Bombay that on the whole this Bill should be supported and that there should be no delay in enacting the measure. If any question of principle had been brought forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, which went to the root of the Bill, I think the House would have been well advised to accept this motion for circulation, but as he has only asked for postponement on the ground that further consideration is necessary, and on the other hand he has welcomed the Bill and he has not attacked any underlying principle of the Bill, I think the best thing for the House would be to support the motion made by the Honourable the Commerce Member.

I believe the meeting of the Select Committee will not be called till the Budget Session. The Bill has been widely circulated and we can go back to our constituencies, especially the Commerce interests, and ask them to fortify us with their views. I am glad, Sir, the Honourable the Commerce Member has provided a very wide basis for the constitution of the Select Committee and those of us who are in the Select Committee can come back to with all the suggestions we receive from our constituencies and place them before the Select Committee. Moreover, in view of the very sympathetic attitude of the Honourable the Commerce Member, I am sure that reasonable suggestions will be acceptable to Government. I have also certain suggestions to make which I shall place before the Select Committee. I shall not take the time of the House except to request this House to accept the motion for reference to a Select Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have very few words to say.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is a relief!

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: To you? All right, I will give you more relief then.

Sir, I rise in the interest of younger companies as I feel that some justice should be done to them. There are two propositions before the House—one is for circulation of the Bill and the other is for referring it to the Select Committee. Personally I do not feel myself competent to say whether sufficient opportunity has been afforded to the commercial interests to examine the Bill or not, but I should be happy if the Bill is circulated for eliciting public opinion because in any case it is not a dilatory motion, for it is not going to be considered by the Select Committee within the next few days.

Sir, I find that young companies have been given some relief in the sense that they have been allowed to give a certain amount of money to the Chief

Agent and the agents. But I would like to draw the attention of the Select Committee to this question when it is considered by them that this relief, which I have mentioned, should not be nullified by any other body. The Honourable Member knows, and the House knows too, that there are certain associations dominating these insurance companies. They take groups of insurance companies in their fold and then give instructions and even lay down the rates of commission which should be given to the Chief Agent and agents. Therefore, if the effect of these provisions is nullified by these extraneous companies, the interests of younger companies will be adversely affected. Therefore I would like to suggest to the Honourable Member that a proviso should be inserted, namely, 'notwithstanding those other companies the provisions of this Bill will be carried'—to safeguard against that. At present if you allow 20 per cent. for agents to the younger companies and if those under whom they work and who dominate them ask them to give lesser, in that case the benefit that you are giving under this Bill will be nullified.

Then, Sir, under the Act, no maximum is laid down in respect of what they should give to the Chief Agent. But now it has been provided that the maximum rate would be 20 per cent. for old companies and 22½ per cent. for younger companies. I would suggest that for younger companies it should be raised to 25. My reason for suggesting this increase is to enable younger companies to secure the services of good Chief Agents who will not otherwise be attracted to younger companies. Under the present Bill if the maximum is fixed at 20 per cent. and 22½ per cent. for Chief Agents of old and young companies respectively, the Chief Agents of the younger companies will be able to keep for themselves only 10 per cent. which is just the same as in the case of Chief Agents of old companies. Unless therefore some further attraction is offered, no good firms would be willing to come forward to work for younger companies. This perhaps was also the view of the non-official Advisory Committee on insurance; their opinion was that it should be given more than 22½ per cent. Considering all these interests of the younger company, I hope the Honourable Member in charge and the members of the Select Committee will not overlook the two points I have specially brought to the notice of the House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I ask for some information? Some clauses of this Bill refer to Provident Societies and I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether in the consultations which he held before he introduced this Bill, he consulted any representatives of Provident Societies. What is likely to happen is that when the Government of India is thinking of changing this Insurance law, it is quite possible that the interests of these small societies may not be looked after. Whenever Government hold consultations they consult big Insurance companies and it is quite likely that the interests of the small Insurance companies which are not intended for profit-making may suffer. I would like the Honourable Member to tell me whether representatives of the Provident Societies have been consulted before the Bill was introduced.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to oppose the Bill as a whole and for this reason. Even when the original Bill was brought before this House I raised the point that it is the duty of any Government which has the interests of the people at heart to nationalise this industry, this highly remunerative industry, so that it would be possible for the Government to come into possession of adequate funds for any schemes of reconstruction it may have on hand. Sir, the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council has suggested certain schemes which are expected to cost not less than Rs. 1,000 crores in post-war times, and it suggests that a large portion of this money can be obtained through floating loans in this country and encouraging the public to lend to it so that it could be possible or it to finance its reconstruction schemes. What better source of income for such reconstruction schemes can there be than these constantly growing funds,

[Prof. N. G. Ranga] these accumulating funds of the Insurance companies and insurance business? Why is it that the Government which is anxious to launch upon these very costly and enormously costly reconstruction schemes, does not even consider the idea of nationalising this industry and why is it that Government even though it is prepared to appoint special experts to study the various defects that have come to light in the working of this Act and this profit-making industry has not chosen to appoint two experts to work out a plan for the nationalisation of this industry? I could understand the present position if Government had examined the matter in a scientific and systematic manner with the aid of the requisite experts and in consultation with the interests of commercial concerns in this country and the general public and then came to the conclusion that the nationalisation of this industry is either not advisable or practicable. But they have not made any such effort till now. It is easy for my Honourable friend to think that this suggestion may not be considered very seriously, but it is wrong for him to do so because even in this country there is a precedent. The Government of Mysore. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may continue his speech after lunch.

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.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I was saying that I was dissatisfied with the Government's failure to begin to enquire whether and in what manner this insurance industry can come to be socialised, so that it will be possible for the Government to find a part of the large funds which the Government of India are anxious to gather at the end of the war in order to finance their proposed and prospective Post-war Reconstruction Schemes. I wish to say, Sir, that this proposal of mine is quite a feasible and business proposition. There is already a precedent in this country. The Mysore Government, I learn from my Honourable friend Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chettiar, is already managing this industry on a nationalised basis and it is able to give satisfaction to both the policy holders as well as the general public of that State. There is another precedent. There is the Postal insurance business and I am told now that war risks insurance also is undertaken by some relevant section of this Department. So far as postal insurance is concerned, I am assured on very good authority that its operational expenses or management expenses are the lowest, being not more than ten per cent., whereas the lowest expense ratio of the most efficient company in this country is not lower than 20 per cent. Therefore we have these precedents in this country. In addition to this there is an Oxford Economist, Mr. Cole, who says in regard to this question of insurance and the necessity for nationalising it:

"It is best to nationalise insurance, both because it is an important source of funds for capital investment and because the State can give the insured, especially if his means are small, a much better return for his money than is possible with the wasteful duplication of administrative machinery under private enterprise."

The only point that had been brought out by various economists of the last century in England was that private enterprise would be more efficient than state enterprise. Here is an economist who, however, maintains today in 1944, that private industry is wasteful, is more costly and State enterprise can certainly be less expensive and more economical.

Dr. P. N. Bannerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Provided we have a State of our own.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is quite true that only a Swaraj Government can give the best possible satisfaction. But even as this Government is constituted today, it is busy preparing its schemes in anticipation of the advent of such a Swaraj Government and I wish to protest at the failure of this Government

even to begin its investigations in this direction and see how far it can try to nationalise this industry, so that it will be possible for them to finance better its own reconstruction schemes.

Even in this country the general public opinion has been for sometime in favour of the nationalisation of this industry. Therefore this Government cannot plead ignorance either of that fact or of any sort of a desire on the part of the public that Government should go into this matter with as serious a mind and zeal as is necessary. Sir, as long ago as 1930 the Central Banking Enquiry Committee submitted its report. There was a minority report appended to it and it was signed by my Honourable friend, no less a businessman than Mr. Manu Subedar, who is here on my left and this businessman found it possible even so long ago to advocate the necessity as well as the advisability of nationalising this industry. Therefore I am strengthened in saying that it is a feasible, it is a businesslike, and it is a useful proposition and I do not know why the Government does not wish to undertake it. Here is a friend of mine, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chettiar, who has very considerable experience in insurance business, being the Managing Director as well as the President also of a number of insurance companies, and he assures me that it will be the very first business to be managed and managed satisfactorily and also profitably, if only the State would take it up. In this country we have a number of agricultural provinces. They are all in need of reconstruction, in need of industrial development and therefore they want funds. Today from all these areas various insurance companies are collecting funds and taking them over to Bombay or Lahore or Calcutta. All these companies are concentrated in these few prominent cities. What is to happen to the needs of those other agricultural provinces in the way of industrial development? Their Provincial Governments are not enabled, or encouraged or assisted by the Central Government to develop their own social insurance, their own socialised national insurance. This is a question which the Government of India will have to address themselves to.

I wish to record my emphatic protest against a statement made only recently by the Member in charge of Post-war Planning and Development. He said, Sir, that the Government are convinced that in post-war times the greatest encouragement should be given to private enterprise and as far as it would be possible, the basic industries should be carried on by private enterprise and not by the State. If really that represents the attitude and the policy of this Government I wish to protest against it. It is not fair that this Government should try to tie the prospects of the future Government hand and foot by its schemes based on this assumption that private enterprise alone should be encouraged, in regard to the development of the basic industries of this country and not that the State should take up these questions.

I wish to state in this House that the National Planning Committee took it for granted as axiomatic that of those industries which should be necessarily nationalised and socialised, insurance must be the very first one. I am sure there is no difference of opinion as between different political parties in regard to the necessity for nationalising this industry. Therefore I wish to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill that he should make a definite statement of the policy of the Government in regard to this particular industry, as to whether or not they are going to consider seriously and investigate the possibilities for the nationalisation of this industry in post-war time. If the Honourable Member is not prepared to give any sort of assurance, if, on the other hand, he only comes to this House to strengthen his hands to control the vagaries of these various private enterprises, which are plying their trade in this particular industry, then I can only tell him that he is doing a wrong thing and he is not doing any justice either to himself or to this House or to the country.

Sir I oppose this measure.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is the considered view of many of us

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar] that insurance is eminently fitted to be managed by the Government of the country. It is not only from the point of view of profit, which my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, emphasised, but also from the point of view of benefit. It will be a happy day if we can have universal and compulsory insurance, which will be of benefit to the poorest and the lowest in the land. But, as has been agreed, it requires something more than the present Government to achieve.

This Bill seeks to amend the Insurance Act which was passed a few years ago. In the matter of insurance, what we should consider is a matter of long range policy. It is not like the joint stock companies which seek to achieve their ends today and pay profit. The insurance investor gets his profits, if I may say so, after a long long time, after 20 or 25 years: possibly he does not get it—his children get it. . . .

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Life insurance is intended for children.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In these circumstances the duty of the State is great to see that these companies are run properly, that they invest their monies properly, and that their monies are available after a long long time, over which the present insurer has no hold. So I think it is necessary that all provisions which should be made to supervise and look into and look after the proceedings and investment and other aspects of insurance companies are right and necessary. In this matter I would refer to page 6 of the Indian Insurance Year book of 1943. In that they have said:

"The main pitfall of the insurance business is inadequacy of premiums, heavy expenses and heavy early lapses."

I know of insurance companies which in their anxiety to catch a lot of business in the first year give a premium of about 50 per cent. . . .

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: They used to give 90 per cent!

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Quite possible. I hear that some companies even give 90 per cent. This is done with a view to catch business. With the result that when later premiums fail it becomes a dead weight on the insurance companies. So I do really think that this way of catching business at uneconomic rates of competition should be put an end to in the interests of the policy holder.

Secondly, the matter of heavy expenses comes in when large monies are paid to managers and managing agents; and it is essential to control this for the reason, that today the monies are coming in because people have lots of money in their hands, but the payment which they have to pay back comes much later and so it seems today to the insurance companies that they are carrying on very well, whereas it may not be really so if looked at from the proper long range point of view; and so it is necessary for the Government of any country to make regulations to the effect that insurance companies are conducted on real long range vision.

As regards lapses, the danger is especially present today. We have an inflated currency today; the people have lots of money in their hands, but this amount of money may not come to them in the coming years when inflation slowly subsides and when depression starts, with the result that many people who have gone in for inflated insurance policies today may not be able to pay the premiums in later life; and so I do think that it is necessary in the interests of the companies themselves and it is very necessary in the interests of the insurers or policyholders that restrictions should be put which will prevent these companies going aground.

Now, I would just like to say a few words about the clauses. It is true that in some cases even after the courts have upheld the claims of the insurers, the monies have not been paid. It is unfortunate that such cases exist. In my opinion these are trusts and the trustees, if they are to be real trustees, should not even wait for the claims to go to court, but as soon as they are satisfied that the claims are correct and legal they must be paid immediately.

without any delay. So, I welcome the provision in clause 3 of the Bill which makes it incumbent upon the Superintendent of Insurance to go into these matters when such reports arrive and if necessary cancel the registration.

There are one or two other things which we welcome, e.g., clause 7, which makes it necessary that life insurance funds should be invested and kept apart from other assets of the insurer and providing that a person carrying on life insurance business shall not be entitled to embark on other classes of insurance business, unless the Superintendent of Insurance is satisfied that the life insurance fund is adequate for the purpose. I think this provision is necessary. There are other provisions with which we may agree.

But there are certain provisions in this Bill over which I would like to have the opinions of the people concerned. I have had a talk with the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill and also with my friend, the Honourable Mr. Vaidyanathan, to whose experience in the insurance line I would like to pay a tribute. My Honourable friend the Commerce Member said, when I asked whether he had received any opinions and whether he could give us those opinions, he had one simple line in answer—"What are opinions for? Our insurance Advisory Board has unanimously accepted it". That is rather funny. In a matter like this which concerns provident societies, which concerns commission agents, which concerns many vested interests and which concerns the policyholders' interests also, I would have thought that the Government would have circulated this for public opinion to the various companies concerned and the various interests and people concerned. I have omitted to refer to one very important interest in this insurance business—and that is the interest of the insurance agents themselves. None of these people have been consulted to our knowledge. Not only have they not been consulted, but, as I understand, no pains have been taken to consult them. And may I tell you that unless we have the opinions of the various points of view, it is difficult for laymen to go into the matter and judge it; and so I would like, even within the brief space of time that may be available between now and the coming Session, that this Bill should be circulated to the people concerned, to the various interests concerned, and their opinions received, and not only received, but that the opinions may be circulated to the Members of this House before the Bill comes up again for discussion.

After making this preliminary remark about getting opinion, I would refer only to a few other points. Clauses 4 and 25 refer to the matter of undesirable competition between insurers and provident societies. Clauses 16, 32, 23, 24, 34 and 41 are some of the clauses on which I would like to have public opinion.

So, while generally we support the principle of the Bill; that is, that measures are necessary to see that insurance companies are conducted well and on the right basis and from the point of view of ensuring to the policyholder the payment many years later of what he pays today and while supporting the principle of the Bill, we would request that he should get opinions about many of these provisions that he seeks to put in now.

There is one other matter which I should like to mention before sitting down and that is the amendment to section 29 which the Honourable Member referred to in his speech. In his speech he said that there was a company or there were two companies in which there was a common director. There is a provision in section 29 that you cannot lend money to any director of the company or to any company which has a common director. The gentleman resigned his job just for a day or two, got the money loaned to the other company and then after the transaction was finished he came back and took up his old job. The incident was very enlightening. That only shows how people would like to circumvent the law, wherever it suits their purpose. It is therefore very necessary that provisions should be inserted which will prevent such a thing. We generally support the principle of the Bill.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend the Commerce Member and I should like to congratulate him most heartily for taking this matter up at the earliest possible opportunity. Owing to the war, we really neglected a good deal of our other activities which ought to have been taken into consideration even during the war.

With regard to this Act, it is well known that an amendment was brought in 1938. A large number of vagaries existed then. Great injustice was done to the assurers and the malpractices that were existing were brought to light and if Government were vigilant they would immediately have followed up with other amendments in accordance with the facts which were brought to their knowledge. The facts which the Honourable the Commerce Member has placed before us have been existing even after 1938 and the amendment of 1941. My friend Mr. Chettiar just now placed before us some of the defects and the remedies which are badly needed and I wonder why after all that he has said he still desires that these defects should be allowed to continue to exist even for a day. That legitimate claims in these days should be paid promptly is a question over which I am sure Mr. Chettiar will agree with me and I say, Sir, that the provision that has been made in this respect is necessary and should be put into force immediately.

Then my friend the Honourable the Commerce Member has rightly pointed out the conditions that are prevalent with regard to safety of investments. Here again everybody would agree with the common sense point of view put forward by Mr. Chettiar—namely, that investments belonging to the Life department should be kept separate. The life insurance companies are the trustees and as such it is their bounden duty to see, and we ought to make it compulsory, that funds regarding life insurance must be kept separate from all other funds. In the interests of the assurers, this ought to have been done and I say that it should be done immediately. I do not see why any delay should occur there. Nowadays a number of companies are coming forward and are being floated every day and those who know what happened after the last war should certainly take a lesson and say that before the war ends we must take immediate action to see that those funds which have been gathered from the people for life insurance must be protected.

My friend has also pointed out something with regard to the appointment of the Directors. I think that is a most essential thing to be done. We have seen this sort of thing going on in one of the most influential companies. I was informed that a Director, a very high personage known in society, was the Chairman and the most wonderful thing was that during the time he was on the Board, practically guiding the destinies of the Board his firm was appointed the chief agents and when that was brought to notice what do we find? The gentleman resigns and is re-elected. Very little time passed between the two events. Let us not allow such loopholes. Let it be freely and frankly admitted that, human nature being what it is, the people must be protected.

This is not the only instance. In many other companies these things have been happening. Very recently owing to the action and the vigilance of the Commerce Department and the Industries Department, some mills and some other concerns have come to trouble. My friends have not disclosed the names of the directors of those companies. They have only contented themselves by keeping a control over those concerns but if the names of those directors were disclosed and the connection they have with those companies for a number of years, it would be a great thing to learn whether other companies which have not been caught red-handed would not also have been implicated in those cases. It is a fair assumption to be taken. Somehow or other these things are going on and at least for the life policies I do think that the life companies must be immediately protected. Not a day should pass.

Then, Sir, there is another important thing. I do not know why the Honourable the Commerce Member has not brought in one more clause with regard to the appointment of Chief Agents. At present 40 per cent. of the first premium is allowed directly in the first instance and thereafter 5 per cent. for renewal. There is a Chief Agent and what does he get? And who is this gentleman? Since we first abolished the Managing Agents and brought in the Managing Directors, the commission went on. The son succeeds and the son is naturally as good as the father and furthermore, the Managing Director even today under this Act can appoint his son as the Chief Agent and get 20 per cent. more. That is the way. That is why I say that we ought to make a provision also for the fact that as to what this agent is going to do and who will be that person. It should be provided,

3 P.M. — as in the Companies Act, that the person appointed as the Chief Agent by the Managing Director or the Board of Directors shall not be directly or indirectly interested with the Managing Director or any of the Directors of the Board. That must be clearly set out. You do not want the Managing Agent to get the commission but you want his son to get the commission as the Chief Agent. That is the position.

I think everybody knows here that practically all over Europe the life insurance business is run by the Government. In France, Italy and even in Germany the life insurance companies were the business of the Government. In fact, the life insurance companies were working as the agents of the Government. Life insurance business is of such an importance that those Governments have been making it a National Department of the Government. Why should not do the same here? Why should we copy the example of Great Britain? Great Britain is a mighty power, but its population is small and they can manage their affairs very well because there is a strong public opinion there. If this system has existed in Great Britain, it is not right that it should also exist in India. In fact, it ought not to exist in India at all. One really wonders why the life insurance business has not been made a State Department by the Government of India, which is the case all over the world except Great Britain. It is the responsibility of the Government to see that the poor people do insure, the children are insured and that the Government will have to look after them. We started the War Risk Department of the Government, and they can manage it. The insurance companies are mere agents. A day may come when this 40 crores ought not to be spent in any other way except for the use of the Life Insurance Fund and make all the life insurance companies the agents of the Government. As regards the business of trusteeship, nobody can claim my trusteeship, although my son may say that he is my trustee. My trustee is he who keeps my funds for my children and gives them my money when I am no more. That is the duty of the Government and of every National Government. I do hope that during the time of my Honourable friend the Commerce Member he will try to bring in a Bill to that effect and the country will welcome it, the masses will welcome it and most of my friends of the Congress Party and of the Muslim League will certainly support it. I wish to make it clear that most of them will support it, not all. But I am sure the country will welcome it. With these words I support the motion and hope and trust that it will be put into operation immediately.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I am glad Government have brought this measure though I must say there has been considerable delay in putting through some of the improvements which were necessary and but for the war Government had no excuse to make that delay. I am, however, glad to see my friend Mr. Vaidyanathan in this House. He is a man whom we trust and love in Bombay and whose absence we miss. I feel quite sure that with his close knowledge of the working of the companies in Bombay and with his grasp of the issues as between the insurers on the one side and the insured and the various types of life insurance companies and Provident Fund companies on

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

the other, all the necessary improvements will be made in this measure in the Select Committee.

Sir, I want to refer to one or two small points. In clause 16 there is a definite provision that the Manager shall not be paid except on the basis of a salary and that no commission shall be paid to him. This is a very salutary rule and we all support it. But there is the Branch Manager and there is the Agency Manager and there is the man in a distant part who says he will get you lot of business if you fix him at a salary of Rs. 500. Sir, the company must necessarily tell this new man that we can only give you Rs. 50 a month to start with but "if you bring business to use we shall give you more. We shall pay you on the basis of the business which you bring." While it is perfectly correct that there is evil in the managing system with its commission, with its private family sort of establishment, that evil had to be uprooted and that any variant of that evil in the form of a Managing Director who has got sons and brothers-in-law and various other connections with whom he spreads out in various offices in that company must be done away with. It is quite true that Government should use every vigilance, direct or indirect, and if they have not got a sufficient C.I.D., they should engage a few more. I plead on purely business grounds that there are fields in which people bring business, promise to bring business, talk big and ask for a big salary to start with and it would be fatal to any insurance company to promise large salaries to a Branch Manager or to a small agency or to a distant party who is merely a glorified canvasser but is called a Manager by courtesy. In such cases I feel that the interpretation of clause 16 should be made clearer and there should be no objection to the payment of commission, that is to say, payment by results to people who promise business but who have not yet brought any business.

Then, Sir, with regard to clause 4, it is very desirable that competition between Provident Fund Companies and Insurance Companies should be eliminated, but in making this elimination what have the Government done? Clause 4 decreases the minimum limit for life insurance companies to Rs. 1,000 and increases the maximum limit for Provident Societies to Rs. 750. This is rather strange because the premium of Provident Societies is higher than that of the Insurance Companies. Besides Government have made no provision, as far as I can see, for those who want to get a policy of between Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000. It is very desirable that this particular range of policies should be also open to the public either by one or the other of this agency. It is also desirable that Provident Societies should be encouraged to develop special type of insurance business which cannot be taken up by insurance companies and should not be encouraged to do business which rather runs counter to the normal and legitimate activities of the insurers.

Then, Sir, I would like to refer to the other point. This Bill seeks to modify sections 27 and 28 of the original Act, and yet it appears that the Government have taken no account of the numerous representations which they have received with regard to the relaxation of the rule by which 55 per cent. of the investments must be made compulsorily in Government and approved securities.

Now, Sir, I want this Government to take this matter logically, not today but at such reasonable time when they are ready for it. Either you take all the money which comes from life insurance business and which, as I said, in the Central Banking Committee's minority report, is capable of running economically and to the advantage of the policy holders. You should take the whole insurance field in your hands and retain all the funds which come and use them for such public purposes as you have got. But if you are going to leave the field to private companies, as you have left it now, then you must consider the business and financial difficulties of those private companies. And in this case my friend Mr. Vaidyanathan will be the very first man to endorse what I am saying. In this case, owing to a progressive fall in the rate of

yield of Government securities, the figures and the well-balanced financial accounts of some of these companies have got into serious difficulties. And they say that they are willing to put it in Government paper but it is not yielding them that rate which they assumed when they started business, the rate which they earned before, and that while the expense ratio remained the same or increased, the yield from the major part of their investments was progressively going down. This is a dilemma which must be considered, having regard to the fact that the Government in England, and following it our own Government here, are promising and threatening that the lower money rate policy will continue. If it is to continue, please consider whether it is possible for insurance companies to lock up their funds in these Government and approved securities to the extent to which they are called upon to do, and whether it does not seriously disturb the financial equilibrium on which they have based their policy so far. On the other hand, as I say, I am entirely in favour of the general suggestion that life insurance business is capable of being managed economically by the State. As a matter of fact in the Government insurance scheme in which Government servants alone are at present admitted,—I do not see why other people also should not be admitted,—the expense ratio is 7 per cent. whereas the expense ratio of the New India Insurance Company, which is the lowest among insurance companies as far as I know, is 23 per cent. Now who loses this 16 per cent? It is definitely lost to the policyholder. It must come out either of less benefit given to him or greater premium charged to him. This is a question, as I said, not in connection so much with this Bill but a matter of permanent policy, and I have no doubt that when Sir Ardeshir Dalal goes into planning and spreads himself out to the extent of so many crores in this direction and so many crores in the other direction and consults the Finance Member, he will find that most of these are mare's nests, that most of these projects he will not have money to carry out. These are high-sounding projects, telling people that they are going to build palaces for them hereafter and my Honourable friend the Transport Member promises to give the third class passenger things which will put to shame the present first class amenities, and so on. All these promises will depend on finance; and I say in the search for more finance, for regularly creating finance in large bulk, life insurance promises the best field. And further, Sir, life insurance has only touched a very small fringe of the population today; it has catered for the rich. Many of the rich people have taken out policies running into lakhs of rupees. But many of the poor people, to whom family life and the desire and anxiety to provide for their children must be as keen and acute, either do not understand it or they have no facilities or in the past they have been cheated by canvassers, by bogus companies and by all sorts of adverse regulations. If they failed to pay one or two premiums their policies used to be confiscated; but now Government have provided that where premiums are paid for a few years, they must be paid something. But are Government aware that the Surrender value of such policies are so low that it is nothing short of expropriation, so far as the poor people are concerned? I say there are a good many evils associated with the insurance enterprise in this country. Recently we see evidence that every bank wants to have an insurance company and every insurance company wants to turn itself into a bank with a common directorate. The same evil that my Honourable friend Mr. Lalljee mentioned, an evil which could not be unknown to Government will arise. I say there is something dangerous in the kind of development which is now taking place and watchfulness was never more required by Government than it will be hereafter. And I trust that not only will the provisions of this Bill, as far as they affect directors, be very much strengthened, but that in practice the Superintendent of Insurance will justify his appointment and satisfy the country that nothing untoward is being done. Because, when the collapse comes it will come simultaneously. But do not let us wait till the collapse comes. Let us be watchful; in the interval let us weed out the bad ones and mete out model punishment to them as a guidance and warning to the others. Sir, I support the motion.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I should like to echo the last sentiments of my Honourable friend who spoke just now. Watchfulness will be more necessary perhaps in the future than even today, and the signs are that many evils may crop up which we are not quite certain of just now. I rise to point out two facts which have been repeated twice in this House but which are not quite correct. If Government desire to nationalise life insurance, by all means let them do so. But to say that private companies cost much more to run than if managed by Government is not quite accurate. My Honourable friends Mr. Chettiar and Mr. Manu Subedar said that Government do their insurance work at an expense ratio of 7 per cent. and the best company to Mr. Manu Subedar's knowledge does it at 23 per cent. These are totally different kinds of business and I am surprised that Mr. Manu Subedar should have made this mistake. Government insurance is confined to its own servants, it has to do no canvassing, it carries all the risk itself, it has no investments and no capital to raise; and all it has to do is to register the names of those who are to be insured and the amounts. A private insurance company has to raise capital, has to invest it, has to find its clientele, has to maintain it, and above all, it has to see that it is honestly and efficiently run. A percentage of 23 is not so high; another company may be a little lower. Even if it is 23 per cent. and Government's cost is 7 per cent. all I can say is that Government's expense ratio may be one or two per cent. too high.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the lowest rate that you know?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I understand 22 per cent. is the lowest. There is just one more point on which I venture to disagree with my Honourable friend. I am very glad that Government have not brought in a clause to amend that section which provides that insurance companies shall invest 55 per cent. in Government paper. This is not the time to make such a change. If, as my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar said, safety, stability and honesty are to be our aims and must be our aims, then I think if an amendment is to come to that section, it should come in the other direction. Fifty-five per cent. in Government paper leaves 45 per cent. for the Directors to play about with. I make no insinuation, I make no imputations, but I do think that in some companies 45 per cent. is a little too much for the Directors to play about with.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Fifty-five per cent. plus the compulsory deposits.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: All told it is 55 per cent. The point I was trying to stress was that there is a good deal of temptation now-a-days to get control over companies which have large sums with which the Directors can play about with. That should be discouraged. The more the margin to play about with, the more the temptation for new multi-millionaires to get hold of these companies.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What about the old multi-millionaires? They are left to themselves.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Unfortunately, they do not increase. At any rate, Mr. Deputy President, I can only repeat that I am very glad that such an amendment is not before the House. I fully realise the difficulties of insurance companies mentioned by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar. Government paper is at a very high rate and the return is very low indeed. But they do have 45 per cent. to earn more and if they can invest this 45 per cent. judiciously, I do not think they have reason to grumble, especially where there are companies, at least one to my knowledge where under the Articles of Association, nearly the whole of 100 per cent. is to be put into Government Paper and that company must be affected in the long run. Taxation is now restricted, as much as in England very luckily, but it ought to go further and that ought to help. I have nothing further to say, Mr. Deputy President except to hope that Government will keep a watchful eye over this great, I will call it national, enterprise and will do their best to see that malpractice

do not creep in, and that when they see the very first signs of such malpractices creeping in, they will not hesitate to bring in legislation before this House and will threaten to do so to stop the malpractices that some people may have in view.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Mr. Deputy President, two motions as I understand it are before the House. The first is the motion of the Honourable the Commerce Member that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The second is the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari, who unfortunately is not at the moment in the House: his suggestion is that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion. Now, Sir, we, in this Group, feel that there are very powerful reasons why support should be given to the motion of the Honourable the Commerce Member. At the same time, I personally sympathise very much with the point of view of Mr. Krishnamachari. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari feels, as many of us do feel, that Government is increasingly by-passing this Assembly by having consultations with powerful people outside, either in the form of Advisory Committees or otherwise, and then they come along and say, "well now; this House, we hope will pass our Bill. We referred it to expert opinion, and expert opinion agrees with us and we think you should put on the rubber stamp and make this Bill an Act"! Now, Sir, from that point of view, I sympathise with the attitude of my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari. At the same time, as I have said, we, in this Group, are not going to support his motion. We believe that the Honourable the Commerce Member and the Superintendent of Insurance,—whom we all welcome here in this House today,—have taken a very great deal of trouble about this Bill. They have sought to improve insurance legislation so as to make it as water-tight as possible. As the two last speakers have said, there is no type of legislation in this country where it is more necessary that Government should adopt an attitude [in my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir's phrase] of watchfulness,—where they should adopt an attitude of very stringent enforcement of the law—than in insurance legislation. I do not propose to weary the House by going into details with regard to most of the 43 clauses in this Bill. I propose to confine myself to three main clauses, namely, clauses 16, 19 and 20. Now, Sir, if Honourable Members will refer to the Bill, they will find that clause 19 seeks to amend section 40 of the Act. As it is a little difficult to follow all this, I may remind the House that section 40 provides for prohibition of payment by way of commission, or otherwise for procurement of business; that is to say, it lays down certain restrictions and conditions upon procurement of insurance business. Now, Sir, with regard to that clause, there are three changes which the Government have in mind. The first change is the proposal in sub-clause (a), to insert after sub-section (1) a new sub-section. That sub-section proposes that so far as the Insurance agent, holding a valid licence from an Indian State is concerned, he should be treated for the purpose of this section and also sections 41 and 43 the same as an agent licensed under the Act to operate in British India. I have not examined closely the precise constitutional significance underlying Government's proposal. This is not the place to raise that. At the same time, I should like to draw the attention of the House to the wording of that proposed new sub-section, viz., the use there of the word "person". (We know that an Insurance Agent as defined in the Act is not any person but an individual) and then the Bill says that a "person" holding a valid licence is an Insurance agent under the law of the State should be treated in a certain manner. Well, it may be that that is all right, but until we know what the precise legislation in a State is, it is very difficult for us to express any opinion, more especially as this point has to be studied very carefully, in connection with clauses 16 and 20. In that same clause 19 the Bill provides for reduction from 15 per cent. to 10 per cent. in the commission to be paid to insurance agents. That is a matter that we shall have to examine very carefully in the Select Committee. But I should just like to mention this point to the House when we consider this general proposition.

[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer.]

before the House. The point I would suggest for Honourable Members' consideration is this, that there are various kinds of insurance agents; some do all their own work in the way of preparation of policies and so on and so forth, others, may be little more than canvassers. It is obvious that if you are going to reward all these people in the same manner, what may be worth while for a canvasser would not be worth while for some one who is engaging highly qualified staff and who is doing a very large amount of work and probably in some cases in effect providing a guarantee to the insurer, that what is accepted in the way of any particular policy is a policy for which he is standing in the shoes of a guarantor, as it were. In other words, the insurance agent in such a case, is in his own person a guarantee that any business which he gives is good. Well, Sir, I mention that fact because it is very important.

The other point which is important is this. For many years in this country 15 per cent. has been the generally accepted rate that is payable to an insurance agent. The Government have given no clear reason that I can follow for this change. In some cases, Government propose to differentiate between so-called "young" companies and the old companies. I consider this is a most obnoxious principle. It is perfectly true that Government can turn round and say that the precedent is already in the Act. It is in the Act. After a long hard fight, Sir N. N. Sircar had to give way on this point and he made a provision in sub-section (ii) of section 40 to that effect, viz., provided that in the case of life insurers during the first ten years of their business they will be able to pay higher commissions to their agents than older companies will be able to do. This is a most obnoxious principle and I am very surprised indeed that the Government of India have actually embodied it on their own initiative in the Bill. May I explain one of the things that will inevitably follow from it. Let us take an old established insurance company,—I am not talking, of course, of companies like New India because they are strong and so well established that they in the long run will have nothing to fear; or at least perhaps less to fear than others,—but take a smaller and less powerful company. In such a case it has its agents scattered all over the country. These agents are now going to be restricted to 10 per cent. commission. But a few multi-millionaires who make colossal fortunes out of black-marketeering, profiteering and other methods of making money in war time, come along and start insurance companies. In this connection, if I may digress for a moment, I was extremely interested in the remarks of my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar. He made, if I may say so, one of the best speeches on a technical subject that I have ever listened to in this House, and he drew attention to the activities of those who are forming insurance companies in close connection with banks and those who are forming banks in close connection with insurance companies. This is a subject I know a little about, because I have been studying some of the ramifications of some of these new companies very closely indeed, and, therefore, knowing what I do, and what I am sure Mr. Manu Subedar also knows, I am astonished that the Government of India should have made in the Bill which they have placed before this House a provision to give yet another advantage to some of these people. Frankly I am very surprised indeed that they should have done this and I hope when the time comes they will agree to the deletion of that proviso.

Clauses 16 and 20 must really be taken together, because though the one provides for the restriction of commission of managers and the other deals with chief agents, they cannot be considered apart. The House will remember that in 1937 we agreed unanimously—all parties agreed—that in the case of insurance business the managing agent should be eliminated. Quite properly. We all know the kind of abuses that managing agents of insurance companies and banks indulge in and the unanimous feeling of this House was that these people should go. Now, Sir, if you study carefully these provisions of clauses 16 and 20 linked up with 19 and other aspects of insurance law, which I need not refer to here, it is very clear to me at least that what, in fact, Government is doing—unwittingly no doubt—is to restore the position for managing

agents. The Honourable the Commerce Member mentioned a case—I hope he will tell us much more about it at a later stage—where someone had appointed himself, or got himself appointed, as a managing director for a long term of years. Now, Sir, I do not know when that happened, but if it happened after 1937, all I can say is that something ought to be done about the Commerce Department, because they and their Superintendents of Insurance, especially Mr. Thomas and my Honourable friend, Mr. Vaidyanathan, know very well that the intention of the House was that managing agents should go and if you look in the Companies Act you will find that a managing agent not merely means.....

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: May I interrupt my Honourable friend for a moment? I do not remember whether I mentioned it then, but actually this happened in an Indian State. If that Bank had been working in British India, it would, I am sure, have encountered many difficulties.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Thank you, Sir. I am grateful for this information. But in regard to this question of managing agents, the managing agent is not a person called by that name. The managing agent, according to the definition which Sir N. N. Sircar drafted very largely himself, is a person by whatever name called if such person is in fact a managing agent. If I get my co-directors to nominate me as a managing director on terms which in fact mean that I am a managing agent, all I can say is, the sooner the Commerce Member and his able Assistants get on to me the better! I am not saying this in criticism either of my Honourable friend Mr. Vaidyanathan or his predecessor because I think that they both have done an enormous amount to clean up the insurance business in India, but I mention it as a point for us all to bear in mind. If Government are going to argue that because of this case, you must have this new provision in clause 16 or a new provision in clause 20, I say that if they are going to take that line then we in turn are entitled to say "what have you been doing"? Don't say you have got no powers because we know that under the Insurance Act you have got ample powers to deal with such cases, and furthermore if someone is a managing director but in fact, is a managing agent and that is contrary to insurance law, you are entitled to proceed against him in the Court.

Clause 16 proposes that no manager or other adviser or person acting in an advisory capacity shall be remunerated by way of commission. Now, in regard to this question of commission; I should, first of all, like to say that in common with the Honourable the Commerce Member and the Honourable the Superintendent of Insurance, I entirely agree with them that not merely in insurance business but all over this country there has been widespread abuse of "commission". We all know how many people have been altering their Articles of Association so that commission shall be payable to the managing agents—before E. P. T. for example, and many other cases can be given. Government therefore feel that something must be done about this and so they propose to limit commission. But what then do they do? They merely say that if a man is a manager he may not be rewarded by way of commission. But supposing I am the insurer and I have a manager who formerly has been very valuable to me and has brought me much of business, I say 'I am sorry I cannot reward you by commission any more, so I think you had better join the Board of Directors and I am sure my colleagues will reward you. If they agree with my suggestion and if you become a director you will then be rewarded by way of commission or share in profits'. Now, Sir, it does seem to me fantastic to suggest that when the very people who control a company,—the people who decide its policy, the people who are primarily responsible not merely to the shareholders but to the policyholders,—that these people should be allowed to remunerate themselves in any way they like and nobody else should be allowed to be remunerated on the same basis. Not that I suggest for one moment that they should not be rewarded by way of commission on profits,—Commission on profits may or may not be an excellent way of rewarding your staff

[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer.]

or your directors—I merely suggest that for the Government to come along and say to this House 'you cannot reward a manager on the basis of commission on profits while you can do so in the case of a director' is something which I find myself unable to understand—more especially as in my experience Directors very naturally do not pay more to their staff, or to their agents or to their chief agents or to anybody else than they have to pay as a rule. There are of course exceptional Directors! Some of us get more pay than we deserve! but the fact remains that generally speaking Directors are pretty careful about how much they do pay!

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Very, very careful!

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: They are not so careful as to how they take remuneration from other companies! I do not want to say any more about that clause, but it will be obvious to the House from what I have already said that I am opposed to it and we in this Group unanimously feel it will, if put into force, in fact, *not* be enforceable because it will be got round and evaded by all the dishonest people while the honest people will be bound down by it.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That always happens!

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: But in this case it is liable to much more abuse than usual. My Honourable friend knows very well why; because he is a banker and he has much experience in this matter. He knows, and I know, and most of this House knows that the reason why there has been so much abuse of commission in the last two or three years has been due to financial reasons and not to other reasons such as have been alleged. In other words, primarily the abuses that we have seen in the last two or three years have arisen from the inflationary tendencies which have been so widespread ever since the early part of 1942. In the case of Chief Agents, of course, if Government are going to restrict commissions they must define what an agent is and they have sought to do so in clause 20.

With regard to clause 20, I do not propose to go into any detail, but I would comment again that a feature appears there which appears also in clause 19, namely, the distinction which is sought to be drawn between an agent of a *new* company and an agent of an *old* company. It is clear to anyone who has any knowledge of Insurance business that the effect of the latter half of sub-section (3) of the proposed new section 40A will be that many old established insurers will lose business to some of the new Insurance companies that have come into existence as a result of inflation in the last three or four years. So, Sir, we strongly object to that provision also.

I do not think there is anything more that I have to add at this stage except to repeat what I stated in the beginning, namely, that we in this Group support Government in their desire that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan (Government of India: Nominated Official): The Honourable the Commerce Member will deal with the points raised by the speakers and I am only now answering one or two points raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, which bear on the technical side of the issue. Firstly, he referred to section 19 and he said he was not in a position to understand fully the implication of the new clause 1A. I may say in this connection that if there is a British Indian insurer and I will take the case of New India, as it has been already mentioned on the floor of this House, the British Indian insurer transacting business in an Indian State, according to the law as it stands at present, cannot pay commission to an agent of New India confining his activities exclusively to the Indian State unless he takes out double license. The position now is to enable New India to pay commission to that agent he has to take out a license from British India and since he is working as an agent in the Indian State he has to take a license from the State as well. There are laws of other States also which have been

loosely drawn up to the effect that no insurer can pay commission to any agent in India unless that State license also is taken. Let me call that State "A". Then all the agents of New India will have to take licenses not only from Mysore, Baroda etc. but also from British India and that state A. To avoid these anomalies it is now sought to provide that if any agent holds a valid license of an Indian State then he will be also a licensed agent in British India so that the British Indian company can without a double or triple license pay him commission. That is only what is sought to be brought in the terms of that clause.

My Honourable friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer also objected to the favourable treatment that has been sought to be given to young companies in the provisos to clause 19 and also to some provisos in clause 20. He himself, to the best of my knowledge, played a very important part when the Insurance Bill was passed and became the present Act in the year 1937-38, and at that time the Legislature did make some discriminatory provisions in favour of the young insurers defining them as insurers within 10 years of incorporation, and if we did not repeat that principle then the Government would be criticised on the score that they have not been quite consistent and it has been felt that these are very desirable provisions unless my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, is going to make out a case that these provisions are going to militate substantially against the sound working of insurance in general and of these young companies in particular.

He again drew reference to clause 16 in the terms of which it is proposed to limit the remuneration of Managers. Sir, I have been in this position as Superintendent of Insurance for about a year and in this short period the number of applications that have flooded me with respect to starting of new companies has been enormous, and more than that very undesirable features have been noticed in that the method of remuneration to be paid to those persons who are at the helm of affairs which are not put in the shape of open rupees, annas and pies but in the shape of modest and pity evoking small figures as 5 per cent. on first premium and 3 to 4 per cent. on renewal premiums. This is a very undesirable feature which should find no place in the Articles of Association of any Insurance Company. Here is Mr. X, the Manager of an Insurance Company and there is a proposal before him to consider whether to accept or reject. Naturally he has to consider the proposal on its own merits as to whether it deserves to be accepted or not. On the other hand human nature being what it is, there may be a sub-conscious suggestion that if he rejects this proposal, 5 per cent. on first premium will not go into his pocket and another 3 or 4 per cent. for another 20 years. It is desired to put down all these undesirable features. Commission of 5 per cent. on the first year's and 2 or 3 per cent. on the renewal premium, which one might say in terms of pity as small, will actually amount to lakhs when companies expand and grow to be very rich and big and we are all visualising the day when Indian insurance companies will grow into big concerns and we have to provide having that day in view.

There was one point made about insurance having been nationalised in Mysore. In Mysore there is a state scheme, as we have the postal scheme which is thrown open to government servants. They have to pay a premium up to ten per cent. on their salaries compulsorily. And there is also a public scheme which is thrown open to the members of the public but there is a great difference between having a public scheme run by Government for the service of the general population and nationalising this insurance industry as a whole.

I have got nothing further to say and I am sure the Honourable the Commerce Member will reply to the other points raised in the discussion.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I am grateful to the different sections of the House for the favourable response which has been given by the different Parties with reference to the Insurance Amending Bill. In spite of lurking criticism or suggestion here and there and in spite of my friend Mr. Krishnamachari's motion for circulation, there is no doubt that the consensus of opinion, so far as this House is concerned—and I take it that that

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is a reflex of the opinion in the country—is that the time has come when, merely on the score of ourselves being in the midst of a war, we cannot and should not sit tight, but must do something to rectify some of the abuses which have already crept into in some of the insurance companies and are likely to creep in more in future months or years in the insurance structure of this country. I am really grateful to the Honourable Members of the House for that.

Sir, several questions have been asked as regards the previous consultations and my friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, almost generalised it as the characteristic of Government movements today in the way of bringing legislation by consulting a few persons. I would only remind my friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer that we are in the midst of a war and in the midst of a war it is not always possible to have the dilatory method of a long-drawn out procedure, particularly in a country like India which, as my friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer knows, is a vast country with four hundred million people, where quick consultations between one part and another is extremely difficult and specially at the present moment. At the same time, the fact that we have on occasions erred on that side does not indicate that we do not mean to take into consideration all points which are brought to our notice. In this particular case (and here I might say that I do sometimes feel that experts are dangerous horse power which may have to be kept under a certain amount of non-technical control) we did consult a properly constituted body, where there were representatives of all the insurance interests, including the provident societies about which my friend Mr. Joshi asked me, and I must say that on some of the points there was quite lively discussion on the principles which have been embodied in this Bill. We did consult the chief agents. Not only that I promised in that committee that as soon as the Bill is drafted it will be sent to every member of the Insurance Advisory Committee consisting of Indians and Europeans, representatives of business houses, insurance companies, provident societies and other interests. We have done that. It is not my intention, as I said before, to rush through. What I propose is also neither to dilate nor to rush through nor to make any unnecessary delay. Subject to the assent of the Honourable the Law Member, who is always the Chairman of these Select Committees, I do not propose to call this committee earlier than about the beginning of January. In the meantime I want to circulate this Bill once again to the members of the Insurance Advisory Committee. I want to call a formal meeting of the committee, have their views recorded properly and have them circulated to members of the Select Committee.

Mr. E. L. O. Gwilt (Bombay: European): Will the Honourable Member see to it that a copy of this Debate is sent to every member of the Committee?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It will be very difficult for me to arrange that.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member but I should like to be quite clear on one point. Supposing this is sent to the Committee and they say "Oh, yes, we want this and this and something else". These are the views of the Advisory Committee and with these if he comes back to this House, does it mean that we are bound to accept them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend knows the constitutional position. When the House is in seisin of a piece of legislation and it goes to a Select Committee, that Select Committee has the fullest right to go into the questions relevant and within the scope of the Bill and this House has a full right to take up that matter which is reported by the Select Committee. My friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, as I said, has raised some of the points affecting the issues of the Bill itself. Similarly, it may be that other interests have got their own points of view and I want that the Select Committee should be fully cognizant of the different points of view on the different sections which are incorporated to the Bill itself.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): Why not have witnesses before the Committee?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will leave witnesses to the criminal and civil courts. My friend will understand that.

I say that perhaps, in view of the present circumstances regarding paper particularly, it will not be possible for me to circulate this Bill except to some of the important industrial and trade organisations of this country and I do hope that that will at least give the general public, which is interested, an opportunity to consider the merits of the Bill. There are the Associated Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and other organisations of all-India importance. I propose to send this Bill, to ascertain their views to such associations which are of an all-India importance and I want to place their views also before the Select Committee. But having done that my duty is to leave it to the members of the Select Committee and their good judgment. I want the Committee to be apprised of all the opinions on this Bill. After that, it is my intention that subject to the Select Committee coming to a decision on this matter, to take up legislation in the next Session. If there are any other points of importance which arise I shall certainly take them into consideration.

My attention today on the floor of the House and for the last few days has also been drawn to various other objectional and deplorable features in the insurance business of this country. I am fully in agreement with all those who feel the time has come when not only we should be watchful but that we should be particularly watchful that the India of the future is not handed over to a few monopolists in one way or the other. It is a great country and has a greater future before it and it will be an evil day for India when she will be dominated by a few either in the field of politics or economics. I yield to none in my desire that we should take every possible step to see that a few

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monopolists do not control the economic future of India. If there is anything in the insurance line by which we can help that objective, I can assure you that we shall not be behind in bringing in relevant legislation in this House and as soon as possible. I am told that there are other malpractices; I am told that there are people who are trying to capture some of these organisations to play with the money which they may have in these concerns. It will be my duty to keep a watch over that thing, and at any stage if I find the situation is coming to such a pass in which it is becoming a feature at least with some of these concerns, we will do our best to bring in the relevant legislation, or at least bring it to the notice of the House through the relevant legislation.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Vaidyanathan, has replied to some of the points which have been raised by Mr. Chapman-Mortimer and others. I do not think I need say anything more. I am quite cognizant of the fact that there will be difference of opinion as to whether industry as a whole or insurance business in particular should be a private enterprise or a state concern. (An Honourable Member: "State certainly".) I would certainly welcome that day. But I am personally a bit nervous to take that step immediately today. (An Honourable Member: "Why?") Because I find how similar state enterprises are being discussed through questions and resolutions in such ways, as when the station master of a particular station refusing a wagon to a particular person becomes a matter brought up before this Assembly through interpellations—I at least would wait for a little better atmosphere before I think of changing the present system. (An Honourable Member: "You must not be afraid of criticism.") I want criticism, I want discussion; but I want my friend also to realise that we are not living one thousand years in the past or one thousand years in the future; but living in today and the atmosphere of today. If leaving the financial and other structures intact in this country, I am asked to break down the entire insurance structure of some of the biggest companies in India which have

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devoted years to making this business a success, and if I am asked by legislation to destroy the whole of that structure, I will hesitate to do it for the time being, at least till a national Government is in power. It is no use my friends criticising me saying that I do not represent the people, and in the same breath coming to me and saying "You must take steps which only a national Government can do". A national Government can only exist when you have got complete confidence in those who are responsible for the decision of questions of policy. I am not saying whether I do represent the people or not. I am not saying whether my Honourable friend is correct or incorrect. All I say is that in the existing state of affairs Prof. Ranga's discussion is not just the proper thing for this House to decide

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why do you not begin that at any rate?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared, as I say. My objective is quite at one with his. I entirely agree with him and I do hope it will be possible some day—I do not know when that day will come when we can rebuild all the existing structures. I would very much like that the cities of Bombay and Calcutta and Delhi should be rebuilt after wiping away every building. I would desire that every building should be built by the side of the Jumna, but I cannot destroy the buildings which are existing today. That is my difficulty

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Does the Honourable Member want to bring Fort Stikbine on to the Jumna? Ask for the assistance of the War Transport Member!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not want to turn Delhi into a Venice by having a few pleasure boats there. But as I say my difficulty is that. I do not know what a national Government will do; they might think of completely destroying this city and rebuilding it. That might be in consonance with their ideal: that might or might not be in the best interests of the country. But situated as I am, I cannot possibly destroy a whole city in order to rebuild it. There are abuses, there have been pitfalls, there have been mistakes; there are things which we desire and desire anxiously to rectify. But I ask of Prof. Ranga seriously, when we rebuild, does he want the whole city of Calcutta, or Bombay or Madras to be demolished and then rebuilt? I am therefore a bit hesitant in expressing my views on this matter, and I think in this Legislature it is the problems of today and the problems of the next few years which should suffice for myself. If I am able through your help to do something better for today, I would ask Prof. Ranga to dream his dream and think only of tomorrow but I will try to do my best, to do what I can, for today. As regards the question of the future of this insurance, I entirely agree that insurance should cover a much wider field, not only life and fire and accident, but there should be insurance of crops, insurance of cattle, insurance against sickness, old age and many other forms of insurance. I yield to none in my desire that all these things should come. But as the Commerce Member in charge of insurance for the time being, I am merely concerned for the time being to see what I can do in order that these things may become possible in the future—to build on a clean solid foundation whatever little structure we are raising today. When the superstructure and the palatial buildings come, Prof. Ranga may have the credit for himself; I shall be happy if I can find that one little brick has been added and that it stands solidly to support the framework. I oppose the circulation motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Does Mr. Krishnamachari press his circulation motion?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not withdrawing my motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1945.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. N. C. Chauder, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. H. A. Sathar, H. Essak Sait, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. E. L. C. Gwillt, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Mr. Husein-bhoy A. Lalljee, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan 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—contd.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The next is the motion moved by Mr. Tyson on Tuesday the 7th November, 1944, about the Rice Committee Bill. Prof. Ranga.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): The other day I was saying just before the House rose that it was wrong on the part of the Government to have come forward with this proposal on the ground that they do not make any provision whatsoever for any contribution from the Central Government or the Provincial Governments towards the finances of the proposed committee in addition to the funds that are to be provided by the growers concerned. As I have said before, I have very strong objection to this innovation. It is the duty of the Government here and in the provinces to finance research and other activities intended to benefit those who are interested in the production of various crops in this country and also in various trades and industries. In fact, it has been the practice of this Government to finance more and more schemes of industrial and technological researches in this country in the interests of commerce and industry and Government did not come forward with any proposal to demand that the people concerned should pay for all these services. Indeed the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council itself suggests that in post-war times the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments should finance such activities as scientific and industrial research, planning and technical enquiries undertaken in conjunction with the representatives of industry, geological and mining surveys; the provision of facilities for training technical staff in both subordinate and higher grades, including where necessary, training overseas; obtaining of technical experts from overseas; allocation of priorities for machinery, provision of power and transport facilities; finance, either direct or through some kind of National Development Corporation in which the public can participate, organisation of internal and external markets, e.g., through an Indian Export Corporation; tariffs or other means of safeguarding industries; statistics and commercial information.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

All these things are proposed to be organised in future and they are to be financed by the Central Government and if necessary by the Provincial Governments also. There is no mention here by the Executive Council Special Committee to the effect that the interests concerned should make any kind of contribution. I do not know why the Government are so very anxious that such an important body of producers as the rice growers should now be made to tax themselves in order to finance all necessary scientific research.

Sir, even the Royal Commission on Agriculture did not approve of the idea of forming a special committee like this for rice crop in this country. It has taken special objection to it on the ground that such committees organising multitudinal researches will only be duplicating the work of various Provincial Governments and may be of the Central Government also and it maintained that so far as paddy growing in this country is concerned, so many people are interested in it that it would be the special duty and responsibility of the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments to finance the required research and not to throw the burden of the research on the shoulders of the persons concerned.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

It is true that the Royal Commission on Agriculture also suggested that certain trades interested in any particular crop may be expected to finance any special research that may be organised for it but it had in its view—and in fact the precedents that have been quoted by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson also support this view,—only those who are interested in such crops whose export markets had to be developed and in whose production only a few rich and well organised planters are interested. Even if you take the Lac Committee or the Cotton Committee and other committees dealing with tea and coffee, you will find that there are a few very big planters, who are very well organised and who are able to look after themselves. They can form themselves into very able and effective organisations and they are interested in exporting a very large portion of their produce to other countries. Therefore they are anxious to improve the prospects for more and more profitable exports to other countries. And so it might have been argued that it was desirable on the part of the Government to have expected them to finance their own marketing organisation. But so far as rice is concerned, even what we produce in this country is not enough. We do not want any outside markets for our rice. We are only anxious to cater to our own consumers in this country. It is only if we produce more and more it will be possible to make India self-sufficing in the matter of rice. Therefore the question of trying to find markets outside India does not arise and I do not know why the Government are so very particular that this committee should be formed at this stage and that it should be financed only at the cost of the producers.

It may be argued that after all this particular cess is so small and that it is expected to be recovered from the rice mill owners and therefore it is not likely to fall on the shoulders of the peasants. This is a wrong impression and wrong assumption also. In actual practice, it has been found in the South as well in the Punjab, where the Sales Tax has been imposed that although it had to be paid in the first instance by the tradesmen, it had necessarily either to be deducted from the price that was being paid to the peasants or to be added on to the price the consumers had to pay. So, this particular cess can be shifted on to the shoulders of the peasants and this will certainly happen in post-war times when the imports from Burma, Siam and other countries would be coming in and every ton of these imports would be able to settle the price of the total production of rice in this country and in those days we cannot be quite sure whether the Government of India would be quite willing to come forward and give the necessary protection against these imports. In these circumstances what will happen is that the peasants will have to bear the burden of this particular cess.

Then, Sir, this is only the thin end of the wedge. There is no guarantee that it will stop here. Now, the Government have come forward with this proposal of six annas per ton. Once we pass this Bill and allow this Committee to be established, it will be open and possible for the Government also to come forward and propose an increase in the rate of the excise duty. The burden will grow and will go on increasing and these burdens will be in addition to those which the peasants have to bear in the provinces. I want to register my protest against this method of indirect taxation and increasing the financial burdens that are being levied upon our peasants.

Coming to the proposed functions of this Committee, I find that even in this regard, Government has not been sufficiently liberal or far sighted. Even in the Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture which has been proposed in pursuance of the recommendations of the Hot Springs Conference in America about two years ago, we find that they propose to work to better the condition of the rural populations, organisation and successive stages in the distributing and marketing, methods of reducing costs of production and distribution, demand and prices, trends of fluctuations in production, prices and the incomes of the peasants, provision and use of credit for agriculture, scale of enterprise, economical use of labour and machinery and gross and net income in relation to output and consumption.

There is no mention at all of any of these items. Then, Sir, domestic and international trade also ought to be studied according to this Hot Springs Conference—and other aspects of national and international economy. Their land tenure and co-operative system should also be studied; the possibilities for giving subsidies for production have to be studied. Then, they have to study adult education and the presenting of the case of the agriculturist for loans before their respective Governments as well as the monetary organisation. Then, there is the provision of alternative employment for our agriculturists in case they are un-employed as a result of any economical methods of production which may be introduced. They also propose that the Governments concerned should study the enlargement of foreign markets and increased storage, processing and marketing facilities and commodity arrangements. The Government of India have not thought, that through this Committee it may be possible for them or they expected this Committee to try to get into commodity arrangements with the producers of rice in other countries so that it may not be possible for them to dump their surplus rice in this country. There is no such proposal at all.

Even coming to the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council, I find that their idea of the future of the agriculturist in this country is much more liberal than what is now proposed to be done by this Committee and by the Government. Their scheme also includes organised marketing, financing of agriculture, common buying and selling, crop planning, elimination of middlemen, imports of foodgrains to be controlled, guaranteed prices to be assured to the peasants. Then, Sir, they suggest that the Central Government must accept responsibility for greatly increased measure of expert advice, equipment, finances to the provinces and also maintenance of Central research. But this Government comes forward and says that the Central Government will give up as many of these responsibilities as possible. They must do the minimum possible work so far as the peasants are concerned and the peasants themselves should finance their own research and their own marketing. There is no effort being made to give any kind of assurance that the Central Government will be prepared to place funds at least to the extent to which this Committee is going to provide through this excise duty.

Coming to the details of this Committee, I find that an unequal representation has been provided for the various provinces. As my Honourable friend Dr. Banerjee pointed out the other day, all our provinces are not equally interested in the production of rice. Bengal comes first and Madras comes next and then all other provinces, but it is proposed that all the provinces should be given equal representation. In other clauses also the Government seem to be aware of the unequal importance and therefore they have provided differing quantum of representation on this Committee. That is a very serious mistake. If they are anxious that every province must be represented on this Committee, then it is open to them to see that no province which deserves more representation than the minimum is denied that additional representation merely because the smallest producing provinces have to be given the minimum representation. Sir, there are to be 51 members on this Committee. The Government suggests that the growers, who are actually going to pay this cess and for whom this Committee is intended, are to have only 14 members. The other 37 members are to represent various other interests. They may say that Provincial Governments are going to represent the growers and various other classes also but the quantum of representation given to the Provincial Governments does not necessarily mean that the growers are going to be represented in the main. Then, they suggest as many as 12 representatives for the rice industry.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): What about the consumers?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They are supposed to be consumers. Then there is the Associated Chambers of Commerce. I knew that the Europeans had a number of rice mills in Burma, but I did not know that they owned so many rice mills in this country as to deserve so much representation on this Committee.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

These 10 representatives are to come here on behalf of the Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments are to send 12 people representing rice industry. We do not know whether the Provincial Governments are going to be given so much power as to decide who is to represent the rice trade and industry. These very same Provincial Governments are given also the right to select the so-called representatives of the growers. Why should it be so? Whenever you make any representation for the labour or trade and commerce of this country, you certainly do not give the right to the Provincial Governments concerned to select the representatives on behalf of these concerned interests. On the other hand, you try your best to get the real representatives of these concerned interests. Then, why is it that you do not take any trouble to make any provision for the automatic representation to be provided on this Committee for the organisations that are there today in this country for the concerned interests, that is, the growers of paddy and the producers of rice.

Then, Sir, they give the power to the Governor General to determine the tenure of office for these people as to how many years they are to work and at what stage any particular member's place on this Committee will be terminated. This is too drastic a power to be given to the Governor General. If this Committee is to come into existence at all and if its members are to be assured of a definite tenure of office, then it ought not to be left to the discretion of the Governor General to fix the tenure of office for these members but it ought to be fixed by this House. It is too late in the day for the Government to come here and ask this House to agree to an official President for a Committee like this. Even for such a House as this, we have a non-official President and for a Committee of the type that is now under consideration there is all the more reason why we must have a non-official President. The proposed President happens to be also the Vice-Chairman of I.C.A.R. I would like the Government to tell us on how many Committees he is expected to preside. And the number of these Committees is constantly increasing. These Committees are generally appointed by I.C.A.R. I know on very good authority that this gentleman does not even find sufficient time to preside over these Committees to give his advice and suggestion to them. It also sometimes happens that because it is not so easy for this gentleman to preside over all the sessions of these Committees, the duration of these Committees is sometimes curtailed very much. Therefore, it is best for the Government to try to introduce the principle of having non-official Presidents not only for this Committee but for several other Committees also.

There is a strong body of public opinion in this country that this House should not proceed with this Bill. There are many Honourable Members even in this House who are definitely opposed to the principle underlying this Bill. And, for very good reasons too. I have already given some, and I propose to give one more and it is this. Where a big interest like this is concerned where all the consumers in the country are so much interested in getting more and more produce, it ought not to be the special concern of the producers alone first of all to pay for it and to organise it and look after the progress of this industry. The responsibilities of the consumers also must be recognised and secondly for a body of producers like these, it is the responsibility of the Government as a whole as well as the Provinces to take up all relevant questions concerning their welfare and progress and develop the necessary institutions to finance the necessary research and provide adequate warehousing facilities, assure them of a minimum price, minimum and reasonable standard of living and give them every possible encouragement so that they would be willing they would be encouraged to continue their present praiseworthy and industrious activities in this most essential national product and also hope for a better future so far as their own daily activity is concerned. But I find that this Government is not interested in that production and that is why I find it impossible to associate myself with this Bill and agree with the Honourable Member Opposite to send the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member moved his amendment?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, Sir, I already moved it.

Mr. Hoeseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): I have an amendment in my name which I may be permitted to move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it also for circulation?

Mr. Hoeseinbhoy A. Lalljee: No, Sir. It is for altering the date, from 14th November to 17th November. I move:

"That in the original motion for the words '14th November, 1944' the words '17th November, 1944' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in the original motion for the words '14th November, 1944' the words '17th November, 1944' be substituted."

The discussion will now proceed on the original motion as well as the amendments.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, my Honourable friend from Nellore was quite right when he said that there was a good deal of opposition to this Bill in the country, and that some Honourable Members of this House agree with it. I am opposed to this Bill and I would urge this Honourable House to reject it completely. If they think that it is too drastic a course, I would commend to them the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

First, let me assure this House, Sir, that I fully appreciate the importance and the need for improving the production and marketing of rice and rice products and research in rice. But I am fully convinced that this Bill does not recommend the correct method of achieving that purpose. It has become a habit with this Government to create funds and constitute Committees to spend those funds, ostensibly with the object of improving the production and marketing and so forth of a certain product. The statement of Objects and Reasons itself reminds us that there are already in existence a certain number of funds and Committees to spend them. But that is no argument for bringing forward further legislation of the same kind. To the man in the street, the impression is that while these ornamental Committees meet occasionally to survey the work of their Departments under highly paid officials, the condition of the common man has, far from improving, actually deteriorated. As for example, tea and coffee have become completely prohibitive luxuries to the poor man.

Apart from that general question, Sir, I agree with my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga that rice cannot be included in the same category of products, such as tea and coffee and I agree with the reasons he has stated. Rice is the universal commodity of food in our country, grown by millions of small cultivators, while tea and coffee and like products are produced by a limited number of people, generally wealthy capitalists who are more interested in the export of these products than in their marketing inside the country. But the marketing of rice will be marketing of staple food in the country and it naturally deserves a different kind of consideration.

I assert again that I do consider it is necessary to improve the cultivation of rice by research. But it should not be done by imposing a burden on the poor with extra taxation. I agree with Prof. Ranga that the system of levying a cess to collect money for this fund which this Bill is going to create is not the right process by which we should collect funds. Land and agriculture are provincial subjects and a large portion of the provincial revenues come from land tax which is the highest tax that prevails in this country. It is the primary responsibility therefore of the Provincial Governments to conduct research in products from land such as rice. I also do not understand why this Government should single out rice for research at this particular moment and

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

not pay any heed to other commodities such as millets, particularly wheat, which would give more scope for research. Some of the cultivators of rice in Madras asked me, is it because the Government of India do not want to go contrary to the wishes of their favourite, the Punjab Government, as that Government surely will not be prepared to allow the Central Government to intrude on their provincial domain and to burden their cultivators with an excise duty. If I remember right, I think the Honourable Mover of this Bill mentioned that almost all Provincial Governments, with one exception, supported this Bill. But I should like to point out to this House that the opinion of the present Provincial Governments are not likely to represent the popular point of view. Most of the rice producing provinces are under section 93 and the few others. . . .

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): What about Bengal which is the largest rice-growing province? That is not under section 93.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I was just going to refer to that point. The provinces which appear to have popular Governments do not really enjoy the benefits of a popular Government in the strictest sense of the term. When such is the case, I think it is very wrong for an irresponsible alien Government that we have today to be influenced by similar and semi-irresponsible Governments in the provinces. That is an additional reason for urging this House to consider that there is no urgency for this measure at the present moment.

Another objection which has already been stated by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga is that this excise duty will fall on what are known as producer-consumers. In my province,—and I am not arrogating to myself any knowledge of the conditions in my province, which I actually do not have, there is a vast number of cultivators who are producer-consumers; and I feel sure that this excise duty will fall very heavily on them. I do feel, Sir, that it is wrong to burden them especially when land is a provincial subject and the Provincial Governments are already taxing it to its maximum capacity. It is highly unjust for the Central Government to encroach on the duties of the Provincial Governments by this insidious method of levying a cess. I do not know if the Central Government have got the legal right; that is a matter for the legal *pundits* to consider. But I do feel that they have no moral right what ever to levy this cess on produce from land. This Government could ask for contributions from the Provincial Governments from their land revenues if they want this Government to do their work for them.

The Honourable the Mover of the Bill remarked that the cess would work out to less than one pice per maund and only one anna per person in a rice-eating family. I do not know how he arrived at the latter calculation, how he could find out how many rice eating families there are and how many members there are in a rice-eating family, in the short time that he has had to consider the subject. However, even if it is true, I do deprecate the habit of the Government, of emphasising the plea that it works out only to so many pies or so many annas per head, every time legislation is being considered for fresh taxation in this country. Government ignore the fact that pies develop into annas, annas develop into rupees, and the vast majority of people in this country are in rags and are facing semi, and often complete, starvation. It was only the other day that I read in the press a report of a statement made by one of our great scientists in London,—I believe it was Sir J. C. Ghose,—that on the present average wage in India her people could only live as a half-naked and half-starved nation. When such is the condition of the overwhelming mass of people in this country, it is wrong at this present juncture, when life is becoming harder and harder, for this Government to add to the burden of taxation and give a further tendency to raise the price of food commodities. For, as my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, has already pointed

out, though this tax is to be paid by the millowner, it will eventually fall on the producer and the consumer.

I would also point out that though the Honourable Mover of the Bill says it is only six annas a ton it will, in practice, be many times six annas; for there will be a number of incidental expenses connected with the payment of this cess. For instance, the millowner will have to invest more in paper, which is difficult because of paper scarcity; he will have to undertake many trips,—if he is living in a village,—to the headquarters town to get the requisite forms and to get proper instructions about the filling in of these forms and the keeping of records. And as we know from our experience in this country for over a hundred years, no official can be seen without some little present,—to use a mild term,—being offered to several petty subordinates. All these items may appear trivial when I mention them here but when added up they make the cess, which appears to be small, really a large one.

In passing, I should like to say with regard to paper that while Government through the department of my Honourable friend the Commerce Member proclaim day in and day out that because there is scarcity of paper the public should be economical in its use, Government themselves find ways and means to be extravagant in the use of paper. Douglas Reed in one of his books points out that the same thing happens in England, and I suppose this Government, being subordinate to that Government, must follow its example. If we make a survey of all the legislation that has been brought forward in this House by Government, we shall find that innumerable kinds of forms have been prescribed and printed and all kinds of records are to be kept involving much expenditure on paper. But that, as I said, is just in passing. My main point here is that it will be very hard, particularly for small millowners in villages who come under this Act, to keep these records and fill in these forms and get proper instructions about them.

I do not want to go into many details with regard to the clauses but I should like just to refer to a few of them. I am afraid, Sir, that if this Bill is passed into law it will become an instrument for harassing and persecuting the millowners. I am convinced, from my knowledge of conditions in my province, that if the war continues and this Bill comes into force during the war, it will become an instrument for extorting contributions to the war fund as the sales tax is being used today. Another point I should like to mention, is that I find it difficult to approve of the clause which makes the decision of Government final when there is a dispute between a millowner and Government with regard to the assessment of the cess. I know there are other Acts which have such provisions, but it does not follow that it is a good system. I do feel that when a decision has to be arrived at in respect of a dispute between two parties, the opinion of one of them should not be the final decision. While discussing this point with some of my Honourable colleagues, they pointed out to me that if this is not done litigation will increase, but I do not think that litigation will increase to such an extent as to cause inconvenience either to the public or to the Government or to the courts. I think the Central Government is inclined to take upon itself the rights and duties of a court of law and this tendency must be checked as far as possible. With regard to the people, as far as I know, it is much more expensive to appeal to the Government and get their decision than to secure a verdict from the courts; and in the latter case there is at least the satisfaction that a judiciary has given an impartial decision while such satisfaction is not possible when an appeal is made to the Government about its own action. I also do not like that the Collector should be invested with as much authority as this Bill proposes to do in sections 11, 12 and 13. I am afraid that if the Collector has such powers—there may be many Collectors who are conscientious and efficient and I cast no aspersion on them as a class—but they are dependent on their subordinate officials for doing the routine work—and these powers of the Collectors might help in making this Bill as I said before an instrument for harassment and persecution of millowners.

[Shrinati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

Whatever be the measures and however good they may be that are brought forward by this Government, I do feel that the benefit of these measures cannot be realized to the fullest extent as long as this Government is not responsive and responsible to the people. That, of course, has been said here repeatedly. But I must point out that it is also an argument for the rejection of this most imperfect measure. I would also emphasise that at the present moment when the country is going through a food crisis, I do feel it is the duty of this Government to direct as much as possible of their attention, energy—and I hope they have plenty of energy—and revenues for supplying the people of this country with food and other necessities of life and saving them from death by starvation and epidemics. During all these many years when our country has been under British Rule, no effort was made to improve the rice cultivation. What hurry is there now to bring forward a measure of this kind to do it, particularly when everybody admits that a full and general survey has to be made of everything concerning the welfare of the people for post-war reconstruction. For years, rice cultivation has been deteriorating and the area under rice has been decreasing as far as I can understand. This Bill gives no guarantee that it is going to tackle the question, whether those cultivators who were tempted to abandon rice cultivation for the production of what is known as money crops, like jute, will be encouraged to revert back to rice cultivation in view of the fact that there is not sufficient food in the country, and it must not be dependent on imports of foodgrains. When one thinks over this matter deeply, one wonders whether this Government has brought forward this measure just because there has been a great deal of criticism in this country and outside about the Government's policy or lack of policy to tackle the food question in this country efficiently, and they now want to show that they are greatly concerned about this matter and that they are doing their best. Or, is it because they want to give a patriotic colour to the cloak with which they cover their policy of intensive exploitation of this country for the benefit of our alien rulers. When all these questions are facing us, I do think it is wrong for us to support a measure of this kind and I ask the House to reject it or circulate it for public opinion.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan). Sir, the House will remember that I moved an amendment to send this Bill for circulation in order to elicit public opinion before the 28th of February, 1945. I will confine myself to my amendment alone. I won't go into the merits of the Bill, nor will I take the House through its clauses.

At the outset I want to make it clear that I quite appreciate the objective behind the Bill. I not only agree with it, but I am willing to support it to the farthest extent that I can go, but what I feel is that rice is a matter too vast to be dealt with in a hurried and hasty way. My Honourable friend has modelled this Bill on the Acts that we have passed for constituting committees for coffee, tea, coconut, and so on. Coffee, coconut, tea and things like that are located in certain small areas in this country. They are comparatively small crops and can be dealt with in a much easier manner than rice. Rice is a very important food crop in this country and it is grown over vast tracts of land. The life of millions and millions of people depends on it, and everybody, all over the country, is very much interested in seeing that we are able to produce more rice, better rice and produce it much more easily. Therefore, I feel that the people in the country should be given an opportunity to express their views with regard to what they consider necessary for achieving these objects. My Honourable friend himself has supported me in my demand for circulation in stating that by circulating the Bill departmentally to the Provincial Governments he was able to get from them some very useful suggestions which he has incorporated in this Bill. If official circulation of it to the Provincial Governments was of so much use, I certainly feel that if the whole country—people who are interested in it, associations of cultivators, co-operative

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societies, and so on—is given an opportunity to express its views on this matter, we will certainly receive very many more useful suggestions which may help the object that we have in view. Then, Sir, I have one or two points on which I should like the country to express its view. I do not think, Sir, that the Bill as it is placed before the House is an adequate measure for gaining the object that my Honourable friend has in mind.

(It being Five O'Clock.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member continue his speech to-morrow.
The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday 15th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 15th 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

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

398. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands 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) his Department, (ii) the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, (iii) the office of the Director General of Archaeology in India, (iv) the office of the Surveyor General of India, (v) the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, (vi) the Central Agricultural Marketing Department, (vii) the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology and (viii) Miscellaneous?

(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?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). A statement furnishing the required information is laid on the table of the House. Since the scales of pay for services and posts under the control of the Department of Education, Health and Lands do not correspond strictly with the categories of pay mentioned by the Honourable Member, it has not been possible to indicate in the statement the number of posts. Instead, the number of officers drawing pay falling within the said different categories has been shown.

Statement showing the number of officers drawing monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 749, Rs. 750 to Rs. 999, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,499 and Rs. 1,500 and above in the Department of Education, Health and Lands and the offices attached and subordinate to it, and the communities to which they belong.

Officers drawing pay between of officers	Total number of officers	Community of Officers					
		Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>I.—Department of Education, Health and Lands</i>							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	10	..	..	8	1	1	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	4	..	..	3	1	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	7*	..	..	5	1	1	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	11†	4	..	4	..	1	2
<i>II.—Office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service (including that of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India)</i>							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	10	..	2	6	2	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	5	4	..	1	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	4	2	..	1	..	..	1
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	13	8	..	3	1	..	1
<i>III.—Archaeological Department</i>							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	8	1	..	3	4	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	6	1	..	3	2	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	1	..	..	..	..	..

*The names of Mr. J. McIntyre, D.A.P. (Manures) and Sir Datar Singh, Cattle Utilisation Officer, have not been taken into consideration as both these officers have been appointed on nominal salary of Rs. 1 p. m.

†This includes R. B. G. C. Sen, Deputy Secretary, as his pay plus pension exceeds Rs. 1,500

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
IV.—Survey of India Department								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	24	5	6	8	4	1		
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	13	2	6	3	1	1		
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	19	5	4	7	3			
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	25	22	2	1				
V.—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	3			2	1			
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	2			2				
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499								
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	4	3		1				
VI.—Central Agricultural Marketing Department								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	5			3	1	1		
(2) Rs. 750 and 999								
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	2			1	1			
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1			1				
VII.—Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	4			3	1			
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	2			2				
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499								
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1			1				
VIII.—Imperial Agricultural Research Institute								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	6			5	1			
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	1	1						
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	2			1				
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	2	1				1		
IX.—Imperial Veterinary Research Institute								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	6			5	1			
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	3			2	1			
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1	1						
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	3	3						
X.—Imperial Dairy Department								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	1			1				
(2) Rs. 750 and 999								
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1	1						
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1			1				
XI.—Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	11			0	4	1		
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	6	1		4		1		
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	5	2		1	2			
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	9	6		3				
XII.—Botanical Survey of India								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	1			1				
(2) Rs. 750 and 999								
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1			1				
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above								
XIII.—Zoological Survey of India								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	1			2				
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	2			1				
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1							
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above								
XIV.—Imperial Record Department								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749								
(2) Rs. 750 and 999					1			
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499								
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above								
XV.—Imperial Library, Calcutta								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749								
(2) Rs. 750 and 999					1			
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499		1						
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above								
XVI.—Indian Central Cotton Committee								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	7			7				
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	1							
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	2			1				
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	2				1			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
XVII.—Indian Central Jute Committee								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	1				1			
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	3					1		1*
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1	1						
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	1						
XVIII.—Indian Lac Cess Committee								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	4				4			
(2) Rs. 750 and 999								
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1				1			
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above								
XIX.—Delhi Polytechnic								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	1							1
(2) Rs. 750 and 999								
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499								
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	1						
XX.—Central Quinine Office								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749								
(2) Rs. 750 and 999								
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1				1			
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above								

*Indian Xian.

BLACKOUT ON PRINCIPAL THOROUGHFARES OF NEW DELHI

399. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands state the reasons for having complete blackout on the principal thoroughfares of New Delhi even in dark nights?

(b) Is he aware that Government servants when going to their homes after late office hours have met with several accidents due to complete darkness?

(c) What steps does he propose to remove this grievance of the New Delhi residents?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Owing to difficulties in obtaining electric light bulbs, the streets in New Delhi have recently been inadequately lit, but it is an exaggeration to speak of a complete blackout. The lighting has been improved since the receipt of a consignment of bulbs in the middle of September last.

(b) During the period from January 1943 to August 1944, 23 accidents involving motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrian are known to have occurred at night in New Delhi. No information is on record to show how many Government servants were involved or in how many cases the accident was due to the inadequate street lighting.

(c) Further improvement in lighting will be effected as soon as more bulbs become available.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is a fact that all these days the American buildings situated in Queensway were fully lighted, rather over-lighted, throughout the night, while the municipal areas were in darkness?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know how the American buildings are lighted or where they get their bulbs from.

Sardar Sant Singh: The American buildings are situated in Queensway and they are completely lighted from evening till morning.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member has not put any question.

Sardar Sant Singh: If the lack of bulbs is the excuse for not lighting New Delhi streets, how is it that the same lack is not felt by the Americans?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As I said, Sir, I do not know from what source the Americans get their bulbs.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What arrangement has been made to prevent thefts of bulbs during the nights?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand that locks are now fitted to the tops of the lamps.

CONTROVERSY RE LINE SYSTEM INTRODUCED BY ASSAM GOVERNMENT.

400. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House been drawn to the controversy between the Government of Assam and the Government of Bengal on the line system introduced by the Assam Government?

(b) Have the Government of India considered the ultimate effect of such controversy which leads to the starvation of the people?

(c) Did the Central Government intervene in this matter? If not, why not?

(d) Have the Government of India a joint responsibility for the supply of food to the people of this country and save them from dying on account of starvation?

(e) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, why did the Government of India shrink from their responsibility of enforcing the production of rice in places where it could be grown and by labour which is available?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Government of India are aware that objections have been raised in certain quarters to the so-called "line system" in Assam but they are not aware that it has been the subject of controversy between the Governments of Assam and Bengal.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The Government of India recognise a responsibility in the matter of the supply of food in the present emergency.

(e) Does not arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware of the fact that there were 200,000 labourers present in Assam, who were willing to cultivate land in Assam in order to produce rice and this was denied, with the result that it led to the starvation of the people of Bengal?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware of that, at all.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the Line System?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If I might read about three sentences from a Resolution of the Government of Assam, dated 6th March 1942, I think that will explain the Line System:

"District Officers.....adopted such measures as seemed most likely to prevent, or at any rate check, the spread of immigrants to areas where their entry would have had these detrimental results. In pursuance of this policy, the submontane areas were more or less closed to them elsewhere where there was a demand for land from both the immigrants and the local people, areas in individual villages, open to each were delimited by means of "Lines" and, where the demand for land from the local people was negligible, large blocks extending over several square miles were constituted into "Colonisation areas" for settlement with immigrants. This is in general outline what is known as the 'Line System'."

I understand the reference to "Lines" is to lines both on the map and on the ground.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the reply to part (c) of the question, viz., why did the Government not intervene in this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It does not arise, because we are not aware of any controversy between the Government of Assam and the Government of Bengal.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that the Government of Bengal did apply to the Government of Assam to allow the land to be cultivated and that the request was refused with the result that it led to the shortage of rice in Bengal and elsewhere?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We are not aware, Sir, of any controversy between the Government of Bengal and Government of Assam, neither are we aware of any reference to the Central Government from either of them indicating that there was such a controversy between these two Provincial Governments.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Department of Agriculture ought to be aware of the fact that there is a shortage of rice and when this opportunity offered itself no advantage was taken by the Government of India nor did they intervene in the matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We are quite aware of the shortage of rice. The Honourable Member is, I think, begging the question when he assumes that rice can possibly be grown on these lands in Assam.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If the Honourable Member doubts whether the rice of the quality which is consumed in Bengal does not grow in Assam, then have nothing more to say.

POLICY RE RELIGIOUS AND MORAL INSTRUCTION.

401. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands seen the report of the President, Board of Education, laid before the Parliament and the Bill laid before the House on the basis of the report?

(b) Are the Government of India contemplating to modify their policy about religious and moral instruction?

(c) Will the Government of India consider the expenditure under religious instruction as an approved item in the consideration of the grant?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) The Central Advisory Board of Education have appointed a Special Committee to examine the question of religious education in schools. The Government of India await the recommendations of the Board.

(c) The Government of India will consider the question in the light of the recommendations that the Board may make.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is the personnel of this Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I want notice of that. It is a Committee of the Central Advisory Board.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if Sikhs are included in this Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot say, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the Government of India will consult the Legislature before they accept the principle that they should pay for the religious education of the communities in India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We can certainly bear that in mind when we receive the report.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do the Government make any distinction between theology and religion. Are religious and theological education one and the same thing?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not quite sure that any theology is taught in schools.

LEGISLATION ON BASIS OF SARGENT REPORT.

402. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether the Government of India are contemplating to introduce a Bill in the Legislature on the basis of Sargent's report?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government consider the proposal of the selection of candidates for Secondary Schools?

(c) Have the Government of India devised any method to avoid the danger that selection may lead to the monopoly by few classes?

(d) Have the Government of India ascertained that the scheme of selection will be resented by those classes who are educationally backward?

(e) What steps, if any, are the Government contemplating to take to help these persons?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-War Educational Development in India is still under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c), (d) and (e). The Government of India are fully alive to the question they recognize that pending the complete establishment of the comprehensive system of education, which would cater impartially for all, special measures may be necessary during the transitional period to safeguard the interests of educationally backward communities and there is nothing in the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education which precludes Educational Authorities from taking such measures as they may think necessary in this connection.

DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL MEN.

403. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay a statement on the floor of the House about the number of

(i) Medical practitioners;

(ii) Pharmacologists; and

(iii) Nurses;

in (1) India, (2) the United Kingdom, and (3) the United States of America per ten thousand population?

(b) What steps are the Government of India taking to increase the number of medical men in all branches?

(c) Are the Government of India preparing any plan for the expansion of medical education in this country?

(d) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that in these days instruction in the prevention of diseases is more important than instruction in curing of diseases?

(e) What steps have the Government of India taken to modify the courses of instruction on these lines in the existing medical colleges and in the proposed colleges they want to establish?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House. Information regarding Pharmacologists is not available.

(b) Medical teaching institutions are under the control of the Provincial Governments. Many of the Provincial Governments have taken steps to increase the number of admissions and others have proposals under consideration.

(c) The Health Survey and Development Committee are examining the question. Plans will be drawn up after their report has been received and considered.

(d) The Government of India are aware that competent authorities attach great importance to the instruction of medical students in the social and preventive aspects of medicine.

(e) The Government of India have no authority to modify courses of instruction in medical colleges and schools.

Statement showing the number of Doctors and Nurses in the United Kingdom, United States of America and India.

	Number of doctors per 10,000 of population	Number of nurses per 10,000 of population
United Kingdom	10 : 10,000	27 : 10,000
United States of America	13 : 10,000	16 : 10,000
India	1 : 10,000	02 : 10,000

NOTE.—The figures are approximate.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have not considered the advisability of adopting, for creating civilian doctors, the same procedure by which army doctors are created in the course of about two years, instead of five years as at present?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware of the procedure to which my Honourable friend refers by which army doctors are created in two years instead of five. It is not possible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will my Honourable friend make an inquiry and get the details and go into it whether it is not possible, in order to create medical men for normal rural areas in a shorter number of years than at present in the medical colleges?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think this matter is under constant examination, but the Honourable Member will appreciate that we cannot allow medical institutions to put out on the countryside with a certificate of competency to practise people who in fact have not attained that standard. We must protect the public.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to part (b) of my question is it not a fact that the Government of India have got direct responsibility for at

least three universities. What have they done for medical education in those three universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That, I think, is for the universities themselves.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: That means that medical education will always be given in universities, not outside; and there are three universities under the direct control of the Government of India. What has the Government of India done for imparting medical education in these three universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: There are three universities—Delhi, Benares and Aligarh. Have Government done anything to spread medical education or help medical education in any of these three universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think there is a proposal under examination for the creation of a medical faculty in Delhi. At present our medical teaching institutions in the Delhi area are affiliated with the Punjab University. But I know there is a project to have a medical faculty in the Delhi University, to which of course they will then be affiliated. I am not quite sure what stage the matter has reached.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Government of India not heard of the establishment of a medical faculty in Aligarh, for which Rs. 4 lakhs has already been secured?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes; the Honourable Member himself has spoken to me about it.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if any suggestions or proposals have been received from Benares or Aligarh universities to ask the help of the Government of India for creating medical colleges there?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: In regard to Benares I have no information off-hand. As regards Aligarh, I know they have been collecting money; whether they have actually asked us for money for that specific activity I do not know. The Aligarh University is always asking for money.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: But I should like to know whether the Government of India has ever accepted a recommendation within the last fifteen years.

STANDARD CLOTH.

404. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the proportion of the standard cloth to the total production by the Indian mills in the year 1943-44, 1944-45 and the first six months of 1945?

(b) Is it not a fact that the mill-owners reduced the prices of other quality of cloth lower than the prices of the standard cloth and subsequently raised the prices when the standard cloth was sold out?

(c) What is the cause of the diminution in the proportion of the manufacture of the standard cloth?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that certain quality of cloth which is mostly used by the people, such as long cloth or *lattha*, *matmal* is not available in the market at standard prices but these clothes are available only in black markets?

(e) What is the forecast of the Honourable Member about the supply of piece-goods in the year 1944-45?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The proportion of Standard Cloth to the total production by Indian mills in the year 1943-44 was 14.7 per cent. In 1944-45 it has been 8 per cent. I regret I cannot give the Honourable Member the information he desires about the first six months of 1945, since I am unable to say what will be the extent of the demands which Provinces and States will be placing in early 1945.

(b) No.

(c) As prices of ordinary cloth have come down the demand for Standard Cloth has diminished.

(d) It is not correct to say that certain qualities of cloth such as long-cloth and *matmal* have been available only in black markets. It is quite true.

however that there has been a serious shortage of this and other types of fine cloth throughout India recently. This state of affairs has been imposed mainly by the limits of production, and not so much by mal-distribution. The loomage in India for production of finer varieties is now, as it always has been, limited. Before the war much of the finer types of cloth consumed in India was imported. These imports have now practically ceased. The shortage of finer varieties of cloth has come to the forefront recently partly because, owing to the increased purchasing capacity of the people of India as a whole, people are now demanding finer cloth who before the war were quite content with coarser cloth.

(e) If all goes well, and only if coal supplies and imports of millstoes come up to expectations, I have hopes that the quantity of cotton textiles available for the civil market in India in the year 1944-45, after deducting Defence requirements and essential exports, may reach 5,000 million yards, inclusive of handloom production.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government any information that, taking advantage of the reported shortage of fine cloth in India, manufacturers in the United Kingdom and in the United States are making arrangements for the export of finer cloth to India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware that they are making arrangements for export of finer cloths to India; they cannot do so without getting import permits from this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government of India been giving any import permits for the import of finer cloth from the United Kingdom and the United States?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Almost negligible.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask whether in view of the fact that the Sikh community uses this fine *malmal* for their *puggies*, he will be pleased to make arrangements by which the Sikh community can get preference in obtaining this cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I thought that in textile matters at least, communal questions are out of place.

Mr. R. B. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member please state whether he will take steps to increase the production of fine cloth in India by allowing the import of suitable machinery immediately?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, if they are available and if shipping space is available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the widespread prevalence of black markets in regard to the sale of cloth and what steps is he taking to put down or at least to minimise the nuisance of these black markets?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All I can say is that if any Department has done its level best to control the black market activities, I can claim credit for the textile Department of the Government of India.

LINE SYSTEM INTRODUCED IN ASSAM.

405. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands, seen the letter of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru on the Line System in Assam addressed to Sjt. Gopinath Bardoloi in which he suggested that the Government should try the experiment of organisation and planning agriculture and the conditions under which holdings may be given to individuals?

(b) What steps, if any, have the Government taken on this suggestion?

(c) Is it not a fact that over 5½ million acres of land is lying waste in the districts of Assam Valley and no attempt has been made to grow more rice in spite of the fact that labour is available?

(d) What is the cause of such indifference?

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, but only on the 8th November 1944.

(b) The suggestions are under examination.

(c) I have been unable to confirm the Honourable Member's estimate of total area of waste land in the districts of the Assam Valley. Our information is that much of it is not capable of being brought under cultivation on a short-term basis, but the possibilities of extending rice cultivation are under urgent examination.

(d) Does not arise.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ALL-INDIA HANDLOOM WEAVERS BOARD.

406. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to form an All-India Handloom Weavers or Weaving Control Board or any other such organisation for the protection of handloom weavers; if so, whether they have formulated the objects for which this organisation is to work;

(b) how this Board is to be constituted;

(c) what will be the proportion of representation to be given on it to (i) handloom weavers, (ii) to Provincial Governments, and (iii) spinning mills;

(d) who is to preside over the Board—an official or non-official—and if he is to be an official, who is he to be;

(e) whether Government propose to place at their disposal any additional sum apart from the present rupees five lakhs annual subvention to finance the work of the Board and also to give additional support to the handloom weaving industry; and

(f) whether Government have received the suggestions of the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers Federation that weavers ought to be granted at least equal representation on this proposed Board, and that the over-representation of mill-owners be reduced, etc., and, if so, the reactions of Government to these suggestions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to question No. 248 answered on the 10th November 1944:

Sir, I am afraid this question was not orally answered and I think it is only that I should read out the first portion of that answer.

(The Honourable Member then read out the first portion of that answer.)

(d) I am not yet in a position to reply to this, as the matter is under consideration.

(e) It is not at present contemplated that any sum over and above the present Rs. 5 lakhs subvention should be made available.

(f) I take it the Honourable Member is referring to the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers Association, of which he is the Honorary President. Government have the proposals of this Association under consideration at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the answer to part (c) of this question?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is covered by the answer I gave the first part where I answered (a), (b) and (c) together.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the question of prices of yarn is not included in the proposed objects of this board, specially when the Government are proposing to include the question of prices of dyes, chemicals and other things in this industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to enter into details of the scope of work of the Board. I have merely mentioned the general outline of the proposal. All these matters will be taken up when the Board will be constituted.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will he also keep in his mind, the question of the effect of yarn also, to be included in the scope of the Board's work?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will do my best to remember it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Trade Unions of Weavers will be represented on this Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not possible for me to answer that question for the time being.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will remember this question of representation of weavers when he considers this question?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

TEXTILE CONTROL BOARD.

407. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the members of the Textile Control Board, and the quotas of representation granted to various interested interests, such as the weaving and spinning mills, the Provincial Governments, the consumers, and the cotton growers and handloom weavers?

(b) why only one membership has so far been granted to the one crore and odd handloom weavers;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the representation given to (i) cotton growers, and (ii) handloom weavers either by reducing the over-weightage given to mill-industrialists or by increasing the total strength of the Board; and, if not, why not?

(d) whether Government received any protests against the present constitution of the Board and the comparative neglect of the handloom weavers from (i) South Indian Handloom Weavers Federation, and (ii) any other organisation; and

(e) what has so far been the assistance given by this Board to the handloom weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) On the Textile Control Board itself there are 25 members of whom 15 represent the Cotton Textile Industry; three the distributors, two consumers' interests, two labour interests, two the cotton growers and one represents the handloom Industry.

(b) While there is only one member of the Textile Control Board itself who represents the handloom weavers, there is a Handloom Committee of the Board which represents handloom interests and has ten members. The reason why the representatives of the Cotton Textile Industry predominate on the Board is that the most important, intricate and numerous of the problems which confront the Board are problems connected with matters such as the increase of production, the import of textile machinery and mill-stores, and so on. Problems such as these call for the expert attention of the members of the Cotton Textile Industry. Government are of opinion that, if the Board is to function efficiently it should not be unwieldy in size.

(c) There is a Cotton Committee also of the Control Board which represents the interests of cotton growers and numbers 15 members. Government do not consider it necessary to increase the numerical strength of the Board.

(d) Government have not received any protests from the South Indian Handloom Weavers' Federation but they have naturally enough received protests from plenty of other organisations of all kinds.

(e) On the recommendation of the Board handloom cloth has been exempted from the provisions of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943. Prices of yarn have been reduced very substantially since the institution of the Board, and the margin between the ex-mill and retail prices of yarn has been reduced from 20 per cent. to 15 per cent. Government have at present under consideration the formation of an All-India Handloom Board to advance the interests of the handloom industry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that consumers, labour and cotton growers have each got two memberships for their representation on these committees, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of increasing the quantum of representation given to the handloom weavers from one to two?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the increase from one to two would have been a solution of the entire problem of the hand loom industry I would have been prepared to consider it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You can make a beginning.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend is labouring under a misapprehension. As it is, because we are anxious to do the fullest justice and do the utmost benefit to the hand loom industry, we are proposing to constitute a Hand Loom Board separately for the hand loom industry.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what is the proportion of the production of hand looms to the production of the mill industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I remember, it is roughly 27 per cent. to 30 per cent.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Have the Government received any representation regarding the inadequacy of the representation of consumer interests on the Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that we have received enough protests of all kinds.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How many members of this House are there on that Textile Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think two members of the Legislature, as far as I remember.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the Honourable Member feel satisfied with the way in which this Textile Control Board has been constituted in view of the increasing number of protests that he is receiving?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have received protests but I fear most of them are based on a misapprehension or a wrong appreciation of the facts. But for the constitution of the Cotton Textile Board, the Indian cotton cloth position, so far as price is concerned, would have reached such a position that it would have been very difficult for anybody to control it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is the Honourable Member aware that if such a badly formed Board he could reduce the price by 10 to 12 per cent., if the Board had been properly formed, the prices would have been reduced still further?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I entirely controvert that. I do not think any other Board could have done better than what the Textile Board has done.

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FIXATION OF YARN PRICES.

409. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the basis or criteria on which yarn prices are being fixed and regulated;

(b) the rate of profit or margin allowed to the yarn manufacturers; and whether Government will consider the advisability of reducing such margin;

(c) whether there is any proposal to further reduce the yarn prices in view of the sufferings of handloom weavers and the huge aggregate profits being made by spinning mills;

(d) the justification for further raising the prices for finer yarns;

(e) whether Government have taken the trouble to enquire about the adverse effects that such a procedure, i.e., raising of prices of yarn of finer counts, is having upon handloom weavers; and

(f) whether Government propose to reconsider the basis on which these yarn prices are being fixed and to reduce the prices of yarn of finer counts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yarn prices are fixed so as to yield a fair return to all mills for production of the type of yarn in question of good quality.

(b) There can be no constant margin of profit allowed to yarn manufacturers. They vary from mill to mill according to the quality of their manufactures, local conditions, particularly rates of wages and dearness and food allowance and the standard of efficiency.

+The question was postponed to be answered on the 20th November, 1944.

(c) Yarn prices were reduced in December 1943; March 1944 and June 1944 and I hope Prof. Ranga will hear the latter part of the reply carefully. The general effect of these operations may be seen from the example of 20's yarn; the ex-mill price of this before control was Rs. 30 or more per 10 lbs.; and its present selling price is Rs. 11-5-0 per 10 lbs. I do not understand the Honourable Member's reference to the sufferings of the handloom weavers. While handloom weavers are obtaining yarn at greatly reduced control prices, there is no control on the price of their products. Government's information is that the earnings of handloom weavers are now far higher than they have ever been.

(d) Fine Yarn ceiling prices were readjusted in September last as a result of a review. The review disclosed that the prices of Egyptian cottons used for spinning finer yarns, viz., 60's and upwards, had risen steadily, and this rise made an increase in the ceiling price for finer yarns necessary. As prices of handloom products are not controlled, the handloom weaver is in a position to recover in the selling price of his goods any reasonable increase in the price of yarn.

(f) A periodical review of Yarn with ceiling prices will continue to be carried out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the prices of cloth of finer counts have been reduced recently?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Do you mean hand loom made or mill made cloth?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mill made cloth, of course.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Prices of every variety of cloth, as I have been saying, have been reduced during the last year and a half.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When the hand loom weavers are obliged to compete with the mills in regard to the cloth of finer counts, if the prices of yarn of finer counts have been raised and the prices of cloth of finer counts have been lowered, it hits the hand loom industry in competition with the mills?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have to learn my economics once again if I believe that in war conditions, hand loom productions are not able to stand the competition of the mill products.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the Government aware that the mills are paying huge amounts as excess profits tax and the rates fixed for yarn today are certainly not the rates that go to make up the cost of the yarn?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult for me to answer that in reply to a supplementary question.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Did the Honourable Member say that the prices were reduced only in December, March and June and not in September last?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that in September last also prices were reduced.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Government have controlled the price. Have they also controlled the stock of yarn?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am unable to understand the question.

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POWER ALCOHOL INDUSTRY.

412. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the Government policy, if any, regarding encouragement of the growth of a Power Alcohol industry in India?

(b) How many power alcohol plants are now in operation in India and what is their total manufacturing capacity?

*The question was postponed to be answered on the 20th November, 1944.

(c) Have any orders been placed abroad for power alcohol plants? If so, when were these orders placed, and when are they expected to arrive in India, and to which parties are they to be allocated for operation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The question of the development of Power Alcohol industry is under the consideration of Government.

(b) Four. The total capacity is estimated at between one and three-fourth and two and a half million gallons per year.

(c) Yes. Orders were placed in September 1941 in America; but the plants have not as yet been released by the American authorities. If they materialise, they will be allotted to the firms which originally placed the orders.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member throw some light on why the Government's interest in regard to the importation of manufacture of power alcohol plants was kept in cold storage from November 1942 up till now?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They were not kept in cold storage.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the time that the Government expect to take in coming to a final conclusion in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as we are concerned, we have given fullest facilities to get these plants and, as the Honourable Member will see, orders were placed in September 1941. But if the plants are not released, all we can do is to take necessary steps to press the matter.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I want to know the Government policy in the matter? The Honourable Member said that the matter was under consideration.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the question of policy is concerned, as regards the post-war it is still under consideration. Under existing conditions, the policy has been to encourage the development of power alcohol industry as will be understood from the fact that we have given help and facilities to import those commodities.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member tell the House what happened to the proposal submitted I believe to the Commerce Department through official channels by a Syndicate of manufacturers belonging to the United Kingdom that they will undertake the supply and erection of power alcohol plants in this country for a small commission on the capital and for royalty rights on the power alcohol produced.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of it, but I will make an inquiry in the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member make it clear to this House whether it is not true that Government have discouraged the production of power alcohol in this country and are encouraging the use of the charcoal plants to be attached to motor cars and lorries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is not correct.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any representation has been made to the Government since November 1942 by the oil interests that are now trading in this country in regard to power alcohol?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir.

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

NOTIFICATION FIXING MAXIMUM PRICES OF FOOD GRAINS IN JHARIA COALFIELD MARKETS.

413. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member aware that the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, in the Province of Bihar, issued a Notification, dated the 9th February, 1944, under the Defence of India Rules fixing the maximum rates of price of rice and other foodgrains in the local markets of Jharia coalfields?

(b) Is it a fact that under the said Notification all collieries in the Jharia coalfields are required to get foodgrains for their labour forces from either of two private "pools" of the Coal Trade Organisations?

(c) Is it a fact that the collieries participating in the Joint Pools have to deposit an amount as security with the Pool authorities? If so, what is the said amount, and in what manner is the money thus collected utilised?

(d) Is it a fact that in violation of the aforesaid notification, the Government of Bihar is supplying rice to the Pool at rates of payment (including the cost of transit to the coalfields), which are higher than those fixed by the said Notification?

(e) Is it a fact that the Additional Deputy Commissioner is also permitting the Pool authorities to levy an extra charge of Re. 1 per maund over and above the aforesaid payment on those collieries which are not members of any of the Pools?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Province of Bengal collieries employing less than 1,000 labour daily are free to secure their foodstuffs for their labour from the local markets at controlled rates? Do Government propose to take steps to see that similar facilities may be allowed to small collieries in the Province of Bihar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is understood that the two bodies required their members to make a deposit to finance their operations but full details are not readily available.

(d) The Bihar Government have charged the Associations the actual cost of rice supplied upto the 1st November, 1944. Bulk of these supplies originated in Nepal where prices were higher than the controlled rate in Bihar. From the 1st November the Bihar Government have decided to charge the local wholesale controlled rate plus annas four administrative charge.

(e) Exact information regarding supplies to non-members is not available but has been called for.

(f) Yes, but it is not possible to allow similar facilities to the small collieries in Dhanbad-Jharia area as local supplies of rice are quite inadequate to meet their demand.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member received a telegraphic representation of late from the Indian Collieries Union in Dhanbad in which, among other things, a statement is made that the local market prices of rice are lower than the control prices in some places and that the prices actually charged to the collieries are even higher than the control prices, which fact perhaps was admitted by the Honourable Member himself?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not yet seen the telegram.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I have received a copy of the telegram which has been sent to Honourable Members of Government as well. It may have gone to some other Department. But do I take it, with reference to the reply to part

(d) of the question, that the attitude of the Government of Bihar in this matter had the fullest approval of the Government of India, in charging prices at a higher rate than the control prices to the collieries when the Government were expected to give every facility to the collieries for the purpose of increasing their output?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I would not like to say that the policy had the fullest approval of the Government of India, but the Bihar Government strongly felt at that time, under the circumstances prevailing then, that this was the best way of assuring full supplies to the numerous collieries in Bihar.

REGISTRATION OF POST WAR CAPITAL GOODS REQUIREMENTS.

414. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government have asked new as well as old enterprises in India to register with Government their requirements for capital goods after the war?

(b) How many companies have given these particulars, and what is the approximate value of the capital goods required by those who have registered their requirements?

(c) Has the response to this request been satisfactory, or do Government think that a considerable number of enterprises have not indicated what they will be wanting in the way of capital goods?

(d) What is the object of Government in getting this information? How do they propose to use this information?

(e) Are any priorities going to be fixed, and, if so, on what principle?

(f) Is it intended to use the information in order to canalise orders to the United Kingdom? If not, what steps would Government take to see that capital goods for India are purchased in the best and the cheapest market?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Not yet.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d), (e) and (f). The outlines of the scheme will be explained in a press communique which it is hoped to issue shortly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House whether Government propose to fix priorities at all either through the system of import licences or through any other system and choke off private enterprise in the matter of importation of capital goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I am not in a position to answer the question as the proposal has not taken its final form.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government considering in this proposal, which they propose to publish, which will be the best market for India to make purchases of capital goods and which will be the cheapest? May I ask further if they have considered whether Czecho-Slovakia, Belgium, France, Germany and Japan, however much they may be reduced after the war, will be able to produce at a cheaper price than the United Kingdom can give us?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: These questions are already under consideration and I cannot say anything on them, but I can say this much as my opinion that so far as I am concerned I will be the last man to go to Japan or Germany after the war is over.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Not even if the material is cheaper?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Not even during the war?

(No reply.)

COUPLAND REPORT AND INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS.

415. **Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether the Government of India have considered the recommendations for Indian Constitutional reforms submitted to the Nuffield Endowment by Professor Coupland;

(b) the attitude of the Government of India to these proposals; and

(c) whether the systematic weekly broadcasts given in the All India Radio on the Coupland Report for some time past was in pursuance of any policy adopted by the Government of India on this report?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). I have seen Professor Coupland's Report on the Constitutional Problem in India. The policy of His Majesty's Government, as has been repeatedly declared, is to leave the framing of the future constitution of India to Indians themselves. In view of this, no question arises of the Government of India either considering the recommendations or defining their attitude with regard to them.

(c) Whatever views may be held as to his conclusions, Professor Coupland's Report is undoubtedly a comprehensive study of the Indian constitutional problem; and the broadcasts on the subject arranged by the All-India Radio were intended only to stimulate thought and discussion on constitutional problems among the public.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he or any of his colleagues have had any part in shaping these proposals of Professor Coupland?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that a secret and a very select non-official Committee under the auspices of the Government of India is sitting at Delhi for the purpose of developing a scheme of constitution on the lines of the Coupland report?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not aware of it.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the Government of India contemplate to appoint a small Committee to collect materials to frame the future constitution of India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Government have not yet considered that question.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member with regard to his answer to part (c) whether his Department exercises any scrutiny on the persons chosen to make these broadcasts and whether those who hold opinions which are not considered to be desirable so far as this Government of India is concerned are excluded from such broadcasts?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of giving an opportunity to those people who do not agree on purely political and scientific reasons with the conclusions drawn by Professor Coupland to broadcast from the All-India Radio?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes. As a matter of fact certain broadcasts have already been made contradicting the views of Professor Coupland.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give Professor Ranga a chance?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes.

INDUSTRIALISTS MISSION TO BRITAIN.

416. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed non-official industrialists mission is being sent at the request of His Majesty's Government or on the initiative of the Government of India or because of a request received from the industrialists in India;

(b) whether arrangements have been made for this mission to visit other countries besides the United Kingdom like the United States of America;

(c) whether the Government of India have requested His Majesty's Government or is His Majesty's Government on its own initiative arranging a reception to this mission in the United Kingdom by the organisation of agencies similar to those reported to have been organised by Sir George Schuster; and

(d) What is the policy of the Government of India underlying the sending of such missions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) On the initiative of the Government of India.

(b) The Government of India are making every endeavour to enable the industrialists to visit the United States of America also.

(c) His Majesty's Government cordially welcome the visit of the Indian industrialists and are arranging facilities for them to contact leading industrial interests in Britain.

(d) The advancement of Indian Industrial Development.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (c), will the Honourable Member say whether the Government of India requested His Majesty's Government to move in the matter and arrange for the reception of the Industrialists?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir, it was a spontaneous on the part of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a newspaper report that a similar roving Mission is likely to be sent to Australia in the near future?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There has been a newspaper report. The matter is under consideration at this stage.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: On the newspaper report?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What will be the agenda for this Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The nature of the work will be to study the conditions abroad under war conditions and to find out to what extent Indian industrial interest may be served. There may be some who may consider knowledge a sin, but we consider knowledge will be power.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any instructions given by the Government of India to this Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they go at Government cost or at their own cost?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: At their own cost.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that the Government of India or His Majesty's Government will not take any steps to disintegrate such cohesion as might exist amongst the Members of this Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If this question calls for any reply I would simply say that I consider it impossible that any Government will ever think of doing it.

Mr. Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee: How long have they been waiting to embark?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not a question of waiting to go. We are anxious to send them as quickly as possible, but the conditions in Europe and in this country do not make it possible for them to go, not for the fact that the Government of India were not anxious that they should go.

Mr. Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee: For the past how many months have they been waiting?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: For some months.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Was the personnel of this Mission chosen by the Government or by the individual Members themselves?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir, by the Government of India.

SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS TO LABOURERS ON MILITARY WORKS AT CHITTAGONG.

417. ***Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a very large number of labourers employed on military duty are consuming foodstuffs of the civilian people in the Chittagong Division;

(b) whether Government have issued instructions to supply foodstuffs to military labourers from military stocks;

(c) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government proposes to direct the military authorities to feed their men from their own stores; and

(d) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, whether Government also proposes to see to the enforcement of the instructions which are more honoured in the breach than in observance?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Under existing arrangements the Q.M.G. is responsible for supplies of foodgrains to labourers engaged on military works and Defence installations in non-rationed deficit areas. Government have no reason to believe that these arrangements are not being carried out.

RELEASE OF RAW BUILDING MATERIALS FOR CIVILIAN USE AT CHITTAGONG.

418. *Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware that raw materials necessary for the construction of houses and their repairs from the forest area have been reserved for the military and that the civil people who absolutely depend on these materials for the construction of their huts and their repairs have now been absolutely stranded so much so that they are now unable to repair their huts; and

(b) whether Government be pleased to issue necessary instructions to the civil and military authorities at Chittagong to release at least some percentage of the raw materials to the civil people to enable them to repair their huts and dwelling houses?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member for Supply will answer this question on the appropriate date.

DELHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRACTION COMPANY.

419. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited, is a company incorporated outside India? How long has this Company been operating in the Delhi Province and what is the area served by it?

(b) How many units of electricity did this Company use for traction purposes, how many units did it sell to consumers in its area of supply during the past twelve months or so, how many units out of its total supply did it generate from its own power station, and how many units did the Company buy from the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited?

(c) Is it a fact that the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited has not increased the supply of current from its generating station to any considerable extent for a number of years, and has been for some time, for all practical purposes, dependent upon the Government power station at present under the control of the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited?

(d) Is it a fact that the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited is a company sponsored by Government and works on a no-profit basis?

(e) What is the price that the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited pays per unit of electricity supplied by the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited, and what are the different rates at which the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited sells electricity to its different classes of customers?

(f) Is it a fact that the Government have an option to purchase the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited in February, 1947, when their present licence expires, provided a notice is served on the Company in February, 1945? If so, has the question of exercising the option been considered as yet, and with what result?

(g) What is the amount that the Government will have to pay in case they decide to purchase this undertaking, and to what extent will the purchase enable the Government to utilise the sterling balance held to the credit of India in England?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. The Company's licence runs from the 2nd March 1905. The area of supply now includes;

(i) the whole of the area in the jurisdiction of the Delhi Municipal Committee;

(ii) the whole of the Delhi Civil Station Notified Area;

(iii) the whole of the West Delhi Notified Area; and

(iv) a tract of land in the jurisdiction of the Delhi District Board.

(b) During war-time it is not in the public interest to supply the information.

(c) Yes. The Company's generating plant is now used more or less as a stand-by.

(d) Yes.

(e) A statement is laid on the table.

(f) Yes. The question is now under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

(g) Under the first proviso to sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, the price to be paid for the property of the licensee, if the option of purchasing were exercised, would be its fair market value at the time of purchase as determined by arbitration. It is not possible to answer the second half of the question till the amount likely to be involved is known.

Statement

The Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Co., Ltd. are charged at 69 anna per unit of electricity supplied in bulk by the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited.

Rates charged by the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Co., Ltd.

Lighting and fans—Three annas per unit less 3 pies discount per unit for prompt payment of bills.

Domestic power. (Cooling, water heating, refrigerators, radiators and air conditioning).—One anna per unit nett.

Battery charging.—Two annas per unit less ten per cent. discount for prompt payment of bills.

Industrial—

A. Consumers with connected load up to 75 K.V.A.

Restricted hour supply.—1-1 anna per unit less a discount of 1 anna per unit for prompt payment of bills.

Unrestricted hour supply.—Rates as for Restricted hour supply and in addition a charge of Rs. 5 per H.P. per month less ten per cent. discount for prompt payment of bills.

B. Large Power Consumers.

Special rates are quoted.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware that a few years ago, the Delhi Municipal Committee applied for a licence for the purpose of enabling itself to supply electricity in the area concerned or at least part of it and that as a result of that application, an enquiry was held into the position of this company by a Committee over which perhaps Sir James Pitkeathly presided or the Electrical Adviser to the Government of Bengal, presided? Is the Honourable Member in a position to give this House an idea about the comments made by this Committee or these individuals, in regard to the affairs of this company?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If the Honourable Member will put down a specific question, I shall certainly be glad to give the information.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member tried to ascertain the total amount of profits earned by this company? Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a statement in a recent article in the *Hindustan Times* in which it has been stated that the total profits earned by the company was already about five times its capital?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, Sir, I have noticed.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to say whether that is a fact or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot say anything about that now. If the Honourable Member wants information, he will give notice of a question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (b) May I know the proportion of units actually produced by this company to the units purchased by the company at cost price from the Government undertaking?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have already answered that during war time, it is not in the public interest to give the information.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I know. Is the Honourable Member in a position to deny that it is a very small proportion of the units actually distributed by this company that is produced by it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That, I am afraid, will be circumventing the provisions of the Act which prohibits me from giving the information.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I did not know that the Honourable Member was prevented even from giving the proportion. However, I give up that point. As regards the point that the matter is under consideration of the Chief Commissioner, having regard to the important policy involved do Government propose to direct the Chief Commissioner in regard to coming to any particular conclusion, or do the Government of India merely propose to carry out, or rather endorse, the decision of the Chief Commissioner in this behalf?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Government of India themselves are considering this matter.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (f), having regard to the shortness of time during which notice is to be served, if at all, will the Government come to a very quick decision in the matter? Will the Government be pleased to take this House into their confidence at the earliest possible opportunity in regard to this case?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I can assure my Honourable friend that Government will certainly come to its own conclusions before the time expires.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Having regard to the fact that this Legislature is virtually in the position of a Provincial Legislature so far as Delhi Province is concerned, does the Honourable Member propose to let this House have an opportunity to consider and discuss this matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall bear the Honourable Member's suggestion in mind.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: Do the Government propose to increase the capacity of the electric power house situated in New Delhi under the Government control?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That question does not arise. I cannot give an answer.

COTTON TEXTILES.

420. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to make a statement showing:—

(i) the total quantity of cotton textiles that are expected to be manufactured in the cotton mills of India in the current year, as also in the next year;

(ii) the quantity out of the above figure which is likely to be taken up for Defence Services within the country, and the quantity that may have been earmarked for purposes of export; and

(iii) the details of the export quota for the different countries to be supplied, and the grounds on which the export quota has been agreed to by the Government of India in each case?

(b) Is any quota going to be fixed for consumption in the different Provinces? If so, how does it work per head of population in the case of each province, and how does it compare in each case with the pre-war standard of consumption of cotton textiles in the years immediately preceding the war? In the case of the provinces of Bengal and Assam, is the quota likely to be increased in view of the possibility of consumption of a comparatively large quantity of textiles by military and semi-military personnel employed in increasing numbers in these provinces in the shape of ready-made garments and otherwise? Is it a fact that Red Cross and hospital requirements in these Provinces are also to be met from the Provincial quota?

(c) Is it a fact that an appreciable quantity of cotton textiles has in recent times found its way out of the Provinces of Bengal and Assam through smuggling? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to ensure that the provincial quotas in the case of these two Provinces are definitely available for consumption within their borders only?

(d) Have Government any information regarding the gradual falling off in the production of cotton cloth by hand-looms in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam? Is it proposed to make up for this deficiency of supply, by granting an increased quota of the mill-made textiles pending the restoration of the maximum production of the hand-loom industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i). The total production of cotton textiles in India in the current year will be about 6,300 million yards, and I am hopeful that, if all goes well, the figure may increase to about 6,500 million yards next year. Of this total production about 1,500 million yards is hand-loom production, and the rest mill production.

(ii) Not more than 900 million yards will be taken for Defence Services, and another 600 million yards for civil exports.

(iii) As a result of Japan's entry into the war the previous source of supply of the requirements of countries east and south of Suez has ceased, and for that reason the Government of India as part of their effort in aid of the United Nations undertook to help them as far as possible in meeting their minimum essential needs.

(b) I am not yet in a position to make a definite statement but will do so next Session if the Honourable Member asks me.

(c) I understand that the Provincial Governments concerned are seeing to it that Provincial supplies are not dissipated by smuggling.

(d) Government have no information regarding any falling off in the production of handloom cloth in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam, though our attention has been drawn to the shortage of yarn in these provinces.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With regard to the Indian States, has the Honourable Member made sure that they do not encourage any smuggling?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I cannot answer that question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that smuggling has not only taken place into the different provinces of India but that cotton textiles from Bengal have found their way into Tibet and ultimately to China?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have seen one or two reports about that but we have had no authentic information on the subject.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government ascertained the reasons for the falling off of handloom woven cloth in Assam and Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have no information as to whether it has been falling off.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the export quota mentioned in part (iii) of clause (a) of the question, the Honourable Member stated that it had been decided to come to the help of the United Nations. Was this decision come to by the Government of India independently or under any suggestion from H.M.G.?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as I am aware, it was the decision of the Government of India. But surely in a matter like this H.M.G. also make from time to time their views known to the Government of India and that was certainly taken into consideration. I may also add that one of the reasons which was behind the decision of the Government of India was that it would be suicidal, as a post-war policy, to close the export market in textiles altogether.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that the trade concerned does not at all think that this export market is likely to continue after the war because these countries are likely to revert to their original sources of supply?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is not correct, because this decision as to quota and quantum of export was taken after consulting the Textile Control Board.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the different countries to whose help we have gone in this matter, did these countries approach the Government of India direct so that they might come to an independent conclusion in this matter without the intervention of H.M.G.?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid that took place some years back and I must ask for notice of this question. But I am aware that some at least of those countries made representations from time to time and make them even now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps have Government taken to see that quantities larger than the quota do not go out by way of direct exports or permitted or illicit exports from the Indian States?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have taken every possible precaution to see that quantities of cloth are not smuggled out by some of the coast lines of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the nature of those precautions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It will not be possible for me to state them now but all customs protections have been taken, and not only customs protections but other steps have been taken in order to ensure it, which I am not prepared to disclose.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: What about illicit export of cloth from the North West Frontier?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have taken steps with a view to see that there is no smuggling out through the land routes.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Has any representation been received from the Bengal Government to increase the quota of cotton textiles for Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: When I was last in Calcutta there was a representation that there was very great shortage of cloth in Calcutta. We took steps to send cloth to Calcutta; but I also heard that the dealers had plenty of cloth with them which they did not release at the time.

†421*.

CAPACITY, ETC. OF HAJ PILGRIM SHIPS.

422. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) the carrying capacity and the actual number of Haj pilgrims carried by the first, second and third steamers of the first batch of pilgrim ships, separately;

(b) the carrying capacity and the actual number of Haj pilgrims carried by the first, second and third steamers of the second batch of pilgrim ships, separately;

(c) the number of Cabin class berths reserved for or occupied by Government servants or other persons not being pilgrims or master or crew of the ship in each of the six pilgrim ships;

(d) the respective dates on which pilgrims were embarked on the first, second and third steamers of the first batch of pilgrim ships;

(e) the respective dates on which pilgrims were embarked on the first, second and the third steamers of the second batch of pilgrim ships; and

(f) whether Government will place on the table copies of name, roll and ship's manifest of all the six pilgrim ships?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: For reasons of security the information asked for cannot be disclosed.

EMBARKATION ARRANGEMENT FOR HAJ PILGRIMS AT KARACHI.

423. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a Press statement issued by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin and published in the *Dawn*, dated the 20th October, 1944, regarding embarkation arrangement for Haj Pilgrims at Karachi;

(b) whether a copy of the telegram will be placed on the table of the House which Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin sent to the Government from Karachi regarding the conduct of the Pilgrim Officer;

(c) how many of the first batch of pilgrims were left behind in Haji's Camp at Karachi;

(d) how many of the pilgrims died in Haji's Camp at Karachi during October, 1944, for reasons of (i) heart failure, (ii) insanitary conditions in the Camp and (iii) other causes;

(e) whether it is a fact that owing to inadequate arrangements in Haji's Camp at Karachi no water was available for the Hajis in the early morning

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

and that many Hajis missed their morning prayers until after sunrise for want of water; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the building in Haji's Camp at Karachi primarily meant for first class pilgrims was occupied by the staff of the Government of India Haj Offices for office and residential purposes?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy is laid on the table.

(c) Ten persons to whom tickets had been issued failed to embark.

(d) Information is being collected.

(e) There was water shortage, but I have no information about water not being available for early morning prayers.

(f) No building is primarily meant for first class pilgrims.

Copy of a telegram, dated the 4th October, 1944, from Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin to the Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare, Member in charge of the Department of Commonwealth Relations.

Since my telephone Honourable Banerjee and Dr. Gore twenty ninth September found Saharanpur bogie load pilgrims from Bengal. Bogie was detached from Calcutta Mail. Reason load exceeded while lady pilgrims carried Lahore. Noticed state uneasiness at Lahore. None cared to assist despite repeated demands. Immediately on arrival Karachi informed Yaqub Butt of difficulties uneasiness unhelping attitude of railways. Visited Pilgrims four times on Monday. Found unhelping and unsympathetic attitude of Yaqub Butt Steamer authorities and Executive Officers. Last night offered our services to Yaqub Butt to issue tickets to Bengal pilgrims who arrived second October according Reservation cards. Visited today Camp twice personally and twice by Maulana Mohd. Saleem tickets issued today at fourteen hours for my party no date and time intimated for embarkation despite enquiries at 18/30 went to Keamari personally for purpose enquiring time date embarkation Yaqub Butt told me to come with party within one hour for embarkation whole party with luggage in six taxis arrived exactly 19/28 but admission at gates refused Yaqub Butt informed no assistance given. Request institute enquiries immediately we suffered heavy shock and seek your guidance and assistance in this serious matter. About one hundred other pilgrims ordered presence second October refused tickets. Believe ample accommodation were available.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to part (c), may I know why ten people were left out?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: For the last steamer of the first batch the shipping company had issued a hundred tickets to pilgrims of whom 84 embarked. Of the remaining 16, six pilgrims did not present their reservation cards and collect their tickets, and a party of ten arrived too late to embark.

RETURN OF BENGAL HAJ PILGRIMS FROM KARACHI.

424. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that 175 Haj pilgrims of Bengal had been compelled to return to Bengal from Karachi disappointed;

(b) whether Government propose to compensate these disappointed pilgrims; if not, why not;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain intending Haj pilgrims who were definitely asked to go on pilgrimage in the second batch were compelled to go in the first batch failing which their steamer fares were liable to be forfeited; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in consequence of this act of the Haj Officer some of them had to face unbearable difficulties and hardships; and, if so, what action Government propose to compensate the loss and inconvenience caused to such pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Information is being collected.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In part (a) it is stated that 175 pilgrims were compelled to go back. Why cannot that be replied to?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: When the information is received I will give it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: When did the Honourable Member ask for the information?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I shall require notice of that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: But surely the Honourable Member should know it.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not remember the exact date on which the letter was addressed.

LEVY OF TRANSPORT CHARGES ON HAJ PILGRIMS FOR VISIT TO MECCA, ARAFAT ETC.

425. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mecca, Arafat, Muzdalafa, Mina, etc., are quite neighbourly places which are ordinarily visited by the poorer section of the pilgrims on foot;

(b) whether it is a fact that for the first time in the history of Holy Haj Pilgrimage only this year every intending pilgrim was compelled to pay in advance at Karachi for transport charges to these places either by camel or by lorry without which steamer tickets were not issued;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the Hedjaz the value of a sterling pound is fixed at 40 Rials of Saudi Arabia and that offers of sterling pounds by certain pilgrims were refused and they were made to pay amounts in excess of the above rate;

(d) whether Government are prepared to refund the excess amount through the British Ambassador at Jeddah;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government notified that every pilgrim should take sufficient money to meet his expenses in the Hedjaz and in addition to that a deck passenger could take Rs. 1,000 and a first class passenger Rs. 2,000 for charity purposes there;

(f) whether it is a fact that certain deck passengers in Karachi were not allowed to take with them more than Rs. 1,000 in all, and, if so, what action Government propose to take against the staff who were directly responsible for hardship and inconvenience caused to the pilgrims;

(g) whether it is a fact that the articles allowed to every pilgrim during voyage were inadequate and all suggestions for necessary additions were ignored, thereby causing considerable hardships to the pilgrims;

(h) if it is a fact that each pilgrim was allowed to take 600 bidis, 500 cigarettes and 300 cigars but no matches for lighting the same;

(i) whether it is a fact that the Haj Officer appointed to look after the interests of the pilgrims was directly responsible for many of the discomforts, hardships, inconveniences and losses to the pilgrims; and

(j) whether Government propose to appoint a Senior Officer of the Department to investigate into these matters and submit recommendations to safeguard the interests of the pilgrims for the future?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, payments could not be received in sterling pound owing to restrictions on the export of gold. Payments had therefore to be made in rupees the exchange rate of which was higher.

(d) No.

(e) Pilgrims were no doubt advised to take sufficient money, but Rs. 1,000 (in addition to 12 guineas) and Rs. 2,000 (in addition to 15 guineas) were prescribed as the maximum that each deck or first class passenger respectively could carry.

(f) Amounts in excess of the maximum prescribed were not allowed to be taken and no action is therefore necessary.

(g) No; all special facilities warranted by the exceptional circumstances of the pilgrimage were provided.

(h) Each passenger was allowed to carry six boxes of matches.

(i) No.

(j) No.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to the second part of (c), why were payments in sterling refused?

1e Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: At the instance of the Minister, Jeddah and H.M.G., Saudi dues and transport charges payable in the Hedjaz were collected in advance from pilgrims in Karachi in Indian currency. The same procedure was followed in other countries. The pilgrims represented that they should be collected at the prevailing rate of exchange between Rupee-Sovereign-Rial. The matter was referred to His Majesty's Minister, Jeddah and he was asked to obtain the decision of the Government of Saudi Arabia. He replied that he could not see any ground for approaching that Government since the suggested refund to Indian pilgrims would be unfair to pilgrims of the other countries who would naturally complain that preferential treatment was accorded to Indians. He therefore stated that there was not the slightest chance of that Government agreeing to the proposal.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: But why were payments made by some pilgrims in sterling refused?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That was because of restrictions on the export of gold.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DELAY IN ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS FOR HAJ PILGRIMS.

426. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter published on page 4 of the *Ittehad*, Patna, dated the 8th October, 1944, from a Haj Pilgrim who has been stranded in Karachi;

(b) if it is a fact that Government's instructions for pilgrims were not prepared immediately after Government's declaration of arrangement of sailings;

(c) if it is a fact that Instruction and Reservation Cards were not sent to a great majority of pilgrims in time; if so, why; and

(d) what the number of pilgrims was who arrived at Karachi without the Receipt and Reservation Cards, for first and second batches separately?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) Instructions were prepared as soon as possible after Government's general announcement that Haj sailings would take place. Copies of Instructions were sent along with the cards reserving passages to intending pilgrims.

(c) No.

(d) Information is being collected.

†427.

RICE MILLS AND GROUND NUT DECORTICATORS.

428. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) how many rice-mills and groundnut decorticators there are actually at work in each of the Provinces of British India;

(b) what arrangements Government have made with them to ensure timely supply of paddy and decorticating groundnuts;

(c) what percentage of the price fixed for a bag of paddy of 164 pounds without gunny or a bag of groundnut of 164 pounds without gunny used to be charged before the war and in 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 is being charged by the mills concerned for their services;

(d) how Government propose to explain the inordinate rise in the charges allowed to these mills;

(e) whether it is not a fact that in areas where paddy and groundnut are able to be compulsorily requisitioned and acquired and where price control prevails, all that these mills are expected to do is to take charge of the produce acquired by Government and also hand over the processed product to the specified wholesale dealers of the prescribed places or areas;

†This question was postponed to be answered on the 20th November, 1944.

(f) why, under such circumstances, such high margins of profits are allowed to the millers over and above their legitimate charges for their processing charges;

(g) whether Government have considered the advisability of requisitioning these mills and thus preventing them from exploiting as at present both the producers of foodgrains and their ultimate consumers; if so, why Government have so far failed to requisition them;

(h) whether Government are not aware of the growing discontent among the peasants producing paddy and groundnut, due to the treatment meted out to them, as compared to these millers; and

(i) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of extending their control to every aspect of production in food products, especially the rice and decorticating millers?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) It is not possible to give the exact number of rice mills and groundnut decorticators that may be at work at any given time in each province. The Marketing Report on Rice (1940) estimated the number of rice mills in the country at about 10,000 and the Report on the Marketing of Groundnuts (1942) disclosed the existence of approximately 1,450 decorticating establishments.

(b) The Government of India have made no direct arrangements with them.

(c), (d) and (f). Hulling and decorticating charges vary considerably in different parts of India. As regards paddy in 1938-39 the hulling cost ranged from Re. 0-1-6 per maund to about Re. 0-4-0 per maund and represented five to ten per cent. of the cost of paddy.

These charges increased in 1940 with the increase in the prices of fuel, lubricants and spares. The latest information available for 1944 is that the proportionate cost of hulling remains much about the same as before the war.

(e) The precise terms and conditions under which rice mills operate in the different provinces are within the discretion of the Provincial Administrations concerned.

(g) This is a matter for the Provincial Governments.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The question of Government control is under constant examination with reference to the exigencies of the situation and the interests of consumers, producers and general foodgrains production as a whole.

PURCHASE OF PADDY AT PENALTY PRICE BY GRAIN PURCHASING OFFICERS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

429. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that Grain Purchasing Officers in the Madras Presidency claim the right of compulsorily acquiring peasants' paddy at a prescribed low price, if that paddy is not already sold at or below the ceiling price to the local rice mill-owners before a date fixed by himself and made known only to the miller or millers and not to the peasants concerned;

(b) how much per bag of paddy of 164 pounds this margin is between this low price—supposed to be the penalty price—and the ceiling price, and what percentage of the ceiling price it comes to be;

(c) whether it is not true that when paddy is acquired at the low (penalty) rates by the Grain Purchasing Officers, the party that is benefitted is neither the ultimate consumer nor the paddy-grower but the miller who does nothing special to either of them to deserve such a windfall or unearned profit;

(d) whether Government are aware that such a diversion of the penalty margin or fine to an undeserving party is against the principle governing the utilisation of fines imposed on labour under the Payment of Wages Act;

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of creating a special fund for the post-war reconstruction of the paddy-growers and groundnut producers from out of the proceeds of such penalties or fines imposed upon such peasants; and

(f) whether Government propose to order an enquiry with the assistance of suitable and representative non-official peasants into this whole question of relations between the paddy-growers and groundnut producers on the one hand and millers on the other, with a view to do justice to the producers and restrict, if not to prevent the profiteering by the millers?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Madras Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

CLOSING OF HAJ OFFICES ON EMBARKATION DAY.

430. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to an editorial of the *Adil*, Delhi, entitled "Musalmanon ke Shaaer-i-Mashabi men shuli madakhilat"?

(b) What were the circumstances under which the Haj Office, the Haj Booking Office and the Port Haj Committee Offices were locked up on the day of departure of the first batch of steamers?

(c) What action has been taken against the officers responsible for closing down the Haj Offices? If none, why?

(d) What are the circumstances under which pilgrims in possession of valid pilgrim passes are not permitted to come out of the Dock area to see their friends or relatives after once entering the Dock areas?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I understand that on the last day of the sailings after the bookings had closed, the staff were on duty at the embarkation shed where their presence was more necessary.

(d) The dock area is a protected place. Entry into and exit from it are controlled by regulations under the Defence of India Rules.

ENQUIRY OFFICE AT KARACHI HAJ CAMP.

431. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that an enquiry office was opened at the Haj Camp, Karachi, in open air?

(b) Is it a fact that no arrangements for the delivery of telegrams and post were in existence in the Haj Camp?

(c) Is it a fact that all incoming post used to be placed at the Enquiry Office, uncared for?

(d) Is it a fact that no responsible person was put in charge of the Enquiry Office table?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). All telegrams and letters were placed on a table at a prominent place in the Enquiry Office in charge of the staff on duty from where pilgrims could take delivery of them. Names of payees of money orders were announced in the microphone. This is the best arrangement that could be made.

(d) No.

INDIA'S ART TREASURES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

432. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to the fact that a great many art treasures belonging to India are in public and private collection in the United Kingdom?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of repurchasing these as one of the means of the settlement for the sterling balances accumulated in the United Kingdom?

(c) Do Government propose to ask His Majesty's Government to make a compulsory acquisition of all these for despatch to India? If so, will Government see that the prices paid are not very high, and will they instruct the High Commissioner to take the responsibility for refusing all items for which very prices are asked?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) It is probable that a number of articles of art of Indian origin are in collections in the United Kingdom.

(b) and (c). The answer to clause (b) and the first part of clause (c) are in the negative. The latter part of clause (c) does not arise.

CONSUMERS' COUNCIL.

433. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the policy behind the constitution of a Consumers' Council?

(b) What is the basis of the selection of the constitution of Consumers' Council?

(c) How many meetings of the Consumers' Council have been held since its formation?

(d) What has been the cost to the Government of India of these meetings?

(e) What were the resolutions and suggestions in the Consumers' Council which have been given effect to by the Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Council was set up as an advisory body to keep Government informed of the types of consumer goods required by the public, on the working of price control measures and about the manner in which distribution and control arrangements could be improved.

(b) Prominent men and women were appointed to the Council to represent the views of the different classes of the consuming public in different parts of India.

(c) Two.

(d) Rs. 5,746.

(e) Resolutions were passed at the first meeting recommending paper economy in Government Departments, an increase in staff for the enforcement of control orders, stiffer punishments for offences against control orders, wider publicity for control measures, provision of better facilities for lodging complaints against profiteers and the grant of all possible assistance to Indian industries in order to assist them to meet the demand for consumer goods. Whatever action was called for has been taken on all these resolutions.

At the second meeting resolutions were passed requesting Provincial Governments to introduce rationing schemes for kerosene and to provide quotas of stationery to principals of educational institutions. Action is being taken on these resolutions.

NON-RECOGNITION OF MEDICAL DEGREES OF ANDHRA UNIVERSITY BY GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

434. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware of the fact that the medical graduates of the Andhra University were not permitted to sit for the preliminary M.R.C.P. (London) Examination held in India on the 17th March, 1944, on the mere ground that the medical degrees of the Andhra University were not recognizable by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom?

(b) Have the Government of India received any communication on the above subject from the Andhra University, the old Boys' Association of the Andhra Medical College, Vizagapatam, and the Medical Council of India? If so, what action has been taken by them with regard to the above representations? If none, why?

(c) In view of the fact that the Government of India had once recognized the Andhra Medical Degrees in their Notification No. 52-60/33-H., dated the 5th October, 1933; under Section 3 of the Indian Medical Degrees Act of 1916 and again recognized them in their Notification No. F-43-16/39-H, dated the 4th May 1939 [amended by Notification No. F.A3-4/A1-H(c), dated the 17th July, 1941, under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1933], what additional advantages were conferred on the above medical graduates by the fresh recognition under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1933?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part the Medical Council of India is competent to negotiate direct with the

General Medical Council for the recognition by that body of British Indian medical qualifications. The Medical Council of India has already taken up the matter with the General Medical Council.

(c) The Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916, and the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, serve different purposes. The notification of the Government of India under the Indian Medical Degrees Act was to authorise the Andhra University to confer medical qualifications, stating or implying that the holder of such qualifications is qualified to practise Western medical science. The recognition under the Indian Medical Council Act was to indicate that the qualifications recognised conform to that standard of higher education in medicine necessary to secure such recognition. I may add that without such recognition, would not have been possible for the Indian Medical Council to request the General Medical Council to recognise this degree.

RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT, ETC., OF CARDAMOMS AND PEPPER.

435. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if he is aware—

(i) that present restrictions on the export of and trading in cardamoms and pepper have caused a sharp recession in prices, with resulting hardship to the growers of these products in South India;

(ii) that cardamom and pepper are the only money crops possible in the climatic conditions of certain areas of the Western Ghats and their foothills;

(iii) that in the case of cardamoms, since the restrictions referred to have been imposed, price levels have fallen by 60 to 70 per cent since 1943, and are now lower than before the war; and

(iv) that as a result many growers are faced with acute distress, and those with little or no resources are abandoning their estates, and allowing them to revert to jungle?

(b) if the Government of India propose to consider the advisability of relaxing the restrictions on export and internal trading, and of taking such other steps as may be necessary to alleviate the distress caused by present price levels?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will answer first as regards cardamoms:

(a) (i) Government are aware that there has been a sharp fall in prices.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes.

(iv) Complaints to this effect have been received in respect of cardamoms and an inquiry has been made in the matter from the Government of Madras.

(b) Yes. The matter is already under the consideration of Government.

As regards pepper there has been no sharp fall in prices and there are no restrictions on internal movement. As regards export we have agreed to allow export to the full amount available and Food Department is making the necessary purchases by negotiation and tender from the Trade.

HAJ PILGRIMS.

436. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth relations please state:

(a) the latest figures as to how many Hedjaz pilgrims have so far arrived at the ports;

(b) how many have actually secured passages;

(c) how many are still waiting for their passages; and

(d) whether steps have been taken to give timely warning to others who may not be able to get accommodation in ships not to proceed to the ports?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). I am afraid this information cannot be given for security reasons.

(c) None.

(d) Instructions issued by Government made it clear that no accommodation could be guaranteed for persons applying after the 15th of October. Such persons were also asked not to proceed to the port.

PAPER PERMITS TO NEWSPAPERS IN CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

437. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if permission in writing of the Central Government under the Paper Control Order, 1942, Clause 3(a), is necessary for the publication of any newspaper?

(b) How many applications from Central Provinces and Berar were granted under the above order?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No. Permission is now necessary under clause 10(a) of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, for starting the publication of a new newspaper, provided it is proposed to print it on paper other than newsprint.

(b) No new newspaper was allowed under the Paper Control Order, 1942, to start publication in the Central Provinces and Berar. Two periodicals which had suspended publication were allowed to restart publication under the provisions of this Order.

REFUSAL OF PAPER PERMIT TO MR. HASHMI OF NAGPUR FOR STARTING A MAGAZINE.

438. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is a fact that Mr. Shahidul Hashmi of Nagpur had applied on the 18th March, 1944, for the supply of paper to publish an Urdu magazine from Nagpur?

(b) Is it a fact that on the 18th August, 1944, Mr. Hashmi was informed by the Government of India that, in view of the extremely acute supply position of paper, permission could not be granted to him to start the magazine?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, but Mr. Shahidul Hashmi of Nagpur applied for permission to start a new Urdu magazine from Nagpur.

(b) The request was refused.

REFUSAL OF PAPER PERMIT TO MR. HASHMI OF NAGPUR FOR STARTING A MAGAZINE.

439. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware that there are only two Urdu newspapers *Al Farooq* and *Alburhan* in Central Provinces and Berar for about 6,00,000 Urdu knowing public (*vide* recent census report for Central Provinces and Berar)?

(b) Is the Honourable Member, in view of the fact that after the enforcement of the Paper Control Order permission was granted to start two Hindi papers in Nagpur, prepared to reconsider the application of Mr. Hashmi?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) No permission to start new newspapers in Hindi from Nagpur was given. The Government of India is always prepared to consider reasonable requests.

SCARCITY OF KEROSENE IN RURAL AREAS.

440. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware of the hardships that a villager in the rural areas is undergoing to secure an ounce of kerosene oil?

(b) Is Government aware that rationing of kerosene in rural areas is a total failure?

(c) Are the Government of India aware of the inadequate supply of kerosene to the villages and their increasing struggle to procure even a small quantity to illumine their homes?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) The internal distribution of the quotas allotted to Provinces has been left to Provincial Governments. The Government of India have no reason to believe that the rationing of kerosene in rural areas is a 'total failure'.

(c) In order to alleviate hardship, the Government of India have increased supplies during the winter months by about 10 per cent.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. JAMNADAS MEHTA AS INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER WITH BURMA GOVERNMENT.

441. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether the news report that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has been appointed as High Commissioner for India with the Burma Government in India is true;

(b) whether it is true that he will be allowed to retain his seat in the Assembly when he has taken this office of profit under the crown; and

(c) under what law he is allowed to do that?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has been appointed Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma.

(b) Yes, if he so desires.

(c) Under clause (c) of section 2 of the Indian Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Ordinance, 1942 (Ordinance LXII of 1942), the Central Government has certified the Office of the Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma to be an office created for a purpose connected with the prosecution of the war.

PROHIBITION OF DOWNWARD JOURNEYS IN ELECTRIC LIFTS OF THE COUNCIL HOUSE.

442. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Members of the Central Legislature are prohibited from making use of the downward journey of lifts (Electric) installed in the various sectors of the Council House;

(b) whether it is a fact that the staff of the Central Public Works Department in spite of the notice prohibiting the use of electric lifts for downward journey do use it;

(c) if the replies to (a) and (b) or any of them be in the affirmative, the extent of economy achieved during the past for running these lifts without passengers; and

(d) if the replies to (a) and (b) or any of them be in the negative, the correct fact and the reasons for differential treatment?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) As stated in the notice exhibited in lifts officers are requested to avoid the use of lifts except for going up more than one floor at a time. A copy of the notice is laid on the table. There are no specific orders of prohibition, and the notice makes the request only to the officers of Government.

(b) No such cases have been brought to notice.

(c) The saving occurs by reason of lifts not being summoned for downward journeys. It is impossible to estimate the amount of saving effected by the request not to use lifts for downward journey.

(d) The facts have been stated. As the number of journeys by lift likely to be made by members was few, it was not thought necessary to address the request also to them.

By Order of H. C. Prior, Esquire, Secretary, Government of India, Department of Labour.
USE OF LIFTS.

1. It is necessary to economise as much as possible in the use of lifts. If economy is not secured it will probably be necessary to close down all lifts.
2. Officers are requested to avoid the use of lifts except for going up more than one floor at a time. Lifts can, however, be summoned when required for any special purpose.
3. Bells on the first floor and second floor have been disconnected.
4. Lifts will not be available after 6 P.M.

DETERIORATION OF FOODGRAINS STOCKED IN SIBPORE BOTANICAL GARDEN.

443. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member aware of the fact that huge quantity of foodgrains stocked in the Sibpore Botanical Garden had become soiled and unfit for consumption? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a statement regarding the following:

- (i) what was the tonnage of the whole foodgrain stocked in the Botanical Garden and how much was rice, wheat, maize, and millet;
- (ii) under whose charge was it kept and how it was allowed to be soiled so badly;
- (iii) what was the price of the whole stock; and
- (iv) was any officer responsible for this sort of negligence and loss prosecuted and punished?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the whole stock of foodgrains was used for levelling the Pyne park in Howrah? By whose order was this stock removed for the aforesaid purpose? Did the Howrah Municipality pay anything for the soiled foodgrains used for the purpose?

(c) Who was the purchasing agent? How long was the whole stock allowed to remain there and why was not this stock kept in godowns, and if godowns were not available why was it not placed under a shed constructed there even for temporary use? Why was it not distributed when it was found impossible to find shelter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (c). Out of one hundred and twenty thousand tons which passed through the depot 3,000 tons or two and a half per cent had to be destroyed. Some of this grain was defective when placed in the depot and some was affected by damp and insects while there. The grain was properly stacked and every effort was made to avoid deterioration, but grain stored in such conditions in the climate of Bengal must inevitably suffer damage. It had to be so stored as the volume of grain arriving in Calcutta was greater than the storage accommodation available to the Provincial Government, and immediate distribution was impossible. The depot was opened in December, 1943 and closed in August, 1944. The grain which had to be destroyed was placed in compost pits to be used for manure. So far as I am aware the grain was not used for the purpose suggested in part (b) of the question but I have made further enquiries to which I have not yet received a reply and the information will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

BAD QUALITY OF RICE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH RATION SHOPS IN CALCUTTA.

444. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if soiled foodgrain specially rice and wheat had been thrown into pits in Calcutta in August last? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a statement on the matter?

(b) Has the Honourable Member come to learn that fine quality of rice stacked in godowns is substituted by bad and coarse quality of rice which is distributed through Government and ration shops in Calcutta? Is he acquainted with general complaints regarding supply of bad quality of rice to consumers not only in Calcutta but in mofussil as well? Has the Honourable Member any scheme to improve the situation in Bengal regarding the quality of rice and the classification of rice?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that where there is rationing, fine, medium and coarse quality of rice is sold for Rs. 16.4 per maund? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to reduce the price according to the quality of rice, and will the Honourable Member be pleased to see that the distributors are supplied with rice without being adulterated with stone chips, stone dusts and street dusts to keep up the weight?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his question No. 443 today.

(b) No case of substitution of fine quality rice by bad rice in godowns has been brought to my notice, but I am aware of complaints regarding quality. The Government of India have already pressed upon Provincial Governments, the necessity to take adequate steps to ensure good quality of rationed foodgrains.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The Government of India have already suggested the classification of rice into different grades to the Government of Bengal and their reply is still awaited.

SETTING UP OF CO-OPERATIVE STORES IN BENGAL.

445. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether he has encouraged co-operative system of distribution in Bengal in order to curb profiteering through black market? If so, how many such Co-operative Stores have been set up district by district in Bengal?

(b) Is it under contemplation that a Co-operative Producers and Co-operative Distributors Society will be set up ere long? Is not the Honourable Member aware that the normal trade channels had proved themselves to be profiteering concerns during the famine season in Bengal and in all Provinces as well?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Information regarding the number and location of Co-operative Stores in the Districts of Bengal is not readily available.

(b) The Bengal Government have under active consideration proposals for the greater use of Co-operative Societies.

INDIAN STUDENTS STRANDED IN ENGLAND, OWING TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF PASSAGE FACILITIES.

446. *Mr. K. G. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a Reuter's message from London, dated August 26, 1944, that a large number of Indian students who completed their studies long ago are unable to return to India owing to non-availability of passage facilities;

(b) whether he is aware that a large number of these students have qualified as first-class engineers and technicians and that their return to India now would assist the war effort as well as the plans for post-war development;

(c) whether he would take any steps to urge the British Ministry of Transport to grant the students priority in allotment of passages; and

(d) whether the High Commissioner has been in communication with Government in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This question relates to the Defence Department and will be answered by the War Secretary.

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS DUE TO DETERIORATION IN BENGAL.

447. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the total loss of all foodgrains both in storage and transit including loss due to deterioration and decomposition in terms of quantity and in monetary terms during each of the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 up to October in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No data in terms of volume or money exist which enable me to give a specific answer to the Honourable Members' question nor is it possible to obtain the information and assess it.

INFLUENCE OF ARMY PURCHASES ON FOOD SITUATION IN BENGAL.

448. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether the recommendation of the Gregory Committee to investigate the impact and influence on the food situation of the presence of overseas forces has been implemented so far as Bengal is concerned?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the price of all foodstuffs other than foodgrains has increased to the extent of 100 percent to 200 percent over the price which prevailed during the Bengal famine of 1943?

(c) What are the categorical reasons for that increase?

(d) To what extent has the increase in price been influenced by army purchases?

(e) Has any step been taken or is proposed to be taken to safeguard the position of the civil population in this behalf?

(f) Have the Government come to any decision as regards remedies for the increase in the price of foodstuffs in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). The Foodgrains Policy Committee drew the attention of the Military authorities, as well as the Food Department, to a matter which was already engaging the attention of Government. Prices have risen because of increased local demand combined with difficulties of movement. The military authorities have given their fullest co-operation to the Civil Administration in reducing the effect of the presence of additional troops in Bengal on available supplies of foodstuffs by taking their own measures to produce what they need.

(b), (d), (e) and (f). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 49 by Mr. K. C. Neogy on 2nd November 1944.

RULES FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOODSTUFFS FOR CIVIL REQUIREMENTS.

449. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether the rules for the procurement of foodstuffs for civil requirements are made by the Provinces or by the centre;

(b) whether complaints have reached him from the Provinces that these rules have been applied indiscriminately on ryots who have had good crops and on others who had not crops owing to want of water in the wells and the failure of rain;

(c) whether he is aware that this is due to want of proper statistics in the villages; and

(d) whether Government have any proposals to improve these statistics?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) By the provinces.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government are aware of the need to improve statistics. In permanently settled areas steps are being taken to obtain correct acreage statistics by field enumeration. Experimental schemes have been carried out by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to determine the yield of wheat in the Punjab and U. P. and to check other methods in force. Random sample surveys have been tried in Bengal and Bihar with considerable success.

FIXATION OF PRICES OF FOODGRAINS.

450. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) for what foodgrains prices are fixed by the Centre and for what by the Provinces;

(b) the basis of this division; and

(c) the factors which Government take into consideration while fixing these prices?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (c). The prices of the principal foodgrains in the primary wholesale markets are fixed by the Provinces in consultation with the Government of India. In reaching its decisions the Government of India is advised by the Price Advisory Committee, and takes into consideration:

(i) the maintenance of production, involving a fair price to the producer;

(ii) the cost to the consumer;

(iii) the size of the crop;

(iv) current market prices;

(v) the general price level of other commodities; and

(vi) price levels in neighbouring regions.

ANTI-EROSION MEASURES FOR SIND AND OTHER PROVINCES.

451. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) In taking effective anti-erosion measures for the future well-being of India, has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to the constant recurrence of such happenings on the Indus in the portion which runs through the Sind Province and which causes 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?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Government are aware that erosion is taking place in many areas. The Policy Committee on Agriculture recommended the setting up of a Land Utilisation Board and a committee is being appointed to advise as to the lines on which the Board should be organised and the functions it should perform. In the meantime Government are also considering the question of the appointment of an anti-erosion officer.

POSTPONED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(Postponed from 10th November, 1944)

TOUR OF INDIAN SCIENTISTS IN UNITED KINGDOM AND AMERICA.

224. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay on the table a programme of the tour and visits of the deputation of scientists to the United Kingdom and the United States of America?

(b) How long will the tour last?

(c) Will these scientists be given an opportunity to order for Indian Laboratories some of the latest instruments prepared during the war?

(d) Has the Government of India assured that these scientists will cover among themselves all important branches of science?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The detailed programmes of the tours are being drawn up in the United Kingdom and the United States of America in consultation with the visiting scientists. Copies are not available in India.

(b) The scientists are expected to spend about 6 weeks in the United Kingdom and about the same period in the United States of America.

(c) The scientists will have opportunities of establishing contacts with scientists and scientific instrument makers and of ordering laboratory equipment if they have been authorised to do so by any laboratory in India. Government have no information that they have been so authorised.

(d) The party is a small one and could not be expected to cover the whole field of scientific research. The subjects in which the nine gentlemen to whom His Majesty's Government extended an invitation may be considered to have specialised include medicine, especially Physiology, Gynaecology and medical education; Cotton Industry; Industrial Chemistry; Physical Chemistry; Radio research; Astro Physics; Colloids and Soil Chemistry; general agricultural and Veterinary research on the organisational side.

WORK OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

226. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please lay on the table of the House a full statement giving a summary of the work done by various committees appointed by his Department in connection with post-war reconstruction?

(b) What would be the tariff policy of the Government of India after the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) A statement is being prepared and will be laid on the table of the House when ready.

(b) Government's post-war tariff policy is at present under consideration.

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Essak Saif Noon wishes to move for leave to amend the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly by adding to them a Standing Order in the following manner:

"A Standing Committee shall be constituted separately for every department of the Government of India to advise on the activities of the department concerned. These Committees shall be constituted from among the members of the Legislative Assembly together

[Mr. President]

with such members of the Council of State as that House may determine. The mode of constitution of these Committees, their strength, the duration of these Committees and whether the membership shall be confined to a particular class of members (i.e., official, non-official, elected or nominated) shall, from time to time, be determined by the Legislative Assembly on motions made by Government Members for the constitution of such Committees."

I would like to know if the Honourable Member has leave of the House to move this motion.

Several Honourable Members: No objection.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That the draft amendment to the Standing Orders be referred to a Select Committee."

Sir, I want briefly to explain.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): No speeches are to be made at this stage.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to that, the ruling is that no speeches are allowed at the time of asking for leave. I do not know whether there is any ruling which prevents a Member from speaking at this stage, but the ruling that I have here at page 1011, Vol. V, 1935

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No speech.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Not that I am very anxious to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member wishes to speak, I should like to know if there is any Rule or Standing Order which stands in the way of his making a speech at this stage.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The ruling given in 1935 was to the effect that no speeches were to be made whether at the time of leave or after that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member wanted in that case leave to amend the Standing Order and it is only at that stage that no speech is allowed.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is nothing further to be done.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a motion and he wants to speak in support of the motion.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not opposing reference to a Select Committee. All I wanted to make perfectly clear was that we oppose the amendment

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may have something to say in support of his motion?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): He must make out a *prima facie* case in favour of it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: So far as Government position is concerned, I want to make it perfectly clear that we do not oppose reference to a Select Committee, but we certainly oppose the amendment.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Sir, I would like briefly to explain the amendment that I want to move, because so many Members have been asking what it is about.

So far as I know, there is no provision in our Standing Orders for constituting Standing Committees for the various departments. It is all done under a Notification of the Home Department. It is only by the kindness of the Home Department that this House is allowed to have these committees. So, I want this House to have the power to form the committees under our own Standing Orders. That is one object. The other is that the House should also have the right to say whether the membership of these committees shall be confined to a particular class of Members of the House alone. There is a ruling on this question—and it has been reiterated in 'A Selection from the Decisions of the Chair'—*vide* paragraph 253 on pages 170-171—that under the Notification of the Home Department under which these committees are being formed, this House has got no power, even if the House wants unanimously, to restrict the membership to a particular section of the House. Last Session, Sir, I asked

for your guidance and you suggested that the only way to do it was to amend the Standing Orders, so that the House may have the power. These are the two objects of my motion, which I commend to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the draft amendment to the Standing Orders be referred to a Select Committee."

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not going to make any speech but as I have said before I want to make it perfectly clear to the House that we are opposed to this amendment and we shall try our level best to secure a recommendation from the Select Committee that this motion be not proceeded with.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I was not prepared for the statement made by the Leader of the House today. We have many surprises in store and this is one of them. As the Government have themselves been moving every year for Committees to be elected by this House, attached to the various departments, I thought that a statutory provision like this would be liked. But I see the Government would like to choose the departments for which they would have Committees. Even an innocent measure like this is being opposed, and having in view the present sort of Government that is going on in this country—absolutely irresponsible and irresponsive—I thought the Government would take the public into confidence at least in this measure and that they would like to place some important subjects in the departments before some Committees. But what do we find? We find that they are not prepared to place it not only before the House but also before Committees of this House. Today the greater portion of this country is ruled under Section 93. Similar to the Central Government today most of the Provinces are ruled by Governors and their Advisers, and in these circumstances the influence of the Central Government upon the Provinces is much more than it was ever before, and even in the few places where any nominal form of elected representatives are carrying on as in Sind, it is virtually the Governor that rules. The influence of the Central Government is felt much more than it was ever before and today it is more necessary than at any other time that Committees at least should be set up for every department in which Members concerned can put forward what they have to say to the Members of the Committee.

We have been on these Committees all these years. I have myself experience of two of these Committees. I have been in the Standing Finance Committee for many years and I have been in the Commerce Committee and my experience was that the things brought forward before us in these Committees are very little. We have seen discussions in this House for the election of the Standing Finance Committee. Suggestions have been put forward by the various Members of this House that the scope of the Committee should be enlarged, that many more things should be brought before the Committee and the Committee should be taken into the confidence of the Finance Member and the Department concerned. But to all these representations, till today, we have seen no satisfactory replies.

Sir James Grigg, when he was here, made suggestions about an Estimates Committee, but that fell through after he went away and to this day we have yet to receive suggestions about the reconstitution of the Standing Finance Committee. It is all done in the old way. In the Commerce Committee the subjects that were brought before us were of a most trivial character. Matters of small legislation might be brought before us. Matters of importance will never and have never been brought before these Committees. And I ask you, why? I see only one reason, and the one reason is that the Government and the Members of the Government as they are constituted are well aware that this Government is run not in the interests of the people of this country but in the interests of the alien rulers under whom they take orders. You will have seen in the press reports about the copy of Mr. Phillips' letter to President Roosevelt.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I submit that this is irrelevant.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If you will hear me further you will then hear the relevancy of my remarks.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I missed the point.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Reference to Mr. Phillips' letter.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That is by way of illustration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Even in matters of little detail the Government of India

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not refer to these matters.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not want to quote this letter. It is not necessary. This is the conclusion we have come to after many years.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the conclusion?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The conclusion we have come to is that this Government is dictated to even in the smallest detail by the Government of Great Britain.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): A very old complaint!

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Oh, yes: and that is the only reason that this Government have to object to even innocent measures like this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think that on this motion the Honourable Member need not go into all these things.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is the only reason that they can have to object to innocent measure like this. I wholeheartedly support this motion.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I rise to give my wholehearted support to this motion. Time and again have I urged that the composition of many of the Committees was unsatisfactory and I have also urged again and again that the functions allotted to many of the Committees of this House were not what they should be. Very unimportant functions are often assigned to these Committees and the more important functions are kept away from them. It is therefore desirable that this Legislative Assembly should frame its own rules with regard to the composition of every departmental Committee and with regard to the functions which should be assigned to it. Then, again, I must say that certain sections of the House predominate on these Committees. I will give you an instance. If you take the Standing Finance Committee, you find that the Committee is packed in such a way that the independent Members thereon can have very little say in regard to matters put before them for their deliberation. The Members selected for each Committee as representatives of certain sections of the House depend entirely on the will of the Member in charge. This is a very unsatisfactory state of things, and the time has come when the Assembly should decide as to the composition of every Committee and as to the functions which should be assigned to each one of these Committees.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): I had no desire to intervene in this debate but the remarks which fell from the Leader of the House have prompted me to say something. The attitude of the Honourable the Leader of the House to this amendment,—which proposes to add one more Standing Order to the existing Standing Orders, is very strange indeed. Before a Select Committee of the House has had time to go into the matter and discuss all the pros and cons relating to this particular amendment, he has felt the necessity of getting up in the House and saying that he is going to oppose it whatever happens. By doing so the Honourable the Leader of the House was acting very much like the gentleman whom his Department, the Broadcasting Department, is never tired of abusing in season and out of season. His attitude was really a typical Fascist attitude.

Sir, the Government of India, as we all know, is an irresponsible body. They would not listen to the country-wide demand that there should be a National Government in this country responsible to the people of the land. That being the case, even in a small matter like the composition of Committees,

Government of India is not prepared to accede to the verdict of the House, they are not prepared to listen to the advice which is to be tendered to them by the elected Members who represent the people of this country, and they insist that the present practice should be retained whereby even in a Standing Committee they can have their nominees to advise them.

It is a ridiculous situation indeed that people who do not represent anybody, that people who have got absolutely no voice in this country, people who are merely the nominees of the Government of India and are kept here simply to vote for them in the manner they are ordered to do, in spite of their conscience, in spite of what may be passing in their mind,—it is really ridiculous indeed that such people should be brought into committees to advise the Government of India, and that is why the Government of India insist that the present position should be retained. You are not even prepared to listen to advice . . .

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I never said that we will not be prepared to listen to the advice tendered in the Select Committee. We are quite open to conviction but we, at the same time, hope that the other members of the Select Committee will also be open to conviction.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: This is exactly the position which I am going to oppose. After all what is the advice which the Nominated Members, if they are members of these committees, are likely to give to the Government or to the various departments of the Government? Therefore it should be left to the House to decide that in important committees which have to advise the various Departments of the Government of India, the decision should be left entirely to the elected Members of the House, and that the nominated Members should be entirely excluded. But the language of the Standing Order which has been proposed is not very rigid: There is scope left . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member aware that the Governor General can frame a rule which can nullify any Standing Order?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I know that the Governor General is all-powerful but, at the same time, we are bent upon expressing our opinion and carrying it on the floor of the House, and we will leave it to the Governor General to ride rough-shod over our opinions, if he is so minded. At the same time, as I was suggesting, the language of this Standing Order is not so rigid indeed. We know that there are certain interests like Labour interests and certain minority interests in this House and the discretion will be still there for the elected Members of the House to see that those interests do have a voice in these committees. But as far as other nominated Members,—who are here merely to register the decrees of the Government, are concerned, it is the desire of this side of the House, it is the desire of the majority, I may say even the unanimous desire, of the elected Members of this House to see that such Members are excluded from the committees which are going to be set up to advise various Departments of the Government of India.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, if I rise to speak at all, it is only to nip the mischief in the bud. My friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, suggested that this was a very innocent motion. I personally feel, and from the point of view of the interests I seek to represent, that it is not merely a mischievous motion but also a motion which insinuates against people like me. Whether my friends like it or not; whether they call themselves elected or otherwise, whether they belong to the Congress or the Muslim League, the fact remains that the House today is so composed that they must come in along with others like me to compose this House and it is not my fault that I am here to represent my community by the process of nomination. How many members sitting on the Congress Benches opposite, who say that they represent cent. per cent. of the elected Members of the House, ever choose to think of the fact that they themselves have not the right to elect a member of the Depressed Classes to come to the Legislature? What chance is there, unless it is by nomination, that any people can ever get represented here? That being so, and it is necessarily rightly so, provision for nomination



[Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj.]

has been made for the representation of interests like ours. Actually we have already made a complaint against the method of nomination that was resorted to by the Government of India. We always thought and we still think (it is also the recommendation of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report) that nomination ought to be resorted to for the purpose of securing representation of interests for which no provision has been made by the process of election or to seek to redress or make adequate representation of elements possible, which otherwise is inadequate. For the way it has been done so far by the Government is such as to give increased representation to people who are already here, like the Muhammadans, Sikhs and others, thus to shut out the representation of the Scheduled Castes except to the extent of giving them a token representation by nominating a member or two at the most. That is the position.

Apart from the fact that I consider the motion insulting I must protest against the insinuation that lies behind, viz., the position of the nominated Members with reference to the formation of the Standing Committees. I therefore want to oppose this motion at its very inception.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I venture to think that I have a sort of special claim to participate in this discussion. It may not be known to most of the Honourable Members of this House that the constitution of Advisory Committees attached to the different departments of the Government of India came up for consideration in the first Legislative Assembly at my instance. I had the honour of moving a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly on the 19th January, 1922, recommending the appointment of Standing Committees to be elected by the Members of the Legislature and to be associated with the Departments of the Government of India. I based that resolution on certain recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which again was supported by certain observations made by the famous Montagu-Chelmsford Report. On that occasion the Government of India was opposed to the constitution of these Committees and the Resolution had to be pressed to a division and it was carried by a large majority. I am afraid I have thus been responsible for not a little of the agony that I find is being caused to the Government in their effort to dodge these committees and the agony which is felt by the non-official Members who are members of these Committees in trying to do a little more useful work than they are permitted to do. I do not want to take the House through all the various observations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on this subject or the observations made in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. But then I should like to point out that it was definitely intended that the Members who would be associated with the different administrative departments of the Government of India would be consulted on all important matters of policy and on all new questions that may arise from time to time. The recommendation with regard to similar committees in the case of the Provincial Legislatures went a little further than that. But then the authorities to whom I have referred were a little cautious in referring to the committees of the Central Legislature. They said, having regard to the distances involved, these committees might not be summoned at very frequent intervals. And then, again, having regard to the character of the Central Government, the functions proposed for these committees would not also be of the very same character as those of the committees of the Provincial Legislature. But subject to these considerations the Montagu-Chelmsford Report said:

"There should be no difficulty ordinarily in obtaining their views on important new projects, whether legislative or administrative."

I want to ask those Honourable Members who have served on these committees to say whether this expectation of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report has been fulfilled. I was a member of one or two of these committees in the olden days, and it is because of the utter futility of membership of such committees that I have not consented to stand for election to any of these committees of late. I have every sympathy with my Honourable friend, Mr. Essak Sait, in the proposed amendment that he has put forward, because the time has arrived

when we should try to place these committees on a more or less statutory footing and assign proper duties to them, subject, of course, to some of the considerations which the Joint Parliamentary Committee mentioned; but then, subject only to the minimum possible safeguards, I do think that these committees should be allowed to play their part in advising the departments concerned in the manner in which they were expected to do by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I say a word or two? It seems that there are some Members who by framing this Standing Order want to exclude the nominated Members from some of the committees. That seems to be one of the objects of this motion.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Not necessarily.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Personally as a nominated Member, I am not prepared to part with any of the privileges which belong to a Member of this Legislature, and I do not think that any Select Committee of this House will deprive nominated Members of their privileges. So far as dissatisfaction with some of the advisory committees is concerned, I share the dissatisfaction as regards the working of these committees, along with all Members. These committees are not treated properly by the various Departments of the Government of India. They are treated as a sort of plaything. They call one or two meetings in the whole year, and the agenda placed before these committees is also in my judgment, if I may say so, very trivial. But I would like to ask the House how they can secure the object by this amendment. You propose to form committees by your own standing orders to advise the Government; will the Government seek your advice? I do not know of any section of the constitution by which a committee of this House can force its advice upon Government; and I therefore feel that if the Government is opposed to this standing order the appointment of these committees will not serve its purpose.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Why should the Government be opposed?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: As regards the function of these committees, I myself have said several times in the Legislature that if the Government insists upon the proceedings of these committees being confidential, the House should refuse to appoint its representatives on these committees. When the Legislature should appoint its Members for a committee which functions as a general rule confidentially weakens the Legislature. The Legislature does not know how its representatives do their work on the various committees, and unfortunately on account of the Members being on various committees an impression is created that the Government of India have consulted the committees. The Government of India will not tell the House whether the proposals on which they have consulted the committees were approved by the committee or not. The House does not even know whether the proposals were approved or not but the Government of India can always say that they have consulted the committees. I feel this fact itself weakens the control of the Legislature over the executive Government, and I have several times suggested to the House that if the Government insists upon the proceedings of these committees being confidential, the House should refuse to elect its Members on these committees.

There is one more question. Some people expressed dissatisfaction with these committees on account of their composition. My Honourable friend Dr. Banerjee did so. I do not see why Dr. Banerjee should throw the blame of the weakness of the elected Members upon the nominated Members. This House consists of 140 Members, out of whom only 39 are nominated. 101 are elected. (An Honourable Member: "Including the Europeans.") Including Europeans—the Europeans are 11 or 10. (An Honourable Member: "9.") In a House of 140, then, you can exclude 48 and you have got 92. If, now, 92 Members remain present and do their duty honestly, then they need not complain about the nominated Members at all. They have got a clear majority. So long as

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

the committees are elected on proportional representation, you have no right to complain. If you are complaining, you should have a complaint against the elected Members. You should expose those elected Members who do not do their duty or who are unwilling to do so. If there are 92 elected Members in his House and only 48 Members against them, if the elected Members complain that their voice is not heard, it is their fault. I would therefore suggest to my Honourable friend Dr. Banerjee that they should combine in the first place for elections. They do not. If they combine, 92 Members can certainly get a majority of two-thirds in any committee. If they do not combine, it is their fault. Therefore let them first learn to combine and do their duty honestly. If the Members do not attend the Legislature it is their fault. I therefore suggest that the elected Members should have some more introspection and try to find out where the weakness and the fault lies. Certainly you may exclude the nominated Members: if you have the majority you can do so, and personally, so far as I am concerned, if you do not elect me, I certainly will not complain. If you have a committee without me, try to do your best without me. I shall not therefore oppose this motion. Let the Select Committee be appointed; let the report come before the Legislature and let that report be considered, and I have no doubt that this question is a very important one and therefore it is worth while our considering this question in Select Committee.

Some 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): The question is:

"That the draft amendment to the Standing Orders be referred to a Select Committee."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Standing Order 56(2) of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders requires that the Select Committee to which the draft amendment of the Standing Orders shall be referred, shall consist of the President, the Deputy President and seven other Members selected by the Assembly by means of the single transferable vote.

I have accordingly to announce that the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations for this Select Committee up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 17th November, and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Monday, the 20th November. The election, 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 PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume further consideration of the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I merely wish to say that in accordance with what I said yesterday I have consulted the Honourable Members principally interested and amendments have been put in which will be found to be acceptable to Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now deal with the Bill clause by clause. The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That to clause 7 of the Bill, the following proviso be added:

"Provided that nothing in this section shall bar the recognition by the Bank of the manager or the sole surviving male member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law as having a title to a Government security, when the security appears to the Bank to stand in the name of a deceased member of the family and an application is made by such manager or sole surviving member for recognition of his title and is supported by 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 Government security formed part of the joint property of the family, and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family."

Explanation:—The expression 'Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law' shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to include a Malabar *tarwad*."

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): Sir, I want to ask for your ruling on a point of order. I received notice of this amendment last night. I do not know whether this is the one which has been put forward as the result of consultations with the Honourable the Finance Member. If it is an agreed amendment, I do not suppose that we on these Benches would want to oppose it. I am raising this point now because there is an increasing tendency in this House for amendments to be moved by Honourable Members notwithstanding that they contravene Standing Order 46 and we in this Group feel unanimously that this is a very bad and dangerous practice.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This is an agreed amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that an amendment to the same effect was tabled two days ago.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: An amendment to the same effect was tabled, as soon as the Select Committee report was presented to the House and this amendment is an agreed amendment between the Honourable the Finance Member and some of the Members who have proposed similar amendments.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Objection was taken before the Honourable the Deputy President who was in the Chair that this motion should not be moved, as the Report of the Select Committee had not been before the House for full seven days. The Deputy President apparently did waive the Standing Order and allowed the motion to be moved. In those circumstances the amendments of which notice had been given for less than two days could be moved. I do not see that there is any serious objection to this amendment.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I just want to make one observation, with reference to what you have said. We on these Benches do not want in any way to obstruct or oppose the proposal now before the House but what we do want to emphasize is the tendency which always arises when Government and the Congress are here in force for the Congress and the Government to make arrangements over the head of everybody else and then we are expected to waive the Standing-Order. I am not suggesting that in this case there is anything wrong at all. I do not want that impression to get about.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I quite agree with the Honourable Member that when any amendment is placed before the House as a result of arrangement between the Government Member and certain Members of the Opposition it is only fair that other Members should have notice of the amendment and if it is an agreed amendment, there could be no objection to its being moved.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It was with the consent of the House.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I have nothing to say in amplification of this amendment. It is an agreed amendment and in this particular amendment.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, I rise to a point of order. It is merely in order that a wrong precedent may not be set that I rise to a point of order. This amendment, as it

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

stands just now, was received by us late last night. It is not the same amendment exactly as was moved by the Honourable Member or was given notice of by the Honourable Member himself some days ago. It is now an agreed amendment between the Honourable the Finance Member and the Honourable the Mover. But we received notice of it late last night. I have no objection to the amendment being moved at all but I do think that the permission of the House should be obtained before this amendment is allowed to be moved and the Standing Order should be waived in all these cases so that a wrong precedent may not be set. Today we are all agreed and today all of us want it to be moved. Next time the Honourable the Finance Member and some other Honourable Members may come to terms.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member did not follow my ruling. I said that it is expected that other Members of the House should be taken into confidence and they should have notice. As the Honourable Member (Mr. Chapman-Mortimer), who raised this point of order, did not press it so far as this amendment was concerned, I allowed the discussion to proceed. There ought to be no misunderstanding. I have laid down time after time that whenever amendments are moved, sufficient notice to all the Members of the House should be given and I repeat that now.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then the vote of the House should be taken that this amendment should be allowed to be moved.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no need to take the vote of the House. In fact no objection has been taken to this amendment being moved.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I have nothing further to say except that I do maintain that this amendment is substantially identical with the amendment of which I had given notice. The alterations are of a more or less verbal nature. My Honourable friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer knew fully well about it when this matter was raised in the Select Committee. Anyway, so far as the procedure is concerned, I have nothing more to say. The fact that the House has discussed this amendment threadbare prevents me from saying anything further without unduly taking the time of the House.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That to clause 7 of the Bill, the following proviso be added:

'Provided that nothing in this section shall bar the recognition by the Bank of the manager or the sole surviving male member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law as having a title to a Government security, when the security appears to the Bank to stand in the name of a deceased member of the family and an application is made by such manager or sole surviving member for recognition of his title and is supported by 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 Government security formed part of the joint property of the family and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family.'

Explanation:—The expression 'Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law' shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to include a Malabar *tarwad*."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is an agreed amendment and so there is no need for a speech. I would only make a suggestion to the Finance Member. The certificate mentioned in this clause must be signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to this effect by the Government. The District Magistrate has been prescribed as such authority by the Rules made under the present Act. We would suggest whether it would not be better that this should be a summary inquiry by a judicial authority in the District. I would like the Finance Member to bear this point in mind when he considers the making of rules under clause 28 for this purpose.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: Sir, the amendment in its present form is one which has been agreed with me and therefore it is acceptable to the Government. I would like to say with reference to some of the apprehensions that have been expressed by Honourable Members that my sole concern was that if a provision of this nature was to be embodied in the statute, it should be technically in order and therefore I was anxious to have it properly examined and put in in the correct form by the Draftsman. That is the only reason why the ordinary procedure was slightly departed from. But I think it was in the interests of the House and in the interests of securing good legislation.

As regards the question asked by my Honourable friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, I am not quite sure that I understand the point of his suggestion. As I understand it, the whole desire for this amendment arises from the fact that instead of going to the courts in order, for instance, to obtain a succession certificate, it was desired that, as under the existing rules, the applicant should be able to get a certificate from the District Magistrate after due inquiry, certifying that he was the *karta* and that the security was the property of the joint Hindu family and so on. That I understood was regarded as a more convenient and expeditious mode of substantiating the claim than the normal method of going to the ordinary sub-judge or whoever might be the judicial authority. It was not the case that the applicant would, alternatively, have to go to the High Court or anything of that kind. I understand that the alternatives were proceedings in the local courts or this certificate from the District Magistrate. So, I am not clear what the Honourable Member is now suggesting. On the passing of this amendment and when the Bill becomes law, Government would naturally proceed to frame the rules very much in the sense of the existing rules.

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

"That to clause 7 of the Bill, the following proviso be added:

'Provided that nothing in this section shall bar the recognition by the Bank of the manager or the sole surviving male member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law as having a title to a Government security, when the security appears to the Bank to stand in the name of a deceased member of the family and an application is made by such manager or sole surviving member for recognition of his title and is supported by 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 Government security formed part of the joint property of the family and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family.'

Explanation:—The expression 'Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law' shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to include a Malabar *tarwad*."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 9 of the Bill, after the words 'is not produced to the Bank' the following be inserted:

'or proof to the satisfaction of the Bank that proceedings have been instituted to obtain one of these is not furnished,'"

Sir, this is an agreed amendment and nothing more need be said on it. It only gives the parties a little more time.

Sir, I move.

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

"That in clause 9 of the Bill, after the words 'is not produced to the Bank' the following be inserted:

'or proof to the satisfaction of the Bank that proceedings have been instituted to obtain one of these is not furnished,'"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 to 18 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Clause 14.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 14, the following words be omitted: 'or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him'."

I have very few words to say in support of this amendment. It may be that this particular sub-clause was introduced with a view to help those people who are supposed to come under clause 9. What I wish to say is this. If you give this very important right of recording evidence to such low paid officers as second class Magistrates, then there is very great fear that many of these people may not do justice to the duty entrusted to them. It may also happen that some interested people may get at the second class Magistrates more easily and try to prejudice the recording of this evidence with a view to jeopardise the interest of the lawful party. Therefore, I suggest that these words should be dropped so that this function of recording evidence will be left only to first class Magistrates, who may do greater justice to the duty of recording evidence. I hope the Government will accept my amendment. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 14, the following words be omitted: 'or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him'."

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, this provision already exists in the present law and it has always been there. I would suggest that there is a good reason for it. This clause is for the convenience of the claimants, to have their evidence recorded conveniently. If you restrict the recording of evidence to District Magistrates or First Class Magistrates, it means that the claimants are involved in making a journey at least to the headquarters which may not after all be necessary. After all, the main enquiry is being held by the Reserve Bank itself, possibly at the Provincial headquarters. The recording of the evidence is in the nature of a commission or by whatever name you call it, and the only object is to suit the convenience of the party concerned and enable him to have his evidence recorded locally. I would also draw the attention of the House to another point. It is not every second class Magistrate who is to record evidence, but second class Magistrates empowered in this behalf by general or special order of the Provincial Government, that presumably would restrict the power to certain selected second class Magistrates. I would ask that the Honourable Member should not press his amendment for another reason. I am not sure whether, if his amendment is made, the further words 'empowered in this behalf by general or special order of the Provincial Government' will have to go. I do not know whether First Class Magistrates also are to be empowered to record evidence.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not a matter which you can know merely by reading the section. It is to be enquired and found out whether every First Class Magistrate has this power or whether he has to be specially empowered, so that the effect of the amendment would be to create a doubt in my own mind as to whether the provision was appropriate. For these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

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

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 14, the following words be omitted: 'or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him'."

The motion was negatived.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That at the end of sub-clause (3) of clause 14 the following words be added: 'but an affirmation if the witness is a Muslim or Hindu'."

[Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.]

Sir, it is laid down here that "A Magistrate or an officer of the Bank acting in pursuance of this section may administer an oath to any witness examined by him". Sir, 'oath' sometimes includes special oath also. Under the Indian Oaths Act, it sometimes happens that if an opposite party challenges and calls upon the complainant to swear by Koran Shariff or by water of the Ganges; then if the party agrees, he may do so and the Court will administer the special oath. But in case the party does not agree, then the court has power to make certain observations which may affect the case of the party. In this case there is provision in the Indian Oaths Act that a Hindu or a Muslim shall not be compelled to take oath. The law gives facilities to Hindus and Muslims to make a solemn affirmation instead of an oath, and in the absence of such facilities not only the Magistrate but the Bank also will compel them to take the oath. Therefore all I want is that the safeguards already in the Indian Oaths Act should be provided here. I hope the Honourable Member will accept this harmless amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That at the end of sub-clause (3) of clause 14 the following words be added: 'but an affirmation if the witness is a Muslim or Hindu'."

Mr. Sri Prakasha (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, so far as I know, the general law on a subject like this will apply to this case also. The general law, if I am not mistaken, is that wherever an oath is prescribed, solemn affirmation can be made by the person concerned. But if that law does not apply to this case I would suggest that the privilege of making a solemn affirmation instead of taking an oath should not be confined only to Hindus and Muslims but should extend to all persons of all faiths, because I think every one should have the privilege of making a solemn affirmation if they have any conscientious objection to take the oath. I hope the Finance Member will be able to satisfy the House on this matter.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I do not know whether the Mover of this motion has read the report of the Select Committee, but we did go into this matter in the Select Committee, and as we understood it, the answer is provided by the definition in the General Clauses Act, "that 'oath' shall include affirmation and declaration in the case of persons by law allowed to affirm or declare, instead of swearing". It seems to me that that provides a complete answer and that no further provision is necessary.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, in view of the observation just made I do not press my motion, and beg leave to withdraw it.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Clauses 14 to 23 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Sri Prakasha: Sir, I beg to move:

"That for clause 24 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

"24. 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 any interest payment due on a Government security shall terminate on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due by way of interest became payable."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can speak 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. Sri Prakasha: Mr. Deputy President, Sir. Just as the House rose for lunch I had moved my amendment to clause 24. The House will remember that the subject matter of clause 24 was hotly debated in the House and it was agreed at the end...

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): On a point of order. Sir, there is no quorum.

(On a count being taken, it was found that there were 25 Members present.)

Mr. Sri Prakasha: I am glad that at least 25 Members of the House are interested to hear the debate on a subject like this.

During the course of the debate, it was pointed out that it would not be fair for Government to try to swallow up all capital and interest on Government securities simply because a certain number of years had elapsed before a demand for payment was made; and in the end it was decided that the matter should stand over and that, if possible, an agreement may be come to between the various points of view. The amendment that I am putting before the House is the result of the conversation that some Members of the House, interested in the amendments, had with the Honourable the Finance Member; and the House will see that there is a change in two directions. The original clause said that on the expiry of twelve years neither the capital nor the interest would be payable. Now there would be no limitation for the payment of capital; but there would be, unfortunately, a limitation for the payment of interest, and if the interest is not paid within six years, then, according to this amendment, the interest would no more be payable. Honestly, Sir, my own idea in matters like this is that when a sum is payable to a person it should be payable for ever; but, as I said before, the law of limitation has come in our country; and there is limitation in the matter of payment in various directions. While the Honourable the Finance Member has conceded to us the very important and necessary point of being able to demand the principal till the end of time—till at least the end of his Government, which I would be glad to see go even if I lose all my securities—he was unwilling to concede the same privilege in the matter of interest; and not only that but even the limit of 12 years has now been reduced to six. I pleaded in vain with him that at least the figure 12 should be left in the matter of interest; but he was adamant; and I did not want to press the matter to a breaking point, because I found that he had at least yielded in the matter of capital which was, in a way, more important.

There is one thing that I should like to say and I say this in all seriousness, and I do hope that the Honourable the Finance Member will be able to give some satisfaction to us in this matter. It so happens that at the present moment there is a law, or so-called law, prevalent in the land under which Government can catch hold of a person and keep him indefinitely in jail. The letter that Dr. Syed Mahmud, Member of the Congress Working Committee, published the other day after his release . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): How does that come in here?

Mr. Sri Prakasha: I am coming to that. That letter, showed that while in jail, he was not allowed to communicate with his lawyers or even to sign a power of attorney to enable somebody to look after his property. Now, Sir, in a case like that, it is quite possible that Government may keep a person in jail for over six years; not give him any facilities to communicate with persons outside; keep even the place of his confinement secret as was done in this case; deprive him of every possibility of managing his affairs; and then at the end of six years he would stand to lose interest on his securities. If Government keeps a man in detention for six years—as they very well might, seeing how long the war is dragging on—and then he comes out and finds that interest on his securities had not been drawn, then he may be in danger of losing a fair bit of his property. I think that some provision must be made by the Finance Department in such cases where flagrant piece of justice, not due to laches on the part of the person concerned, may be perpetrated. In the hope that the department will look at this problem in an understanding and accommodating spirit, and also in the hope that the law will be administered with leniency and with sympathy, I commend my amendment to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That for clause 24 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

"24. 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 any interest payment due on a Government security shall terminate on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due by way of interest became payable."

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I indicated in the House the other day, my understanding of the position is that the law, as it at present stands, provides for no limitation in the case of claims for payment of the principal sum due on a Government security, but that the limitation of six years operates in the case of claims for interest due on a security. But I would like to be clear that it is not Government's intention in any way to depart from its practice in regard to these matters. The real necessity of limitation arises from the fact of disputed claims and our main object was to facilitate the administration of the public debt and to prevent items being kept on the books for decades after the records relating to particular issues had been cleaned up.

The main effect of a limitation as I understand it is that no second claim for the payment of the interest which in most cases will already have been met could possibly be initiated in any Court, at any rate after a period of six years. From what I have said it would follow that in cases such as that referred to by my Honourable friend, the Administrator of the Public Debt would be unlikely to refuse to entertain a reasonable representation. I am surprised that my Honourable friend should think himself free to argue against the amendment which resulted from agreement and which he himself has moved.

The amendment as moved by my Honourable friend is acceptable to Government.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What is the significance of "shall terminate"?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is the liability that will terminate. But my Honourable friend referred to a case where he himself received interest for a much longer period than six years from which it would seem that in cases where there is no dispute or doubt Government do not always stand on the letter of the law even at present.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: And will not in the future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already spoken on that point.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That for clause 24 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

"24. 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 any interest payment due on a Government security shall terminate on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due by way of interest became payable."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That Clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 25 to 27 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): There is an amendment to Clause 28 by Mr. Krishnamachari.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 28 of the Bill, after item (n), the following be added:

"(o) the authority by whom the certificate referred to in the proviso to section 7 is to be granted and the manner of making the inquiry therein mentioned."

This is consequential to the amendment to clause 7 and finds mention in the original Act which it seeks to amend.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 28 of the Bill, after item (n), the following be added:

"(o) the authority by whom the certificate referred to in the proviso to section 7 is to be granted and the manner of making the inquiry therein mentioned."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I would like to say a few words on the way in which the Honourable the Finance Member has tackled this problem. It is very good of him to have accepted our amendments and to have assured us that he would administer the law as it stands today. We owe it to him that we have avoided so many divisions and speeches and also saved the valuable time of this House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Sir Jeremy Raisman.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The amendment is acceptable and I appreciate the kind words in which my Honourable friend has referred to the procedure by which the time of the House has been shortened.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 28 of the Bill, after item (n), the following be added:

"(o) the authority by whom the certificate referred to in the proviso to section 7 is to be granted and the manner of making the inquiry therein mentioned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): There is another amendment to clause 28 by Mr. Sri Prakasa.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, I move:

"That to clause 28 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added:

"(3) A copy of all rules under this section shall be laid on the table of both the Chambers of the Indian Legislature as soon as may be after they are made."

It is just a formal amendment and by passing this the House will make it incumbent on Government to place before the Legislature the rules they make so that we may all know what the rules are and not have them thrown upon us by surprise. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That to clause 28 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added:

"(3) A copy of all rules under this section shall be laid on the table of both the Chambers of the Indian Legislature as soon as may be after they are made."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

I feel, Sir, that I would like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the work of the late Sir James Taylor, who originally did most of the spade-work underlying this useful and necessary measure. His death was a great blow to all those of us who worked with him and it also was, I have no doubt, a very great loss to India. It is not easy for members of the general public to appreciate the amount of useful work that is done in the quiet of his office by a man of the type of the late Sir James Taylor. He was constantly engaged in trying to improve the regulations and the arrangements relating to various matters of this kind and the fruit of his work will be appreciated. I have no doubt, for very many years to come. This measure is only a very small part of the outcome of his labours.

Sir, I move:

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, being a member of this Committee I would like to put in a word or two. In fact it was the name of Sir James Taylor that conjured up too much in our opinions on this Bill. Whenever there was any objection

from our side, the popular side, in the Select Committee, his name was mentioned and we all knew perfectly well that Sir James Taylor was a very clever and up-to-date hard-working man so far as Banking Law is concerned. In fact whether in this House, when he was a Member, or outside I had found him to be one of the nicest gentlemen in my life. Sir, I associate myself with the tribute that has been paid by the Honourable the Finance Member.

Sir, the efforts of my friends on the opposition side to make the law more in conformity with public interest are also to be congratulated. Our friends on this side have really taken great interest in persuading the Government to conform to their views. It is very seldom that I find Government agreeable on such occasions. But this time I do not know how, but I believe it is because the principles enunciated were such that the Government could not oppose the popular opinion on this side of the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL—contd.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved by Mr. J. D. Tyson.

Mr. H. A. Sathar-H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, yesterday, when the House rose, I had made the point that Mr. Tyson himself in one of his observations had supported me in my demand for circulating the Bill, when he stated that by the departmental circulation that he had of this Bill he received very useful suggestions, which he incorporated in this Bill. Therefore I argue that if further circulation is allowed and if the Bill is placed before the people as a whole, people who are interested in the development of agriculture and in the attainment of the object that we have in view, (our object, which I summarised as more rice, better rice and rice easily produced) such people will surely be able to give us many more useful suggestions and therefore circulation will only be of further help.

With regard to this question of circulation, I have one or two suggestions to make. First, I request my Honourable friend to see to it that the circulation of this Bill at least is as wide as possible. What happens in this circulation business is that it is published in the official gazette of the Province and people are expected to express their opinions. Generally, the official gazette is read in very limited circles. I would therefore request my Honourable friend to see that with regard to this Bill, in which almost everybody in the country is interested, he issues instructions to the effect that the Provincial Governments should send copies of this Bill duly translated in vernaculars to the vernacular press, especially that section of the press which is widely read in the rural parts. In sending the copies, which is usually done, to certain associations he will see that the circle is widened sufficiently to include all the associations which are expected to take an interest in this question.

Then I find that in circulating these Bills it sometimes happens that opinion is invited upon particular points only. With regard to that I would request my Honourable friend to instruct the Provincial Governments that in inviting opinions, they should not be very strict about the opinions being confined to the provisions of the Bill alone. If, for instance, some association or some body can give us some suggestions which do not pertain to any of the provisions embodied in the Bill but which will prove of very great use, then certainly they should not be barred from expressing those opinions.

With particular reference to what I have just now said certain things have struck me. In the Bill itself there is very little co-ordination between the departments of the Central Government which are concerned in this matter. For instance, there is Irrigation. I do not know what this Rice Committee is going to do without proper arrangements for irrigation throughout the

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country. So far as the provisions of the Bill are concerned this Committee will have nothing to do, not even have the right to express their opinion with regard to a comprehensive scheme of irrigation that will be needed.

Then there is this great and wonderful Council of Agricultural Research. It is true that its representatives are on the Committee but having representatives on the Committee alone will not do. There must be better co-ordination between these two. Then there is the Food Department. What will be the relations between the two? How will they work? As a matter of fact there

3 P.M. was a suggestion that all these departments should be brought under one head. I will not detain the House long on this but this is what is in our minds when we support the motion for circulation. That is what I meant when I said that all these departments should be brought together, at least, under the purview of this committee, and this should be the one central body which will deal with the problem of production of food in India. But if my Honourable friend has in mind the kind of committee we have under the Coffee Cess Act and the Tea Cess Act and so on, then certainly I do not think anybody in this House will support this measure because our experience of these committees is very sad. I have here—and I will detain the House only for a minute or two—the third annual report of the Indian Coffee Board. The one point on which I want the attention of the House to be focussed is this: that during the three years to which this report pertains, the income of the Board and the expenditure bore the ratio of 100 to 50: when the income was a lakh and odd, the expenditure was 44,000; when the income was 2 lakhs odd, the expenditure was 1,26,000: this expenditure on administration alone—not on research work and not on the work of propaganda—was 50 per cent.: 50 per cent. of the income was spent on secretariat, control headquarters and control inspectorate alone. So, though it may not be the intention, I feel that these committees develop into bodies where people may find very happy and fat jobs. Then, when there is a committee working the House generally does not get many opportunities of going into what the committees are doing: even if questions are asked, the reply given is that this particular committee is dealing with it. Therefore I am not very happy about these committees and I would warn my friend that the House may not be very willing to accept this measure if all that he envisages, when the measure comes before the House next time, is the formation of a committee like those that he mentioned in his speech.

That is almost all that I have to say. The result of carrying out my observations may be that my Honourable friend may be called upon probably to recast this Bill in a much wider form. That may become necessary, but I think that will be a very good thing and a thing which the House will approve. The purpose that we in this House have in view is the removal of want, so far as food is concerned. I believe this is one of the freedoms that is being very much talked about now—freedom from want of food; and that object I say should be before us when we proceed with this Bill. With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of this House.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I rise to explain the broad principles of agricultural improvement of which this Bill is the forerunner. Before I do so, I wish to assure my friend Prof. Ranga who, I know, is a friend of the peasant, and I have a high regard for Mrs. Subbarayan and admire her becoming garments of patriotism—I am sure she will have the grace to countenance patriotic acts though such acts may for a moment cast a glow of patriotism over the unworthy persons who sit on these Benches: I should also like to tell my friends that I and my forefathers have lived on land or followed the profession of arms.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Why do you not go back to it?

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: I am there—I have never left it. I can claim some direct knowledge of agricultural conditions and what materially can help the growers. There is this difference between me and my

two friends—they are content with the glamour of words enamoured of reasoning in the abstract of agricultural economics and retired to the realm of unrealities, leaving action to some distant future when they have shattered the present order and remoulded it nearer to their hearts' desire. We are concerned with the needs of the immediate present and do our poor best to improve the living conditions, thus preparing the way for larger measures of reconstructions which it may be given to my friends in the future to implement. My friends here demur because we are taking measures which are for the good of the people; and I am sure Gandhiji would not demur if his constructive plan is implemented even by the lowliest of the lowliest. I thought that in matters of vital importance our friends are here to render full support. I am disappointed that Prof. Ranga of all men should spend all his eloquence to oppose that which would serve the best interests of the peasants whose cause is so dear to his heart. I leave the Mover of the Bill to deal in detail with some of the points raised by the Honourable Members. I will just dwell on two or three of the principal objections which have been raised.

The urgency of improving the rice crop is evident from the existing scarcity. No one can realise the consequences of this prolonged scarcity better than my two friends, Prof. Ranga and Mrs. Subbarayan. Madras like Bengal can no more draw on surplus supplies from Burma. I am sure they will agree that India in no case should depend on imports of food from outside. How can we then wait and ignore the urgent need of increasing the production of rice and other foodgrains. I may inform that Burma, even when the war ends, will no more be in a position to meet our needs. We must therefore depend and exploit our own resources immediately and without delay if we are to meet our permanent and future requirements. It has also been asserted with much emphasis that rice research committee will imply an incursion by the Centre in the provincial domain. I have been a Minister in a province myself, and I can tell you the eagerness with which we received any financial assistance from the Centre.

Then it has been said that the cess of less than a pice on rice husked in mills only, would be a new and crushing burden. If the growers only knew that the research on rice may give them at least two maunds of additional rice per acre, they would be prepared to contribute something corresponding to the cash advantage they would get. I am confident that research on rice will at least increase production by four maunds an acre. This cess is not a burden. It is an investment which will give an assured return which no other investment can bring to the cultivator. We have the example of the working of the Cotton Committee dealing with an important and extensively-cultivated crop. During its short period of existence, the research staff of the Committee have produced long staple cotton which covers now many millions of acres. They are on the way of improving staple still further so that India may no more import cotton from abroad. Professor Ranga confessed that he failed to secure from Central revenues adequate funds for the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Now that we are attempting to provide special resources for research he asks us to knock at the door which refuses to yield it to the powerful knocking. The Central and Provincial revenue—where do they come from but from the farmer, the manufacturer or the consumer? These revenues have many demands to meet, while funds raised to meet particular crops can be used for no other purpose by a self-governing committee on which I have provided the adequate representation of growers.

An Honourable Member: Question.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: Now, what are the methods which have enabled some of the advanced countries to obtain at least twice the yield which we obtain per acre of rice in India. They have conducted research and produced high yielding and disease resisting seed. They have carried out soil analysis and made arrangement to enrich it with the fertilisers needed for the crop. They have taken measures to avoid and overcome crop diseases and insect pests. What have we done so far to improve the rice crop?

An Honourable Member: Nothing.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: I am not sure even 1 per cent. of the areas is under the improved seed. Our rice yield at present compared with some other countries happens to be the lowest. It is to provide for immediate research for improving this most important crop which has been in permanent short production that the cess is needed and the Committee is to undertake this research. Yet our friends are pleading for postponement of work which, if they were serious about it, they should have pressed for immediate action. After all what we in this Committee attempt is to bring the producer, consumer and trader together and provide them with funds. We invest them with the power of ordering research to the best possible advantage. We make it possible for the Rice Committee when it is formed to start research with the object of producing high yielding and disease resisting seed, to study soil conditions and water and manure requirements of this important crop in areas where rice is extensively grown, to find out means how to resist the invasion of insects and pests. As I am on the point the House will be glad to know that we have for the first time defeated two invasions of locusts by an organised campaign under the leadership of Hem Singh Pruthi and saved crores of rupees worth of crops. There is an enormous field for improvement all along the line, I may say, for all major crops, including wheat and it is my purpose to place all crops under committees, to organise proper research so that modern science may be brought to the help of the producer and the consumer under market conditions favourable to both. It would serve our food problem within a limited number of years. The Honourable Mr. Sait pleaded that the activity of the committee may almost embrace the whole food problem. I am sure he will admit that the rice crop, if we improve its production and yield, would only be a beginning in the direction of other crops being similarly treated and in the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research we have a co-ordinating authority which deals with all the crops and now in the Centre also we have a Department of Agriculture which would exclusively devote itself to the food problem but it is not possible that in the case of a single crop we should provide all that is required both regarding production and distribution of food. I would appeal to the House to support this measure and not only the formation of this Committee but also other committees which must follow if the food position is to be placed on a firm foundation.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): I wish to make a few observations on this motion. Sir Jogendra Singh, traditional farmer as he is, has entirely misunderstood the criticism which has emanated from these Benches. No elected representative or representatives are less vitally interested in rice than the Honourable Member who spoke last. If in spite of that, criticism has been made against the present motion, it is due to the unsatisfactory nature of the Bill that has been presented to this House. I grant that this Bill has been actuated by good intentions, though they are jumbled. It appears that the intention of the Government is to achieve them by methods which have been proved more than once to be inadequate, unsatisfactory and even to a certain extent obstructive. It is in order that the Government might take suggestions not only from this House but from the general public as to what extent the scope of this Bill could be enlarged and improved that this motion has been made by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

In the first place it looks as though the Government wants to run away with the cheap credit of fostering agricultural development by passing an Act constituting a committee. We are not unused to such methods of the Government. As has been already stated, this Bill is more or less on the lines of the Coffee Board, the Tea Board or the Cotton Committee. There is not any indication of the earnestness of the Government to foster the agricultural

development; they are not themselves anxious to contribute financially to the funds of the Fund that is intended to be instituted under this Bill. Therefore, if the Government merely want to lay the flattering unction to their souls that they did their best for rice, they can do so; but if they want to convince us that they are going to foster the agricultural development, particularly in rice by means of this Bill, I think they are terribly mistaken. Neither this House nor the outside public is in a mood hereafter to be deluded by such empty promises. It is the desire of this part of the House and I daresay of every section of the House that the Government should show their earnestness of fostering agricultural development by promising an equal amount of contribution of such an amount as may be raised by the levy of the 6 annas cess per ton. I grant and I do not myself think that 6 annas per ton for a purpose of this sort is a heavy levy and that it was going to affect either the producer or the consumer either way, but even the 6 annas levy would probably bring about 9 million rupees. If about 24 million tons of rice are produced, then the cess at the rate of 6 annas per ton will come to about 9 million rupees. But the objects for which this Bill is introduced are very wide. Undoubtedly such a body would require much larger sum of money at least in the early stages of the development of the rice products. Therefore, the first prerequisite for the acceptance of this Bill by this House is a promise by the Central Government that they would put in as much as the amount raised by the Fund in the coffers of this Board.

The second is this. I see that this Bill contemplates the Committee not only to deal with the productive branch of rice but also the marketing side. It is there that I say that there is a jumble of good intentions. I must impress the necessity of separating this marketing side from this productive side.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: May I explain what we mean by the marketing side? We mean provision of proper storage, grading and bulk marketing.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Marketing is marketing. I should think that activities of this body must stop with the reaping of harvest. Thereafter, you may, if necessary, institute a marketing body for taking charge of the crops for proper storage, proper grading, packing, transport and marketing, etc., etc. Once you jumble marketing side along with the productive side, there is bound to be a certain amount of conflict of interests. On the body of this Committee you have naturally to put traders, merchants, representatives of the Associated Chambers of Commerce who, I take it, have nothing to do with this product and also the representatives of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce who cannot see eye to eye with the agricultural side or with the productive side of this product. I think one reform that we must do is to separate marketing from this productive aspect.

Thirdly, this body must be given powers of acquisition of large tracts of land from Provincial Governments in order to run agricultural farms on more modern methods and on scientific lines. They must run those fields by well-known methods of collectivization and by ploughing them with tractors and getting as best as possible from the rice. They must also have certain powers with regard to the zoning of the crops, so that there might not be overlapping or there might not be unsuitable crops being raised on fields. In fact, what I am aiming at is that opportunities should now be taken by the Central Government for agricultural planning all over the country and place these plans before the respective Provincial Governments with perhaps legislation under the concurrent list, so that such provinces as want to take advantage of that kind of planning might usefully do so.

Unless some such improved methods of paddy cultivation, soil examination and soil improvement, even perhaps the manufacture of fertilisers in order to develop the soil and also to have some sort of control, at least so far as these farms are concerned, for irrigation works—unless some such really useful powers are given to this body, it would do nothing except merely to col-

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lect this fund and spend, as other Committees are spending, over the executive staff of those bodies.

I would also like that one of the objects of this Bill must be to devise certain measures by which the livestock necessary for the purpose of cultivation of paddy should also be attended to by this body.

And I wonder why other grains are not taken into consideration along with rice. There is no use of framing legislation for every cereal that we think of from day to day. We now know how this country is deficient in many articles of foodstuffs. We also hope that whether Burma is recaptured or not India should be self-sufficient in at least so far as the foodstuffs are concerned. It may be that even if Burma should become part of the British Empire, we do not want to import rice from that place. Let us develop our resources in such a way as to be self-sufficient in so far as the foodstuffs for man and the feed stuffs for cattle are concerned. It was with the view of enlarging and improving the scope of the Board that the criticism has been levelled against this Bill. I hope now that the Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands has understood the import of our criticism, he would promise to this House that the Bill would be recast on some such lines of modern improvement and development—earnest development and not merely pseudo-development by passing an Act from the Central Legislature.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. Deputy President, after having heard with the attention that is due to my Honourable and Venerable friend Sir Jogendra Singh, I still feel unconvinced that this Bill is at all necessary. Hearing him, I felt that he wanted to placate this rather troublesome baby; Prof. Ranga, with a toy to play with and he has intended to do nothing more than that by commending this Bill to the favourable consideration of the House. Sir, my objection to this Bill is not political. It may be that my venerable friend Sir Jogendra Singh has left that very useful occupation of a farmer and come to the rather unproductive business of Executive Councillor.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): But profitable.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know; it may be profitable or it may not be. It is the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh that should tell us if it is profitable or not. If my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party thinks that these gentlemen are attracted merely because of the salary that they get, I do not agree with him. The bulk of the salary goes in the shape of house rent, entertainment and taxes. There must be other incentives, other things that attract them but in the case of the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh, I must say that he has left a very useful occupation useful just at this time when this country is engaged in the 'grow more food campaign'.

That apart, I am in a position to say that within the four corners of this Bill, I find enough material to condemn this Bill with bell, book and candle, leaving out of the question politics altogether. Sir, the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh and the Honourable Mover of this Bill had mentioned something about the incentive to this Bill having been created by suggestions made at the meeting of some Committee in India, I think they called it by some funny name, 'Agricological committee'—that Committee seems to have recommended that there should be a Rice Committee.

An Honourable Member: What is the meaning of 'Agricological'?

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Consult the Oxford Dictionary.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: You must ask the author of the name, the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh. I understand that they have since dropped that name. I strongly resent the suggestion that a measure, which is supposed to be beneficial to this country which this House has been asked to accept, should come from some pet hobby of a Member of the Executive Council,

through some kind of Star Chamber which the Government have nominated and which they summon at their will and pleasure and in which they discuss all things under the sun in *purdah*, and then we are told that the matter has been discussed, and that wise body had suggested such and such a thing, and that this House had better accept it. That is what all that has been said really comes to. Sir, my objection to this Bill is many-sided. My claim to object to this Bill arises out of the fact that I represent in this House one of the two principal rice producing zones in my Province. I am not devoid of any knowledge how rice is produced either.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty: You eat rice.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, I eat rice. One eats many things the origin of which one never knows and probably if one knows it, one will never eat them.

If this is a company prospectus and if I am asked to subscribe to the shares of that company, I shall say, no. The prospectus is bad, it does not reveal the objects of the company, it does not assure me that the Directors of the company are going to use its funds in the proper manner, it does not tell me that the shares of the company will find a marketable value at any time and therefore the floatation of the company is bad and is a fraud.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It is another East India company.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In the East India company Britain struck a gold mine and very successfully built the British Empire out of it. What is it that we have been asked to approve of? We are told that a Rice Committee will be constituted with 51 Members. Why 51? Because it is one less than the number of people who waited on individually on Lord Linlithgow soon after the war broke out. Fifty one men are expected to get together and work for the improvement of rice production in this country and to achieve the other objects for which this fund will be applied. Having constituted a Committee, the Bill next provides to find the finance for it. The Finance is found in a very peculiar way. It is not got from the grower, it is not got from the Provincial Government, it is to be got from the man who owns a rice mill, the fund is to be accumulated at a particular rate per ton of rice hulled. I cannot see the logic of it. It may be that perhaps Mr. Tyson is the best Government official from the point of view of Legislature, because he is the only official who takes the Legislature seriously and produces at least one Bill every Session for us to discuss here and send it to the Select Committee and ultimately the Bill gets on to the Statute Book. The other Members of the Government totally ignore this House. They get their work done through Ordinances. It may be that next year not finding any Bill to bring before this House and being in charge of the portfolio of Education, Health and Lands, he will come forward with a Bill to do propaganda for birth control. If he does it, I can make rather a rough guess how he would like to collect funds for that purpose. He will say that for every child born, the parents will have to pay six annas and at this rate he will collect five million six annas per year and then it will be a very comfortable fund at the end of a year. In fact, it appears to me that the logic of this measure does not appear to me to be anything more, in fact, it is much less, than the logic of the Government of India taking up the question of doing propaganda for birth control.

There is another aspect of this Bill which deserves mention. The provocation for this Bill seems to be the success of the Indian Central Cotton Committee. My Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party told us a story the other day in the Food Debate. I think it was a trifle misapplied. He told us about the story of that man who having pulled many hundreds of men, women and children from out of wells with a rope tried to pull out a boy from the top of a tree in the same manner with disastrous results. I think that story, if it is related now and in connection with this measure will be much more suitable than during the Food debate. Something was successful in the matter of cotton, something was successful in the matter of

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lac, therefore the same thing must also be successful in the matter of rice. Sir, my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga very appropriately quoted from the report of the Indian Agricultural Commission. I do not want to steal his thunder by reading it over again. Am I to understand that this Report is relegated to oblivion and it is much less of an authority on agricultural matters, since the departure of Lord Linlithgow from the shores of India.

An Honourable Member: Even when he was here, that Report had no value.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not sure. That particular report seems to have discountenanced completely the constitution of committees for particular types of food crops. I will ask the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh and his Deputy in this House, do lands grow only rice? In my own part of the country, they do not grow rice only. The lands that grow rice grow other things also. The problem of food crops is one and indivisible, it cannot be tackled by the formation of a rice committee by itself. Is it at all the way to do it? The Food problem is a very serious one. Everybody agrees with that. Being a serious matter, it has got to be dealt with by the local authorities of the Provinces. It may be that we have not succeeded in any eminent degree in improving the quality of our rice, or in increasing the quantity of its output. The causes that stand in the way of that improvement being effected is not because an Indian Central Rice Committee has not been constituted with fifty-one people with a fund to be raised in a very queer manner which the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh appears to say is the only thing that stands in the way of improving the food position in the country. Sir, so far as rice in my Province is concerned, let me tell the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh that Government finances depend on the growth of rice in the Province. The bulk of the revenue of Provincial Governments excepting perhaps during war time, happens to be from land on which paddy is grown, and land tax is assessed on the value of the product from the land; and the settlement is not of a permanent nature except in certain areas. There is periodical resettlement and the resettlement is made on the basis of the value of the crop and of the improved value of the land and the crop therefrom. So there is intimate connection between the production of rice and the provision of finance for the carrying on of the administration in my province, because rice fields provide by and large the largest quantum of revenue to the Government. And my Provincial Government have got a department of agriculture. It may be that it is not very active, it may be that it is not as successful as it should be; but it is maintained out of the revenues of the province and out of the revenues provided by the agriculturists. But my Honourable friend wants a committee of 51 to do this work; my Honourable friend wants to provide travelling allowance and *batta* for a number of people with no special qualifications to talk hot air either in Simla or in Delhi. If all that is needed is money for this purpose, cannot the provincial Government pay a quota of what it gets as land revenue on the lands that produce rice principally? If the committee that is going to be formed is in reality going to help to increase the output of rice, would not the Government revenue be augmented thereby? Would not therefore the Provincial Government be all the more interested in providing funds for the purpose which is dear to the heart of my venerable friend Sir Jogendra Singh?

That, Sir, is my principal objection. If really you want a co-ordinating committee, you want to co-ordinate the work done in the various provinces, I do not see how the function now performed by the I. C. A. R. could not be usefully extended to serve that end. I do not see why there should be a separate rice committee. If at all you start a rice committee, if at all you start putting into operation the sub-clauses of clause 9(2) from (a) to (j), it has to be done in the provinces; and much as my Honourable friend Sir Jogendra Singh is willing to help, he will not be able to help. Let him recollect what happened in that conference in Simla, that Agricultural Conference; was he

able to prevent a person incessantly talking about the importance of the *babul* tree? One of the members whom he had summoned got up and persisted in saying *ad nauseam* that for the improvement of agriculture in this country it is important to develop the *babul* tree, which happens to be the chief food of sheep and goats. (*A Voice:* "And camels"), Camels are a species of animals unknown in Southern India.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: I can tell my Honourable friend that the *babul* tree does improve arid soils. It is a leguminous plant which improves and fertilises the soil.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: If it is talk of that nature which will go on in this committee of 51, by the very nature of its constitution it will not help to produce one sheaf of paddy more than is being produced today. And I suggest that my Honourable friend is approaching the problem from the wrong end altogether. If he wants really to do something about it let him approach the provinces to constitute such committees and let the provinces take up this work. And if he wants finance for the I. C. A. R. to do the coordinating let him put an application to his colleague the Finance Member. I think the Finance Department will not, as they are at present constituted and in the frame of mind in which they are today, refuse to give further aid to the I. C. A. R. for purposes of research.

Sir, my next point is this fund and the manner in which it is collected. As I said before, there is no need for provision of a fund. My Honourable friend thinks first of constituting a committee and immediately he feels he has to make it self-sufficient. India has to be self-sufficient, the provinces have to be self-sufficient, every committee that is constituted by the Centre has to be self-sufficient. There is no special and particular merit about this manner for self-sufficiency; and in order to make this committee self-sufficient he devises a fund in a very peculiar manner. I am not either ignoring or denying those charges made against the manner of the collection of this fund by my Honourable friend Mrs. Subbarayan. But I will say this. Leave alone the question of harassment, leave alone the question whether six annas per ton is a thing which is very heavy or low, whether the incidence of that tax will be borne by any particular set of people or will be distributed in such infinitesimal small units that it will not be felt at all. But my Honourable friend and his advisers who sit in rooms in the North Block Secretariat realise that they are putting an extra load on the provincial administration, an extra harassment on a type of person who is not accustomed to keep records and furnish returns,—apparently so difficult even to contemplate for people who are sitting out here in Delhi. Some Deputy Secretary who is of an imaginative frame of mind, who is completely unaware of the realities of the situation, thinks that he can forge another link in the system of oppression that is being carried on by administrations in the country in the name of tax collection. And my Honourable friend, thinking of the farmer and his future good, does not realise that it is a positive harassment to a rice-mill owner to have to keep accounts and furnish returns of a number of transactions. And let me also tell him that the cess that he proposes is not quite so equitable as he seems to imagine. Sir, I have before me a book published under the auspices of his own department, "Report on the Marketing of Rice in India". It tells me that in Bengal machine-milled rice is 16 per cent. of the output, in Madras it is 62 per cent., in the Central Provinces it is 30 per cent., in Bombay it is 55 per cent., in Sind it is 90 per cent.; and this varying percentage of machine-milled rice is going to be taxed, and a varying type of burden is going to be cast on the people of various provinces. My Honourable friend thinks it is an equitable tax, a thing which would not cause any hardship and which would be easily collected. If you really want to devise a fund for your pet committee, a committee which will give your department some importance because such a committee has been organised in your department and you want to create more work either for your department or for the future agricultural department which is going to come into being, either find the money from the Finance Department or ask

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the Provincial Governments to pay a portion of the expenses to be incurred on this toy in relation to the land revenue that they are getting. In fact, supposing my Government is asked to pay 25 lakhs, for this purpose I would not object. I am not looking at it from the point of view of a person who is interested primarily in the provincial finances as such. If possibly I am in the provincial Assembly I shall fight tooth and nail before they give 25 lakhs to the Central Government to be wasted on the Secretariat officials in the North and South Blocks. I shall probably ask them to find the money themselves. But speaking from here it does not appear to be a serious matter. The Government of my province was giving a rebate of 75 lakhs for some years to agriculturists, they have recently done away with it, and if you have to ask them to pay 25 lakhs for this or any other purpose it may not be too much to ask provided you give them some value for the money. But, this committee of 51 people will be liable to be asked whether they are producing some value for money, if the Provincial Government are asked to give a contribution. But as things are Sir Jogendra Singh's pet theory about research is not going to produce anything more in Madras, and we refuse to contribute.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: Sir, I may point out that in Madras Sir Venkataraman's work on sugar has produced crores of rupees for this country. He cannot deny that Coimbatore cane has produced crores of rupees, and that research was carried out in the province of my Honourable friend.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I should like to ask my Honourable friend what relation this has to the point on which I am speaking. In my province we often say,—I hope it will not offend my Muslim friends,—“What relation is Ghulam Kadar to Gokulashtami?”. Similarly, what relation has sugar production got to a rice committee? Rice stands on an entirely different footing; it is not a cash crop. And if after hearing me all this time shout at the top of my voice to make the Honourable Member listen and at the end of it all he says something funny which has no relation to the subject, I will say that he has been reading the Ramayana and at the end saying, “What relation was Rama to Seeta?”

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: The Honourable Member said that research has produced nothing, and I can quote cases not only from Madras but from other provinces where research on agriculture has produced tangible results. Research on wheat has given 3 to 4 maunds more per acre. Similarly, with regard to other crops also it is well known that by research you can improve seed, you can increase production, you can ascertain fertilizer requirements, and so on. These are the ways by which the food of this country can be improved, and not by merely saying that this cannot be done.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: My Honourable friend has completely misunderstood me. Apparently the language that I speak is not the language that he understands. I have never said that research was wrong, I have never said that research produced nothing. I have continually said that research would produce a lot more, that research would produce more sugarcane, that research would produce more rice; it will produce a better Government if they made research in the capacity of Indians to govern themselves.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): Perhaps bigger, but not better.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: That is a matter of opinion. It would be true if I were to accept the words of my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, the Governments of the past were perhaps better Governments. I do not agree. He and I are not in the same boat, and I certainly will not be in the boat in which he will be if my wishes could be enforced.

So far as this Fund is concerned, I say that the conception is illogical, and the manner of collection is inequitable. It is asking the provinces to bear a burden which they ought not to bear. I am not saying anything against Bengal or any particular provinces, but I say that if you really want a contribution from all provinces, it shall have to bear some relation to the ultimate advantage they will get. If my Honourable friend speaks of sugarcane

would like to tell him that Madras has not benefited to the extent to which the United Provinces and Bihar have benefited. The benefit in regard to research should go in some equitable proportion province-wise. It is the primary duty of the Provincial Government to look into its food problem. You might be able to allot to them a part of the Fund which you propose to collect, you might be able to take over the surplus from one province and hand it over to the deficit provinces, but the obligation to produce more food and better quality of food and to make the cultivator happy is that of the Provincial Government. This obligation the Provincial Governments have got to discharge, and I say that this Bill is by-passing that obligation. The obligation will remain. This committee will not help the Provincial Governments in any way in fulfilling their obligation. It is a costly toy, and it is you here sitting in the Government of India, which is a thing I object to. Have you approached the Provincial Governments before bringing in this Bill? Has Madras agreed to your taxing the rice millers? Will the Honourable Member or his Secretary get up and say yes or no?

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: Yes, Madras has agreed.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: If Madras has agreed, it would not have agreed if I were there. It has agreed because it is Section 93 province, and it certainly will not agree once the Bill is circulated, once the motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga, is accepted. The people of the province will certainly object to their rice millers paying a tax out of all proportion to the total rice output of the province besides being harassed in so many ways. They will be harassed in the matter of maintaining returns. I can tell this House that I remember very well some time back in the matter of fixing the price of rice on a uniform basis a committee was summoned to meet in Delhi and the provinces were asked to send some representative of rice millowners. I remember the Provincial Government were in a hurry, having no time, and Secretary rang me up, and said, ‘can you tell me of some rice millowner in Tanjore who could be sent?’ I told him that there are not many mills working at the time, as at present due to the shortage of coal and kerosene oil most of the rice millers are not working and it would be very difficult to suggest anybody who could come out here. So I wonder whether they know that they are being taxed most inequitably, because of the fact that certain provinces have not been able to take advantage of the machinery, or they do not have electricity or other facilities for it. We have not been promised that this is going to do something wonderful. In spite of all that my Honourable friend has said I do not think that this Bill is going to achieve something really wonderful in the near future, and I do maintain that if the Provincial Governments have given their assent to the formation of a committee and to the method of collecting fund for it in this manner, they must have done it perfunctorily without any examination, and I know that even a Section 93 Government—as my Government is—is wise enough ordinarily to resent an imposition of additional work on it like the collection of this cess will impose. Sir, the only decent thing the Government can do today is not to persist in trying to make this toy live because Professor Ranga will not in any event be satisfied. It will not satisfy anybody excepting perhaps the feeling of the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh and Mr. Tyson by reason of the fact that they have given some work to the Legislature. The most decent thing for him to do is to accept Prof. Ranga's motion for circulation, and if it comes back with the peoples blessing go ahead and ‘good luck to you’. If it does not, then you are rid of a really bad job. Sir, I support the motion of Professor Ranga.

Mr. Hoosseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in the original motion the date which was fixed was the 14th of November, 1944. Since then we have had some other business and I thought that the 17th of November may be convenient, but I do feel now that it would be better to substitute the words ‘before the end of the present Session’. With

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the permission of the House my amended amendment would read thus:

"That in the original motion for the words '14th November 1944' the words 'before the end of the present Session' be substituted."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The amendment can be amended only with the consent of the House. Is there any objection to the amendment being amended?

Some Honourable Members: No objection.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Thank you, Sir. After what I have heard from my friends on the opposite side, I must say that the task before me is rather a heavy one, but all the same I do feel that I would be failing in my duty if I did not tell my friends on the opposite side what I feel on this question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Which is the opposite side.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Although I belong to that side, I am sitting on this I will say "my Honourable friends on the other side".

We have been clamouring for years that a large portion of our people do not get a square meal. We have been feeling that the health of our people is suffering very much owing to lack of sufficient food. The very recent occurrence in Bengal and in other places indicates greater need for foodstuffs in this country.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

After what we heard last year and the condition that is prevalent in the greater part of India in the South, I did feel that there would be nobody in this

4 P.M. House who would not call upon the Government to take immediate action, whatever that action may be, provided that that action would lead to a little increase of foodstuff. My friend Prof. Ranga has three main objections. First of all, I am sorry to say he considers the sum of Rs. 30 lakhs which the Honourable Member wishes to collect at six annas per ton to be too big a sum to be given for research, development, marketing and what not of rice. I feel, Sir, that even ordinary industrial concerns, if they really wish to be successful, they must have first of all a research department. Just imagine a country like ours not having a research department for rice! And Prof. Ranga to say that Rs. 24 lakhs in that direction is a heavy burden!

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Who is to pay for it? Will the Central Government help us?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I am coming to that. It has been made clear by Mr. Krishnamachari that the rice seller will pay. Prof. Ranga says the rice grower will pay. If the taxpayer pays I hope the rice grower and rice seller are also included. Let us go further and see what it is that you are going to pay. From the latest figures that have been supplied, there are altogether 30 million tons of crops: out of that 11½ millions are in Bengal and 5 millions in Madras. If you calculate at six annas per ton and if you agree to 27 per cent. of our produce going through the mills, the contribution of the whole of Madras Presidency will not be more than Rs. 5 lakhs and not more than Rs. 10 lakhs from Bengal with a population of six crores. Can it honestly be said that these sums are too large for these two provinces when we are being told that people are starving? As a matter of fact the Government can very well say that it is not only we but also the popular side who have never carefully looked into the question of agricultural products nor have they brought them definitely before any Legislature as to what steps should be taken to get more food for the people. All that we have said is that we have not sufficient food. We have never pressed them to find out ways and means.

By that I do not say that the responsibility of the Government is lessened. Their responsibility is much more. In fact during the Budget Sessions of 1935, 1936 and 1937 I pointedly drew the attention of the Government of India to tell us what they have been doing for the agriculturists and with regard to the

education and health of the people. The Government of India did nothing and has been doing nothing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have they been doing it now?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: They are not doing it from their own purses. But they are attempting to do something from your own monies and with your help. But you have not even done that and even now you do not want any research. At the moment production per acre is three times more in the United States and six times more in Japan than in India. When I speak of production, my friend Prof. Ranga raises another bogey and I have not forgotten it. He says if we have large production what will be the condition of the labourer. In 1937 and 1938 he said that when we had large production we still had to import wheat from Australia, rice from Siam and we asked for protection. Therefore we should not try and produce more.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who said that? No. Question!

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Let the Honourable Member go on.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: We did import rice and wheat and we did impose duties against those imports because our agriculturists did not get sufficient for their production. But what is the reason? How can Australia and Siam, after paying freight, sell in my country, in Madras cheaper rice and dump rice against my own produce? The reason is that my production from my land is half and one-sixth of other countries, and so long as the cost of production in this country is high this state of affairs must continue.

Then, Sir, Prof. Ranga brought up another thing. If you produce more what is the labour going to do? They will starve. That is not right. If you produce double the quantity, the cost of rice at Rs. 2-8-0 before the war may come down to Rs. 1-8-0. True if you use good manure, tractors and fertilizers the cost will be slightly more but the yield will be 50 to 100 per cent. more, and in that case having brought down the cost by 50 per cent. you will be able to avoid all imports and be able to feed your people with cheap rice. With regard to the future of the labourer, don't you think that if you produce double the quantity you will need more labour to carry those things?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You are labouring in vain!

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Why?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better address the Chair.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: We may not be able to employ more labour because of using tractors and other up-to-date implements but he forgets that the more you produce the more labour you will require for it. I do feel that we have come to a stage when we must point out clearly to Government that this condition of malnutrition cannot be tolerated. What is Rs. 5 lakhs or Rs. 10 lakhs to Madras or Bengal when lakhs of people have died and many lakhs are in a pitiable condition of existence. Let me remind my friends from Madras of the many more crores of rupees that they are now paying for their rice on account of the present shortage. I believe there are people who have made crores, simply because the Rangoon rice was not available. Please consider that aspect of the question and do not only look to the rupees, annas and pies side of the matter. Five lakhs with the consent of the people, is it a great thing?

Then, Sir, he says that our Government has got the revenue on the value of the crops. If you have not made your Government realise that it is much better to produce more, reduce the cost of production and sell it cheaper, it is not somebody else's fault. Better late than never. I do not say that the Government of India are justified in bringing it now. They ought to have brought it long ago, not only regarding rice but also wheat and other products. My friends mentioned cotton. Certainly India has made crores in the supply of cotton, by having long-staple cotton. We are today able to produce finer cloth than what we used to import. Is not that a saving? Is not clothing as important as food? With regard to sugar, we were pay-

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ing 70 crores out of India when we had no sugar. With research today India is the country which produces the largest quantity of sugar of all the countries in the world. This has been the result of research.

Then, Sir, we have got to draw the attention of the Department to the real wants of the agriculturists. Very recently we have come to know that during 1935 to 1938 we imported manure from 30,000 tons to 60,000 tons annually but during 1940-44 we have not imported anything, as if it was not needed. All the time the Grow More Food campaign has been going on. The figures I have quoted are customs figures. Then with regard to implements, after a great deal of trouble (all credit to the Agricultural Department) they have found out that the agriculturists want implements and steel to the extent of 36,000 tons a year. When the agriculturists began asking for that they were not able to get 6,000 tons of steel. Yet, Sir, we will grudge this 24 lakhs of rupees and say that we must go on in this condition for sometime longer. I feel very much that it is high time and I do appeal to my friends on the other side that we ought not to take the blame on ourselves by delaying even by a minute the research and development of agriculture, specially in relation to rice, on which we depend so much. With these words I do hope my friends will seriously consider the amendment that I have moved and I think that they ought to leave all other work and sit on the Select Committee and do something to show to the Government that we are much more eager than they.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member's amendment has been put to the House?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: With the permission of the House I got a little change made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member moved it?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I moved it yesterday: yes, it was put to the House.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Mr. President, the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee, indicated that the Government was going to do something really good, beneficial and useful for the producer as well as for the consumer of rice in this country, and that it is the elected parties on this side which stood between the Government and this very laudable object which they profess to have in view. That if only we cease opposing this move of the Government something wonderful will happen, there will be no shortage of rice, and hunger will disappear from this land altogether. This is not a true picture of the situation, and all that we on this side of the House are concerned with is this: that we are anxious that on an important measure like this,—which deals with the production and the marketing of rice and research work which has to be carried on in connection with the improvement of rice production in India,—on a measure like this, which deals with a crop on which a very large number of people in this country depend for their very existence,—such a proposal as the one before us should be sent round and circulated for eliciting public opinion, before we sit down to legislate on it. The idea is not to delay the thing, the idea is not to whittle down the thing. The idea is merely to have public opinion on a very important measure, which affects so many people in this country.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: At a time when lakhs are starving!

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: My Honourable friend says that when lakhs are starving, we are trying to delay this measure. May I know from the Government of India, if they were absolutely ignorant of the fact that long before the war began, a small country like Japan was producing something like 3,000 lbs paddy to an acre, while we in India had only 800 lbs. to our credit? May I know whether the Government of India were ignorant of the fact that a very large number of people in this country depended for their very existence on the

import of rice from Burma? The political separation of Burma carried with it the possibility of Burma becoming economically independent, setting up customs barriers against us, and refusing to send any rice to this country. What were the Government of India doing, while we were absolutely on the brink of starvation, and face to face with a famine which ultimately overtook Bengal last year and lakhs and lakhs of people had to die before some sort of sense entered the head of this Government of India and they began to think of improving the production of rice in this country? Therefore the charge of delay cannot be laid at the door of the Opposition, but Government is guilty of culpable neglect in having ignored the interests of the producers of rice, in having altogether ignored the fact that we in this country were deficient in the matter of rice production, and had to depend on Burma and other outside sources for feeding the millions of people in this country. Therefore this motion is not a dilatory one, but it is with a view to ascertaining the wishes of the people who are vitally interested in the rice industry.

Then we want to be sure of another thing. It has become the fashion for the Government of India to come forward with a proposal to set up a certain committee demanding some more money. It may be a tax on cotton, some tax on coffee, some tax on lac or some other commodity, and the object is really very laudable. They want to improve the state of things in this country as far as production, marketing, distribution and the rest of it is concerned. But we on this side of the House are really not sure that the Government of India has at all succeeded in achieving the objects for which previous measures similar to the one now before the House were passed. We are not sure that beyond setting up a committee, beyond bringing together a number of people on that committee, and beyond giving them some travelling allowance, salaries, etc., whether any money was at all left for purposes, which this particular Bill professes to have in view.

Having said this much, I shall now turn to another little grievance of mine, viz., that while the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill, who incidentally happens to be a next door neighbour, has set up a committee of 51, in which he has taken very good care to include all sorts of interests and some interests which should not have been there,—he has altogether ignored my province in the matter of representation on this committee. Sir, I want to inform the Honourable Member that the Frontier Province cannot be ignored like this and that he will have to make provision for including representatives not only of the Provincial Government, not only of the Department of Agriculture but also of the producers of rice in that part of the country. In the matter of numbers, and in the matter of acres under cultivation, we may not be able to compare favourably with the other provinces of India. But I think the Honourable Member is well aware that even though we cannot, in the matter of numbers and acres, compare favourably with the other large provinces in India, what we lack in quantity we certainly more than make up for it in the quality of rice which we produce and the quality of men we have in that province. For some time there has been a tendency on the part of the Government of India, and that tendency still lurks in their brains, that when the question of reforms came, the Frontier Province was ignored at the time of the Minto-Morley reforms; then again in 1919 when another instalment of reforms came my province was ignored; but then in the year 1930 the Government of India was face to face with a very serious rebellion in my part of the country. What was the cry which rallied the people to the cause of that rebellion? The cry was that the Frontier Province must be treated absolutely on terms of equality and on par with the rest of the Indian provinces, and it was to acquire that status which was rightly our due that we rebelled against the authority constituted by law; I therefore inform the Honourable Members that if the Government of India still persist in that attitude, we have every right to retaliate, and we will be able to show that we can give a much better account of ourselves than we gave in the year 1930. As the grievances which I have ventilated and voiced are just grievances, I am sure that I will have the support of all the

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elected Members of this House, and I will make it impossible for Government to carry this Bill through, unless they put right this very just grievance.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: I will certainly put it right.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: There are one or two things more which I shall refer to in passing and then I will conclude my speech. There are two schools of thought in this world: one school of thought which believes in private ownership of the sources of production, and another school of thought which believes in communism or the common ownership of all the sources of production. In this country also people are divided into two camps and there is a sort of intellectual war going on, though the physical war has not yet begun between these two vital schools of thought. Now, I want the Government of India to start an experiment right away, by buying up all the waste land which can be brought under rice production in the various states and provinces and to set up big farms, experimental farms, which will be owned by the state and the benefit of which will go directly to the people in the form of lesser taxation, more food, and freedom from hunger, from which Bengal has terribly suffered in recent years. Let us therefore experiment with State-owned rice farms side by side with the present system which we have, whereby private property is recognised by law, and very powerful vested interests are entrenched in this country. Lastly I must tell the Honourable Member that we have decided to support the motion for circulation which has been moved by Mr. Essak Sait, that is, circulation by the 28th of February, 1945, and I hope that he will accept it. There is no desire to sabotage this Bill.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the House must be quite familiar with the maxim "No taxation without representation." There is great political wisdom in it. Similarly there is great wisdom in the maxim that there should be no representation without taxation. In the constitution of the Rice Committee, the bodies which have been given representation do not contribute a single farthing and they have been given very large representation. Persons who have no responsibility to contribute are not likely to take much interest in what happens: very likely they will be very careless with the funds which would be kept at their disposal. It is therefore very necessary that if you wish to constitute a committee those elements which constitute the committee should be responsible to contribute very largely for the fund. The scheme of the fund at present is merely to collect cess from the millers. The millers may have their representation. The growers are vitally interested and they should have representation; but what poor representation they have got! The man who produces rice and who labours day and night and takes all possible risks and provides you with food—he has been given merely 14 out of 51 seats; while persons who do not contribute a single farthing have been given a very large percentage. Why should the chambers of commerce be there. Why should the Provincial Governments be allowed to nominate persons when they do not contribute anything for the fund? I therefore say and lay emphasis on it, that unless these bodies which are proposed to form part of this committee contribute funds according to the representation that this Government proposes to give them, they should not be on this Committee.

Another thing which I wish to say is this: the method of representation of the growers is really faulty. You do not allow persons who are interested in the welfare of the agriculturist to come in the ordinary way: you have made provision here for instance—14 persons representing the growers to be nominated by the Government. Would a person like my friend Prof. Ranga be nominated by any Provincial Government?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Will he contribute towards this?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: But he is a grower; he is not merely an outsider who comes here and gets on this body without any responsibility and says "I

will spend the money as I like". He is a grower. Similarly a person like me has no chance of getting nominated by any Government—there are many persons who work for the welfare of the agriculturist, but because they are agitating they are unpopular with the Government and such persons have no chance of getting nominated by any Government. Any person who is agitating constantly and has suffered as my friend Prof. Ranga has suffered in the cause of the agriculturist has no possibility of getting nominated on this body by any Government. Therefore it is not only about the number that I complain, but I complain as regards the method by which these persons have to come on this body. That is the principal and main objection as regards the constitution of this committee.

Now, if you follow my idea that you will give representation to such bodies or such persons who contribute then certainly there will be no objection to the method of collecting funds. You are creating a fund. Why do you lay emphasis on the cess merely? That particular clause should be amended. Therefore I say that if this method of composing a body is to continue, then this Bill might be given the go-bye; but if, as I say, there are chances of improving, then I would certainly go to a certain extent and a great extent in supporting the motion for circulation to elicit public opinion which has been moved by Mr. Essak Sait. I cannot say that Prof. Ranga's motion for circulation is a wise one having regard to the circumstances: there I have my difference of opinion with him. It is really a very dilatory motion. It refers to 31st January, 1946. We have not heard any arguments as to why the objects we have in view cannot be achieved by the 28th February, 1945. As a matter of fact, on several grounds, on matters of principle, he has expressed strong objection to this Bill and I suppose he would very much like this Bill to be dropped. I very strongly object to this Bill being dropped, because our experiences are such that we must grow more food. More food is needed now and hereafter. I therefore strongly support this motion about the 28th February for eliciting public opinion. I hope that Government will show its willingness to accept this amendment which is a very wise one. The matter is not postponed to a very long date and by that time you will get the information from the public which is very essential. You are governing many of the provinces under section 93 and you cannot have the views of the public as reflected in the popular Legislatures. It is therefore very necessary to have this Bill circulated and I hope that the Bill will come back with opinions on the 28th February, 1945.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): May I intervene to say that we, on our side, are willing to agree to Mr. Essak Sait's motion for circulation for a short date. I do not want to stifle discussion as the House is obviously enjoying itself but we are agreeable to circulation with the date 28th February, 1945. It is only fair to tell the House what our attitude is.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In view of this statement, I should like to know whether the House will wish to continue the debate.

Several Honourable Members: Yes.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): It is a great pity that Government takes the view that the opinions expressed on this Bill are inimical to the Bill and that we on this side are opposed to the principles of the Bill. It is nothing like that. The motive for opposition is not for the sake of opposition. My friends on the other side always press the point that we on this side are taking more of the time of the House by opposing all measures, not on very good grounds. I am only telling the truth when I say that today Government has been forced to see the wisdom of the opposition and the arguments that have been advanced from this side. It is only because of that that Mr. Tyson has got up and made a statement agreeing to the circulation motion of my friend Mr. Essak Sait. Those friends of ours on the Government Benches should not think that we are opposing the measures they bring forward in any spirit of antagonism. We are always prepared to support anything which is for the good of the country. It must be

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remembered that we on this side are more interested in the people of the country and their welfare than the Government servants who are paid servants. We as the representatives of the people claim the right to inform the Government of the shortcomings of every Bill which they bring forward and we do that only for safeguarding the interests of the people of this country. It is a very sad index of the mind of those members who are on the opposition side or the side of Government, who impute such bad motives to this side of the House.

When Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee spoke, he said something which we do not consider to be worthy of a representative of the people. He said 'If you do this and that, if you produce' and so on. There is a great 'if' in everything that Mr. Lalljee said and if that 'if' is to be followed by us and the Government what will happen. He says the country will be benefited. Certainly the country will be benefited but we object to the methods by which these objects are sought to be achieved. We know that the Government wishes to make us to agree to a cess which is to be imposed on the people of India. We know that the way in which the money will be spent will not be fair and it is for this reason that the 'if' and similar conditional phrases do not appeal to us.

The question before us is whether we could produce more rice or wheat at some future time. The present question is how to get more food for the people who are famishing. It is not a question of research. Research may take hundreds of years but the question is how to produce food urgently for the people who are dying of starvation now. People are dying like anything in the country and still you say 'If you produce, if you do this, that and the other' and so on. How is it possible to translate these conditional phrases into action, when we find that there is no food at all? Rice has stopped coming from Burma and other places from which it used to come. If we start research today, may I ask Government whether it will be possible to complete it in three or four years? The war may last for a year or two more. You have got a post-war plan. Why do you not include this in it and why do you want to tax the people? My charge today is that these taxes are imposed by the backdoor. When the time comes for the presentation of the Budget, you impose taxes of every kind. The producer, the cultivator and the industrialist have all been taxed to the limit which can be imagined in this country. Every year, the Government comes forward with proposals for setting up this committee and that committee and what is the cumulative effect of all these taxes on the cultivator? It is very easy to say that one or two pice does not matter but who is ultimately to bear the burden? It is the poor man, it is the cultivator who has to pay all these taxes in the end. Those people who own mills will not be taxed in any way; it is the producer and the consumer who will be taxed and who will be burdened by this taxation. The industrialist who has got the hulling mill will simply charge his profit from the producer and the consumer. So, we have to consider this question. It is not an easy matter that we should let it go in such a hasty manner as my friend Mr. Lalljee or the Government wants it. What I say is that this is not the time for the Government to make experiments. It is time for action. This is not the time for taxation, but it is the time for you to be liberal in extending your help to the cultivators, consumers and everyone who is in need.

Sir, there is no paucity of money. Government can print any number of notes at any time they like. So, why do you want this tax to be imposed at this moment? Is it only for experimental purposes? I submit that the time for experiments is past. It is time for you to help the cultivator, the consumer and the producer.

Sir, the objects which are mentioned in this Bill are very laudable. They are undoubtedly in every way high-sounding. They say that we will have research; we will have development and we will have this and that. But this is more a question of the production of rice, the marketing of rice and the development of rice, but every province is not a rice producing province.

Besides the various provinces have got their own systems. They have got their own Agricultural Departments and what are those Agricultural Departments of the different provinces doing? My submission is that it was the duty of the Agricultural Department of every province to have set up such a committee before the war began or about 50 years back. They have failed in their duty and today the Government wants to supplement the works which the Provincial Governments and their Agricultural Departments should have done by imposing cumulative taxes everywhere and every time through this House. My submission is that the Cotton Committee, of course, made a very great experiment and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is also trying its best to have experiments. The Honourable Member also said that he has saved the country from the inroads of locusts. I am sure next year when we come here for the autumn Session there might be a cess for the prevention of locusts. So, this is not the time to make such experiments. It is time when you should have every sympathy and every kind of consideration for feeding the Indian people and bring more food from outside. It is not the time to impose taxation and cesses.

I am really sorry that Government is not taking advantage of co-operative banking which was at one time helped by the Government for a very long time and very good results were secured. I submit that even now the Provincial Governments could take up this business of marketing and producing of the rice through the co-operative societies and expand the business of co-operative societies. If the Provincial banks in all the provinces by the help either of the Provincial Governments or the Central Government could help the cultivators, then you will see how the crops will improve. It is very easy to say for my Honourable friend Mr. Lalljee that if we get fertilizers and this and that, we will get very good results. But is it possible to get all these things at present? We know the shipping conditions that are prevailing today outside the country. There is nothing in our hands. If there were a National Government, I am sure we would have done things for the benefit of the country, but at present we are helpless. As I said before, the resources of the agriculturist have now been practically tapped. I would say that it is an exploded theory now that the agriculturist is making money. Does the Government know what the agriculturist has to pay for oil, cloth and for ever so many things that he has to buy? He cannot even afford to buy proper *kafan* for the dead bodies of his relations. This is the condition of the cloth in the market.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better leave all this.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: I simply want the Government to provide . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not dilate on constitutional questions.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Now, Sir, I come to the point as to how these hulling mills work. I find that in my own province there is no paper to be had. Even the Patwaries of the villages and the clerks in the Collectorate say that there is no paper even to give the receipts from the landholders to the tenants, which is the incumbent duty under the Rent Act. This is the paucity of the paper and still you want that these hulling mills should have a regular office of their own with books. They must employ somebody to write their accounts. The section says that he should provide a register and produce it before the Collector of the district every month. Is it feasible? There may be so many hulling mills in a district or in a town. What a great difficulty they will have in getting the necessary paper. But the Government does not consider these hardships of these people. It is very easy for me to say in this House that I would like to subscribe to this cess, but you have to remember the difficulties of the hulling machine keeper. It would be for him to provide paper for the registers and then take them to the authorities of the District. It all shows you cannot imagine the difficulties of the poor people. Besides, all of them are not literate and highly educated in accounts. These are the matters which we wanted to ventilate on the floor of the House. And

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it is for this reason that my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait has brought his amendment that the Bill be circulated.

Sir, there is another point in this Bill. I see that in clause 12 provision is made for the assessment of the Collector to be made final. I ask Honourable Members who have to pay income-tax whether in case of wrong assessment, there is no provision for appeal first to the Department, and then to the Tribunal. There is no provision in this Bill against the decision of the Collector.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): There is provision in sub-clause (2) of clause 12 to apply to the Central Government.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: I know there is such a provision, but there is no appeal to a Civil Court. Just imagine the position of the owner of a mill being dragged to the seat of the Central Government to get the Collector's assessment altered. He has to produce the papers before the Department to prove his case. Is that a feasible course? It may be said that he can send the papers by post. Everyone knows what happens to papers and letters sent by post. It will be incumbent upon him to come to Delhi and prefer his appeal. If he is a literate man, he can draft his application himself, otherwise, he will have to engage a lawyer for pleading his case. All these things mean extra cost and inconvenience to the poor owner of the mill. These are my reasons for sending this Bill for circulation. Of course, it is left to the Government to get this Bill passed with the majority that they may command in this House. They can pass this measure by hook or crook, but I am sure, it will be the cause of great grievance to the poor people. These are not days when Government should aggravate the trouble which the people are already undergoing. These are days for conciliation. I therefore ask the Government to get this Bill circulated for eliciting public opinion.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, at this stage end of the discussion, I should not like to take up much of the time of the House. I welcome the principle of research. There are no two opinions about it. We also welcome the principle of taking steps to improve the methods of cultivation and so on. So, Sir, we welcome the principle of the Bill. At the same time, allow me to say that I cannot induce myself to support the Bill as it stands in the present form. Almost all the provisions of the Bill are unacceptable to me. I shall say at once that I support the motion for circulation and I do so in the hope that after circulation, after receipt of opinions from all quarters, the Bill will be improved and will be acceptable. May I invite the attention of the House to clause 16 which gives the Central Government the power to dissolve the Committee. Now, Sir, I consider this provision to be very extraordinary. The clause says:

"The Central Government may, by notification in the Official gazette, declare that, with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, the Committee shall be dissolved."

This is one provision in clause 16. Another provision is:

"And on the making of such declaration all funds and other property vested in the Committee shall vest in His Majesty for the purposes of the Central Government."

Then follows another provision which is still more unacceptable:

"and this Act shall be deemed to have been repealed."

So, Sir, the power of repealing this Act, if passed, is given to the Central Government when they think it fit to do so. As soon as the Central Government issues a notification dissolving this Committee, the funds go and the Act is repealed. Here is a Bill which is put forward before the Legislature and the Legislature is asked to enact this legislation, and at the same time power is taken by the Central Government to repeal the Act. Ordinarily according to the first principles of jurisprudence, this power of repeal cannot be given to the executive. When an Act is passed by the Legislature, the power of repealing it must be exercised by the Legislature itself and not by the executive. This is a very obnoxious provision in the Bill which I am afraid has not received proper attention at the hands of Honourable Members who

preceded me. Having regard to the nature of the Committee, we can well imagine a time may come, when all research work will have been finished, when all improvements in cultivation, production and marketing will have been adopted and when there will be no room for further improvement in this direction. Here may come a time when such a Committee will be unnecessary. But certainly the power of dissolving the Committee cannot be given to the Central Government. I have not gone into the question very carefully, but I am told that a provision for dissolution of a Committee like this can only be given to the Committee itself. If for instance, three-fourth number of Members of a Committee by a Resolution decide that there is no further utility for the Committee and that it be dissolved, in that case, it will be dissolved, but not at the caprice of the Central Government. So, Sir, this Committee is really a creature of the Central Government. There are many other provisions which make the Committee a creature of the Government. For instance under clause 7(2):

"The Central Government shall appoint a person to be the Secretary of the Committee and such person shall be paid by the Committee such salary and such allowances as may be fixed by the Central Government."

The position is this: that the Secretary will act under the orders of the Committee, but he will be appointed by the Central Government. His salary and allowances will be fixed by the Central Government. In view of this, the Committee becomes an absolute non-entity.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As it is 5 o'clock the Honourable Member may continue his speech tomorrow.

Before adjourning the House I should like to mention that tomorrow between 10-30 and 1 p.m. there is going to be election of members to serve on the Indian Coconut Committee; and I must point out that section 4(g) of this Act (X of 1944), relating to this Committee provides as follows:

"six other persons of whom two shall be persons elected from among themselves by the elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Central Legislature."

So the election will be by Members who have been elected to this Assembly and the other Members cannot take part in that election.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 16th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 16th 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:

Sir Charles MacIvor Grant Ogilvie, C.S.I., C.B.E. (Secretary Defence Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

ADDITIONAL DUTY FOR PROGRAMME STAFF IN ALL-INDIA RADIO, DELHI.

452. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if it is a fact that Programme Staff in the All-India Radio, Delhi, are on duty from 10-30 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily? If so, is it a fact that the members of the staff are put on duty in addition to the daily duty and in continuation of the same from 5 P.M. to 1 A.M. in turn? If so, will the Honourable Member please state how he justifies continuous duty for 14½ hours? Will he consider the proposal of giving a member off day, whose turn faces from 5 P.M. to 1 A.M.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The programme staff of the Delhi Station of All India Radio, like members of other offices of the Government of India in Delhi, attend office from 10-30 A.M. to 6-00 P.M. daily except on Saturdays when their duty hours are from 10-30 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. Each member of the staff has to take, in addition, transmission duties for periods which range from 3½ hours to 7 hours once or twice a week. The question of affording relief to the staff has been under the consideration of Government for some time and extra staff for the purpose is now being provided.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know from the Honourable Member if it is a fact that some members of the staff have to be on duty for 14½ hours?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not aware, but I will enquire.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if they are paid for the over-time work that they do at night?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I should like the Honourable Member to put a separate question on that, which I will reply. I have not got the information here.

INCREASE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH TROOPS.

453. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that large increases in pay and allowances of British troops have been made recently? If so, what are these increases?

(b) What is the percentage of these increases with the present total pay and allowances drawn by each rank?

(c) Which authority sanctioned these increases? Was the Government of India consulted in the matter? If so, was the increase agreed to by the Government of India?

(d) Who bears the increased cost—Government of India or His Majesty's Government?

(e) What is the total burden imposed on Indian finances by this increase?

(f) Why was not the Indian Legislature consulted in the matter?

(g) Do Government propose to represent to His Majesty's Government that British troops in India be replaced by Indian troops by recalling the latter from oversea services and sending the British troops to Italy and other places?

(h) Will the Government represent to His Majesty's Government that the additional cost of these increases should be borne by the British Exchequer on the ground that British troops in India are being retained mostly for Imperial

purposes rather than for the defence of India when Japanese menace to India is almost over?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 92 on the 3rd November 1944.

(c), (d), (e) and (h). His Majesty's Government with whom, as the authority responsible for the British troops, the ultimate decision rests, sanctioned these increases. The views of the Government of India were communicated to, and considered by, His Majesty's Government and the final decision was taken after such consideration. I regret I am unable to disclose the recommendations made by the Government of India, but certain financial issues arising from His Majesty's Government's decision are engaging their attention in consultation with His Majesty's Government. I would add that the ground suggested in (h) is mistaken in fact.

(f). Because questions of this nature are always dealt with by the Executive Government.

(g) No, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (e)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have given the answer to part (e) along with (c), (d) and (h).

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member give the figure of increased burden on the Indian exchequer because of the increase of pay to British Troops in India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have said that certain financial issues arising from His Majesty's Government's decision are engaging the attention of Government, and until a decision is reached I cannot say what the burden on Indian revenue will be.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that the question under consideration is as to what portion of the burden of increase is to be borne by the Indian exchequer and what portion by the British exchequer?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think I have made my meaning clear by saying that certain financial issues arising from His Majesty's Government's decision are engaging attention of Government in consultation with His Majesty's Government. That must involve the question as to what extent the Government of India should bear the burden.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether they have not already come to any decision as to what amount is to be borne by the Indian exchequer?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That question is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

Sardar Sant Singh: With regard to part (h) of the question, may I know if the Government of India will consider the question of paying the British troops in India only as much as His Majesty's Government are paying to the Indian troops serving overseas?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Will the Honourable Member repeat his question; I could not follow?

Sardar Sant Singh: I will explain. Indian troops are serving overseas and their cost, which is met by His Majesty's Government, is less than what the Indian exchequer has to bear on account of the British troops serving in India. There are two methods of adjusting this burden. One is to direct the Indian troops to come back to India so that the burden on the Indian revenue will be decreased, and the other is to pay the British troops in India only as much as our Indian troops are being paid overseas. May I know if the Government of India is considering that aspect of the question?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know why?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will explain the position. During the last Budget discussion, the Honourable the Finance Member made a statement on this point. That statement runs thus:

"The distribution of the total forces available to the United Nations between the various theatres of war is governed entirely by operational needs and availability of shipping

The desirability, from various points of view, of bringing back to India the Indian troops at present serving in overseas theatres is fully realised and constantly borne in mind, but, as I have already stated, its feasibility is governed by the exigencies of the war situation as a whole."

I have nothing to add to that.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am not asking from the point of view of war operations. My question is entirely from the financial point of view. Why should the Indian tax-payer bear the additional cost when the same can be saved by bringing back the Indian troops to India and releasing the British troops who are at present serving in India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Because the British troops are required for the local defence of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know whether the Government of India have any voice in determining the number of Indian troops that may have to be sent overseas for operational purposes, and the number of British troops that may have to be stationed in India for these purposes?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir. The Government of India is consulted.

Mr. Hoosenbhooy A. Lalljee: If the British troops are here for the defence of India, what are the Indian troops in the United Kingdom for?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As I have already said, the distribution of the total forces available to the United Nations between the various theatres of war is governed entirely by operational needs and the availability of shipping.

Mr. Hoosenbhooy A. Lalljee: My question is, if the British troops are stationed in India for the protection of this country, for what purpose are the Indian troops serving outside India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is one war, Sir.

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

BASIC PAY AND ALLOWANCES TO INDIAN AND BRITISH SOLDIERS.

454. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the War Secretary please give the following information to the House:

(i) the basic pay which an Indian soldier received on the 1st October, 1939 and 1st October, 1944 and the basic pay which his British colleague received on the same dates;

(ii) the total sum of all allowances paid to each on these dates;

(iii) the basic pay which the various grades of Indian Officers received on the 1st October, 1939 and 1st October, 1944, and the same as was paid to their British colleagues on these dates; and

(iv) the total sum of all allowances paid to each of them on these dates?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Statements giving the required information have been laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (i).

Basic pay of B. O. Rs. enlisted on or after 26th October, 1925 and Indian soldiers on 1st October 1939 and 1st October, 1944.

Ranks	Indian Ranks		Ranks	British Ranks	
	Basic pay on 1st October 1939	Basic pay on 1st October 1944		Basic pay on 1st October 1939	Basic pay on 1st October 1944
	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.		Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
Subedar-Major	*250	*250-15-310	W. O. I.	273-12	298-9
Subedar	130-10-160	140-10-180	W. O. II. (R. Q. M. S.)	228-2	250-15
Jamadar	75-5-100	80-5-105	S/Sergeant	182-8	205-5
Havildar	25	27	Sergeant	126-14	159-11
Naik	22	24	Corporal	91-4	136-14
L/Naik	18	20	L/Corporal	74-2	125-8
Sepoy	16	18	Private	45-10	68-7

*Includes personal allowance at Rs. 50 per mensem.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (ii).

Total allowances received by Indian and British troops on 1st October 1939 and 1st October, 1944.

British Other Ranks		V. C. Os. and I. O. Rs.	
Ranks	On 1st October, 1939	On 1st October, 1939	On 1st October, 1944.
Ranks	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	
(i) Separation allowance.			
W. Os., S/Sgts. and Sgts.	5 10 0	18 0 0	Risaldar Major/Subedar Major
L/Sgts. and Cpls.	8 7 0	18 0 0	Risaldar/Subedar
L/Cpls. and Ptes.	11 4 0	18 0 0	Jemadar
NOTE.—Separation allowance is admissible in cases if separation is due to the exigencies of the service.			
(ii) Family Allowances			
All ranks, Wife	30	Wife.	Def./Havildar
Each child up to a 10	Wife + 1 child	86	On promotion
Each child above a 5	Wife + 2 children	136	With 1 year's service as n.c.o.
total of three.	Each additional child	45	With 2 years' service as n.c.o.
total of three.			With 3 years' service as n.c.o.

NOTE.—The allowance at the above rates is admissible if families are in India. In the case of families in U. K., the allowance is issuable at Home rates.

(iii) Post-war credits—6d. per day (Rs. 11-6-0 per mensem) for each. B. O. R.

NOTE.—Post-war credits will be issued on discharge after the war.

(iv) State allotment at 6d. per diem.—The qualifying allotment made by soldiers before they are eligible for marriage allowance has been reduced by 6d. per diem (Rs. 11-6-0 p. m.) and is paid by the State.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[16TH NOV. 1944]

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (iii).

Rates of basic pay of Indian Officers and of British Officers on 1st October, 1939 and 1st October, 1944.

Indian Officers		British Officers	
1st October 1939	1st October, 1944	1st October 1939	1st October 1944
Single or married	Married	Single	Married
Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
2/Lieut.	300	2/Lt.	370
Lieutenant	350	Lieutenant	410
Lt. after 3 years and 9 months' service	400	Lt. (3)	440
Captain	450	Lt. (6)	450
Capt. after 2 years' service as such	500	Captain	480
Capt. after 4 years' service as such	550	Capt. after 3 years' paid service as such	500
Capt. after 6 years' service as such	600	Captain (11)	530
Capt. after 8 years' service as such	650	Captain (14)	580
Major	800	Major	765
Lt.-Col.	1,000	Major (22)	865
		Lt.-Col.	1,090
			1,145
			1,225

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (iv)
Rates of allowances admissible to Indian Officers and to British Officers on 1st October, 1939 and 1st October, 1944.**

Indian Officers				British Officers			
1st Oct- ber, 1939	1st Oct- ber, 1944	1st October, 1939	1st October, 1944	Single.	W	W+1	W+2
Messing Allow- ance.	Spl. alloe. to single Officers.	Single	Married				Each addl. child
Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
2/Lieut. Lieutenant	35	20	105	20	80	170	210
Lt. (3)	20	25	110	Lieutenant	25	170	210
Lt. (6)	20	25	115	Lt. (3)	25	170	210
Capt.	20	35	170	Lt. (6)	25	170	210
Until completion 11 years' service.		35	170	Capt. (3)	35	150	190
		35	170	Capt. (11)	35	150	190
		40	190	Capt. (14)	35	150	190
		50	190	Major	50	120	160
		85	200	Major (22)	55	120	160
		120	225	Lt.-Col.	75	120	160

NOTE.—Married Officers also received/receive Separation Allow-
ance at the following rates when posted to stations where
their families were/are not permitted to accompany them:—

Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
2/Lt. and Lt.	40
Captain	50
Major	80
Major (22)	85
Lt.-Col.	120

NOTE.—1. Officers serving with
I. A. received an I. A. allowance
at the following rates:—

Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
2/Lts. and Lts.	75
Captains	100
Majors and Lt.-Cols.	200
2. Married officers received a se- paration Allowance at the fol- lowing rates when they were posted to stations where families were not permitted to accom- pany them:—	
2/Lts. and Lts.	40
Captains	50
Majors	80
Lt.-Cols.	120

NOTE.—1. Officers serving with I. A. receive an I. A. allow-
ance at the following rates:—

Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
2/Lts. and Lts.	75
Captains	100
Majors and Lt.-Cols.	200
(These are the rates for regular officers. E. C. Os. receive half these rates.)	
2. Married officers of the British Service having one or more children receive a special allowance at the following rates when they are NOT serving with Indian Army:—	
2/Lt.	40
Lieutenant	35
Captain	25
3. Married officers separated from their families receive the single lodging allowance at the above rates in addition to family allowance if Government accommodation is not provided.	
4. Married officers living with their families receive Rs. 20 p. m. in addition to family allowance.	

[16TH Nov. 1944]

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member what was the pro-
portion between the basic pay of Indian soldier and Indian officer, and British
soldier and British officer in 1939, and what is the proportion today?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think my Honourable friend will find all the informa-
tion in the statements which I have laid on the table of the House today.

INCREASE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF INDIAN TROOPS.

455. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the War Secretary please state if any increase
in the pay and allowances of Indian Soldiers and Officers have been made
since the 4th September, 1939? If so, what are the scales of these increases?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As
regards the latter part, statements giving the required information have been
laid on the table of the House.

Increases made in the pay and allowances of Indian Officers since the 4th September, 1939.

1. With effect from the 1st October 1940, an emergency allowance was sanctioned for
Indian Officers serving in India at the following rates:—

	Rs. per mensem
2/Lieutenant	65
Lieutenant during the first 3 years and nine months' service as such	65
Lieutenant after 3 years and nine months' service as such	60
Captain until completion of 2 years' service as such	50

This allowance ceased to be admissible with effect from the 1st January 1942 conse-
quent on the introduction of new rates of pay as indicated in paragraph 4 below.

2. Prior to the 1st October, 1941 Indian Officers holding appointments carrying addi-
tional or charge pay received additional or charge pay at two-thirds of the rates autho-
rised for King's Commissioned Officers. From the said date they were allowed to draw
additional or charge pay at the full rates.

3. In 1941 Indian Commissioned Officers were for the first time posted to staff appoint-
ments and the following rates of consolidated pay were then introduced for such officers:—

	Married or Single Rs. per mensem
G. S. O. I.	1,350
G. S. O. II.	1,000
G. S. O. III.	700

4. With effect from the 1st January 1942 an increase was made in the regimental rates
of pay and allowances for Indian Officers and separate rates were laid down for single offi-
cers and married Officers. The revised rates are as follows:—

	Single Rs. p. m.	Married Rs. p. m.
2/Lieutenant	370	450
Lieutenant	410	490
Lieutenant after 6 years' service	440	520
Captain	480	610
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

Unmarried Indian Commissioned Officers were granted when not in receipt of expatria-
tion allowance, a special allowance at the following rates in addition to the above rates:—

	Rs. per mensem
2/Lieutenant	35
Lieutenant	20
Captain until completion of 11 years' service	20

5. From the 1st January 1942 separate rates were also laid down for married Indian
Commissioned Officers holding staff appointments. These were:—

	Rs. per mensem
G. S. O. I.	1,510
G. S. O. II.	1,130
G. S. O. III.	830

6. With effect from the 1st December 1942, the following increased rates of pay were authorised for Indian Commissioned Officers:—

	Unmarried Rs. p. m.	Married Rs. p. m.
Lieutenant after 3 years' service	440	520
Captain after 3 years' paid service as such	500	630

7. In April 1943, the rates of corps pay for Indian Commissioned Officers serving in technical corps, e.g., I.E., R.I.A.S.C., I.A.O.C., I.E.M.E., etc., were increased to bring them to the level of K.C.Os. rates. The old and new rates are as follows:—

	Old rates Rs. p. m.	New rates Rs. p. m.
2nd Lieutenants and Lieutenants	40	45
Captains	60	70
Majors	100	115
Lieutenant-Colonels	130	160

The following increases in the pay and allowances of Indian soldiers (V.C.Os. and I.O.Rs.) have been made since the 4th September 1939:—

I. Viceroy's Commissioned Officers—

1940—

Batta } Rates increased by Rs. 2 per mensem.
Expatriation allowance }

1944—

Scales of pay—Revised as shown in reply to part (i) of starred question No. 454 of 16th November, 1944.

Batta—Further increase by Rs. 3 per mensem.

II. Indian Other Ranks—

1940—

Batta } Increased by Rs. 2 per mensem.
Expatriation allowance }

1942—

Basic pay—Increased by Rs. 2 per mensem.

Deferred pay—Increased by Rs. 2 per mensem.

Proficiency pay—Increased by Rs. 1 per mensem after 6 months' service and Rs. 3-8-0 per mensem after 1 year's service.

Good service pay—Qualifying periods reduced from 2, 4 and 6 years to 1, 2, and 3 years; rates remaining the same.

1944—

S.P.P.—Sanctioned with effect from the 1st January 1944, Rs. 3 per mensem, after 6 months' service and Rs. 5 per mensem after 1 year's service.

Batta—Further increased by Rs. 3 per mensem.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether any extra allowance has been sanctioned for those who have earned gallantry awards, e.g., the Military Cross etc.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Certain monetary allowances are attached to these awards.

Sardar Mangal Singh: With effect from what date?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I would like to have notice of that question.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the increase sanctioned to the pay of Indian soldiers from 4th September to date in the same proportion to the increase of allowances sanctioned to British troops in India by His Majesty's Government?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member will find this information from the statements laid on the table in reply to questions 454 and 455.

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

PERSONS SELECTED FOR EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

456. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the War Secretary please give the following information:

(a) the number of persons selected for Emergency Commission since the 1st September, 1939, till the 1st of October, 1944;

(b) the number of persons granted Commission during the above five years;

(c) the number of such officers (i) discharged, (ii) dismissed, (iii) cashiered, (iv) tried by Summary General Court Martial during this period; and (v) convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment; and

(d) the number of appeals filed against the above punishments, and the number of appeals accepted by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and His Excellency the Governor General?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) This information is not readily available as selections during this period have been made by various authorities.

(b) 27,049.

(c) and (d). The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CIVIL SERVICES OF DISMISSED ARMY OFFICERS.

457. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if the officers who had been dismissed or discharged from the army are eligible for civil services under the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Army officers are either cashiered or dismissed. They are never discharged. There are no rules governing the re-employment of dismissed Army officers by a civil department; normally they could not be so employed.

DETENTION OF MR. MADHAO SHRIPAD GOKHALE.

458. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if one Mr. Madhao Shripad Gokhale, M.Sc., for some time in the service of the Imperial Chemical Industries and then for some time in the alt-Petre Factory at Karachi, was arrested on the 26th March 1944 by the mraoti (Berar) Police and is at present under detention under orders of the central Government;

(b) the grounds for his detention;

(c) the place where he is detained;

(d) whether any interviews with him are allowed or would be allowed to his brother and sister; if not, why not;

(e) if any application was made to get him examined by a doctor for the medical fitness to revive an insurance policy which had lapsed, and if it was rejected; if so, why; and

(f) if the Government at any time intend to put him on trial?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (e). The Honourable Member referred to the reply which I gave to Question No. 293 on the 13th November 44.

(b), (c), (d) and (f). Do not arise as Mr. Gokhale has been released.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: When was he released?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: A short time ago.

INCREASE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH TROOPS.

459. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that His Majesty's Government has increased the pay the British soldiers and officers;

(b) whether the Government of India will have to bear this extra burden respect of the British regiments and British officers in the Indian Army;

(c) whether the Government of India at the time of demobilisation of fence services will Indianise the Army in such a way and to such an extent that it will dispense with the British soldiers wholly and British officers considerably?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the replies given to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 92 on the 3rd November 1944.

(c) This is one of the matters which is engaging the active attention of Government.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Since when has this matter been engaging the attention of the Government?

Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: For some time.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What period?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I should say for about 8 to 10 months.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Has any progress been made?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Some progress.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: To what extent?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am unable to define the extent of the progress.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: How long will it take to finish deliberations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: They will be finished as soon as it is possible to finish them.

POST-WAR PLANS FOR HANDLOOM INDUSTRY.

460. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have any post-war plans for protecting and developing handloom weaving industry;

(b) if their post-war planning includes this industry also; if so, what steps they are taking or propose to take to associate the representation of handloom weavers with this Department to develop their plans?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to para. 5 at page 25 of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning. The question of the protection and development of the handloom industry will be taken up in consultation with the Provinces. Attention is also invited to the Honourable the Commerce Member's reply to question No. 406 by Prof. Ranga.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: As regards (b) of this question, may I know whether the Honourable Member is associating the representatives of the handloom industries in some form or other?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The method and the organisation for working this out has not yet been devised. It is to be done by the Provinces first.

MEALS OF INDIAN TROOPS.

461. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that Indian troops are given two meals a day? If so, what are the times at which each meal is served? If the first meal is in the morning and second meal is in the evening, is not the interval between the two meals very long?

(b) When is the third meal to be universally adopted?

(c) Is it not a fact that British troops in India are served five meals a day? If so, what are the hours at which each meal is served? When was the fifth meal introduced for the British troops?

(d) What does each meal contain for (i) British, and (ii) Indian troops?

(e) What would be the total cost per day per head for food in the case of (i) a British soldier, and (ii) an Indian sepoy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Hitherto Indian troops' daily rations have been divided into two meals. Times for meals are left to the discretion of units, but usually they are morning and evening. It has, however, been recognised that division of daily rations into three meals would be beneficial to health.

(b) Instructions have already been issued to encourage three meals a day to all Indian troops, but it is not the intention to force this on men who have been accustomed to two meals a day all their lives.

(c) No, Sir. British troops have only three meals a day, which are served in the morning, afternoon and evening.

(d) There is no fixed composition, which is left to the discretion of units.

(e) (i) British Soldier Rs. 1-5-0 per head per day.

(ii) Indian Sepoy Rs. 0-15-0 per head per day.

REMOVAL OF MR. R. N. DEY FROM INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

462. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state why Mr. R. N. Dey, a Magistrate and Collector in the United Provinces (on leave) has been removed from the Indian Civil Service?

(b) What were the charges against him that led to his removal?

(c) How many years service was at his credit?

(d) Is he entitled to any pension or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). It would not be in the public interest to disclose the information. Action was taken against Mr. Dey by the Government of the United Provinces.

(c) 19 years.

(d) Mr. Dey has, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, been granted a pension of Rs. 8,320 per annum subject to a minimum of £780 per annum.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that this officer has been punished for holding independent opinions and not for any administrative fault?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That comes under part (b) of the question and I have already said that it is not in the public interest to disclose the reasons.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the meaning of "public interest"? Are the public not interested in the "public interest"? Does the word "public" mean the bureaucracy or does it mean the taxpayer of the country?

(No answer.)

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

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF DISMISSED I. C. S. OFFICERS.

463. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many dismissed I.C.S. officers have been employed by the Government of India during the past five years, and under what circumstances?

(b) Was the permission of the Secretary of State for India obtained prior to the re-employment of these officers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No dismissed Indian Civil Service officer has been employed by the Government of India during the past 5 years. I may add however for my Honourable friend's information that an Indian Civil Service officer who was removed from service was recently appointed for a period of 6 months as a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Information and Broadcasting.

(b) Does not arise.

NEW STANDARD TIME.

464. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state as to whether the new standard time was introduced for military exigencies?

(b) What was its public utility?

(c) Is there any necessity for maintaining it any longer?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). The reasons for the introduction of the new standard time and the advantages to be gained from it have been stated in reply to the question No. 189 put by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi on the same subject on the 25th February 1943 and in the Press note issued on the 4th April 1943, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House. Those considerations still apply and Government see no reason to make any change in the decision announced in the Press Note.

PRESS NOTE

In July last year the Government of India decided that with effect from the midnight of the 31st August-1st September, 1942, the Indian Standard Time throughout India should be 6½ instead of 5½ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. The position has now been re-examined with a view to deciding whether any change in the existing Indian Standard Time should be made during the summer months. The continuance of the existing Standard Time will contribute to the avoidance of overlap of factory demands for electric power with the demands of street lighting and thus to release of more power for war purposes. It will also result in a not inconsiderable saving of railway wagons required for transport of coal consumed by electric power stations. Moreover there are practical

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent.

advantages in avoiding the dislocation inseparable from periodic changes. The Government of India recognise the present Indian Standard Time involves inconvenience to the areas lying west of meridian 82°E but they consider that if suitable adjustments of business, court and office hours are made this inconvenience can be considerably reduced. They have accordingly decided that the existing Indian Standard Time 6½ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time should remain unchanged for the duration of the war.

HOME DEPARTMENT;
New Delhi, April 4, 1943.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Isn't it a fact that this time is very inconvenient to all people and will Government see to removing this time and reverting to the old standard time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered this question in my reference to the press note attached to my answer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has this change of time been to the good of the public and in the interests of Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The object, as set out in the press note, is to save coal.

DETENTION OF MR. MADHAO SHRIPAD GOKHALE.

465. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Has the Honourable the Home Member seen the letter of Mr. V. S. Gokhale of Amraoti published in the *Hindustan Times* of October, 26, 1944, regarding the whereabouts of his brother Mr. Madhao Shripad Gokhale, M.Sc., who was arrested on March 26, 1944?

(b) Why was he arrested?

(c) What were the charges against him, and have they been communicated to him?

(d) Has he got a right of reply and representation by a lawyer?

(e) Why has he been denied the ordinary privilege of an interview?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) I am afraid that I am unable for security reasons to give the Honourable Member the information asked for.

(c) to (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I gave to Question No. 293 on the 13th November, 1944.

SCHEMES SUBMITTED BY LAXAMINARAYAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NAGPUR.

466. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) if the Laxaminarayan Institute of Technology of Nagpur submitted schemes of research for consideration of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, through the Central Provinces Provincial Scientific and Industrial Research Committee, and

(b) what these schemes are, and which, if any of these have been approved and financed by the Government, and what the reasons are for either rejecting or not financing the other schemes?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes.

(b) The three research schemes were:

(i) Research scheme on essential oils;

(ii) Research scheme on utilisation of manganese ore of the Central Provinces;

(iii) Research scheme on utilisation of bauxite deposits of the Central Provinces.

The research scheme relating to essential oils was sanctioned by the G. R. of the C.S.I.R. in July 1944, with a grant of Rs. 2,500 for one year. The other two schemes relating to the utilisation of manganese and bauxite ore deposits in Central Provinces have been referred as recommended by the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, to the Heavy Chemicals Committee of the Board for opinion and comments. On receipt of the report of this Committee further action will be considered.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know the date of reference to that body?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I could not tell the Honourable Member the exact date but more or less the same time as the date on which the other scheme was sanctioned.

SUBSIDIZED NEWSPAPERS.

467. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the number of newspapers in each language which are subsidized by the Government of India—

(i) by the payment of a cash subsidy, and

(ii) by the purchase of a large number of copies by Government for distribution; and

(b) whether the Honourable Member proposes to place the details of the names and the amount of subsidy paid on the table?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) (i) Nil. (ii) Government of India pay for copies of many newspapers for use by their officials, in offices or in official libraries. No important newspaper, whatever its editorial policy, is excluded from consideration. Certain officials whose official work require that they should be in touch with public opinion are allowed to buy newspapers at Government expense. In such cases, the selection of the newspapers is left to the officer concerned.

National War Front organizations have also been purchasing copies of newspapers with definite pro-war and anti-Fascist editorial policies for use by National War Front workers.

(b) The time and effort required to collect the names of all newspapers and the amounts of subscription paid would be out of all proportion to the value of the information obtained and I regret I am unable to undertake to collect it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that the Provincial Government grant subsidies to newspapers in certain instances out of the funds placed at their disposal from the National War Front.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have no information as regards subsidies.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out by making enquiries from the Provincial Governments whether they are not subsidising certain newspapers in this way and will the Honourable Member be in a position to lay on the table of the House a list of such newspapers indicating the amounts of subsidies granted to each?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Certainly, I will enquire.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member lay on the table of the House on a convenient occasion a list of those newspapers, which are allowed to be purchased by these officers at Government expense?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have answered this particular question in my answer to part (b).

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that 50 newspapers are subsidised in the United Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have no information, Sir.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Do the Government maintain a list of selected newspapers which they consider to be fit for Government advertisements?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, they do.

Sardar Mangal Singh: In selecting such a newspaper, what are the considerations which weigh with the Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Mainly circulation, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Government maintain a list of favoured newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We have a list of favoured and non-favoured newspapers, because we are anxious to know the extent to which unreasonable criticism can go.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government place on the table of the House a list of such favoured and non-favoured newspapers?

TRIAL OF MR. JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN.

468. *Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) if Jaiprakash Narayan, a detenu at present, is to be tried for any offences under the Indian Penal Code; if so, for what offences; and
- (b) if he will be given all possible facilities to have interviews with and instructions from his counsel for his defence.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to starred question No. 198 on the 8th November.

(b) If he is brought to trial he will of course be given all facilities.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Has he been brought to trial?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If he is brought to trial he will of course be given all facilities.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Do the Government intend to bring him to trial?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The matter was under consideration.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that reports have reached the public that the Lahore High Court is going to try this gentleman under some section of the Indian Penal Code?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member enlighten the House as to when it was decided to place him on trial in respect of the offences mentioned in the Indian Penal Code and was any remand taken for the purpose by the Police?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer to which I have referred in my reply was to the effect that no decision has yet been taken. I repeated that today. No decision has yet been taken.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Since when has this matter been under consideration of the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Sometime.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Can we have an idea?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know it myself.

FACILITY TO DR. LOHIA, A DETENU.

469. *Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) if Dr. Lohia is allowed to write to and receive letters from his nearest relatives; if so, how many times a month;
- (b) if the father of Dr. Lohia is allowed to have interviews with him; if not, why not; and
- (c) the whereabouts of Dr. Lohia and the condition of his health?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) He can write and receive letters as allowed in the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules, 1944, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) His father has not yet been allowed to interview him for reasons of security; but the question of allowing an interview is under consideration.

(c) He is in Lahore Fort. His health was recently reported to be excellent.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: May I know if there is any classification of these detenus, such as Congress detenus and Congress-Socialist detenus?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to the rules which I have referred to in my reply.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Was it for the security of his son that the father was not allowed to see him?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Security of every one, including that of the Honourable Member.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is he aware that Dr. Lohia is the only son of his father and that the father is old and ailing? Is the Honourable Member prepared to consider the desirability of granting the father an interview with his son at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to what I have already stated. The question is under consideration.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What I want to know is whether the consideration mentioned will be ended fairly quickly?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Within the lifetime of the father?

It may be a matter for laughter for the Government. It is not for the old father. I strongly object to this laughter.

AGREEMENT FOR MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILISERS IN THE TRAVANCORE STATE.

470. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the agreement entered into by two Directors of the Inter-Continent Corporation of New York with the Government of Travancore for the manufacture of artificial fertilisers in the State?

(b) Is it a fact that though the Government of India had granted permission for the issue of capital for this enterprise the Government have refused to release the necessary dollars for the purchase of machinery from America?

(c) Is it also a fact that the non-official Indian delegation visiting America in connection with the Atlantic City Business Conference has been allowed only insufficient dollar resources?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I have no definite information regarding the existence of any such agreement or of its terms.

(b) and (c). No.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to the answer to part (b), may I ask the Honourable Member if the position is really the other way about? The Government have given the necessary amount of Dollars for this company but have refused or indicated that any application for further capital issue will be rejected summarily.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I shall require notice of that degree of detail.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The Honourable Member has been asked if a particular position was true. Since it is not true, is he not aware of the converse position as well?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information here with me is that the suggestion in part (b) is entirely incorrect. I am not at this moment familiar with the exact details owing to my absence from India at the time but I do know that the report, which, I believe, has appeared in the press, to the effect that dollars had been refused, is entirely incorrect.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will not the Honourable Member look into the file concerned a little further down where he will find out what was the communication made to this company by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have not got the details with me.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member please state the considerations that weigh with his Department in deciding upon the sufficiency or otherwise of dollar resources allowed in such cases?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I have had some personal experience of this sort of thing, I can assure the Honourable Member that the considerations taken into account are what would be a reasonable quantity for an individual of a certain status to spend during his stay in America.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES PROPOSED TO BE ESTABLISHED AFTER THE WAR.

471. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state what those major industries are which the Government propose to establish in India when the war is over?

(b) Do they propose to establish them through the State or through private enterprise?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: (a) A list of major industries to investigate the development of which, it is proposed to set up panels is being prepared and will be placed in the Library of the House when it is ready.

(b) No decision has been arrived at yet.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are the Government aware that the Honourable the Commerce Member told us a few days ago that it has been decided by the Government of India to start certain major industries?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: The principle of the Government themselves starting major industries has not yet been decided.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to press reports in which it is stated that very large enterprises are being undertaken in certain parts of India at the instance of foreign interests?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do these instances come to the notice of the Honourable Member in an official manner or has he to depend upon newspaper reports just as we have to.

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: I have only seen general statements on the subject in newspapers.

PROPOSAL FOR MAINTAINING A CHAIN OF SUBSIDIZED NEWSPAPERS

472. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if it is a fact that the Government of India are contemplating to start a chain of subsidised newspapers in the country? If so, when and why?

(b) Is it a fact that the Central Provinces Provincial Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference warned the Government that any attempt to maintain a subsidized press would not only hold them and the newspapers concerned to public ridicule, but create unnecessary bitterness between them and the entire Press?

(c) Are Government aware that the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference is in agreement with the above view and passed a resolution to that effect?

(d) In view of the above feeling, would the Government drop the idea, if there is any, to have a chain of subsidized Newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No.

(b) A Resolution on the subject of subsidized press as adopted by the C. P. Provincial Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference was brought to the notice of the Government of India.

(c) I am informed that a resolution on the point was moved at the recent meeting of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, but the matter was eventually dropped.

(d) Does not arise in view of my reply to part (a).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the reply to part (b) I submit that the part (d) does arise, because the resolution of the C. P. Branch of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference has been submitted to the Honourable Member and we would like him to let the House know what are the conclusions that the Government of India have drawn on the basis of the resolution communicated to them.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That question does not arise because part (a) started with the assumption that the Government was contemplating to start a chain of subsidised newspapers in the country. That fact is not correct.

SUBSIDIES TO *Vanguard* AND *People's Voice*.

473. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state how many copies of *Vanguard* of Delhi and *People's Voice* of Calcutta are being purchased by the Government for distribution among their servants?

(b) What are the subsidies given to the above two papers and since when?

(c) Are there any other ways of helping them by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No copies of either the *People's Voice* of Calcutta or the *Vanguard* of Delhi are being purchased by the Government of India. The National War Front purchased 1,500 copies of *Vanguard* for use by their workers in the provinces during the year April, 1944 to March 1945. It has been decided to discontinue the purchase from the 1st April, 1945.

(b) No subsidies are granted to either of the two papers.

(c) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these papers on the list of those papers which are allowed to be purchased at the cost of the Government by Government officials?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they paid for in a lump sum by the Department?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How then do they arrive at the figure of 1,500 copies?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Lump sum. 1,500 copies are purchased for those officers who require them for their workers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Were they ordered individually?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have got no knowledge of that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the Government has that figure of 1,500 copies—it must have been ordered in a lump by the Government: Am I correct?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have no idea; that is a matter for the national war front and I have not got the information.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You are the leader?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not the leader.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who is the leader?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is no leader.

RESTRICTIONS ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTIONS.

474. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state when restrictions were placed on buildings of the Civil Departments of the Government of India, Provincial Public Works Departments, Municipalities, Port Trusts, District Boards and other public bodies, and why?

(b) When was it found necessary to requisition not merely cement but bricks, tiles and all other building material including timber?

(c) Have the reasons for these restrictions not abated now and have Government considered the desirability of relaxing these restrictions?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the serious overcrowding in Bombay, the harassment to civil population whose places of residence are requisitioned at the instance of the Government of India and the desirability of permitting some buildings to go up which will provide accommodation for different classes of people?

(e) Have Government considered that the explosion has dishoused a large number of people for whom it is their duty to provide with housing?

(f) Have they received any representations from Provincial Governments generally and particularly from the Province of Bombay for relaxation of the restrictions on building of all classes or of any particular class?

(g) If Government are not prepared to relax these restrictions and permit necessary building to go up, will they explain on the basis of the latest available materials and the needs of the Army for such materials, why permission for buildings that will accommodate civil population should not now be given?

(h) Will Government appoint a Committee including Members of this House to go into this question to advise them?

Sir Charles Ogilvie: Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by the Honourable Member for Supply Department to Starred question No. 355 on 14th November, 1944.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that there is considerable discontent and apprehension in the minds of the public that Government are only catering for the requirements of the military, regardless of the harassment and the inconvenience which may be experienced by the civil population?

Sir Charles Ogilvie: Every possible regard is paid to the requirements of the civil population; but it is of course admitted that requisitioning must always be attended by considerable inconvenience. Everything possible is, however, done to mitigate it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that in the city of Bombay the distressing situation created by military requisitions has been very much worsened by the explosion which has dishoused a very much larger number and therefore will Government appoint a committee to consider the immediate requirements of the city of Bombay for the civil population and will they release some building material for it?

Sir Charles Ogilvie: I am unable to answer the question about the release of building material, which does not concern my Department. My Department is of course aware of the deterioration in the general situation caused by the explosion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, because coming from Bombay on the other side we are told that they are helpless, because the military Department insists on this, that and the other, and here my friend says that they are doing everything. I therefore want to know whether Government will look further into this matter and have a small committee of military people, the civil population, the Municipal Commissioner of Bombay and one of the Advisers of the Government of Bombay to go into this question whether something could not be done to alleviate the situation which the Honourable Member himself admits is very hard?

Sir Charles Ogilvie: It is known to me that the military authorities in Bombay are doing everything possible in direct consultation with the Provincial Government on this subject and that no complaint has ever been received that the requirements which they are making are in any way unreasonable. The difficulty is how to meet them.

DETENTION OF MR. JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN.

475. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state under what law or regulation or ordinance Mr. Jai Prakash Narain is held in jail?

(b) In which jail is he kept at present?

(c) What are the privileges granted to him regarding company, association, diet, clothing, library, letters, newspapers and disabilities imposed such as lock-up, denial of companions, or letters or books?

(d) Is he allowed any facilities for recreation?

(e) What is the state of his health?

(f) Is it true that he has been kept in solitary confinement, and, if so, for how long and why?

(g) Is it true that Government are thinking of trying him in an open court of law?

(h) If the answer to (g) is in the affirmative, will Government give him the usual facilities of engaging his own lawyers and instructing them in defending himself?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Ordinance III of 1944.

(b) He is detained in the Lahore Fort.

(c), (d) and (f). He is treated as a Class I security prisoner under the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules, 1944, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. He has however been segregated from other prisoners but allowed some companionship every day.

(e) His health was recently reported to be excellent.

(g) and (h). I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to starred question No. 198 on the 8th November and to the answer I have just given to question No. 468.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is meant by "some companionship for a portion of the day"? What sort of companionship and for how long?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Human companionship.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What sort of human companions are they—ordinary convicts, or are they politicals or are they ordinary prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe it is the companionship of Mr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if this Lahore Fort is a judicial lock-up or a jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would ask for notice of that.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it not a fact that persons are kept there only temporarily who are required to be kept under observation?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know; it is under the Punjab Government.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries that in that fort persons are not kept indefinitely?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Am I to understand that Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Mr. Jai Prakash Narain are allowed to meet each other only for a few hours each day or are they kept together all the time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No; they meet for a certain period and perhaps other people as well every day; they are not kept together.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Am I to understand that after this meeting they are again separated and kept in separate jails?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is what I said; not jails.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Separate cells! What are the other people the Honourable Member is referring to with whom they are also privileged to meet from time to time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I merely happen to know that Mr. Jai Prakash Narain does meet Mr. Ram Manohar Lohia; whether he meets other people or not or what their names are I have no information.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member said that Mr. Jai Prakash is given some human companionship and in view of the further fact that the Honourable Member is not aware of the sort of persons who are allowed to see Mr. Jai Prakash from time to time, will the Honourable Member kindly make inquiries as we are rather anxious about the type of persons who meet him, because sometimes only ordinary convicts are given as so-called companions to educated and highly placed prisoners such as Mr. Jai Prakash Narain? I want to know whether the persons who are allowed to meet him besides Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia are persons whom we on this side of the House regard as political prisoners, even though that term is not definitely defined by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The conditions of Mr. Jai Prakash Narain's detention in the Lahore Fort are determined by the Punjab Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is he allowed any facility to have any walk?

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: This is a very important question, Sir. It deals with the health of an important person.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has said that the matter is really the concern of the Punjab Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If you will kindly permit me to make a submission. I want to say that the Honourable Member said that Mr. Jai Prakash is detained under the rules and regulations of the Punjab Government. As a matter of fact, if you look into the rules we only find general indications and conditions there, while part (c) of the question wants details as regards the number of

letters that are allowed, the names of newspapers, etc. I hope you will, in deference to the desires and anxieties of this part of the House, permit the Honourable Member to reply to that question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has made it clear that these matters of detail are really the concern of the Punjab Government and he has got no information on this point.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I submit that what the Honourable Member has said is that the matter is the concern of the Punjab Government and that the conditions imposed on the gentleman concerned are in accordance with the regulations of the Punjab Government. Now the book that he referred to only gives general indication of the conditions. We want to know the number of letters he is allowed to write, the names of the newspapers he is allowed to read, etc., because he is really a special sort of prisoner.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot have a debate on this. The Honourable Member may put down a question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member had enough time to make inquiries from the Punjab Government and give us specific answers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has given the answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has evaded the question and is not giving proper answers to the questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows that the Chair cannot compel any member of the Government to give an answer that will satisfy the Honourable Member who puts the question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If you will permit us to put supplementary questions, we will try to get proper answers. That certainly is within your power.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow any further argument. Next question.

DETENTION OF DR. LOHIA.

476. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga**: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state under what law Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia is kept under detention?

(b) In which place is he at present undergoing detention? Is it a fact that he was brought to the Delhi Fort on or about the 20th June, 1944?

(c) What facilities regarding diet, clothing, money, company, books, correspondence, newspapers, etc., is he allowed to enjoy?

(d) What is the state of his health?

(e) Why is it that repeated requests made by his aged father to be granted an interview with his son on the ground that he had not seen him for a long time have been turned down by the Government?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to reconsider and grant an early interview to his aged father with his son at least on humanitarian grounds?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Ordinance III of 1944.

(b) He is detained in Lahore Fort. He was not brought to Delhi Fort on or about 20th June, 1944.

(c) He is detained under the same conditions as Mr. Jai Prakash Narain for which I refer my Honourable friend to the reply just given to question No. 475.

(d) His health was recently reported to be excellent.

(e) For reasons of security.

(f) This is under consideration.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member be pleased to give us more details regarding diet, clothing, money, company, books, correspondence and newspapers allowed to our friend Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no further details to give.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that I have been kept in a solitary lock up for nearly six months in jail and I happen to know the rigours of it

d the pains of it, will the Honourable Member be pleased at least to take an occasion to inquire from the Punjab Government what sort of facilities are given to these people and what sort of disabilities to which they are subjected?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The position is, I may explain again, that he is a prisoner in the Punjab jail. The responsibility for keeping him and seeing that he does not escape is entirely that of the Punjab Government and they and they alone can decide what security regulations to apply. That follows logically from their responsibility for detention.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member, if the responsibility for detention is that of the Central Government, whether the responsibility for safety is that of the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: These people are in the charge of the Punjab Government.

Sardar Sant Singh: How is this the responsibility of the Punjab Government and how does that logically follow. The logic is just the other way. When the Central Government detain him, it is the duty of the Central Government to see that he is properly treated.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Punjab Government are in the position of a jailor.

Sardar Mangal Singh: There are few cells in the fort. There is no open space to walk about.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: He has not been in the lock-up.

Sardar Mangal Singh: There are few cells in the fort. There is no open space for the prisoners to walk about in the morning and evening.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am told that is not the case.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member allow some of the Members of this Honourable House to pay a visit to the Lahore Fort and find out the conditions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That question should be addressed to the Punjab Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that we are often told that the health of some of these prisoners is excellent when they are really dying, will the Honourable Member kindly make sure that the report about our friend's health is really correct? Will the Honourable Member be prepared to have him re-examined by a few doctors.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no reason to doubt the report.

SALT POSITION IN BENGAL AND EASTERN PROVINCES.

477. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy**: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to make a statement indicating—

(i) the approximate stocks of salt now held in Bengal and the present scheme of importation of sea-borne salt for consumption in the eastern provinces, and

(ii) the average retail prices at which salt has been available in the interior of the eastern provinces during the last few weeks?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the serious shortage of salt that arises now and then in the interior of the eastern provinces and the high prices at which it is sold on such occasions? If so, what steps are contemplated for the purpose of making salt readily available at all centres of distribution in these provinces at fair prices?

(c) Has any serious attempt been made in Bengal for the purpose of developing a salt industry at suitable places bordering the Bay of Bengal since 1931 when an additional import duty on salt was imposed and a portion of the proceeds of this duty was made available to the Government of Bengal in the expectation that it would be devoted to the exploration of possibilities of the establishment of a salt industry there? What is the total amount of the share of the additional import duty on salt that was thus made available to the Government of Bengal since 1931 and how much of it has been spent on the above object?

(d) Are the Government aware of a report on the possibility of the salt industry in the Sunderbuns submitted to the Government of Bengal in 1938 by Rai Bahadur D. N. Mukherjee, then Superintendent of Excise and Salt in Calcutta and now of the Excise Department of the Central Government, and Mr. P. S. Rao, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengal, in the course of which they came to the conclusion that Bengal has better prospects of salt being manufactured by the Burma process than Burma itself and that salt, if manufactured under the said process in Bengal, has the immediate prospect of a successful market?

(e) Are the Government also aware that experiments carried on by a few concerns on a limited scale have established the possibility of manufacturing salt of a good quality in the coastal areas of Bengal on a commercial scale, by the solar evaporation method?

(f) Is it a fact that in 1943 when there was a scarcity of salt supply in Bengal the Government of Bengal with the sanction of the Government of India opened a few warehouses in the districts of Midnapore, 24-Parganas, and Chittagong for the collection of salt produced by its inhabitants of the coastal villages under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact? If so, did this step prove a success in any of the aforesaid districts and is the scheme still in operation? Has any proposal been made by the Government of Bengal to the Government of India for the abolition of duty on salt produced as a cottage industry by villagers in the coastal areas?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) (i) As regards the first part of the question, enquiries show that 8.02 lakh maunds of salt were in Government *golas* and private godowns of the principal dealers on 6th November, 1944. The present scheme of importation of sea-borne salt in the Eastern Provinces namely Bengal and Assam is that as previously it is imported through the normal trade channels. The importers are given facilities in respect of import licenses and transport.

(ii) I place a Statement on the table.

(b) There has been no shortage of salt in Bengal and Assam since last May after which date imports have actually exceeded the target figure of 35,000 tons a month. As regards distribution, the control of all imports has been taken over by the Bengal Government who are taking the necessary measures to ensure that salt is readily available at reasonable prices.

(c) Seven salt factories were operating in Bengal in 1942-43 whereas there were none in 1931.

As regards the second part of the question Rs. 16,92,000 in all was paid to the Government of Bengal as their share of the additional import duty on salt collected up to the 30th April 1938 when it was abolished. So far as the Government of India are aware no substantial portion of this amount has been spent on the development of the salt industry in the Province.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government are not in possession of any such information.

(f) Yes. The salt concerned, however, though manufactured on a cottage industry basis, falls outside the scope of the Delhi Pact concession. The scheme is still in operation but its success is doubtful. The Government of Bengal proposed the abolition or reduction of duty in respect of this form of manufacture but the Government of India saw no sufficient justification for that measure.

Statement showing the retail price of salt in Bengal and Assam

	Retail price per soor			Remarks
Bengal (as on 28th October, 1944)	Rs.	As.	P.	
CALCUTTA	0	2	9	Controlled.
24-Parganas (Aliporo)	0	3	0	
Diamond Harbour	0	2	6 to 0	3 0
Barrackpore	0	2	3 to 0	3 0
Baraset	0	2	6 to 0	3 0
Basirhat	0	2	3 to 0	3 0

	Rs.	A.	P.	
NADIA	0	3	0	
Kushtia	0	3	0	
Maherpur	0	3	0	
Chuadanga	0	2	9	
Ranaghat	0	3	0	
MURSHIDABAD	0	3	0	
Lalbagh	0	3	0	
Jangipur	0	3	0	
Kandi	Not reported			
JESSORE	0	3	0	
Jhenidah	0	4	0	
Magura	0	3	6	Government Stock Con- trolled.
Narail	0	3	6	
Bongaon	0	3	6	
KHULNA	0	3	0	
Satkhira	0	3	0	
Bagorhat	0	3	0	
BURDWAN	0	3	0	
Asansol	0	3	0	
Katwa	0	3	6	
Kalna	0	3	6	
BIRBHUM	0	3	0	
Rampurhat	0	3	0	
BANKURA	0	3	0	
Vishnupur	0	3	0	
MIDNAPORE (Sadar North)	0	2	9	Government Stock.
MIDNAPORE (Sadar South)	0	3	0	
Contai	0	2	0	
Tamluk	0	2	9	
Ghatal	0	3	6	
Jhargram	0	2	9	
HOOGHLY	0	3	0	
Serampore	0	3	0	
Arambag	0	4	0	
HOWRAH	0	3	0	
Ulubria	0	3	6	
RAJSHAHI	0	3	0	
Naogaon	0	3	3	
Nator	0	3	0	
DINAJPUR				
THAKURGON	0	3	3	
Balurghat	0	3	3	
JALPAIGURI	0	3	6	
Alipurduar	0	3	6	
DARJEELING	0	3	6	
Kurseong	0	3	6	
Siliguri	0	3	3	
Kalimpong	0	3	3	
RANGPUR	0	3	0	
Nilphamari	0	3	6	
Kurigram	0	3	6	
Gaibandha	0	3	3	
BOGRA	Not reported			
PABNA	0	3	0	
Seraiganj	0	2	0 to 0	3 0
MALDA	0	3	6	
DACCA (Sadar North)	0	3	6	
DACCA (Sadar South)	0	3	3	
Naraiganj	0	12	0	
Manikganj	0	3	6	
Munshiganj	0	6	6	
MYMENSINGH (Sadar North)	0	4	0	
MYMENSINGH (Sadar South)	0	3	0	
Jamalpur	0	4	0	Controlled.
Tangail	0	6	3	
Netrokona	0	3	0	
Kesoregunj	0	4	0	
FARIDPUR	0	3	0	
Goalundo	0	3	6	
Madaripur	0	3	6 to 0	3 9
Gopalganj	0	3	6	
BAKARGANJ (Sadar North)	0	3	0	

	Rs.	A.	P.	
BAKARGANJ (Sadar South)	0	4	0	Controlled
Pirojpur	Not reported.			
Patuakhali	0	3	6	
Bhola	0	4	0	
CHITTAGONG (Sadar "A")	0	3	9	Government Stock
CHITTAGONG (Sadar "B")	0	6	0	
Cox's Bazar	0	4	0	
TIPPERA (Sadar North)	Not reported.			
TIPPERA (Sadar South)	0	5	0	
Brahmanberia	0	4	6	
Chandpur	0	3	6	
NOAKHALI	0	4	0	Controlled
Feni	0	4	0	
CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (Rangamati)	0	3	9	
Ramgarh	0	4	6	
Assam (for fortnight ended 31st August, 1944)				
1. Cachar	0	4	0	
2. Darrang				
3. Goalpara				
4. Khasi and Jaintia Hills				
5. Lakhimpur				
6. Sylhet				

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (d) of the question, do I take it that the Government of India have no control with regard to the distribution of salt in the interior?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Actually that is now a matter for my Honourable Colleague the Food Member and I am afraid I am not quite sure of the precise position. The information before me is that as regards distribution the control of all imports has been taken over by the Bengal Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (e) of the question, may I request the Honourable Member to make inquiries on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have made inquiries in the short time available to me and as regards our records here I have not been able to obtain any further information than I have given in my reply.

UTILIZATION FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES OF SALT MANUFACTURED IN BENGAL COASTAL AREAS BY CERTAIN CALCUTTA FIRMS

478. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that certain industrial firms in Calcutta utilise salt manufactured in the coastal areas of Bengal for industrial purposes with the approval of the Central Excises and Salt Department which allows refunds of the duty levied on such salt to them as a concession? If so, has any salt manufacturing firm in Bengal been recognised as approved dealer of the Central Government for this purpose and are Government aware of any difficulty experienced by any such firm in having their supplies made available to industrial firms since the recent introduction of rationing of salt in Calcutta and the Calcutta Industrial Area?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that prosecution was launched against one such firm in September last at the instance of the Provincial Rationing authorities for bringing salt into the Calcutta area for being supplied to some industrial firms recognised by the Central Excises and Salt Department in continuation of a previous practice?

(c) Do Government propose to impress upon the Government of Bengal the desirability of taking early and determined steps to assist the establishment of a salt industry in Bengal at an early date particularly in view of the possibility of the importation of salt by the sea route into Bengal being jeopardised by developments in the campaign against Burma?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The information asked for is not readily available: it is being collected and replies will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The Government of Bengal are already aware of the position.

REPORT OF ASSOCIATED PRESS OF AMERICA RE BOMBAY PLAN.

†479. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the following report of the Associated Press of America released for publication in India by the United States of America Office of War Information in the second week of August, 1944:

"The Bombay plan was developed by industrialists led by the House of Tata. Government approved the plan and appointed Sir Ardeshir Dalal, a Tata partner, to the Viceroy's Council as Member for Planning and Reconstruction.

The United States enters into the picture because in India both private industrialists and Government would like a series of American loans totalling about 1,500 million dollars with which to buy American machinery.

Another partner, A. D. Shroff who is now in New York talking with bankers and manufacturers, says the plan offers a 'splendid opportunity for the United States to enter the India market. The only fly in the ointment is our difficulty in getting American dollars to pay'. However, he is convinced both the British Government and the businessmen want to find a way to end British Government domination of India".

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative are the statements true? If not, will the Honourable Member be pleased to go through the report and state if the Government of India would issue a communiqué to contradict the above statements with a view to clear up any wrong impression made in public minds either in India or in America?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not consider it necessary to issue a press communiqué as suggested by the Honourable Member, as their views on planning have received adequate publicity, particularly since the beginning of this Session.

NEGOTIATIONS BY NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION TO WORLD MONETARY CONFERENCE.

†480. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if the non-official members of the Delegation to the World Monetary Conference were entitled to enter into negotiations with the New York Bankers? If so, were they entitled to enter into any such negotiation in the capacity of Delegates or in their private and personal capacities?

(b) Were they authorised to invite the United States to enter the Indian Market as, Mr. A. D. Shroff did, according to the report, while in America?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No non-official member of the Indian Delegation to the Bretton Woods Conference was authorised by the Government of India to act on their behalf in any matter unconnected with the Monetary Conference. Members were, however, naturally free to act as they pleased in matters outside the scope of that Conference.

DESIRABILITY OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR PENSIONERS.

481. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that the increased and increasing cost of living has not only affected Government servants very adversely, but even more so the large number of pensioners of all grades who are entirely dependent in their old age on their pensions?

(b) Is he aware that many of these pensioners who are finding it increasingly difficult to live respectably served with distinction in the last war?

(c) Is it not a fact that pension is a deferred pay and is granted by Government to their employees for long, faithful and loyal service?

(d) Do Government propose to take into consideration the hardships that pensioners are undergoing and give some relief in their distress by granting them dearness allowance adopted in the case of persons who are in the active service of the Government? If not, what are the reasons which are standing in the way of taking a sympathetic view in the case of pensioners?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Government are aware that pensioners in common with Government servants and other members of the public, have been affected by the rise in the cost of living, and for this reason

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Government have already sanctioned relief by granting temporary increases in small pensions on the following scale:

Rs. 3 per mensem in pensions not exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem.

Rs. 4 per mensem in pensions exceeding Rs. 20 but not exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem.

Rs. 5 per mensem in pensions exceeding Rs. 40 but not exceeding Rs. 75 per mensem.

It is estimated that increases on this scale will cost Rs. 14 lakhs a year in the Central Civil Budget and from six to seven times this amount in the Defence Budget.

(b) Yes.

(c) Pension is not deferred pay but is the reward of long and approved service.

(d) As stated in the reply to part (a) of the question Government have already sanctioned some relief to pensioners. Dearness allowance at the rates admissible to serving Government employees cannot, however be extended to pensioners, as considerations of the efficiency of the public service do not apply in the same degree in respect of pensioners as of persons in the active service of Government. Government are therefore obliged to restrict the extent of relief to pensioners to limits which do not impose an undue burden on the tax-payer. The present limits have the general support of Provincial Governments. It should furthermore not be forgotten that the war has provided greatly increased opportunities of employment for pensioners and their families.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that the civil pensioners were actually given the dearness allowance only this year and it has been stopped recently?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Am I to understand that the Government is not prepared to consider the cases of other pensioners for the purpose of dearness allowance?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The present position is as I have described. It is a fact that all questions relating to dearness allowance come under review from time to time, but I will not commit myself to anything in the nature of a promise.

DETENTION OF DR. LOHIA.

482. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that Dr. Ram Mohan Lohia, Ph.D., has been arrested? If so, when and where and under what law and for what offence?

(b) Where is he being detained now?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Doctor is meted out the same treatment as worst criminals?

(d) Is it a fact that the father of the said Doctor applied for an interview with his son?

(e) Is it a fact that no interview was allowed to his father?

(f) Why is the said Doctor not allowed interviews even with the members of his family?

(g) Is it a fact that this said Doctor is being kept in the underground cells of the Delhi Fort? Is he allowed to come out of the cells in the open air and for how many hours?

(h) Is it a fact that he is not allowed correspondence with his friends and relations; if not, why not?

(i) Is he allowed to receive money, books, toilet articles, smoking requisites and other amenities of life from his friends?

(j) Is he getting any newspapers? If so, what?

(k) Is he kept in solitary confinement or kept along with other politicals?

(l) Is he allowed any indoor and outdoor games? If so, what?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes. He was arrested in Bombay on 21st May 1944 under Defence of India Rule 129.

(b) Lahore Fort.

(c) No.

(d) and (e). Yes.

(f) For reasons of security.

(g) No. As he is not in the cells, the question of coming out of them does not arise.

(h) It is not a fact.

(i), (j) and (l). He is given the same treatment as other Class I security prisoners under the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules except that he is not at present allowed interviews.

(k) He is not kept in solitary confinement.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What was the reply to part (l) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Reference was made to the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member kindly tell us exactly what the rule is in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir; I have not got a copy of those Rules with me.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Can the Honourable Member be a little more specific in regard to part (j) of the question? Is he getting any newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid I have no detailed knowledge. He is allowed whatever is allowed under the Rules.

PURCHASE OF MEAT, FISH, ETC., FOR THE MILITARY IN CHITTAGONG DIVISION.

483. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware that military people and their contractors purchase meat, fish and vegetables from the open market meant for the civil people in the Chittagong Division and thereby causing a dearth of these commodities and unspeakable hardship to the civil people; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether Government be pleased to issue strict instructions prohibiting the purchase of civil commodities by the military and their contractors in the Chittagong Division:

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No such complaint has come to my notice, but if the Honourable Member who is serving on the Chittagong Division Central & District Price & Export Control Board, will give me any further details, I will make enquiries.

(b) Does not arise.

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: Is it not a fact that on account of heavy military operations in Chittagong, the quantity of fish, meat, vegetables and other foodstuffs has fallen short of the normal requirements of the civil population? Do the Government propose to remove the sufferings of the people as the civil population can hardly bring the foodstuffs and other commodities from outside on account of the heavy military traffic in Chittagong?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Might I suggest to the Honourable Member that as he himself is a member of the Board, he should represent this matter at the meeting of the Board?

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: We have already represented this matter to the Board and a Government official, whose name I need not mention, requested me to ask this question. It is a fact that people of Chittagong are starving. May I ask what steps Government propose to take to mitigate their suffering?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I can only explain the general policy here. I know that in considering the contracts for local purchases, it is the policy of the military authorities to conform to local prices control regulations and a close liaison is maintained by the local purchase officers with the civil authorities to ensure that markets are not denuded to the detriment of the civil population. May I ask the Honourable Member to give me the name of the official member of the Board who asked him to put this question?

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that a similar situation also exists in the City of Bombay, may I ask what steps Government are going to take or have already taken to control the military contractors who are not actually military men but are suppliers to military? Of course, the regulation read out by my Honourable friend does not apply to those who have merely contracted to supply to the military and it is these suppliers to the military who are playing havoc with civil population's food.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If the Honourable Member will put a specific question on the subject, I shall be glad to answer it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member has referred to the policy on this matter on more than one occasion. May I request him to undertake a regular official inquiry to find out what the actual practice is in this matter in different provinces?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have no reason to believe that practice does not conform with the policy.

LEGAL AID FOR DETENUS AT THE REVIEWS OF THEIR CASES.

484. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether under the recent ordinance reviewing the detention of detenus, the detenus are entitled to legal aid;

(b) whether they are entitled to legal aid only for the first review or whether they are entitled to legal aid and representation; and

(c) the number of detenus released since the ordinance and how many are still kept under detention?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to part (b) of starred question No. 70 on November 3rd.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to starred question No. 68 on November 3rd.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is only a matter of saying 'Yes' or 'No' and we should have a categorical reply.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have given a reply.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I have asked whether the detenus are entitled to legal aid and the answer should be either 'Yes' or 'No'. Why should the Honourable Member refer to the answers given previously in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Because the question was previously asked and answered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I point out, Sir, that instead of giving the answer by saying one word he has used so many words and has referred me to the previous replies and thereby he has wasted the time of the House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the answer has been given already, the Honourable Member is not entitled to ask that question again.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I ask him to read that answer?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer to part (a) of question No. 70 was:

"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."

That is irrelevant to the Honourable Member's question. The answer to part (b) of Question No. 70 was:

"No. For the reason that no question of law arises."

That is relevant to the Honourable Member's question.

STRICTURES PASSED BY NAGPUR HIGH COURT ON THE EXECUTIVE.

485. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strictures passed by a bench of the Nagpur High Court on the Executive of the Province for its attitude on man's freedom while directing the release of a detenu as reported in the *Hindu*, dated the 26th November; and

(b) whether Government have taken up this matter with the Local Government and taken steps that the Defence of India Rules are not abused by the Provincial Executives?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Government have no official information on the subject.

(b) No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that I have brought this matter to the attention of the Government, have they taken any pains to get the information?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have already said that the answer to part (b) is 'No'.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The reply to my question was that Government have no information. I have given the information and I would like to know what steps you have taken?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: None.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But why did you not take any steps?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Because the officials concerned are under the Provincial Governments.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When the Defence of India Rules are misused and when the High Courts make strictures that they are so misused, is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to inquire into the matter and to see that they are used properly?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Provincial officials are answerable to the Provincial Governments whether it is the case of the Defence of India Rules or of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Sardar Sant Singh: In view of the fact that the Act has been passed by this Legislature and the power of making rules is given to the Central Government, if certain powers are given to the Provincial Governments and if these powers are being abused, will the Honourable Member see the desirability of changing that rule, so that there should be no abuse of powers given to the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is entirely a hypothetical question.

Sardar Sant Singh: No, Sir. Questions have been asked in this House seeing the abuse of powers by the Provincial Governments against which even Judges of High Courts have passed strictures and is it not therefore the duty of the Central Government to see that this Rule is changed and that Provincial Governments use these Rules for the purpose for which they are framed?

(No answer.)

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ISSUES OF PAPER CURRENCY.

486. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the latest statistics with regard to the issue of paper currency in India; and

(b) with what reserves these paper issues are backed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the weekly accounts of the Reserve Bank which are published in the *Gazette of India*.

ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES.

487. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the steps he has taken to reduce inflation since the last session; and

(b) whether the paper currency has substantially reduced on its account?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's question No. 67 on the 3rd November 1944. What I have said there about the steps taken for stabilizing prices covers also the measure adopted for reducing inflation.

(b) As a result of the anti-inflationary measures taken by Government it has been possible considerably to retard the rate of expansion of currency.

PUBLICITY ORGANIZATION ATTACHED TO INDIA'S AGENT-GENERAL IN AMERICA.

488. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

- whether there exists a publicity organisation attached to the office of the Agent-General for India in the United States of America;
- the nature of its personnel;
- what its duties are;
- whether the determination of the type of publicity carried on by this organisation is in the hands of the Agent-General or the Government of India;
- whether the Government of India has satisfied themselves from time to time that the publicity carried by this organisation is in the best interests of this country?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) One Public Relations Officer and one Deputy Information Officer with Ministerial and Inferior staff. A second post of Deputy Information Officer exists but is at present unfilled. Action is in hand to fill it.

(c) The duties of this organisation are to stimulate the flow and distribution of news about India, to provide interpretative and background material, and to supply editors and columnists with the information they require on Indian affairs.

(d) The Agent General exercises general control over all the staff who are appointed by the Government of India. The Agent General is himself an officer of the Government of India.

(e) Yes.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

CABLE TO MAHATMA GANDHI ^{RE} INDIA'S RETALIATORY MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the *12 Noon* *Reuter* news published in the *Statesman* of 11th November, 1944, to the effect that a cable has been sent to Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa, stating the discriminatory measures taken by India as a retaliation are against the Indian tradition of love, and requesting Mahatma Gandhi to give the lead by making a statement on the situation; and

(b) if the Government of India can make arrangement for sending Mahatma Gandhi on a mission of love to South Africa in view of his friendship with Field-Marshal Smuts?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes, Sir. I have read that news in the paper referred to, but a reasonable doubt may arise about the authenticity or correctness of that news since I have received a telegram from the self same persons which is rather contradictory to the news published in that paper. The telegram is from Dr. Dadoo and Cachalia, Johannesburg addressed to the Honourable Dr. Khare, Dr. Deshmukh and the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed, Sir Syed Raza Ali and Mr. M. A. Jinnah. It runs thus:

"Congratulate courageous stand (Stop) Immediate imposition sanctions Et Recall High Commissioner imperative (Stop) Community condemns Pretoria Agreement Just as repugnant Et disastrous as Ordinances (Stop) Only Just demand unconditional repeal Pegging Act Et Full rights Citizenship."

It is evident that the position is confusing and it is for the Mahatma to clear it up if it so pleases him.

(b) If Mahatma Gandhi approaches the Government regarding such a visit the Government will consider the matter.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Honourable Member has had anything to do with the inspiring of this short notice question?

Several Honourable Members: Order, order.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Do the Government contemplate to withhold the application of the Reciprocity Act, in view of the information from South Africa that that step is not based on 'love'?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member take the initiative in this matter (stop). If so (comma), when (question mark).

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am not familiar with the science and technique of love.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member tell us which is the Department of 'love' in this Government?

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

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

REMOVAL OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL 'FINDS' OF NAGARJUNA KUNDA.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a Motion for Adjournment from Prof. Ranga. He wishes to move for the adjournment of the House "to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the removal of a number of archæological 'finds' of Nagarjuna Kunda in Guntur District which are of special historical importance to the Andhras and the attempt of the authorities to transport them from Machala Railway Station to an unknown destination, despite the categorical reply given by the Department of Education, Health and Lands to Questions Nos. 244 and 247 of the 10th instant put by myself and Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu only a few days ago in this House to the effect that Government have no intention of disbanding the Nagarjuna Kunda Museum or removing the 'finds' therein to any other museum or place".

What has happened? Have these 'finds' been removed from India?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): No, Sir, not away from India. I understand that the Honourable Secretary in charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands has agreed to obtain additional information in regard to this matter referred to in this motion for adjournment. If the Honourable Member gets that information during the course of this Session, I shall then consider whether I will have to give further notice of the adjournment motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It may be too late then. Does the Honourable Member wish to press his motion?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I request the Honourable Member in charge of this Department to get the information first?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should first make up his mind whether he is pressing this motion or withdrawing it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I press the motion, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Government Member got anything to say?

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I have got no information. According to the information on which I answered a question about a few days ago on the 10th, it is very unlikely that anything is being permanently removed from the museum but I am perfectly prepared to try to find out.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Well, as the Honourable Member is going to find out what has happened, this motion cannot be moved to day.

BARBAROUS METHOD ADOPTED BY VIRAMGAM CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FOR CHECKING PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also received notice of a Motion for Adjournment from Sardar Sant Singh. He wishes to make a motion that the business of the Assembly be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the barbarous method adopted by customs authorities at Viramgam for checking the passengers' luggage for purpose of customs, thus causing avoidable sufferings to passengers including women and children.

I should like to know what the Honourable Member means by barbarous methods?

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): The barbarous methods consist in this that the train arrives at 4 A.M., the passengers including men, and women are asked to put their luggage on their shoulders and walk to the tables on the platform and place their luggage thereon and then take back, after inspection by the customs officials, to the train. This is a barbarous method of enforcing customs regulations.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That generally happens in most cases where luggage has to be examined by customs officials.

Sardar Sant Singh: I think the Chair also must have seen a report that appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of today's date in this connection.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have not seen that.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I read that report which appeared in the *Hindustan Times*?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not read the paper. He has given notice of this motion and I want the Honourable Member himself to explain what are the facts.

Sardar Sant Singh: The facts are that on the land barrier between Kathiawar and British India the train is made to stop at this station Viramgam where passengers are forced to alight from the train with their luggage. A small platform is provided where there are some small tables. Every passenger is required to open his luggage and place it on that table for examination. They are then sent to another platform where their luggage is examined and they are then asked to take this luggage back to the train. The time of arrival of that train is 4 A.M., the customs officials are few in number, the examination takes a long time during which all passengers,—men, women and children,—are made to suffer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I am afraid inconvenience is almost always caused by examination of passengers' luggage by customs authorities. This can hardly be a matter for an adjournment motion. The motion is disallowed.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I can endorse the complaint as I have been through it personally about two weeks ago. I have travelled all over the world but I have never seen such stupid methods of examining passengers' luggage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss the matter.

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the following Declarations of Exemption under section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939:

1. No. 1/17/44-Poll. (E), dated the 15th April 1944.
2. No. 1/19/44-Poll. (E), dated the 20th April 1944.
3. No. 1/22/44-Poll. (E), dated the 2nd May 1944.
4. No. 1/24/44-Poll. (E), dated the 9th May 1944.
5. No. 1/24/44-Poll. (E), dated the 21st Sept. 1944.
6. No. 1/24/44-Poll. (E), dated the 21st Sept. 1944.

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7. No. 1/28/44-Poll. (E), dated the 16th June 1944.
8. No. 1/29/44-Poll. (E), dated the 22nd June 1944.
9. No. 1/30/44-Poll. (E), dated the 12th Sept. 1944.
10. No. 1/31/44-Poll. (E), dated the 22nd June 1944.
11. No. 1/32/44-Poll. (E), dated the 27th June 1944.
12. No. 1/33/44-Poll. (E), dated the 27th July 1944.
13. No. 1/34/44-Poll. (E), dated the 29th July 1944.
14. No. 1/35/44-Poll. (E), dated the 9th August 1944.
15. No. 1/36/44-Poll. (E), dated the 15th August 1944.
16. No. 1/38/44-Poll. (E), dated the 22nd August 1944.
17. No. 1/39/44-Poll. (E), dated the 14th Oct. 1944.
18. No. 1/43/44-Poll. (E), dated the 11th Sept. 1944.
19. No. 1/45/44-Poll. (E), dated the 7th Oct. 1944.
20. No. 1/46/44-Poll. (E), dated the 25th Sept. 1944.
21. No. 1/47/44-Poll. (E), dated the 4th Oct. 1944.
22. No. 1/48/44-Poll. (E), dated the 7th Oct. 1944.
23. No. 1/49/44-Poll. (E), dated the 18th Oct. 1944.
24. No. 1/52/44-Poll. (E), dated the 27th Oct. 1944.
25. No. 1/53/44-Poll. (E), dated the 26th Oct. 1944.
26. No. 1/54/44-Poll. (E), dated the 3rd Nov. 1944.
27. No. D.2706/44-Poll. (E), dated the 15th April 1944.

No. 1/17/44-POLL. (E),
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 15th April, 1944.
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

1. Mr. William K. Miller, and
 2. Mr. Holland Hunter,
- members of the United States Foreign Economic Administration in India, for so long as they remain in their present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/19/44-POL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 20th April, 1944.
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Miss Margaret M. Mallon, U. S. national, Assistant Representative of the Overseas Operations Branch of the United States Office of War Information, for so long as she remains in her present post.

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/22/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 2nd May 1944.
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not

foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Edward R. Barlow of the Overseas Operations Branch of the U. S. Office of War Information, as long as he remains in his present post.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/24/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 9th May 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

- (1) Miss Dorothy Goodwin,
- (2) Mr. Andrew V. Corry,
- (3) Mr. Paul Johnstone, and
- (4) Mr. Henry O. Diamond,

United States nationals, for so long as they are employed in India under the supervision of the Special Representative in India of the United States Foreign Economic Administration.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/24/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 21st September 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), and in partial supersession of the Home Department Declaration of Exemption No. 1/24/44-POLL. (E), dated the 9th May 1944, the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Henry O. Diamond, U. S. citizen an employee of the United States Office of War Information, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/24/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 21st September 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Messrs. Wallace M. Larson and William A. Gheradi, U. S. citizens, members of the Foreign Economic Administration China Mission staff for work in India, for so long as they remain in their present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/28/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 16th June 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Messrs. Arthur Hale, Gustaf Adolph Sword, Robert Arthur Jones, George Vivian Sayles and Paul Sebestyen, members of the U. S. Office of War Information, for so long as they remain in their present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT. 869

No. 1/29/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 22nd June 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Miss Ruth Merrell, an American national, and an employee of the United States Foreign Economic Administration Office in India, for so long as she remains in her present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/30/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 12th September 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

Mr. Thomas A. Goss, Business Manager in the U. S. Office of Foreign Economic Administration at New Delhi, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/31/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 22nd June 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

- (1) Mr. W. L. Shinnick, clerk in the Bombay office of the U. S. Office of War Information,
- (2) Mr. Lloyd Griffin, in charge of the U. S. Office of War Information Operations in Calcutta,
- (3) Mr. Porter McKeever,
- (4) Miss Helen Gwynn,
- (5) Mr. Charles A. Caldwell,
- (6) Mr. J. R. Andrus,
- (7) Mr. John Dwyer,
- (8) Mr. Stanley Allen, and
- (9) Mr. C. R. Horton,

employed in the Psychological Warfare Section of the United States Office of War Information.

for so long as they remain in their present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/32/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 27th June 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Mani Sanesen, a Siamese national.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[16th Nov. 1944]

No. 1/33/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 27th July 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to or in relation to, Mr. James V. Sampselle, Port Engineer in the U. S. War Shipping Administration, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/34/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 29th July 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, (1) Mrs. Martha M. deWilde, Office Manager, U. S. Foreign Economic Administration; (2) Mrs. Selma Y. Janow, employee of the U. S. Foreign Economic Administration; (3) Mr. Franklin E. Griffin; (4) Mr. William Henry Moroney; and (5) Mr. Harold Kraus, Assistants in the U. S. War Shipping Administration, for so long as they remain in their present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/35/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 9th August 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Robert B. Landis, a member of the U. S. Foreign Economic Administration, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/36/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 15th August 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. John L. Plank, Foreign Representative for the Recruitment and Manning Organization of the War Shipping Administration at Calcutta, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/38/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 22nd August 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Robert G. McClurkin, an employee of

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT. 871
the U. S. Foreign Economic Administration, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/39/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 14th October 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

1. Miss Sevilla McMillan,
2. Miss Flora B. Ludington,
3. Miss Lucille Dudgeon,
4. Miss Nancy Bean,
5. Mr. Collin McMillan,
6. Mr. Harold Courlander,
7. Miss Florence F. Brown,
8. Mrs. Betty T. Friendlich,
9. Miss Priscilla Leslie,
10. Miss Eugenia Bedell,
11. Mr. Teg. Grondahl,
12. Mr. Fred Rosenhauer,
13. Mr. Oren Stephens, and
14. Mr. Sydney B. Wood,

for so long as they continue to be employed in the United States Office of War Information

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/43/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 11th September 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

1. Mr. James L. McCamy, U. S. citizen, being sent by the United States Foreign Economic Administration on an inspection trip to India, and
2. Mr. Lester H. Christen, U. S. citizen, being sent by the United States Foreign Economic Administration as a member of a mission sponsored by the Army-Navy Petroleum Board, the British Government and the Foreign Economic Administration, to determine the necessary requirements of drum sheet, tin andterneplate for plants in India, for so long as they remain in their official capacity.

A. W. LOVATT,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/45/44-POLL. (E).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.
Simla, the 7th October 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

1. Mr. Harvey Leonard Shephard, a member of the U. S. Foreign Economic Administration, at Calcutta,
2. Mr. Philip L. Kelsner, a representative of the U. S. Foreign Economic Administration, who is on an inspection trip,
3. Mr. Bernhard J. Paulson,
4. Mr. B. McCarty, and
5. Mr. James R. Billman, clerks in the U. S. Mission, for so long as they remain in their present posts.

A. W. LOVATT,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/46/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 25th September 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mrs. Beatrice B. Whitham, U. S. citizen, an employee of the U. S. Consulate at Bombay, for so long as she remains in her present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/47/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 4th October 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

- (1) Miss Frances W. Page, Clerk in the U. S. Consulate at Bombay.
- (2) Mr. Berry O. Baldwin, Chief of the Stock Records and Control Section of the China Supply Division of the Foreign Economic Administration, New Delhi.

A. W. LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/48/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 7th October 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

1. Miss Ruth Teasdale,
2. Mrs. Marjorie Chubb,
3. Miss Helen Kirkpatrick, and
4. Miss Elinor N. Stevens,

United States citizens, clerks, in the U. S. Consulate at Calcutta, for so long as they remain in their present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/49/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 18th October 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Walter C. Hand, U. S. citizen, Business Manager of the United States Foreign Economic Administration Office at New Delhi, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/52/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 27th October 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT

rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Lee G. Seymour, U. S. citizen, for so long as he is employed with the Foreign Economic Administration, China Mission, New Delhi.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/53/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 26th October 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Arthur W. Smith, U. S. citizen, Representative of the United States War Shipping Administration, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/54/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 3rd November 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Robert M. Bruns, U. S. citizen, Attaché in the Office of the Personal Representative of the President of the United States at New Delhi and American Vice-Consul at Calcutta, for so long as he remains in his present employment.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. D. 2706/44-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 15th April 1944.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Raymond Gerald Sweeney, an U. S. national and an employee of the United Seamen's Service, Incorporated, 39 Broadway, New York City, for so long as he is so employed.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the following notifications in accordance with section 33 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:

1. No. 5-Camp, dated the 18th March 1944.
2. No. 6-Camp, dated the 18th March 1944.
3. No. 7-Camp, dated the 18th March 1944.
4. No. 8-Camp, dated the 18th March 1944.
5. No. 9-Camp, dated the 25th March 1944.
6. No. 10-Camp, dated the 1st April 1944.
7. No. 2, dated the 6th May 1944.
8. No. 7, dated the 6th May 1944.
9. No. 8, dated the 6th May 1944.

10. No. 9, dated the 13th May 1944.
11. No. 10, dated the 13th May 1944.
12. No. 11, dated the 27th May 1944.
13. No. 12, dated the 27th May 1944.
14. No.-9, dated the 30th September 1944.
15. No. XI-D, dated the 11th March 1944.
16. No. 14, dated the 28th October 1944.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)
New Delhi, the 18th March 1944

NOTIFICATION
SALT.

No. 5-Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No. 5-Salt, dated the 4th February, 1928, namely:—

In the said Rules—

(i) For rule 1, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) In these rules, “Collector” means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta; and “Assistant Collector” means an Assistant Collector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta.”

(2) In rule 2, for the words “through the Collector of Customs to the Provincial Government of Orissa” the words “to the Collector” shall be substituted.

(3) In rule 3, the words “of Customs” shall be omitted.

(4) In sub-rule (1) and clause (v) of sub-rule (2) of rule 4, sub-rule (1) of rule 5, sub-rule (2) of rule 6 and rules 7 and 10, for the words “Collector of Customs” wherever they occur, the words “Assistant Collector” shall be substituted.

(5) In clause (c) of sub-rule (1) of rule 6, for the words “deputed on behalf of Central Government” the words “deputed by the Central Excise Department” shall be substituted.

(6) In rule 8, for the words “authorised by the Collector of Customs or by any officer of the Salt or other Department of a province other than Orissa” the words “of the Central Excise Department, Calcutta authorised by the Collector or any officer of the Central Excise Department of a province other than those within the jurisdiction of the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta” shall be substituted.

(7) In sub-rule (1) of rule 11, for the words “Central Government” the words “Collector” shall be substituted.

(8) After rule 11, the following rule shall be inserted, namely:—

“12. An appeal shall lie from an order of the Assistant Collector under these rules to the Collector and from any order of the Collector to the Central Board of Revenue.”

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)
New Delhi, the 18th March 1944

NOTIFICATION
SALT

No. 6-Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

In rule 101 of the said Rules, in sub-rule (1) after the word “Berar”, and in sub-rule (2) after the word “Madras”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“and the territories transferred from the Presidency of Madras to the Province of Orissa by the Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) Order, 1936”.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)
New Delhi, the 18th March 1944

NOTIFICATION
SALT.

No. 7-Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in the North Orissa Salt (Village Manufacture and Storage) Rules, 1943, namely:—

In the said Rules—

(1) In sub-rule (3) of rule 1, for the words “Government of Orissa in the Orissa Gazette” the words “Central Government in the Official Gazette” shall be substituted.

(2) For rule 2, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

“2. *Definitions.*—In these rules unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(i) “Assistant Collector” means an Assistant Collector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta;

(ii) “Collector” means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta;

(iii) “Contractor” means a person appointed by the Government of Orissa for collection on their behalf of salt manufactured in accordance with these rules;

(iv) “Duty” means the duty payable under the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944);

(v) “Inspector” means an Inspector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta;

(vi) “Salt” means salt manufactured in accordance with these rules;

(vii) “Warehouse” means a warehouse established in accordance with rule 5;

(viii) “Warehouse Officer” means an officer appointed by the Government of Orissa to be in charge of a warehouse.”

(3) In sub-rule (2) of rule 4 and in sub-rules (1) and (2) of rule 5, for the word “Collector” the words “Government of Orissa” shall be substituted.

(4) For rules 7, 8 and 9 the following rules shall be substituted, namely:—

“7. *Officers in charge of Warehouse.*—Each warehouse shall be in charge of an Officer called “Warehouse Officer” appointed by the Government of Orissa for purchase and sale of salt and an Inspector.

8. *Procedure at Warehouse.*—(1) Immediately after the arrival of each consignment of salt at a warehouse, the Warehouse Officer shall cause the same to be weighed in the presence of the Inspector, record the result of weighing in the prescribed registers, and shall forthwith store the same in the warehouse.

(2) The Central Government shall not in any manner be liable for the price of the salt to the manufacturer or to the Contractor or to the Government of Orissa or for any damage howsoever caused to any salt stored in any warehouse or any ‘hat’ depot or while in transit from one place to another.

9. *Keys of the Storage Godown.*—The storage godown in each warehouse shall be locked with two locks, the key of one remaining with the warehouse Officer and of the other with the Inspector.”

(5) In rule 10—

(i) in sub-rule (1) for the words “Central Excise and Salt Department” and “Government of Orissa”, the words “Central Excise Department” and “Collector” shall be substituted respectively.

(ii) in sub-rule (2) for the words “Warehouse Officer”, “Contractor” and “Collector” wherever they occur, the words “Inspector”, “Warehouse Officer” and “Assistant Collector” shall be substituted respectively.

(6) In rule 11—

(i) In sub-rule (1) for the words, figures and brackets “Indian Salt Act, 1832 (XII of 1832)” the words, figures and brackets “Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944)” shall be substituted;

(ii) for the word “Collector” wherever it occurs, the words “Assistant Collector” shall be substituted.

(7) In rules 12 and 15, for the words “Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Orissa” wherever they occur, the word “Collector” shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)
New Delhi, the 18th March 1944

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 8-Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No. 21-Salt, dated the 19th May, 1934, namely:—

I. In the said Rules—

(1) For sub-rule (2) of rule 1, the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) In these rules,—

(a) “the Act” means the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944);

(b) “Assistant Collector” means an Assistant Collector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta and includes any officer especially authorised by the Collector to exercise throughout the area to which these Rules apply all or any of the powers of the Assistant Collector under these Rules;

(c) “Collector” means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta;

(d) “duty” means the duty payable under the Act;

(e) “Inspector” means an Inspector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta and includes any other officer of that Department duly empowered in this behalf by the Collector

(f) “manufacture” means every process by which salt is separated from brine or from earth or any other liquid or substance and includes every process for the purification or refinement of saltpetre;

(g) "Superintendent" means a Superintendent of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta; and

(h) "Supervisor" means a Supervisor of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta."

(2) In rule 3; for the words "Collector of the district in which it is desired to carry on the manufacture, and the Collector" the words "Assistant Collector, Orissa Division, who" shall be substituted.

(3) In sub-clauses (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (vii) of clause (d) of rule 4, and in rules 6, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 21, clause (b) of rule 22, and rules 23, 31, 38, 43, 48, 52; 54; 55, 57 and 59, for the word "Collector" wherever it occurs, the words "Assistant Collector" shall be substituted.

(4) In sub-clause (ii) of clause (d) of rule 4 and in rules 7, 8, 9, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 31 and 48, for the words "Store Officer", "works officer" and "Works Officer or the Store Officer" wherever they occur, the word "Inspector" shall be substituted.

(5) In sub-clause (iii) of clause (d) of rule 4, for the words "by Government" the words "by the Central Government" shall be substituted.

(6) In sub-clause (vii) of clause (d) of rule 4, for the words and figures "under the Bihar and Orissa Public Demands Recovery Act, 1914, as a public demand and payable to the Collector", the words "as if it were arrears of land revenue" shall be substituted.

(7) In rules 5, 12 and 13, sub-rule (2) of rule 15 and rules 34, 36, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48 and 57 the words "of Excise and Salt" shall be omitted.

(8) In sub-rule (1) of rule 15 and in rules 23 and 30 for the words "Excise and Salt" the words "Central Excise" shall be substituted.

(9) In sub-rule (2) of rule 24, for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt" the words "Central Board of Revenue" shall be substituted.

(10) In rules 28 and 41, for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt" the word "Collector" shall be substituted.

(11) In rules 35 and 36, for the words "salt or police" the words "Central Excise" shall be substituted.

(12) In rule 39, for the words "Salt Department, whose grade is not lower than that of a Sub-Inspector" the words "Central Excise Department not below the rank of a Supervisor" shall be substituted.

(13) In rule 48 for the words "Commissioner of the Division" the word "Collector" shall be substituted.

(14) In rule 55 for the figure "9" the figures "10" shall be substituted.

(15) For rule 56, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

"56. All licensed works and all premises connected therewith shall be open at all times, by day or by night, to the inspection of any officer not below the rank of Inspector or of any officer deputed by such officer for the purpose."

(16) In rule 58, for the word "Sub-Inspector" the word "Supervisor" shall be substituted.

(17) For rule 60, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

"60. (1) Subject to the provisions of these rules, an appeal shall lie from any order of the Superintendent to the Assistant Collector, from any order of the Assistant Collector to the Collector and from any order of the Collector, not being an order passed on second appeal, to the Central Board of Revenue. No appeal shall lie from any order passed by the Central Board of Revenue or from any order passed by the Collector on second appeal.

(2) An appeal under sub-rule (1) shall be accompanied by an authenticated copy of the order against which the appeal is made and shall be submitted through the officer against whose orders it is an appeal.

(3) No appeal under sub-rule (1) shall be admitted unless submitted within 3 months of the date of the order against which the appeal is made.

II. In the Form of license appended to the said Rules, under the heading "Conditions of the License"—

(a) In condition 4, the word "of" shall be omitted.

(b) In conditions 4, 7, 8, 10 (a), 14, 15, 16, 17 (ii) 23, 24, 25, 27, and 28, for the words "Collector" the words "Assistant Collector" shall be substituted.

(c) In conditions 6 and 21, for the words "Works Officer" and "Works Officer and Store Officer" wherever they occur, the word "Inspector" shall be substituted.

(d) In condition 9 (IV), for the words "factory officer" the word "Inspector" shall be substituted.

(e) In condition 10 (c)—

(i) for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt", the words "Central Board of Revenue" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the words "Salt Department or whenever" the words "Central Excise Department or whenever" shall be substituted;

(iii) for the words "the Salt Department on his behalf" the words "that Department on his behalf" shall be substituted.

(f) In condition 13, for the word "Government" the words "Central Government" shall be substituted.

(g) In condition 13, 17 (1) and 19, for the words "Salt Department" the words "Central Excise Department" shall be substituted.

(h) In condition 17 (1), the words "and all Gazetted officers of other departments" shall be omitted.

(i) In condition 18—

(1) for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt" the word "Collector" shall be substituted;

(2) the words "of Salt revenue" shall be omitted.

(3) for the word "supervisors" the word "staff" shall be substituted.

(j) In condition 24, for the words "by Government" wherever they occur, the words "by the Central Government" shall be substituted.

(k) In condition 28, for the words and figures "under the Bihar and Orissa Public Demands Recovery Act, 1914, as a public demand payable to the Collector", the words "as if it were arrears of land revenue" shall be substituted.

(l) At the end of the said Form, for the word "Collector" the words "Assistant Collector" shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

New Delhi, the 25th March 1944.

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 9-Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No. 6, dated the 29th May 1943 and in the rules published therewith, namely:—

I. In the preamble to the said notification—

(a) for the words, brackets and figures "Province of Madras or in the territory transferred from the Presidency of Madras to the Province of Orissa by the Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) Order, 1936, and in the Provinces of Bombay and Sind," the words "Provinces of Madras, Bombay, Orissa, and Sind" shall be substituted;

(b) for the words "Bombay and Madras", the words "Bombay, Madras and Orissa" shall be substituted.

II. In the said rules—

(a) for clause (1) of rule 2, the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

(1) "Collector" means, in relation to the Province of Sind, the Superintendent of Salt Revenue for Sind, and in relation to the Provinces of Madras, Bombay and Orissa, the Collector of Central Excise, Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, respectively.

(b) in rule 10, for the words "Salt Department" the words "Salt/Central Excise Department" shall be substituted.

III. In the Appendices to the said rules—

(a) in Appendix A—

(i) for the words "current at Madras/Bombay/Karachi" the words "current in British India" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the words "Collector of Salt Revenue, Madras/Bombay" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Madras/Bombay/Calcutta" shall be substituted;

(iii) for the words "Salt Revenue", "Salt Department" and "Salt and Customs" wherever they occur, the words "Central Excise", "Salt/Central Excise Department" and "Salt/Central Excise and Customs" shall be substituted respectively.

(2) In appendix B, for the words "Collector of Salt Revenue, Madras/Bombay" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Madras/Bombay/Calcutta" shall be substituted.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

New Delhi, the 1st April 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT.

No. 10-Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1), read with clause (xvii) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to make the following rule, namely:—

Rule.

Salt removed from saltpetre refineries in the Punjab, the United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa, Delhi or Ajmer-Merwara, is hereby exempted from the duty imposed on salt by section 3 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), read with section 2 of the Indian Finance Act, 1944—

- (a) in the case of *sitta* (i.e., impure salt unfit for human consumption), to the extent of one rupee and eight annas per standard maund;
- (b) in the case of salt other than *sitta*, to the extent of one rupee and one anna per standard maund.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 6th May 1944.

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 2.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the North-Eastern India Salt Rules, 1939, namely:—

In the said Rules—

- (1) In sub-rule (2) of rule 1, for the words "Collector of Central Excises and Salt, North Eastern India" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta, except Orissa" shall be substituted.

(2) In rule 2—

- (a) for clauses (i) and (ii), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—
 - (i) "the Act" means the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944);
 - (ii) "Collector" means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta;
- (b) clauses (iv) to (x) shall be renumbered as clauses (iii) to (ix) respectively;
- (c) in clause (iii) as renumbered for the words "Central Excises and Salt, North-Eastern India" the words "the Central Excise Collectorate, Calcutta", shall be substituted;
- (d) in clauses (iv), (v) and (vi) as renumbered for the words "Central Excises and Salt Department, North-Eastern India" the words "Central Excise Collectorate, Calcutta" shall be substituted.

- (3) In rule 8, for the words "the following fees" the words "a fee of rupees twenty" shall be substituted and entries (1) and (2) shall be omitted.

- (4) In rule 12, for the words "Salt Officer" wherever they occur the words "Central Excise Officer" shall be substituted.

- (5) In rule 23, for the figure "9" the figures "10" shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 6th May 1944.

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 7.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT

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further amendments shall be made in the Bengal Salt (Village Manufacture, Storage and Transport) Rules, 1943, namely:—

In the said Rules—

- (1) In rule 2—

(a) in Clauses (i) and (v), for the words "Department of Central Excises and Salt, North-Eastern India" the words "Central Excise Collectorate, Calcutta" shall be substituted;

(b) for Clauses (ii) and (iv), the following Clauses shall be substituted respectively, namely:—

(ii) "Collector" means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta;

(iv) "duty" means the duty payable under the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944);

(2) In sub-rule (1) of rule 11, for the words "Excises and Salt Department, North-Eastern India" the words "Excise Collectorate, Calcutta" shall be substituted.

(3) In sub-rule (1) of rule 12, for the words, brackets and figures "Indian Salt Act, 1882 (XII of 1882)" the words, brackets and figures "Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944)" shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 6th May 1944

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 8.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the North-Eastern India Salt Rules, 1939, as amended from time to time, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the territories within the jurisdiction of the Collector of Central Excise, Allahabad, provided that a fee of rupees fifty and twenty for each year or part of a year shall be levied in the United Provinces and the Province of Bihar respectively for a licence for the refinement of Saltpetre and the reduction of Salt therefrom.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 13th May 1944.

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 9.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the North-Western India Salt Rules, 1931, namely:—

In the said Rules—

- (1) In sub-rule (2) of rule 1, for the words "Excises and Salt, North-Western India" the words "Excise, Delhi" shall be substituted.

(2) In rule 2, for the words, brackets letter and figure "clause (e) of section 6 of the Act" the words, brackets and figures "clause (xix) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), hereinafter referred to as the Act", shall be substituted.

(3) In rules 4, 11, 12, 14, 27 and 31, for the words "Salt Revenue" wherever they occur the words "Central Excise" shall be substituted.

(4) In rules 8 and 9, for the words "Collector", Central Excises and Salt, North-Western India" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Delhi" shall be substituted.

(5) In rule 14 for the words "duly made under it" the words "duly made or deemed to be made under it" shall be substituted.

(6) In rules 18, 19, and 20, for the words "Excises and Salt Department, North-Western India" the words "Excise Collectorate, Delhi" shall be substituted.

(7) In rule 25, for the words "salt officer" wherever they occur the words "Central Excise Officer" shall be substituted.

(8) In rule 27, after the word "made" the words "or deemed to be made" shall be inserted.

(9) In rule 29, after the word "rules" the words "made or deemed to be made" shall be inserted.

(10) In rule 36 for the figure "9" the figures "10" shall be substituted.

(11) In rule 39, for the words and figures "section 3 of the Indian Salt Act, 1882" the words and figure "section 2 of the Act" shall be substituted.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).
Simla, the 13th May 1944.

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 10.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No. 1-Salt, dated the 12th January 1935 and in the rules published therewith, namely :—

I. In the preamble to the said notification for the words "Collector, Central Excises and Salt North-Western India" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Delhi" shall be substituted.

II. In the said Rules—

(a) in clause (2) of the proviso to rule 1 and in rule 11, for the words "Salt Department" the words "Central Excise Collectorate" shall be substituted;

(b) in rule 2, for the words "Assistant Collector, Central Excises and Salt, North-Western India" the words "Assistant Collector of the Central Excise Collectorate, Delhi" shall be substituted;

(c) in rules 8, 11 and 12 for the words "Excises and Salt Department, North-Western India" the words "Excise Collectorate, Delhi" shall be substituted;

(d) in rule 11, for the words "Collector, Central Excises and Salt, North-Western India" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Delhi" shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 27th May 1944.

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 11.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in the Notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No. 24-Salt, dated the 9th December 1939, namely :—

In the said notification—

(i) for the words "Collector of Central Excises and Salt, North-Eastern India" the words "Collectors of Central Excise, Calcutta and Allahabad" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the words "Province of Bengal" the words "Provinces of Bengal and Orissa" shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 27th May 1944.

NOTIFICATION.

SALT.

No. 12.—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (i) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to cancel the notification of the Government of Orissa in the Law, Commerce and Labour Department, No. 7752-Com., dated the 23rd November 1938.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 30th September 1944.

NOTIFICATION.

CENTRAL EXCISE.

No. 9.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that with effect from

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT

1st October, 1944, the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely :—

In the said Rules—

(1) in clause (ii) of rule 2—

(a) sub-clause (a) shall be omitted;

(b) in sub-clause (d), for the words "Province of Madras" the words "Provinces of Madras and Coorg", shall be substituted;

(2) in rule 201, the words "In the Province of Coorg, the Chief Commissioner, and elsewhere in British India" and the words "his or" shall be omitted.

(3) in Appendix III, under the heading "Sections 14 and 21"—

(a) in item (i) for the words "province of Madras" the words "Provinces of Madras and Coorg" shall be substituted;

(b) in item (iii), for the words "Provinces of Sind and Coorg", the words "Province of nd" shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 11th March 1944

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES.

No. XI-D.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6, 12 and 37 of Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely :—

In sub-rule (2) of rule 1 of the said Rules, after the word "including" the words "British Baluchistan and" shall be inserted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES).

Simla, the 28th October 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT.

No. 14.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely :—

In Chapter VI of the said Rules, for Rule 112 the following Rule shall be substituted :—

"112. Retention of salt works, for which licences have been relinquished or cancelled, to be determined by Collector.—Salt works for which licences have been cancelled or relinquished shall be at the disposal of the Collector, who shall determine whether the salt works shall be retained within the salt factory or not.

(a) If the Collector directs that the salt works shall be retained within the factory, the proprietary right of other persons therein, if any, shall thereupon vest in His Majesty and the Collector shall pay the value of such proprietary right to the late licensee. In ascertaining such value the value of the land as a site for salt manufacture shall not be taken into account. The Collector shall, if he admits the existence of such proprietary right, tender to the late licensee such sum as he considers to represent the value thereof, and if the sum tendered is not accepted or such proprietary right is not admitted by the Collector, he shall refer the late licensee to a Court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) If the Collector directs that the salt works shall not be retained within the factory he shall exclude them from the limits thereof and no payment for the value of any proprietary right shall be made.

(c) Whether or not the salt works are retained within the factory and the value of any proprietary right is payable, the Collector shall, in respect of salt works for which licences have been cancelled otherwise than for a breach of the conditions thereof or on conviction by a Magistrate for an offence under the Act, pay to the late licensee compensation at the rate fixed under rule 114:

Provided that no compensation under this rule shall be payable, if it is excluded by express stipulation in the conditions of the licence".

R. J. PRINGLE,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

14/C. No. 150-SALT/44.

Copy forwarded to all Collectors of Central Excise and the Secretary to the Government of Sind, Revenue Department, Karachi.

By order, etc.,

R. J. PRINGLE,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

THE BANKING COMPANIES BILL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed to discuss the motion moved by Mr. Tyson.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I made my position clear yesterday that although I am definitely of opinion that research on rice is absolutely necessary, at the same time I am also of opinion that this Bill as it stands will serve no useful purpose. I do not find any serious attempt made for real research on this vital problem. The provisions of the Bill are not such as to encourage any hope of real work.

Sir, yesterday I was dealing with the question as to the sort of committee that is proposed to be set up. I shall now come to the composition of the Committee. The Committee is to consist of 51 members and in view of the very small powers given to it it seems to me that the proposed committee is nothing better than a department of Government.

Then, Sir, I am interested in the representation given to my province of Bengal. Bengal, as is well known, has the largest acreage under rice, which is almost one-third of the entire area in India. And the production also is more than one-third of the entire production of rice in India. In sub-clauses (h) and (i) of clause 4 I find that the representation has been distributed among the different provinces, making some distinction between one province and another; and from the number of seats given to different provinces it is clear that the idea was to give seats on the basis of production or of the acreage under rice. On that basis I find in sub-clause (i) that three seats have been given to Bengal,—out of 14 persons representing rice-growers,—and two to Madras which is the second province in the matter of rice production. I do not quarrel with that. But in sub-clause (h) I find that out of twelve persons representing the rice industry and trade, two will be from Bengal instead of three. I do not understand this. On the basis of production and acreage more seats have been given to the rice growers of Bengal than Madras, and the same number (three) should have been given to Bengal to represent the rice industry and trade. I do not want any decrease for Madras: I hope I shall not be misunderstood. I only propose the same number in (h) as in (i).

Then with regard to the last clause under which the Central Government will appoint additional members up to five, I do not object to this safety valve, but I submit that these five seats should not go to officials but to non-officials; because, for officials there is plenty of representation in clauses (a) to (f).

Then about representation of trade and industry. I find in sub-clause (g) that two persons will represent the rice milling industry, one nominated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the other by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. I do not understand why any distinction should be made between the rice industry and rice trade. My suggestion is some representation should be given to general commercial interests. I suggest that four seats should be given to commercial interests.

As regards the functions of the committee, they are laid down in clause 9. Although this clause is entitled 'Application of Fund', it really prescribes the

functions of this committee in sub-clause (2). I find that the programme is really comprehensive and very ambitious. If these functions which are assigned to the Committee are carried out properly and faithfully, it will certainly go a long way towards the improvement of rice position. But the misfortune is that although it is an ambitious programme, it is without any financial aid. What, after all, is the money proposed to be given to this Committee? The solution of food problem is certainly the business of the State, but we find that no contribution is made by the Government either initial or recurring. The whole burden has been laid either to the millowners, or to the growers, or to the traders. And not a *kauri* has been given by Government for this purpose, and that is my fundamental objection to the Bill.

In view of what has occurred lately, in view of the Bengal famine, in view of the scarcity of food almost all over the country, whose duty it is to pay for research in regard to the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products? It is the primary duty of the Government; of all other duties, this is the foremost duty so that every man, woman and child can live. But for this work Government will not make any contribution at all; it has laid the whole burden on the trade. And what is the amount that is required for this committee? A sum of 54 lakhs of rupees only. In view of the ambitious programme which has been chalked out for this committee, it is certainly very small indeed, and yet this amount cannot be spared by the Government. How many lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been expended by the Government in all quarters in these days, but the burden of 54 lakhs of rupees is being thrown on the shoulders of the people. For that reason I am opposed to this Bill.

In regard to functions, I feel, Sir, that there is one function which is technically allotted to the committee—Grow More Food. If you want to grow more food, you must encourage the growers and you cannot encourage the growers unless you assure them a proper return for their cultivation. That is one of the aspects of the problem which must be gone into. This question was considered by the planning conference in 1934. My submission is that this function of the Committee (which is covered by the all-comprehensive terms of functions laid down in clause 9)—namely, to advise the Government on this economic problem, as to how a fair price can be effected and how the agriculturists can be assured of a minimum return, should be specifically allotted to the committee with particular reference to the return which the cultivator will get and the imports of rice from abroad.

There are one or two other matters which require consideration. For instance, clause 13 gives power to inspect mills and take copies of records and accounts. This will certainly be a fresh source of harassment to the mill-owners. Power is given to the Collector or any such officer to inspect the mills and take copies of records. It is laid down in sub-clause (2) that "the Collector or any such officer may at any time with or without notice to the owner, examine the working records . . .". That is a drastic provision. Such an examination without notice is not contemplated even by the Income-tax Department. This provision—namely, records and accounts may be examined without notice—is very objectionable.

In the same clause, power is given to the Collector or any other authorised officer, "to examine any record or account containing the description or formulae of any trade process". I do not understand how this is necessary for research.

Recently in some of the Axis countries there has been a new concept of food as an all round political and military instrument. I do not know whether that concept has been adopted by our Government. The other day a certain gentleman heard some British officers say that famine would help them from a military point of view. Although I have no faith in the sincerity and wishes of the British Government, I do not go so far as to believe that there are an appreciable number of British officials who would like to bring about famine as a military weapon. Be that as it may, certainly it was the duty of the Government to make better provision for food in India.

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta]

Yesterday, my Honourable friend Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee was preaching a homily as regards the virtues of research. Since people were starving, why not have a research department immediately without circulation; as if to say that the provisions of this Bill, as soon as it was enacted, would bring salvation to India with regard to food. My submission is that whether it is a political or military instrument this research department should have been established very much earlier, and the research should have been serious and intensive. We have made many attempts for promoting agriculture. All these efforts have failed because there was no sincerity in those efforts. India can grow far larger quantities of rice than it has been producing hitherto. Therefore you should find out the causes for this shortage and devise methods to improve the production. I have every sympathy with the avowed object of this Bill

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Can anything be more serious than placing the research scheme of rice in your own hands?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: But the fact is that it has not been placed in my hands. It is not a *bona-fide* Committee. No powers have been given to the Committee. The Committee cannot even appoint its own Secretary. Look at clause 17 of the Bill. It reveals the real character of the Committee. My submission is that having regard to the Bill as to the powers of the Committee *vis-a-vis* the Central Government, it is absolutely clear that it is a committee without powers. It is a puppet committee. Therefore, when Sir Jogendra Singh asks whether we do not want research, we say we do certainly, but we also want a sincere attempt to have a research.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is not without great embarrassment that I rise to oppose this Bill. Both on public and on private grounds I experience this embarrassment: on public grounds because such Bills are invariably of a plausible nature and the language in which they are couched is such that an ordinary person is likely to fall into a trap and feel that a great deal of good is likely to be the outcome of such measures: on private grounds because the Honourable and venerable Member of the Viceroy's Council, who is really in charge of this Bill, is bound to me and I to him by a thousand ties. He, as one of the greatest friends of my father, was always a most welcome guest in our house in Benares, and as a boy I always looked forward to his visits, and I have always held him in great respect. It would have given me no end of pleasure to support anything that he said or did; and I find myself very unhappy that I should have to oppose a measure which I understand he thinks will be a lasting monument to his service as a member of the Government of India. I am sorry that I should feel inclined to try to kill that child of his old age when I a child of his younger years should wish to live for a long time yet myself.

Sir, I have always said to this House that I was a very simple person, without any pretensions to complicated processes of reasoning. I am not always attracted to the language of law. What I want to know is how that law is to be applied; and with such experience as we all have of the manner in which laws are actually worked in our country, I feel that we must be very chary when we give our consent to any such measure. So far as I have been able to find out from a careful reading of this Bill (and I have read it as carefully as it is possible for me to do), its main object is to constitute a committee; and the main purpose of that committee is to consolidate itself. It will have its officers, it will have its servants, it will look after its own interests more than the work with which it will be supposed to be entrusted. My friend Mr. Essak Sait told us yesterday, from his experience of another committee, that that committee spent more money on its administrative side than for the purpose for which it was intended. A careful examination of the budgets of the Central and Provincial Governments will tell the same tale. So important

have servants of Government become (and the servants of this committee will have the same status, according to the Bill, as Government servants), that, as we know, in the official publications of this Government, the word servant is written actually with a capital letter against all rules of grammar, which I and my friends here have been taught in our earlier years. The Indian Civil Service is written with capital letters. The interests of the services are taken primarily into consideration, not the interests of those for whom these services are meant; and the interests of the services themselves are the primary concern of the Government and the people as a whole.

I fear that this committee will also go the way that all such committees, whether Government or quasi-Government, have gone in the past. Of course the Government is anxious that due provision should be made as to how the committee is to feed itself; and therefore there is an enforced levy and certain classes of the people will be forced to pay a certain amount of money in order that that committee should exist. That naturally means an addition to the cost of consumers. It is all very well to say that the cost is infinitesimal. All taxes are infinitesimal. Many persons in the villages only pay four annas or eight annas as rent or revenue or tax; but all these four and eight annas put together make the colossal figures with which the Government budgets deal. I am not going to be side-tracked by the mere mention of the fact that the tax is a very small figure. Then who ultimately pays? It is not the hollers. Who will be taxed under this Act? On whom will the levy fall? Who will really pay? The consumers will have to pay. The growers will have to pay, and we all know that whenever a small tax or a small levy is laid by Government, actually people have to pay far more than they should be required to pay, because there is always the pretence by the persons concerned that there is an extra tax to pay. The person who pays the levy pays a little less to the person from whom he buys the stock on which the levy is to be paid by saying that there is a levy. The tax has got to be paid by someone and so the tax is passed on to the others.

As regards the objects for which this committee is being constituted, I think that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, such as it is, should be able to further all those objects. There is no necessity of another committee. My Honourable and venerable friend said that he was sure that if researches were undertaken there would be an addition of four maunds per acre in the production of rice. If the Honourable Member has already made the necessary research, because of which he has come to this conclusion that there would be an addition of four maunds per acre, why does he not apply the results of that research straightaway instead of asking for further researches. When he is so sure that there would be an increase of four maunds per acre, simple-minded as I am, I take it that the Honourable Member has made his calculation as a result of the researches that he has made and has come to that definite conclusion. If the researches have been made, if the conclusions have been arrived at, I see no reason for further researches through this committee.

I do dislike the procedure that will be adopted under the terms of this Bill. There will be endless returns to make. We have had some experience of the way in which returns are demanded and returns are made. An Honourable friend from this side of the House has already spoken about the supposed shortage of paper. While we are starved on the one side so far as our requirements of paper are concerned, we are asked to make endless returns, which, I take it, must be made on paper and not on leaves of trees. I do not know how Government will find the extra paper necessary for such returns.

Then, Sir, the harassment that is caused in the demand for such returns is a thing to which I must take strong exception. There will be an extra cost that all persons concerned will have to undergo. Many shops have proprietors who look after all the departments of the activities of the shop themselves and who are not very literate. Many shops I know under the existing laws of control and other regulations have had to employ extra clerks in order to fill up the required returns. I do not see any reason why we should force these

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persons to employ extra clerks. It seems to me that the sole purpose of Government is just to give orders and we all in the land exist only to obey those orders. The Government never cares to see whether its orders are imposing an additional burden on the people or not; and if there is any so-called disobedience to any order, the punishment is prompt. Then we find the inevitable Collector coming into this Bill. Now let there be no mistake that the Collector is also the District Magistrate and neither he nor any other people with whom he has to deal, can ever forget that the man is not only a Collector but is also invested with vast magisterial powers. He can enter these mills, he can inspect these mills, he can ask his subordinates in cases of dispute to seal the books. We know what the result of this inspection and this sealing is. I am sorry to say that all these methods lead to bribery and corruption. It is all very well for Honourable Members opposite to say that there should be no bribery, there should be no corruption. But these are facts and Government does nothing to check them. Their very laws are so complicated that they actually encourage bribery and corruption; and just as in control shops many inspectors have their mouths shut because of the supply of cloth and other materials to them free of all costs, so I have no doubt that the Inspectors of this industry will also have their mouths shut by a supply of bags of rice free of all costs.

Then let us see to the punishment. That always falls on the non-official. There is no provision for the punishment of officials, for their misdoings. Of course I shall be shown clause 14(2), wherein, curiously enough, the Collector is also liable to imprisonment for certain acts. Whoever heard of a collector being prosecuted and sent to prison for six months? I have not heard it and, having been the victim of many Collectors myself and having been persecuted and prosecuted by them, I assure my Honourable and venerable friend opposite that I shall travel a thousand miles to see the prosecution of a single Collector, if he will only inform me that he has caught one on the hip. I do not think there is any police station which would accept a complaint against a Collector, namely, the District Magistrate of the district. However he is going to be punished I do not know. I think this is a misnomer; it is trying to throw dust into our eyes. No Collector in India can be prosecuted; no Collector in India shall be prosecuted—clause 14 or no clause 14! The whole thing will fall on us, all along the line. It is the story of the melon and the knife: whether the knife falls on the melon or the melon on the knife, it is the melon that is cut all the time.

Then, this Collector will be the final authority; he will have absolute powers. Of course there is a provision that if some one is dissatisfied, he may write to the Central Government. No court shall take cognisance of anything done under this Act, but the Central Government may take into consideration such applications as are sent to them. Most of us have experience of applications to the Central and the Provincial Governments; and not only are we familiar with the fact that very often no replies are sent but we also know what troubles we invite upon ourselves by complaining thus. I do not believe that the mere putting into the Act a provision for the making of an application to the Central Government by an aggrieved person, can really bring him any relief. I therefore strongly object to many of the provisions of this Bill, especially to the provisions about forcible entry, about examination, about sealing; and if my proposal to end this Bill here and now is not carried and the Bill is circulated and ultimately gets into a Select Committee, I hope that drastic amendments will be made in order to save the people from unnecessary harassment.

There is in the end also the inevitable rule-making power. The rule-making power which the Government reserves to itself, in all such Acts, gives it practically, a power under which they can so act that the very purpose of the original legislation can be defeated. I am always suspicious of these rule-making powers and I therefore feel that this Bill first of all does not deserve our support and should be put out of court straight off: secondly, if the House

is not agreeable to that procedure, it must see to it that the Bill is amended in various vital particulars. Sir, I oppose the Bill.

Some 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. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):

Sir, there is a saying about making two bites at a cherry. I do not know how many bites the House has had at my poor little grain of rice! This is about the fourth time that we have returned to it: it must be very appetising. I am grateful to my Honourable friend, Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee for his support of this measure. I agree with him that the setting up of such a committee as we have in mind is an urgent matter. We had hoped to get a select committee during this Session and to get the Bill on the Statute Book at once. That would have enabled us to get the committee working before the next paddy season, the spring of 1945. In view, however, of the evident desire of the House, a desire expressed in several quarters but not in all quarters, to have opinions on the Bill, we have, as I indicated yesterday, agreed from this side of the House to support Mr. Essak Sait's amendment for circulation by the 23rd February 1945, and in the circumstances I propose to make only a brief reply to the debate.

I am not quite sure that I altogether followed the attitude of the party immediately opposite me to the Bill. Mrs. Subbaroyan who thinks that the duty will fall on the cultivator considers that the burden will be a very heavy one. Mr. Chetty on the other hand, though he does not like the duty, considers that it is not a heavy levy at all and that it will not much affect either the consumer or the producer. Prof. Ranga wanted the functions of the committee widened: in fact he pointed in contrast to the functions of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. Mr. Chetty on the other hand thought that the functions of any such committee should stop short at the harvest and that marketing and grading and standardisation should be done by some other body. I begin to see why the Congress Party, at all events, want circulation for eliciting opinions. I suspect they have not any opinion of their own about the Bill. My reading of the debate is that the House generally agrees that we ought to be undertaking, and prosecuting with vigour, research into rice, our major food crop. I think Mrs. Subbaroyan was the only member who thought that such matters should not be undertaken while there was still a food shortage. The proposal in the Bill which has evoked the most criticism has undoubtedly been the method we suggested for financing the Committee. The Honourable leader of the Congress Nationalist Party referred to it at the very beginning of his speech; he was the first speaker, and it has been referred to by many Members since: I propose, therefore, Sir, to devote the whole of my reply to this matter because it is fundamental.

Now it seems to have been assumed on the other side of the House that the cultivator will pay this duty. It was on that basis that Mrs. Subbaroyan drew a picture of the peasantry groaning under what she described as an additional tax on land. I think that this objection is mainly sentimental and is based on misunderstanding and nothing else. Who is going to pay the duty—not the miller, if he can help it. I concede that. And surely not the producer. To begin with, 72½ per cent. of the paddy grown in India, never comes to a mill at all and that 72½ per cent. therefore cannot be affected by the duty which we propose to levy only on the paddy which comes to the mills, namely, 27½ per cent. It is only the 27½ per cent. that comes to the mills that will pay the duty and as 72½ will not come to the mills, I do not see how the miller can "pass the baby" to the cultivator, even to the growers of the 27½ per cent. I see no reason to doubt that it is the consumers who will bear the burden in the end, the consumers of the 27½ per cent. of paddy that comes to the mills—in other words, the consumers of hulled or milled rice. (An Honourable Member: "No".) What is the burden? 2·7 pies, less than one rice a maund. This, I submit, is a microscopic burden, at any level of prices,

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in comparison with the ordinary fluctuations in the price of rice or the price of paddy from season to season or for different periods of the same season or between different parts of the country.

Leaving aside the price of rice or the price of paddy, take the incidental charges which form an element in the price. Take the element provided by marketing charges. Taking marketing charges at 4 annas or six annas a maund on a pre-war price of paddy of about Rs. 2/8 or Rs. 3, what is one pice as against a figure like that, especially, if one of the results of the labours of this Committee may be to reduce the burden of the marketing charges by far more than that one pice? The alternative to a levy of this kind by means of a duty on rice brought to the mills must either be an endowment or else a recurring charge on general revenues. An endowment, to produce 24 lakhs of rupees,—not 54 as, I think, one or two Honourable Members have stated,—would require locking up a colossal sum: on the other hand dependence from year to year on grants from General revenues is a very unsatisfactory method of financing committees of this kind. It is unsatisfactory from the Committee's point of view, as I said in introducing the Bill, because it links the avoidability of money for research much too closely with the day to day or rather the year to year budgetary position of the Government and that, I think, is the last thing that you want in planning long term schemes of research. The Committee must know within reasonable limits where they are going to be financially from year to year and for a period of years ahead.

After all, who is going to benefit by research on rice? The producer certainly—primarily the producer; the miller also, because this Committee is going to deal with research on the technological side: and ultimately also the consumer of rice, because we will be able to make it possible through this Committee to produce more and better rice. The burden is admittedly a small one. My Honourable friends on the opposite side have admitted that it is a small one. It is the principle that they do not like. Why should not this small burden fall on those elements of the population that are going to profit by the labours of such a Committee? Prof. Ranga says that Government should pay or at any rate they should pay half. He knows perfectly well that Government have got no fund from which they can produce money for this purpose except what Government derives from the general taxpayer, including the poor man. You don't let the poor man off by putting this charge on General Revenues. Nowadays we all pay taxes, poor as well as rich. So you don't let the poor man off when you place the burden on the general taxpayer; almost, really, you spread the burden a little more widely. As I said, the incidence is small because it will be very widely spread already under the Bill. In principle, I can see no objection to the burden being borne by those who consume the 27½ million tons of milled rice. I see no objection in principle to that.

Most of the other points raised were of a subsidiary nature of which notice will no doubt be taken by those to whom the Bill will be circulated. We should in particular be very interested to see any suggestions that may be made as a result of circulation about the representation of consumers. So far, we have only provided for that element in the nominated section of the committee.—“(j) such additional persons, not exceeding five, as the Central Government may appoint.” I hope that, as we have agreed to circulation, we may get some suggestions on that point. As suggested by the Honourable Member whose amendment for circulation we propose on this side to support, we shall try to secure the widest publicity for the Bill. I believe that when we get all the opinions of those who stand to benefit by the activities of a committee of this kind, even those who have come this week to curse may remain to bless.

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

“That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945.”

The motion was adopted.

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.

THE PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Mr. Deputy President, I move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Mr. Muhammad Hussain Chaudhury, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, 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.”

Sir, the Payment of Wages Act, to which the present Bill proposes to make certain amendments, was passed in the year 1936. This Bill, at the time when it was passed, was recognised as an experimental measure for the simple reason that when the Bill was drafted we had not before us any model piece of legislation on which we could have modelled the measure which is embodied in this Act. We have had now an experience of practically six years of this measure and in the course of the working it has been discovered that the Bill suffers from many defects. If I may tell the House, it has been pointed out that there are practically 30 or 40 amendments which it is necessary to make to improve the Payment of Wages Act. The Government of India realises that at present they have not got the time to devote to all the amendments to the measure which different parties have suggested and consequently they do not propose to engage themselves upon improving the Act and to remove all the defects that have been suggested. What the Government of India proposes to do through the present amending Bill is to take certain defects which are of such administrative importance that unless and until those defects are removed, it will be difficult to administer the measure with the intention which lay behind the Act when it was passed.

Sir, taking the Bill clause by clause: Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to make certain amendments in the definition of the word “wages”. I do not wish to weary the House by repeating *seriatim* the defects which different parties to the Bill have suggested that they have found in the present definition of the word “wages” as it stands. But I might mention some important ones. It has been said in a judicial decision given by the High Court of Bombay that the present definition of “wages” is so drafted that it is possible for a workman not only to claim wages which he has earned but also wages which might be called potential wages—wages which he might earn. That certainly was not the intention of the original measure. Another defect which has been suggested with regard to this definition is that it allows a workman employed on the outturn basis to claim wages irrespective of his outturn. It has been suggested that there is a confusion in the definition which does not quite distinguish the case of a workman employed on a time basis and a workman employed on outturn basis. It has also been suggested in certain quarters that some of the words which now occur in the definition are superfluous, that they need not be there and that their presence only causes confusion. I might refer to the words: “includes any bonus or additional remuneration of the nature aforesaid which would be so payable”. It has been suggested to us that these words may not have any meaning other than the one which is already included in the previous part of this definition. It has also been suggested that while the definition of “wages” was adequate before the system of dearness allowance brought about by the war came into existence, the definition today is inadequate because it is open for an employer to argue that the dearness allowance is not part of wages.

Now, the definition that we have suggested in the amending Bill seeks to remove all these difficulties. It seems to make the definition simple. I ought to tell the House that I am myself not very confident that the draft, as it stands in the amending Bill, carries out the intention which lies behind this

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original Act. I do not regard the definition which we have proposed as sacrosanct and if the members of the Select Committee are able to suggest a better one I should certainly raise no objection to the further amendment of the definition as it now stands in the amending Bill.

Coming to clause 3, it is a clause which makes two amendments to the present section 5. As the Honourable Members will remember, section 5 is a section which prescribes the period during which wages must be paid; and for the purpose of prescribing the period for the payment of wages, the section divides factories into two categories. In one category are placed factories which employ workmen whose number is less than 1,000. In the second category are placed factories which employ more than 1,000 employees. After making this division, the section provides that in the factories which come into category No. 1, payment must be made within 7 days, while in the case of the latter the limit of the period is prescribed to be 10 days. In actual practice it has been found difficult to observe the terms of this section, and the reason for that is very simple. The division of the factories is based upon the number of employees. As the House will realise, the number of workmen is never a constant figure; it always changes. For instance, if the number of employees goes down by one, the category automatically shifts from category No. 1 to category No. 2. Similarly, if the number of employees is increased by one, category No. 2 goes into category No. 1. It is believed—and I think very rightly—that this discriminating principle is neither very just nor administratively feasible. Consequently what the amendment seeks to do is to abolish this distinction whereby the factories have been divided into two categories and adopt the general principle that in all factories, irrespective of the number of employees that are working there, there shall be a uniform rule, namely, that the payment must be made within ten days. The second amendment which clause 3 seeks to make is also, as the House will see, very necessary. In section 5, provision is made for the payment of an employee who is discharged from service. The section as it stands today provides that the payment to a discharged employee should be on the second working day. Now, Sir, if the Payment of Wages Act was only applicable to perennial factories which are working throughout the day, there can be no difficulty arising from the section as it stands now. But in the case of seasonal factories, the difficulty that would arise is absolutely genuine because, supposing an employee was discharged on the last working day of the factory and the factory being a seasonal factory was closed down thereafter, then the second working day would come after a long interval which it would be difficult for anybody to imagine or to stipulate. Consequently the payment of wages to a discharged employee working in a seasonal factory would be indefinitely postponed if the provision as it now stands was not amended in the way suggested in the Bill. What we have therefore done by the amending Bill is to take away the word 'working' and substitute for the word 'second', the word 'third' so that where the factory is a seasonal factory or where the factory is a perennial factory every discharged workman will be paid on the seventh day and would not have to wait as he would have to in case the factory was a seasonal factory and the Act stood as it is now.

Now, I come to clause 4 of the Bill. As Honourable Members will see clause 4 proposes to make certain amendments in section 7 of this Act. Section 7 is a section which lays down what deductions can be made from the wages of a workman. Honourable Members will see presently that the section as it stands now does not cover all legitimate cases of deductions. I will draw the attention of Honourable Members to what are the omissions in the present Act. For instance, the Act as it stands now, or the section of the Act, does not cover the case of an employee who has left his employment, taken his provident fund and his gratuity and has lost the privileges which he would otherwise get if he had continued to be in service. It may be that for certain reasons, he had to resort to the expedience of obtaining a discharge from service in order to get his provident fund and his gratuity to meet certain economic

demands that may be very pressing upon him. After that, he is re-employed and obviously he is anxious to get back all the privileges which he enjoyed before his discharge and his privileges depend upon whether or not he is prepared to return the provident fund which he had obtained and the gratuity which he got. The workman is willing and prepared for such deductions being made, but the law does not permit this. I think it will be agreed that such deduction should be allowed because it is in the interest of the employee himself. But, as I said such a provision does not find a place in the Act, as it now stands. Then, Sir, there are certain deductions which may be beneficial to the employee and the employee may be willing that the deductions may be made in order to cover such beneficial purposes. Again, there is no provision for allowing the workman voluntarily to agree to make deductions which he thinks are beneficial to himself. The law is made by the amendment in order to make this permissible, subject of course to the Provincial Governments coming to the conclusion that the purposes are beneficial really. There are other omissions in section 7 as it stands and those omissions relate to cases of workmen who are employed in what are called incremental scales. This is a new thing in the Bill and I wish to explain to the House not only what the provisions are but the circumstances which have led us to bring forward this amendment. The sub-section (3) of section 4 deals with three cases. It deals with the case of withholding of increment of an employee who is employed on an incremental scale. It deals with the case of demotion from a higher grade to a lower grade with consequent deduction in salary. Thirdly, it deals with the case of retention of an employee in a grade, the deduction of salary being due to loss of efficiency. The reason why it has become necessary to bring forward these amendments embodied in sub-section (3) of section 4 is that it has its origin in a decision given by the Judicial Commissioner of Sind. It was a case in which an employee who is, I believe an Engine driver, was concerned. His grade was maintained, but his salary was reduced. He went to a court of law for redress and pleaded that the reduction of his salary, while he was continued in the grade, was a deduction unauthorised by law. The Judge upheld the contention and said that that was an unauthorised deduction. But the Judge observed that if there was a new contract entered into with an employee telling him that as his efficiency was not of the required level and standard to discharge his duties that are incumbent upon an officer holding that particular grade, and if the new contract was accepted by him, then the deduction would be justifiable. Now, what I have done in the Bill is to accept the suggestion made by the Judge, namely, that whenever there is a case of an officer whose grade is not reduced, but whose salary is reduced on account of the fact that he is not found to be as efficient as the responsibilities of the post require, the deduction shall not come into existence unless the period of notice that his service requires shall be fulfilled. Now, Sir, the object of that provision is really to give him one month's notice. The completed or simplified procedure would be to give him a legal notice and to say, "We are not prepared to pay you the same salary that we paid before; if you like, continue on the new basis; if you do not like it, discontinue and go out of service". Instead of having that elongated process of two equations, notice and reply, offer and rejection, we have combined the process by delaying the operation of the reduction decision by the period of notice, so that before the period of notice expires if he tells his employer that he is not prepared to accept, he would be at liberty to go out. I should like to make this point clear because it might be argued that in bringing forward these amendments we have really tried to counteract or set at naught or nullify the decision of the Additional Judicial Commissioner and I want to tell the House that I am doing nothing of the kind but am merely following the decision of the Judicial Commissioner in the amendments which we have proposed.

With regard to the other two amendments, viz., the withholding of increments and demotion from a higher grade to a lower grade, there can be no matter of controversy, for the simple reason that a person is promoted from a

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lower to a higher grade only when the employer is satisfied that by the experience that he has had in the grade in which he has been serving he will be able to acquire such greater experience and greater efficiency that he can be legitimately expected to discharge the responsibilities of the higher grade. When, for instance, he has not been promoted there is no grievance, for the simple reason that he has not earned something which is sought to be taken away.

Similarly with regard to the other provision, *viz.*, demotion from a higher to a lower grade, I do not think there can be any legitimate grievance in this kind of deduction, for the simple reason that when a man has lost so much efficiency that an employer does not think that he can be retained in the same grade, I think it is justifiable to reduce him because the reduction in salary is also accompanied by reduction of responsibility.

Now coming to clause 5 of the Bill it is a very simple clause. It seems to amend sub-section (7) of section 8. Sub-section (6) of section 8 deals with the question of the time within which the fine imposed by an employer may be recovered. The question that arises is, when does the time run? Does it run from the date when the offence was committed or does it run from the date when the employer came to know that a certain act or omission was done? Obviously it is not always possible for an employer to know at the very time when an act was committed that it had been committed; it often happens that an act is committed and knowledge of it comes to the employer after a very long time. Consequently, it is felt necessary that the point of time from which limitation should run should not be the date of the offence but the date of the knowledge; and I should like to tell the House that in amending this provision we are not introducing anything that is novel. As lawyer Members of the House would know, there are many provisions in the law of limitation where the time in some cases runs from the date of the act and in some cases from the knowledge of the act.

Coming to clause 6, this seeks to amend section 9 of the Act. Section 7 (2) (b) permits deductions being made on account of absence from duty. Unfortunately there is no definition given in the Act itself as to what is meant by 'absence from duty'. This clause removes this lacuna and adds a second explanation to section 9 where the expression 'absence from duty' is now sought to be defined. Clause 7 amends section 13, and that again is purely consequential; it is not a substantial provision. It makes section 13 applicable to the two of the new deductions contained in clause 4 of the Bill. As Honourable Members know, section 13 makes deductions permissible subject to such conditions as the Provincial Government may impose. We also want that the new deductions which the new amendment permits shall also be subject to the same proviso.

The last clause amends section 17 of the Act which regulates the right of appeal. As it stands the section gives a right of appeal to an employed person but does not give it to the Inspector who is the administrative authority for administering this particular Act. It is felt that it would be advisable in the interest of all, and particularly in the interest of the employees, for the Inspector also to have the right to make an appeal.

These, Sir, are the provisions of the Bill. I submit they are non-controversial and I believe and hope that the House will be able to accept my motion.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon, Mr. Muhammad Hussain Chaudhury, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, 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): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon."

Sir, the Honourable Mover said that the amendments proposed by him to

the Payment of Wages Act were only administrative amendments and were non-controversial. I do not understand the meaning of administrative difficulties or administrative amendments, nor do I understand the meaning of the phrase 'non-controversial'; because I feel myself that most of these amendments proposed are controversial, at least in the sense that I do not approve of them.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons indicates and the speech of the

Honourable the Labour Member also indicated that this legislation 3 P.M. requires modification in order that it may be improved. I have no doubt, Sir, that it requires improvement, and I feel that the most important improvement which this piece of legislation requires is the extension of this legislation to the industries to which at present it does not apply. The present Act applies to what are known as 'factory industries' as well as to the Indian Railways, but the Act has given power to the Provincial Governments to extend its application to various industries like mines, plantations, transport industry (besides Railways), and several other industries. Unfortunately the Provincial Governments have not made use of the power given to them, and I therefore thought that the Honourable the Labour Member having waited for action on behalf of the Provincial Governments for six years would extend the application of the Act to the various industries to which the application was thought necessary by the Legislature when it passed the legislation. Unfortunately the Honourable the Labour Member did not do anything of the kind. He perhaps thought that that was not administrative reform; it was something else. That is not my explanation. My explanation for the Honourable Member not undertaking these important improvements in the legislation is that only recently the Honourable Member introduced and got committed

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. Deputy President, I rise to a point of order. We are discussing a Bill with a certain number of clauses which go to amend certain sections of an Act. Can any Honourable Member address the House on other sections of the Act which are not included in the Bill. He is speaking outside the scope of the Bill.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): It is a general discussion.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The general discussion is confined to the Bill; it is not on the whole Act. If he wants to move other amendments to other sections of the Act, he must bring forward a Bill of his own. This is not the place or the time, I contend, Mr. Deputy President, to discuss other sections of the Act which are not mentioned in the Bill. I consider his speech, therefore, to that extent is out of order.

Mr. N. C. Chunder (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Is it not open to a member to speak here and suggest that the Bill does not go far enough?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the Statement of Objects and Reasons says:

"The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, when passed, was recognised to be an experimental piece of legislation. During its working a number of defects and difficulties have come to notice. While many of them can be left to be dealt with by comprehensive legislation at a later date, it is considered necessary to remove a few even during war time and the Bill seeks to achieve this object."

The Honourable Member stated in his speech that he did not undertake the extensive reforms which are needed. I am only saying that the Honourable Member should have done that. I have not gone out of the scope of the Bill at all. I therefore appeal that I am quite in order in saying that the Honourable Member should have introduced a better measure.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I think that Mr. Joshi is perfectly in order. He is criticising the speech of the Honourable Member as regards the scope of amendments. He suggests that there are many other amendments to make and I think that he is quite within his rights to say so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, my explanation for the Honourable Member's failure to introduce improvements in the Bill is that recently the Honourable Member introduced a Bill which I consider to be quite progressive, though inadequate

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it was—the Bill regarding holidays with pay—and I expected that the Honourable Member will keep up his progressive spirit. But, Sir, I feel that the Honourable Member somehow was afraid that if he introduced progressive Bills one after another then the character of the Government of India for being a conservative Government may be lost, and he did not like to take discredit for that.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Discredit or credit?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I thought that in his opinion it may be discredit. Therefore, I thought, Sir, that the Honourable Member having introduced one progressive measure wanted to introduce at least one which may be regarded as reactionary so that the Government of India's character may be maintained.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Which has no character!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, that is my explanation, but I shall not deal with that aspect any further.

As regards the amendments themselves, after having studied all the amendments I feel that most of them are of reactionary nature and most of them are not also such that the Honourable Members of the legislatures should not have taken a little more time to study them. I feel, Sir, that the Honourable Member should have chosen, if he wanted any urgent reforms, some other improvements than those which he has introduced in this Bill.

Now, Sir, I am suggesting that the Bill be circulated because I had not heard at all about some of the amendments before. As a matter of fact, before I came to Delhi I had just read in a newspaper that the Honourable Member was going to introduce a Bill for amending Payment of Wages Act. I myself did not know what the amendments were and when the Bill was introduced I read those amendments and I thought that the Honourable Member should not have been in a hurry to introduce these amendments. There is no doubt that there are one or two amendments about which I had heard before although definite proposals of the Government of India were not known to me. I do feel that this Bill affects the working classes of this country adversely and there is absolutely no urgency for it. This Bill should be circulated. Let the working classes know what the Bill is. Let their opinions be elicited. Then certainly the Legislature is entitled to consider this Bill, although in my judgment it is a very reactionary Bill. So I feel, Sir, that the House will support the motion which I have made that the Bill be circulated.

Now I shall not be long in dealing with the various amendments which the Honourable Member has introduced.

First he took up the question of the new definition of wages. The Statement of Objects and Reasons and also the Honourable Member's speech indicated why he thought that the amendment was necessary. He stated that this Bill would permit, what I may call, payment, or what the Honourable Member stated payment according to the outturn, or payment by results. I do not think that the Honourable Member should have felt any difficulty about this. Payment by results or payment by outturn has been going on for six years after the Bill was passed and I do not think, Sir, any real difficulty has been experienced. Then the Statement of Objects and Reasons had stated something about profit-sharing and also dearness allowance. Personally, I feel that a real difficulty has not arisen about these matters at all and the Government of India has anticipated difficulties and are trying to take measures in anticipation. I feel there was no urgency from that point of view also. If the Bill is passed, it will certainly introduce a definition which will bring into being certain practices which the original Act was intended to prevent.

I shall give you an example. The original Act wanted to prevent payment of bonuses for regularity of attendance. There are practices where employers pay a certain bonus if a workman attends a certain number of days in a month, or if a workman's conduct is considered to be good by the employer he is given

certain bonuses. The Legislature in 1936 deliberately framed the definition of wages in such a way that these practices should be stopped. The Legislature thought that by giving inducements for regularity or for good conduct, the workman himself may be demoralised and also the employer. Therefore they wanted to stop these practices. From the labour point of view there is another objection to these bonuses, namely, the labour strength and solidarity is weakened when half of them are paid some bonus and half of them are not paid.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): May I point out to the Honourable Mover of the motion that his motion must be given a date. This is obligatory under the rules.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If it is obligatory then you may permit me to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is in order now and you may proceed.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This definition that the Honourable Member has introduced is changing the original intention of that Act. I personally believe, Sir, that the working classes in this country do not require special inducements of bonuses to make them good honest workmen and therefore this practice of giving special inducements—what I may call in vulgar language bribes—should not be allowed, and the Legislature should never tolerate this practice because when we do our work as legislators we do not ask for special inducements in order to make us do our work quite honestly. We never ask for titles and honours for doing our work honestly. Similarly, a good workman asks nothing more but to be paid well and if he is paid well he is ready to give honest, good, hard work. Therefore, Sir, I feel that the change introduced by this measure is a wrong one and requires to be examined fully. That is why I say let the working classes know what change is going to be effected by this definition and thereafter we shall consider the amendment.

Then the Honourable Member has introduced certain amendments to section 5. One of the amendments provides that in respect of the smaller factories employing 1,000 persons or less and making payments before the seventh day of the month, they may be permitted to make payments up to the 10th. In England and in, what I may call, progressive countries wages are paid 2 or 3 days after they are due. In India we have given longer period. That period itself is a very long one and I thought when the Honourable Member for Labour was going to amend this Act he would amend it in a progressive way, i.e., if he found any difficulty in having two kinds of periods, that is the ten, and seven days, he would fix the seven days as the period for making payment. But in order to keep up his character of being conservative or reactionary, he fixes the date of payment before ten days. I thought the amendment was really out of date and not in keeping with the progressive times.

Then the Honourable Member has made another change about removing the words "second working" day and replacing it with the word "third". He said there is difficulty regarding seasonal factories. Perhaps there may be some difficulty but it has not been experienced up to this time; it has not come to my notice at any rate. But if the Honourable Member felt that some amendment was necessary to enable payment to be made when a seasonal factory closes, or even a perennial factory closes, then, Sir, he could make that as an exception. But he makes an amendment by which all employers can refuse to pay a workman who leaves his job till the third day. Now the original Act had done some injustice to the workman. When a man terminates his services, a good employer pays him on the date of his dismissal or discharge, because if the payment is not made on that day the workman has to wait one or two days for receiving payment for the services rendered and he loses wages for those days. If a man is dismissed and if he has to go to the mill to receive his payment the next day, he loses one day's wages. If he has to come there on the third day he loses three days' wages. I feel that if the Honourable Member wanted to provide for the difficulty which is felt in the case of seasonal

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factories and when a factory is closed, he could have removed that difficulty in a different way to what he is doing.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Member has now introduced some other change, permitting some deductions, and the Honourable Member has introduced a general clause by which Provincial Governments are given power to permit any deductions which in the opinion of the Provincial Government are beneficial to workmen. Now, Sir, the Honourable Member may have great confidence in the Provincial Governments and I too have some confidence in them, and I know some of them sometimes do some good service to labour. But, Sir, I am not prepared to give such a wide power to the Provincial Government. In his speech the Honourable the Labour Member said that these deductions may be voluntary but they may not be voluntary. In any case his Bill does not provide that these deductions which the Provincial Governments may sanction will be all voluntary. No, Sir, that is not provided in the Bill itself: that may be his intention. I do not approve of this clause giving general power to the Provincial Government to sanction deductions, which, in the opinion of the Provincial Government, are beneficial.

Then there is this question about stopping of increments and degrading workmen or asking them to take up less skilled work, so that their wages may be reduced. The Honourable Member quoted a judgment of the Sind Government that certain practices which prevailed on Indian Railways should be sanctioned by law. When the Payment of Wages Act was passed the Railway authorities, who are in the habit of imposing large fines upon their employees, found, that they could not exercise their authority uncontrolled. The Payment of Wages Act controlled their authority to a great extent and they wanted to gain that authority again by a different way. Instead of fining a workman, they began to degrade him, stop his promotion or put him on a less paid job. I feel that these practices were against the spirit of the original Payment of Wages Act and therefore the amendments suggested by the Honourable Member are not in the interests of the working classes. In any case before these amendments are considered by a Select Committee, it is absolutely necessary that the Railway workmen, who will be mostly the persons affected by this amendment, should know what is being done by the Legislature and therefore the Bill should be circulated.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Member has also introduced certain other amendments, one of them regarding permitting certain deductions for absence.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have only given the definition of absence. I have not permitted deductions: they are already there.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I know. The Honourable Member is a very simple man. He has changed the definition of absence with the result that certain deductions may be permitted. The original Act permits deductions for absence up to a certain point. The deductions may be made for the actual time lost or work not done. But if this Amendment is made, and if I understand it rightly, it is quite possible for an employer to impose double fine on the employee.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is not correct.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: All right. We shall discuss it at the proper time. What may happen is this: an employee is absent for an hour. He cannot turn out work for that hour and therefore if he is paid on piece rate his wages are automatically reduced. Besides receiving less wages, it is quite possible that if this Amendment is made, the man's wages may be deducted still further.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No, no.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member says No. We shall discuss that question, which is one of interpretation.

There is another amendment which the Honourable Member has suggested and that amendment is to enable the workman to be fined after the offending or wrong act was detected. This amendment he considers to be very reasonable but I am afraid this amendment is one which enables the employer to

keep the sword of Damocles hanging over the head of workmen, for how long, I do not know. A workman does some offending act, a small thing like coming late by an hour or two on a particular day. The employer's register is maintained by a time-keeper or somebody else but the employer has not noticed that the man was absent for an hour or two and therefore has not deducted his wages. After two or three years the employer finds out that the man was absent and therefore must be fined. I am not suggesting that this is a very happy example: there may be some other examples. But the offending act may be committed today and the employer may fine the workman after five or ten years. He says there is no law of limitation. The employer may be negligent, careless and not vigilant and yet if he discovers the offence of the workman after five or ten years, the latter must be fined. Sir, the Legislature should not sanction such a thing. The Legislature was very reasonable when it passed the Act. What the Legislature said was that a man after doing something wrong should not be fined after sixty days. That is, the Legislature has given the employer sixty days' time to find out if his employee has done anything wrong. I think sixty days are quite enough for a vigilant employer to find out the mistake or wrong committed by his employee. I do not wish to go into all the amendments which the Honourable Member has suggested. I feel that the amendments which are proposed are such that they will adversely affect the interests of the working classes in this country. In any case they are not very urgent. I therefore feel that the motion which I have made may be approved by the Legislature and after the Bill is circulated and the opinions of the working classes are obtained, the Legislature may consider the further stages of this Bill. In any case the Legislature should not consider this motion for committing the Bill to a Select Committee till the opinions of the working classes are obtained on this Bill.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 23rd February, 1945."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, at the very outset I should submit that I felt restrained when the Honourable Member said that this Bill is non-controversial and only administratively it is being improved or corrected. I should think that this Bill is of the utmost importance. A Bill which affects the interests of labour cannot be said to be an unimportant measure. And I may say how many times labour itself has contested the principal provisions of the Act.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Labour should produce better Bills.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Several questions as to the interpretation of the original Act have come before for consideration. How then is this Bill non-controversial? The Honourable Member in the same breath said that such questions have arisen before and gone to the High Courts. . . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa: He is in labour!

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: He himself has said that the Chief Court of Sind decided a case which, according to him, has necessitated his coming forward with this amendment. I do not agree with him in the interpretation he puts on that decision. He has set forth in the Notes on Clauses what that court has held. It has held that when there is any deduction or reduction in pay or any demotion it will be considered that there has been a deduction from their pay. I think my Honourable friend said that according to him the decision of the Chief Court was not sustainable by the decision itself. I may inform the Honourable Member that I had to do something with that case, in the sense of giving advice when the matter was going to court; and it was decided accordingly—as has been stated in the Notes—

"The Sind Chief Court held some time ago that the temporary reduction of an employee from one step in an incremental scale to another amounted to a deduction within the meaning of the Act. Doubts have also been expressed whether reductions, demotions, etc., by way of disciplinary measures amounted to 'deductions'."

This is what the Chief Court held, that they are deductions; and therefore it looks as if the Honourable Member is attempting to override that decision.

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of the Chief Court. I do not think the Legislature will allow that without very serious consideration. I am for circulation of the Bill, because it is a question of legal interpretation, and therefore it should be circulated not only to labour but to their representatives and their advisers and advocates, so that the right interpretation may be arrived at. It will lessen the work of the Honourable Member in Select Committee. He will get the opinions of some of the High Courts which override this decision of the Chief Court, if he wants that the law should be changed. We must have opinions to guide us in the Select Committee. It would be wise of the Honourable Member to accept the amendment that has been put in.

It is not only the question of demotion or reduction that has to be considered under this Bill—there is also the question of absence and also what will be the effect if a man is wrongly discharged or dismissed. Such cases have also recently come up before the tribunals and they have held in the case of absence, that if the absence is wilful or not right, then the deduction can be made. But in the case of discharge or dismissal, they have said that that can only be made by the authority which has the power, because many times the order of discharge was made by an authority to whom the power had been wrongly delegated. How can it therefore be said that all these questions are unimportant or non-controversial? On the contrary, I think that considering this Bill along with several other Bills which are coming before the House, this is a more important one than the others and I hope the Honourable Member will send this for circulation.

Another reason is this. No opportunity has been given to the representatives of labour or to labour itself to consider this Bill. This was introduced on the very first day we came here, and today it is sought to refer it to Select Committee. We have therefore got no opinions before us. We have got absolutely no opinion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sorry to have included my Honourable friend in the Select Committee when he has no opinion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: This also will be one of the points I have raised. I am not going into the details of the clauses, but these are the more important things; and when the Honourable Member says that this is not a controversial Bill, I would leave the House to consider whether he is right. There are several other points which have to be considered before this Bill comes to the stage of going to the Select Committee. Mr. Joshi himself says he had not sufficient time to give his opinion on the Bill.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We are here every day: where is the time to study it?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Mr. Joshi is an expert in these matters and he has been working all along for labour and going into these questions for an age, and therefore his opinion that it should go for circulation should be accepted at once. He has experience and he has criticised some of the provisions; but I would also submit that this Bill should be circulated because there are certain things contained in it which must be decided once for all, if labour is to go on co-operating in a conciliatory manner: otherwise they will be disturbed. Labour is very powerful nowadays and we have to move cautiously; and when you make a law and subject them to certain conditions, you must proceed cautiously and not hustle the proceedings of this Bill. These are important questions. How many decisions have there been on the word "wages"? The lawyers know it—we know it; we know how much difference there has been between the interpretations of different High Courts. The definition of "wages" is being changed. Therefore, now that a new definition with additions and alterations is being made, that also should be considered by those concerned and those whom it affects.

Then, Sir, you are also changing the time when they should get the payment. They have always been crying that the payment should be made on the first day or the second day after it falls due. They were getting it in certain conditions within seven days. Now seven days are going to be increased to ten days. There will be a cry over that too. That also should be considered.

Then there is this question of demotion. When it suits the employer, he gives a man a higher type of work and when the employer does not require that higher type of work, you want to bring him down again to the old lesser pay. Is that fair? If you have selected the man for the higher type of work, you must keep him there, whether you have got work for him or not. That is a question that you have got to consider.

I will not go into the details of the other provisions of the Bill which should, I think, go out for circulation. After circulation, we will sit together and then consider all the points of law as well as points of fact and come to a conclusion.

Mr. A. C. Inskip (United Provinces: European): As the Honourable Member for Labour has said, the object of this amending Bill is to seek to clarify certain obscurities in the present Bill, particularly in regard to three items. It seeks to make it clear that wages have to be earned under the contract of employment, expressed or implied. It also seeks to make it clear that where there is an incremental scale, the increment may only be withheld as a disciplinary measure. It seeks further to lay down that a diminution of wages by reason of requirement to perform work involving a standard of skill or responsibility lower than that in the previous work, is not a deduction.

The Bill itself makes clear that "the withholding of an increment is to be treated in several important respects as if it were a fine and will not be permitted except when the employee has committed an offence against discipline in accordance with an approved detailed list of offences hung up on the factory's notice board. The existing Payment of Wages Rules make the Chief Inspector of Factories the final arbiter of this list and in making this decision he will depend on the guidance he can get from the Act."

Taking all these definite pointers together, then two facts emerge. Firstly, Government admits that the definition of wages—which is the most important and fundamental thing in the whole of this legislation—rests on the idea that there is always a contract of employment either express or implied. Wages mean the wages earned under the contract of employment.

Secondly, the legislation is intended to enforce payment of wages earned under the contract of employment without delay or deduction, but not to enforce anything beyond this. The clarification attempted by the present Bill apparently intends to make a clear distinction between payments that are wages and payments that are not.

If then what I have said correctly interpret Government's intentions then certain criticisms must be levelled against the new Bill.

Now, Sir, let me turn to the details of the proposed Bill, and in particular to Clause 2. In the new definition of "wages", the word "bonus" has been allowed to remain in. It seems to be quite superfluous since the rest of the phrase "additional remuneration for increased output" is sufficiently clear and inclusive as it stands or in any case could easily be made so. The question of whether various kinds of bonus are or are not payable by employers as a matter of obligation has been one of the most fruitful sources of industrial disputes in recent years extending to an attempt to force the payment of annual bonuses at increased rates even when the payment of such bonus has clearly not been a term of the contract of employment and even when the rate of profits has not increased. In other words, such attempts have been directed towards the very object of trying to get *ex gratia* bonuses treated as a compulsory and unconditional part of earnings. Why then, in the process of clearing up the most important and most obscure definition in the present Act should this ill-fated word of many meanings be retained in the sense of a payment due to the worker under his contract of employment. It makes the meaning of the term "wages" depend on the exact meaning of the word "bonus", and it would be difficult to find a more unsuitable foundation on which to rest an Act, or one more certain to lead directly or indirectly to disputes. All this applies with the same force even to the wording as published in the Bill. However carefully the word "bonus" is qualified, the word itself is sure to provoke misinterpretation. But the draft has the further disadvantage that even a slight

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error in punctuation—such as the insertion of a comma after the word “bonus”—might make it much worse. It is noticeable also that in this clause a specific reference to the money being “earned under the terms of his contract of employment” appears in the second line, after which there is a whole list of particular cases hanging in the air with no further reference to the contract of employment at all. In particular, the word “payable” in the sixth line might mean almost anything. If “payable under the terms of the contract of employment” is meant, then there can be no objection to saying so and there is every objection to the matter being left in any doubt. As it stands, there is a probability of dispute about whether an amount is payable because it has been paid in the past or for any other such reason.

Then, Sir, the Amending Bill seeks to include Dearness Allowance in the definition of wages. This, I fear, will undoubtedly cause serious complications, particularly in concerns where a provident fund is in existence for the benefit of its employees. Unless many existing provident fund schemes are altered, the employee will now have to pay a percentage of allowances as well as of wages as his contribution; and the employer who has agreed to contribute a like amount to the fund will also be penalised.

Then, Sir, in regard to clause 4, para. 3, the expression “on an incremental basis” is extremely vague. Almost any employment where there is any prospect of financial improvement at all might be described as being on an incremental basis. The wording in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is not very precise, but that in the Bill itself is far vaguer still. The expression “for disciplinary reasons” also is not very clear. The most probable interpretation is open to criticism in principle. It seems from the wording that the intention is to make the withholding of an increment illegal except in cases of breach of discipline. If so, this amounts to forcing the employer to fulfil a most important part of the contract of employment on one side while leaving it open to the employee to fail to fulfil the corresponding obligation on the other side. The employee is not paid his wages solely in consideration of his preserving discipline. He is mainly paid for the use of his skill. This is the main reason why different wage rates and incremental rates exist at all, and this fact incidentally is recognised in section 4, para. 4 of the Bill. The main reason and justification for a scale of increments is to make the rate of pay match the value of work when the value increases with increasing skill resulting from experience. But although the value of the work usually increases with the lapse of time—and time scales exist in order to deal with this normal state of affairs—, skill does not always increase in this way. A man may be lazy, he may be unwilling to take increased responsibility, he may be suffering from disability or he may simply be below average, or the process at which he is working may be changed and he may be unable to respond to the changed conditions. None of these cases amounts to a clear breach of discipline. Is it right, then, to compel the employer, if he has a time-scale for the average cases, to raise the wage rates of less valuable workers unconditionally on the same scale? What would be the position if an employer wished to revise the scale of wages for a particular occupation? As long as the scale is unaltered, the individual employee is protected under the Bill from having his increment stopped or his wages reduced. Would the alteration of the scale itself in a downward direction be legal or would it be regarded as a wholesale breach of the provisions of this clause?

Then, Sir, turning to clause 4, para. 4: it will be seen that this clause clearly deals with the case where an employer requires an employee to accept a lower paid job, but it does not cover failure on the part of the employee to improve or maintain the standard of his work in line with the remuneration laid down in the wage scale relating to his job.

In regard to clause 4, para. 5, this clause stipulates that the provisions of section 8, paras. 1, 2 and 3 of the existing Act shall apply to the withholding of increments etc., which again apparently confirms that the employer would be compelled to pay those of his workmen who are on time rates without

reference to their individual skill or assiduity. Such one-sided protection seems calculated to put a premium on idleness and mediocrity and to hinder the employer in rewarding his employees according to their merits.

The points of criticism I have put forward represent the views of the Group to which I belong and I trust they will receive the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill and the Select Committee, for there would appear to be a tendency to think exclusively about protecting workmen from unscrupulous employers and to forget that if this protection is given unconditionally, it leaves the employer and the public unprotected against the slack and inefficient workman.

Sir, I support the original motion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Mr. Deputy President, if it can help to curtail the debate, I should like to state at this stage that I am prepared to accept the amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I am glad the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill has agreed to accept the motion for circulation. Therefore, I do not wish to say much at this stage on the merits of the Bill except that in my view it is worse than a pill of poison. To take a pill of poison, the patient has to be coaxed to open his mouth and swallow it, but this Bill is a sort of an injection which is given while the patient is asleep by a very dreadful process. The patient does not know that poison is being injected into him; nevertheless, it has its deadly effect.

Sir, there does not seem to be any particular hurry for a Bill like this. I do not know why the Honourable Member in charge has lent his ear to those reactionaries who press on him the need for a Bill like this, as if the Bill is not bad enough. My Honourable friend the spokesman for the European Group has got up with his attempt to make it even more reactionary and more troublesome and unacceptable to the workers. Has it been found in practice during these days of crisis that production has been materially affected anywhere because these amendments have not been made to the original Act? We have not had any report to that effect. It cannot even be pleaded that the workers, because they are going on working from year to year in these days of war and are becoming senior workmen, are becoming less and less efficient and that the employers are unable to demote them, reduce their wages and even cut down their earnings and in that way cut down their labour bill. That, too, has not been established. On the other hand, what is happening is that more and more workers are being employed and the workers who have been there before the beginning of the war have been found to become more and more skilled and yielding also bigger and bigger profits for the employers and also the Government, which reaps its benefit through the Excess Profits Tax. My Honourable friend the spokesman of the European Group was talking about the failure of worker's skill to rise in consonance with the rise of pay. I wish he would turn his attention to what is happening in the Government of India and to its employees and also to many of his own compatriots in this country who are employed in various plantations and other European Companies. Is he sure that as they become more and more senior in their service, their skill is also increasing? Is he sure that as they are being assured of their annual increments of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100, their efficiency is also increasing? In fact, it is the other way about. But is there any provision on the Statute-book of this Government which provides for a corresponding reduction in the salaries, emoluments and allowances that are being given to many of these Government officials and European officials in this country who are employed either by Government or by commercial concerns, so that they may be made to realise that they are becoming eligible to superannuation whereas they are only made eligible today to higher and higher increments as years go by.

Sir, there are a number of provisions to which I take very strong objection but I speak with trepidation in regard to the details because the Honourable Member has not vouchsafed to us the views of the organised labour in this country. I am glad he has agreed to our suggestion that it should be sent

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

into circulation and I hope when the Bill comes back after circulation it may be possible for most of us who are laymen in regard to the trade union matters to form a judgment in regard to the merits of these different sections than is possible at present. Therefore, I support the motion for circulation.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, as I have said, I am prepared to accept the motion made by my friend Mr. Joshi. In that event, it is unnecessary for me to make any speech. All that I would like to say is this that I cannot agree that any strong case has been made out for circulation. As I said just now, I made myself very clear that the amendments which

4 P.M. I have put forth were administrative in the sense that they will remove the difficulties that exist in the administration of the law. I have not seen that any of the amendments which are contained in this Bill were, if I may say so, beyond the capacity and the intelligence and the knowledge and the information of Honourable Members of the Select Committee. I, Sir, was surprised to see that my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi did not do enough credit to himself. If I circulate the Bill, and I am asked to circulate the Bill in order to canvass the opinion of the working classes, I wonder whether who would be the advocate that would be employed by the working classes except Mr. Joshi himself or my Honourable friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. It was in order to get the benefit of their representative character, their knowledge and information that I have taken care to include them in the Select Committee. However, Sir, if they feel that they cannot repose confidence in their ability to deal with what I regard as non-controversial points. I am quite prepared to fall in line with them and accept the amendment.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I am not moving my motion* today.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The House stands adjourned till tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 17th November, 1944.

*That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the constitution of the Permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 17th 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

RECOGNIZED UNIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

489. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how many and which unions of employees are recognized on the North Western Railway?

(b) Do their office-bearers enjoy the privilege of free Railway passes? If so, what is the scale of privilege?

(c) How many such free passes were issued to the office-bearers of these unions:

(i) during the financial year 1943-44; and

(ii) from 1st April 1944 to the 31st August, 1944?

(d) What was the maximum number of passes issued in favour of one individual during the above two periods in his capacity of an office-bearer of a recognized Union?

(e) Have any passes been given to any of the Union office-bearers for stay-in propaganda? If so, why? Did the Government apprehend a strike? If so, where and how was it averted?

(f) What was the number of special passes issued to each of the Unions referred to in (a) above, for the purpose of stay-in propaganda during the periods mentioned in (c) above, and are any reports of the work done by such free pass-holders sent to the Administration? If not, why not? If so, will the Honourable Member please give a brief account of the propaganda done?

(g) What was the monetary value of stay-in passes, and was their issue, in view of shortage of travelling accommodation, commensurate with the advantage gained? If so, how?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The following four Unions are recognized by the North Western Railway Administration:—

(1) The N. W. Railway Recognized Union.

(2) The United Union of N. W. Railway Workers.

(3) The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.

(4) The Association of Accountants, North Western Railway.

(b) and (c). I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(d) Nineteen sets of passes.

(e) and (f). The number of passes issued to office bearers of Unions for so called stay-in propaganda is shown in the statement already laid on the table. No immediate strike was apprehended but in view of the necessity for keeping railway employees informed of the correct facts and to counteract any agitation based on false rumours during the present emergency, Government considered it desirable to facilitate movement by Union officials for these purposes and to give them passes at the discretion of the Railway Administration. No formal reports of the work done by such persons have been received, nor are they considered necessary.

(g) The total monetary value of such passes is Rs. 1,651. Government consider the grant of these passes was justified.

Statement showing the scale of free passes allowed over the home line to union officials on the North Western Railway and the number of such passes issued during the period 1st April 1943 to 31st March 1944 and 1st April 1944 to 31st August 1944

Name of Union	Total number of passes issued		Number of passes issued for the purpose of stay in propaganda		Scale of passes fixed in September, 1943
	From 1-4-43 to 31-3-44	From 1-4-44 to 31-8-44	From 1-4-43 to 31-3-44	From 1-4-44 to 31-8-44	
United Union of N. W. Railway Workers.	49	9	20	4	(1) To attend Union meetings :—Not more than four passes in a year and to not more than four union officials.
N. W. Railway Recognized Union.	5	1	2	Nil	(2) For Stay-in Propaganda :—Not more than one pass in a quarter or four passes in a year to one or two office bearers of a recognized union.
National Union of Railwaymen of India & Burma.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	(3) For visiting branch secretaries and divisional headquarters :—Not more than four passes in a year to the working President or working Secretary.
Total	55	10	22	4	[Note:—All the above passes are issued over home line only].

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For what classes of travel are these free Passes issued? Are they for First class or for Third class?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know what are the qualifications required for recognising these Unions? Are there any conditions made with them when they are recognised?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir, No conditions are made when they are recognised, but if the Honourable Member wants a statement on the question, I shall be glad if he will put a question down on the paper.

INADEQUATE NUMBER OF POSTMEN IN ALLAHABAD.

†490. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is not a fact that at Allahabad the average number of ordinary letters to be delivered before the present war started used to be under 15,000?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that during the course of the war this number has almost doubled and similarly the number of registered articles, money orders and parcels has grown much in volume?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that this increase is due among other things to the increase of the population also?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that during the pre-war period the number of Postmen in Allahabad was 95 in the Head Office, and it remains the same till to-day.

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that excessive work is very badly pressing upon the Postmen and they have been making representations in that behalf?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Is it or is it not a fact that on an average of a minimum of 10 square at per Postman, the number of postmen required for Allahabad should be 110?

(g) Is it or is it not a fact that during the past three months there have been five deaths amongst Postmen mostly due to hard work and under nourishment? If not, what are the real facts?

(h) In view of the immense increase in work and the pressure on postmen, do Government propose to consider the advisability of increasing the number of Postmen to their proper strength and give them sufficient dearness allowance for their proper nourishment?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) The daily average number of ordinary letters (paid and unpaid including P. and T. Service letters) received for delivery in Allahabad before the war was 9,000.

(b) The number has increased by 50 per cent. Information regarding the number of registered articles, M. Os. and parcels is available only from the year 1941-42 and indicates a similar increase.

(c) The increase is attributable mainly to the war.

(d) It is not a fact.

(e) There have been representations from the postmen to the Postmaster-General complaining of excessive work.

(f) It is not a fact.

(g) No postman in Allahabad has died during the last three months. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

(h) As regards the first part of the question, the matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General and is being examined by him. Representations regarding the grant of grain concessions as a supplement to dearness allowance are under consideration.

PROVISION OF CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS FOR ALLAHABAD POSTMEN

†491. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is not a fact that no cheap grain shops or other facilities have been provided in Allahabad or other big cities for the supply of foodgrains to the Postmen at Allahabad?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that mostly the Postmen due to their long outdoor duties are not in a position to buy grain at those shops which open at prescribed time during day time only—the time when the Postmen are on duty and as such mostly suffer from want of foodgrains and other necessities of life?

(c) In view of these hardships do Government propose to consider the advisability of providing cheap grain shops near Post Offices from where Postmen and other lower grade staff of Post Offices may be able to purchase foodgrains and other necessities of life?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) and (b). The facts are not as stated.

(c) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) this question does not actually arise, but I may inform the Honourable Member that a proposal to extend facilities for purchasing foodgrains at reasonable rates to the P. and T. staff in various places is under consideration.

RESTORATION OF OLD SCALE OF PAY FOR POSTMEN

†492. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that prior to 31st March, 1931, the scale of pay of Postmen was Rs. 23—1—43, and after that due to the depression new scale of pay was introduced viz: Rs. 22—1 (in two years)—32, similarly the Packers who were given Rs. 15—As. 8—20, previously were reduced to Rs. 15—(Re. 1—in five years)—17, and the Sorting Postmen who used to get Rs. 45—4—85 were given Rs. 35—3—55?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that the Unions of Postmen have been making representations to the authorities for this unjust treatment to the new entrants?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that in some other Department, e.g., in Accountant General's Office the old scales of pay have been restored?

(d) In view of great hardship to Postal staff, have the Government considered the advisability of restoring the old scales of pay?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) The old and revised scales of pay of these officials are given at pages 42, 44, 67, 78, 79 and 80 of the Manual of Appointments and Allowances of the Officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (2nd Edition), a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House. The revised scales are generally applicable to those who entered service on or after 15th July, 1931. The statement that the new scales of pay were introduced due to the depression is not accurate.

(b) There has been no unjust treatment of the new entrants. It is, however, a fact that representations have been received praying for revision of the new scales of pay.

(c) It is not a fact.

(d) No.

ALMORA OUT-AGENCY

493. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state since when an Out-Agency has been started at Almora?

(b) Have any restrictions been imposed for the rebooking of consignments from the the Railway terminus of Haldwani or Kathgodam to the Almora Out-Agency?

(c) Is it necessary for the Station Masters of Haldwani or Kathgodam to obtain the sanction of the Traffic Manager in every case where rebooking of consignments to the Almora Out-Agency is desired by the consignees?

(d) Is it because of transport difficulties between the Railway stations of Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora Out-Agency that these restrictions for rebooking have been imposed?

(e) If booking to the Almora Out-Agency is thus restricted, how does the Department expect the Almora Out-Agency to be a paying one?

(f) If restrictions have been imposed, what is the means left for the consignees of Almora to get their goods from the Railway Stations of Haldwani or Kathgodam, since the other old means have been suspended?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The out-agency at Almora was reopened from the September 1944.

(b) (c) and (d). The O. and T. Railway Administration prohibit the rebooking of goods from any station on its system to any other station or out-agency except under the specific orders of the Traffic Manager. These orders apply as a matter of course to rebooking from Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora out-agency.

(e) and (f). Booking of goods from Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora out-agency, as a separate transaction, is not restricted by the prohibition referred to above. Nor does the prohibition prevent direct booking from other stations on the O. and T. Railway to the Almora out-agency.

DETENTION OF P. SURAJ PRASAD UPADHAYA OF NEPAL STATE

494. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Secretary for External Affairs be pleased to state the reasons for which one P. Suraj Prasad Upadhaya, Inspector of Education, Nepal State, was arrested recently in Benares, detained there and subsequently transferred to the Lucknow Central Prison?

(b) What were the charges against him?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Surya Prasad Upadhaya was arrested and detained under the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to a purpose specified in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 thereof. He was transferred from Benares to Lucknow for administrative reasons which it would not be in the public interest to disclose.

(b) Having regard to section 11 of the Ordinance I am not prepared to disclose the grounds for the order of detention.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Have the Nepal Government been informed of his arrest? Was there any correspondence with the Nepal Government about his arrest?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I am not prepared to add to the answer I have already given.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Did the Government take action of its own initiative or had they any request sent to them by the Nepal Government in this behalf?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Sir, I am not prepared to disclose the grounds and the answer I have already given must cover all that my Honourable friend wants to know.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, what does the Honourable Member mean by saying that he is not prepared to give the answer? Is it because it is not in the public interest to give the answer?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said that already.

Sir Olaf Caroe: If my Honourable friend will look at the Ordinance, he will see that under section 11 even the court is not permitted to disclose the grounds; for the same reason, I am not prepared to disclose the grounds in this House.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it the intention to extern this man to the Nepal Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: That I am not prepared to answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then why have you come here?

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

SHORTAGE OF COAL.

+495. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state when it was first suspected that there might be shortage of coal in India?

(b) When did the shortage of coal actually occur?

(c) What is the annual requirement for India?

(d) What is the actual present output?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to reply given by my Honourable colleague Dr. Ambedkar to Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 250 in the Legislative Assembly on 17th November, 1943.

(c) It is difficult to be precise but Government have at present a target of 25.6 millions in view.

(d) It is not in the public interest to disclose the figures at present

COAL EXPORTS.

+496. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether coal has been exported from India to any foreign country during the last five years?

(b) What was the actual amount of export during each of the years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 and to which country?

(c) Was any coal exported from India to Italy during any of the above years? When was the coal last shipped to Italy?

(d) Was any coal exported from India to the Middle East during any of the above years? When was coal last exported to the Middle East?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) As regards the actual export of coal during the years 1939-44 the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given in the Legislative Assembly on the 6th November, 1944, to part (a) of Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 120. It is not in the public interest to disclose the destinations to which coal was exported.

In 1943 owing to acute shortage of coal Government decided to stop all exports of coal to the Middle East. The requirements of Ceylon, however, continued to be met from India. Purely for reasons connected with the United

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Nations' shipping convenience, some of the coal earmarked for export to Ceylon was in practice shipped to Middle East while the Ceylon's requirements to that extent were met from South Africa. The actual destination of Indian coal shipped to Middle East is not controlled from India and it is possible that some of it was shipped onward to Italy.

(d) Yes. The answer to the second part of the question is covered by my reply to parts (b) and (c).

COAL EXPORT FOR CONDUCT OF WAR.

†497. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether coal has been exported to any country for the conduct of the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir.

INADEQUATE LIGHTING IN TRAINS.

498. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that in spite of overcrowding and heavy receipts by Government, Railway passengers are compelled to go without adequate lighting in all classes?

(b) Is it a fact that no bulbs are provided in the lavatories of any class of Railways?

(c) Is it true that the passenger coaches in use have not been repaired, that doors in some cases cannot be locked properly and windows do not hold but fall down and various other fittings in the carriage as well as in the lavatory are out of repair with the result that passengers do not get any water on the way?

(d) What is the reason for this state of affairs and when and in what manner do Government propose to put an end to it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Owing to the extraordinary number of thefts of train lighting bulbs and the difficulties to be overcome in obtaining adequate supplies to meet normal maintenance and the abnormal demands resulting from these thefts it is impossible to provide lighting in passenger carriages to the full peace-time standard.

(b) No.

(c) No. It is, however, true that Railways are finding it extremely difficult to maintain stock in a satisfactory state of repair. Thefts of fittings continually occur and it has been necessary to discontinue the fitments of some items as it is impossible to obtain supplies adequate to enable these losses to be made good. Every effort is made to ensure that lavatory fittings are kept in a proper state of repair.

(d) The primary reason for this state of affairs appears to be the ready sale of fittings stolen from coaching stock in the "black market". Only with the assistance of the public as a whole can the steps which Government are taking to overcome this reprehensible traffic bring about an improvement in the position. It is also due to the difficulty of taking off coaches for repair without further inconvenience to the public and to the diversion of coaching stock to ambulance trains.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (b) of the question, the Honourable Member says that it is not true that bulbs are not provided in the lavatories of the Railways. Will he look into this matter because from my own experience of the last six months, when I did about 20 journeys, there never was a bulb in the lavatories?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I have said that that is very often the case; but it is not invariable.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inquire if a compartment is provided with only one light, it is not liable to theft as much as it would be if the compartment is provided with more than one light? Theft can take place even of one bulb that you put.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Then the Honourable Member will be in the dark.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When do the Government expect further supplies? When did they receive the last supply of bulbs in this country on railway account and when are they expecting further bulbs so as to prevent theft and inconvenience to the public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have stated several times on the floor of the House that we have placed very large orders abroad and we have also placed orders in this country. Supplies are arriving continually but unfortunately they are not fast enough to catch up with the thefts and the breakages. It may interest the House to know that we have lost 13,000 train lighting bulbs from Howrah in a period of 15 months, which shows the scale of thefts.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the bulbs are provided in the lavatories of the military trains and they are not provided in the trains in which the civil population travels?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that, but I expect the conditions are the same.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not safer to be in the dark in the main compartment than in the lavatory?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member can take his choice.

WAGON PRODUCTION

499. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the total number of wagons produced in India in each of the years from 1939-40 onwards?

(b) Are the wagon producing companies supplied with steel? If so, are Government satisfied that they use all the steel supplied in this manner on the production of wagons on order by the Government?

(c) What was the price per wagon paid in each of these years for the standard type as compared with the pre-war price?

(d) How many wagons were sent out of this country both broad gauge and metre gauge for war uses abroad and how many locomotives were so sent?

(e) Has any of this rolling stock returned?

(f) Is it likely to be serviceable when it returns?

(g) What steps have Government generally taken to improve the bottle-neck of transport in India which has upset trade and industry generally and which has rendered more difficult the food problem?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) —

Year	Number of wagons manufactured
1939-40	3,234
1940-41	1,749
1941-42	347
1942-43	428
1943-44	2,446
1944-45 (up to 31st October 1944)	3,066

(b) The reply to both parts is 'yes'; and I should mention, in regard to the first part, that supplies are against demands prepared with due regard to the types of wagons to be manufactured.

(c) I lay a statement on the table containing the required information.

(d) The following stock was sent overseas:—

B. G. Wagons	1,418
M. G. Wagons	7,858
M. G. Locos.	206

(e) Yes. 42 M. G. Locos. and 835 M. G. wagons have been returned and more are being returned.

(f) Yes; after thorough repair.

(g) Government's efforts in this respect have from time to time been made public through press communiques and by broadcast talks. They include:

(i) Unremitting pressure at all levels for the supply of additional locomotives and wagons from overseas and for the fabrication of a maximum number of locomotives and wagons in India;

(ii) Concentrated efforts to improve the standard of operation and reduce the percentage of stock out of service for repair;

(iii) The establishment of a Rail Priority Organisation which not only ensures that essential commodities are moved in priority but also prevents cross movements wasteful of transport;

(iv) Control of coastal shipping and country-craft; and

(v) Controlled distribution of Lease-Lend vehicles.

Statement

The price paid for a few representative type of general service wagons during 1938-39 onwards are given below :—

	Type of Wagon	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43 & Supplementary
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.*
<i>Broad Gauge</i>						
	Covered (Military) . . 'CMR'	5,700	5,700	6,200	..	9,000
	Covered . . . 'CR'	4,900	5,300	5,600	6,900	8,000
	Open . . . 'O'	4,400	..	5,100	6,100	7,000
<i>Metre Gauge.</i>						
	Covered . . . 'MC'	3,900	..	..	4,700	5,500
	Covered (Jute) . . 'MGJ'	..	..	4,200	..	5,800

* These figures are approximate only and are subject to revision to take account of adjustments on account of the price of wheels and axles and rates paid for material and labour.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will my Honourable friend inform this House why there was a precipitate fall in the production of wagons in this country during the years 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. The Honourable Member may have observed the course of war. In 1941, about the time the Japanese came into the war, the Germans were advancing in the Middle East. A critical condition arose which necessitated diversion of as much manufacturing capacity as possible to munitions. That took place in the years 1940-41 and in consequence the manufacture of wagons was held up. As soon as the Japanese menace became apparent, fresh orders for wagons were placed and we are now beginning to get the fruit of those orders which were placed in 1942.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does my Honourable friend convey, Sir, that it was necessary in 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43 to divert the production capacity for military purposes but that it has not become so necessary since and that now this productive capacity is used for wagon manufacture?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is so.

CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH BERTH RESERVATIONS

500. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that grave scandals have been discovered in the booking of berths and that at Delhi Junction and various other leading stations there is a regular tariff for berth reservation even when such reservation is made several days ahead and *bona fide* passengers who do not accommodate themselves to such tariffs are harassed?

(b) What steps have Government taken to eliminate this form of corruption?

(c) Has the special machinery instituted by Government been effective?

(d) How many prosecutions and convictions have taken place and, generally, are Government aware that the position is worse than it ever was before?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I have received a number of general complaints but unfortunately they frequently come from persons who

have themselves been guilty of offering bribes to the railway staff instead of reporting the matter immediately to the superior authorities.

(b) Railway Administrations have been asked to give wide publicity, both in the Press and by exhibition of notices at stations, to the procedure in force in connection with reservation of seats and berths, so that the public may not be in any doubt in the matter. They have also been instructed to make frequent and thorough checks on reservation offices and on trains and the reports from railways indicate that they are following the instructions referred to above. The Special staff engaged in detecting corrupt practices on Railways have also given attention to this matter of reservations. Since, however, corruption involves the giving as well as the taking of bribes, the responsibility for eliminating it is shared equally between the public and the Government. Government have made repeated appeals to the public to come forward and report specific cases and would especially welcome support in this matter from Honourable Members.

(c) I have hopes that the special machinery will prove to be effective as its activities are extended but this must depend upon the will of the public to co-operate.

(d) According to the information readily available, which is in regard to the activities of the Special staff only, three persons have been prosecuted of whom one has been convicted; while the cases of three others are under investigation. As regards the latter portion, Government do not consider that the position is as stated. I will, however, see what further steps can be taken to increase prosecutions of both parties to such transactions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I am glad my Honourable friend assures this House that he will look further into the matter, but may I know why he has not adopted the same method as the Industries and Civil Supplies Department of sending round a bogus customer or a plain-clothes man to reserve and why he has not caught red-handed the members of the railway staff who are doing it systematically and regularly and every day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We do catch some and a special organisation does work on the lines to which the Honourable Member referred, but if the Honourable Member will think the matter out it is much more easy to deal with the question of corruption in the booking of wagons than in the booking of berths.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have you set traps for the staff in order to catch them in the process with your own men? I am sure officials of Government in other Departments will co-operate with you and do this service.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope to set some traps both for the railway staff and those who give bribes.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What is the composition of the special staff and what are the methods adopted by them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That, Sir, should be addressed to the War Department.

CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH WAGON PRIORITY

501. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for War Transport been drawn to serious scandals in connection with wagon priority throughout the country?

(b) Is it a fact that officials granting priority have been given instructions to favour certain parties or are they given discretion which they use?

(c) Is it a fact that many *bona fide* traders are compelled to make heavy payments in order to move their goods?

(d) What is Government's machinery for receiving the necessary information as to what is going on?

(e) What steps are Government taking to eliminate this racket?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. The Priority Organisation of the War Transport Department has been singularly free from accusations of misuse of their powers.

(b) The reply to the first part of this question is in the negative. Priority officers have powers of discretion under rule 85-A of the Defence of India Rules. They do not use this discretion to favour any party but solely in the interest of economy of transport.

(c) No.

(d) If there were any serious complaints against the Regional Controllers of Priorities, it would be expected that the public would not fail to register complaints.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that there are rumours floating round in the markets that the price of a wagon when you want it is Rs. 1,000?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If I may say so, that is just typical of the evidence we get—"There are rumours floating round". Also I would point out to the Honourable Member that this question is directed to the Priority organisation and not to the booking of wagons which is quite a different matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is about the booking of wagons that I asked the question. How many cases of illicit booking have you caught? How many men on your staff have you punished?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It does not properly arise out of the question, and it should be addressed to the Railway Member I think! But actually the latest position I have got is that there have been 58 prosecutions for illicit booking of which 14 have been acquitted, 30 convicted, eight removed from service by Departmental action, seven punished in other ways by Departmental action, and 29 are still in court or under investigation. Unfortunately, out of all these cases only one concerns a non-railwayman.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member been able to trace a connection between the booking clerks and some of the higher staff of the Railways with regard to these wagon allotments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I would like to know if the Honourable Member has got any particular case in mind.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member with regard to answers to part (a) and (b)—which is rather axiomatic—whether the officers controlling these priorities are people who have had no previous commercial affiliations like the Honourable Member for instance?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think I am correct in saying that that is the case. The Priority Officers are all railway officers, mostly from the commercial departments.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: They are not people drawn from commercial service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I cannot think of any.

INDIAN RADIO AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY CONTRACT

502. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) when the present contract between the Government of India and the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company, Limited is going to expire;

(b) do Government propose to take over the Company at the termination of the present agreement;

(c) what is the total number of Directors on the Board of the Company; how many of them represent the Government;

(d) what control the Government have over the policy, direction and management of the Company now that it has come under the Ordinance of the "Essential Services"; and

(e) what is the percentage of Muslim officers in the Engineering and Traffic Departments of the Company?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) and (b). Arrangements between Government and the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Co. Ltd., are contained in an agreement and a license issued under the Indian Telegraph Act, which are interdependent. There is no definite term but Government has now the right

to give twelve months notice of termination. No such notice has yet been given and the future arrangements have not yet been decided.

(c) Twelve, of which three are appointed by the Government of India.

(d) The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance has not affected the general relations between Government and the Company as regards policy and higher direction, which continues to be governed by the agreement mentioned above. This is a lengthy and detailed document. The principal provisions of a general nature are:

(i) the Company shall remain essentially Indian in character;

(ii) the company shall hold no monopoly;

(iii) the charges shall not be varied without the concurrence of the Government;

(iv) the Company shall pay a royalty to Government.

(e) Government have no information.

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6 OF ACT 35 OF 1938

503. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) the need for the amendment of section 6 of Act 35 of 1938;

(b) whether the amendment has been suggested by Provincial Governments on the advice of the transport authorities in the Provinces;

(c) whether the Government of India were furnished with evidence that the Act, as it is, hinders war effort;

(d) whether in making the amendment the Government have made any provision to safeguard the interests of the existing and established fleet operators; and

(e) whether the Government have any information whether the Provincial Governments have taken steps to utilize the powers envisaged by the amendment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There is no Act of 1938 and I can only assume that the Honourable Member refers to Act 35 of 1939. On that assumption the Honourable Member does not specify which particular amendment of that Act he refers to, but I am replying on the assumption that he refers to the amendments made in Section 6 of Act 35 of 1939 by Section 3 of Ordinance XXVI of 1944. The basic need for the amendments was the need to adapt a statute designed to meet peace time conditions to war time conditions. A statement is placed upon the table explaining the reasons for the amendments.

(b) and (c). The amendment was not initiated by Provincial Governments, but they were consulted by the Government of India before the Ordinance took its final shape. The need for the amendment was apparent to the Government of India from the close contact of the Government of India and its touring officers with Provincial Motor Transport Controllers.

(d) The amendments are of an enabling nature only and do not affect the statutory right of appeal.

(e) Only the Madras, Bengal and C. P. & Berar Governments and the Coorg Administration have so far taken advantage of the amendment and that to a limited extent.

Statement giving the reasons for amending clause (6) of Section 6 of Act 35 of 1939.

(1) The Motor Vehicles Act 1939 provides that the Transport Authorities shall be composite bodies of Officials and non-officials nominated by the Provincial Governments. It further lays down the considerations to which the Authorities shall have regard. Provincial Governments have now appointed Motor Transport Controllers who virtually regulate all uses of Civil Motor Transport. The Control of the Central Government is being exercised by consent without the invocation of special powers both in relation to pre-existing Civil Vehicles and to those now becoming available under lease-lend or by arrangement with the Canadian Government. In the case of Controlled vehicles, Central Government is responsible for preventing abuse of the vehicles and profiteering. Though it is not considered necessary to take power of direction and control in any formal manner, it is inappropriate that control should in all cases continue to be exercised through composite official and non-official transport authorities vested with certain statutory discretion and that it should

continue to be necessary in all cases to summon non-official members to attend meetings at which their presence is perfunctory.

(2) While the existing modifications of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939 introduced vide Section 6 of Defence of India Act added by clause (c) of Section 3 of Ordinance No. XXXIII of 1942 (promulgated on the 22nd May, 1942) empowered Transport Authorities to cancel or to suspend a permit granted by them, the Motor Vehicles Act still requires that a permit other than a temporary permit shall be issued or renewed for a period of not less than three years. The intention was to empower Transport Authorities to issue regular permits or to renew permits for any specified period. The new amendment is designed to remove this omission.

(3) Under the Motor Vehicles Act a permit is not valid beyond the jurisdiction of the Authority which granted or renewed it unless countersigned by the Transport Authority of the other area concerned. The existing modification of the Motor Vehicles Act empowers the Transport Authorities to cancel or suspend a permit granted by it, but make no provision for countersignature. The fresh amendment confers those powers in respect of countersignature. Further, it simplifies the procedure by providing that representations need not be heard.

(4) Controlled vehicles have been released in considerable numbers and it is expected to release them henceforward in greater numbers for general passenger and goods traffic. The Central Government is in a position to advise Provincial Motor Transport Controllers as to suitable maximum and minimum rates for such traffic. The procedure laid down in Section 43 of the Motor Vehicles Act in fixing freights and fares is unduly cumbersome under war conditions. Besides, it is doubtful whether the Provincial Government or the substitute authority created by it has power to fix freights and fares under section 43 with the single object of preventing profiteering. It has, therefore, been provided that the Provincial Government or the substitute authorities need not follow the procedure specified in Section 43.

(5) Under sub-clause 2 of section 35 of the Motor Vehicles Act, six months' is the shortest period of validity of a certificate of fitness. The majority of the controlled vehicles are released on the condition that they should be fitted with Producer Gas Plants. In order to avoid undue wear and tear of their engines it is imperative that the Producer Gas Plant should be maintained in efficient running order. This can best be achieved by issuing certificates of fitness for periods shorter than six months. It is not proposed, however, to limit this provision only to vehicles fitted with gas plants, but to extend the power of more frequent inspection to cover all new controlled vehicles.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member whether as a result of this amendment new corporations are being floated by railway companies in collaboration with local companies who are big and influential, and the existing operators are being elbowed out?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir; I do not think that has anything to do with the amendments.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that he will have the point in mind and make inquiries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir; I have the question very much in mind. It has been raised already on the floor of the House.

CLOSING OF MUSLIM TUCK SHOPS AT WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL.

504. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that two separate buildings were constructed by the North Western Railway to be used as tuck shops at the Walton Training School, Lahore Cantonment for Hindus and Muslims separately?

(b) Is it a fact that these were running independently since 1929 by a Hindu and a Muslim contractor separately?

(c) Is it a fact that since 1942 due to an increase in the number of Muslim students the Muslim tuck shop was ordered to be closed by the Superintendent and the vending contract was given to a Hindu for catering Hindu and Muslim communities both?

(d) What were the circumstances which led the said Superintendent to make these arrangements?

(e) Have Government seen the Muslim representation in this connection which appeared in the Railway supplement of the *Eastern Times*, Lahore, of the 3rd April and 8th July, 1944? Has any action been taken in this connection? If not, why not?

(f) Do Government propose now to consider the desirability of providing an independent Muslim tuck shop immediately? If not, why not?

he Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes, except that during the period from July 1938 to September 1940 both the shops were run by a Muslim contractor.

(c) Government understand that the license for both shops was given to a Hindu contractor.

(d) Government understand that a Muslim contractor to whom an offer was made in response to his application did not accept the license.

(e) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, though the dates given by the Honourable Member do not appear to be correct. As regards the latter part of the question, no action was considered necessary.

(f) Government do not propose to interfere in the matter which is solely for the Railway Administration to decide.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to part (d), if one Muslim contractor did not accept the conditions why was no attempt made to get another?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This hitherto has not been a communal question. There have been both Hindu and Muslim contractors, but I will certainly look into it if there is any demand for this.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is certainly a communal question because it is about Hindu and Muslim contractors. My question is, if one Muslim contractor refused to accept the conditions imposed, why was no attempt made to get another Muslim contractor who would accept them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I observe that it has now become a communal question, but in the past when the Muslim contractor held it alone it was not a communal question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if any other Muslim contractors came forward and asked for this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have really no more information than I have given to the House.

SUPERINTENDENT, WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL.

505. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that since the inception of the Walton Training School the post of the Superintendent has all along been held by non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, why could not a Muslim be posted as Superintendent and does he propose to do so now?

(c) Is it a fact that a certain Superintendent held this post from 1939 to July, 1944?

(d) Is it also a fact that the Muslim staff and students had been oppressed and harassed during his exceptionally long tenure?

(e) Is it a fact that the grievances of the Muslim staff and students have been brought to light through the columns of the *Eastern Times*, Lahore, of the 15th June, 1944?

(f) Do the Government propose to investigate the allegations contained in (a) and (e) and take necessary steps in redressing their grievances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The posting of a Superintendent is not made on a communal basis.

(c) The post was held by one individual from 8th June 1939 to 15th September 1939, and again from 13th February 1940, to 31st July 1944.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). Criticism of the North Western Railway Administration has appeared from time to time in the newspaper mentioned. No representation has, however, been received from the persons concerned, and Government therefore do not consider an investigation called for.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With regard to part (e), these things were published in the *Eastern Times*. Were these brought to the notice of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, when I received the question, but it is not one of those papers which I ordinarily peruse.

CANDIDATES FOR 'P 3' COURSE IN WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL

506. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of candidates (subordinates) by communities, who appeared for P-3 course in the Walton Training School in the years 1942 and 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that P-3 course is a most important course prescribed for commercial and transportation subordinates of the North Western Railway for promotion to posts in higher grades?

(c) Will the Government please ask the General Manager, North Western Railway, Lahore, to issue instructions to the Divisional Superintendents to see that while making recommendations for the course sufficient Muslims are recommended, at least 60 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(b) Yes.

(c) Suitable candidates are selected for training in the 'P-3' Course irrespective of communal considerations (and Government do not consider that special instructions are called for.

Statement showing the number of candidates by communities who appeared for the 'P-3' Course in the years 1942 and 1944.

Year	Muslims	Hindus	Other Minority Communities	Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans	Total
1942	6	13	4	7	30
1944	3	4	3	2	12

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is this 'P-3' course?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member who asked the original question would perhaps instruct my Honourable friend fully, but it is actually a course for senior station masters and traffic inspectors.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I suppose neither the Honourable Member who asked the question nor the Honourable Member who replied knew what it meant.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member who replied knew it but I cannot answer for the questioner.

INSTRUCTORS IN WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL

507. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Instructors in the Walton Training School by communities?

(b) Is it a fact that there is inadequate representation of Muslims in the instructional staff of that institution?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative, what are the circumstances under which this was allowed and how do they propose to set right the matter?

(d) Do the Government propose to issue clear instructions to the effect that 60 per cent. of the posts of Instructors be filled by the Muslim staff? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The total number of Instructors is 36 of whom 20 are Hindus, ten Muslims, three Anglo-Indians and three Sikhs.

(b), (c) and (d). The posting of Instructors is not done on a communal basis. Their appointment is made from an approved list of qualified staff, which is prepared in order of merit based on the number of marks obtained in the qualifying examination for Instructors.

SUPERIOR STAFF (RATIONING) IN DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

508. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of superior staff appointed or promoted to work in various offices or shops in connection with Rationing in the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(b) What is their number, community-wise, in each grade and the percentage of Muslims to the total number of posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The total number of subordinate staff is 75, of whom 19 are Muslims, 49 Hindus and seven Sikhs; the percentage of Muslims to the total number being 25.3.

HEAD CLERKS AND SUB-HEADS IN DIVISIONAL OFFICE, DELHI

509. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Head Clerks and Sub-Heads in the Divisional Office, Delhi and the number of Muslim Head Clerks and Sub-Heads and their percentage to the total number of posts?

(b) Is it a fact that there is not even a single Muslim working as Head Clerk in that office? If so, why?

(c) Do Government propose to issue orders to give adequate representation to Muslims in this category of staff in the Divisional Office, Delhi? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The total number of Head Clerks is seven, all of whom are non-Muslims, and out of a total number of 25 Sub-Heads four are Muslims. The proportion of Muslims in the Sub-Heads' grade is 16 per cent.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, postings of staff are not made on a communal basis.

(c) Does not arise.

DIVISIONAL AND ASSISTANT OFFICERS IN DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

510. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Divisional and Assistant officers in the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway?

(b) What is the total number of Muslims in each Department?

(c) What steps do the Government propose to take for increasing Muslim representation amongst the officers of that Division?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The required information is as follows:—

Divisional Officers—11.

Assistant Officers—19.

(b) There are two Muslim Divisional Officers, one in the Engineering and the other in the Accounts Department, and one Assistant Muslim Officer in the Rationing Department.

(c) The posting of officers to Divisions is not done on a communal basis.

PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIMS AS POWER CONTROLLER IN RAWALPINDI.

511. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that the three persons promoted to the job of Power Controller in Rawalpindi are non-Muslims?

(b) Is he aware that the claims of efficient Muslims were ignored while holding this selection?

(c) What steps do the Government propose to make up the past deficiency and for securing adequate representation of Muslims in such selections in future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Promotions are not made on a communal basis and the representation of Muslims must depend very largely on their number in the ranks from which selection is made.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

RECRUITMENT TO FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†512. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that all the posts in the newly created Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were not considered as new posts for the sake of direct recruitment to avoid to fulfil 45 per cent. quota of Muslims in the said Department?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to place before the House the rules which justify the action of the General Manager in not treating the said posts as new ones for direct recruitment?

(c) Is it a fact that four Senior Food Inspectors and about ten clerks were newly-recruited in the said Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) It is desirable to have in the grain shop organization on railways subordinates who are permanent servants of the Railway. Direct appointment to such posts is, therefore, limited. Such action is not prohibited by the rules.

(c) Government have no detailed information.

PERSONNEL OF FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†513. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to give the following information about the personnel (subordinates and officers) of the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, separately, for the period 1942-43 and 1943-44:—

- (i) number of persons appointed,
- (ii) academic and departmental qualifications of those persons,
- (iii) substantive posts held originally in the Food Supply Department; and
- (iv) substantive posts held in other Departments before transfer to the Food Supply Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to Questions Nos. 513 and 514 together.

The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

PREPONDERANCE OF NON-MUSLIMS IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†514. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that a considerable number of non-Muslims in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were raised to the position of officers, Inspectors and Senior Grade clerks through accelerated promotions within two years?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to give the history by stages of the advancement of the non-Muslims in the categories referred to in (a) for the period from 1942 to September, 1944, i.e., those non-Muslims who were in Food Department on the 30th September, 1944?

MUSLIM OFFICERS SHUNTED OUT FROM FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†515. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Muslim Officers and Inspectors who were in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway since its inception were shunted out without assigning any reasons to make room for non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what is the number of the Muslim Inspectors who were taken in the Department since its very inception and were sent back to their parent Departments and was any enquiry instituted in their alleged cases before they were returned?

(c) Is it a fact that Senior Muslim Food Supply Inspectors are still kept in the Relieving List and Junior non-Muslim Food Supply Inspectors promoted

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 513.

from lower grade have been made Headquarters Inspectors to raise them to the post in the Lower Gazetted Service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) No Muslim Inspector was taken at the very inception of the Food Supply organization, but three Muslims were subsequently posted as Inspectors, one of them being promoted later to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service. The officiating officer and one Muslim Inspector were returned to their parent Departments for disciplinary reasons after proper investigation of the charges against them.

(c) There is one Muslim Relieving Food Supply Inspector who is senior to the non-Muslim Headquarters Inspector. The appointment of staff to the various posts is made in the interests of the service and promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service is based on selection.

RECRUITMENT OF CANTEN INSPECTORS, FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†516. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the post of Canteen Inspectors of the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were filled by superseding the claims of senior Muslim Food Supply Inspectors?

(b) Is it a fact that no Selection Board was held at the time of filling the posts of the Canteen Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The post in question was filled by selection by a Selection Board and the claims of Muslim staff were duly considered.

MATES AND HEAD MATES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†517. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state in a comparative form the number of Muslim and non-Muslim Mats and Head Mats on the Open Line of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1940 to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to Questions Nos. 517 and 518 together.

Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

EXAMINATION OF HEAD MATES FOR PROMOTION AS SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†518. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the year 1943-44 Head Mats were examined for the posts of Sub-Permanent Inspectors by the Bengal and Assam Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what are the number of the Muslims and Non-Muslims who appeared at the said examination and the number of those who passed the examination?

PREPONDERANCE OF NON-MUSLIM SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†519. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that during the year 1942 and 1943 the Bengal and Assam Railway filled all the vacancies of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors by non-Muslim Head Mats in contravention of the rules for the observance of communal quota in such cases?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, was the deficiency of Muslim quota made good in any subsequent year?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative except that no rules were contravened as reservation of vacancies on a communal basis applies to subordinate ranks on the Railway as a whole and not to individual grades.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.
†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 517.

(b) It has not been possible lately to make up deficiencies on the Bengal and Assam Railway as a whole, owing to the difficulty of obtaining qualified Muslims.

HEAD MATES ABSORBED AS SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†520. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Railway Board's instructions about the absorption of Head Mates in the posts of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors which were issued to the Bengal and Assam Railway on the starred question No. 392 in the Central Legislative Assembly, dated the 29th March, 1943 had not been carried out up to September, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what are the number of Muslim and non-Muslim Head Mates absorbed in the vacancies of the Sub-Permanent Inspectors during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No such instructions were issued on the Starred Question referred to but in connection with Starred Question No. 391. The instructions have not been ignored though, as I have pointed out in my reply to part (a) of Question No. 519, reservation of vacancies on a communal basis applies to subordinate ranks on the Railway as a whole and not to individual grades.

(b) The number of Muslim and non-Muslim Head Mates absorbed as Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors is two and 21 respectively.

CLERKS IN DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT OFFICES OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†521. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of clerks, community-wise, in the District Establishment Offices of the Engineering Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that the General Manager's circular No. 185E/18-Part VI, dated the 5th July, 1941 about the recruitment of clerks in Establishment offices has never been observed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

CERTAIN LETTER ISSUED BY GENERAL MANAGER, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†522. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Bengal and Assam Railway the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, Kanchrapara, all District Officers of the Mechanical Department and others was issued in contravention of the undertaking No. VII given at a meeting held in February, 1931, between Sir George Rainy and the deputation of Muslim Members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly and his assurance in the debate of the Legislative Assembly dated the 21st February, 1943?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The orders were not issued in contravention of the undertaking referred to by the Honourable Member to the effect that a Muslim Officer should be included, where possible, on Selection Boards. They were issued as subsidiary instructions to the recruitment regulations.

CERTAIN LETTER ISSUED BY GENERAL MANAGER, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†523. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Workshops of the Bengal and Assam Railway, the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, Kanchrapara, all District Officers of the Mechanical Department and the Assistant Personnel Officer, Kanchrapara, through Chief Mechanical Engineer is still extant in spite of the assurance about the constitution of the Selection Committee given on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, dated the 24th February, 1943?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what action is contemplated by him to amend matters to safeguard the interest of the Muslims?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, has any new letter or circular superseding the letter referred to in (a) been issued?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c).—Government are not aware of the actual position, but revised rules have been recently issued as an amendment to Appendix II to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, and action will be taken to ensure that these rules are given effect to in the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, if this has not already been done.

PROMOTIONS TO SELECTION POSTS IN MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†524. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims promoted to the posts declared as selection posts in the Workshops and the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, vide the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Shops, Kanchrapara, and others, during the period from April 1941, to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

NON-REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS ON CERTAIN SELECTION BOARDS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†525. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Workshops and all the District Offices of the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, Muslim Officers were not represented in the Selection Boards held for the promotion of staff to posts declared as selection posts, vide the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1944, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, and all District Officers and others during the period from 1941 to September, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Selection Boards during the said period?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The position is as stated, though this was not due to the orders referred to, but to the dearth of Muslim Officers on the railway as a whole and particularly in the Mechanical Department. Government understand, however, that efforts are being made to include a Muslim Officer in Selection Boards appointed for selecting persons for promotion to Selection posts.

(b) Does not arise.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS FOR SELECTION POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†526. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Selection Boards held on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from April, 1941, to September, 1944, in accordance with the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, referred to in (a) of the previous question ignored the claims of senior Muslims for the said selection posts?

(b) Is it a fact that Muslims who were comparatively senior to non-Muslims were not recommended by Superior Officers for examination by the said Selection Boards during the period April, 1941, to September, 1944?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place the seniority list of the categories from which candidates for selection were drawn for the period from April, 1941, to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIM TALLY CLERKS OF CALCUTTA DISTRICT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

527. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that non-Muslim Tally Clerks of the Calcutta District of the Bengal and Assam Railway were promoted to the posts of clerks in the "E" grade Rs. 100—10/2—120 New Scale (Rs. 110—10—140) Old Scale in the Office of the District Traffic Superintendent, Calcutta, during the years 1943 and 1944 by superseding the claims of Muslim clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No Tally Clerks were promoted as stated by the Honourable Member, but three non-Muslim Station Clerks were transferred to the office during the years 1943 and 1944 and promoted to 'E' Grade. The claims of all Clerks were considered.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS BY TRAFFIC SELECTION COMMITTEES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

528. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Traffic Selection Committees of the Traffic Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway have never considered the claims of qualified and efficient Muslims for the following posts during the period from 1941 to 1944:—

(i) Goods Supervisor, (ii) Junior Goods Supervisor, (iii) Chief Booking Clerk, (iv) Head Parcel Clerk, (v) Station Superintendent, (vi) Deputy Station Superintendent, (vii) Chief Luggage Inspector, (viii) Chief Goods Clerk, (ix) Telegraph Inspector, (x) Signaller-in-Charge, (xi) Yard Master, (xii) Transshipment Foreman, (xiii) Head Trains Clerk, (xiv) Head Goods Clerk, and (xv) Shed Inspector?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have every reason to believe that the claims of eligible candidates of all communities are considered.

STAGNATION IN PROMOTION OF MUSLIM TALLY CLERKS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

529. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that during the period from 1941 to 1944 the Bengal and Assam Railway recruited Muslims as Tally Clerks in a greater number than non-Muslim Tally Clerks to make up the quota of 45 per cent. but they were neither given training nor promoted on par with the non-Muslim Tally Clerks to the posts of Assistant Station Masters, Signallers, Number Takers, Coaching Clerks, Goods Clerks and Transshipment Clerks?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what community-wise is the number of Tally Clerks recruited during the said period and given training and promotion in different categories detailed in (a)?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTY FELT BY SIMLA FRUIT AND POTATO GROWERS

530. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware of the fact that Simla Fruit and Potato growers are experiencing a great difficulty in the matter of transport between, Simla, Narkunda and Kotgarh

and thousands of maunds of their fruits were damaged last year due to lack of transport?

(b) Is it a fact that no permission was given to fruit growers to run motors on the above mentioned road, when similar permission is being given to forest contractors? Why is this differentiation made?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Government is aware that fruit and potato growers have experienced difficulty in the matter of transport between Simla, Narkunda and Kotgarh, but have no information to the effect that any appreciable quantity of fruit was damaged last year on this account.

(b) The state of the road does not at present permit of its use by more than a total of ten lorries. All these are engaged in the carriage of timber required more urgently for military needs than fruit or potatoes and therefore given preference. The possibility of improving the capacity of the road and so to make some motor transport available to fruit and potato growers is under consideration.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it the intention of the Government to allot two more motor lorries to the fruit growers there?

Sir Olaf Caroe: As soon as the road improves. No doubt the Honourable Member knows this road. It has only just been made possible for motor cars to go along it at all. At present only a limited number of cars can go along it. When it is improved, it is hoped that more motor traffic may be possible and fruit and potatoes are certainly among the leading interests in that part of the country.

STIPENDS TO APPRENTICES RECEIVING TRAINING AT JAMALPUR, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

531. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the amount of stipends given to apprentices for the Railway Superior Services receiving training at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway; and

(b) if the Government have considered the abnormal rise in the necessities of life and revised the rate of their stipends accordingly; if not, do Government propose to revise the rate of their stipends in view of the prevailing prices of necessities of life?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Special Class Apprentices receiving training at Jamalpur are granted a stipend of Rs. 60 per mensem during the first three years and Rs. 75 per mensem in the fourth year.

(b) The necessary relief has been afforded to the Apprentices by the grant of dearness allowance.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM HIGHER GRADE CLERKS IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

532. *Dr. Habibur Rahman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, Muslims were not recruited in the higher clerical grades?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative will he be pleased to state (i) the higher grades in the Head Office and outside, and (ii) qualifications of the incumbents of the said grades?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Direct recruitment is not ordinarily made to higher clerical grades. Such posts are filled by promotion which is not made on a communal basis.

(b) The information is not readily available and Government regret they cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS OF FOOD SUPPLIES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

533. *Dr. Habibur Rahman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that qualified Muslim Inspectors of the Food Supply Department were not at all considered for promotion to the rank of Assistant Controller of Food Supplies on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state (i) the substantive pay, (ii) rank, and (iii) academic qualifications of the Assistant Controller of Food Supplies of the Bengal and Assam Railway and the academic qualifications of the Muslim Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

REVERSIONS OF MUSLIM ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS OF FOOD SUPPLIES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

534. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Muslim Assistant Controllers of Food Supplies have been reverted without any enquiry being made into the allegations against them?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the date when the enquiry was instituted and whether adequate chances for putting up defence were given to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member has not specified the railway or railways to which the question refers.

PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIM INFERIOR STAFF TO SUBORDINATE RANK IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

535. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that within contravention of the prescribed communal ratio non-muslims are recruited in the inferior categories in the Food Supplies Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway and after a short time are promoted to the subordinate rank on grounds of experience?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a statement on the table showing the number of the staff promoted from inferior to subordinate ranks from 1942 to 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Promotions from inferior categories to subordinate posts are treated as direct recruitment for the purposes of communal reservations and, therefore, the promotions referred to must be subject to the communal reservations prescribed.

(b) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

SENIOR INSPECTORS, ETC., OF FOOD DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

536. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a comparative statement, community-wise, concerning the Food Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, showing the following items for the years 1942 and 1944:

- (i) number of Senior Inspectors,
- (ii) number of Canteen Inspectors,
- (iii) number of Ward Keepers,
- (iv) number of Clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the large number of questions asked about the food distribution in the Assam Bengal Railway, will the Honourable Member make some enquiries about the matter? I have received a good deal of complaints.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have received on one day some 70 questions about the Bengal & Assam Railway. But that railway is very much in the war and I cannot trouble the railway in such circumstances to collect details of what are relatively minor matters of administration.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: But Muslim interests must not suffer on account of war conditions, nor must Muslims starve.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will you make enquiries about this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly. Who is starving?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Muslim employees of the railway.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not so.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SUPERINTENDENTS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA

537. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) how many Postal Superintendents and Telegraph Superintendents there are in the Bihar and Orissa circle; and

(b) how many of these Superintendents are Biharis and Oriyas and how many are other than Biharis and Oriyas?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) There are fourteen Postal and R.M.S. Superintendents and there is one Telegraph Superintendent.

(b) Of the Postal and R.M.S. Superintendents, four are Beharees. There are no Oriyas.

There are eleven non-Biharis and non-Oriyas including the Telegraph Superintendent.

EXPENDITURE ON SHIFTING OF DEAD LETTER OFFICE FROM CALCUTTA TO PATNA

538. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (on behalf of **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha**): (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on account of the shifting of the Dead Letter Office from Calcutta to Patna under the following heads:

(i) travelling allowance, (ii) special bonus, (iii) cost of removal of furniture and records, (iv) Railway freight, (v) cost of repairing of furniture damaged in transit, and (vi) cost of construction of the big hall at Patna for the accommodation of the Dead Letter Office?

(b) Is the work of the Dead Letter Office being satisfactorily performed at Patna?

(c) Have the Government any proposal for taking the Dead Letter Office back to Calcutta in near future?

(d) Are the Government aware of the fact that there have been constant petitions by the public, press and the postal employees of the Circle for a separate Dead Letter Office for the Bihar and Orissa Circle?

(e) What are the reasons for not providing the Bihar and Orissa Circle with a Dead Letter Office in spite of the pressing demand of the public for the same?

(f) Are the Government aware of the fact that the work of the transcription which used to be performed by the Calcutta General Post Office and sorted have since been transferred to the Dead Letter Office, Patna, owing to the unavailability of Nagri and Urdu knowing hands in Calcutta and the same now being performed satisfactorily?

(g) Will the Honourable Member consider that under the circumstances Patna is a most suitable place for the location of the Dead Letter Office which deals with the articles mostly written in Nagri and Urdu characters?

(h) Is the Honourable Member aware that Patna is more economical than Calcutta in respect of scale of pay, house-rent etc.?

(i) Do Government realise the fact that the expenditure to be incurred on shifting the Dead Letter Office to Calcutta will be an unnecessary drain on the postal revenue?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The expenditure incurred was as follows:

	Rs.
Travelling allowance	3,954
Special Bonus	4,979
Cost of removal of furniture and records	783
Railway freight	1,022
Cost of repairing of furniture	722
Cost of construction of the hall at Patna	20,850

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (d) of the question.

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

- (f) The fact is not as stated.
- (g) No.
- (h) Yes.
- (i) No.

VACANCIES OF SUPERINTENDENT IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

539. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents in the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs are filled by pure selection;
- (b) if it is a fact that the order in which the officials are first selected can not be altered if they continue to maintain efficiency;
- (c) if there are some permanent vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents in that office for a long time and that no substantive appointments have so far been made thereto although a number of officials have been continually officiating as Superintendents for a pretty long period;
- (d) if the replies to (a), (b) and (c) above are in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the reasons why these vacancies have not been filled up on a substantive basis so far; and
- (e) if it is a fact that the lien of some of the officiating Superintendents has been suspended for a long time from the Assistant's cadre even after due consideration of their ability and efficiency; if so, will Government please take steps to confirm them immediately against the existing vacancies?

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

(b) The exact implications of the orders bearing on the point raised by the Honourable Member were not clear to the Director-General and a reference has been made to the appropriate Department for elucidation.

(c) Yes.

(d) The vacancies have remained unfilled, pending a decision on the reference mentioned in the reply to (b).

(e) Yes; but the suspension of lien in the Assistants' cadre has nothing to do with their permanent appointment in the Superintendents' cadre.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: May I know how many Muslims are permanent Superintendents in the Director General's office and has ever a permanent Muslim Superintendent been appointed in that office in the whole of its history? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: To the best of my knowledge, there is at present no permanent Muslim Superintendent in the office of the Director-General of Posts & Telegraphs. The reply to the second part of the question is, (but I am open to correction) that in the past there has been one permanent Superintendent who was afterwards promoted to Superintendent of Post Offices. The reply to the Honourable Member's question as to why there are now no Muslim Superintendents is that the office of the Director General was originally formed in Calcutta at a time before communal rotation was applied to recruitment and most of the senior officials in the office happen to be men of other communities. The position is now changing.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Am I to understand that since the establishment of British Rule in India only one permanent Superintendent was appointed in that Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat his question?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In the past only one permanent Muslim Inspector has been appointed? This is what the Honourable gentleman said. Since what date? Since the establishment of British Rule in India?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That goes into past history and I am afraid I myself cannot state when the Director General's was first actually formed.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether that Muhammadan Superintendent was also demoted because he was not competent?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have no information on that point.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know that those who are now appointed are competent to hold their offices and they have not superseded anyone?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The appointment of Superintendents in the office of the Director General, Posts & Telegraphs, is by pure selection and the men who are holding their posts have been selected for these posts and may be assumed to be competent to hold them.

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Are there any Scheduled Caste persons officiating as Superintendent? If so, whether they are confirmed? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: There is one Scheduled Caste Superintendent in the directorate of the Posts and Telegraphs, I do not think it is in order to discuss the merits of officials on the floor of this House.

(At this stage Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur stood up.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has he superseded any Muhammadan?

Mr. President: Maulvi Murtuza Sahib Bahadur.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Has any enquiry been made to mend matters? Already there is one efficient Muslim hand with 27 years service in the Department and he has been officiating as Superintendent and he has not been made permanent. Will the Government make enquiries into the matter and see that it is put right?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I would suggest that it is not quite proper to go into the question of promotion in an office on the floor of this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is this gentleman to suggest what is proper and what is not? That is the prerogative of the Chair.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I was appealing to the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have only to see that the Rules and Standing Orders are observed.

DISCONTINUANCE OF TELEPHONES OF PRIVATE SUBSCRIBERS

540. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that a large number of telephones have been discontinued from private premises in various places, and have not been fitted elsewhere either, entailing great loss to the Department;

(b) the law under which this was done;

(c) if the Department had made sure that there has been no violation of the terms of the agreement between the subscribers concerned and Government, in the process;

(d) if it is a fact that district magistrates of various places had a big hand in getting telephones taken away, and that telephone subscribers were served with notices by them saying "attend my office at 10 A.M. tomorrow to show cause why your telephone should not be disconnected"; if so, whether the procedure had the sanction of the Department;

(e) if there are any political reasons for the withdrawal of telephone facilities of private firms and individuals;

(f) what were the exact considerations which led to such withdrawals;

(g) what was the exact position of the district magistrate in the procedure; and

(h) if it is a fact that payment of subscriptions to war loans demanded by authorities helped in many cases in the immediate restoration of the disconnected telephones?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) A number of telephones has been disconnected from private premises in various places. Government is not aware that any large number has remained idle.

(b) Under the conditions of the Hiring Contract between the subscriber and the Posts and Telegraphs Department and Defence of India Rule 17.

(c) Yes.

(d) Powers under sub-rule (1) of the Defence of India Rule 17 have been delegated to District Magistrates and they have exercised these powers in certain cases. Government are not aware that any improper procedure has been adopted by District Magistrates.

(e) No.

(f) To meet the requirements for war purposes and to avoid excessive overloading.

(g) The powers delegated to District Magistrates are exercised at their discretion.

(h) Government has no information.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: While I am thankful to the Honourable Member for having saved my own telephone, may I know with regard to part (a) of the question, whether he would kindly make enquiries from Benares and find out if a certain number of telephone instruments are not lying idle, entailing loss to the Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I feel that I should explain to the Honourable Member that the fact of a telephone instrument lying idle may not mean that any telephone has been unnecessarily disconnected. The whole object of these disconnections was to relieve the load on the system and therefore it was necessary for a few lines to remain idle. An exchange is not loaded to what would appear to be its full capacity. You have to leave a good deal spare or else the exchange cannot work up to the optimum.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire from Benares whether the views of the local officers in charge of the telephone system there coincides with what the Honourable Member himself has expressed here this morning?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: If there is any definite grievance in Benares regarding the administration of the telephone system, as it appears from the Honourable Member's question, I should be very happy to make enquiries.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With regard to the Honourable Member's reply to part (d) of the question, does the Honourable Member think that a notice given in the terms which I have quoted in my question, is in consonance with the desire of the Department as regards the propriety of the notice and the language in which it should be couched?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: On the principle that the customer is always right, I would certainly prefer the Department to couch their notice in more polite terms.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the notice was not from the Department but from the District Magistrate, may I know how the Department is going to deal with a District Magistrate of this ilk?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid that I misunderstood the origin of this notice. Of course the Department cannot do anything in the matter. I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In the interests of the Department the Honourable Member can inform the District Magistrates to be more polite in the language they use and tell them that such language tends to the detriment of the goodname of the Department and to their positive loss.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid it is a matter purely for the Provincial Governments.

UNCLAIMED BALANCES FROM POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK, ETC.

541. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if it is a fact that a large amount of money is lying with the Post Office, due to death or other causes, as undrawn balances from Post Office Savings Bank;

(b) the number and amount of unpaid, ordinary and value-payable money orders;

(c) the steps, if any, Government propose to take on its own initiative, to get the money due paid back to the persons concerned or their heir and survivors;

(d) if any accounts are kept of such moneys;

(e) the manner in which it is utilised; and

(f) if it is a fact that some portions are used for the benefit of the postal employees?

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

(b) Information regarding the number of unpaid money orders is not available. The amount of such orders credited to accounts for the year 1943-44 is Rs. 4,43,168.

(c) The departmental rules already make full provision to secure the object which the Honourable Member has in mind.

(d) Yes.

(e) The value of Money Orders which cannot be paid is credited to Government but the amounts can be claimed at any time by the person entitled. Savings Bank deposits do not lapse to Government. The accounts in respect of them can be re-opened at any time and the amounts paid to the depositors.

(f) No.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what the amount, in round figures, is of the unpaid balances in the Savings Bank Deposits treated as practically dead?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The balance of Savings Bank dead accounts up till the end of 1942-43 was Rs. 2,14,99,421. At the end of 1943-44 it was Rs. 1,88,26,311, from which it will be seen that the amount has fallen in the last year.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I request the Honourable Member to repeat his answer to part (f) of the question?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The answer is "No".

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to money orders, may I know after what time the unpaid money orders lapse to the Government?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: They do not lapse to the Government, unless they cannot be paid at all. They can be claimed at any time. If the person entitled makes a claim after some years, then the whole matter is re-opened.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is there a period of limitation after which the money lapses to Government?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: No, Sir.

TIMINGS OF CONNECTING TRAINS AT JUNCTION STATIONS

542. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that very often trains are so scheduled at junction stations that those trains that should be connecting trains for them, are timed to leave just before the arrival of the other trains, thus stranding passengers hopelessly;

(b) if so, what exactly the purpose of this is;

(c) if it is also a fact that trains meant to be connecting trains, do not increase the time of their stoppage at junction stations when the other incoming train is late, even for a few minutes only, even in the case of ordinary passenger trains, causing unnecessary and avoidable inconvenience; and

(d) if Government propose to request Railway administrations to extend the time of stoppages of connecting trains to a reasonable extent, as necessary, and also to time trains at junction stations more reasonably?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will indicate what particular junction stations or railways he has in mind, I shall obtain details and furnish a reply in due course.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire how many times a week the connecting trains from Benares and Jaunpur miss connection at the Janghai Railway Station on the E. I. Ry. for Allahabad.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will make enquiries.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With regard to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member please note that I was actually stranded for 24 hours at Gaya Railway Station as the connecting passenger train started off while mine from Asansol was a few minutes late?

HARASSMENT OF CIVILIAN PASSENGERS, BY MILITARY MEN AT RAILWAY STATIONS AND IN TRAINS

543. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if he has received complaints that ordinary passengers are prevented from entering Railway compartments not reserved for the military, and also when some military persons are there and the room is available;

(b) if he will issue instructions to Railway servants to help in the entraining of passengers in the compartments not reserved for the military; and

(c) if he proposes to request the military authorities to issue instructions to their staff, while travelling by trains, to be courteous to the civil population and not obstruct and harass them in any way, not to take up more room in the general compartment than is reasonably necessary for themselves; and, lastly, not to handle roughly the vendors of food stuffs and other articles at Railway stations, but to pay fully and promptly for everything they take?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have received some complaints on the subject.

(b) The existing railway rules provide for this.

(c) The military authorities have already issued instructions on matters referred to in this part of the question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I know whether it is not a fact that very often when passengers go up to Railway officers for assistance in such matters, they are told that these officials dare not approach the military?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Difficulties do arise as every Honourable Member knows. The Railway staff do the best they can under the circumstances.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member has referred to "the existing rules" in answer to part (b) of the question. What are these existing rules?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are "General rules for open lines," Section 115 (B). I have not got the details of all the railways with me but on the North Western Railway, for instance, there are instructions in their Operating Manual, No. 5007, whereby conductor-guards are supposed to guide upper class passengers in intermediate stations, secure accommodation, both reserved or available for them and see that lower class passengers are evenly distributed in the trains and are not overcrowded in any particular carriage or compartment and so on.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that there is an evasion of this provision every time, will the Honourable Member at once circularise all the railway servants to the effect that civilian convenience must be attended to in such matters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are fully aware of it but if the Honourable Member would put himself in the position of a railway servant in the present circumstances, he will appreciate how difficult it is to carry out the rules to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the difficulties which have been pointed out in this question, will the Honourable Member see his way to reward those railway servants who, in the face of such difficulties, have carried out their duties to the satisfaction of the passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is the duty of the railway servants to carry out their duties satisfactorily to all concerned.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have not the military authorities issued instructions to their personnel in regard to this matter and is it a fact that those instructions are disobeyed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The military have issued them on several occasions. I say without hesitation that in the vast majority of cases the rules are adhered to but there are exceptional cases.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of any instruction given to these guards that they should also take the trouble of guiding third class passengers in getting into the trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; they do their best in the circumstances.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any such instruction?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not in the particular manual to which I referred, but this is only one of several. I did not say that this was comprehensive at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of at least now, late as it is, giving that instruction to all the guards of trains in this country to guide the third class passengers also in finding accommodation in trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: According to the instructions given here, they do their best. But the Honourable Member can well understand, if he will think for one moment, how difficult it is for one guard to shepherd several hundred passengers.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member suggest the exact procedure to be adopted by the aggrieved persons in these cases, besides allowing themselves to be helplessly stranded?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the Honourable Member has gone back to the previous question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: No; I am here. The Honourable Member said that railway officials do their best in such matters. What I ask is that if any person is aggrieved and finds that the railway officials are not doing their best, what is the procedure that he should adopt apart from allowing himself to be stranded?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question of stranding I think does not properly come into this question; but he should report to the next senior railway official at the station.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member says that for one guard it is too much to see to all third class passengers, will he consider the advisability of appointing other persons in every train to help third class passengers in finding accommodation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We have greatly increased the staff, but there are limits.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any limits to the number of third class passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

APPOINTMENT OF COIMBATORE DISTRICT CANDIDATES AS POSTAL CLERKS IN MYSORE DIVISION

544. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Secretary for Post and Air please state:

(a) the rules regarding the domicile and possession of a working knowledge of the language in the division in which a candidate is employed, which were considered while recruiting candidates for the clerical cadre in the Posts and Telegraph Department from the year 1937; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member state how in spite of the repeated protests and requests made by the officials, unions and even heads of divisions nearly 40 young men from Coimbatore District in the Madras circle, were sent to Mysore Division from the year 1937, onwards, where the language, customs, manners and climate of which are different from that of Coimbatore District; and

(c) if whether he will consider repatriating all these young men to Coimbatore District or any Tamil District within a reasonable time and fill up the consequent vacancies in Mysore Division by direct recruitment from Mysoreans?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) The local recruitment rules in the Post and Telegraph Department prescribe that a candidate joining the subordinate service must as a general rule belong to the revenue division (or other equivalent revenue unit) in which he enlists. When however the jurisdiction of an officer extends beyond one revenue division, candidates domiciled in all those divisions are eligible for appointment. The possession of a working knowledge of the language of the division is not taken into account at the time of recruitment but a candidate before confirmation is required to pass a test in the local Indian language.

(b) Between 1937 and 1943, 40 candidates belonging to the Coimbatore District were selected for appointment in the Mysore Postal Division. No protests about these appointments were received by the Postmaster-General from any Union or from the Divisional Superintendents. Revenue Districts and Postal Divisions are not co-terminus. A portion of the Coimbatore District is in the Mysore Postal Division and under the rules quoted above, recruitment to that Division is also permissible from the Coimbatore revenue district.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether he has not received any representations from those people concerned about the difficulties they are experiencing in Mysore?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid I have not definite information about that. The persons concerned may have represented to the Postmaster General—it did not come to the notice of the Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that they are suffering will he recommend to the Postmaster General that they may be transferred to places where they can have the convenience of living?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I do not feel that this is a matter of suffering. A man offers himself for recruitment in a certain postal division, knowing that he may have to go to a place where he does not speak his mother tongue. Many of us from overseas did that when we came to India into the services.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But surely if it is possible, an arrangement can be made?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid it could not be done without administrative inconvenience. A man cannot be posted exactly to the station of his choice. It would upset the whole of the administrative machinery.

NOMINATION TO RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES BY CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

545. ***Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that at present the Central Advisory Council for Railways nominates one representative to each local advisory committee for Railways; when was this convention introduced and how;

(b) if it is a fact that the convention was (i) that no member who is not a resident of the particular local area should be appointed to the advisory committee of that area, and (ii) that no member of the Central Advisory Council for Railways should be nominated to more than one advisory committee;

(c) has this convention been changed, if so, when and why;

(d) what is the number of the local advisory committees for Railways; in how many of them representatives from the Central Advisory Council have been nominated; how many of the representatives are Hindus and how many of them are Muslims; and

(e) how many representatives are serving on more than one committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Convention was introduced from the 1st April, 1937.

(b) (i). The Central Advisory Council for Railways agreed in September, 1938 that only those residing within the area served by the Railway should be considered eligible for election to that Railway's Local Advisory Committee.

(ii) The suggestion that no Member should serve on more than two Committees unless there was no other candidate was accepted by the Central Advisory Council at their meeting in April 1944.

(c) No, the second part does not arise.

(d) So far as the State-managed Railways are concerned, there are 20 Local Advisory Committees. Of these, 17 Local Advisory Committees have representatives of the Central Advisory Council, while the seats on the other three are still vacant. Of the Central Advisory Council Representatives, seven are Muslims, one is a Hindu and one a Parsi.

(e) There are five representatives of the Central Advisory Council for Railways who are serving on more than one Committee.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: With reference to part (e), is it a fact that all these 17 representatives are Muhammadans?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have replied that seven are Muslims, one is a Hindu and one is a Parsi.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member endeavour to see that members of the Central Advisory Council—each one of them can be said to speak on behalf of the railways or to represent railway interests?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are there primarily to represent the interests of the public.

STOPPING OF FIRST AND INTER CLASS TICKETS ON MALAKWAL BHERA LINE

546. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that First and Inter class tickets are not issued on Malakwal Bhera Line, North Western Railway? If so what are the reasons for stopping First and Inter class traffic on this line?

(b) If Government is aware of the fact that by doing so, the Railway is losing a good deal of income, specially in case of the Inter class traffic?

(c) If Government knows that in the train that runs in Malakwal Bhera Line, there is a compartment, on which Inter class is painted, but there are no cushions on the seats in the compartment? If Government also realise that if only cushions are provided in that compartment, there will be no extra expenditure in again starting the traffic of Inter class passengers and that there will be an increase in the Railway income?

(d) If it is a fact that Inter class passengers feel a great inconvenience in getting their Inter class tickets from Malakwal as no such tickets are issued either at Bhera or at Mianji?

(e) If the Government propose to consider the necessity of introducing at least Inter class traffic on Malakwal Bhera Line?

(f) If it is a fact that there is no Railway telegraphic or telephonic connection on Malakwal Bhera Railway Line and also if it is a fact that in absence of both these things there is a very great inconvenience to the travelling public and the Railway staff at Railway stations on this line?

(g) If, Government, therefore, be pleased to consider the desirability of re-instating the telegraphic connection or at least installing telephonic connections on Malakwal Bhera Railway Line, between the Railway stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) First and intermediate class tickets are not being issued for local traffic on the Malakwal-Bhera branch of the N. W. Railway from 1st October, 1941, as such accommodation is not provided on that section owing to the insignificant traffic in these classes.

(b) In view of the traffic offering in these classes being insignificant, the provision of first and intermediate class accommodation would result in such accommodation being wasted and reducing the accommodation for third class passengers.

(c) As regards the first part, Government are informed that the Divisional Superintendent, Rawalpindi, was instructed in July, 1941, to mark composite inter and third class carriages available on that section as third. The latter part of the question does not arise in view of my reply to part (b) above.

(d) No, as passengers desiring to travel in first or inter class beyond Malakwal or *vice versa* can obtain through combined tickets available in second or third class on the Bhera-Malakwal section and first or inter class for the remaining portion of the journey.

(e) No. Government do not consider that the introduction of inter class accommodation on the Malakwal-Bhera branch is justified.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. I might inform the Honourable Member that there is a public telegraph office at Bhera.

(g) No, as the heavy expenditure involved in constructing telegraph and telephone communications is not justified.

CLOSING OF HAZURPUR RAILWAY STATION ON MALAKWAL BHERA LINE

547. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Hazurpur Railway station on Malakwal Bhera Line, North Western Railway has been closed? If so, what are the reasons for that?

(b) In view of the great inconvenience to the public, will Government please consider the reopening of this Railway station? If, for certain reasons, this cannot be done at present, do Government intend to open the station some time afterwards? What are the necessary conditions on fulfilment of which the Railway station in question can be opened?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the station was closed in pursuance of the policy of conserving coal by the elimination of halts of passenger and goods trains at road-side stations.

(b) This station has been closed as a temporary measure and its re-opening will be considered with an improvement in the coal position. The last part does not arise.

MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

548. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if the Technical Mission has submitted its report to Government on the manufacture of artificial fertilisers and if the Government propose to publish the recommendations of the Mission; If so, when;

(b) if it is a fact that Government propose to start the manufacture of artificial fertilisers with the assistance of the Imperial Chemical Industries; if so, what the terms and conditions under which the assistance of the Imperial Chemical Industries is to be secured are;

(c) if it is a fact that the Imperial Chemical Industries had already secured some concessions in the Khewra Salt Mines of the Punjab and in the neighbouring areas containing gypsum, and were making preparations to extend its activities in India by building plans for the manufacture of nitrogenous products, even before the appointment of the Technical Mission by Government; and

(d) if it is a fact that Indian private enterprise in the manufacture of artificial fertilisers has been ruled out for the present because the Imperial Chemical Industries were not inclined to give as much help to private enterprise as it was prepared to give to a government scheme, or the decision to exclude private enterprise for the time being was taken on the ground that it was unwise from the British point of view to hand over this industry, which is connected with the explosives industry, wholly to an Indian agency?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes, Sir. The report has already been published.

(b) The report of the Mission is under the consideration of Government and no decision has yet been reached. Government propose that if they decide to set up one or more factories such factories should be state-owned and state-operated.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) No, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (d) of the question, will the Honourable Member be in a position to give this House an approximate idea about the time that the Government will take in coming to a decision on this matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I hope within the next two or three weeks we may be able to come to a decision. A conference with the Provincial Governments is fixed for Tuesday the 21st of this month.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know that the Government has come to a decision that it shall be state-owned?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Government's proposal is that it should be state-owned, but it is a matter in which we have to consult Provincial Governments.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make an endeavour to place the Government's final scheme before this House early in the next Session?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I hope to published the Government's final scheme to the public.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I wanted to know whether the Honourable Member will make an attempt to place the scheme before the House for its consideration?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: What I said was that the scheme which the Government will ultimately arrive at will be before the public as soon as Government have arrived at a decision and that will be much earlier than the next Session of the Assembly.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that action will have to be taken by Government before the next Session of this House begins?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I believe so. This is an urgent matter and we have to get into touch with those who are in a position to carry out the scheme.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

MANUFACTURE OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

549. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if the words "private industry" occurring in the Honourable Member's statement to the Press on 14th May, 1944, to the effect that private industry could step in and take over production after the first 360,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia had been produced, meant the Imperial Chemical Industries or Indian private industry;

(b) Whether it is not a fact that if the manufacture of explosives and of sulphate of ammonia is in other than Indian hands, the scope for separate development of related nitrogenous products will be so limited that the industry cannot be economically established or operated;

(c) if the Government considered the necessity for giving an undertaking that in view of the possible post-war competition from abroad, they are prepared to protect the Indian industry by protective duties, and from internal competition by the enactment of anti-trust laws and other measures; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to give the fullest publicity to every stage of their negotiations with the Imperial Chemical Industries and would secure the approval of this House to any agreement that may be finally entered into with the Imperial Chemical Industries?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No Press Note was issued on 14th May, 1944. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Press Note issued on 1st May, 1944, in which it was stated the possibility of independent enterprise was not precluded but in the national interest it was considered necessary that substantial state controlled enterprise should hold first place. The reference to "independent enterprise" was to Indian private industry and not to Imperial Chemical Industries.

(b) and (c). These questions do not arise in view of the reply I have just given to part (b) of question No. 548.

(d) No negotiations have been opened with Imperial Chemical Industries.

SELECTION OF SITES FOR CHEMICAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY

550. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if, in regard to the selection of sites for the proposed chemical fertiliser industry, due regard will be paid to the respective advantages in costs and other matters presented by its location near to coal fields or to iron and steel works;

(b) if it is a fact that production of fertilisers by methods of electrolysis of water for hydrogen, and of power supply by means of hydro-electric plants.

means a higher cost of production per ton than is the case in production through water gas methods for hydrogen and the use of thermal electricity, if so, whether this factor would be considered in the selection of the site or sites; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the First Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council has expressed itself in favour of development of industries near hydro-electric sources, and against the starting of new industries on any large scale near coal-fields owing to the scarcity of water in these areas; if so, will this argument be applied in the case of selecting sites for the fertiliser industry also?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) to (c). As I have just stated in reply to part (b) of question No. 548, the report of the Technical Mission is now under the consideration of Government. The factors mentioned by the Honourable Member will be taken into account in reaching a decision.

STABILIZING THE PRICE OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

551. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to state:—

(a) the fair selling price of sulphate of ammonia and if the policy of price stabilisation at that level by payment of a subsidy to the consumers would be considered;

(b) if he is aware that the selling price of Rs. 120 per ton reported in the press has given rise to apprehensions that it suggests the use of methods of electrolysis for production of hydrogen and of hydro-electric power supply, to the exclusion of water-gas and thermal electricity, and that the cost per ton would be less by about Rs. 40 if the latter processes are adopted;

(c) if it is a fact that the British Sulphate of Ammonia Federation is dominated by the Imperial Chemical Industries and it fixes the price of sulphate of ammonia on a so-called world parity basis, prices being actually fixed for each country according to the local conditions of competition; and that since the present Indian producers are also members of the Federation, there has been in fact no competition in India;

(d) if Government propose to limit the profits on the artificial fertiliser industry by the imposition of a ceiling price per ton on manufactured product; and

(e) whether it is to be undertaken by Government or by private enterprise?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The fair selling prices of sulphate of ammonium must vary from time to time according to the costs of production and market prices of food grains. The policy of subsidising the use of Ammonium Sulphate by cultivators in respect of food grains is already followed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (b) of question No. 548.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STARTING CHEMICAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY

552. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:—

(a) the arrangements made by the Government of India with the Provincial Governments and Indian States regarding the starting of the chemical fertiliser industry, and the proportions in which the cost, the profits and the distribution of the manufactured product are to be shared in the respective cases;

(b) if the question has been considered, and if not, will it be considered, by a contribution being made to the industry from the Indian Army Budget, as an insurance against shortage of raw materials for explosives in the event of a sudden war;

(c) if Government intends to hand over the process of distribution to private agencies, or to any central non-profit making marketing organisation to be set up for the purpose; and

(d) if Government propose to take any steps to conduct a propaganda for popularising the use of chemical fertilisers by cultivators; if so, on what lines is such propaganda to proceed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) to (d). As I have already stated in the reply to part (b) of question No. 548, these questions are already under consideration in connection with the report of the Technical Mission. It is intended to hold a conference on November 20th and 21st 1944, with a representative of all India Committee and with Provincial Governments. The Government of India will decide their policy in the light of these discussions.

IMPLEMENTING OF TRAVEL FACILITIES

553. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken so far or propose to take to increase the travel facilities such as additional accommodation for ladies in inter and third class compartments; and

(b) the effective steps Government have taken in pursuance of their assurance given to the Central Advisory Council for Railways on the 6th April, 1944 to run more local trains, either in preference to through trains or independently in order to cater to the travel needs of local public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I am not aware of the action railways have found it possible to take on any representation which may have been made to Local Advisory Committees as a result of my request to members of the Council at the meeting held on the 6th April, 1944. I am, however, unable to give any undertaking that railways will find it possible to increase the accommodation for ladies in inter and third class compartments.

(b) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension for no assurance was given to the Central Advisory Council for Railways on the 6th April, 1944, that more local trains, either in preference to through trains or independently, would be run in order to cater to the travelling needs of the local public. On the contrary, the Council were informed specifically that no increase in train services was possible owing to the shortage of coaching stock.

STEPS FOR PUBLIC COOPERATION AGAINST CORRUPTION AMONG RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

554. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures taken by his Department in pursuance of the suggestions made in the Central Advisory Board for Railways at its meeting held on the 6th April, 1944 to enlist fullest co-operation of the public to put down the corruption rampant in the ranks of Railway employees; and

(b) the statistical figures to indicate the effectiveness of the 'Anti-Travel' campaign?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) As a result of the discussion in the Central Advisory Council for Railways held on the 6th April, 1944, the following steps were taken to prevent corruption:—

(i) Railway Administrations have requested important Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations to circularise their Members to refrain from paying gratuities to railway staff.

(ii) Special investigation staffs have been appointed to enquire into alleged cases of bribery;

(iii) The procedure in force in respect of the registration and hooking of goods, securing of wagons, reservation of berths, etc., has been publicised in the Press and also notices and posters on the subject are being exhibited at stations, parcels and goods offices, so that the public may not, through ignorance of procedure, pay any sum to railway staff over and above that legitimately due to the rail service they require.

Government would welcome further suggestions from the Honourable Members of this House, which would assist in the campaign against corruption on the part of both the giver and the taker of bribes.

(b) A centrally controlled scheme for "Travel less" campaign was formulated in consultation with the Information and Broadcasting Department on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Council for Railways and was put into action from March, 1944.

I am laying on the table a comparative statement showing the number of passengers carried over all Railways for the years 1942, 1943 and from January to August, 1944 which indicates that the campaign has not achieved the desired result. The scheme, therefore, is being gradually wound up without incurring additional expenditure beyond the original sanction.

Comparative statement showing number of Passengers carried over all Railways (In thousands)

	1942	1943	1944
January	55,592	55,443	69,048
February	52,804	55,436	70,808
March	56,077	67,836	79,384
April	54,626	63,946	73,461
May	56,412	70,918	78,904
June	56,797	69,884	77,389
July	56,591	67,522	77,920
August	49,643	68,000	78,855
September	44,471	66,215	
October	48,651	64,741	
November	53,136	67,196	
December	54,226	68,510	

STEPS FOR ISSUE OF MORE BUS LICENSES BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

555. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have so far taken to persuade Provincial Governments to issue more bus licenses in order to reduce the pressure of passenger traffic on Railways and with what results; and

(b) whether or not the Government, in case of encouraging and developing passenger bus service, will take care to see that the Railways do not themselves enter into competition with the independent Road (Bus and Van) Transport Industries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Provincial Motor Transport Controllers have been informed from time to time that subject to the availability of controlled chassis; to the relative priority of demands for special war purposes and for general goods transport; to the prior demand for replacement of worn out buses; and to the possibility of running the new buses on producer gas, controlled chassis should be released for extending bus services where most necessary to mitigate congestion in trains and buses. I have no reason to suppose that fresh permits are not being issued whenever vehicles are available.

(b) Government are anxious to discourage destructive competition between road and rail interests and are seeking to bring about mutually beneficial co-operation between the two.

CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF TRAINS ON MALAKWAL BHERA BRANCH LINE

556. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that the timings for the running of trains on Malakwal Bhera Branch Line (North Western Railway) have been changed since October 1, 1944? What were the reasons for the change? Was that done in the interest of the travelling public?

(b) Do Government realise that the timings of the trains on Malakwal Bhera Branch Line, in force before the 1st of October last were suitable for convenient and safe journey of the passengers from Bhera and Miani Railway stations; and

at the recent changes of train times cause trouble and inconvenience and hardship to the travelling public and are not conducive to their safety, especially as passengers from Bhera and Miani Railway stations cannot get the connecting day time trains for going to Lalamusa and from there to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides?

(c) Is it a fact that passengers from Bhera and Miani Railway stations, can go from Malakwal to Lalamusa and from there to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides, by only one night train (89 Up), but that the first and second class and particularly the female passengers of all classes do not get accommodation in trains at Lalamusa and have, therefore, to pass the whole night there in discomfort to get the next morning train?

(d) If the replies to (a) to (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please bring the necessary changes in the Railway Time Table for Malakwal Bhera Branch Line trains, in order to provide a convenient train connection for passengers to enable them to undertake day time journey to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides as was provided in the Time Table in force before the 1st of October, last? If the reply to any of the questions be in the negative, will Government please get local enquiries made and bring about the changes in train times to suit the convenience and safety of the travelling public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 556 and 557 together.

I have called for information from the N. W. Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF TRAINS ON MALAKWAL BHERA BRANCH LINE

†557. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the municipal committee of Bhera, by a resolution of the committee, has made representations to the Chief Operating Superintendent, North Western Railway, Lahore and to his Divisional Officers at Rawalpindi, regarding the difficulties and inconveniences of the passengers created by the new changed time table on the Malakwal Bhera Branch Line, and has requested to change the time table in the interest of the passengers and have also made certain suggestions for their consideration?

(b) Is it also a fact that a representation to the same effect was made to Mr. B. Moody, Chief Operating Superintendent, North Western Railway, Lahore, by a Member of this House? If so, had Mr. Moody, the Chief Operating Superintendent, sent a reply to the Member, regarding the action he had taken or proposed to take in the matter? If so, will the Honourable Member kindly lay on the table of the House a copy of the reply sent by Mr. Moody?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state what action, if any, has so far been taken by the Railway Department on the representations and suggestions made with regard to the change of Railway timings on Bhera Malakwal Branch Line and when can the changes in the time table be expected?

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS AND WIRELESS OPERATORS

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

(a) the rules for recruitment of Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators as they stand after modification, for the recruitment of the minority community candidates;

(b) the number of training centre or centres in the country for training candidates for services mentioned in (a) above; if so, are they run by Government or some subsidy or contribution is given to them by the Government;

(c) if the candidates for the two above mentioned posts are further trained after recruitment; if so, where and how;

(d) if Muslim candidates are recruited without any previous telegraph training with reference to (b) of starred question No. 23, asked on the 1st November, 1944;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 556.

(e) in view of the difficulty experienced in not securing Muslim candidates for recruitment as Telegraphists as stated in reply to starred question No. 26 asked on the 1st November, 1944, and in view of the fact that the percentage of Muslims in the cadre of Telegraphists is low, whether Government propose to revise the rules in a way to enable Muslim candidates of other circles to be taken in as is the case with Anglo-Indian candidates; and

(f) if it is a fact that no domicile certificate is required for relations and the sons of Post and Telegraph employees in any circle whatsoever in British India; if so, what the contents of the rules concerned are?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) A copy of the rules, as last printed in June 1943, is placed on the table of the House. The following modifications are to be embodied in these rules when they are next printed:—

(1) The condition regarding minimum marks for qualifying in the recruitment examination, prescribed in rule 1 of Appendix A, will be deleted;

(2) To secure the full quota of candidates of minority communities, resort may, if necessary be had to recruitment by selection (without examination) of candidates possessing the minimum educational qualifications.

Recruitment of Wireless Operators is also made by selection from among candidates previously trained in wireless telegraphy, as provided in rule 483, Part III of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV, a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House.

(b) Candidates for posts of Engineering Supervisors are not required to receive any training before recruitment. This is also the case with candidates for posts of Wireless Operators recruited on the results of the competitive examination. Candidates to be eligible for recruitment as Wireless Operators under rule 483, Part III, already referred to in the reply to part (a), must be previously trained in wireless telegraphy and be competent as Wireless Operators. This training is imparted by certain private institutions in the country the number of which is not definitely known. No subsidy or contribution is given to any institution by Government.

(c) Candidates selected from the results of the recruitment examination for appointment as Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators are trained in the Government training class attached to the office of the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Posts and Telegraphs Department at Jubbulpore. Practical training is given to these candidates in the Postal Circles. Similar is the case with Wireless Operators recruited under rule 483, Part III, already referred to, but theoretical training is given to them for a comparatively short period.

(d) The Honourable Member evidently refers to the recruitment of Wireless Operators under rule 483, Part III. No Muslim without previous training in Wireless telegraphy are recruited under that rule.

(e) Presumably the starred question to which reference is made is not No. 23, but No. 23, to which a reply was given on 1st November, 1944. The low percentage of Muslims in the strength of the Telegraphists' cadre is due to the fact that formerly recruitment was made mainly from certain approved institutions and the result was a preponderance of Anglo-Indians in this Branch of the Service. Since the introduction of the new recruitment rules of 1937, however, Muslims are securing appointment in the posts reserved for them subject to the availability of qualified candidates of the community. Relaxation of the domicile condition has been approved by Government for Anglo-Indians only in view of the fact that that community is concentrated in a few centres. Since such a factor does not prevail in respect of Muslims, Government do not consider it necessary to relax the domicile conditions for them. Government do not propose to revise the rules as they are of opinion that the recent suspension of the competitive examination and recruitment from the open market should enable the Department to secure the Muslim quota.

(f) The position is not as stated. The relevant rule on the subject allows the sons and daughters of Departmental employees to appear in the examination in the particular recruiting unit in which the employee is serving, without

production of a domicile certificate. In this connection, the Honourable member's attention is invited to exception (1) below rule 5(a) of Appendix 14 of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR RESOLUTION

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

New Delhi, the 8th June, 1943

No. S-116/1/42.—The following rules are prescribed for the recruitment and training of candidates for the cadres of Engineering Supervisors, Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department:—

SECTION A.—ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS

PART I.—METHODS OF RECRUITMENT

1. The rules in this section may be called the Engineering Supervisors Recruitment Rules.
2. For the purposes of these Rules—
 - (a) "Director-General" means the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.
 - (b) "Departmental candidate" means—
 - (i) a Telegraphist of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, or
 - (ii) a Telephone Inspector including one who is employed as a carrier or repeater attendant, a Telephone Operator, or a Mistry who has passed the Matriculation examination.
- N.B.—Only such Mistries as are holding the posts originally designated "Telephone Mechanics" or "Baudot and Signal Room Mechanics" are eligible.
- (c) "Outside candidate" means a candidate other than a "departmental candidate". Members of the staff of the department other than those mentioned above are "Outside candidates".
- (d) "Service" means the Engineering Supervisors of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.
3. (a) The Service shall be recruited by means of a competitive examination from the following sources:—
 - (i) By direct recruitment in accordance with Part II of these Rules.
 - (ii) By recruitment of departmental candidates in accordance with Part III of these Rules.
- (b) The Service will be liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian Territories.
4. *Percentage of vacancies.*—(i) 25 per cent. of the vacancies will be filled by departmental candidates and the remaining 75 per cent. by outside candidates.
- (ii) If the number of departmental candidates who qualify is less than the number of vacancies available for such candidates, the remaining vacancies will be added to the vacancies available for outside candidates who have qualified in the examination.
5. *Place and date of examination.*—A competitive examination for admission to the Service shall be held in India at such time and places as the Director-General may prescribe by notice issued through the Heads of Circles. Every such notice will, when possible, announce the number of the vacancies to be filled on the result of the examination. Outside candidates must attend at their own expense.
6. *Subjects and marks.*—Examinations under these Rules shall be conducted by the Director-General in the manner prescribed in the regulations which form Appendix A to these Rules.
7. *Fees.*—Candidates must pay the prescribed fees (see Appendix B). No claim for a refund of any of these fees will be entertained, nor can they be held in reserve for subsequent examinations or selections.
8. *Re-examination of answer papers.*—No application from any candidate to have his answer papers re-examined will be considered.

PART II.—DIRECT RECRUITMENT

9. *Applications.*—(i) A candidate must apply to be admitted to the examination before such date, in such manner and in such form as the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs may prescribe.
- (ii) If a candidate is in the permanent service of Government he shall apply for admission to the examination through the proper official channel to the Head of the Circle in which his office is situated.
- (iii) If a candidate is not in Government service or is employed in Government service in a temporary capacity at the time that he submits his application he shall apply to the Head of the Circle in which his parents reside at the time of submitting his application, or have resided for a period of not less than three years or in which the candidate himself

*The submission of applications by persons in Government service is further governed by the Government Servants' Applications for Posts (Central Services) Rule [published with Government of India, Home Department (Railway Services) Notification No. F. 510/31-Ests., dated the 7th June 1934, as amended from time to time], and corresponding rules made by Provincial Governments.

resided, otherwise than as a student, for a like period. A Government servant who is employed in a temporary capacity should, however, before submitting his application obtain in writing the permission of the Head of the office or department in which he is employed and attach it to the application.

A list of the Circles is given in Appendix C.

10. *Status*.—A candidate must be a male and either—

- (a) a British subject of Indian domicile; or
 - (b) a British subject of Indian descent evacuated from any Empire country; or
 - (c) a ruler or a subject of an Indian State or a native of a tribal area or territory adjacent to India, provided that a ruler or a subject of a State in India cannot be appointed unless he has obtained a declaration under sub-section (1) of section 262 of the Government of India Act, 1935;
- and must be in all respects suitable for appointment to that service.

11. *Age*.—A candidate must have attained the age of 17, and must not have attained the age of 24, on the first day of January of the year in which the examination is held.

12. *Educational qualifications*.—A candidate must—

- (i) have passed sections A and B of the Associate Membership examination of the Institution of Engineers (India), or any other educational qualifications recognised by that Institution as exempting from passing these sections, *vide* Appendix D; or
- (ii) have obtained an Engineering degree of one of the Universities mentioned in Appendix E under the conditions prescribed in that Appendix; or
- (iii) have passed the Associateship examination of the City and Guilds Institute (Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington) in Civil Engineering; or
- (iv) have obtained a diploma of Faraday House, London; or
- (v) have passed the Associate examination of the Bengal Engineering College in Mechanical Engineering; or
- (vi) have passed the Cambridge School certificate examination, Oxford School certificate examination or London Matriculation examination; or
- (vii) have passed the Intermediate Science examination of an Indian University; or
- (viii) have passed the Intermediate Arts examination with physics of an Indian University; or
- (ix) have obtained one of the diplomas in Engineering described in Appendix F.

13. *Recommendations*.—No recommendations, except those invited in the form of application, will be taken into consideration. Any attempt on the part of a candidate to obtain support for his application by other means will disqualify him for admission.

14. *Acceptance or rejection of application*.—

(i) Heads of Circles will examine the applications of outside candidates and if they find that any candidate does not fulfil the conditions laid down in rules 9 to 13 above, will reject his application.

(ii) Outside candidates employed in the Department will be selected by the Head of the Circle after a scrutiny of their confidential records. The Head of the circle will have full discretion to reject the application of a candidate whose record is unsatisfactory.

(iii) Heads of Circles will give candidates, whose applications are rejected, intimation of the fact.

15. *Reserved Vacancies*.—Vacancies in the service which are filled otherwise than by departmental candidates shall be apportioned between the various communities in India in accordance with the provisions of Government of India (Home Department) Resolution No. F.14/17-B./33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934, and the supplementary instructions connected therewith. Accordingly—

(i) 33½ per cent. will be reserved for the redress of communal inequalities as indicated below:—

- (a) 25 per cent. for Muslims.
- (b) 8½ per cent. for other minority communities.

(ii) The remaining vacancies, together with any reserved vacancies for which eligible candidates are not available, will be offered to candidates in order of merit at the examination subject to the condition that some of these vacancies may, in order to secure fair representation for the members of the scheduled castes, be filled by nomination of eligible candidates from these.

(iii) No candidate will be eligible for appointment who fails to attain a specified minimum standard in the examination.

16. *Medical examination*.—A candidate must be in good mental and bodily health, and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the discharge of his duties as an officer of the Service. A candidate who as a result of the medical examination prescribed in Appendix G is found not to satisfy those requirements will not be appointed. Only candidates who are selected for training will be physically examined.

17. *Agreement and deposit*.—(i) A successful candidate will, before the commencement of his training, to sign in the form laid down in Appendix H a declaration to serve Government for a period of 5 years from the date of his appointment as Engineering Supervisor and to deposit a sum of Rs. 50 as security for the due fulfilment of the terms of the declaration.

(ii) If the candidate has not completed 18 years of age prior to the commencement of his training the declaration must also be signed by his father or legal guardian. As soon as

the candidate has attained majority, he will be required to sign a separate declaration himself, the former one being cancelled.

(iii) The amount of security must be deposited in a Post Office Savings Bank and the security deposit account pledged to the Senior Deputy Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, in accordance with the Savings Bank rules. The pass book must be submitted to the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief who will forward the documents to the Senior Deputy Director-General for safe custody.

(iv) The refund of the security deposit will be authorised after the candidate has completed 5 years of service as Engineering Supervisor.

PART III.—RECRUITMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL CANDIDATES

18. *Eligibility*.—(i) Departmental candidates who have not more than 7 years' permanent service in their respective grades on the 1st of January of the year in which the examination is held will be eligible to appear for the competitive examination.

(ii) The maximum limit of 7 years' service may be relaxed by the Director-General at his discretion in individual cases.

N.B.—Probationers will be eligible to appear in the competitive examination as departmental candidates subject to the condition that they are confirmed before the date of the examination.

19. *Applications and selection of candidates*.—Candidates must fill in the prescribed application form and submit it to the Head of the Circle concerned. Heads of Circles will select suitable candidates from the applicants after a scrutiny of their confidential records. They will have full discretion to reject the application of a candidate whose record is unsatisfactory. Candidates, whose applications are rejected will be duly informed.

20. *Filling of vacancies*.—Vacancies available for departmental candidates will be filled by successful candidates strictly according to merit in the examination.

21. *Medical examination*.—Selected departmental candidates, except general service telegraphists, will be required to pass the physical examination prescribed in rule 16.

PART IV.—TRAINING

N.B.—The following course of training may be modified by the Director-General if circumstances render this desirable.

22. *Duration*.—All selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of training extending over 15 months, divided as follows except that departmental telegraphists will be exempted from the course of training referred to at II (ii) below:—

I. *In the departmental training class*.—

- (i) 10 months theoretical training concluded by an examination.
- (ii) 1 month preparing a practical project.

II. *In the Telegraph Workshops*.—

- (i) 3 months training concluded by a practical examination.
- (ii) 1 month in a departmental telegraph office for instruction in signal office routine.

23. *Syllabus of examination after training*.—The syllabus of the examination to be held at the end of the course of training in the departmental training class will comprise the following subjects:—

1. Signalling (in accordance with rule 381 of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV), except that receiving on both open and closed circuits should be in manuscript and the standard rate of signalling should be as given below:—

	Marks
(a) Morse	16 words per minute
(b) Baudot signalling	15 words per minute
(c) Baudot Keyboard Perforator	15 words per minute
(d) Tape reading	8 words per minute

2. Advanced course in practical mathematics	100
3. Electricity and magnetism and elementary electro-technology	100
4. Electro-technology and prime movers	100
5. Telegraphy—	
(a) Elementary telegraph and testing of lines and cables	100
(b) Advanced telegraphy	100
6. Telephony—	
(a) Elementary telephony	100
(b) Advanced telephony	100
7. (a) Line construction (including surveying and levelling)	200
(b) Applied mechanics and mechanism	50
(c) Geometrical drawing	50

Total 1,100

The project referred to in rule 22 I (ii) will carry 350 marks and the examination at the end of the workshop course 150 marks, making 1,600 marks in all.

24. *Qualifying marks*.—The minimum qualifying standards for the examination will be 40 per cent. of marks in each subject.

25. *Removal of unsuitable candidates.*—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at any of the examinations will be liable to immediate removal from the class and will not be allowed to sit again for the entrance examination referred to in rule 5.

26. *Allowances during training.*—During the period of training, direct recruits will receive an allowance of Rs. 40 per mensem. Departmental candidates will continue to draw their pay in their respective scales plus the usual house rent allowance, if any, or Rs. 40 per mensem, whichever is greater.

Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidates defined in rule 2(b) will draw the allowance granted to outside candidates, or the pay last drawn by them before joining the training class, whichever is less.

PART V.—APPOINTMENT AND EMOLUMENTS

27. *Appointment.*—(a) On successful completion of the course of training, a candidate will be appointed as an Engineering Supervisor on probation for one year subject to the existence of vacancies in that grade. Employment as an Engineering Supervisor is not however guaranteed on the completion of the course of training.

(b) If the work or conduct of an Engineering Supervisor on probation is unsatisfactory or shows that he is unlikely to become efficient he may be discharged forthwith.

(c) On the conclusion of his period of probation, if his work or conduct has been found to be unsatisfactory he may either be discharged from service or his period of probation may be extended for such further period as may be considered necessary.

28. *Seniority.*—For the purpose of determining the relative seniority in the cadre of Engineering Supervisors of those appointed at any one time, there will be two groups, viz., (1) departmental candidates and other members of the staff of the Department who were selected as outside candidates and (2) other outside candidates. Seniority in each group will be determined according to the total marks obtained by each at the final examination held on completion of training at the departmental training class; but all candidates selected from group (1) will be given seniority over those in group (2) irrespective of the number of marks obtained in the examination. All the Engineering Supervisors appointed after one examination will rank senior to those appointed after a later examination. This seniority will not affect prejudicially the pay of departmental candidates which will be fixed according to rule 29.

29. *Pay and Allowances.*—(a) In the case of direct recruits and the departmental candidates who are eligible for the revised rates of pay, the scale of pay for the cadre of Engineering Supervisors will be Rs. 80—5—120—10—240.

(b) Departmental telegraphists who were in service on the 18th April, 1927 and who are eligible for promotion to the rank of Engineering Supervisors will, on such promotion, be brought on to the old scale of Rs. 80—5—100—10—250—20—350 (with an efficiency bar at the stage of Rs. 250) under Fundamental Rule 22 (a) (i) and will get a special pay of Rs. 40 subject to a maximum of pay and special pay of Rs. 350.

(c) Departmental telegraphists who entered the Department after the 18th April 1927 and other departmental candidates who are entitled to the old rates of pay will be brought on to the scale of Rs. 120—5—140—10—290—20—350 (with an efficiency bar at the stage of Rs. 290) under the Fundamental Rules and will not get any special pay.

30. *Signalling test.*—Engineering Supervisors of both classes recruited under these rules will be required during the first five years of their service to pass annually a signalling test in open and closed circuit similar to that prescribed in rule 23 (1). An Engineering Supervisor who does not pass this test will not be granted the annual increment of pay.

SECTION B.—CARRIER ATTENDANTS

1. The rules in this section may be called the Carrier Attendant Recruitment (by competition) Rules.

2. *Scope of service.*—Carrier Attendants belong to an all-India cadre and are liable for services anywhere in India. They are also liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian territories. The posts are superior and pensionable and the scale of pay is Rs. 60—4—100—5—130. The carrier attendants permanently appointed will be eligible for promotion to a selection grade of Rs. 130—6—190 under conditions that will be prescribed hereafter.

3. *Source of recruitment.*—The recruitment will be made from volunteers among the candidates who qualify in the competitive examination for selection of candidates for training as Engineering Supervisors mentioned in Section A, Part I, but who are not selected for that service.

4. *Reserved vacancies.*—The vacancies will be filled in the manner prescribed in rule 4 of Section C.

5. *Medical Examination.*—Selected candidates will be required to produce a certificate of fitness from a Medical Board at their own expense before they are appointed for training as Carrier Attendants.

6. *Agreement and deposit.*—Before the commencement of his training a selected candidate will be required to sign a declaration in the form laid down in Appendix H to serve Government for a period of two years on the conditions specified in rule 17 of Section A, except that the security deposit account must be pledged to the Head of the Circle concerned to whom the documents will be sent by the Electrical Engineer in Chief.

7. *Training.*—The selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of theoretical and practical training for a period not exceeding one year. They will be required to pass a test on the conclusion of the theoretical training.

8. *Removal of unsuitable candidates.*—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at the tests will be liable to immediate removal.

9. *Allowance during training.*—During the period of training, candidates will receive pay or allowance as shown below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Outside candidate | Allowance at Rs. 30 per mensem. |
| (b) Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidate as defined in rule 2 (b) in Section A. | Pay equal to the allowance mentioned at (a) or to pay last drawn by him before joining class whichever is less. |
| (c) Departmental officials as defined in rule 2(b) of Section A. | Pay in his own scale plus the usual house rent allowance if any, or Rs. 30 per mensem whichever is greater. |

10. *Appointment.*—(1) On qualifying in the passing-out test referred to in rule 7 and on completion of the practical course of training, candidates will, if reported on as fit to carry out the duties of Carrier Attendants, be appointed as carrier attendants.

11. *Seniority.*—The procedure laid down in rule 28 of Section A will be followed.

SECTION C.—WIRELESS OPERATORS

1. The rules in this section may be called the Wireless Operators Recruitment (by competition) Rules.

2. *Scope of service.*—Wireless Operators belong to an all-India cadre and are liable for service anywhere in India. They are also liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian territories. The posts are superior and pensionable, and the scale of pay is Rs. 60—5—150.

3. *Source of recruitment.*—The recruitment will be made from volunteers among the candidates who qualify in the competitive examination for selection of candidates for training as Engineering Supervisors mentioned in Section A, Part I, but who are not selected for that service.

4. *Reservation of vacancies.*—Vacancies in the service shall be apportioned between the various communities in India in accordance with the provisions of Government of India (Home Department) Resolution No. F-14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934, and the supplementary instructions connected therewith. Accordingly—

(i) 33½ per cent. will be reserved for the redress of communal inequalities as indicated below:—

(a) 25 per cent. for Muslims.

(b) 8½ per cent. for other minority communities.

(ii) The remaining vacancies, together with any reserved vacancies for which eligible candidates are not available, will be offered to candidates in order of merit at the examination, subject to the condition that some of these vacancies may, in order to secure fair representation for the Scheduled castes be filled by nomination of eligible candidates from these.

5. *Medical examination.*—Selected candidates will be required to produce a certificate of fitness from a Medical Board at their own expense before they are appointed for training as Wireless Operators.

6. *Agreement and deposit.*—Before the commencement of his training a selected candidate will be required to sign a declaration in the form laid down in Appendix H to serve Government for a period of five years on the conditions specified in rule 17 of Section A, except that the security deposit account must be pledged to the Head of the Circle concerned to whom the documents will be sent by the Electrical Engineer in Chief.

7. *Training.*—The selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of training not exceeding one year in the Wireless Training Class and a further three months practical training at a Wireless Station. At the end of the first six months of training, they will be required to qualify at a preliminary test and at the end of the training in the class, a passing-out test. Those who qualify will then be posted to a Wireless Station for practical training. Candidates who qualify before the end of one year in the class will be posted to a Wireless Station for practical training without remaining in the class for the whole year.

8. *Removal of unsuitable candidates.*—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at either of the tests will be liable to immediate removal.

9. *Allowance during training.*—During the period of training, candidates will receive pay or allowance as shown below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Outside candidate | Allowance at Rs. 30 per mensem. |
| (b) Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidate as defined in rule 2(b) in Section A. | Pay equal to the allowance mentioned at (a) or to pay last drawn by him before joining class whichever is less. |
| (c) Departmental official as defined in rule 2(b) of Section A. | Pay in his own scale plus the usual house rent allowance, if any, or Rs. 30 per mensem whichever is greater. |

10. *Appointment.*—(1) On qualifying in the passing-out test and on completion of the practical course of training at a Wireless Station, candidates will, if reported on as fit to carry out the duties of Wireless Operator, be appointed as Wireless Operators on probation for one year, as far as vacancies are available.

(2) On satisfactory completion of the period of probation candidates will be confirmed as wireless Operators.

11. *Seniority.*—The procedure laid down in rule 23 of Section A should be followed.

12. *Aircraft duties.*—Wireless Operators recruited to the Department on or after the 1st January 1940 and Wireless Supervisors and Deputy Assistant Engineers, Wireless, promoted from the ranks of such Wireless Operators, may be required to carry out duties on aircraft during flight.

APPENDIX A

(Referred to in rule 6 in Section A.)

The subjects of the examination will be—

	Marks.
(1) English (general knowledge)	200
(2) Geography (a general knowledge of the geography of the world and a detailed knowledge of the geography of India)	100
(3) Elementary physics and chemistry	150
(4) Practical mathematics (2 papers)—	
(a) Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and mensuration.	250
(b) Mechanics (statics and dynamics) and graphics	150
	850

The minimum marks for qualifying will be 33 per cent. in each paper for recruitment to the cadre of Engineering Supervisors and 25 per cent. to those of Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators.

2. From the marks assigned to candidates in each subject such deduction will be made as may be considered necessary in order to secure that no credit is allowed for merely superficial knowledge.

3. If a candidate's handwriting is not easily legible, a deduction will be made on this account from the total marks otherwise accruing to him.

4. Credit will be given for good English in all subjects of the examination and not only in subjects which are specially devoted to English.

APPENDIX B

(Referred to in rule 7 in Section A.)

Candidates must pay the following fees:—

	Outside candidates Rs.	Departmental candidates Rs.
Application fee to be paid with the application form	5	5
Examination fee to be paid on selection for admission to the written examination	25	10
Medical fee to be paid before the medical examination	16	16

(Except in the case of General Service Telegraphists.)

2. The application and examination fees must be paid into a post office. Fees remitted by money order will not be accepted.

3. The post office receipt for the application fee must be submitted with the application form.

4. The examination fee must be paid on receipt of a written order from the Head of the Circle and the post office receipt therefor produced before the examination is held.

5. The Medical fee must be paid in cash to the Medical Board on receipt of a written order from the Head of the Circle and before the medical examination.

APPENDIX C

(Referred to in rule 9 in Section A.)

Name of Circle	Official designation of officer in charge	Headquarters
Bengal and Assam	Postmaster-General	Calcutta
Bihar and Orissa		Patna
Bombay		Bombay
Central		Nagpur
Madras		Madras
Punjab and N.-W. F.		Lahore
United Provinces	Director of Posts and Telegraphs	Lucknow
Sind and Baluchistan		Karachi.

APPENDIX D

List of Examinations recognised by the Institution of Engineers (India) as exempting from Sections "A" and "B" of the Associate Membership Examination

[Referred to in rule 12 (i) in Section A.]

Institution of Civil Engineers.—Sections A and B of the Associate Membership Examination.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers.—Sections A and B of the Associate Membership Examination.

Institution of Electrical Engineers.—The Associate Membership Examination.

Oxford.—B.A. with Honours in Engineering Science, Final Honours School.

Cambridge.—B.A. (Honours) Mechanical Sciences Tripos.

St. Andrews.—B.Sc. in Engineering.

Glasgow.—B.Sc. in Engineering.

Edinburgh.—B.Sc. in Engineering.

Dublin.—B.A.I. (Ordinary or with Honours in Engineering).

McGill University (Montreal).—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" or "Metallurgical" or "Mining" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary Degree).

Durham.—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering, or in "Naval Architecture" (Honours or Ordinary Degree).

London.—B.Sc. in (External and Internal Degree) Engineering not including the B.Sc. Engineering (Mining) or the B.Sc. in Engineering (Metallurgy). (Honours or Ordinary Degree).

Victoria University (Manchester).—B.Sc. Tech. (Ordinary Course, Division I) in Electrical Engineering;

B.Sc. Tech. (Ordinary Course, Division II) in Electrical Engineering;

B.Sc. Tech. (Higher Course, Honours Division or Ordinary Course, Division I) in Municipal Engineering;

B.Sc. Tech. (Ordinary Course, Division I) in Mechanical Engineering;

B.Sc. in Engineering (Honours degree; or Ordinary degree from 1925 onwards);

B.Sc. Tech., in "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours Division in the Final Examination).

Birmingham.—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree).

Liverpool.—B.Eng. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Marine" or "Electrical" Engineering, or "Naval Architecture" (Honours or Ordinary degree).

Leeds.—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree).

Sheffield.—B.Eng. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours degree or Ordinary degree with a First Class in the Final Examination). A first class in the Final Examination will not be required in the cases of degrees obtained in or after June 1930.

Bristol.—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree).

Wales.—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering.

National University of Ireland.—B.E.

Queen's University (Belfast).—B.Sc. in Engineering,

Sydney.—B.E. in "Civil" or in "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering.

Melbourne.—B.C.E., B.Mech.E. or B.E.E.

New Zealand.—B.E. in "Civil", or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering.

Adelaide.—B.E. in "Civil", "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering.

Queensland.—B.E. in "Civil" or in "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering.

Western Australia.—B.E.

South Africa.—B.Sc. in Engineering (until 1921).

Cape Town.—B.Sc. in Engineering.

Witwatersrand.—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering.

Calcutta.—B.E. Examination in Civil or Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.

Bombay.—B.E. Examination.

Madras.—B.E. Examination.

Benares Hindu University.—B.Sc. Examination in Engineering.

Patna.—B.C.E.

Rangoon.—B.Sc. in Engineering from 1932.

Mysore.—B.E. in Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.

Punjab.—B.Sc. in Engineering.

Diplomas in Engineering:—

City and Guilds (Engineering) College, Kensington.

University College, London.

King's College, London.

City and Guilds of London Institute, Technical College, Finsbury—Diploma or Higher Certificate (three years' course) if taken by Matriculated Students or Students who have passed the Institution Studentship Examination or its recognised equivalent.

Royal Technical College, Glasgow—Final Diploma Examination in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering provided an approved Matriculation Examination has been passed before beginning the course.

Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee—Assistant Engineer's Certificate.
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore—Certificate in Electrical Technology or in Electrical Communication Engineering.

Manchester—Certificate in Technology, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.
Punjab College of Engineering and Technology (formerly MacLagan Engineering College), Moghalpura—

'A' Class Diploma in the first division (65 per cent. or more marks) and in the Honours Division (80 per cent. or more marks) in (i) Mechanical Engineering and (ii) Electrical Engineering from 1935.

Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh—Associateship in Electrical Engineering.

Naval Officers.—Examination which qualifies as Lieutenant (E).

Royal Naval College, Greenwich.—Professional Certificate for Constructors.

APPENDIX E

List of University degrees which will be recognised for admission to the examination.

[Referred to in rule 12 (ii) in Section A.]

Cambridge.—Ordinary degree B.A. in Engineering, provided the graduate has passed in the principal subjects, Engineering I, Engineering II and Engineering III.

Glasgow.—B.Sc. in Naval Architecture (Honours or Ordinary degree).

Durham.—B.Sc. in Marine Engineering.

London.—B.Sc. Ordinary or with Honours [not including the B.Sc. in Engineering (Mining) or the B.Sc. in Engineering (Metallurgy)].

Aberdeen.—B.Sc. in Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree).

NOTE.—The above degrees will be accepted only if taken after three years' study and the passing of the regular examinations in the several Universities. The conditions as to three years' study will not, however, apply to Indians who, having taken an Indian degree, which exempts them from part of the University course, shall have taken one of the above degrees in less than three years in accordance with the regulations of the University concerned.

APPENDIX F

[Referred to in rule 12 (ix) in Section A.]

Particulars of diploma	Name of Institution granting the diploma
(a) Electrical Engineers	Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay. Technical College, Dayalbagh, Agra.
(b) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.	College of Engineering, Poona, Nadirshaw, Edulji Dinshaw Civil Engineering College, Karachi. Technical Institute, Insein.
(c) L. E. E. or L. M. E. or L. A. E.	Government School of Technology, Madras or Technological Diplomas' Examination Board, Madras.
(d) Overseer	Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee.
(e) Mechanical Engineering	Technical College, Dayalbagh Agra.
(f) Civil Engineering	Technical Institute, Insein. Orissa School of Engineering.
(g) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (specialised in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering) (Grade A).	Government Technical Institute, Gorakhpur, U. P. Government Technical Institute, Lucknow.
(h) Subordinate Civil Engineering	Bihar College of Engineering, Patna.
(i) Civil Mechanical or Automobile Engineering.	Government Engineering School, Nagpur.
(j) Mechanical, Electrical or Civil Engineering.	Kala-Bhavan Technical Institute, Baroda.
(k) 'A' class Diploma or 'B' class certificate.	MacLagan Engineering College, Moghalpura, Lahore.
(l) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.	College of Engineering and Technology, Jadavpur, Bengal.
(m) Electrical Technology	Nowrosjee Wadia College, Poona.
(n) Electro Mechanics	Craik Technical Institute, Lahore.
(o) B. E. (Mechanical)	Osmania University, Hyderabad.

APPENDIX G

[Referred to in rule 16 in Section A.]

Each candidate should be examined for physical fitness by a Medical Board who should be informed that a good constitution and active habits are essential qualifications for the post for which the person has been selected that, if appointed, his future duties will render him liable to considerable exposure at all seasons of the year anywhere in India and that he should be capable of riding 20 to 25 miles daily for continuous periods. The medical Board should be asked clearly to state whether they consider the person examined capable of performing such duties.

APPENDIX H

(Referred to in rule 17 in Section A and rule 6 in Sections B and C.)

Form of Declaration for candidates to be trained as Engineering Supervisors, Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators.

I, _____ son of _____; having been admitted on the _____ day of _____ 194____, for technical training as a candidate for employment in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department hereby of my own free will (*and with the consent of my father/guardian _____ of _____ who has signed below in token of his agreement and acknowledgment on my behalf), declare and agree as follows:—

(1) I will undergo the full course of training extending over $\frac{15}{12}$ months as prescribed

or for such period as may be prescribed by a competent authority;

(2) I accept the terms and conditions of my training and of my future service on probation in and of the service generally in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Department as laid down at present or as may be laid down from time to time;

(3) I will after the successful completion of my training serve the Department as an Engineering Supervisor/Carrier Attendant/Wireless Operator for $\frac{5}{2}$ years from the date

of my appointment in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators and during that period I shall not sever my connection with the Department unless I first obtain the consent of the competent authority;

(4) I understand that my appointment in the said grade shall be on a temporary basis and that I shall be liable to have my service terminated at any time;

(5) The sum of Rs. 50 deposited by me will remain with Government as security for the due fulfilment of the above conditions;

(6) In case of my removal from the training class or service on account of misconduct or unsuitability and in case of a breach by me of conditions (1) and (3), except owing to ill-health not brought on by my own carelessness or other cause not due to my fault or over which I have no control or my death, Government shall have full power to order forfeiture of the amount of security deposit;

(7) If upon completion of my training I am not appointed in the said grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Department the said deposit of Rs. 50 shall then be returned, and if I am so appointed then the same shall be returned at the termination of my first $\frac{5}{2}$ years of service.

Date _____

I, _____ father/guardian of the said _____
and agree to be bound by the above terms.

Signature of candidate

confirm

Signature of father/guardian.
G. V. BEWOOR, Secy.

*For minors only.

TRAINING IN DEPARTMENTAL WORK FOR DIRECTLY RECRUITED SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

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

(a) if it is essential in the interest of efficiency that the Superintendents of Post Offices recruited directly should have the same practical experience of the work of Postmasters and the detailed working knowledge of the Departmental rules and procedure for the supervision of work of officers under them as are required of the Inspectors, according to his reply to (b) of starred question No. 24 asked on the 1st November, 1944; and

(b) if an Inspector recruited directly can be trained in Departmental work and rules as a Superintendent of Post Offices recruited directly; if not, what the difficulty is?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) No; not to the same extent.
(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part. (a).

INSPECTORS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

560. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the total number of Inspectors in all Circles of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in British India;

(b) the number of graduate and non-graduate Inspectors;

(c) if it is a fact that out of fifty per cent. posts of Superintendents filled by direct recruitment, 15 per cent. posts are reserved for the relations of the employees of the Post and Telegraph Department! if so, what the rule on the subject is and how these 15 per cent. posts are filled in; and

(d) whether it is a fact that communal proportion is applied to the remaining thirty-five per cent. posts of Superintendents?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) 667.

(b) Graduates 288, Non-graduate 379.

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

(d) The Communal proportion applies to all appointments of Superintendents by direct recruitment.

MUSLIMS IN VARIOUS GRADES OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN RAILWAYS

561. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of Muslims in the various grades of the Food Establishment of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, East Indian Railway and the Bengal and Assam Railway; and

(b) the total number of Food Inspectors and the number of Muslims employed, as such?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

INTERNMENT OF ALLAH BAKHSH KARAM ILAHI ZIA OF PESHAWAR.

562. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state:

(a) how long Allah Bakhsh Karam Ilahi Zia of Peshawar has been interned without trial and under what law;

(b) the nature of the charge or charges against him;

(c) the nature of the restrictions placed upon him;

(d) whether any allowance for his maintenance was sanctioned or paid; and

(e) whether the same has been stopped and why?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Mr. Allah Bakhsh Zia was arrested on 28th June, 1940, under rule 129 (1) (a) of the Defence of India Rules and after a period of about two months was restricted to Hoti Mardan Municipal limits and later to Peshawar Tehsil limit by the orders of the Central Government under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. He has recently been allowed to proceed to Bombay for a month under the same restrictions.

(b) The action was taken to prevent Mr. Zia from acting in a manner prejudicial to the efficient prosecution of the war, and to the defence of British India.

(c) He was required to reside within the limits stated above to report himself to the authorities daily and not to associate or have contact with any person taking part in subversive activities or any person restricted under the Defence of India Rules and not to correspond with any person residing outside British India or associate with any foreigner.

(d) An allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem was paid from 1st November, 1940, to 30th April, 1943.

(e) Yes, since he secured employment.

RELEASE OF RAW BUILDING MATERIAL FOR CIVILIANS' USE AT CHITTAGONG.

563. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmaq Siddiquee: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) if Government are aware that raw materials necessary for the construction of houses and their repairs from the forest area have been reserved for the military and that the civil people who absolutely depend on these materials for the construction of their huts and their repairs have now been absolutely stranded so much so that they are now unable to repair their huts; and

(b) whether Government be pleased to issue necessary instructions to the civil and military authorities at Chittagong to release at least some percentage of the raw materials to the civil people to enable them to repair their huts and dwelling houses?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) It is not correct that all timber necessary for the construction of houses and their repairs taken by Government for military use. The total amount of timber which Government purchase for military use and essential civil purposes is limited by railway movement to about one million tons per annum for the whole of India and the total production of timber in India is at least double this figure.

(b) It is possible that in the Chittagong area the percentage of total timber production taken over for military use is higher than in other parts of India. Government have no precise information on the point.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MAXIMUM WAR ALLOWANCE FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS SUBORDINATE STAFF.

69. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the fact that the married gazetted officers are given a war allowance, subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per month, at the rate of 10 per cent. of their pay not exceeding Rs. 1,000 with effect from 1st July 1944? What is the minimum war allowance in the case of runners, postmen, second grade clerks and the Posts and Telegraph subordinate staff?

(b) Is it a fact that the gazetted officers drawing Rs. 300 per month are in receipt of concessional supply of food stuffs from the Government like the non-gazetted officials?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, subordinate staff have been granted dearness allowance at rates varying from Rs. 9 to Rs. 18 according to the pay drawn and the areas in which they are serving, or war allowance at 10 per cent. of the pay drawn, whichever is greater. Officials of the P. and T. Department drawing pay up to Rs. 39 are also in receipt of a Good Conduct pay of Rs. 2 per mensem. Personnel enrolled in the P. and T. Defence of India Units in Bengal and Assam draw dearness allowance at the rates current when the militarisation scheme was introduced. These range from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10, according to pay and area. In addition, such personnel receive free rations or a ration allowance.

(b) Yes; but only in Bengal, Delhi and Simla.

REDUCTION IN PAY OF CERTAIN CLERKS OF MYMENSINGH HEAD OFFICE.

70. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that the 2nd grade clerks of the Mymensingh Head Office, recruited from previously approved candidates for the old upper division clerical cadre, have been subjected to a permanent reduction of pay by Rs. 9 per month with effect from 1st April 1935, and no protection from loss of pay under R.R. 23 was extended to them?

(b) Is it a fact that the late Major J. B. Kindersley, I.C.S., Commissioner, Dacca Division and Mr. J. H. E. Cook, late Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle, submitted a report to the effect that the cost of living in Mymensingh is equal to that of Dacca and in some respects, specially house-rent, exceeds that of Dacca?

(c) Is it a fact that on the basis of the above report, in order to equalise the scales now granted to Dacca employees, i.e., 'B' group scale of pay, Mymensingh has been re-classified as 'B' group from 'C' with effect from 1st October, 1939, and the ten second grade clerks have sustained a reduction of pay by one

rupee per month for the second time on a permanent basis while the benefit of Rs. 5, being the difference of the minimum pay of B and C groups, is granted to other 2nd grade clerks working in Head Office and also in the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Mymensingh Division?

(d) Do the Government intend to grant these ten 2nd grade clerks, the increment of pay or allowance by Rs. 5 per month on cancelling the orders of reduction of pay?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) to (d). The information asked for is given in the reply to starred question No. 736 by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi on the 3rd April, 1944.

CLERICAL SCALES OF PAY IN MYMENSINGH HEAD OFFICE.

71. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air is aware that there are 3 clerical scales of pay in the same office, i.e., (i) Rs. 40—5—140, (ii) Rs. 40—4—80 and (iii) Rs. 35—35—3—80, with interchangeable duties between each other?

(b) Is it a fact that the 2nd grade clerks holding the scale of pay of Rs. 35—35—3—80, having higher academic qualifications, are doing more responsible work than other clerks on the higher scales of pay?

(c) Is it a fact that the 2nd grade clerks having 11 years substantive service to their credit are drawing Rs. 61 per month, while the 1st grade clerks and lower division clerks with the same length of service are drawing Rs. 80 and Rs. 110 per month, respectively?

(d) Is it a fact that dearness allowance is granted to the 1st grade and 2nd grade clerks on same percentage basis of their pay?

(e) Do the Government propose to introduce the old rates of pay under the point-to-point system?

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

(b) This is a possibility in particular cases.

(c) The facts are approximately as stated.

(d) No.

(e) No.

HOUSE RENT AND COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF BENGAL.

72. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware that extreme difficulties are experienced by the staff in Mymensingh, Dacca, Tippera, Chittagong and in other districts, due to the paucity of suitable rented houses and high increase in cost of living?

(b) Do the Government propose to grant suitable house rent and compensatory allowances to the staff of these places as is granted to the Calcutta and Bombay staff?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Difficulties of the kind indicated exist in varying degrees at different places all over India. Inconveniences of this nature caused by war conditions are unavoidable. Government do not consider that in the localities mentioned by the Honourable Member the difficulties are extreme.

(b) No. All classes of staff do not get compensatory and house rent allowances in Calcutta and Bombay. In some of the localities referred to by the Honourable Member, such allowances are already drawn by certain classes of staff.

REPORT OF MEETING OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS WORKERS AT MYMENSINGH AND TANGAIL.

73. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Has the Secretary for Posts and Air received the reports of the meeting of Posts and Telegraphs workers at Mymensingh and Tangail presided over by Mr. S. C. Chakraborty, officiating Superintendent of Post Offices, Mymensingh Division and Mr. Charu Chandra Roy, M.L.A., Bengal, on 8th October, 1944, as published in the *Hindustan Standard*, dated 17th October, 1944, and 24th October, 1944, respectively

(b) Has the Government received copies of resolutions passed in those two meetings? If so, what action has been taken on them?

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

(b) Yes. None; because no action is ordinarily taken upon communications received by Government direct from Branch Departmental Unions.

INADEQUACY OF A. R. P. ALLOWANCE TO INFERIOR SERVANTS.

74. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that inferior servants are getting Rs. 4 per month as fire-fighters, whereas 2nd grade clerks (below Rs. 65) and 1st grade clerks are getting Rs. 6 and Rs. 12 per month, respectively?

(b) Is it not a fact that equal amount of risk and labour are involved in A.R.P. duties in combating fire?

(c) Do the Government propose to grant Rs. 12 per month as A.R.P. allowance to all inferior servants and 2nd grade clerks, irrespective of their pay?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards clerks drawing pay between Rs. 35 and Rs. 200, the amount varies from Rs. 6 to Rs. 12, according to pay which they draw.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO THE GRADE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES.

75. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is correct that in June, 1944, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, asked all the P.M.Gs. in India to send their recommendations for promotion to the grade of the Superintendent of Post Offices from among the Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to the Superintendents of Post Offices;

(b) is it a fact that no nomination was sent by the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Province Circle, in spite of reminders from the Director-General's office; and

(c) if it is a fact that a candidate must not be over fifty years of age and must have five years' service as Inspector or Head Clerk before he can be nominated for appointment as Superintendent?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) To be eligible for nomination an official must have five years' service in the grade of Inspectors of Post Offices (including Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices) or Inspectors, Railway Mail Service. The maximum age-limit is 45 years and may be waived at the discretion of the Head of the Circle.

PERFORMANCES BY SINGING GIRLS IN RAILWAY COLONY.

76. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that performances by singing girls commonly known as prostitutes are prohibited within the Railway Colony of Indian Railways; if not, what the correct fact is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have issued no orders either prohibiting or allowing the performances referred to. Executive officers may be expected to exercise a check on the holding of entertainment of an undesirable nature if the matter is brought to their notice.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS' CONTROL OVER CERTAIN WORKING OF THE FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

77. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the Provincial Governments have control over the transportation and commercial aspects of the working of the Federal Railways and give orders for their working; if so, what the provision of the Government of India Act, 1935 or any law of the country is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

OPTION RE SCALE OF PAY FOR TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

78. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to Railway Board's letter No. 822-E.G., dated the 22nd December, 1932, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, regarding Ticket Checking Staff, viz.:

"2. I am further to state that the Railway Board have decided that an employee who held a permanent post in a substantive capacity as a Travelling Ticket Inspector prior to the introduction of the Crew System and who on the introduction of the Moody-Word Scheme is assigned duties the same or approximately the same as he discharged prior to the introduction of the Crew System should be allowed the option with effect from the introduction of the Moody-Word Scheme, of retaining the scales of pay—Travelling Ticket Inspectors Rs. 60-4-64-8-120-10-200-20-300 and Ticket Collectors Rs. 40-4-60-5-120-10-160-20-180-10-230-20-250-10-300 on East Indian Railway; Rs. 28-2-50-55-3-70-78-3-90-100-5-120-200-10-250 on Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, applicable to the permanent post held by him in a substantive capacity prior to the introduction of Moody-Word Scheme with the benefits of increments therein," and state:

(a) if it is a fact that the option exercised under the aforesaid letter in 1933 was final and was not subject to revision in 1944; if not, what the correct fact is; and

(b) how the scales of pay of Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Ticket Collectors were divided into grades prior to the introduction of the Crew System in the Establishment Rolls of 1925 of the East Indian and Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways, respectively?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's starred question No. 832 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th February, 1936.

PROCEDURE RE PROMOTION OF ENGINEERING STAFF ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

79. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the policy and procedure prescribed by the North Western Railway for the promotion and selection for promotion of the Engineering Staff from grade to grade?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The rules governing the promotion and selection of subordinate staff on railways are contained in Appendix II-A of State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE TO ADULT MEMBERS IN JOINT FAMILIES.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased 12 Noon. to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Legislative Assembly electoral rules, heads of joint families alone are qualified to be voters regardless of the amount of the annual rental value of the building occupied by the minimum amount specified, and also of the amount of tax paid;

(b) whether in a great number of cases this rule disenfranchises a great number of people who can be qualified as voters if the families were divided; and

(c) if the Honourable Member will take steps to amend the rules in such a manner as to qualify adult members of such families in proportion to the amount of rental value of their building or the tax paid split up into the minimum requirements under the rules, in cases where the adult members of a joint family request in writing that such number of members of their family within the quota be enrolled as voters?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Franchise qualifications are separately prescribed for the various Provinces in the various Parts of Schedule II to the Electoral Rules. In most but not in all Provinces the relevant rule, ignoring minor provincial variations, provides that where any property is held or occupied or payment is made jointly by the members of a joint family the family shall be adopted as the unit for deciding whether the requisite qualification exists and if it does exist the manager of the family only shall be qualified as an elector in respect of such property or payment.

(b) I am unable to estimate the number of additional persons who would be qualified if the rule took a different form.

(c) The rule in force in the majority of Provinces is based on a recommendation of the Franchise Committee of 1918-19 and has been embodied in the Electoral Rules since they were first made in 1920. On none of the occasions when the rules have been revised has any suggestion been made that the position prevailing in the majority of Provinces in this respect should be disturbed and I would add that any alteration of that position in respect of the Central Legislature would have repercussions on the provision made for the Provinces in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. In the circumstances, I am not prepared to re-open the matter.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Laljee: Is the Honourable Member aware that so far as the Bombay Municipal Corporation is concerned they acknowledge the several holders of large property as separate members of the family for the purpose of voting and they give consideration accordingly?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am aware of it.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The Honourable Member said that no complaints were received up to now. Now that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Honourable Member, will he get the rules revised? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: No. I have given you the reasons in my answer. I said:

"The rule in force in the majority of Provinces is based on a recommendation of the Franchise Committee of 1918-19 and has been embodied in the Electoral Rules since they were first made in 1920."

I also indicated to you that:

"any alteration of that position in respect of the Central Legislature would have repercussions on the provision made for the Provinces in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935."

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What are the repercussions?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: My Honourable friend should refer to the rules in regard to the Provincial Legislatures which he will find in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Is the Honourable Member prepared to ask the Provincial Governments to consider this question and then take up the matter in the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: As at present advised, I am not prepared to do it.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: What is the reason?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am not satisfied that any reasons exist for my addressing the Provincial Governments.

HINDU CODE PUBLISHED BY THE HINDU LAW COMMITTEE.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the copies of Hindu Code published by the Hindu Law Committee have not been made available to many persons and associations who wanted such copies and whether the Honourable Member has received complaints to this effect;

(b) that the Hindu Code has not been translated in the vernacular languages of the provinces and thus people not knowing English have not got the oppor-

tunity of understanding the contents thereof; what steps Government intend to take for its translation in the different vernacular languages;

(c) that the Hindu Law Committee has fixed 30th November 1944, as the last date by which written representations on the Hindu Code and the names of persons desiring to give oral evidence before the Committee, must reach its Secretary at Madras;

(d) whether various representations have been received by the Honourable Law Member to extend the date for submission of representations to the Hindu Law Committee; what steps the Honourable Member has taken or intends to take in the matter; and

(e) if there is any substance in the report published in the *Amrit Bazar Patrika* that the Government intends to drop the proposed Hindu Code Bill altogether?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) I have received some complaints to this effect. The Committee has however now arranged to make copies available in Delhi and at the headquarters of each Provincial Government. I may add that arrangements are being made independently to furnish copies to members of the Central Legislature.

(b) The Committee has asked the various Provincial Governments to arrange for the preparation of translations of the Code in the principal language of the Province and I understand that the Governments of Bengal, the United Provinces and Orissa have already arranged for translations in Bengali, Hindi and Oriya respectively.

(c) and (d). I did receive certain representations on this subject. The matter is one for the Committee to deal with and the Committee will, I have no doubt, be prepared to accord sympathetic consideration to any application of this nature.

(e) No. The Hindu Code is a draft Bill prepared by the Committee. It has not yet been introduced as a Government Bill and no question of its being "dropped" by Government arises.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: With reference to part (a) the Honourable Member said that copies of the Code will be supplied to Members of the Central Legislature. It is now the 17th November and they have not been given yet, what to say of the general public. The last day for sending representations is the 30th November. You can easily understand the shortness of time.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: As regards Members of the Legislature, I have every hope that Honourable Members will have their copies before they disperse at the end of the present Session. With regard to the time for making representations, I have already indicated that the matter is one for the Committee to deal with. If my Honourable friend wants the time extended, he should write or wire to the Secretary of the Committee.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: What about the general public, who are more interested in this subject than many Members of the Central Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I think my Honourable friends will look after the interests of the general public also.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, may I ask the Government when they intend to ask this House to consider the draft Hindu Code and whether they intend to bring it forward during the next Session of the Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am afraid I cannot make any statement on the subject until I have received the report of the Hindu Law Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member will send a copy of today's discussion to the Committee, so that they may extend the time?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Yes, Sir.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Why is the Committee situated in Madras, so far away? (Voices of "Why not?")

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, four nominations were received. Subsequently two candidates withdrew their 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. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, (2) Mr. Sri Prakasa.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that the following elected Members have been elected to serve as Members to the Indian Coconut Committee: (1) Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, (2) Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait.

RESOLUTION RE FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN PREPARED BY CAPITALISTS OF INDIA—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Resolution moved by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor-General in Council', the following be substituted:

"That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswaria's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty-three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget Session."

Sir, having gone through all the amendments moved here in regard to planning I thought it would be advisable for us to have a committee consisting of six members from Government side and 17 of the elected Members of this House and the other House. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment says "that Government will examine these plans and formulate their conclusions at an early date regarding the future industrial development of this country", and Mr. Chettiar's amendment wants to have "a committee consisting of 15". After considering these two, I amalgamated them into one and preferred to move this present amendment and I hope Government will accept it. Recently we have had several schemes of planned economy and we have before us the plan prepared by the capitalists of Bombay, also those of the Indian Federation of Labour and those by several economists of India. Government also have been making plans from various departments which I believe could not be considered on the floor of this House very easily. So this proposal of mine only facilitates the examination of all plans; and having scrutinised all the plans it will be easier for us to frame a comprehensive plan, discuss it on the floor of the House and ultimately accept the right one. We know that after the war there is sure to be a constitutional change in this Government, but what sort of constitution we shall have we do not know yet. There is a demand for a national Government. Of course a national Government on the present franchise would be no national Government.

An Honourable Member: Better at least than this Government.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: That may be so, but it will not improve the condition of the masses. Planning must be based on an ideology of the future constitution of this country. Present franchise does not represent the people. No plan on present franchise would be useful. People must have voice in the future Government. Sir, man cannot be divided into the economic man, the social man, the political man and so on. He must be taken as a whole and consequently we must have a basis for all this planning. In our country planning means planning for the masses. We must make a plan which will make our life worth living. If we simply think of the economic condition of the country and do not think of the social structure and the political basis of the structure, we cannot really form a complete plan. The present plans that we have got before us are only partial; they all think of the economic structure of India after the war; but economic structure without the political constitution and without required changes in the social structure will not do. Therefore, without taking much time of the House and without entering into any controversy, I shall request Mr. Chettiar and Mr. Krishnamachari to accept my amendment and I hope Government also will accept it.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): 'Amendment moved:

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted:

"That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswaria's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty-three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget Session."

Srimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, I support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore. The subject of planning is a very important one and has been engaging the attention of the Governments of different countries in the world since the conclusion of the last war. It has been growing in importance as unemployment and economic depression increased in many countries and as Russia's experiments in planning began to show remarkable results. But I am sorry to say, Sir, that the Indian Government has been quite indifferent and very slow in giving their attention to this matter. In fact they and their masters, the representatives of our alien Rulers in this country, some of whom are Members of this Honourable House, felt perturbed when the Indian people began to think and discuss seriously about this subject. Their anxiety was clearly evident when the plan known as the Bombay Plan was placed before the country. This is only natural as we all know that the Government of India is subject to dictation from Whitehall whose policy is to promote the trade and financial interests of Great Britain at the expense of the Indian people. Yet they felt the need for making some show of interest in this matter and they began to talk of products like tea and coffee and of roads to transport them. Finding that this was not sufficient, they have begun to make an attempt at planning. But I fear that they are hoping and endeavouring to do the planning by by-passing the question of a political settlement and of transfer of full power to the Indian people. There can be no doubt that their aim will only ostensibly be to improve the conditions of the people but really they will make every effort to improve the prospects of British monopoly capitalists at the expense of our own people and to strengthen the Imperialist hold over India. Any plan of this Government, considering the very nature of its constitution, is

bound to be directed not to the economic regeneration of the people but to political rejuvenation of dying British Imperialism. Therefore any talk of post-war planning by this Government does not mention the most important point and that is the need for popular co-operation, and it raises many fears among the people that planning by this Government may develop into a new and clever device to strengthen the old stranglehold and intensify exploitation of the people.

This Resolution refers only to the Bombay Plan but there are several other plans put forward for the industrial and economic development of India. Without going into the question of merits and demerits of these different plans, I may point out that none of these presents the national and popular view of planning as the National Planning Committee does, and I assure the House that I do not say this from any partiality that may be expected from a member of the Indian National Congress. The Bombay Plan—and I say it with due respect to the able and experienced authors of the plan—gives one the impression that planning is the job only of technical experts and captains of industry and that it implies an allocation of financial and human resources to develop industries without which India cannot take her rightful place among the modern nations of the world. The National Planning Committee, on the other hand, rightly considers economic planning as economic regeneration of the people as a whole, and that the people are to be the starting point of all planning which is to improve every aspect of the life of the people. It has laid down clearly the principles of planning, first pointing out that the essential pre-requisite of planning is complete freedom and independence of the country.

With regard to industries, the National Planning Committee give as much importance to the vital question of distribution as they do to the development of industries. Pandit Nehru, the Chairman, affirmed that the very nature of planning required some measure of State control. I may here read out, with your permission, Sir, the principles laid down by the Indian National Congress in their resolution on fundamental rights at Karachi:

"Clause 19.—Control by the State of key Industries and mineral resources."

The National Planning Committee bearing this principle in mind expressed the view that there should be public ownership of key industries and public utilities and general control over others with which private enterprise was to continue.

With regard to agriculture, Pandit Nehru gave the following warning:

"No social or economic structure which does not provide work and security to the people can endure. In India we have thought too long in terms of upper groups and ignored the vast number of peasantry. This can no longer be done and the forgotten creature, the Indian peasant, who has borne so many grievous burdens for centuries, must find relief and advancement in our plan."

This, Sir, enunciates, in my opinion, an excellent and humane principle which should govern planning.

I strongly believe that the basic principles of planning should rouse popular interest and enthusiasm, and I am afraid that the Bombay Plan has not succeeded in doing so. Plans cannot succeed without the support and full co-operation of millions of people. The American ambassador Davies, in his book 'Mission to Moscow' states that when he complimented Stalin on Russia's great progress, the latter replied that Lenin's plans and the people achieved it. In order to have the support and enthusiastic co-operation of the people of India, the main principles of planning in India must secure the full confidence of all sections and classes of people that the execution of the plans will really benefit them, every one of them. Therefore, it is essential, Sir, that any committee which undertakes the onerous task of planning should be fully representative of all interests in this country and inspire confidence among all sections of the people, particularly among those who are in an oppressed and backward condition such as the workers, peasants and women. The committee must pay sufficient attention to the question of wages, hours of work, conditions of work, and other such matters. The National Planning Committee reiterated the principles

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

declared by the Congress in their resolution on fundamental rights to which I have already referred. The resolution stated:—

"Clause (3).—A living wage for industrial workers, limited hours of labour, healthy conditions of work, protection against the economic consequences of old age, sickness, and unemployment.

(4) Labour to be freed from serfdom or conditions bordering on serfdom.

(5) Protection of women workers and specially adequate provisions for leave during maternity period."

Here I might mention there was a certain amount of difference of opinion on the phrase 'protection of women workers'. A great number of women did not approve of the word 'protection' under the impression that in a free India, conditions will be such that women will enjoy full and complete equality with men, in theory and in practice, and that there will be no need for any special legislation for their protection:

"(6) Prohibition against employment of children of school-going age in factories.

(7) Right of labour to form unions to protect their interests with suitable machinery for settlement of disputes by arbitration."

As other Honourable Members will most probably speak about workers and peasants in general, I shall, for want of time refer only to women.

Building up a new and planned India is a stupendous task and women must make their due share of contribution to it. The Congress recognised this fact and in their resolution on fundamental rights to which I have already referred; they laid down clearly a clause to the effect that men and women must have equal rights of citizenship. Clause (5) states: "equal rights and obligations to all citizens, no civic bar on account of sex". Mahatma Gandhi has repeatedly declared that the advancement of women is essential to the regeneration of India. The fund created to perpetuate the sacred memory of our Mata Kasturba is devoted entirely to the welfare of women, particularly those in backward and rural areas. The fact that this fund has tremendous support from the people shows that they agree with the views expressed by Mahatma Gandhi on women's advancement.

The National Planning Committee appointed a special sub-committee of representative women to consider and report on the question of women's role in the planned society—incidentally, I might mention that I had the privilege of serving on that sub-Committee. This sub-Committee was strongly of opinion that women should have equal opportunities for education, training and employment in every sphere of national life. Women should, as citizens, have the right to work and rest, insurance against illness, accidents and old age just as men should have, and they should be completely liberated from the haunting fear of want and its evil consequences. There is no profession, no trade, no occupation of any kind which women cannot undertake with success, given the requisite education, and training. This fact has been strikingly proved by women in other countries, particularly Russia and America. Here, I would like Sir, to read out what Mrs. Roosevelt, the wife of the President of United States of America, stated to the women in her message to a journal called *Ammunition*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it a long quotation?

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: No, Sir, it is only a few lines. She says:

"I am glad of this opportunity to congratulate the women of the country for the way in which they have come forward and taken their places in industry, often undertaking jobs which seemed beyond their strength or past skills to perform."

I am reading this out just to show that in a country like America, where the impression strongly prevailed that certain occupations were not fit for women or could not be fulfilled by women has been removed by the valuable work of women themselves during this war.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: This is a very important debate and I request I may be given two or three minutes more.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are other speakers who wish to take part in the debate. The Honourable Member will have one minute more to conclude her speech.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Thank you, Sir. I shall conclude with a few words. If men and women work together, the capacity of the people to build up a new and happy India will increase rapidly, but if women continue to be oppressed or neglected, half of our human resources will lie unused which will be a great loss to the country and which will certainly retard her progress and prosperity. Women's interests must receive adequate attention while planning is being considered and they must be placed before the proposed committee by those who understand them best, that is, the women themselves.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, in this House a fortnight ago, we discussed the most urgent of India's immediate problems—the problem of how to keep alive her four hundred million inhabitants. Today, although the Resolution is limited in terms to the fifteen-year plan, we are in effect met to discuss the greatest problem regarding India's future, namely, not merely how to keep the people alive but how to give them a better and fuller life. The question has a twofold aspect. First, we have to discover how better to utilise the resources of the country and secondly, we have to discover how to make the good life available to the poorest of the people of this land. It is but natural that all sections of this House should be at one in their endeavour to find a satisfactory solution to these questions, for after all, post-war planning is but the logical conclusion to our struggles in the present war. If there were no hope of a better world in the years to come the sacrifice and the hardship entailed by the present war would be without meaning and on the other hand without success in the war, post-war planning would be an empty phrase.

Although the problem is immense, it is after all only different in degree from problems which businessmen face in their every day life, and that being so, whilst we must not be daunted by its magnitude, we are under no illusions as to its complexity. A businessman, however, when faced by a complex problem does not seek the advice of a single expert. If he is wise, he is open and ready to receive suggestions and advice from all competent persons and it may well be that the final solution of his difficulty will be found in a composite plan employing all the best points from the various suggestions which he may have received and which he from his own personal knowledge of the problem concerned believes will be found best suited to the desired end. I do not see why there should be any real difference between the attitude of the business man in such a case and our attitude or that of Government in dealing with reconstruction.

Now, Sir, it would be easy enough for us to support Sir Zia Uddin's (whom I do not find in his place) Resolution merely on the grounds that the Bombay Plan falls far short of providing a wholly comprehensive scheme of post-war development for this country and its 400 million inhabitants. We might again support Sir Zia Uddin, because of the wide gaps that the Plan reveals as between one section and another. Indeed its own authors have admitted its deficiencies, and since its first publication a few months ago, there has been a general recognition that valuable as it may be, the Bombay Plan is more a charter of worthy aspirations than a precise blue-print suitable for adoption as the master plan on which India's long-term economic future is to be built.

It is a matter of regret that the additions to the plan which were to deal with such things as its financial implications, and which were promised some months ago, have not yet made their appearance.

As I have said, Sir, we might support Sir Zia Uddin in his opposition to the Bombay Plan on the grounds of its vagueness or its deficiencies. But we do not propose to take that line, because we believe that in spite of its defects, there is much of value in the plan, and if I understood him aright when he spoke a fortnight ago the Honourable Member's opposition was based on reasons that were not entirely technical or scientific in character. And this brings me Sir, to what I think must be the key to Government's attitude to the many

[Sir Henry Richardson.]

plans for the post-war development that have come before public notice since the Bombay planners set the fashion. Their plan was the first in the field and its great merit is that it has put reconstruction on the map. It has made people start thinking, it has drawn attention to the magnitude of the task and it has accelerated the tempo of Government's own consideration of future plans. It may indeed have contributed not a little to Government's recent wise action in setting up a reconstruction Department.

This does not mean however that the final solutions to our economic ills will be exclusively found along the lines of the Bombay plan and nowhere else. There have already been other plans, for example, we have had the Sargent plan for education, we have had the Mr. N. Roy plan and others, and there have been various Governmental plans dealing with particular aspects of reconstruction and we are anxiously waiting for more. Each of these plans is entitled to examination with the utmost care and in a spirit of impartiality and its best features utilised in building up a composite scheme, just as the business man does when he is faced with great industrial problems. For this reason, we are not prepared to say with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin that we advise Government not to entertain the Bombay or any other plan. Surely the wisest course is for Government to entertain them all and choose the best from each. And what is to be Government's method of choosing? An amendment has been tabled asking for an elected Committee of this House to be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans of which we have heard. Now, Sir, there already exists a vast number of Committees to which Government have assigned an investigation into various aspects of post-war planning. The Government of India have set up a number of committees, or sub-committees to advise it and each of the Provincial Governments have done the same thing. In toto the number of committees studying various aspects of post-war development in various parts of India must amount to quite a substantial figure.

Is another one, a Committee of this House, such as is proposed in the amendment, really going to help matters along any further? I very much doubt it.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Certainly!

Sir Henry Richardson: Over a very wide field the facts are already known, and I doubt very much whether at the present juncture the creation of another committee—this time from the House itself—is going in any way to simplify the task of the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development. The movers of the amendment ask that after examining the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, the Committee should report to this House. Now, Sir, I am all in favour of this subject of post-war development receiving the fullest possible publicity and consideration. But surely we have now reached a point at which future examination should be on a technical and expert level.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Thank you!

Sir Henry Richardson: . . . which further examination of the problem by a committee of this House could not necessarily provide. I submit, Sir, that what we want is not the report of a committee of our own Members, so much as a report from Government of its immediate intentions in respect of this most important problem.

It goes without saying that if reconstruction is to proceed on the right lines, we must be clear about certain fundamental principles. The Bombay plan itself rests upon a double foundation. The first is the assumption that the *per capita* income should be double within a period of 15 years from the commencing date of the plan. Government will have to consider whether this target is too high or too low. It is obviously desirable to raise the national income as high as possible within the 15 year period but if the plan is to be practicable Government will have to form an estimate as to what the possible increase in income

may be. They will also have to consider the relationship between agricultural and industrial income, for these must march together.

Then again allowance has to be made for the rapid increase in population and the authors of the plan estimate that to double the *per capita* income within a given period the aggregate national income will have to be multiplied by three. The question arises as to how this is to be done, and this brings us to the second fundamental assumption of the planners. They start by assuming that the right way of achieving this result is by increasing industrial income six fold and raising the total agricultural income of the country to nearly two and half times its present level. The reasons for the choice of these particular proportions are not explained in the plan but Government, and in due course this House, will have to consider what those proportions should be. This is not a question which could be decided here and now, for it depends on a careful and detailed examination of many economic factors and on the economic structure of India and of the post-war world. Government has no doubt begun to examine this aspect of the question and we presume that at the appropriate time their views will be placed before this House.

Another aspect of the plan which has considerable importance and interest, is its attempt to state in monetary terms the minimum standard of subsistence. To do this with the required accuracy will demand a great deal of detailed economic information—perhaps more than is at present available to the public. It does, however, seem clear that some such consideration must be the starting point of any plan.

Finally, although parts of the plan may be open to a great deal of criticism as to details and indeed have been criticised, for the reasons which I have stated, we are not prepared to go so far as Sir Zia Uddin suggests in his Resolution, which would appear to recommend that Government should not even consider the plan.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): A negative attitude!

Sir Henry Richardson: It may be that Dr. Sir Zia Uddin himself with his great knowledge of the country and his mathematical and scientific background, will also before long produce a plan. It may perhaps be based on different principles, but with the same essential praiseworthy objective of the betterment of the country. When that time comes, we hope that Government will also take his plan into consideration and utilise any parts of it which may be found to be for the benefit of India as a whole. The immensity and importance of the problem, in our opinion, demands that Government should keep an open mind on all the essentials until such time as adequate factual materials on which to base a sound conclusion are available.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I am very grateful to my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad for having brought this subject for discussion before the Assembly. I feel that the Government of India have ignored the Legislature in thinking out, considering and framing a plan for post-war reconstruction. More than a year ago they appointed certain committees to consider schemes for post-war reconstruction. I feel that before initiating this subject the Government of India should have taken into consultation the Legislature and secured its guidance. I am not opposed to the appointment of what you may call expert committees or committees of outsiders. But I feel that the supremacy of this Legislature must be recognised by the Government of India. I do not understand the reluctance of the Government of India in doing this but I feel that the Legislature must insist for its own prestige that all these plans are placed before them and they have a full share in framing them and giving their approval.

Sir, I would like to make another remark regarding the method by which the Government of India is proceeding in this matter. They have appointed several

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

committees of experts or people interested in various departments of reconstruction but, Sir, I feel that those sections of the population which need reconstruction more than any other sections of the population are not adequately represented on these committees. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will remove this deficiency from the method and the procedure which they have adopted to frame a scheme.

This subject of planning was placed before the world prominently by Russia. Since then other countries have begun to make plans for reconstruction and in India, as my Honourable lady colleague, Mrs. Subbarayan, has stated the Indian National Congress long before the authors of the Bombay Plan thought of their plan, had appointed a committee and, in my judgment, it did good work. Unfortunately that plan did not materialise or was not completed on account of circumstances which are known to us all. I do not know yet whether we can approve of the Bombay Plan or not. But we must recognise that it gave a fresh impetus to this procedure of framing a plan and I hope that the authors of the Bombay Plan will be able to complete the plan as they said they would complete it early, because I do not like to criticise the plan unless we know some of the other parts which the authors have promised to place before the public.

As regards the Government of India, they have begun now to consider this subject and they have issued certain pamphlets. In their pamphlet No. 2 the objective which the Government of India have stated as the basis for their plan is to raise the standard of life of the common citizens of this country. It is a laudable objective but I feel that this objective is more restricted than is necessary. The real and full objective of a plan should be to secure all-sided development of the citizens of this country and secure for them equal status and equal opportunities with all other sections of the population. Not only their standard of life must be raised but from childhood the children must receive full education and full opportunities not only for primary education but for secondary education, university education and for training which will enable them to follow suitable and gainful occupations. After that the Government have to plan to give them full employment, not only full employment but full and suitable employment consistent with their abilities and training.

Then, Sir, the Government of India have also, in order that their plan should be completed, to produce in this country physical environments which will enable citizens to live a healthy life. Not only that but the Government of India have to put into their plan all measures of social security, so that whenever citizens suffer from accidents or difficulties incidental to human life, there should be full protection for all citizens and their dependents.

I feel that the ultimate objective of all these schemes, should be to establish equal citizenship, freedom and self-government in this country. If all these plans are to be satisfactorily thought out and framed and carried out, the present structure of society may not be found to be suitable. My own personal views are that for perfect planning for all citizens in order to establish equality and full social security, you must change the present structure of the society. We cannot, in a structure of society, which is controlled by one section of the society namely the capitalists, create conditions under which the equality of the citizens will be established: neither will social security be secured for them. I therefore feel that the Government of India and those who are in charge of planning should not hesitate to look into the basis of the present society and if change of structure is necessary, they must have the boldness and courage to recommend the change in the structure. Personally I feel that the present structure in which people are enjoying uncontrolled rights of private property is not suitable for a good plan which will be useful for all citizens. The rights of private property may have to be strictly limited and, in some respects, will have to be abolished.

Similarly, I feel that all the economic activities that we are to carry on must be carried on as acts of social service and not as profit-giving activities. The

principle on which we shall have to carry on all our activities should not be competition which has caused waste and destruction in this world and when we are planning we should see that we give a go-by to the principle of competition and base all our activities social as well as economic on the principle of co-operation.

Similarly, the present structure under which the capitalists control the industries will have to be changed. The workers in the new society will not be content to lead the life of wage slaves. They will be ready to work enthusiastically and honestly if they have to work as equal partners in an industry controlled by a democratic state.

As regards the proposals which the Government of India have indicated in their second report regarding the conditions of life and work of workers, I feel those proposals are not bold enough. I feel that the proposals are made in a timid spirit. I would like the Government of India to adopt a little more boldness in framing their proposals for the working classes in this country. The conditions of life and work of the workers in this country are extremely bad; the hours of work are long, the wages are low; the housing is bad and in all ways the workers have suffered for many generations. I would like the Government of India now to take bold steps in all respects; and not only take bold steps but to take those steps promptly and early so that the workers in this country will soon be put on a position of equality not only with the other sections of the people in this country but with the people of the whole world. The Government of India in the matter of their proposals for reconstruction of the conditions of life and work of labour, as I have said, have not shown sufficient boldness. I do hope they will change this policy and I would suggest also that they should be more prompt. When I study the literature which the Government of India is producing and the statements which they are placing before the public, I find that the Labour Department is not only hesitating, not only timid, but not prompt. They are still in the stage of having a committee for finding out facts. I do not know when the facts will be found, and I do not know when the Labour Department will appoint a committee to consider the plan for future reconstruction; but I hope that the department and the Government as a whole will be prompt and will act boldly in this respect.

I have nothing more to say on this subject except that as regards the amendments I would support the amendment of Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya or even the amendment of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, because I feel that the Legislature has to play a part and a full part in this matter and the supremacy of the Legislature has to be established.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. I do so with a certain amount of hesitation, because the subject matter of the Resolution is not one in which I can claim either the knowledge or the experience of a number of other Members of this House. I have, however, studied the Bombay plan with the care it deserves, and I have listened attentively to the various speeches that have been delivered in the course of this debate. What I venture to place before you, therefore, are the views of a layman who has attempted to understand the economic theories and industrial schemes contained in that plan.

Whatever might be said against the Bombay planners I think we must give them credit for realising themselves and of making India conscious of the necessity of a plan. Hitherto we have been far too content with haphazard economic development, and it is good that we now propose to follow the path of other progressive and civilised countries, and seek to develop the economic resources of India on a thought-out and carefully arranged economic plan.

I would also have no hesitation in agreeing with the general objective of the Bombay planners, viz., to raise the general standard of living of the masses of India; whether it be by another 100 per cent or 200 or 300 per cent. We can also appreciate their anxiety to industrialise India as early as possible and to make her self-sufficing to an increasing degree in the shortest period of time.

[Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha.]

The plan contains also a number of other admirable features relating to the provision of better education, health-services, better housing and other amenities for the people of this country.

Having said this, I think I have exhausted all that can be said in favour of the Bombay Plan. An objective study of the plan reveals that it is fundamentally impracticable for it takes no account of the harsh political and economic realities of India. The underlying political assumption of the whole scheme is the establishment of a single-national Government in India, in control of the policy and the economic resources of the country. This assumption can never be fulfilled. The Muslim nation of 100 million souls will not stand for it. They have chosen Pakistan as their goal, in which they claim and mean to be the masters of their political, economical and industrial future. Nor do I see any signs of the numerous and powerful Indian States, falling in line with the political schemes of the Bombay planners. I do not think that the basic political assumption of the Bombay planners could hold good even in the case of British India. Our war-time experience has been that the Provincial Governments have been most restive under the industrial and economic control that the Government of India has sought to impose, and I have no doubt whatsoever that after the war the provinces will insist on autonomy in the economic field to such a degree that Central control of the type envisaged by the Bombay planners will be practically impossible.

To my mind the second great defect in the Bombay plan is its exaggerated emphasis on the rapid industrialization of India. That we have to develop our industries I do not deny; but I do not think we should ever lose sight of the fact that agriculture is and must remain the most important industry in this country. More than 70 per cent of our population gets its living from agriculture and we know from the experience of Soviet Russia that, however much industries may be developed, the bulk of the population of a country like India will continue to depend for its living on the land. I therefore feel that the Bombay planners have not devoted to the development of agriculture and the improvement of the lot of the agriculturist as much attention as they deserved. Thus, while they propose to spend as much as 4,480 crores of rupees on the development of industries during the 15 years of their plan, agriculture which is vastly more important is to receive a total expenditure of 1,240 crores of rupees only. It is, however, interesting to note that notwithstanding this altogether disproportionate expenditure on the development of industries, the net income of India from agriculture after a period of fifteen years will still be higher than the corresponding income from India's industries. The figures as given in paragraph 39 of the Bombay Plan are an income of 2,670 crores of rupees in the case of agriculture, and 2,240 crores of rupees from industries.

Sir, I cannot help feeling that this emphasis on industrial development which serves only the interests of a small portion of India's population, at the expense of agricultural development, which is for the benefit of the vast proportion of our population is deliberate. The Bombay plan is the product of capitalists whose principal anxiety is to preserve the war-time economic conditions, under which they have made huge fortunes. During the last 5 years of war with the attendant industrial and commercial activity the millionaires have made many more millions but crores of people have only suffered starvation. The poor man's rupee has been reduced in value to annas four and his anna has been reduced in value to one pice only; the difference has gone to the pocket of the millionaires. The boom, created by the war, has enriched the capitalists of Bombay and Calcutta at the expense of the poor who have become poorer. This boom has been such a boon to the millionaires that they want its continuance even after the war is over. They want to create an artificial boom for another 15 years by spending 10 thousand crores of other people's money. By the end of this period of 15 years, they will have perfected a good many

tricks to continue indefinitely their schemes of exploitation of the poor. This, I submit, is the real motive behind the Bombay Plan. War or no war, the capitalists must have their profits, and if in consequence the country goes to the dogs, it is none of their concern.

I fully realise that India must develop her basic heavy industries but I do not agree that it should be done at any price. There is a limit to which the general consumer is prepared to sacrifice his interest for the sake of the few industrial magnates of India. Public memory is still fresh as to how the Tata scheme for the manufacture of steel was boosted in India. The taxpayers and users of steel in this country were bled white for more than a generation before the Tata scheme became a success. But what was the result? 40 crores of Indians had to pay 56 rupees per ton more for their steel. For the poor consumers this contribution was a big sacrifice. For the Tatas, the aggregate of these contributions meant a big fortune. All the crores of rupees of profit which Tatas made every year were made at the expense of the poor men.

I fear, Sir, that this story is now going to be repeated on a grand scale. The poor masses of India will have to make more sacrifices. They will have to further tighten the already over-tight belt with the laudable object of throwing crores of rupees into the pockets of a few millionaires.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal has come to the Government of India with the Tata tradition behind him. The house of Tatas is well known for their antipathy to Muslim interests. They have always avoided in a careful and studied manner the appointment of Muslims either on the technical side or on the administrative side or on the sales side of their huge organisation. Crores and crores worth of Tata steel is sold all over India every year but even the appointment of Muslim dealers is discouraged. All that I have said about Tatas equally applies to the other huge industrial concerns of the Birlas, the Dalmias, the Sri Rams and the Walchandis of India, for they too are noted for their deliberate exclusion of Mussalmans from their organisations and business.

The Honourable Member for Planning and Development has been true to his tradition. He had to confess to us only the other day that there was a solitary Mussalman in the whole of his new and most important department. Sir Ardeshir Dalal has given us an outline of his scheme of development. Panels will be set up for different industries. There will be the Birla Panel, the Walchand Hirachand Panel, the Purshottamdas Thakurdas Panel, the Kasturbhai Lalbhai Panel and of course the Tata Panel and so on and so forth. The taxpayers' money will be spent for the benefit of all these influential groups. No Muslim will ever get a look in. Sir Ardeshir Dalal may condescend to appoint a few Muslim office boys as a sop. A few men will be purchased at a cheap price to beat their drum. New Non-Muslim industries will be set up and existing Non-Muslim industries will be further developed. They will be assisted by control measures and the extraordinary powers of Government. The Muslim taxpayer, citizen, cultivator, artisan and consumer will have to make their contributions in full measure for the success of this grand scheme and will thereby be forging new chains for their own enslavement.

I repeat, Sir, that the Muslims of India will have none of this. They want an economic plan but it must be a plan whose sole object is the welfare of the masses and the increase not merely of their nominal income but of their effective purchasing power. This can be achieved by an intensive programme for the development of agriculture combined with small and large scale industries, producing for the needs of the agriculturists. Industrial development there must be but care should be taken to see that all communities and within each community all groups of people secure benefits which are commensurate with the sacrifices that as consumers and taxpayers they will have to incur to enable India to compete with the highly industrialised nations of the West. And lastly whatever plan we might wish to devise for the economic development of

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India, it must fully take into account the political realities, both present and future for the solution of the fundamental political problem of this country, viz., its partition into a number of self-contained and autonomous States. Then our economic problem must fully take this fact into account. We must not also forget that the Indian States as well as the provinces of British India will be more or less autonomous after the war, and will not agree to the execution of economic plans which would involve complete control from the Central Government.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, I am afraid the discussion on the motion before the House has been vitiated by the tone given to it by the wording of the original Resolution. In fact, asking the Government not to consider a particular plan is a negative Resolution and it is only because of the wording of the original Resolution that I moved an amendment to give a positive turn which to some appears innocuous, and perhaps meaningless, in the eyes of some others.

Mr. President, I think it is extremely unfortunate that we should be asked to discuss such an important question as the economic and industrial regeneration of this country on a Resolution so negative in its outlook and with so many issues cropping up, not quite germane to this all-important problem which is dear to the hearts of many of us. I do not stand here as an apologist of any particular class. I am not particularly enamoured of the Bombay Plan. I have not been asked to defend it. However as my Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson mentioned, we do owe a deep debt of gratitude to those people who brought out that plan, for having focussed the attention of all people in this country to the need for economic and industrial planning. Not merely that. It has aroused the interest of the world to the need for proper economic and industrial planning in India.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau; Indian Commerce): That was done by the National Planning Committee.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: My Honourable friend wants me here to amend what I have said by drawing attention to the National Planning Committee's work. I am not one of those who decry the Congress. I am a believer in that organisation being able to help us on to the freedom which we all want but I am not prepared to do any slogan-mongering here and say, that these reports of the National Planning Committee are by themselves a law and that a plan which was devised in 1938 and 1939 will be suitable for application in 1945 and 1946. I do not want to refer to that great undertaking of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru here for the reason that the outlook of the National Planning Committee in 1938 and 1939 was something which today is totally out of date. If my Honourable friend wants me to refer to it, it is perhaps throwing me off my stride I will say this. The National Planning Committee had envisaged that a total quantity of 50 thousand tons of sulphate of ammonia over and above the production already existing in this country, which was then in the region of about 20 thousand tons, will meet the agricultural requirements of this country. And today I do not think anyone of my Honourable friends on my right will support the idea that the target of 350,000 tons of sulphate ammonia envisaged in the Gregory Committee Report will be the target which will satisfy us now or five years hence. I have nothing to say to the detriment of that wonderful work of those patriots, but I do say that so far as the planning is concerned today, we look at it from a different viewpoint altogether. On some of the basic points agreement might continue to exist, but the tempo, the method of working it, and the manner in which we want the changes to be made are completely changed today and that is why I am not making any reference to the National Planning Committee's work.

If my Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, had intended that by means of this Resolution he was going to condemn the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal as Member in charge of Planning and Development for reasons

of his own, I have nothing to say about it. The personalities that constitute this Government apart, I am not one of those who approves of the actions of this Government in any respect. Much as I esteem the capacity, the integrity and the desire to do this country all the good they can of some of the individuals that are in this Government, the fact that they form part of a Government, the constitution of which I do not approve, reinforces me in my desire to see this Government removed as early as possible. If the object was merely to condemn the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal on the part of the Honourable Members on my right, I do not want to interfere. But if, on the other hand, the object was to condemn the Government for not having taken any definite and useful steps, the Resolution does not help us. We may ask the Government not to consider the Bombay plan but it does not mean that we condemn the Government for all they have not done. Anyway, since the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development has not provided us with an opportunity to discuss this question of planning and reconstruction, we might take this opportunity of telling the Government exactly why we disapprove of what they have been doing.

The first report of the Planning Department, which was issued in March 1944, starts with a very attractive preamble: the Atlantic Charter; the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture; the U. N. R. R. A., and other methods of International co-operation and leads us on to the machinery set up by the Centre to deal with the problems of reconstruction which, it says, was done as early as June 1941. Sir, my complaint has been all along that we were not told in this House what the Government was doing from June 1941. A few points on which we have elicited information has been by means of questions in which we asked the Government,—would you tell us what you have done with regard to this Committee? Why are you appointing Development officers? What will they do? Might I have a copy of the report of this particular Committee or the proceedings of that particular Committee? We were begging, if I may say so, to be told what the Government has been doing all along. On that score alone, we have a very good case against the Government.

Having constituted this Department or rather the skeleton of this Department in June 1941, we were told in the first report practically nothing. And the second report that has been given to us through the courtesy of the Honourable Member for Planning does not leave us particularly wiser either. The Press has criticised this report, rather violently. It has said that it is a collection of claptraps and the methods of dealing with important problems in this country are of a kindergarten variety. But I can say that one or two aspects of the report are particularly objectionable. Some of the fundamental assumptions of this report are far more faulty than the fundamental assumptions of the Bombay plan for instance, the assumption that any constitutional or political changes which may be introduced will not result in a radical departure from the present economic and financial arrangements. I thought that my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi would refer to this particular basic assumption in his speech. What does it exactly mean? Are we to stick to the present method of taxation? Are we to allow the present commercial safeguards to continue to exist? And on the top of it all is the assumption that a thousand crores will be made available from the Central Government, which is the financial backing from the Central Government that the plan envisages.

There is another important point which has been treated very cursorily, namely, the post-war employment. The problem of post-war employment is being seriously considered in U. K. and there various economists have suggested some radical changes in the method of budgeting. Apparently, this second report was compiled perhaps by a few clerks; perhaps checked by an Under Secretary, and this is all that has been vouchsafed to us. We can very well object to the Government by-passing this House, by setting up several committees and not telling the Legislature what those committees are doing and not

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The Government have selected the members of those committees probably because they were considered to be good people from the viewpoint of the Government. But nowhere is the political prejudice of the present Government better reflected than in the constitution of the Provincial Reconstruction Committees. In the Provincial Reconstruction Committee constituted in Madras there is hardly anybody therein who holds political opinion which is not popular with the Government of the day. Such being the case, I think it would be quite right and proper for us in this House to take advantage of the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, which, from the way in which Members of his Party are speaking, they will probably drop in its original form and, ask the Government to tell us exactly what they are going to do in order to take the House into their confidence. If my amendment is imperfect, I would say this in explanation: that it was really intended to force the hands of the Government to declare their policy and to tell us what they are going to do. But, Sir, while I am in entire sympathy with anybody who condemns the action of the Government from June 1941 up to date in completely ignoring the Legislature, I am not quite sure that the amendment of my friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar is going to solve the problem. It presupposes the setting up of a Committee of this House for the purpose of considering the various plans. I am not one of those who believe that this House should not be given the importance that is its due. I am not against the use of the democratic method in such matters. In fact, I am for it. But democratic method does not mean that a body of elected representatives can sit by themselves and make a master plan on such an important subject which will require much expert knowledge and it is open to question whether they would be in a position to do it or will have the time to do it. If the Resolution is passed as it is worded at present, I see no bar to the Government allowing this Committee to do its own functions, providing them with the necessary *batta* and travelling allowances and daily allowances but not providing them with any secretariat and allowing them to carry on in their own sweet way the work they wish to start. Sir, co-ordination is the preliminary thing that is necessary. We cannot, much as we dislike this Government, do without a Government or a secretariat. If this Government goes, and a National Government is set up in spite of the wishes of my Honourable friend Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazli-i-Haq Pirachá, it will have to possess a secretariat to do its work. Sir, what then is the object in our just saying that we will do all the work ourselves?

Then we have to take note of a very important declaration made by the Honourable Member for Planning and Development the other day, in answer to a question put by my Honourable friend to my left, Mr. Neogy, when he asked if the Government was aware that foreign interests were planning to set up industries in this country and the Honourable Member said "I have seen newspaper reports, but I have no information". Sir, what really happens today is this. If Indian industrialists want to set up industries, whether or not it is Government owned or Government controlled,—whatever be the nature of it,—the capital issue is controlled, the import of machinery is controlled, shipping space is controlled, the supply of coal and power is controlled, the supply of wagons is controlled, whereas in so far as the foreigners are concerned, I do not think any control comes into existence until they actually set foot in this country. Here is the curious position of an Honourable Member of Government—not knowing of what is happening, who is dependent merely on the very newspaper reports on which my Honourable friend to my left and I are forced to depend. Sir, the point really is this. I think the House has to compel the Government to recognise this House by the formation of a Committee of the House with which the Government will work, to which the Government will bring all its plans, and to recognise that the final say shall be ours. But if a committee is to sit down and plan apart from the Government of the day the

plan will not be any better than the report issued by the National Planning Committee, assisted by some Provincial Governments which merely gives a bare skeleton of a plan: the appointment of a general policy Committee, the appointment of Sub-Committees—the proceedings of the Committee or the reports of these Sub-Committees do not make us any wiser. I submit, Sir, that a non-official body without Government help is futile. Therefore, Sir, I feel that if I subscribe my support to the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, I shall be accepting an amendment which if the Government so wish will, in practice, prove infructuous and if the Congress Party are prepared to take the responsibility for it, I shall have nothing more to say about it.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. Deputy-President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, it was in this very House about seven years ago that Sir James Grigg speaking for this Government pooh-poohed the idea of the Russian development by the two five year plans, and decried the idea of a plan of any kind whatsoever. It was at that time, Sir, that the members of the European Group applauded and cheered, like the chorus in a Greek drama, whatever fell from the Treasury Bench. Sir, this Government has worked without a plan; in 150 years' rule there are still 500,000 villages in this country which have got neither a school nor a dispensary; and in spite of all this it is a pleasant thing to see that they are also making some progress towards a planning programme. It is pleasant to see that they have appointed one of the ablest and one of the most sincere businessmen whom they could pick up from Bombay for this purpose. But, Sir, here also let me express the difficulty and the diffidence which we feel. There was a time, in the days of Sir Ali Imam and Sir Sankaran Nair, when a single man in the Viceroy's Executive Council was able to plead the cause of non-official India. But nowadays what we hear is that between the two parts of the nutcracker, namely, an English Secretary and an English Viceroy, all the nuts get properly cracked, except those nuts like Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Sir Homi Mody and Mr. N. R. Sirkar, who ran away.

Sir, it is not, as Mr. Krishnamachari said, that we object to the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal. I say without hesitation that if there was a board which was going to make a selection for this very purpose, and I was a member of it, I would not have the slightest hesitation to have Sir Ardeshir Dalal appointed for this place. But I want to know whether he will plead our cause in the Executive Council or whether he will use his office in this House to explain and justify and support the policies which may have emanated from elsewhere. Sir, I have read the Bombay Plan and I have also read the Honourable Member's report which we have got. These are topics so large and so extensive that it is not possible in the course of a few minutes to deal with them. There is one point in common between both these plans. The Bombay plan could have been made ten years ago or ten years hence, in the sense that it takes no account whatsoever of the great event, *viz.*, the war, that is going on. There is no mention of it; it does not contemplate or recognise the numerous and far-reaching changes which this country and the rest of the world is bound to undergo on account of the war.

With regard to this plan of my Honourable friend he does not say this is final; and I will in justice to him say that this is too provisional, too sketchy and too loose to be regarded as final. Sir, in this plan, at all events, there is a mention of the ex-soldiers and how to settle them. But the first starting point of any plan in this country should be, what is the present condition of this country? Sir, we had a good debate for three days in which anxiety was revealed on all sides as to whether the position was quite all

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ght even now, and whether the provinces other than Bengal and Bihar ay not have the misfortune to undergo the same travail and trouble, the me hunger, the same millions of inoculations and the same millions of eaths. After all we are not certain, I raised the point the other day hether a greater number of bovine cattle was not being slaughtered in this untry than is being borne; and if that is the case, whether your Grow ore Food campaign may not become a Grow Less Food campaign. These e apprehensions which are expressed all round. Take other issues.. nimals are being slaughtered, trees are being ruthlessly cut down, forests e being depleted, even the climate and rainfall in this country may change. erious things are occurring all round us; and the first task should be to ick up the country,—whether it is now or whether it may be, in the still ore threatening continuance of the war, for the next three or four years,— pick up the condition there and first of all to repair what is gone, to bring o the same normal condition as this country was in before the war. hat in itself is going to prove a task; I am not sure whether this Govern- ent would be in a position to deal with it. But there is a still further mis- re so far as the Government plan is concerned and equally so far as the ombay plan is concerned. That misfire is this. At present in India there a certain amount of industry; there are a certain number of factories and ertain kinds of production going on. All these industrialists,—and I speak ith first-hand knowledge of their mind and their heart,—are worried as to hether they will be able to maintain their industry intact and in the same ondition in which it is now, or whether there will not be world changes, ruff changes, exchange ratio and other changes, currency and inflationary anges, Government control and ordinances; whether there will not be one f all of these measures by which their present position instead of improving ay become worse.

Sir, the other day I asked the Honourable Commerce Member whether as not true that a larger measure of export trade would fall into the ands of British firms after the war on account of the kind of regulation hich they had made and he said, no. I know what the situation is. He ust have seen what the Exporters' Association in Bombay has written. ut the position is that here and now even during the years of war, when ndia's war effort is so much spoken of by the other side, even now this overnment has not been able to protect the interests of Indian trade and ndustry such as they are. How do you expect us to believe,—may I ask,— at your efforts will then lead us to the expansion, lead us to the great reams of great scope and great development which you are holding out fore us? How do you expect us to trust that you will have the will, the ergy or, what is more important, the powers, in order to do the right ung with regard to not only the existing industries but their expansion and reater development which you propose to bring about? Sir, the *Times of ndia*, which is claimed to be the biggest newspaper in Asia, is not very undiently to this Government. Two days ago, writing on this subject, the *imes of India* said that Government's plan, stimulated, as it is now knowledged, by the emergence of the Tata plan, was lacking in two direc- ons; that first, it did not deal with the political issues which may arise and, econdly, it lacked altogether any mention of the finances and the financial ues which may be involved. Now, Sir, the *Times of India* does not gen- ally try to put difficulties in the path of Government and yet this paper ery rightly put its finger on the basic shortage of this scheme which Gov- nment have put forward. Let us hope that it is not final and that Sir rdesahir Dalal would be able to put the deficiencies right. But can he put them ght till he is told what is going to be the financial set-up of this country? ir, glibly we talk in crores owing to the wrong prosperity which arises out f the printing press; we are now not content to deal with a few lakhs or ith a crore or two, we now talk in crores.

J. M. Joshi: Thousands of crores.

Manu Subedar: I remind this House that that patriot Gopal Krishna in this very House for the last five years of his existence kept on ery year on Government to raise a loan of one or two crores every order that compulsory primary education may be established in this It was one or two crores every year, which this very Government rejected. Now they are talking of running into a few thousand A few hundred crores seem to be nothing. In his country in which ings are dying for want of food and for want of medicine, ent is going to spend 450 crores of rupees on roads. Even if they food in their stomach, even if they have no clothes to wear, even if e no medicines,—no attention of any other kind, they must have roads which our Government here is going to give them.

are discrepancies, shortages, and lacunas of all kinds. My Hon- iend must be self-conscious of some of them as I am and our object ing some of them is not to weaken him in his efforts but to warn here are many things which need to be attended to before we shall y satisfactory solution.

e same time I have very strongly deprecated what the Leader of ean Group said. This Group, which was opposed to all plans of as now to climb down a peg or two on this subject and it comes with asking Government and this House and the people of this ot to decide anything too quickly—keep an open mind. In other ve nothing definite. You can keep an open mind, Sir; while the the United Kingdom are already fixing their aims; they are already those aims. Have the Members of this House heard that it is said that the United Kingdom cannot exist, that sterling is going ery difficult currency, and that England on account of her indebted- the destruction and the poverty cannot exist unless it exports amount which it was doing before the war. In this, may I suggest, ave got something very ominous because I know to which country and export twice the amount that she was exporting before except nfortunate country. And, Sir, I have questioned whether Govern- e taken any steps, whether they have made any provisions to

Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable as one minute more.

Manu Subedar: that India shall not buy too dear, shall buy in the market, and shall otherwise safeguard all the various interests of ry. Sir, I regret to say that so far at least Government have not I beseech them after my suggestion that they should set up what- inery may be in their power in order to safeguard the interests of country which cannot suffer any more. And, lastly, Sir, may I on reading this Government pamphlet, what was it that was upon

Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Mem- is up.

Manu Subedar: that new services, new boards, new experts from ew institutions, in other words, a very top-heavy administration is oposed to be put up, and some of us look upon this with very great ion

Mr. Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy Sir.

Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The practice is for to catch the eye of the Chair and it is not quite proper to shout Deputy President, Mr. Deputy President."

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to support every plan that will raise the standard of life of the

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poor, and to oppose every plan which, whatever its pretensions, cannot really do so. I am not, therefore, particularly fond of any one scheme or another. The Bombay Plan, which first held the field last January and has since been followed by other schemes, had this fact to its credit that it gave us something to think of. Before the publication of the Bombay Plan, the general tendency was to talk of reconstruction in a hazy, loose, and general manner. For the first time after the publication of the scheme we were pinned down to something concrete. That is the indebtedness which we owe to the authors of the Bombay Plan. That does not mean that therefore we are bound to agree to everything that they have said. The authors of the Bombay Plan themselves were quite moderate in their claims when they wrote it and this is how they put their own plan before the public:

"That this Plan is a statement in as concrete a manner as possible of the objectives to be kept in mind in economic planning in India."

And then they say that they have not yet thought either of the distribution or the measure and extent of State control or the technique of organisation. That was, therefore, a very moderate way of putting their own scheme before the public. But in less than two months there was held the conference of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry—in March last—and the newspapers blazoned forth in ten columns eight columns, six columns of speeches of the protagonists of that scheme; it appeared as if they had tried to benefit the world by their wisdom and as if before that Plan there was no soul who had ever thought of reconstruction. And they were angry that any criticism could be made about that plan. I understand one of the biggest signatories to the plan said, "If India does not accept the scheme, Heaven help India". The fact is that while it is worthy of our consideration it has no claim to infallibility. On the contrary, the scheme is full of pitfalls, and inaccuracies. The Development Member was a Commissioner of the Bombay Municipality for a number of years. I wonder why he should have put his signature to a document in which the housing problem of India is dealt with but is filled in with absurd figures. I am going to prove that to him and he will have to admit it. In this plan the housing required in 15 years is estimated to cost Rs. 2,200 crores for the whole of India with a population of 40 crores. Now, Sir, let him remember that in the city of Bombay the Housing is 74 per cent. overcrowded and indeed he admits this in his plan to which he has put his signature. Where 100 sq. ft. should be the accommodation, in the city of Bombay there is only 27 sq. ft. Therefore, virtually three times additional accommodation in the city of Bombay is required before the housing in Bombay can be according to his plan. Now the cost of housing of this 27 per cent accommodation in the city of Bombay is Rs. 225 crores. If he consults the municipal annual reports, he will find that the rental value of the property in Bombay is Rs. 15 crores a year and if you multiply it 16 times the value of the properties will be somewhere near Rs. 250 crores, i.e., the capital value of the housing accommodation of 27 per cent. If therefore according to his plan, the city of Bombay alone is to be housed with 100 sq. ft. instead of 27 sq. ft. the total cost in Bombay of housing should be four times, or at least three times Rs. 250 crores.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): Provided they live in palaces!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Yes, my friend lives in palaces when he goes to Bombay. Do not think that the people in the city of Bombay live in palaces. The city people live in hovels. I can assure him of that. He will learn that 35 people per single tenement will be found to be not uncommon in the last Bombay census report. Therefore I am not quoting the cost of the palatial housing in Bombay, and that cost according to this plan must be a thousand crores. I say this on the authority of this plan. But a thousand crores of pre-war money would be three to four times that now and still the

authors of this plan have provisionally said that in 15 years the housing cost for the whole of India would be Rs. 2,200 crores. May I say that these figures are fantastic and misleading. I am giving you only one instance but the figures of medical relief are equally misleading. But I have no time to go into that except to point out that this 15 years plan which was boosted for bamboozling the public of Delhi last March in columns and columns of patriotic newspapers is fundamentally wrong on figures. In Bombay alone it will cost Rs. 750 additional crores and there is yet Poona, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Hubli. Thus Rs. 2,200 crores meant for the whole of India will not be sufficient for Bombay alone, which is 1/15 of India. Therefore if the figures of housing alone are to be put down on the basis of this plan, they should not be Rs. 2,200 crores but fifteen times that.

After this, is there any point in examining the figures of this plan? They are so thoroughly wide off the mark especially in terms of the present money value. I am respectfully inviting the Honourable the Development Member when he replies to show me where he could correct me and I should very gladly and thankfully accept that correction. I do not want to go any further into the question of the figures.

Now, Sir, I would like the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal to tell me whether in the proposed industrialisation any provision exists for social services. May I ask him if he can tell me what the figures for social service expenditure in the 15 years plan are? I would feel very much obliged if in this 15 years plan any share is given to social services, like unemployment insurance, minimum wages, social policies for the aged, childhood and women: old-age pensions, children's allowances, and women's benefits. What are the figures which these industrialists are working on? It seems to me that the plan requires the country to support industrialization by protection, by State control in every possible manner. I want to say clearly on the floor of this House that I stand for protection to industry. I do not want a foreigner to inundate my country with cheap manufactured goods. But there is one condition alone on which I will agree viz., that all the rights that labour enjoys in enlightened countries shall be conceded simultaneously with the protection given to any industry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the rights of peasants?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am coming to agriculture if I have time otherwise I will leave them in your safe hands!

I say that protection I shall give but only on the condition that the workers shall get unemployment insurance; decent wages, children's allowances, women's maternity benefits and old age pensions. Unless these things are conceded, protection will be a fraud, and a further exploitation of the poor people of this country. Therefore I appeal to my friend, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, who, although he appears to be sitting so mildly, I know is ready to pounce on the unwary. I know him too well to think that he is really as gentle as he looks. I am therefore all the more careful in quoting figures where his signature is and I am giving him my own humble submission that in the matter of protection which is wanted by these people, I shall be prepared to give it as a nationalist but on the footing that industrial labour shall get all the benefits which enlightened countries give to their labourers.

The last point is this. England has already declared full medical relief for the people, even though the war is going on, as a part of reconstruction. Is our Government prepared to do the same? Why does Sir Ardeshir Dalal avoid a full scheme of medical relief even during the war? Why? Is it because medical relief is less necessary in this country? I am sure he will not say so. Only six per cent. of the people in this country get drinkable water. According to Sir Jogendra Singh's plan published last March 94 per cent. of the people in this country do not get drinkable water. How can their health be good. They drink water full of mud, worms:

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute more.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: ...cattle dung. They should be provided with pure water and medical relief without waiting for the war to be over.

Then again the figure of Rs. 3,400 crores of created currency is simply staggering. It is declared to be the starting figure. I ask the Honourable Member not to accept that figure but to read the history of the currency market which is given in any standard economic book. It is pure make-believe that Rs. 3,400 crores of created money can be created without putting the country to the greatest misery and trials and tribulations. On these grounds I do not support the scheme wholeheartedly but I ask the Government to examine all schemes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I ask the Government Member, before I sit down, to examine all schemes so that the country can get the best out of them.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, it is by almost a side-wind that one of the most important issues which must occupy the attention of this House has come before it. In a sense I do not regret that it has so happened, but I do regret that there was not enough time allotted to the House, if really this question was to be fully discussed. It is true that by reason of the manner in which it has come, it was possible for the Government to take the attitude which they have done. Being a Resolution by a Non-Official Member purporting to negative, if not criticise, a particular plan or the basis of a plan which is before the country, naturally everybody was obliged to point out the basic principles which should govern the future question of reconstruction. Hence it is that one finds himself in a somewhat less direct position than I should have wished this House to accept, if we were in a position to discuss this matter like we discussed on the last two questions here, the question of South Africa and the question with reference to the Food Problem. And none the less, whenever an issue arises before this House it becomes the duty of those who represent the people that the point of view which they wish to urge should not go by default, whatever may be the form in which it may come and whatever may be the embarrassment which may be caused to us by, after all, parliamentary tactics, which, perhaps, is not the common monopoly of the other side. The amendment before the House which I wish to support is this:

"That an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than 15 members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several points for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House."

Having regard to the very terms of the amendment which I am supporting, it is perfectly obvious or it must be so, in any case, that the desire is not to anticipate the examination of the merits of any particular plan. The whole object is to support what we are asking for as against leaving our fate in the hands of this Government. The real issue therefore before the House is not whether the Bombay Plan, or the Visveswaraiya Plan or the much-paid-for Roy plan or any other plan is of the same kind (The Roy plan was certainly a much-paid-for plan and there is no secret about the payment that was made for it), but the question before the House therefore is not which of the several plans are good or bad. That is not the issue just now, though perhaps in very few words, during the short time at my disposal I will point out, according to our humble understanding, what should be the basis of a plan. But, at the same time, I do not wish the discussion to take the turn which it has taken hitherto, as if the Bombay plan or any other plan was the subject of actual discussion here today.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is the main Resolution.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: What does it matter? I should suppose my friend to know the rules of the House better than I do, for he has been a little longer here than myself. I am sorry he has forgotten them.

(Interruptions from Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta and cries of "Order, Order" from Congress Benches.)

Sir, I am not giving way to my Honourable friend.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member should not be interrupted.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: The words of the amendment are: "all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted."—I hope this is plain English and understandable by a Member of this House—"and the following be substituted, namely: 'that an elected Committee of this House be constituted'," so that as the result of the amendment what is substantially now before the House is what you may call the amendment. Merely because the discussion has taken the turn it has and because some Member has some pet gibes against himself or for himself or against somebody else, that is not the way in which to deal with a problem of this kind. It is true that there was a resolution before the House. It is in substance substituted by another resolution. According to the rules in this connection, if the amendment is good, the one that will be put before the House should be the amendment which is now before the House, because if that amendment is carried there is nothing else before the House. For what is the meaning of saying "all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted": it is very much like what happened on the last occasion. They come and say "the policy of so and so be taken into consideration" and the amendment is: having considered we come to this, that or the other conclusion. Does anybody tell me merely because the first words are there, that therefore the effective and operative part is not the amendment before the House? But whatever it is, the constitutional position is not appreciated. But whatever it may be, the amendment in support of which I rise before the House is that instead of entrusting our fate to the present Government, it is the desire of this House that they will constitute a committee which will go into this question. That is the substance of the whole point before this House. There should be no mistake about it. The Government cannot claim the monopoly of dealing with a question of this kind and it is suggested how this matter could be dealt with. The very plan which is the basis of this discussion purports to say, and in fact in unequivocal terms it is stated in paragraph 2 of the plan itself that "underlying the whole of the scheme is the assumption that on the termination of the war or shortly thereafter a National Government would come into existence at the Centre, that it will be vested with full freedom in economic matters"—That is really the basis of that plan. If that is the basis of the plan, it is perfectly intelligible that no plan made by any alien influence or alien interests can serve any purpose at all. It cannot be that other persons with other ideas for the good of this country will make a plan and the successor National Government will carry them out. Therefore I wish to clear the whole misconception before the House, that there is no half-way in this matter. I dare say that so long as this particular body of men continue to administer the affairs of this country, they will continue to do what they like during their term of office. That unfortunately is the consequence of the constitution under which India is being governed and I have stood before this House times without number that the obvious farce of calling this a representative Assembly, before which every matter is brought and the impression given to the world as if the people of this country are really associated with the Government of this country should be ended. It is a farce the hollowness of which must be exposed. We cannot merely be a party. We have been told "You do not co-operate". "We come here; if we agree, it is all right; if we do not agree, it is equally all right", and then enter the Government

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House and have a certificate. Therefore it is perfectly obvious that the Government of this country is being carried on under a very few sections of the Government of India Act. We are here undoubtedly. But the other day an Honourable Member who sometimes was on these Benches, having been translated into the other stratosphere, began to talk in very mild language, a language I think which if he had considered he would not have used—"You know the constitution under which you are here; you know the constitutional limitations under which you are suffering". I do not know what he meant; but what he suffers from is a matter for the House to judge. The only short question before the House is this: notwithstanding the constitution under which we are working, to the extent to which the limited rights exist in this House, is this House going to assert itself or is it going to surrender itself to the Government? It is perfectly true, and I am fully aware, that notwithstanding the passing of a resolution in the terms of the amendment, the Government may still say that "there is a provision in the Government of India Act by which we are not obliged to implement the resolution of the House". But let us once for all and for the last time understand that this is the whole value of this great farce which is being enacted here day after day. If that is the whole value of the farce which is being enacted, let us understand it. I said so, some four years ago before this House, that out of the many hundred resolutions and votes that this House had passed, notwithstanding the 55 borrowed or pocketed votes, we still find that none of them was actually carried out. I am fully aware of that; and I am fully aware as to what purpose we can make of the very great difficulties in which we find ourselves; but at the same time, if you are going to be substituted as this very plan says, if you are really honestly of the opinion—not merely those individuals sitting here, but His Majesty's Government—that some time or the other and as soon as the war conditions permit or the end of it, if a national Government is to be constituted, then they must realise that what they are doing now is not the manner that is consistent with their belief, if they profess it. Of course if the belief is that the present nature of the administration of this country is to be continued, that they are going to continue to administer the affairs of this country, with the mere profession of this plan being carried out or whatever it is, by a national Government to come—let us fully understand it. Either they mean it or they do not mean. But if you mean it, then I come to the merits of the controversy before the House, because it is no use—it is not a matter of the merits of Sir Ardeshir Dalal for whom, as he knows, and for whose abilities I have very great respect: it is not a personal issue between him and us, or between us and the personnel constituting the Government now. The issue really is, what is it that is going to be the future of India, and who is going to have a say in the matter, because indeed the mighty Government as it now exists, entrenched in the manner in which it is, may say "Oh, yes; you give us advice; we will see what we can do; and after all we cannot give you anything more than this or that; we do not want your approval; we do not want to commit ourselves to anything. We will just do what we want". That is going contrary to the scheme. Let us at least know it because the time has now come when the Government and the Government Member when he gets up to reply according to convention I expected that being a non-official Resolution he would speak before I did; but it is in order not to give any chance of a grievance and to make our position perfectly plain that I have risen before this House. The position that we make plain is this: that this House, notwithstanding its mixed composition, is the only body of men, through their representatives, to have a plan for the future; and nobody else can have not merely the right but the quality to be able so to do. And why do we say that? Notwithstanding the fact that we are suffering from the handicap of, as I said, 39 and 11 and four or five others whom one need not name—naturally this is a very mixed body—it is not a real representative body: that is obvious; but still we have the consolation that if a committee of this House is constituted we shall be able to persuade

even those unwilling friends of ours as to where the future of India lies; and it is only such a plan that any future national Government can hope to work.

It is a perfectly absurd thing to tell this House "We shall have a plan; probably we shall put a part of it in execution in anticipation of your coming", which has been the custom largely of the other side of the House hitherto; and at the end of that you probably come to a national Government which is loaded with everything they have done and undone. That is in short what we do not want. This House stands not merely for its own dignity but for the future interest of this country. Why is it said that an elected committee of this House cannot carry on? Somebody told me: "But you have not got a secretariat; you have not got clerks; you have not got men, to prompt you from behind, as the Government Members are inclined to be done"; but allow me to tell them this: that I have had some experience of committees in the past—I will remind them of a case that is well known to the Government of India, or ought to be. A committee was set up by the Government of Bombay for the purpose of regulating the affairs of the Stock Exchange of Bombay. They invited Mr. Attlee who was the President of the London Stock Exchange in the previous year. They had a large number of members representing many trades there. We sat down in a committee. I happened to be one of the members of it; we examined witnesses for a period of some six months. At the end of that, some of my friends told me they were agreeable to the outline which I presented. One after the other as was the custom in those days slowly drifted, saying "I am very sorry, Mr. Desai. I agree with you in the main, but this will not do". At the end of it, everybody backed out and they came and told me "Look here; why do you not write a dissenting minute. I wish to write a report as much as you have the right to write a report". Mr. Davies was then Secretary, who afterwards became the Judicial Commissioner of Sind; and he said "Look here, Mr. Desai, I will write the report for the majority of the committee; and what will you do? You have not got the men". The suggestion was that I had not got a secretariat. Fortunately, those of us who had the energy and the resource did not wait for a secretariat to put on paper our views. By myself and alone, I am proud to say, I wrote a separate report, in a minority of one. It was examined by the Government of Bombay and it was examined by the Government of India; and most reluctantly the Government of India was obliged to accept the report of a minority of one. So that you may be quite certain that you cannot non-cooperate. If a committee of this House is constituted; the Government at its peril will refuse to be the first witness before that committee. The Government at its peril will withhold that co-operation; and if it does that, it does not deserve to survive one single day. Therefore it is no use telling me, as one of my friends imagines, "Let this committee go on; let the Government go on". I wish to see the Government going on under these circumstances. If you really set up a committee of this House, it is its privilege that the first witness will be its own servant paid by itself. They will have to come before the committee and it will be the right of the committee to examine them and examine everybody else who has a scheme and ultimately in the interests of the nation put forward a scheme which alone a national Government can work.

That, Sir, is the first answer to the unfeasibility of the scheme. It has always been taken for granted here as if all those standing on the other side and everybody who is paid by collecting taxes from us—they are my servants in the ultimate reality. True under the present entrenched constitution they may not be; but it is time that we told them and they realise exactly where they stand and where we stand with reference to all these resources, that we provide by the sweat of our brow and by the blood of my people. Therefore it is that I ask that not a dissenting member here will be found from among the elected Members of this House who will not be prepared to forego his self-respect and be prepared to say that a committee of this House is not a fit body for this purpose.

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

There was another gentleman who suggested "Oh, but we are short of experts". That is an extraordinary proposition. I have always thought that experts were not members of the committee—experts are there as witnesses; experts are there as advisers. I have never yet heard in my life that a body of men, with a trained mind, with fair clarity of reasoning and fairly well equipped with integrity and with a single eye to the welfare of the nation, can not possibly understand a problem of this character; and there may be those who are suffering from a defeatism which I certainly hope this House will not suffer from. No Member of this House should accept this unfortunate position which is foisted upon us that we cannot, as a committee of this House, find out what is going to take place to the nation as soon as the national Government comes into existence, to present it to that Government for the purpose of execution.

A few more words I should like to say as to the basic principles which would be accepted by that committee. I have no desire to anticipate whatever may be the ultimate principles evolved by them in the light of which they will use the information. Somebody says—where is the information, where are the statistics, where is the knowledge of the condition of the country, where are the experts. I submit, with very great respect to this House and to the people at large in this country that if and when a committee is set up and the Government here, of whatever personnel it consists, refuses to co-operate with it, we shall still produce a plan which would be acceptable to the national Government, superseding everything that the foreign controlled interests will produce on the other side. So that, let us not waste time and money. If we really mean business and are honest that at all events in the post-war world the representatives of the country are going to govern the country, then it is for the representatives of the people, however belated it may be, to formulate a plan. Let it not be imagined to be the monopoly of a few persons on the other side, however able, however gifted and however talented they may be—because it is not the talents that govern this matter, at all events talents alone. I trust that there is talent enough in the rest of the country and what is more there is that integrity, with a single eye to the good of the people of this country, which is the real basis of the whole matter.

Then, Sir, I should like to say a few words as to the principles which, at all events, it will be our duty to submit to that particular committee which will be set up and which will examine the information, both expert and otherwise. We realise that this country is extraordinarily well placed in this matter. I am not one of those who believe that we suffer from that kind of complex which has led to what is called the division between an agricultural and a manufacturing country. That is the fortune or misfortune of some smaller countries, far away in the islands either in the East or the West, because it is true that you cannot eat coal and cannot eat steel. You cannot eat iron and hence it is that they have got to exchange their manufactured goods for their food and clothing. My country is in a much more fortunate position. I have it from many standard books that among the 27 basic raw materials which the world wants from time to time we are in possession of some 22, so that you may be quite certain that this country is self-sufficient and can be made to be so under proper genuine national Government; and our resources are almost equal to that of any of the United Nations. It is that aim that we have before us. We neither wish to be industrial nor wish to be agricultural. Our aim is a combination of the two. Our aim in the first instance is not to be an exporting country of manufactured products. It is enough for us to keep out those manufactured products which take away the equivalent in raw commodities from this country and produce enough in order that my countrymen will not have to look elsewhere for the purpose of manufactured products. But that is not the whole of the problem before the committee.

The real problem before that committee would be to try to raise the standard of life of 85 per cent. of the people who form the backbone of the country. A

deal has been said about factory labour. It is well known that I have the greatest sympathy with it but let us not have an obsession in this matter. Let us not obscure the problem. After all, at present, on a very rough estimate, some three millions form the total quantity of factory labour. (An Honourable Member: "2½.") I was thinking of the war, on account of which there has been increased employment. Make a liberal estimate and take the figure at 3 millions. Add another 3 millions to it, for the purpose of the new industries. That is only 6 millions and the problem still remains of the rest of the 400 millions of this country.

In this connection, I should like to cite only one instance. Years ago, we brought a Resolution in this House and we asked that the Railway Department should set up a workshop in this country for the purpose of manufacturing locomotives and steam engines. Sir Muhammad Zafrulla who was then in charge of the Railways told this House seriously that it will take 95 lakhs, as cost. That was his estimate and, on that estimate the engines will cost about 20 per cent. more than we are able to buy them at in England or America and he thought he had made a great point. I have never known a merchant with any common sense who begins to evaluate the outturn of every single crore of his investment. He forgot, notwithstanding that he was administering every day, that another 80 crores, besides 95 lakhs, had already been invested in this country in the matter of rails. You have the track, you have the rails and the trains ready but you cannot run them. That is the situation now.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): No.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: If that were not so, we would not be in the position in which we find ourselves in the matter of transport. I like self-complacency and I like that impenetrable way of looking at things but the fact remains that if we had been manufacturing our own locomotives, if we had expanded our workshops and if we had increased our output of wagons, we would not have had to send our boys elsewhere. They are called Bevin boys. I do not like to think of them that way, because they are my sons. It is not much of a compliment to you but if you like that compliment you can keep it. That is the situation in which we have been placed. The whole desire of this House at that time was that you should train skilled labour in this country and we warned the Government that if they did not do it, there will come a time when they will regret it. And hence it is that I say that, so far as any material and information is in the hands of those employed by us and paid by us, it shall be placed at the disposal of this committee.

Then there is another point. You must remember that unless the food problem of this country is solved, you will never make any headway with the real solution of the problem. On that, I have already expressed my views before this House. In making any planning, it is wrong to think in terms of the industrialisation of the country. It is a wrong expression to use. You cannot industrialise the country. But what you can do is to have enough industries in this country to make ourselves independent of the rest of the world in most of the matters of real and vital concern. That is what we can do and that is what we wish to aim at.

The next thing we should aim at is to raise the standard of life—the food and the clothing and the shelter and a little education with a little leisure. That is wanted for 85 per cent. of the population. That is the biggest issue before this House. It will be the biggest issue before the committee and our demand is that this committee shall sit and solve this problem for the benefit of the country in order that a national Government may carry into effect all that we ask for. These are two principal things that we want. The first is that there shall be enough industrialisation of this land so far as to render us effectively independent of any other country. Secondly, we want that there shall be enough advancement for the purpose of raising the standard of life even of the poorest man, so that he may be better fed and shall not be asked to

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

pay Rs. 10 for his *dhoti* instead of Rs. 2/8 and the bulk of the 43 crores of excess profits shall not pass indirectly from the consumer into the pockets of Government. That shall not prevail in the time when this scheme is brought into execution. In other words, he shall have a sufficiency of food and he shall have a sufficiency of clothing. Of course, we have not the severe

4 P.M. climate of Western countries and so his clothing will not be very expensive. Then, he shall have shelter, a clean house. It need not be pucca and it need not be of corrugated iron sheets; it will be made of wood and bricks. And he shall have education. These are the basic things that we want. We do not want to be led astray by all ideas of what will happen if our trade with this or that country will suffer. The fact remains that we are a country and it must be the ambition of the future Government that it shall be made self-sufficient just as America has done by raising the standard of its life to what it is today. You have the figures before you. As against whatever the estimate you may have of this country, there is about a thousand rupees in the other land. I do not hope that we can have it by a single bound, but I do believe that if the matter of reconstruction for the future is left in the hands of the committee of this House, who will be a responsible body and who will know what the country wants and understand what the country desires, then alone you will have a scheme worth anything at all. Sir, I support the amendment.

Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The Assembly divided:

[While the division was going on, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

AYES—55.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chaliba, Mr. Kuladhar.
Chettir, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.
Choudhry, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunde, Mr. N. C.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Mr. B.
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.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.
Gupta, Mr. R. R.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri. K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.

Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Nayalrai, Mr.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siddique, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasha, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali, Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—46.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail 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.
Mehta, Mr. Jammadas M.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Ogilvie, Sir Charles.
Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
Spence, Sir George.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Vaidyanathan, Mr. L. S.

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, as I said while moving the Resolution my object is to live and let live. This is the principle which should underlie any plan that may be formed for the future development of India.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Can this House apply and accept the closure to any Resolution without hearing any of the Government Members on the point at issue. We do not know anything about the views of the Government on this Resolution and about their plans. I want to know whether the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development, the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal, has got the right of reply?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I quite understand the Honourable Member's difficulty. But I do not know of anything in the Rules or Standing Orders which authorises me to call upon the Government Member to speak on a Resolution at any particular stage.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Then the whole debate is a farce.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): After the acceptance of the closure the Mover of the Resolution will reply and after that the Government Member will speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know if that was the arrangement.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: There is no such arrangement. We duly intimated to the Government that if they wished to take part in the discussion, they could do so.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise on a point of order, I wish to say one thing. Before the Leader of the Opposition stood up to speak, I approached the Honourable Member on the other side, the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal, I informed him that he could speak immediately after the Leader of the Opposition had finished his speech. But he did not get up and the Honourable the Supply Member got up instead. It was only after seeing that the Supply Member was going to speak and not the Honourable Member for Planning that we, from this side of the House, moved for closure. Otherwise, there was no desire on the part of this side of the House to shut out the speech of the Honourable Member in-charge of Planning and Development. It was the Government who adopted dilatory

Several Honourable Members (From the Treasury Benches): Order, order, No. No.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If they were not dilatory tactics, I could not see why the Supply Member was put up to speak. He did not care to get up for the past two days when the debate was going on.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I was not present in the House when the closure was moved and accepted, and so I do not know what happened during my absence. Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will continue his speech.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I was saying that I entirely agreed with the fifteen year plan so far as their intention is to treble the comforts of the people. It does not mean trebling their income, because we find that according to the measurement of comfort, there is no proportion between comfort and the purchasing power of the rupee. If we only measure in terms of rupees, then our comfort is reduced to less than one third, and by trebling the comfort and not the income, we will only reach the comfort of 1939. Therefore in order that our comforts may be measured in terms of rupees, it is necessary that we should fix the purchasing power of the rupee. This is the point that I have pressed several times on the floor of the House and I press on this occasion also that it will be impossible for the persons who were planning a thing to get three times the comfort unless they restore the purchasing power of the rupee to the normal position. Therefore any Committee that they may think of in future planning must take up this most important factor, that is restoring the purchasing power of the rupee to the normal conditions. That is the one point I should like to press.

The next point that I should like to press is that in every planning that we make, we should make provision for employment for all, and not employment for the few. The industrialists should live, and at the same time the common people and the labourers and other people should also have the right to live and in any plan that you make you should provide some kind of employment for all.

The next point is this; though we are in favour of development of big industries, because they really supply raw materials for a large number of industries, yet at the same time; the development of cottage industries should not be lost sight of. It should be the duty of mills to produce basic materials for the cottage industries as well. They have no right really to kill cottage industries. Therefore, I suggest first that the method of approach for any future plan ought to be that we first restore the purchasing power of the rupee to its normal value, secondly, that we ought to provide sufficient raw materials for the cottage industries to flourish, and thirdly, that we ought to find employment for all. These are the three fundamental principles on which we ought to base our planning.

The last point I wish to press is that we should not ignore the requirements of the Provinces. Though we are a central body, we should also recognise that the Provinces have got their own problems and those problems ought to be considered by any committee that may be formed or by any committee which now exists and which plans for the future development of the country. With these observations, I commend my Resolution to the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will first put Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment. The question is:

"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.'"

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next amendment stands in the name of Mr. Chettiar:

"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'."

To that an amendment has been moved by Mr. Chattopadhyaya:

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted:

"That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswaraya's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general, economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget session'."

I will put Mr. Chattopadhyaya's amendment first: The question is:

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted:

"That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswaraya's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general, economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget session'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will now put Mr. Chettiar's amendment. The question is:

"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'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will now put the original Resolution as amended by Mr. Chettiar's amendment:

The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council 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."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE. NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next Resolution is in the name of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have been authorized by Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan to move his Resolution. It is unfortunate that he had to be absent today. He has apologised to the House for being absent.

Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organization."

Sir, when the National War Front organisation was started, His Excellency the Viceroy made a speech at that time which was broadcast on the 7th of May 1942. India was attacked at that time and he said that there was a

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necessity for everybody to join together and back the soldier who was fighting on the front. The real object was, as he said;

"I invite you to close the ranks and stand steady behind the fighting man in the National War Front against the aggressor."

This was one of the objects for which the National War Front was established. His Excellency proceeds:

"Let me remind you of what General Wavell has said that of the elements which contribute to success in modern war the spirit of the people is the most important. This is our responsibility—yours and mine—and that is why I invite you again in joining together in building a National War Front."

Further, he says:

"We all know what it means—a united determination transcending all racial, religious and political differences—to stand up and stand together to defend the things we have and hope to have, and to make sure that they shall never be so threatened again."

Sir, there was a great deal of necessity in May 1942 to organize this Front and to create an atmosphere in the country for the purpose of uniting the people and to make them realize the danger which was approaching on our frontiers. No one in this country objected or could have objected to that. The object was laudable at that time, and His Excellency the Viceroy followed the right course under those circumstances and under that necessity. The National War Front was started in order to infuse a spirit of cohesion amongst the people of this country. As long as that necessity remained or as long as that organisation could be utilized for that purpose, nobody could have said anything against it. But now this organisation has outlived its object. There is no necessity at present to have the National War Front. Of course at the time when His Excellency the Viceroy made his speech, India had been attacked, and Ceylon had been attacked, but now we know that the Japanese are far far away from our frontiers, and the country is united as was desired by His Excellency at that time. There are no Fifth Columnists referred to by him in his speech. Of course Fifth Columnists can never be eradicated even by the National War Front; if there are any Fifth Columnists they will remain so, no matter what propaganda you do or what organisation you have. But the National War Front, as is being administered by the Information and Broadcasting Department, is a totally different thing. Unfortunately, I have not brought some of the pamphlets which are printed in English—and these are printed on a very costly paper—and are being circulated to people. Most of the stuff that is produced by the National War Front organisation is in the English language. For whose benefit is it? Is it for the benefit of Fifth Columnists, or is it for the villagers and illiterate masses, or is it for those people in the villages who are the prospective recruits? Does it serve as an inducement to attract recruits for the Army? If that be the object, the pamphlets and other literature should have been printed in the language which those people would understand. But, on the other hand, all this literature is produced in English and is distributed to people who are already contributing their share towards the war and are working for the war. Therefore I think that this money is being absolutely wasted, and all this material which is published, the broadcasts that are arranged, the *Mushairas* that are held, is all waste. People are holding *Mushairas* at different places for this purpose and they invite many people to it—it is a mere luxury. I think people do not take the National War Front seriously. They take it that it is just for the sake of pleasure and so they are never guided by what they are told or by what is presented to them in writing. I think, Sir, that all this huge amount of money that is being spent on this organisation is being wasted at a time when we need every penny for fighting the real war. The Government places a deficit budget every year before this country and it would be a crime if it is not brought home to the Government by this side that by continuing this organisation they are wasting a lot of money. Sir, at this time money is required for other purposes and it should not be frivolously spent.

Then, Sir, the paper on which the stuff is printed can actually be used for many valuable purposes. We find that paper is denied for starting newspapers and yet this most valuable paper is wasted in printing the stuff which nobody

cares to read; most of the people who receive these pamphlets, etc., throw them away. I cannot understand, Sir, who induces the Government to do that and who is the adviser of the Government in this respect. Sir, if I had seen that it was producing some effect whatsoever or if it was doing something to help in the war effort, I would have wholeheartedly supported it. But I find that it is not doing so. It is the events which are happening on the battle front, and it is the publicity of events in the daily papers which is producing the desired effect on the minds of the people. It is not the National War Front which is achieving that object. It is being mis-used by people; they are using it to achieve their own purposes. It is public money which is being utilised for some ulterior purpose in the name of the National War Front and sanctity is given to this expenditure because it pertains to the war and behind this shelter people are spending money in the way they like. I think those people who are responsible for this expenditure and the Government will remain guilty before the taxpayers in the future years when they will have to bear the burden of the wastage committed by the present people. Government should, therefore, rise to the occasion and stop the frivolous expenditure which they have been incurring on this organization, as if to show that this was money just to be thrown away. If the money is spent in purchasing material to help to win the war and help to fight the enemy, it is justifiable. I can tell you without any doubt—though I know Government can always find men who stand up here and uphold the National War Front—that there is not a single honest man who feels that your money is being spent properly in this organisation. Those people who are interested in this organisation will say that the money is being rightly spent. But leave them alone. The representatives of the people must see that the taxpayers they represent are not made to pay for this in future years. They will also have to see that the money is rightly spent. There is no recruit on account of your National War Front organisation. This is only a bogey.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh (Nominated Non-Official): You are wrong. 166 recruits were recruited yesterday in the National War Front.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I know my friend had made a three minute speech the last time and I know that he is interested in going about attending National War Front meetings here and there. His description may be the description that pleases him. But does it please anyone else? Can he find out any number of people who get up and say so? I know my Honourable friend is anxious because he is made to go there and he is one of the people who belongs to that organization.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh: I attend local meetings.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It would be much better if an Honourable Member like him could keep quiet.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh: I do not think you are well informed.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: But to plead that you are not guilty when you are guilty is something which does not convince the other people.

I would like to bring home to the Government that this organisation is not spending money for the purposes for which His Excellency the Viceroy had started it on the 7th May 1942. There are many people who want like vultures to benefit from the war, because that is the time to make most money and become rich and so they give sanctity to their expenses by saying that it is being spent in connection with the National War Front. There is nothing "national" nor is there any "war front" in this organisation. I would like any Honourable Member tell me that he travelled at his own expense. That is a really patriotic man who goes to the villages at his expense and recruits people.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why does he not recruit himself?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If this money is required for the expenses and allowances of such people, who had never seen such things before, then

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there can be no greater crime than that can be committed by any Government which calls itself a civilised Government. Of course no representative Government would have allowed this, nor would it have been able to stand up for a day against the popular wish. It would have gone out of power in a day. What is happening now is that money is being spent on things and on persons that do not merit such expenditure and I think that it is the duty of this House to take to task those people who have allowed such things to exist.

My position is absolutely clear. I say nothing is being gained from all this expenditure. This was a useful organisation when it started, but it has now ceased to be useful.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Was it?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: At that time it was thought to be necessary because Japan was knocking at our door. But now Japan is hundreds of miles away from the Indian frontier. Therefore that necessity is not there. If it was started with the idea of arousing the people in this country that was laudable. But we are not going to judge any organisation by the objects behind it but by the way it works and the way that the money is spent. These are the two criteria. I find that the money is not properly spent and the organisation is not working as properly as it ought to have done. It is not doing and gaining anything for the laudable objects behind it and it is not achieving any of those objects. Therefore this organisation does not deserve to remain any more and the sooner it is wound up the better because the people of this country, the poor taxpayer, will be saved from the further burden of fresh taxation at the next budget and their difficulties not made more burdensome.

We know that nowadays, as it has been brought before this House and before the Government also, that the poor agriculturists are suffering a lot. Though it may be said that he is selling his crops at a higher cost, he cannot make both ends meet even with the extra money that he gets now. The agriculturist, whom you call the farmer, may be making more money but what about the poor agricultural labourer. There are in many provinces two different classes, one is the farmer and the other is the farm labourer. The farm labourer is not making anything more even if a farmer can sell his produce at a higher cost. The poor labourer is starving. These are the people for whom there is nothing which is provided and these people will have to pay further in taxation and in buying goods which are costlier. For a pair of *dhoti* which he used to buy at Re. 1 or Rs. 1/8 before the war he has to pay now Rs. 3/8 on account of the war and they cannot afford to do this. How long are you going to make him pay like this. Therefore every penny that is saved will bring relief to these poor farm labourers in the villages, will stop further taxation and will bring the price of goods to a lower level. Therefore the time has come to do something and the literature which was distributed was found absolutely unnecessary. I don't know what money has already been spent on this organisation, I do not possess the exact figures for the current year but it must be a considerable amount in any case. I submit my views before this House that this money should be saved and should be stopped from being spent any more.

It may be argued that the war is still going on and we do not know how long it will go on. I know it may be said that nobody can foretell how long this war is going to continue. It means two things. It will mean that you will require more recruits. I think the recruiting has stopped, because already you have got so many recruits whom you cannot provide with weapons properly. Therefore it is not necessary to have more recruits, unless you thoroughly arm them and the money which you require is not now necessary for the purpose of getting recruits. Money is required for arming your recruits who have already been recruited and therefore this money which you were formerly spending on the National War Front should be used for the purpose of giving good equipment to your soldiers who will probably have to put up a stronger

and harder fight in the future. The second thing is that if this war continues, may be said that this organisation must continue, so that it may keep up the morale of the people. Morale is necessary but why not give some kind of subsidy to the daily papers who may put up some kind of advertisement. This probably is done even now to a certain extent. But this does not require any organisation behind you.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): So you are in favour of giving a subsidy to newspapers?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I have got only two or three minutes more and so I do not want to be disturbed. It should be made certain that that paper which is given a subsidy is not doing any political propaganda in favour of any particular party which, under the garb of receiving this subsidy, is meant really to do something else. It is the money supplied by the National War Front and the paper should not do some other work. We have known that the money has been used and misused in this respect. I am glad my friend Mr. Ghiasuddin has brought to my notice that some papers are subsidised in certain provinces for this very purpose, that they may do the propaganda of a particular party and those papers which have been given the most subsidy, they are doing the most propaganda for a particular party in a particular province and if these people are using and misusing this money in this manner, then the sooner this money is stopped the better it is. It will be in the interests of this country that the Government does not mix up with party politics. Has not H. E. the Viceroy at that time very rightly said "We all know what it means—a united determination, transcending all racial, religious and political differences"? Now what we find is that this money is not being used for transcending these political differences but for accentuating these differences to a greater extent. Therefore I think it is defeating the object for which His Excellency had started this organisation. I do not want to introduce that matter; it will not be very pertinent to the present Resolution or it may have been discussed before, but I want to bring to the notice of the Government that it is an open secret that this money is used at least in one province and probably in many other provinces for purposes other than what have been mentioned by H. E. the Viceroy. There are many people who want to get some kind of benefit from the Government, to get some kind of contracts in their name. These people joined the National War Front to make their own propaganda and their ulterior motive is to gain from the Government as much as they can get in whatever shape or form, it may be in the shape of a contract, it may be in the shape of some help or other and the National War Front is used for these ends by these people. They are sham people, who have no following in the country. These people are not liked by anybody and they are practically disliked by every body. They seek the Government's favour by telling all kinds of falsehood and are misleading the authorities. Instead of giving the Government any help they are really by their actions stopping the real supporters of the Government who would give their help voluntarily to the Government. Those honest people and real patriots who will spend their own money and do every thing for the Government are kept back simply because they feel ashamed to be associated with that class of people whom the Government is nowadays employing. Sir, those people will never like their names to be mixed up with such A.B.C.'s, when they find that they are in the field and they are doing this . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: With these words I move the Resolution and commend it to the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organization."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: There is a small amendment, Sir, in my name: may I move it and stop?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes; but no speech now.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I move:

"That after the words 'Governor General in Council' the words 'to immediately take steps' be inserted, and that at the end of the Resolution the words 'in the Centre and the Provinces' be added."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That after the words 'Governor General in Council' the words 'to immediately take steps' be inserted, and that at the end of the Resolution the words 'in the Centre and the Provinces' be added."

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 20th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 20th 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. Zahid Husain, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR TATA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

564. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if, in virtue of a statutory provision, a Committee is appointed to review the work and administration of the Tata Research Institute at Bangalore;

(b) when such a quinquennial reviewing committee was last appointed and what were the suggestions of this Committee, and if effect has been given to any of these suggestions; if not, why not;

(c) if any attempts are made to see that there is continuity of policy and outlook in the matter of research and administration, if so, what attempts are made;

(d) if the Government will satisfy themselves that the Institute is not losing its All-India character and the research tradition and continuity; and

(e) how many schemes were sent by the Government of India for research work since 1940 to this Institute, and of these how many were worked out fully; how many have been stopped by the Government and how many were stopped for want of chemicals necessary for research work?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) There is no statutory requirement but, under the Regulations of the Institute, a quinquennial review of the working and progress of the Institute has to be conducted by a committee appointed by the Visitor for that purpose.

(b) The last quinquennial reviewing committee was appointed in 1936. The suggestions of the Committee are contained in their Report which was published with the Department of Education, Health and Lands Resolution No. F. 53-3/36-B, dated the 21st November 1936, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Many of the recommendations were accepted. A reference is invited to a statement laid on the table of the House in reply to Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar's starred question No. 469 on 1st October 1937. The next review has been unavoidably postponed until after the war.

(c) This is the direct concern of the Council of the Institute on which the Government of India is represented, and the Reviewing Committees are also asked to report on this aspect of the Institute.

(d) Government has no reason to believe that the Institute is losing its All-India character or its research tradition and continuity.

(e) The information asked for is laid on the table of the House.

Name of the Department	Number of schemes sent by the Government since 1940	Number of schemes worked out fully	Number of schemes stopped	Remarks
General Chemistry Section	16 (B. S. I. R.)	6		One scheme has been stopped for lack of proper equipment.
Organic Chemistry Section	6 (B. S. I. R.)	2		One scheme was discontinued to stop duplication as the products were being manufactured by the Tata Oil Mills and the Calcutta Chemical Co.
Biochemistry Department	6 (I. C. A. R.) 2 (B. S. I. R.) 1 (I. R. F. A.) 3 (Food Dept.) 4 (Medical Dept.) 1 (Paints Gases rectorate)	Supply Dept. All the 17 schemes have been worked out fully.	Nil.	One of the schemes has been developed on All-India basis.
Electrical Technology Department	6 (B. S. I. R.)	5	Nil.	One scheme is being continued.

B. S. I. R. = Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.
 I. C. A. R. = Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.
 I. R. F. A. = Indian Research Fund Association.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It has been said that most of the recommendations were accepted. I wish to know about two recommendations. Was it recommended that the scholarship of the students should be increased?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If the Honourable Member will let me know the two matters he is interested in, I will make a note of them and let him have a reply. There are a very large number of recommendations.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: There are only two recommendations about which I wish to inquire. The first is about the scholarship. So far as my impression goes, it was recommended that the scholarship should be 100. It was brought down to 60 and it has since been reduced to 40 in these hard days. Is it considered desirable to carry out the recommendation in this fashion?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I must ask for notice. I will look into it certainly.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Another recommendation is about the complete bifurcation of the administrative and academic work. Has that been carried out? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will look into that too.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Who were the members of that Committee on behalf of the Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The reviewing committee is an *ad hoc* committee appointed every five years and consisting of three experts. There is no standing committee. On the last occasion, it was Sir James Irvine, the Vice-Chancellor of Saint Andrews University, Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar and Dr. Mackenzie who was once D.P.I. in the United Provinces and was at that time, I think, the Vice-Chancellor of the Osmania University. That was the last committee of review.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know why work on aniline dyes, crinoline and wireless was stopped?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The details are in the statement. If these points are not covered by the statement, I will find out and let the Honourable Member know.

AMALGAMATION OF PURCHASE AND PLANNING SECTIONS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

565. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly say whether it is a fact that Purchase and Planning Sections dealing with supply of foodstuffs to Defence Services have been amalgamated?

(b) Is it a fact that officers and staff now deal with Purchase as well as Planning work?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Directorate General of Supply Purchase and Planning work is done by two different Sections?

(d) Is it a fact that Superintendents promoted as Assistant Directors in the Directorate General of Supply receive Rs. 100 per mensem in addition to their pay in the scales of Superintendents?

(e) Is it a fact that Superintendents promoted as Assistant Directors in the Food Department (III) are not given Rs. 100 per mensem in addition to their pay in the scales of Superintendents? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) to (d). The Honourable Member is apparently correctly informed.

(e) Yes. When the new scales were considered and sanctioned it was decided that the additional responsibilities of the Assistant Directors do not call for an increment of Rs. 100.

FOOD DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

566. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state whether it is a fact that in the Food Department an Establishment Committee has been formed which deals with promotion and recruitment of staff?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim on this Committee to look after the interests of the Muslim Community? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) The Officers comprising the Committee can be relied upon to observe the rules on the subject. Moreover, their recommendations are subject to the final orders of the Secretary and of myself in all important cases:

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the scheme that the Honourable Member was making for the procurement and distribution of food in the provinces is ready?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I submit that does not arise out of the question on the Order paper.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT (III)

567. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that on the Secretariat side of the Food Department (III) there are at present four officers and none of them is a Muslim?

(b) Is it a fact that a post of a Deputy Secretary has recently been sanctioned on the Secretariat side of the Food Department (III)?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to fill this vacancy by a Muslim so that the Muslim Community may also be represented on the Secretariat side?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) There are five such Officers. None of them at present is a Muslim.

(b) Yes.

(c) The post has already been filled.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: The Honourable Member said that out of five officers none is a Muslim. He gave no cogent reasons. May I know why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: For the simple reason that I have not been able to secure a suitable Muslim.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Is it not too late in the day for the Honourable Member to say that suitable Muslims are not available?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The position is that these posts are filled by officers drawn from the services, the I.C.S. particularly. It is very difficult for me to get the man I want from the provinces.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Has the Honourable Member written to the provinces, particularly Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I would like to tell the Honourable Member that I myself mentioned the names of two Muslims from the U.P. and I could not get them.

DEPUTATION OF OFFICERS TO UNITED KINGDOM FOR STUDY OF DEHYDRATION PROCESSES

568. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that two officers of the Food Department (III) have been sent by air to the United Kingdom to study methods and processes of dehydration of foodstuffs there and on return to this country guide the Dehydration Industry in India?

(b) Is it also a fact that two experts in dehydration have recently been imported from the United Kingdom to guide the Dehydration Industry in India?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for taking double action?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Food Department has to meet urgent demands from the Defence Services for dehydrated food stuffs, and in order to plan new factories and bring existing factories thoroughly up to date it was necessary to import two men with actual practical factory experience of the latest methods quickly and temporarily. One of them has been recruited for one year, and the other for six months only. Since, however, it is also desirable that we should in future be dependent to the smallest degree possible on experts from outside India, we decided to send two Indian Officers to the U.K. to investigate modern methods of food technology, with special reference to the processes of dehydration and to modern methods of packing. Their experience on return will be of permanent benefit to the Department and to the Industry.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member kindly mention the names of the two candidates who have been selected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: They were two officers of the Department. One is, I believe, Dr. B. C. Guha, who is now our Chief Technical Adviser. The other name I have not got here with me. I will give that name to the Honourable Member later.

Mr. H. M. Abdullah: May I ask whether these two officers were promoted or they were directly recruited?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no question of promotion or recruitment. They are officers of the Department and they are simply being deputed to U.K. to learn the modern methods. That is all.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I ask whether these two experts have been imported from outside and were none available in India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already replied to this question.

IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS

569. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what those consumer goods are that the Government propose to give preference now that some shipping space is available?

(b) What is the extent of their imports in the present financial year?

(c) To what extent have they affected the manufacture of those articles in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The main civilian consumer goods for which import licences are granted are:—

Drugs and medicines, toilet requisites, paper, stationery, books, artificial silk fabrics, woollen fabrics, glass-ware, crockery, hardware, cycles, photo-goods, hurricane lamps, clocks and watches.

(b) The imports of the above mentioned articles during the four months April-July 1944 were of the value of about Rs. 9 crores. It is not at present possible to estimate the value of the goods that might come forward by the end of the current financial year.

(c) There is no reason to expect that the import of these items which are either not produced in India or produced in inadequate quantities, will adversely affect Indian manufacturing interests.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what are the facts they took into consideration in allowing these imports?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, the preliminary thing is whether there is enough supply and, secondly, whether there is enough production within this country and also the need of the consuming public. Taking all these factors into consideration and also having regard to the primary fact that they do not adversely affect the Indian industries, we decided on these licences.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government took into consideration the fact that the toilettes are not a very essential thing just now in this country and that more essential goods can be imported?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir. But it is very difficult to make an estimate as to which article is essential and which is not. "Toilettes" include quite a lot of things and the list is quite heavy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why have they imported two millions of hurricane lamps when kerosene is not available in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The hurricane lamps are needed at least to the extent to which the kerosene oil is supplied.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Are not medicines quite as important as toilette requisites?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Drugs and medicines are given primarily the first place.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are not hurricane lamps available in India?

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

AUTOMOBILES MANUFACTURING COMPANIES.

570. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how many companies have been floated for the manufacture of automobiles?

(b) Have they approached the Government for any sort of help?

(c) What has been the attitude of Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Two.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have always given all assistance and help to the different concerns.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the sort of assistance they have asked for?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: One of the companies asked for dollar exchange facilities to cover the salaries and the travelling allowances of the technical personnel to be selected. These facilities were granted to them. Then, assistance was also sought and given for securing air priority passages for their representatives proceeding abroad for selecting technical engineers for their firm and for two trainees proceeding for training.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Government expect these things to be a going concern?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That, I am afraid, I am not in a position to say because I am not in possession of the facts just now. But we are giving them fullest facilities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any of these concerns asked for financial assistance? Have they asked that Government should take a portion of their shares or should lend them certain funds?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the question of granting tariff protection to this industry under the consideration of the Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The question of granting the tariff protection to all the industries is now under the consideration of the Government.

APPLICATIONS FOR NEWSPAPER PERMITS

571. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state how many applications were received for permits to start new newspapers since the control has been instituted?

(b) For how many permits were granted in each of the Provinces and details as to the English and local languages to be separately given?

(c) On what basis were the new permits usually granted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is not clear to which "control" the Honourable Member refers. Under any control affecting new newspapers the collection of information asked for will involve an expenditure of time and labour which Government do not consider justified in present conditions.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many papers have been refused permission under the Paper Control Order?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of that question.

SHORTAGE OF SPECTACLES GOODS

572. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the shortage, if any, of Spectacle Goods in India;

(b) if he is aware that in rural areas people cannot buy spectacles even at 10 times the pre-War prices due to opticians having almost no stock; if so, what steps Government has taken to make spectacles available;

(c) if there are any firms in India engaged in the mass production of Lenses, Frames, and spectacle cases, for civilian consumption, if so, what their names are; and

(d) if any firm or firms (if possible please state names) has applied for any assistance from Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India, if so, what kind of assistance they have asked for, and how their applications have been disposed off? (Please state names of the firms who have been helped by the Government.)

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) There is a shortage of optical goods in India.

(b) All possible steps are being taken to increase indigenous production and imports.

(c) There are none.

(d) Certain firms engaged in the production of cheap quality spectacles have applied to Government for assistance. The firms of Messrs. Takandas H. Kataria and H. Kataria of Karachi and Messrs. Kundan Lal Ramlal of Amritsar have applied for and received import licences for celluloid and other plastics for the manufacture of spectacle frames. Messrs. Mumick of New Delhi have recently applied for assistance in obtaining electric power and steel for the manufacture of spectacle cases.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Does not the Government think that this is one of the most necessary articles and therefore the Government should give a sort of subsidy to the people who are making frames and lenses?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certainly: we want better eyesight for everybody.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask if they have asked for any subsidy and whether any subsidy has been given to them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of this question.

ADVANCE REALIZATION OF SAUDI DUES FROM HAJ PILGRIMS

573. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations been drawn to a note published in daily *Inqilab* of Lahore dated 26th October, 1944 on page 3, with regard to the payment of Saudi dues being realised from Hedjaz pilgrims before embarkation from Indian port?

(b) Is it a fact that every pilgrim had to pay Rs. 444-8-0 instead of Rs. 292-8-0 actually due according to current rate of exchange?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to sanction the refund of the excess amount realised and order to abolish the system of advance payment in India; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) According to the rate of exchange of sovereigns the dues might have been Rs. 292-8-0. Payment could not, however, be received in gold as, owing to existing restrictions, gold could not be exported for making remittances to the Saudi Arabia Government. In accordance with the decision of the Saudi Arabia Government, the proceeds of these dues have to be remitted to them in rupees. The rupee exchange rate of Rial had been laid down by the Saudi Arabia Government and this exchange rate was binding on us. According to this rupee exchange rate Rs. 444-4-0 had to be recovered per head for these dues.

(c) As regards the first part, attention is invited to my reply to part (d) of starred question No. 424. As regards the second part, the system of advance payment had to be adopted in accordance with the instructions of the Saudi Arabia Government. It was enforced also in other Muslim countries from which Haj pilgrims proceeded. The Government of India are not in a position to abolish the system.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR BICHRIMATE OF SODA

574. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) for what quantities of Bichromate of Soda and to how many people import licences for the same were given since 1st July, 1943;

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) the procedure followed by the Department before granting import licences for such chemicals;

(c) if the authorities satisfy themselves that local production is inadequate, before import quotas are assigned; and

(d) whether other Departments of the Government of India are consulted before the Commerce Department takes action in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Licences were issued to one firm for 1,500 tons in each of the shipping periods July-December 1943 and January-June 1944. No licence has been issued for the current half year July-December 1944.

(b) Applications are considered on merits with due regard to the total requirements of the country, stock position and the extent of indigenous production.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. Other Departments concerned are consulted.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member kindly disclose the name of the firm to which licences for imports have been granted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not in the public interest to disclose the names of people to whom licences are granted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it a British firm or an Indian firm?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think it is a British firm.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he has really satisfied himself that the factories which are now engaged in the production of Bichromate of Soda in this country are not working up to their full capacity?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I take it that the Departments whom we consult on all these matters take all these facts into consideration. The Commerce Department is only concerned with the issue of licences on the material available and the opinions received.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if his Department or any other allied Department has definitely gone into the question that these factories are or are not manufacturing Bichromate of Soda to their full capacity?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid it is not within the scope of the Commerce Department to go into this question. I cannot say for others.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the firm concerned, to which this special quota has been assigned, happens to be the Imperial Chemical Industries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have already said that it is not in the public interest to disclose the names of the firms to which licences have been issued. If I mention the name of one firm, I shall have to mention the names of other firms too. So, I am not prepared to tell my Honourable friend the name of this firm.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member said that he had not got the information on one of the points mentioned by my Honourable friend in his capacity as the Commerce Member. May I know whether in his capacity as the Member for Industries he has any special responsibility in these matters?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am going into that question in the Industries Department.

POLICY RE IMPORT OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

575. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the policy of the Government with regard to the import of capital equipment;

(b) the total number of applications and their aggregate value received for the import of capital equipment since the beginning of 1944; and

(c) the number of applications and their aggregate value to which permission has been accorded for import?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The present policy of Government is to afford all facilities for the import of capital equipment required for industries producing goods which are considered essential by war-time standards. A press note, however, will issue shortly explaining the policy of Government regarding the import of post-war requirements of capital goods.

(b) and (c). 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.

PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF SECTION 20, INSURANCE ACT

576. ***Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether any penalty has been directed to be paid under section 102 of the Insurance Act, 1938, in respect of contravention of section 40 of the said Act during any of the years 1939 to 1944 (both inclusive); if so, how many?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No one has been prosecuted between 1939 to 1944 under section 102 of the Insurance Act for contravention of section 40 of this Act. The second part of the question does not arise.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Am I to understand from the reply of the Honourable Member that no proceedings have been instituted at any time under this or under any of the penal sections for contravention of section 40 of the Insurance Act?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not to my knowledge. I cannot say more than that.

DETERIORATED FOODGRAINS LYING IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS AT HAJIGUNJ, ETC.

577. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that 80,000 maunds of foodgrains have been lying in the Government godowns at Hajigunj, Narayangunj, Godnyle, etc., in a decomposed condition and unfit for human consumption;

(b) whether a notice has been issued by the Deputy Director, Civil Supplies, Region VI, Dacca to thirteen Hindu and seven Muslim traders asking them to purchase the said foodgrains;

(c) if it is a fact that on their refusal to purchase the same on the ground that they are unfit for human consumption, notices have been served to them by the Deputy Director of Civil Supplies, Region VI, Dacca, to show cause as to why their license should not be cancelled; and

(d) if the Honourable Member has seen the press reports about this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) I have seen one such report and that I have found to be completely unreliable.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to give the correct version of this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The allegations, as I have said, are not reliable.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the correct position?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is there absolutely no foundation whatsoever for this complaint?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member tables a question, I shall try to answer it.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The question is already there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That question has been answered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have the Government made any enquiries? What is the correct version as regards the allegation whether they were forced to purchase?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member will table a question. I will try to answer it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The question is already there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India got any special staff to examine the grain stores to see what portion of it is spoiled and to take necessary steps to see that the grains do not get further spoiled?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Government are always exercising vigilance.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was any special staff detailed for this specific purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I cannot catch what the Honourable Member says.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I have put a specific question in part (b): whether a notice has been issued by the Deputy Director, Civil Supplies, to 13 Hindu and seven Muslim traders asking them to purchase the said foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have given an answer to it, saying, 'no'.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know if the Honourable Member's Department depends entirely on the Provincial Governments for making enquiries into these matters, or has he got any independent agency to find out the truth?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As the Honourable Member knows, this was the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That explains the position. You are merely acting as a post office.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If it is not a fact that 80,000 maunds of foodgrains have decomposed, may I know if 79,999 maunds of foodgrains have got decomposed? Surely he understands this, and he need not quibble about this.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That too is not a fact.

FALLOW LAND IN COASTAL BELT OF CONTAI SUB-DIVISION (MIDNAPUR).

578. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that a vast area of 70 square miles in the coastal belt of Contai Sub-division in the district of Midnapur has remained fallow since the cyclone of October, 1942;

(b) if the said area is culturable land and has always grown food crops;

(c) if it is a fact that it has remained fallow due to cumulative effects of cyclone particularly for want of agricultural labour, implements, cattle and seeds;

(d) if no steps have been taken by the Grow More Food Department of the Government to bring the said area under cultivation; and

(e) that this has caused a loss of Rs. 48,00,000 annually to the ryots according to the estimate of local officials?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A part of this area remained fallow during 1943. It is reported to have been fully cultivated during 1944.

(b) Yes, the bulk of it has been used for raising food crops.

(c) It remained fallow in 1943 owing to the shortage of labour and cattle. Owing to the destruction of houses, there was inadequate accommodation for labourers. Seed was supplied whenever required.

(d) Steps were taken by the Provincial Government to rehabilitate cultivation and these have met with success in 1944. Action is being taken to bring in labour from the north of the district for harvesting operations.

(e) No estimate of the loss in the value of production can be given.

REFUSAL OF FACILITIES TO ALL INDIA WOMENS CONFERENCE FOR STUDYING THE CONDITION OF WOMEN IN COAL MINES

579. ***Mrs. Renuka Ray:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the All-India Women's Conference approached the Government for facilities to send an investigation Committee for an impartial

study of women in coal mines and that on the 3rd May, the Government of India informed the aforesaid organization that there was no objection against such investigation, and the time was not suitable at present; and

(b) if it is a fact that subsequently on a repeated request from the All-India Women's Conference on the 26th May, the Government of India again refused the facilities and informed them that Government would let them know when the time was suitable and that upto now the All-India Women's Conference has not heard from the Government; what the causes are which led to this course of action?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The reasons were explained in the Government of India's letters to the President of the Conference.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know the reasons which led the Government to pass the order referred to in part (b)?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The time was not suitable.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What does the Government mean by saying that the time was not suitable?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think the word 'suitable' is a very simple word. Everybody can understand it. I do not think I can further simplify it.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is it a fact that the Government allowed the Regge and the Health Survey Committees to go and investigate during the same period? Is it a fact that the All-India Women's organisation has not been given similar permission till now? If so, what is the basis for such differentiation? Why is it that a responsible body like the All-India Women's organisation who are interested in the welfare of women has not been allowed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are official bodies which were allowed.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Health Survey Committee an entirely official body?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Are not the Members of the Legislature on that Committee?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why are women stopped from going into the mines and investigating? Why should Government consider that the time is not suitable only in the case of Women's organisation?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member can draw his own inference.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is not a fact that Government do not consider the time suitable because the conditions in the mines are so bad that they do not like investigation being made by an impartial body?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member is at liberty to draw his own inferences.

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

SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN COAL MINES DUE TO MALARIA.

580. ***Mrs. Renuka Ray:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the shortage of labour in coal mines, particularly during the months of August and September was due to a large proportion of mining labour suffering from malaria and that no adequate treatment was possible due to the inadequate supply of quinine; and

(b) if the Honourable Member is aware of the fact that mining labour is suffering so acutely from the effects of diseases and mal-nutrition that this has seriously affected their efficiency; if so, what steps taken to remedy this are?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The coal-mining labour is not immune to the seasonal incidence of malaria, but it is not correct to say that a large proportion of this labour suffered from the disease during August and September. The incidence of the disease per thousand of the average daily labour force employed in the Jharia Coalfield was 81 and 80 for the month of August in 1943 and 1944 respectively and 111 and 74 for the month of September in 1943 and 1944 respectively. Every effort is made to provide adequate facilities for treatment and sufficient supplies of quinine and its substitutes.

(b) It cannot be said that mining labour is suffering acutely from malnutrition. As regards their health all collieries employing 30 persons or more are required to maintain a dispensary and distribute medicines through their doctors. Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund has recently been set up from which measures for prevention of disease in the mining population and improvement of medical facilities will be financed.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the point about malnutrition, will the Honourable Member please make a statement as to whether it is not a fact and an admitted fact that apart from the shortage of labour in collieries, individual output of work has gone down due to malnutrition?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not certain about the facts mentioned by my Honourable friend.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make an enquiry from the Honourable the Supply Member, who, I understand made a statement to this effect on a recent occasion when he met one of the Chambers of Commerce.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is no need for an enquiry as the Honourable Member seems to be in possession of the fact.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member convince himself about the truth of this position?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, I know there has been some fall in production, but I understood it was entirely due to the fact that there was lack of machinery.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: As the Honourable Member has told us about dispensaries in the different mines, will he kindly investigate and find out what the medical facilities are and how far the dispensaries are working and giving medicines in the mines at Ranigunj and Jharia? My information is that some of them cannot work because there are not enough medicines.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, it was because in the opinion of Government the facilities were not sufficient that Government established the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

CASES OF EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ON UNDERGROUND WORK IN MINES

581. ***Mrs. Renuka Ray:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if he is aware of the fact that there are a growing number of cases of violation of the Act prohibiting children in underground work in mines?

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what the steps taken to ensure the enforcement of the Act are; and

(c) if the answer is in the negative, will the Honourable Member kindly investigate the matter and take effective steps to put a stop to any such illegal practice that may prevail?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Inspections are regularly made by the Officers of the Department of Mines to enforce the provisions of the Indian Mines Act regarding the prohibition of employment of children in mines and effective steps will be taken as a matter of course if any such illegal practice prevails anywhere.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a growing number of cases of violation in some of the mines in Jharia and Ranigunj coalfields and that children of 14 and 15 are signed up as adults and actually go down the mines? And what does the Honourable Member propose to do about it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If the Honourable Member has any specific cases having reference to specific mines and will bring them to my notice, I will certainly take the matter up.

UNDERGROUND WORK IN MINES BY PREGNANT WOMEN

582. ***Mrs. Renuka Ray:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if he is aware of the fact that pregnant women usually work underground in mines until the ninth month and again a fortnight after child birth, and that in mines where maternity benefits are not given they work even longer?

(b) the steps Government have taken to stop pregnant women from working underground;

(c) if it is a fact that there have been a certain number of accidents to women working underground within the last year and there is no way of ascertaining how many of these accidents have occurred to pregnant women; and

(d) if it is a fact that maternity benefits are given only in some mines; what steps Government intend to take to make maternity benefits compulsory for all women working in mining areas?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) I am not aware of the basis for this allegation. Under section 3 of the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, employment of a woman for a period of four weeks following her confinement is prohibited. Further a woman is entitled to leave of absence for a period of one month before she expects to be delivered of a child. Inspections under this Act are regularly made by the Labour Inspectors under the Chief Inspector of Mines, all of whom are doctors, with a view to enforcing the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder.

(b) As already stated, pregnant women are entitled to leave of absence for a period of one month before the date of delivery; and the object of the employment of Labour Inspectors under the Chief Inspector of Mines is to make known to these women their rights under the Act and to assist them in securing the benefits of that Act.

(c) Yes, but no information of any of these women being pregnant has been received. During enquiries following accidents, the evidence of the colliery doctor is invariably recorded and if a woman were pregnant her condition would be disclosed and recorded.

(d) The Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941 applies to all mines in British India except:

(i) certain stone crushing plants forming part of mines in the province of Bombay;

(ii) iron ore mines worked without mechanical power, the whole of the ore from which is supplied locally to village smelters and blacksmiths; and

(iii) those mines in which excavation is being carried out for prospecting purposes only, provided not more than 20 persons are employed in or about such excavation and subject to certain other conditions.

It is not considered necessary to make maternity benefits compulsory in these small mines.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have there actually been any cases of pregnant women having suffered?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, there have been some.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Since they started working. These accidents are often occurring in the coal mines.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Member tell us whether the best way of preventing pregnant women from going down the mines would not be to restore the ban on women working underground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I entirely agree, provided the circumstances were propitious.

RESTORATION OF BAN ON WOMEN WORKING UNDERGROUND IN COAL MINES

583. *Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) when the Government of India intend to restore the ban on women working underground in coal mines in view of their former promise; and

(b) how far the employment of women underground has increased coal raisings?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Government are most anxious to re-impose the ban as soon as production of coal reaches a figure which makes possible such re-imposition.

(b) Coal raisings have increased appreciably as a result of the employment of women underground, but no exact figures can be given as other factors are in operation at the same time.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that a very infinitesimal proportion represents the increased raisings helped by women working underground and does he consider that the violation of an international code and moral convention is compensated by the increased raisings that is due to women working in the mines even from the point of view of increased production?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My information is to the contrary.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know what is the target of production aimed at by Government in order to restore this ban?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am unable to say.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that the woman acts as loader underground and the man as cutter, and so the rate of progress of each tub is much slower because a woman cannot act as cutter, and the result is that the man has to rest, whereas the rate would be much faster

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: I should like to know if the Labour Member does not consider that the rate of progress of the work per tub is much slower because women work as loaders and cannot work as cutters.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am glad to have that information, but I am passing no opinion either on the reliability of the statement or the feasibility of the suggestion.

STAFF OF AND LEASES BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

584. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons serving under the Delhi Improvement Trust upward from Patwari to Land Officer and the number of Muslims under each category;

(b) whether it is the policy of the Government not to lease land taken from Muslims to Muslims;

(c) the necessary conditions upon which the lands are leased and if any concession in favour of the original proprietor of the acquired land is shown; if so, what its nature is;

(d) if any particular instruction has been issued by the Central Government to lease land in Delhi and whether any proportion of a particular community has been suggested;

(e) the number of leases executed by the Improvement Trust in Daryaganj in old Delhi and the number of leases granted to Muslims; and

(f) the total number of acquisitions of land made in Daryaganj up till now and the number of Muslims whose lands and buildings were acquired?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) and (c). I will supply the Honourable Member with Specimen form of the leases generally used by the Trust. Acquired lands are sold by the Trust

by auction or tender to the highest bidder or tenderer, and no question of showing any concession in favour of the original proprietor or to any particular community arises.

(d) No.

(e) 114 plots were leased by the Delhi Improvement Trust in Daryaganj. Among the successful bidders, 8 were Muslims.

(f) No land has so far been acquired by the Trust from private persons in Daryaganj.

Statement.

Lands Officer. 1 (Hindu).
Accounts Officer and Secretary to Chairman. 1 (Muslim).
Tehsildar. Nazul. 1 (Hindu).
Architectural Assistant. 1 (Hindu).
Office Superintendent. 1 (Hindu).
Accountant. 1 (Hindu).
Land Acquisition Naib Tahsildar. 1 (Hindu).
Head Assistants. 3 (two Hindus and one Muslim).
Steno. to Chairman. 1 (Hindu).
Steno to Lands Officer. 1 (Muslim).
Senior Grade Clerks. 4 (Two Hindus and Two Muslims).
Rent Collector (Clerk). 1 (Hindu).
Overseers. 4 (Three Hindus and one Muslim).
Draftsman. 2 (One Hindu and one Muslim).
Senior Accounts Clerk. 3 (One Hindu, one Muslim and one Christian).
Cashier. 1 (Hindu).
Tracers. 2 (One Muslim and the other vacant).
Sanitary Inspector (Temporary). 1 (Hindu).
Clerks (including three temporary). 22 (14 Hindus, six Muslims and one Christian, one post vacant).
Routine Division Clerks (including one temporary). 10 (5 Hindus and 5 Muslims).
Typists. 3 (One Hindu and two Muslims).
Girdwar. 1 (Hindu).
Ferro-Printer. 1 (Hindu).
Patwaris. 9 (Six Hindus and three Muslims).

LAND OFFICER IN DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

585. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the normal period for the transfer of Land Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust;

(b) the period of the present Land Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust;

(c) when the Land Officer in Delhi Improvement Trust is expected to be transferred back to his original service in the Punjab; and

(d) if it is a fact that no Muslim Land Officer has ever been appointed in the Delhi Improvement Trust and the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No tenure has been fixed for the post of Lands Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust.

(b) Since the 3rd March 1937.

(c) The reversion of the present incumbent of the post is not at present contemplated.

(d) The present incumbent, a Hindu, is the first officer appointed to the post.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: How many extensions have been given to the present Land Officer in Delhi?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As there is no tenure, no question of extension arises.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is his present age?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I shall require notice of that.

POST OF LABOUR WELFARE OFFICER FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

586. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Labour Welfare Officers for the Government of India Presses was advertised; if so, when and how;

- (b) whether any selection has been made;
 (c) whether it is a fact that the post was reserved for a Muslim;
 (d) the number of persons who have been appointed as Assistant Labour Welfare Officers during the last two years; and
 (e) what their academic qualifications are and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) One posts of Labour Welfare Officer for the Government of India Presses has been sanctioned and it was advertised by the Federal Public Service Commission in the approved newspapers in June last. Applications were due to reach the office of the Commission by the 10th July.

- (b) and (c). Yes.
 (d) One lady Assistant Welfare Adviser was appointed directly under Labour Department.
 (e) She is M.A., M.Litt., and is a Hindu.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these officers appointed for the Central Government presses or also for the provincial Government Presses?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: For the Central Government presses.

DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

587. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government intends to develop the Archaeological Department and recruitment is going to be made to train men for that purpose; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to lay on the table full particulars of such a scheme, explaining the requisite qualifications of candidates to be recruited?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Proposals for the reorganisation of the Archaeological Survey have been received.

(b) It is not proposed to lay them on the table of the House. The qualifications suggested vary with, and depend on the nature of the posts. For most officers of the higher grades, a University degree will be required, representing advanced study in history or languages, and practical experience in Archaeological work.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answer to the next three questions—588, 589 and 590—will be laid on the table as they are in excess of the Honourable Member's quota.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I have asked only four questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not matter. You were absent when the first question in your name could have been asked.

NON-SUPPLY OF SUJI AT DELHI RATION SHOPS

†588. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state:

- (a) why suji or rawa—wheat preparation—is not supplied to persons taking rations from Ration shops in Delhi; and

(b) what steps he intends to take to ensure such supplies in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Supplies have been made when available but owing to limitations placed by the Punjab Government on the production of fine grain products it has not been possible hitherto to give a continuous supply.

(b) Action is being taken in consultation with the Punjab Government to ensure increased supplies.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

STANDARD CLOTH OF INFERIOR QUALITY

†589. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of standard cloth of inferior quality supplied by mill-owners;
 (b) the time of detection;
 (c) the steps taken to punish the wrong-doers;
 (d) the names of the mills, together with the quantity of such cloth supplied by them; and
 (e) the amount of loss incurred by Government in such transaction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) 163 bales.

(b) Early in April last.

(c) A rebate was recovered representing the difference in value between the cloth as it was and as it should have been, and the Standard Cloth manufactured by these mills is now subject to pre-inspection by the Inspection staff.

(d) The names of the mills and the quantities of defective cloth supplied by them were as follows:

1. Birla Mills Ltd., Delhi—9 bales.
2. Sutlej Cotton Mills, Okara—14 bales.
3. Jiyajirao Cotton Mills, Gwalior—31 bales.
4. Vijayalaxmi Cotton Mills, Cambay—73 bales.
5. Dayalbagh Spinning and Weaving Mills, Amritsar—21 bales.
6. Rajnagar Mills, Ahmedabad—15 bales.

(e) Nil, as the rebates allowed to consumers by the Delhi Administration for the defective cloth supplied were fully covered by the rebate recovered from the mills.

DIRECTORS, INSPECTORS, ETC. IN INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

†590. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please to state:

- (a) the total number of (i) Directors, (ii) Assistant Directors, (iii) Inspectors and (iv) Assistant Inspectors employed in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies;

(b) the number of (i) Graduates, (ii) Intermediate Arts and Intermediate Science, and (iii) Matriculates under each category in (a) of the question;

(c) the minimum period required for the training of officers in (a) above;

(d) the standard by which their efficiency is judged;

(e) the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors posted at present in every province;

(f) the period for which the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies will continue; and

(g) the nature of the work entrusted to officers in part (a)?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the Cotton Textile Directorate and the office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies under the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. If so a statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

Statement

(a) (i) Directors	7
(ii) Assistant Directors	24
(iii) Inspectors	61
(iv) Assistant Inspectors	74
(b) (i) Graduates—	
(1) Directors	5
(2) Asst. Directors	13
(3) Inspectors	47
(4) Asst. Inspectors	59

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(ii) <i>Intermediate Arts & Intermediate Science.</i> —	
(1) Directors	1
(2) Asst. Directors	3
(3) Inspectors	4
(4) Asst. Inspectors	7
(iii) <i>Matriculates.</i> —	
(1) Directors	Nil.
(2) Asst. Directors	7
(3) Inspectors	5
(4) Asst. Inspectors	6
(iv) <i>With Technical Qualifications.</i> —	
(1) Director	1
(v) <i>Non Matriculates.</i> —	
(1) Assistant Director	1
(2) Inspector	1
(vi) There are four Inspectors and two Assistant Inspectors who are retired Government servants and their educational qualifications are not readily available.	
(c) There is no training period for Directors and Assistant Directors. Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Civil Supplies, before being posted to any mofussil stations are given training or a period of about two or three weeks at the headquarters of the Regional Deputy Controller Generals of Civil Supplies.	
(d) Promptness, accuracy of decision on matters entrusted; integrity and general suitability.	
(e) <i>Bombay.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	18
(2) Assistant Inspectors	24
<i>Central Provinces and Berar.</i> —	
(1) Inspector	1
(2) Assistant Inspectors	4
<i>Punjab.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	8
(2) Assistant Inspectors	11
<i>Sind.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	4
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2
<i>N. W. F. P.</i> —	
(1) Inspector	1
<i>United Provinces.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	6
(2) Assistant Inspectors	5
<i>Bengal.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	11
(2) Assistant Inspectors	18
<i>Assam.</i> —	
(1) Inspector	1
<i>Madras.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	6
(2) Assistant Inspectors	4
<i>Bihar.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	2
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2
<i>Orissa.</i> —	
(1) Inspector	1
(2) Assistant Inspector	1
<i>Baluchistan.</i> —	
(1) Assistant Inspector	1
<i>Delhi.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	2
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2
(f) If the reference is to the organisation of the Controller General of Civil Supplies then it will continue for as long as it may be necessary.	
(g) (1) <i>Directors</i> are the executive heads and are responsible for smooth and efficient running of the sections under them. They are entrusted with more responsible work within their sphere of duties than the Assistant Directors.	
(2) <i>Assistant Directors.</i> Less important work than the Directors.	
(3) <i>Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors.</i> —	
(a) to act as intelligence and investigating officers in matters connected with articles falling under the Hoarding & Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943.	
(b) to act as Inspectors under the Removal of Factories Ordinance.	

RESTRICTIONS ON SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE

†591. *Bhai Parmanand: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(a) if it is a fact that by a Notification No. 1607, dated the 12th July, 1944, the Government of India placed restrictions on the slaughter of cattle and directed the Provincial Governments to follow them;

(b) the Provincial Governments which have acted upon that notification and which have not; and if the Government propose to direct such Provincial Governments to follow the notification; and

(c) the number of cattle that have been carried from North Western Railway stations and Bombay, Baroda and Central India from the Punjab?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The communication referred to is not a notification but only a letter in which the Government of India have announced the restrictions agreed to by the Army authorities on the slaughter of useful cattle, and have asked the Provincial Governments to issue similar instructions.

(b) Seven provinces, viz., Madras, Bombay, Bihar, Orissa, 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, and in the meantime in one other province, viz., Bengal, two meatless days a week have been introduced.

(c) Government have no information and its collection will entail an expenditure of time, labour and money which would not be justified by the results.

PURCHASES OF JUTE PRODUCTS BY SOUTH AFRICA

592. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member furnish the following figures for the purchases of jute products by South Africa from India in the years 1942-43 and up to the 1st November, 1944?

(b) Were all the purchases exported to South Africa?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I have no information about the purchases made in India for the purpose of export to South Africa. Nor am I in a position to say whether the goods purchased with this object in view were actually exported to South Africa.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were these purchases by South Africa being made at the world price parity prevailing for jute, or at any concessional rate that the Government of India might have fixed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said, I have no information about any purchases made in India for South Africa.

DISSATISFACTION OVER PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSING ARECA NUT CESS

593. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is aware that:

(a) the Malabar Areca nut producers and dealers are discontented with the procedure adopted by Government in assessing the Areca nut cess and in collecting it;

(b) the objections he has to lower the cess in proportion to the normal price of the nuts;

(c) if he is aware that usually 25 per cent. of the stock gets spoiled during the process of preservation and if so, whether he is prepared to reduce the incidence of the cess to a corresponding degree or not;

(d) the objections he has to impose the cess in proportion to the weight of the kernel of the nut, that is, excluding the husk;

(e) if he is prepared to collect the cess from the wholesale dealers, and, if not, why not; and

(f) if he is prepared to order a departmental enquiry into the above matter and other grievances of the producers concerned as stated in their printed representation (enclosed herewith)?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member who will reply on the 21st November 1944.

APPLICATIONS FOR HAJ PILGRIMAGE

†594. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

1010

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[20TH Nov. 1944]

(a) the total number of applications for Haj Pilgrimage received this year province wise and how many of them have been rejected;

(b) the number of Haj pilgrims who returned from Karachi though they were issued cards;

(c) the number of Haj pilgrims who arrived at Karachi on or before the 30th September, 1944, how many of them were provided with accommodation on board the ships and how many of them have been disappointed and detained at Karachi for the second sailing;

(d) if the Government are prepared to pay compensation to those pilgrims who have been disappointed and detained till second sailing; if not, why not;

(e) the total sum forfeited by the Government for failure on the part of pilgrims to reach Karachi port by the specified date or for other reasons; and

(f) the total income of the Government by way of money order commission, registration fees, postage and telegraph charges paid by the intending applicants?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Information is being collected.

(b) None except those who might have voluntarily decided not to go.

(c) The number of pilgrims who arrived and were provided with accommodation cannot be disclosed at present for security reasons. All those who arrived were booked and none was disappointed.

(d) No. Pilgrims who were left behind arrived after the prescribed date.

(e) Nil.

(f) The Government do not consider it necessary to collect the information as the time and labour involved would not be commensurate with its importance.

BUFFALOES AND COWS PURCHASED FOR MILITARY FARMS

†595. *Bhai Parmanand: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the number of buffaloes and their calves and the number of cows and their calves respectively, purchased from 1st October, 1941 to 30th September, 1944 for the requirements of Military Farms in India;

(b) the number of calves both male and female destroyed, and the number of those that were supplied to the Supply Department in order to provide veal to the American, European and other troops, during the said period;

(c) the number of calves both male and female preserved and reared, during the same period;

(d) the number of calves both male and female that were born during the said period, and what became of them, namely the number of those destroyed, those supplied to the Supply Department and those preserved and reared;

(e) if the Government is aware of the fact that in recent years and particularly during the War period a great economic need for the preservation of cattle has been felt; if so, how the practice of destroying or slaughtering of a large number of calves will effect the said economic situation;

(f) if the Government is aware of the fact that the market price of the cattle has enormously increased in recent years and the act of destruction and slaughter of the young cattle will worsen the position;

(g) whether the Government has, in continuing the practice of the destruction and the slaughter of the calves taken into consideration the needs of the agriculturists and the feelings of the Hindus; and

(h) whether the Government intends to stop the practice of the destruction and slaughter of the young cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Between 1st October 1941 and 30th September 1944 the Military Farms Department purchased about 48,000 buffaloes, mostly with calves, and about 500 cows.

(b), (c) and (d). Detailed statistics required to answer parts (b) to (d) are not available. All female cow calves and all female buffaloes calves from dams giving an economic yield are reared by Military Farms. The number of young stock at present being reared on Military Farms is approximately 6,000. Calves unwanted by the Military Farms are given away for rearing, and only

when no other disposal is possible they are destroyed. The number issued for veal has not been more than a few hundreds and the rearing of calves for veal has been discontinued. Provinces have been informed that the Military Farms Department have a number of calves available for disposal and have been requested to state whether they can take them over for rearing. Two enquiries have already been received.

(e) The Government of India are aware of the need for the preservation of all useful cattle. The effect of the slaughter of calves on the economic situation will depend on whether the animals are useful or otherwise.

(f) Government are aware of the increase in the market price of useful cattle. There is no reason to suppose that the non-rearing of stock which will not be economically useful will worsen the present position.

(g) The needs of agriculturists are borne in mind when deciding the policy to be adopted. Government have to consider the feelings not of one section of the community but of all.

(h) The question how to make effective the prohibition against the slaughter of useful young stock is under examination.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE ANTIQUITIES OF NAGARJUNAKONDA

596. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if there is any proposal to remove the antiquities of Nagarjunakonda in Guntur District, the biggest single area in this country to yield Buddhist relics; if so, why;

(b) whether the Government of India realise the loss of historical and natural setting by excavating the relics and removing them from the place of finding;

(c) if it is not a fact that the excavations though on a limited scale, bring to light the existence of the capital of a dynasty that held sway over East Andhra in the third century;

(d) if the Government of India is aware of the agitated feelings of Andhras about the proposal to remove them to a museum—perhaps to Calcutta;

(e) whether the Government of India intend to promote the historical scholarship by commencing a new series of excavations at the site than to remove the relics already found; and

(f) if the Government will acquire the site in trust for the nation as is so frequently done in Britain?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Government of India have no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The remains excavated relate to the Buddhist period. I am not in a position to give more detailed information regarding the archaeological interpretation of the material excavated.

(d) Government are aware that there is some local feeling against removal.

(e) No new excavation at Nagarjunakonda is at present contemplated.

(f) The site is protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act. The question whether it is necessary and practicable to acquire the site will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what he has said in a letter that the recent removal of some of the finds from that place is only a temporary thing, and all those finds are expected to be sent back to Nagarjunakonda and are not expected to be permanently transferred to Madras?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. As I have informed the Honourable Member, Professor Ranga, it has been ascertained that the local Superintendent has arranged for the removal of a number of small antiquities temporarily to Madras for exhibition at the forthcoming History Congress. This is in accordance with the ordinary practice of making arrangements for selected archaeological exhibits of great interest to be on view at exhibitions held in connection with meetings of bodies which are interested in archaeology, and it is the intention that these antiquities, which have been or are being removed temporarily

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

to Madras, shall be returned to Nagarjunakonda as soon as the History Congress is over and transport arrangements can be made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government consider the advisability of getting back as many of the Amraoti finds as possible which are kept in the London Museum.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That will no doubt be considered.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE ANTIQUITIES OF NAGARJUNAKONDA

597. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if the Government of India is aware of the fact that the marble sculptures unearthed at Nagarjunakonda belong to the later Amaravati School and constitutes the pride of Andhradesa;

(b) if the Government of India is also aware of the fact that Nagarjunakonda is now a pilgrim centre visited by numerous batches of the public from far and near and by teachers and students of all the colleges in the Andhra area and that the proposal to remove them alarms the scholars and the public;

(c) if the Government of India is further aware that the public of Andhradesa apprehends that the marbles of Nagarjunakonda will share the same fate as those of Amaravati since the best part of the Amaravati collection was taken to London;

(d) if it is not a fact that the Government have already presented the tooth relic of the Buddha discovered at Nagarjunakonda to the Mahabodhi society and intend to distribute the other antiquities of Nagarjunakonda, all at the expense of the Andhras;

(e) if the Government of India is aware of the protest by such responsible bodies as Andhra Maha Sabha, Guntur District, Andhra Maha Sabha Teachers and Students Associations of Andhradesa; and

(f) if in view of the above facts the Government of India would abandon the idea of removing them and publish their decision at the earliest opportunity to allay the agitated feelings of Andhras?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government are aware that the sculptures relate to an important stage of the Buddhist period.

(b), (c), and (e). Government are aware that the site has been visited by teachers and students and others interested. They are also aware that there is some local feeling against the removal of the finds from Nagarjunakonda and that some local organisations have sent protests to the Archaeological Department.

(d) It is understood that a relic of Lord Buddha discovered at Nagarjunakonda was presented to the Mahabodhi Society some time ago to be enshrined for worship by the Buddhists. No proposals to distribute the other antiquities discovered at Nagarjunakonda are under consideration.

(f) The Government of India are not considering any proposal to remove the finds from Nagarjunakonda.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (f), there is a specific question, namely whether the Government of India would abandon the idea of removing them?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It has not been seriously considered at all. I am not prepared to say that they will abandon the idea, therefore, but in any case they would not remove them all. There would in any case be left a representative collection of finds at the site. The matter has hardly been considered at all yet.

BAD SANITATION OF DELHI-SHAHDARA MUNICIPALITY

598. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if the reports about the bad sanitation arrangements of the Delhi-Shahdra Municipality have reached the Government and if there is a general discontent about the same; and

(b) whether the Government propose to institute an enquiry about the matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

SUGAR AND GUR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF DELHI-SHAHDARA

599. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) how much gur and sugar came to Delhi-Shahdra from the United Provinces over which the terminal tax was charged;

(b) how much gur and sugar were exported from Delhi-Shahdra to Delhi and other places;

(c) if it is a fact that the quantity of sugar and gur that went out of Delhi-Shahdra is more than what appears to have come to Delhi-Shahdra from the terminal tax account; and

(d) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, what the reasons can be for the discrepancy and who would be responsible for the loss of terminal tax?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An inquiry has been made from the Delhi Administration and the information, when received, will be laid on the table of the House.

STATISTICS RE PRIVATE NEWSPAPER OWNERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

600. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state:

(a) if the Government have obtained any statistics about the number of private newspapers owners and the persons employed by them; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, do the Government propose to obtain the statistics with a view to afford relief to such employees with regard to (i) rules of leave, (ii) list of holidays, (iii) grades of salaries and (iv) dearness allowance?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) The Labour Investigation Committee is collecting general information regarding the terms and conditions of employees in printing presses. The question as to what additional information should be collected and as to the feasibility of legislating to govern the conditions of employees of newspaper organisations will be considered in due course.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: May I know if Government can at least obtain the figures regarding Delhi Printing Press?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think it would be better to wait in order to know what the Labour Investigation Committee is doing in this matter.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Delhi is a small area of which the Honourable Member can get.

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

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH

601. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that extension after extension in service is allowed in many cases in the Government of India Press, Aligarh;

(b) whether it is a fact that every year the Manager of that Press recommends a lot of cases of extension to the Controller of Printing and Stationery in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that fully trained and qualified men are available in that Press to work in the places of these men whose extension has been recommended by the Manager and who are on the verge of retirement;

(d) whether it is a fact that the claims of some of the qualified men for the posts of these retiring hands have been blocked due to these recommendations for extension in service; and

(e) if the answers to (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, has the Honourable Member considered the advisability of issuing instructions to the effect that no further extension be granted in future under any circumstances?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No. Only a few cases are recommended.

(c) In some cases qualified men are available, in others not.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Do I understand that the answer to part (a) of the question is in the negative, and he has not been recommending any extensions whatsoever?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said, only a few cases are recommended.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmed Kazmi: Has the General Manager been granting any extensions, or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Manager has been granting extensions.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: May I know why these extensions are granted when qualified persons are available?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not prepared to admit that extensions are granted notwithstanding that qualified persons are available.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I understood the Honourable Member to say that sometimes extensions are granted even when qualified persons are available.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, in a very few cases.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: May I know the reason for which extensions are granted to people even under those circumstances?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I understand that the general reason why these extensions are granted in the cases referred to by my Honourable friend are entirely governed by the fact that some people lose their pensions if they are not given a year or two's extension.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is that the only reason, or is there some other reason also?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not aware of any other reason.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable be pleased to enquire whether the extensions that were given in the cases referred to were solely for this reason or for some other reason?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have made enquiries and that is the information I have.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know the names of persons included in those 'few cases'?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no names of persons, but I have a certain number of cases before me.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What community do they belong to?

(No reply.)

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

TIME SCALE OF PAY FOR BINDERS AND WAREHOUSEMEN OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI

602. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has sanctioned the Time Scale of pay for which the Binders and warehousemen of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, had been representing;

(b) whether it is a fact that these people have been representing their case for this purpose for the last fifteen years approximately;

(c) whether it is a fact that some warehousemen who have been serving for the last fifteen and twenty years and whose pay is only Rs. 25 per month at present, are not benefited at all by this Time Scale of pay at present;

(d) whether it is a fact that not a single increment has been sanctioned to any man immediately; and

(e) if the answers to (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please consider the advisability of sanctioning at least one increment to all Binders and warehousemen just at the time of introducing the Time Scale of pay so that some immediate relief may be gained by these men who have been waiting for the last so many years?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, for some time past.

(c) Yes, but they will be benefited as soon as they earn their next increment.

(d) Yes, because no increment has been yet earned since the 22nd June 1944 when the Time Scale came into force.

(e) No action as proposed is necessary, as the men will earn their increments next year.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to consider that some persons will be on the verge of retirement and will not be able to get any benefit from this time-scale. Isn't it proper in such cases for the Government to give them some increment in lieu of their past services?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think it is prudent to alter the law in order to meet hard cases!

PROHIBITION OF BURIALS IN CERTAIN MUSLIM GRAVEYARDS OF DELHI

603. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the burial of dead bodies in old-Muslim graveyards, viz, Qabristan Mehndian and Chausath Khamba, has been prohibited under orders of Government;

(b) if it is or is it not a fact that there were till recently no residential buildings within a radius of about half a mile from these graveyards;

(c) if it is or is it not a fact that even now there are no buildings whatsoever, on the eastern side of these graveyards;

(d) the reason of the prohibition of the burial of dead bodies in these graveyards;

(e) whether Government is aware of the fact that great resentment prevails among old Muslim residents of Delhi for their being deprived of the privilege to bury their deads in those graveyards in the vicinity of the shrines and graves of eminent religious heads;

(f) if the prohibition is based on the ground that around the aforesaid graveyards, Government buildings have been built; and state why the graveyards have been in similar circumstances allowed to be built in New Delhi for the Europeans and other communities, who enjoy the privilege of burying their deads therein; and

(g) whether Government have considered the advisability of reconsidering the cases of the Muslim graveyards referred to in clause (a) above and allow the Muslims to renew the burial of their deads on such conditions as may be deemed necessary to meet the sanitary requirements?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The necessary information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

CATEGORIES OF TITLES FOR INDIAN NATIONALS

604. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly give a list of titles, both English and Indian, that are or can be bestowed on Indian nationals?

(b) Are any titles reserved for particular communities and bestowed on members of those communities only?

(c) Is it a fact that the titles of Khan Bahadur and Rai Bahadur, on the one hand, and those of Khan Sahib and Rai Sahib, on the other, are of equal

status, and that the titles of Khan Bahadur and Khan Sahib are given to Muslims and Parsis, and those of Rai Bahadur and Rai Sahib to Hindus and Indian Christians? Why is this distinction maintained?

(d) How many muslims, at present, have the title of Raja, and how many Hindus that of Nawab?

(e) Is there any publication by Government which gives a description of the medals, cloths, sashes, swords, etc., that the recipients of various titles are entitled to decorate themselves with; and what portions of these does a title holder receive as free gifts from Government and for what do they have to pay themselves?

(f) Under what budget head is the expenditure on titles provided?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) A list of titles is laid on the table.

(b) There are some titles which are usually granted to members of particular communities.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The distinction mentioned is based on well-established usage and custom.

(d) The information is not readily available.

(e) There is no such government publication. The insignia of the Orders of Knighthood and the Indian titles consist of sashes or ribbons and badges or stars. These are given free by Government except the Knight-Bachelor Badge which recipients purchase through the Imperial Society of Knights-Bachelor. The recipients of literary and medical titles receive *khillats* which are presented by Government.

(f) Expenditure in this respect is provided for under the head "Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor-General."

List of Titles, both English and Indian, that are or can be bestowed on Indian nationals.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. G.C.B. | 19. Raja. |
| 2. K.C.B. | 20. Begum. |
| 3. G.C.S.I. | 21. Rani. |
| 4. K.C.S.I. | 22. Shams-ul-Ulama. |
| 5. G.C.I.E. | 23. Mahamahopadhyaya. |
| 6. K.C.I.E. | 24. Hazik-ul-Mulk. |
| 7. G.C.V.O. | 25. Diwan Bahadur. |
| 8. K.C.V.O. | 26. Sardar Bahadur. |
| 9. G.B.E. | 27. Khan Bahadur. |
| 10. K.B.E. | 28. Rai Bahadur. |
| 11. Knight Bachelor. | 29. Rao Bahadur. |
| 12. Maharajadhiraja. | 30. Shifa-ul-Mulk. |
| 13. Maharaja Bahadur. | 31. Vaidyaratna. |
| 14. Maharaja. | 32. Chikitsakratna. |
| 15. Maharani. | 33. Sardar Sahib. |
| 16. Nawab Bahadur. | 34. Khan Sahib. |
| 17. Raja Bahadur. | 35. Rai Sahib. |
| 18. Nawab. | 36. Rao Sahib. |

Mr. Sri-Prakasa: Is the List so large that it cannot be read out to the House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Thirty-six designations are given there!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are they arranged in order of merit?

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I really want to know because there are many people interested in them.

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

TITLES, ETC. CARRYING FINANCIAL BENEFIT

605. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the insignia of the titles and honours have to be sent back to Government by the family of the persons receiving them after their death;

(b) if there is any financial payment made to persons receiving the Victoria Cross; and whether this payment is continued to the family in the case of its posthumous award;

(c) the titles, if any, which carry any financial payment with them; if so, what the amount paid with each is; and

(d) under what budget head these payments are provided for?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Except in the following cases the insignia need not be returned on the recipient's death:

G.C.B. (Collar and Collar Badge only).

G.C.S.I.

K.C.S.I.

C.S.I.

G.C.I.E.

K.C.I.E.

C.I.

G.C.V.O. (Collar only); and

G.B.E. (Collar only).

(b) A monetary allowance is granted to recipients of the Victoria Cross but Commissioned Officers other than V.C.Os. are not entitled to it. On the death of the recipient of the Victoria Cross the monetary allowance is continued to his widow until her re-marriage or death.

(c) The literary titles of Shams-ul-Ulama and Mahamahopadhyaya both carry an annual pension of Rs. 100.

(d) These payments are included under the Demand "Miscellaneous" (vide Demands for Grants for 1944-45, see page 203).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who meets the expenses for the return of these Insignia?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are the Insignia and Titles granted free to the recipients or is anything charged for them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That has been answered. I am sure my Honourable friend was not listening.

(Mr. Kazmi and Mr. Deshmukh stood up).

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

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether, in case the widow dies and has not, in her short life time been able to enjoy the pension, and she leaves behind small children, the monetary allowance is continued and if not will it be continued to the children?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is not continued.

(At this stage several Honourable Members stood up).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Sri Prakasa.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has read out a large number of the letters of the alphabet in connection with these titles, will he please enlarge them so that we may fully understand their significance and hear their resounding sounds!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I will leave that to the Honourable Member.

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

RESTRICTION ON SIZE OF NOTE PAPER FOR PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE

606. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that some Provincial Governments have imposed a restriction on the size of note paper to be used for correspondence by private individuals;

(b) if it is not a fact that a good lot of stationery sold by the Legislative Department is larger than the prescribed size;

(c) if Government got an exemption for the use of such stationery from the Provincial Governments concerned;

(d) the sizes laid down in various Provinces; and

(e) if Government propose to advise Provincial Governments to withdraw their orders against the use of note paper of above particular size in private correspondence?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, but the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, issued by the Central Government lays down the maximum permissible size of letter paper as 63 square inches.

(b) There is a small balance of the stock of letter paper having an area greater than 63 square inches, from earlier supplies. This is supplied to the members of the Indian Legislatures if specifically asked for.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In all Provinces the maximum permissible size is 63 square inches.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know why this mystic figure of 63 square inches has been fixed? It is really a most inconvenient size and will the Honourable Member show us what a piece of paper of 63 square inches will actually look like?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend can see any ordinary letter paper nowadays and he will find it is 63 square inches. We have had to give some figure and any figure would have been criticised by my friend as mystic.

(Several Honourable Members including Mr. Sri Prakasa stood up).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Mr. Sri Prakasa.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What happens to the old stocks in our possession?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They have been permitted.

DEVELOPMENT OF MAHANADI PROJECTS IN ORISSA

607. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware that Sir M. Visveewaraya Committee's report on Mahanadi to stop the ravages of floods in Orissa has suggested the development of Mahanadi projects and a system of irrigation canals to irrigate huge areas of land in Cuttack, Sambalpur, Puri and Balasore Districts;

(b) if such a scheme was estimated to cost about rupees four crores in 1938-39; and

(c) whether Government of India will consider the advisability of taking the initiative and developing that scheme, in view of the financial disabilities of the subvention province of Orissa and also of the great need of India for more rice production?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No. Information on the subject has been called for.

(c) Government cannot give such an assurance at this stage without a careful examination of the scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is Government prepared to examine this scheme carefully?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it form part of the investigations of one of the various sub-committees or the National Planning structure of committees?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot say as regards the procedure that Government should adopt. But I shall examine the thing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Thank you.

STEPS FOR PROPER UTILIZATION OF FUND FOR 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN'

608. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which are being taken by the Government of India to ensure that Provincial Governments and other agencies which are entrusted with the administration and utilisation of fund for the Grow More Food campaign are being properly and effectively utilised; and

(b) whether they will consider the advisability of constituting Food Committees with non-official peasant majorities, district by district, under whose direction the policy of Grow More Food may be executed, in accordance with local conditions and with the least wastage?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Reports on the progress of the 'Grow More Food Schemes' sanctioned by the Government of India are received at stipulated intervals from the Provincial Governments concerned and examined by the Staff of the Department, with the idea that if anything is found unsatisfactory in a report the matter may be brought to the notice of the Government concerned. Some of the officers of the Department also tour the Provinces to examine the working of the various schemes on the spot and more attention will be paid to this aspect when the Department is fully manned.

(b) The suggestion that Provincial Governments should constitute district associations consisting of representatives of the interests concerned to assist in the development of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' has already been made to them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government see to the advisability of publishing yearly or half-yearly reports of the progress of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' in the provinces and supplying them to the Members of this House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We will consider that.

DAMAGE TO TOBACCO CROP BY A PARASITE

609. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if the tobacco crop is now being affected by a parasite known as orobanche or tokra and that it does considerable damage to the crop;

(b) if he is aware that the Guntur Tobacco Growers Association has announced a prize of Rs. 3,000 for the successful method of eradication of this parasite within the reach of cultivators; and

(c) if Government have taken or propose to take any effective steps in the way of setting apart some research workers for this important and urgent problem?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware of the prize announced by the Guntur Tobacco Marketing Committee but not of any prize announced by the Tobacco Growers' Association.

(c) Provision has been made for research on this important problem in the All-India Tobacco Research Scheme which is under the consideration of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has work been started?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I should think not, because it is not clear whether the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has yet passed orders on the scheme.

HAJ PILGRIMS

610. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims for whom sailings were arranged this year;

(b) the number of pilgrims who applied with the necessary amount of money for the passage;

(c) the number who actually left Karachi and the number of ships carrying them, with the dates of the sailing of each ship and the number of pilgrims thereon;

(d) if he is aware that notifications were issued by the Department on the occasion of both the sailings, asking intending pilgrims who have remitted the money, to reach Karachi before a given date with the money order receipts and acknowledgment coupons even if they have not received their reservation cards;

(e) if it is a fact that a large number of such people who reached Karachi in response to the above notification were left behind on both the occasions;

(f) how many were left behind on each occasion;

(g) if the Honourable Member has seen the statement of the Honourable Mr. Gazdar published in the *Dawn*, dated the 2nd November, 1944, that 600 intending pilgrims were left in Karachi;

(h) if it is a fact that there was enough room for these remaining pilgrims in the ships but they were refused accommodation because of the interference Naval Authorities;

(i) whether military personnel was also carried in these ships; if so, the percentage of space occupied by them; and

(j) in view of the very strong sentiment that obtains among Muslims, whether Honourable Member would take immediate steps to arrange for the embarkation of the stranded pilgrims? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) (b) and (c). For reasons of security the information asked for cannot be disclosed.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) The number of those pilgrims who came after the prescribed date is being ascertained.

(g) Yes.

(h) No. On the other hand more than the originally prescribed number of pilgrims was permitted to be carried.

(i) No.

(j) No pilgrims are now at the port of embarkation. The question does not therefore arise.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: As I understand the Honourable Member's answer to (d), is it a fact that these pilgrims who spent lots of money came down to Karachi but they have not received back their money. Who is responsible for the return of their fares?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information. If the Honourable Member puts in a question I will reply.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: When the tickets and passes were issued, was there any idea as to the space that would be available in the ship and was it not considered before issuing these tickets and passes?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: So far as I know nobody has been left behind who came before the proper date.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that there was lack of efficiency and co-operation between the India Haj Committee and the Government organization there?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No, Sir, On the contrary, Sir, I will read the House an extract from a private letter of a Haj Pilgrim, an educated Muslim to his relatives in India from Kamaran. It says: "Arrangements made by the benign Government for all pilgrims from all districts are praiseworthy and excellent."

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Has the Honourable Member read the statement of an ex-Member of this House Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin to the effect that though he was at Karachi a few days before and made his best efforts to ascertain the time of the arrival of the steamer, it was only about half an hour or an hour before the steamer actually left that he came to know of that fact?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have already given the answer to that question.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In reply to part (a) of my question the Honourable Member has said that for security reasons the information asked for cannot be disclosed. I want to call the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that I have only asked what is the number of pilgrims for whom sailings were arranged this year: where does the question of security enter into it at all?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I cannot add anything to what I have already said.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member give the number of pilgrims left behind at Karachi?

(No answer).

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF RICE TO COLLIERY LABOUR IN BIHAR

611. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to explain in detail the arrangements that are in operation in the province of Bihar in the matter of supplying rice to colliery labour?

(b) Has the Honourable Member received any complaint that the Bihar authorities are charging some of the collieries prices for rice to be supplied to their labour force which are higher than the control prices and that the quality of rice supplied is also bad? If so, what are the different points raised in these complaints, and what are the ascertained facts relating thereto?

(c) How does the system in Bihar in this matter differ from the system introduced in the Bengal collieries?

(d) What action do Government propose to take to remove the complaints made on behalf of a section of the Bihar collieries in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Under an order issued by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, under the Defence of India Rules dated the 20th April 1944, every colliery worker is entitled to buy from the colliery shop at prices equal to the controlled prices fixed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, an amount of foodgrains not exceeding a total of four seers of foodgrains per week (of which not more than two seers shall be rice) for himself and each adult dependent, and two seers (of which not more than one seer shall be rice) for each minor dependent. In addition every heavy worker is entitled to half a seer of free ration in rice for each attendance; but miners who prefer may draw the whole or some part of the free ration in other grains.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The facts are that the Bihar Government have charged the Colliery Associations the actual cost of rice supplied up to the 1st November, 1944. The bulk of these supplies originated in Nepal where the Bihar Government had to purchase above their control rate. Consequently supplies of Nepal rice have been made to the Colliery Associations at approximately Rs. 1-8-0 above the local wholesale control rate. From the 1st November, 1944, the Bihar Government have decided to charge the local wholesale control rate plus four annas administrative charge and to bear the resulting loss. The facts relating to the complaint regarding quality are being ascertained.

(c) In the Bengal collieries there is no rationing system but employers of more than 1,000 workers must buy their supplies of grains from the Civil Supplies Department of the Government. In Bihar every colliery is required to buy through the Rice Administrator, Indian Mining Association or the Secretary Joint Supply Pool.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to clause (b) of the question.

CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CLERKS' QUARTERS AT LODI ROAD, DELHI

612. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for the construction of clerks' quarters at Lodi Road for about Rs. 28,60,000 was given to a higher tenderer instead of lower tenderer who quoted 11-25 below the schedule of rates;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative what was the total excess amount the Government had to pay over the lowest tenderer;

(c) if it is a fact that the same firm was given another contract for a similar construction at the very place for about Rs. 50,00,000 at 5 per cent. above the schedule of rates, rejecting the lowest tenderer; and

(d) were the above tenders examined by the Department before they were accepted?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. A portion of the Lodi Road-project was given to this firm as its tender rate was low in comparison with that of others.

(d) The tenders were examined and accepted by the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department who is the competent authority in such cases.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CYCLE INDUSTRY.

613. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to the British Cycles Manufacturers' memorandum in which it has been pointed out that the output of British cycles can be increased to six million a year within twelve months of the end of the war?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the statement of Mr. R. D. Birla with regard to the said memorandum?

(c) Will the Government give an assurance to this House to support this national industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports of statements said to have been made by the union of cycle and motor cycle manufacturers in the United Kingdom and by Mr. R. D. Birla.

(c) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the question of protection for the industry against unfair competition from abroad. Government are considering what policy should be followed after the war for the protection of industries.

HAVOC BY CHOLERA AND MALARIA IN NORTH BIHAR

614. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lah: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if the Government are aware of the menacing and distressing situation prevailing in North Bihar due to Cholera and Malaria epidemics;

(b) if his attention has been drawn to some suggestions in this regard published in the *Indian Nation* of Patna in its issue of 30th October, 1944, under the caption "North Bihar Situation";

(c) if it is not a fact that the situation is generally worsened on account of the floods caused by the rivers Koshi and Gandak, which the Provincial Government have not been able to cope with;

(d) if it is not a fact that the sources of these rivers lie in the territory of Nepal and experts, in order to investigate into the matter, require the assistance which is beyond the scope of the Provincial Government both with regard to finance and jurisdiction;

(e) the approximate population that suffer in this area of North Bihar due to vagaries of these two rivers; and

(f) if the Government propose to investigate into the matter with a view to mitigate the suffering of the people as also to find out the possibility of generating Hydro electric energy from the headworks of the Koshi and Gandak which will help both agriculturists and industrialists and would become self supporting?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) to (f). The information has been called for and will be furnished to the House on receipt.

FOODGRAINS SUPPLIED TO MADRAS PRESIDENCY

615. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantities of foodgrains supplied to the Madras Presidency by the Government of India in the year 1944;

(b) how the deficit in the Madras Presidency of 500,000 tons of foodgrains (as reported by the Foodgrains Committee) excluding Travancore and Cochin was met in the year 1944;

(c) what the export of rice from Madras Presidency to Native states and Ceylon was in the year 1944;

(d) if it is not a fact that on account of the failure of the South-east monsoon the first crop of the year 1944 is reported to be bad in some districts of Madras Presidency; and what those districts are;

(e) the deficit districts in the Madras Presidency;

(f) if the Central Government will supply the necessary quota to make up the deficit in the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 171,207 tons up to 2nd November, 1944.

(b) It is not clear which figure of 500,000 tons the Honourable Member is referring to. He must be aware that deficits differ from year to year depending on the size of the crop.

(c) Ceylon—Nil.

Travancore/Cochin—47,174 tons.

Information regarding exports to other States, if any, is not available. In any case such exports could not have been large.

(d) If the Honourable Member refers to the failure of the South-West monsoon, the answer is in the affirmative. The districts where the crop has suffered from lack of rain are Malabar, Coimbatore, Tinnevely, Ramnad, Madura, Vizagapatam and Chingleput.

(e) Taking into account the net production and consumption figures of rice, *cholum* (jowar) and *cumbu* (bajra), the following districts are deficit:—

Vizagapatam, Anantapur, Madras, Chingleput, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely, Malabar, South Kanara, The Nilgiris.

(f) The Government of India are watching the situation and will give such assistance as is necessary and possible. I have myself personally visited the Presidency very recently and shall give it my constant attention.

'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN' IN MALABAR AND SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

616. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) under the Grow More Food campaign, whether the Government of Madras have taken any steps to increase the Food production in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara under the following heads; if so, what the result achieved is;

(i) production of compost from night soil and town refuse;

(ii) distribution of improved seed;

(iii) production of ammonium sulphate;

(iv) promotion of such irrigation and drainage schemes as promise quick results;

(v) the total number of acres of waste lands brought under cultivation of food grains;

(vi) introduction of tractors;

(vii) the total number of acres of lands of culturable waste brought under food grains cultivation; and

(viii) any scheme of research which have a bearing upon the immediate short range problems of food production?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and will be furnished to the House in due course.

DEFICIENCY OF FOODGRAINS IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

617. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the district of South Kanara is not treated as a deficit district;

(b) what the total quantity of foodgrains exported to this district in the year 1943-44 is;

(c) whether it is not a fact that in the following areas in the year 1944 rice was distributed at the rate of 7/8 of a lb. for three days in a week:—

(i) Pannambur,

(ii) Surathkal,

(iii) Kaup;

(d) whether rice was distributed in other urban areas where there is no statutory rationing throughout every week in the year 1944 in the district of South Kanara;

(e) whether it is not a fact that Kasargod rural area in the district of South Kanara did not get rice at the rate of 7/8 of a lb. for more than 3 days in a week in the months of July to Oct. 1944;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have informed the district authorities of South Kanara that no rice would be sent to that district in the year 1945; if so, how this policy is viewed by the Central Government; and

(g) if the Government is aware that the quota of 1,500 tons promised to the district of South Kanara has been stopped by the Madras Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, it is slightly deficit.

(b) 16,295 tons.

(c), (d) and (e). Information has been called for from the Madras Government.

(f) The Madras Government informed the Collector, South Kanara, that no rice would be supplied to the district after October 1944, in view of the harvest due to be gathered in September and October. It is not possible to say at present what view will be taken with regard to quotas to South Kanara, later in 1945 as this would depend on the harvest.

(g) Yes.

DRAS GOVERNMENT ORDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN DEFICIT DISTRICTS

618. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Madras Government have issued an order for procurement of foodgrains in five deficit districts including the districts of South Kanara;

(b) if it is the policy of the Government to procure grains from the cultivators irrespective of his own needs;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether the Central Government would issue directives to all provincial Governments that they ought not to acquire under any process of Law any foodgrain from the cultivators which is required for their legitimate needs of maintenance of their family, agricultural labour and expenses?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The Honourable Member has stated the policy already accepted by the Central and Provincial Governments I shall endeavour to ensure by all means open to me that it is carried out.

SELECTION OF PERSONNEL OF INDUSTRIALISTS DELEGATION TO UNITED KINGDOM

619. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state on what considerations the selection of the personnel of the proposed industrialists delegation to United Kingdom was based?

(b) How is it that industrialists from more than one community happened to be selected?

(c) Was any Sikh industrialist considered for inclusion in this delegation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The industrialists concerned were invited in view of the position they occupy in the Indian industrial world.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

RETURN TO PREVIOUS OWNERS OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER DENIAL POLICY

620. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to refer to his answer to my starred question No. 136 of the 7th November last and state:—

(a) the number of boats that were actually returned to their previous owners before the onset of the rains;

(b) the reasons that stood in the way of the Government of Bengal fulfilling the promise given by the Government of India in this behalf; and

(c) the programme which Government of Bengal propose to follow with regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Statistics are not available of the exact numbers of boats actually returned to their previous owners before the onset of the rains but the breakdown of the figure 5,984 (previously stated in reply to Question No. 136 on 7th November, 1944) is as follows:—

(i) 836—definitely known to have been returned to previous owners.

(ii) 149—free gift to indigent fishermen and potters.

(iii) 223—sold on instalment system to fishermen and potters.

(iv) $\frac{4,776}{5,984}$ —sold in auction.

It is not known how many boats out of items (ii), (iii) and (iv) actually reached their previous owners.

(b) It is not quite clear what promise the Honourable Member is referring to but if the reference is to the statement made in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen that the Bengal Government had taken in hand the repair of about 10,000 boats and that the boats were expected to be ready before the rains, the latest position of about 26,000 boats surrendered at the various reception centres is as follows:

(1) Returned to previous owners or otherwise restored to the civil population	5,984
(2) Made over to Military and other Government authorities including the Civil Supplies Department of the Government of Bengal	3,427
(3) Dismantled and sold as timber	9,435
(4) Report still awaited, but it is believed that a large proportion of these will not be in a fit state for salvage	7,154
Total	26,000

(c) From the answer to clause (b) it will be seen that most of the boats taken over by Government have been accounted for already, but if there are any which are still capable of being salvaged, they will be repaired and returned to indigent fishermen and potters.

In addition the Bengal Government have in hand the construction of 10,000 boats of varying capacity.

HIGHEST PROPORTION OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED IN BENGAL

621. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to refer to his reply to my starred question No. 137 of the 7th November last and state:—

(a) the reasons why the proportion of cattle slaughtered in Bengal was the highest among all the provinces of India; and

(b) the exact nature of improvement in this matter, if any, that may have taken place of late?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been asked for from the Provincial Government. It will be laid on the table of the House when received.

SUICIDE BY A STUDENT OF THE LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE, DELHI

622. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to refer to his reply to starred question No. 134, of the 7th November, 1944, regarding the death of a Student of the Lady Hardinge College, and state:—

(a) whether the report of the incident was widely published in the Press of Bengal, United Provinces, Delhi, Punjab and Sind;

(b) whether the College authorities issued any statement giving a full and authentic version of the incident; if not, why not;

(c) whether the Government realise that this news has deeply affected the relatives of the medical students who come from all parts of India; and

(d) whether the Government now propose to instruct the College authorities to issue a full statement to the Press regarding the case so that the anxiety created in the minds of the students' relatives may be removed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Yes. A Press Agency report received considerable publicity. This report was accurate and reasonably detailed and the College Authorities did not consider it necessary to issue any statement.

- (c) No. Government have received no representation in the matter.
(d) No.

USE BY SOLDIERS OF SWIMMING BATH AT LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE, DELHI

623. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:—

(a) with reference to the practice which was brought to the notice of the Government in this House during the last session, of allowing the swimming bath at the Lady Hardinge Medical College to be used by soldiers, the action taken by the College authorities to stop the practice; and

(b) if it is a fact that the Warden of the Students Hostel has been allotted rooms right inside the Hostel, and she is allowed to receive her male relatives and friends at her rooms; if so, has this practice the approval of the authorities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) As stated in reply to part (a) of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Datta Singh's question in the Council of State No. 107 of the 20th November 1943, the Swimming Bath Committee of the College accepted a proposal that on Saturday evening during the long vacation, when the bath was reserved exclusively for the staff, members of the staff should be permitted to invite guests, both men and women. These guest nights were held only on one or two occasions. On two occasions the Committee also invited expert male swimmers to give swimming, diving and lifesaving demonstrations for the students. The College Swimming Bath Committee has stopped the practice of inviting outsiders since July 1943.

(b) Yes. She has a separate entrance to her rooms and a separate garden where she is allowed to receive her friends like other members of the staff.

LICENSES FOR RAW FILMS

624. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the conditions which entitle a producer to an allotment of raw films?

(b) Have raw films been allotted to any producers who were not in production on the dates laid down under the Film Control Order; if so, what their names are and on what grounds were the exceptions made in each such case?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the allegation that some producers start fictitious or shadow companies under different names in order to get separate quotas for each such company?

(d) Is it a fact that some producers who were in production on the dates specified under the Film Control Order, have been refused licenses for raw films; if so, on what grounds were they refused?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Raw films have been allotted to producers who qualify under any one or the other conditions set out in the reply which I gave to part (b) of Dr. Habibur Rahman's starred question No. 716 on the 30th March 1944.

(b) Yes, raw films have been allotted to a few as in the list laid on the table. These were cases for which provision was made under the conditions laid down under the Film Control Order.

(c) Yes, but that will not help him to obtain a quota under the Film Control Order in view of the conditions laid down.

(d) It is possible that some producers who were in production on the date of the Control Order may have been refused licences for raw films. No producer, however, has been refused licence who has fulfilled all the requisite conditions referred to in (a) above.

Statement

Krishna Movietone.
Tajmahal Pictures.
Bhavani Productions.
Sanjeevan Art Productions.
K. B. Ardeshir Irani.
Metropolitan Pictures.
Sobhanachala Pictures.
Sarathi Films.
Star Combines & Famous Cine Joint Productions
K. S. S. Pictures.
Murugan Talkie Film Co.

PREScribing SET FORM OF RECEIPT FOR RENT UNDER DELHI RENT CONTROL ORDINANCE.

625. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if the Government propose to prescribe a set form of receipt to be compulsorily granted by the landlord to the tenants under the Delhi Rent Control Ordinance, 1944?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Government have the matter under examination.

ENIAL OF HINDUS' RIGHT FOR CREMATING THEIR DEAD IN BRITISH WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

626. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Hindus in British West Indies and British Guiana have been denied the religious right of cremating their dead since their try in those colonies and have been forced to bury them;

(b) if it is a fact that since a very long time a persistent and forceful demand has been made by the Hindus there and the representatives sent by a Government of India to those parts now and then and by Indian associations such as Shri Sanatan Dharma Pratinidhi Sabha, Punjab, Lahore, to get this grievance removed; but with no result;

(c) if it is a fact that the West India Royal Commission 1938-39 made recommendations in this behalf "to ensure that, subject to necessary safeguards, no obstacle should be placed in the way of the practice";

(d) if the Government of India has ascertained as to what steps have been taken by the Colonial Governments concerned to implement the said recommendations of the West India Royal Commission approved by the British Parliament; and

(e) if he is aware of the fact that Hindu prisoners of war in German Camps authorised to cremate their dead, if so, why the British Colonies deny this religious right to the Hindus there; what necessary and effective steps the Government of India intend to take to get this grievance removed at an early date?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a), (b), (d) and (e). Indian immigration to British Guiana and the West Indies commenced about the years 1838 to 1845. The first report about the lack of facilities for Indians to cremate their dead reached us in 1922. Mr. Tyson, who was sent on deputation to the West Indies, reported that Hindus were asking for facilities to burn their dead and that the authorities were sympathetic. About this time representations began to come from Shri Sanatan Dharma Pratinidhi Sabha, Lahore, and the Government of India took up the matter with His Majesty's Government. They are still in correspondence with them. A final reply has not been received yet.

(c) Yes.

ABOLITION OF OPTION TO MADRAS PEASANTS FOR SUPPLYING PADDY OR RICE ON REQUISITION.

627. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that a deputation of the Andhra Provincial Ryots Association and Andhra Foodgrains Producers Conference had waited on the Civil Supplies Commissioner on the 30th of October and on the Honourable Adviser for Food to His Excellency the Governor of Madras on the 31st October,

(ii) that the deputationists have requested the Foodgrains Requisition Authorities to give the option of offering either paddy or rice to the actual growers, and

(iii) that both the Civil Supplies Commissioner and the Adviser have refused to give this option to peasants;

(b) whether he is aware that the Food Department had informed me in January, 1943, while I was in jail that the Madras Government had no objection to peasants supplying either paddy or rice; and

(c) whether it is not a fact that the Madras Adviser has told the deputation above referred to that the millers need the support of Government more than peasants?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) No. The option still continues though in a restricted and modified form.

(b) No information is available.

(c) No.

BAN ON MOVEMENT OF GROUNDNUT CAKE FROM VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT.

628. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the Regional Controller of Railway priorities has banned the movement and export of Groundnut Cake from Vizagapatam District even to the neighbouring districts of East and West Godavari;

(b) if it is not also a fact that, the peasants of the districts of East and West Godavari are, as a result, denied this easy and cheap supply of manure essential for the progress of "Grow More Food" campaign, especially in regard to rice; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to move the Railway authorities concerned, and see that this ban on export of Groundnut Cake is removed and its export to at least the neighbouring districts, is again permitted?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (west) has banned the export of oilcake from stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway North of and including Waltair and Vizagapatam except to stations on that Railway.

(b) It should be possible for the peasants of East and West Godavari to obtain their requirements from other areas.

(c) The Government of India have sent an officer to Madras and Hyderabad to discuss the matter with the authorities concerned and suitable action will be taken in the light of his report.

INADEQUATE RICE RATION TO LAND-LESS LABOURERS IN KASARAGODA TALUKA OF SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT.

629. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that in the Kasaragoda Taluka in South Kanara District, the rice ration of 20 tolas a day allowed to all land-less labourers is not enough even for a single square meal of a workman;

(b) if it is a fact that wheat or gram given to these labourers for four days in a week in pursuance of recent orders, is of a rotten quality unsuitable for healthy consumption;

(c) if it is a fact that these people are refused rice ration even for the rest three days in a week for which it is now being supplied, unless wheat or gram of such bad quality is also purchased along with it which means an extra burden upon the poor labourers whether they like it or not;

(d) if it is not a fact that such steps of compulsion are being taken to exhaust the existing supplies of such bad quality of wheat or gram; and

(e) if the answers for the above questions are in the affirmative, whether he would give an assurance that immediate steps would be taken to remedy the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) It is incorrect to say that landless labourers get only 20 tolas of rice per day.

(b) No. I have no reason to believe that the quality is bad.

(c) Information is being obtained.

(d) I have already stated in reply to part (b) that I have no reason to believe that the quality is bad.

(e) Does not arise.

FOOD COMMISSIONER FOR UNITED PROVINCES

630. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:—

(a) if there is any Food Commissioner for the United Provinces; and

(b) if so, where his headquarter is located; if his headquarter is at Delhi, why so?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The United Provinces is included in Region II which also embraces Ajmer Merwara and Rewa State.

(b) The Regional Food Commissioner of this Region has a residence in Delhi which is a convenient centre for his region.

SUPPLY OF CONTROLLED WOOLLEN CLOTH TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN AJMER.

631. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state;

(a) if it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer, has ordered that Government controlled woollen cloth and blankets are to be supplied only to Government servants drawing over Rs. 100 per month, and to those who pay income-tax; if so, what the purpose of the order is; and

(b) if it is not a fact that the principle underlying such control is to benefit the middle and poor classes; if so, why they are being deprived of this benefit?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My information is that the facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct. The Honourable Member has also correctly propounded the principle underlying our control. Government have the matter under consideration and are in correspondence with the Chief Commissioner. If the Honourable Member so desires, I shall be glad to inform him of Government's decision in the matter when it is arrived at.

THE HONOURABLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR'S SPEECH AT ELLORE.

632. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if it is true that the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar had exhorted the Harijans in his speech at Ellore, West Godavari District, in his 1944. October, tour to take to violence?

(b) Do Government approve of such speeches from one of the members of His Excellency the Viceroy's Council?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) I have seen press reports of the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar's speech referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) The Honourable Member is asking for an expression of opinion but I would invite his attention to my reply to Starred Question No. 258 by the Honourable Mr. K. S. Gupta on the 10th November 1944.

PREPARATION OF FRESH ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

533. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state whether the preparation of fresh electoral rolls for the Central Legislative Assembly, has begun in the North-West Frontier Province, if not, when the said preparation will begin; and

(b) the date or dates for filling claims and objections?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Yes.

(b) The rolls will be published on the 1st December and Regulation 1 of the relevant regulations in force in the North West Frontier Province requires claims and objections to be presented within 15 days of the date of publication.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF BASIC QUOTA FOR IMPORTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

634. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Controller of Imports on October 18, 1944, to the Andhra Chamber of Commerce that the basic quota for imports from the United Kingdom is proposed to be increased from 12½ per cent. to 50 per cent. in the case of certain goods?

(b) Has his attention been also drawn to the statement of the President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber at its quarterly meeting in Bombay in August, last protesting against the present import policy of Government?

(c) Is it a fact that considerable quantities of textiles have been imported from the United Kingdom, and, if so, what has been the total of such imports so far?

(d) What has been the increase in the percentage of quota for imports of soaps, toilet requisites, liquor, bleaching powder, caustic soda, soda ash, sodium bichromate, sodium sulphide and other chemicals, separately?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that the increased imports of such goods may force several industries producing these chemicals or using these chemicals for production of consumer goods to close down? Is it a fact that specific assurances of protection or continued Government assistance were given to some of these industries when they came to the Government's aid at the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have seen the press report of the meeting between the Chief Controller of Imports and the Andhra Chamber of Commerce. This report is however inaccurate and was not shown to the Chief Controller of Imports before publication. The statement made by him related only to the increase in the quota for the import of sheet and plate glass from the United Kingdom from 12½ per cent. to 50 per cent., the Chamber having made a specific enquiry regarding the import of window glass.

(b) No.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(d) No licences have been issued for the import of soaps from the United Kingdom and there has been no increase in the quotas for the import of toilet requisites and liquor from that country. Bleaching powder, caustic soda, soda ash, sodium bichromate, sodium sulphide and other chemicals are licensed not on a quota basis but on considerations of merit in the light of Indian requirements, after taking into consideration the indigenous production in the country.

(e) No, Sir, as import licences are granted with due regard to the extent to which the total demand can be met from indigenous production.

As regards the second part of the question, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to parts (a) and (e) of starred question No 145 asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on the 7th November 1944.

POSTPONED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(Postponed from 15th November, 1944)

HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY FACT FINDING COMMITTEE

408. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) when the Handloom Weaving Industry Fact Finding Committee was appointed, and when it submitted its report;

(b) why its report or recommendations have not so far been published; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish them or at least a summary of the report and conclusions, and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I take it the Honourable Member refers to the Fact Finding Committee (Hand-looms and Mills) which was appointed on 25th January 1941 and submitted its report on 28th February 1942.

(b) The report has been published.

(c) This does not arise.

EXPENDITURE ON 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN'

410. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state how much Government have spent over the "Grow More Food" campaign since it has been instituted, giving details for provinces and years?

(b) How much of these funds have actually reached peasants, and in what shape?

(c) Are the results commensurate with the amount spent?

(d) How much of it was spent on propaganda?

(e) What is the extra extent of land brought under cultivation, and what is their estimated total yield?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement showing commitment, from Central Revenues in aid of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' is laid on the table.

(b) The money was given mainly for irrigation works, and seed and manure distribution and has therefore been of actual benefit to cultivators.

(c) The production of the main foodgrains in Provinces and States from which reports are received was, on the average of the three years before the war, 55.6 million tons: in 1942-43, the first year of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' it rose to 57.5 million tons and in 1943-44 to 60.9 million tons. The greater part of the latter increase was in Bengal and may be attributed partly to the 'Grow More Food Campaign' and partly to a favourable season and high prices.

(d) Rs. 2,500.

(e) The extra land brought under cultivation during 1942-43 in British India (excluding Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi and Bengal) was 1.7 million acres. The cultivated area in Assam, C. P. and Berar, Coorg, Madras, and United Provinces increased by nearly one million acres during 1943-44. The total yield from this area during 1942-43 and 1943-44 may be estimated as 6,00,000 tons. Information about other provinces is not available at present.

Province or State	1942-43			1943-44			1944-45		
	Grant from cotton fund for diverting short staple cotton to food crops			Grant from Central Revenues			Grant from Central Revenues		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1									
Ajmer-Merwara				70,000	29,185	2,34,250	70,016	21,996	
Assam		9,01,867	4,02,585			10,86,100	4,88,150		
Beluchistan			10,376			1,00,000	96,703		
Bengal		62,15,000	12,34,184			23,15,000	11,82,007		
Bihar			9,87,152			9,04,000	13,46,770		
Central Provinces & Berar		39,50,000	11,82,500			31,10,220	6,31,776		50,000
Bombay		3,00,000	5,03,093			8,22,500	25,80,155		13,63,250
Coorg			48,450						
Madras	28,83,721	45,00,000	2,67,000			16,25,000	12,02,992		
N. W. F. P.		5,77,300	1,07,500			12,74,000	8,24,000		
Orissa			1,73,650			14,67,600	5,31,441		
Punjab			3,00,000				15,08,800		
Sind			4,85,335				88,000		
United Provinces			9,37,200				9,02,490		7,19,250
Baroda State			16,800						
Kashmir State									
Kutch State									
Rampur State									
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research			1,31,600				2,73,400		8,698
Total	28,83,721	1,64,44,167	69,77,425	14,84,706	1,30,58,670	1,17,27,360	21,63,194		

Note.—The full sum sanctioned was not in every case spent during the financial year.

DISCONTINUANCE OF LAND REVENUE REMISSIONS IN PROVINCES.

411. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is aware that certain Provincial Governments have cancelled land revenue remission annually granted to ryots on their land tax for some years previous to the war?

(b) Has this cancellation not retarded the progress of the "Grow More Food" campaign to some extent?

(c) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of persuading Provincial Governments to continue the 1939-40 land revenue remissions so as to give the peasants greater incentive to grow more food?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, the land revenue remissions had been granted to prevent hardship arising from the low prices of agricultural produce and were cancelled when the prices of agricultural produce rose.

(b) Government have not received any complaints to that effect.

(c) The Government of India do not consider it possible to persuade Provincial Governments to continue at a time of comparatively high prices for agricultural produce a concession given to prevent hardship due to low prices.

STEPS FOR FOSTERING TANNING INDUSTRY.

427. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if any definite steps have been taken by Government since the beginning of the war to create and foster the Indian Tanning Industry in order to utilise Indian hides and skins in India alone for manufacturing purposes; if so, what those steps are;

(b) what success has been attained;

(c) what proportion of the hides and skins that reach the markets are being exported and what percentage is utilised in the Indian tanning concerns;

(d) whether any new tanning concerns have come to be organised in India since the beginning of the war; if so, the total quantity of skins they are able to utilise;

(e) how many of them and with what percentage of total Indian tanning production are controlled by Indians;

(f) what percentage (approximately) of the Indian Tanning Industry is in the hands of foreign concerns;

(g) whether Government are taking any definite steps to create either under State auspices or under Indian private enterprise Indian Controlled Tanning Industry; if so, what they are; and

(h) whether Government have attempted to manufacture any of the chemicals needed for tanning purposes; if so, what these chemicals are and with what success?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, by restricting the export of most weights and varieties of buff and cow hides and by giving assistance in the supply of materials required for tanning purposes. Of these Government have created a large reserve.

(b) As a result of this assistance the Indian tanning industry has increased its output considerably.

(c) It is not possible to give exact figures, but owing to the export restrictions already referred to a great majority of hides and skins produced in this country are utilised by Indian tanning concerns.

(d) Yes. As many of the new concerns are relatively unorganised cottage industries, it is not possible to give figures.

(e) All tanneries which have come into being during the war are controlled by Indians. It is not possible to give figures of the percentage of their production as compared with total Indian production for the reasons already stated.

(f) It is not possible to give figures but the Indian Tanning industry is predominantly in the hands of Indian concerns.

(g) No.

(h) No. Government have not themselves attempted to manufacture any of the chemicals needed for tanning purposes, but with Government assistance

certain of the chemicals required such as Bichromates, Hypo, Caustic Soda and Sulphuric Acid, are being produced in India in sufficient quantities to meet the tanning industry's requirements in full.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

QUOTA OF PAPER FOR VARIOUS NEWS AGENCIES

80. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quota of paper prescribed for publishing news by the (i) Reuters, (ii) Associated Press of India, (iii) United Press of India, (iv) Orient Press of India, (v) Associated Press of America, (vi) National News Service, (vii) United Press of America, (viii) Globe News Agency, (ix) Tass News Agency, and (x) General News Agency?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The quantity of paper which any of these news agencies can consume is determined by the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944. No quantities have been specifically fixed by Government in addition to the quantities referred to above.

ELECTION OF NEW SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

81. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for not holding the election of the newly constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The necessary proceedings preliminary to the holding of the election are being pushed on as quickly as possible. There is no question, therefore, of not holding the election.

EXTENSION OF TERM TO NOMINATED MEMBERS OF OLD SHAHDARA (DELHI) NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE

82. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for extending the terms of the nominated members of the old constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Notified Area Committee and not replacing them by elected members?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The term of the members of the Old Shahdara Notified Area Committee has not been specifically extended, but under the provisions of subsection 7(a) of section 4 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the former members continue in office until the election and appointment of the new members are notified.

HIGHER PROPORTION OF NOMINATED MEMBERS IN SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

83. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for fixing the number of nominated members more than in proportion to the elected members against the provision of the Punjab Municipal Act of the Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality under the new constitution?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to the unstarred question No. 155 put by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali in the last Session. Under the proviso to section 12 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the Local Government has the power to vary the proportion of appointed members. There is no question, therefore, of any infringement of the provisions of the Act.

NOMINATION OF SANITARY INSPECTOR TO SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

84. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for nominating the Sanitary Inspector, Rural Area, to the Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality in addition to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Shahdara, who is also in charge of the sanitation of the town?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Sanitary Inspector has been nominated in order that there may be on the Committee a sanitation expert. The Sub-Assistant Surgeon is primarily concerned with medical relief.

ANTI-MALARIA MEASURES FOR SHAHDARA (DELHI) TOWN

85. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the extent of the measures adopted for the Shahdara (Delhi) Town under Anti-Malaria Scheme?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Malaria control measures in Shahdara Town are carried out by the Shahdara Municipality as far as its funds permit and take the form of sprinkling diesel oil on pools of stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding during the malaria season.

CLOSING OF HAJ OFFICES ON EMBARKATION DAY

86. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to an editorial of the *Adil*, Delhi entitled "Musalmānon ke Shāaer Mazhabī men khulī madakhilat";

(b) the circumstances under which Haj Office, Hajj Booking Office and Port Hajj Committee Offices were locked up on the day of departure of the first batch of steamers; and

(c) the action taken against officers responsible for closing down the Hajj Offices; if none, why?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Attention is invited to the replies to parts (a) to (c) of starred question No. 430.

HAJ PILGRIMS NOT PERMITTED TO COME OUT OF DOCK AREA TO MEET FRIENDS, ETC.

87. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state the circumstances under which pilgrims in possession of valid pilgrim passes are not permitted to come out of dock area to see their friends or relatives after once entering dock areas?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Attention is invited to the reply to part (d) of starred question No. 430.

ENQUIRY OFFICE AT KARACHI HAJ CAMP

88. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that an Enquiry Office was opened at Hajj Camp, Karachi in open air;

(b) if it is a fact that no arrangements for the delivery of telegrams and post were in existence in the Hajj Camp;

(c) if it is a fact that all incoming post used to be placed at Enquiry Office table uncared for;

(d) if it is a fact that no responsible person was put in charge of Enquiry Office table; and

(e) if it is a fact that the Hajj Officer has no previous administrative experience to his credit?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) to (d). Attention is invited to the reply to starred question No. 431.

(e) He has considerable office and administrative experience of Haj work and had successfully arranged Haj sailings in 1941.

GRIEVANCES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF DEPUTED TO DELHI RATIONING OFFICE

89. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that about 3 per cent. of the experienced clerical staff of Government of India and attached offices was deputed to the Delhi Rationing Office under special orders of His Excellency the Viceroy;

(b) if it is a fact that some of them were returned to their original offices after rationing was started, while others were indefinitely retained in spite of their unwillingness to continue in the Rationing Office; and that no deputation allowance was sanctioned for these officials; if so, the reasons for this;

(c) if he is aware of the fact that parent offices of these officials are promoting their juniors to higher appointments in their absence, and the "next below rule" of the Finance Department is not adhered to in their case, and the deputed officials are deprived of their legitimate prospects in their parent offices without being properly compensated by Delhi Rationing authorities; and

(d) if it is a fact that, in spite of so many qualified and experienced officials being thus deputed by the Central Government, the Rationing Author-

ities are importing outsiders for responsible positions such as those of Rationing Officers, Supervisors, Assistant Supervisors, Inspectors, etc., and some of these posts have been given to persons who are not even Matriculates?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, a greater part of the temporary staff employed for Ration Card writing was disbanded or returned to their parent offices when the writing of the first set of Ration Cards was completed. With regard to the second part of the question, service in Delhi Rationing is not foreign service and so the question of paying deputation allowance does not arise.

(c) The orders are that permanent Government servants transferred to Delhi Rationing shall be eligible for the benefits of the "next below rule". In regard to temporary Government servants so transferred, their cases are considered on merits on reference from their parent department.

(d) No. The claims of all clerks either from Central Government or from other sources are considered equally whenever a responsible post is to be filled in. A large number of Central Government Clerks have in practice been appointed to posts of the kind mentioned.

GRIEVANCES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF DEPUTED TO DELHI RATIONING OFFICE

90. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that in Delhi Rationing officials are treated as on leave without pay for a short late-coming and punished with suspension for minor irregularities, in spite of clear orders to the contrary on the subject;

(b) if it is a fact that a Memorial embodying some of the above grievances was submitted by the deputationists to His Excellency the Viceroy, through proper channel but was withheld by the Chief Commissioner; will the Honourable Member be pleased to place a copy of that Memorial on the table and state the grounds for withholding the same;

(c) if it is a fact that the officials on deputation are not being allowed to appear for any departmental test or Federal Public Service Commission Examination for Gazetted posts which their parent offices were permitting them to avail of; and

(d) if he will direct that all officials on deputation who may be willing to go back to their parent offices, should be relieved after being duly compensated for any loss already suffered by them in service prospects and emoluments?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No.

(b) Yes. The Memorial was withheld by the Chief Commissioner under Home Department Notification No. 106/38, dated 24th August, 1939. I regret I am unable to place a copy of the said memorial on the table of the House.

(c) Normally officials on deputation to the Delhi rationing offices are permitted to appear in the departmental examinations of their original Departments except when the work on which they are employed in the Rationing Organisation is considered to be more important.

(d) No. In view of the paramount importance of their work it is not possible to relieve them for the present. No question of compensation arises.

MEASURES AGAINST PROFITEERING BY WOOLLEN CLOTH HAWKERS IN DELHI

91. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the measures taken against profiteering by Woollen Cloth Dealers hawking on the foot-paths in the City of Delhi? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Prices have already been fixed in respect of woollen cloth and notified for public information. Staff employed for the prevention of hoarding and profiteering have instructions to take action in all cases of sales above the controlled rates.

EXPORTS OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FROM DELHI

92. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quantity of each commodity, distribution and control of which is considered essential for the life of the community exported from Delhi, by rail and by road, respectively during the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not clear what commodity or commodities the Honourable Member has in mind. In any case, it is not possible to collect the information required within the time that is available. The value of the information thus collected would, in any case, be incommensurate with the amount of labour involved in compiling the information required.

MEASURES FOR BRINGING DOWN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

93. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the measures taken to bring down the prices of commodities essential for the life of the community to pre-war rates? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Government have taken several measures to bring down prices of commodities. It is clearly impossible to attempt to bring these down to the level of pre-war rates since certain elements of cost cannot but rise under the impact of the abnormal war conditions. The measures taken are:—

(1) Controlling prices of commodities either through specific orders relating to individual articles or under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943.

The price of practically every commodity which can be described as essential has been controlled in this manner.

(2) Arranging increased supplies of commodities both imported and indigenously produced.

EXPORTS OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FROM DELHI

94. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the quantity of each commodity whose distribution and control is considered essential for the life of the community exported from Delhi by rail and by road respectively during the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A statement showing the quantity of each rationed commodity, exported from Delhi, by rail during the preceding three years is laid on the table. No export by road is reported.

Statement

Name of the year	Name of essential commodities exported			
	Rice	Wheat	Wheat Products	Sugar
1942-43	..	267 tons	438 tons	..
1943-44	37 tons	360 tons	38 tons	..
April 1944 to October 1944	10 maunds	..	..	..

MEASURES FOR BRINGING DOWN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS, ETC.

95. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the measures taken to bring down the prices of foodgrains, sugar and gur to pre-war rates? If no measures have been taken the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is not the present policy of the Government of India to bring down the prices of foodgrains, sugar and gur to prewar rates. Their efforts have been directed towards attaining a level of prices which in existing circumstances will maintain adequate production without imposing too heavy a burden upon the consumer. The progress, which has been already achieved in this direction, has been brought about by the statutory control of prices supported by importation of foodgrains from abroad and the planned movement of internal stocks to the areas where they are required. In the case of gur, a statutory price has not been fixed but ceiling prices for export and control of movement have been instituted by the supplying provinces.

MEASURES FOR HOLDING GENERAL ELECTION OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

96. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state the measures taken to hold a general election of the Central Legislature in 1945? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The life of each of the two Chambers of the Central Legislature has been extended upto the 1st October, 1945, and

even if it were now known that His Excellency the Governor General would not effect further extensions, there would be no question of taking measures at this stage to hold general elections.

MEASURES FOR REDUCING ELECTRIC CHARGES IN SHAHDARA (DELHI) TOWN

97. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the measures taken to reduce the present rate of electric current supply charged by Messrs. Martin and Company for Shahdara (Delhi) town to those charged for Delhi City? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

RAISING OF SHAHDARA (DELHI) MIDDLE SCHOOL TO A HIGH SCHOOL

98. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the considerations for raising the District Board Middle School at Shahdara (Delhi) to a High School.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No decision has yet been arrived at with regard to the raising of the District Board Middle School, Shahdara (Delhi) to the High Standard.

ELECTION OF NEW SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

99. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the probable date on which the first election of the newly constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality will be held?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The general election in Shahdara is fixed to take place in the first week of January, 1945.

INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING IN CERTAIN CITIES.

100. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the living index has shown an increase in the cost of living by 182 per cent. in certain cities; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the wages of Railway servants working in those cities have not been raised by 182 per cent.; if not, what the correct fact is; and

(c) if the Government propose to increase the wages of the employees in those cities where the cost of living has arisen by 182 per cent. accordingly; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government are aware that the published cost of living indexes have risen in some towns by 182 or more over the index of August 1939.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. In regard to the second. Railway workers are compensated for increased cost of living by relief in cash and concessions in kind which together are considered adequate to meet the needs and are adjusted from time to time as the situation demands.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the policy of Government is not to make any comprehensive revisions in scales of pay during the present unstable economic conditions but to meet increases in the cost of living either by dearness allowance or by relief in kind or by both.

REQUESTS FOR ADJUDICATION OF RAILWAY TRADE DISPUTES

101. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of requests for adjudication of trade disputes between the Railway Administrations and its employees recorded during the preceding five years; and

(b) how those requests were disposed of?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). I place on the table a statement showing the number of requests made for settlement of trade disputes between Railway Administrations and their employees during the past five years under the Trade Disputes Act or Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, and action taken on them.

Requests for Boards of Conciliation or Courts of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act or adjudication under Defence of India Rule 81 A, in connection with trade disputes between the Railway Administrations and their employees.

Serial No.	Year	From whom the request was received	Nature of request	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5
1	1939	Certain travelling Ticket Inspectors on the E. I. Rly.	Appointment of a Court of Enquiry under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act to consider the propriety of withholding a memorial addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy.	Rejected (The trade Dispute Act did not apply as the matter was not a 'trade dispute' for the purpose of the Act).
2	1940	The employees of the G. I. P. Railway	Appointment of a Court of Enquiry under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act to investigate the question of grant of war dearness allowance.	Accepted.
3	1943	All India Railwaymen's Federation, Myslapore, Madras.	Appointment of an adjudicator under Defence of India Rule 81A on the question of dearness allowance for Railwaymen.	Rejected.
4	1943	The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay.	Do.	Do.
5	1944	The N. W. R. Employees Union, Karachi.	Do.	Do.
6	1944	G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay	Do.	Do.
7	1944	B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay.	Do.	Under consideration of Government

PROCEDURE RE APPOINTMENT OF ADJUDICATOR OF TRADE DISPUTES.

102. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

- (a) the rules governing the proceedings before an adjudicator is appointed under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Act Rules;
- (b) the qualifications prescribed for the appointment of an adjudicator for the trade disputes between the employer and its employees; and
- (c) on whose report or request an adjudicator under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Act Rules is to be appointed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules. There are no rules governing the proceedings before an adjudicator.

(b) No qualifications have been prescribed and it is not possible to do so because action under Rule 81A is of an urgent nature and it is not always possible readily to obtain persons of any particular qualifications in different parts of the country. The general rule is to appoint the most suitable person available in all circumstances of the case. Persons so far appointed include High Court Judges, District and Sessions Judges, Chief Presidency Magistrates, Labour Commissioners and their Assistants, Workmen Compensation Commissioners and War Injuries Claims Officers.

(c) An adjudicator may be appointed at the request of either or both the parties, or on the initiative of Government.

RESULTS OF PROPAGANDA BY INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

103. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the results achieved from the propaganda by the Federation of Labour from the subsidy of Rs. 13,000 a month?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 7th November 1944 to part (c) of Prof. Ranga's starred question No. 152.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SHORT AND LONG TERM POLICY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF MILK AND MEAT SUPPLY

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: In view of an increasing shortage of milk and meat in the country, will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is prepared to consider a short and long term policy for the improvement of milk and meat supply, particularly in urban areas, and to convey the following proposals to the Provincial Governments:

- (a) As a short term policy:
 - (i) the examination of the question, which particular breed of goat yields the largest volume of milk, with a view to organising immediately the rearing of such breed in the quantities necessary;
 - (ii) whether in view of the damage done by goats to vegetation, resulting frequently in wide-spread soil erosion, provincial authorities will see that goats bred with these objects in view, are confined to such areas where damage will be reduced to a minimum;

(b) As a long term policy: the practicability of centres being set up in cattle breeding areas, and where they may be of greatest service for artificial insemination, to which agriculturists and others may take their cows?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(b) The technique of artificial insemination has in recent years been considerably developed in certain countries of the world especially the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. Before the Government of India can recommend to the Provincial Governments the adoption of this technique on a mass scale, it is necessary that experiments should be conducted to modify and adjust the technique to suit the Indian conditions. These experiments are in progress at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute under an officer trained specially for this purpose. As soon as the stage has been reached when the technique can

be adopted to Indian conditions, the question of development will be taken up with the Provincial Governments.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: Have not experiments already been carried out with a marked degree of success in artificial insemination of cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The only experiments I am aware of are those conducted at Izzatnagar and with regard to them I would not care to say that a very great deal of success has been attained, very largely because of lack of suitable appliances.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY RE MICA INDUSTRY OF BIHAR

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a Committee of Enquiry by the Central Government regarding Mica Industry of Bihar has been appointed or is going to be appointed.

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that a constitution of the said enquiry is beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal Legislative list?

(c) If the reply be in the affirmative will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reason for such encroachment upon the Provincial Legislative List as set out in the Seventh Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes, the Committee has been appointed.

(b) and (c). In appointing the Committee the Central Government proceeded on the view that no such encroachment was involved, but the Honourable Member is of course free to form his own opinion.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable Member please state under what section of the Government of India Act has the action been taken?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Presumably Government have acted upon their own responsibility.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

HUMILIATING SEARCH OF THE PERSON OF AN INDIAN PASSENGER BY DHANUSHKODI CUSTOMS OFFICERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a motion for adjournment from Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh relating to "the humiliating search of the person of an Indian passenger by Dhanushkodi Customs officers by ordering him to strip himself of his clothes in the presence of the public".

When did this happen?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Very recently. The news appeared in the Colombo papers (*Ceylon Observer*) on November the 17th and it was received here on the 18th.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Where is this Dhanushkodi?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It is in South India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it a fact that the person was ordered to strip himself entirely naked?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I have no information whatsoever. I presume that the Honourable Member's information is based on the newspaper report which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* this morning, in which the *Ceylon Observer* is reported to have stated:

"that sometimes a passenger is asked to strip himself in public in order that his person may be thoroughly searched. We believe that one of these denuded victims was an Indian so that it may not be true that Dhanushkodi customs officers were inspired by anti-Ceylonese animus."

Sir, I cannot find that any definite incident has been reported on any particular date. The statement occurs in the course of an article in the Ceylonese paper, which is complaining that the Dhanushkodi customs officers are unfair to Ceylonese emigrants and the paper goes on to mention, incidentally, that they think that Indians also have been subjected to this sort of examination.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No date or a definite incident is mentioned there.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It was because of this incident, Sir, that the *Ceylon Observer* had to write this paragraph.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are Customs Officers authorised to search the person of anyone suspected of smuggling?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir. The customs search does include the search of the person and it is very common that smuggling of such articles as gold, for instance, is carried out by smuggling it about the person, even in intimate garments but I do not know whether these searches are conducted in public. In my experience it used not to be conducted in public. If that is what my Honourable friend is concerned about, I can say that I shall have the matter carefully looked into . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think that ought to be sufficient.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Customs people already carefully look into everything! Why need the Honourable Member want to have a peep in?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Finance Member there is no good reason for adjourning the business of the House. I therefore disallow the motion.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 17th November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Select Committee on the Amendment of Standing Orders, nine nominations were received. Subsequently two candidates withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected, namely: (1) The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed, (2) Sir George Spence, (3) Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan, (4) Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait, (5) Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, (6) Dr. P. N. Banerjea, (7) Mr. C. P. Lawson.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to serve as members to the Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies: (1) Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, (2) Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, (3) Mr. A. C. Inskip, (4) Mr. Manu Subedar, (5) Mr. Muhammad Nauman, (6) Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty.

THE HINDU CODE, PART I (INTESTATE SUCCESSION)

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Committee on Petitions on the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to intestate succession.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH LABOUR CONFERENCE AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the Summary* of Proceedings of the Fifth Labour Conference held at New Delhi on the 6th and 7th September 1943 and the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held at Lucknow on the 25th and 26th January 1944.

*Not printed in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House—Ed. of D.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE FOOD DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct one non-official member *vice* Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

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 one non-official member *vice* Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, during the last Session this Standing Committee was formed. I want to know from the Honourable Member how many meetings there have been and the substance of the proceedings of such meetings, because we are not supplied with the proceedings of this committee.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As far as I remember, one meeting has been held last July, and it is intended to hold another meeting very shortly. As regards the proceedings I shall look into the matter.

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 one non-official member *vice* Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of the election of one non-official member to serve on the Standing Committee for the Food Department in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, resigned, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 5 P.M. today and that the election, if necessary, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, New Delhi, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. to 1 P.M. tomorrow. The election will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE BANKING COMPANIES BILL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Till what date?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Yes; you will have to mention the date.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This measure attempts to deal comprehensively with a subject which has exercised the public mind in this country for several years past. Banks, which serve as the repositories of the cash resources of the public and as the financing agents of trade and industry play a vital part in the economic and financial life of a country. The business of banking has therefore been rightly regarded as being in the nature of a public service and this necessitates and justifies legislative safeguards for the protection of depositors and for ensuring the growth of banking institutions on lines which experience has proved to be sound. As the House is aware, many important countries like the United States of America have adopted special laws for the regulation of banking. Even in Great Britain a fairly elaborate Joint Stock Bank Act was enacted as early as 1844, though subsequent developments and the growth of sound banking traditions have made this legislation superfluous in that country. The nature and scope of banking laws in different countries have varied widely according to their individual circumstances and requirements. The problem of banking legislation has presented exceptional difficulties in this country where banking is an indigenous activity

[Sir Jeremy Raisman]
 of long standing which has developed on its own lines with its own instruments for the transfer of value and recording of obligations, so that here it is not merely a question of applying models which might be suitable for other countries. The demand for banking legislation in India is very old. Public attention was particularly drawn to the necessity of such legislation by the banking crisis of 1913-14 and more recently by the crisis in South India in 1938. The extent of public interest in the question was revealed by the evidence tendered before the Central and Provincial Banking Inquiry Committees which reported in 1930 to 1931. The Central Committee recommended the enactment of a comprehensive banking Act covering the organisation, management, audits and liquidation of banking companies. Some of the more important recommendations of this committee were considered by this House when the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act of 1936 was passed. Before the passing of the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act of 1936, which added a separate chapter regarding banking companies to the Companies Act, banks were governed in all important matters such as incorporation, management, liquidation, by the provisions of the Companies Act, which was applicable to banking as well as to other companies. There were, however, a few provisions in this Act which drew a distinction between banking and non-banking companies, such as section 4, which prohibited a partnership exceeding ten in number from carrying on the business of banking unless it was registered as a company, section 136 which required banking and certain other companies to make a statement of their business every half year. The amending Act of 1936 drew a clear distinction between banking and non-banking companies by defining for the first time the scope of business of banking companies. As the House is aware this Act also made certain other important provisions for banking companies, such as the requirement of a minimum capital of Rs. 50,000 before a banking company could commence business, the prohibition on the employment of managing agents other than banks, the prohibition of a charge on unpaid capital, the restriction on the nature of subsidiary companies, and the provision for a moratorium under certain circumstances and for the maintenance of cash reserves and reserve funds by non-scheduled banks.

An event of the greatest significance for Indian banking occurred in 1935 when the Reserve Bank of India was established. Hardly a year and a half had passed since the coming into force of the amending Act of 1936 when the banking crisis of South India in 1938 not only raised, in an acute form, the issue of the relations of banks in the country with the Reserve Bank but also drew again the attention of the public to the desirability of comprehensive legislation on the subject of banking. The difficulties experienced in administering the existing provisions of law also rendered necessary a re-examination of the problem. It was felt that there was a need for legislation which would do for banking what the Companies Act and the Insurance Act had done for companies generally and for insurance. The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India gave their careful consideration to the question and submitted certain proposals for legislation in November 1939. These proposals, as Honourable Members might perhaps recall, were circulated by the Government early in 1940 for public opinion. In view of the abnormal circumstances created by the war and the great diversity of opinions which replies from the public revealed the Government decided that it was inopportune to undertake comprehensive legislation which was likely to prove highly controversial. The Government, however, undertook legislation on certain non-controversial and urgent matters and two interim measures have been passed during the last two years, namely, the Indian Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, relating to the definition of banking companies and the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944, relating to the capital structure and management of such companies. The development of banking during the last four years, more particularly the rapid growth of banking resources and of the number of banks and branches have again drawn attention to the desirability of a comprehensive

Act, the need for which is felt to be ever greater because of possible reactions after the war. Further, the favourable turn of the war situation has emphasized the urgency of devoting attention, in this as in other spheres, to the problems that will arise in the post-war period. For these reasons, the Central Board of the Reserve Bank have reviewed their original proposals of 1939 in the light of subsequent developments and experience and have submitted to the Government a revised draft of a comprehensive banking Bill which is now before the House.

The provisions of the Bill are based on the general principle that the primary objective of banking legislation must be to safeguard the interest of the depositor, as the objective of the Companies Law is to safeguard the interest of the stock holder and that of Insurance law to safeguard the interest of the policy holder. These provisions also attempt to ensure that the development of banking proceeds on sound lines since it is obviously in the interest of the general development of the country that the savings of the community should be deposited with banks as a preferable alternative to hoarding and as a preliminary to investment in Government loans or industrial enterprises. The Bill does not, however, attempt to cover all institutions dealing in credit or all those engaged in the numerous forms of lending operations. In particular, it does not include in its scope industrial concerns which accept time deposits from the public. An attempt to include all institutions and individuals within the scope of a single Bill would be too ambitious in view of the complex credit structure of the country; nor does it seem appropriate in the conditions at present prevailing in India to attempt more detailed legislation covering the various activities of banks such as has been enacted in the United States of America and some other countries. Moreover, even if such detailed legislation were to be enacted, we have not the machinery at present to undertake the responsibility of its administration, such as a sufficiency of experienced personnel for inspection and other purposes.

With these general observations, Sir, I now turn to the main features of the Bill. In the first place, the Bill attempts to prescribe a simple definition of banking. The object is to limit, by connecting banking with the acceptance of deposits repayable on demand, the scope of the legislation to institutions in which funds are deposited primarily to ensure their safety and ready withdrawability. Secondly, an attempt has been made to prescribe a certain minimum capital standard considered essential for a bank in accordance with the scale and area of its operations. Thirdly, the Bill prohibits trading directly or indirectly by banking institutions and provides for certain moderate restrictions on investments to eliminate non-banking risks and to ensure that the loss of a depositor will be limited in the event of the failure of a bank. Fourthly, in the light of the experience of the banking failure in South India in 1938, an attempt has been made to make our banking legislation as much applicable to banks incorporated or registered outside as to those incorporated or registered in British India. Fifthly, provision has been made to expedite liquidation proceedings of banks in view of the cumbersome procedure under the Companies Act. Sixthly, in the light of the experience gained by the Reserve Bank in inspecting banks under section 42(6) of the Reserve Bank Act, a provision has been included empowering the Central Government to call upon a bank for certain reasons to submit its books and accounts for inspection by the Reserve Bank. Seventhly, powers have been conferred on the Central Government to impose certain penalties when it is satisfied that the affairs of a bank incorporated inside or outside British India are being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of British Indian depositors. Lastly, a special form of balance sheet has been prescribed for banking companies and powers have been given to the Reserve Bank to call for periodical returns from banks so that it may have more detailed information regarding the banking situation in the country than it has at present for the purpose of watching over the progress of banking.

This Bill, Sir, represents, as I trust the House will agree, an earnest effort on the part of the Government to ensure, in so far as it can be done by

[Sir Jeremy Raisman] legislation, the protection of the depositor and the growth of banking in India on sound lines. The original proposals submitted by the Reserve Bank were, as I have mentioned, circulated for public opinion. Many valuable comments were then received and these have been carefully studied. The banking developments during the interval have been numerous and rapid and the whole matter has been considered afresh. The proposals now made by the Reserve Bank contain some important new features such as the revised definition of banking, the prohibition against trading, the provision for inspection by the Reserve Bank, the powers of the Reserve Bank to call for certain returns and the appointment of the Reserve Bank as official liquidator. It seems advisable, therefore, that an opportunity should be afforded to the public to express their opinion formally on the proposed legislation. For these reasons the motion which I now make is for the circulation of the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support this motion for circulation. The Honourable Mover has said two things. He has said that it is a comprehensive banking legislation and he has also said that in some matters it is a controversial measure. Therefore, it is only proper that the public should be given an opportunity of expressing its opinion on it. I, therefore, think that it is a very wise motion and I support it.

Sir, I support not only the motion for circulation but I think I am in a position to give my whole-hearted general support to the Bill also. Although in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in the Preamble it is stated that the Bill is for consolidating and amending the law relating to banking, I do not think it is a correct and precise description because it appears from the provisions of the Bill and it also transpired from the speech of the Honourable Member which he made just now that many new important provisions have been introduced. Therefore, the circulation of the Bill is necessary. Although the provisions are new, I think, on the whole and speaking generally, I am in a position to support the Bill subject to comments and criticisms on individual clauses and details.

Sir, the object of the Bill, as has been described by the Honourable Mover, is two-fold: to safeguard the interests of the depositors and to ensure development of banking in India on sound lines. These objects are perfectly acceptable to us. A separate banking legislation has long been overdue.

The main features of the new provisions have been stated at length by the Honourable Mover and they are given also in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I shall make a few comments on these main features of the Bill.

I come first to the definition of 'banking'. I would like to point out that I feel great difficulty here. This definition is given in clause 5(b) of the Bill. It says: "Banking means the accepting of deposits repayable on demand." Now, Sir, there was no definition of 'banking' given in the Act of 1936. In that Act definition was given of a 'banking company' in section 277F. That definition is:

"A banking company means a company which carries on as its principal business acceptance of deposits of money on current account or otherwise."

In other words, it can accept current deposits and fixed deposits. But here in the Bill before us 'banking' has been defined as "the accepting of deposits repayable on demand". What troubles me is whether this Bill is not intended to govern the banks which accept not only current deposits but also fixed deposits, time-liabilities? That trouble becomes all the greater in view of the statement made in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in view of the statement made by the Honourable Mover in his speech. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is said:

"A simple definition of banking with the object of limiting the scope of the legislation to institutions in which the funds are deposited primarily to ensure their safety and ready withdrawability."

The definition of 'banking' as given in clause 5(b) coupled with the limited scope of the Bill suggested in the Statement of Objects and Reasons tend to show that all these new provisions will not apply to a bank, accepting time-liabilities. That is my difficulty. I do not know how to reconcile this definition with the function of a bank in accepting time-liabilities.

Then, as regards the protection to the depositors. I wish to say at once that all the provisions relating to this, namely, clauses 13, 14, 18 and 19, have my support.

As regards the prescription of the minimum capital standard, the provision is in clause 11. I do not object to that principle; there should be a minimum laid down but I do not want at this stage to go into the details of the provision as to what should be the minimum capital. But I feel one great difficulty with regard to the question of minimum capital standard. We have got the Defence of India Rule—Rule 94-A which prohibits the raising of further capital without the consent of the Central Government. The present Bill lays down quite the reverse. Clause 11 says, you must increase your capital upto a certain standard. But Rule 94-A says, you must not increase your capital. So, unless the Ordinance is repealed this provision becomes unworkable. The legislature should not lay down two contradictory principles. This provision relates entirely to small institutions and not to big Banks. Unless the real intention is to kill the small Banks by this provision, Rule 94-A should be repealed forthwith.

Then there is the important question of inspection of Bank accounts by the Reserve Bank. This is contained in clause 28(1). We do not object to inspection. But I am very keen that there must not be interference in the internal management. There is no law giving the right to the Reserve Bank to inspect Bank accounts and papers. But as a matter of fact, the Reserve Bank does inspect. Bank accounts, whenever and wherever they choose to do so and as far as I am aware, no banks have up to now objected to that power being exercised by the Reserve Bank. There are three or four circumstances under which power is given to the Reserve Bank to inspect the Bank accounts. I do not mind all these reasons except one. The reasons given are:

"if it has any reason to believe that the interests of the depositors of a Banking company are in danger."

This is a very good reason for the Reserve Bank to inspect:

"a Banking company is unable to meet its obligations."

That is another good ground:

"has made default in complying with any of the provisions of this Act."

I have no objection to this either. The next ground however is this:

"or that an offence under this Act has been or is likely to be committed by a Banking company or any officer of a Banking company."

I do not think it is fair that in anticipation that a Bank or officer of a bank is likely to do something, you should have a disciplinary measure. I think this is a safeguard which is quite unnecessary. I am not at all against rigid regulations being enacted so that the banking people might be more alert and conform to the banking rules. At the same time I want to make one observation. Many new powers are given to the Reserve Bank and new obligation, however wholesome they may be are cast upon the banks. The question is, what do the banks get in return? What is the corresponding obligation laid upon the Reserve Bank? There is section 42 of the Reserve Bank Act which makes deposits by the Scheduled Banks compulsory. When the Reserve Bank Act was passed, there was vehement opposition to that provision of compulsory deposits by the Scheduled Banks. The Scheduled Banks are not all of them big banks. They are most of them small banks and great hardship is caused to them by such compulsory deposits. Many of the Scheduled Banks are all run on small capital and with small amount of deposits from the public. These small banks take deposits from the public and pay interest

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on such deposits. At the same time, they are obliged to make compulsory deposits in the Reserve Bank on which they receive no interest. This is very unfair. This provision of compulsory deposit should be repealed. Until this provision is repealed, the amount of deposit may at all events be reduced. May I also suggest that the deposits may be allowed to be made in Government promissory notes or other approved securities. Why should it be insisted that the deposit should be in cash? If deposits are allowed in the form of Government securities, then the Scheduled Banks will not suffer, because they will get interest on those deposits. I invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to this hardship on the part of the Scheduled Banks and request him to consider the advisability of giving relief to the Scheduled Banks. An appreciable percentage of the deposits lie idle with the Reserve Bank and inevitably makes the scheduled banks financially weaker.

Sir, this is not the time for going into details but I may say that on the whole I am in favour of the stringent regulations introduced here. There are one or two other points to which I would invite the special attention of the Honourable Finance Member. For instance, clause 8 seeks to impose a prohibition on trading with a view to eliminate non-banking risks. It seems to me that this matter which is very controversial should be examined very carefully because it prohibits any banking company from directly or indirectly dealing in the buying or selling or bartering of goods. Then follows a provision which is very drastic, viz., that no banking company shall engage in any trading: it shall not "engage in any trade, or buy or sell or barter goods or articles of merchandise for others".

Now take a case where some money is advanced by a bank against some goods which are kept in the custody of the bank and suppose the party fails to pay and it becomes necessary to sell the goods,—I do not know if that is prohibited under clause 8. I have not examined the law of other countries on this point but I am told that this kind of prohibition is not provided in the banking law of any other country. It will cripple the activities of banks in this country and the matter requires more careful investigation. Of course, after opinions have been received we will be in a better position to decide to what extent, if any the prohibition may possibly go. Speaking for myself, I am of the opinion that the clause as it stands is too drastic and should at all events be modified.

One word more even at the risk of repetition. A good deal of power and control, as I said, is given to the Reserve Bank, but what will be the compensation for our banks? Is it meant that the Reserve Bank will only exercise control, call for returns and have inspections and large amounts of deposits from the Scheduled Banks? Is it in the contemplation of Government that all these powers and advantages should be given to the Reserve Bank without any corresponding advantages to our banks? I think that if the Reserve Bank wants all these advantages and controls, it should also be the duty of the Reserve Bank to educate and help the smaller institutions. It is one thing merely to control and another thing to guide and help and educate them. Is there any machinery in the Reserve Bank for doing this very important function? It is of course desired that the banking system should be conducted on sound lines; on that there can be no two opinions. But what is done by the Reserve Bank to educate these new and small institutions in this country? So far as that is concerned, I think this Bill places a one-sided obligation on the banks only and no obligation on the Reserve Bank. We do hope that help and guidance will be given by the Reserve Bank, whenever necessary, but there is no provision like that in this Bill.

Sir, I support this motion for circulation. By the way, may I ask the Finance Member when he intends to have the Select Committee and to have the Bill passed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was hoping to move for reference of the Bill to Select Committee some time in the course of the next Session.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, banking today is much more important than it was before. People have got into the deposit habit and into the habit of issuing cheques; and so it is necessary that the Government of the country should come forward with a Bill to regulate it. It is somewhat late in the day, but I am glad it has come at last. For the last fifteen years this matter of banking legislation has been agitating the mind of the people of this country. In going through this Bill I should like to draw the attention of the Finance Member and of the House to three aspects of the Bill: the first aspect is that on which we are generally agreed; the second aspect relates to things on which we think amendments are necessary; and the third aspect relates to things which we think have not been included in this Bill but which we think it advisable to include in it.

Sir, before coming to the clauses themselves I should like to say one word with regard to the definition of banking. Undoubtedly the definition of this word presents problems, and I find that in the banking laws of many countries this word has not been defined in the same way as other words are defined. The Banking Inquiry Committee in their report have said that they have found difficulties in defining this word. While I am not prepared to put forward any definite definition of this word I would only point out the difficulties that will arise from the acceptance of the definition given in the Bill itself. The Bill says:

"Banking means the accepting of deposits to be payable on demand."

Of course it does not limit the work of the bank to that. It can do any of those things which are particularised in clause 6. But our difficulty in accepting this definition is this. I am coming from an industrial area where there are many industrial concerns, textile mills and other things; and what I find in these mills is that in most of these companies for the financing of these industrial concerns deposits are accepted. The Honourable Member will turn round and say that fixed deposits may be accepted because that is not barred by the definition of banking given here. I may point out that in many of these concerns current accounts are held not by cheque books and account books but by what we call book adjustments. I do not know whether he is aware of that system, but we have it in South India where transactions between two parties are done with books; cheques are not issued but through book adjustments current accounts are maintained. The difficulty will be that if this definition is given many of these concerns which are admittedly business concerns cannot do business because people who do this sort of banking cannot under this definition do business at all owing to a later clause. And so I would suggest that a little more elaborate definition of banking may be given; and if I may suggest a few ideas on that matter, I would draw attention to page 453 of the report of the Central Banking Inquiry Committee in which they have quoted with approval Sir John Pagett's definition and suggestions about defining banking. They say:

"No one and nobody, corporate or otherwise, can be a banker who does not take deposit accounts take current accounts, issue and pay cheques drawn on himself or collecting cheques, crossed or uncrossed, for his customers."

If you take these four points in the suggestion together in the definition of banking, this will be a workable definition of banking because every bank worth the name will issue, pay or collect crossed and uncrossed cheques. This is a duty which any bank can discharge and so, Sir, I would suggest for the consideration of the Select Committee which is going to be constituted and for the guidance of the public opinion which is to be sought, that the definition of banking given here may be enlarged.

Next I come to some of the clauses to which I agree: Firstly, clause 8—Prohibition of trading. Certainly banks which have dabbled in trade have come to lose, and in the interest of good banking that must be tabooed.

Secondly, clause 10—Prohibition of employment of managing agents, etc. That also is a thing with which I am in general agreement. Then clause 11 about the enforcement of a minimum capital, while I accept the principle of

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

that clause, I would like it to be considered whether the minimum fixed in the Bill itself is small enough for smaller banks in villages to be conducted for the purpose of village trade. Today most of the village trade is conducted by individual bankers or co-operative societies, but co-operative societies do not come within the scope of this Bill. I would suggest whether in a poor country like India where it has to serve lakhs of villages, a smaller amount may not be advisable.

Now, Sir, I come to certain recommendations of the Banking Enquiry Committee which have not been accepted by this Bill. These are the recommendations which I think should be accepted. Sir, I will read what is stated on 457 of the Report of the Banking Enquiry Committee:

"We recommend that there should be a provision in the Act requiring that every institution doing banking business in British India, other than a foreign bank, should have a majority of natural born or domiciled Indian Directors. We are of opinion that such a provision is essential for the regulation of a service of national importance such as banking."

The reason why we think that such a regulation is necessary is this: We have experience of some foreign banks and we have found in some banks that at critical times when the sympathy and help of the bank are necessary in the interest of their customers they have chosen just that time for demanding payment, and it is our experience that some men have fallen down and floundered because of these demands. One of the reasons which we think has been the guiding motive of some of those banks is that there may be a competitor in the field who may not be an Indian—who may be a Britisher—and who may wish to see that this man comes to ruin and these people, Sir, may have an influence with the directors of the bank. Therefore, we feel, Sir, that in a matter of national concern like banking a provision like this is necessary and will be useful. The Banking Enquiry Committee Report further says:

"We consider that some safeguards are necessary to prevent the control and management of such a service passing into foreign hands and that unless non-nationals are precluded from having a preponderating voice in the management of banks operating in this country, it would not be possible to give effect to any national policy that might be evolved for the development of banking in the interest of India."

Then, Sir, I come to clause 13—Reserve fund. The reserve fund as proposed in this clause regulates reserves in this way:

"... before any dividend is declared, transfer of a sum equivalent to not less than twenty per cent. of such profits to the reserve fund until the amount of the said fund is equal to the paid-up capital."

The Banking Enquiry Committee also advocates building up of a reserve, but they suggest something else. They suggest that a portion of the capital itself should be set apart—if I remember aright, it is 2½ per cent.—as reserve fund, so that whatever may be the profits that accrue to the banking company in a particular year, a reserve will be built up and in lean years the bank will be in a position to face bad times, if necessary.

The Honourable Member said that the general motive behind a banking enactment should be the protection of the depositor. We agree. But we would like to go further and say that the law should make provision for the protection of the poor depositor and for the savings bank deposits. Government must give priority to the protection of these depositors. The Banking Enquiry Committee have not accepted that position:

"It has been suggested that depositors of small amounts should be given protection and preference by law and that in the case of liquidation savings deposits should be given priority over other deposits."

This recommendation, I see, was not accepted by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee, but we think that for reasons mentioned in the words that I have read out it is necessary that the poor man should be given a little more protection than the rich man because in the case of the poor man it is all that he has got whereas the rich man may have a lot more. So we think that it should be provided that savings deposits should be given greater protection. In clause 16 I find restrictions on loans and advances. The Banking Enquiry

Committee have recommended that auditors of the banks concerned also should be banned from taking loans from concerned banks. I think that auditors may also be included under that clause.

Now I would refer to another matter. The Banking Enquiry Committee while going into the reasons for the fall of banks has given many reasons. It is not possible to prevent all the risks by legislation. Some risks are inherent in the persons who manage the banks. That cannot be prevented by legislation. But there are certain things which can be prevented by legislation and one of them is at clause (f) which they mention on page 452 of the report: "Utilisation of short-term deposits at long-term loans".

We have found in our part of the country that there are many banks which go under the name of *Nidhis*. They have a paid-up capital of one lakh or so. They do extensive business. They take deposits. Many of them have come to ruin in recent years and when examined we find that one of the reasons why many of these small banking concerns, came to ruin was that their short-term deposits were utilised in long-term loans. They got deposits for one or two years and they gave money on mortgages which covered 8, 10 or 14 years, with the result that sometimes the deposits were asked to be paid, but they could not pay and that undermined their credit and many of them had to be liquidated.

So I would suggest that provision should be made that these short-term deposits should not be used for long-term investments except in a certain proportion as may be laid down in the Act itself; short-term deposits should be given only for short-term loans and long-term deposits for long-term loans. This will be healthy and it will go to build up the real foundations of the bank.

There is one other matter to which I would like to refer and which is not provided for in the Bill. As we all know, if the banking habit is to grow, if the banks are to be conducted properly, we want a trained personnel as in everything else. I would like that provision should be made in the larger banks by legislative enactment, that every one of these banks should give compulsory training to a number of candidates who may undergo the training and be useful to the country at large. I know some banks take people whom they train and engage in their own banks, but that is not what I refer to. What I refer to is the training, after the training those banks may take them or they may not. Such training is of general usefulness to the country. They may get themselves employed in smaller banks or any other business. Their training will be for the good of banking in general. As far as I see no provision has been made for such training anywhere in this Bill and I would think that a provision like that would be useful for the growth of sound banking in this country.

Sir, generally we support this Bill.

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. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, I rise to congratulate my Honourable friend the Finance Member on having brought forward this measure, notwithstanding the fact that about the year 1939 the enactment of a Banking legislation was abandoned owing to the prevalence of war conditions. Sir, as the speakers before me have mentioned, there is an urgent need for banking legislation. Some of the provisions of this Bill are perhaps such as may not evoke any serious criticism but, again, there are a few provisions which could usefully be modified. Before, however, going into the scope of the Bill, I would like to refer to clause 2 of the Bill relating to "Application of other laws not barred". In itself it appears unimportant but when the Government of India propose to

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enact a legislation in order to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking, one would expect that it will include the activities of all banks in this country, excepting the Reserve Bank of India, which is controlled by a separate Act.

Sir, the House is aware that there is a very big institution in this country called the Imperial Bank of India which, for reasons fairly well known, has developed to a size which is perhaps almost unparalleled anywhere, except in the case of *Banque de France* of pre-war France. In fact in a book which I have before me by Prof. Muranjan published in 1940, the author says that the total amount of deposits or funds available with the Imperial Bank of India is about a third of all the other banking institutions in this country put together. It was a fact that this concern has had to be supported by an Act, because it was doing in the past the business of a Central Bank, acting as the agent of the Government in regard to its treasury and public debt operations. With the coming into existence of the Reserve Bank certain provisions of the Imperial Bank Act had become unnecessary and those provisions were amended in 1934 and with that amendment the control exercised by the Governor General in Council, either in the matter of the appointment of the Central Board or the appointment of the Managing Governors of the Bank, has been withdrawn. But, I believe, certain sections of the Imperial Bank of India Act still give it wide powers in that it can take over the business of certain other banks and for that purpose has facilities for increasing its capital, it can do all that with the consent of the Governor General in Council, so that the position enjoyed by the Imperial Bank of India as a supreme bank in this country still exists in a large measure. Another reason why that bank continues in its importance is that it acts as the Agent of the Reserve Bank of India and still manages the treasury operations of the Government, wherever the Reserve Bank has not got a branch of its own. But this is not the time and place for me to criticise the Government of India for permitting an institution like the Imperial Bank of India to continue to do a large part of its old functions and to earn from the Reserve Bank of India and therefore from the Government of India a sum of 56 lakhs of rupees as commission for the agency operations done by the Bank as it did last year and considering the fact that the total profits of the Imperial Bank last year were in the region of 80 lakhs, Rs. 56 lakhs paid by the Reserve Bank was a very comfortable addition to the funds available with the Imperial Bank for distribution as profits.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The profits of the Reserve Bank of India last year were many crores.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Though I am very grateful to my Honourable friend for the information, an information which is also vouchsafed to us by the Reserve Bank, I nevertheless feel that it does not affect the issue, that 56 lakhs of what was legitimately the taxpayers' money has been put into the pockets of an institution which carries on its business under cover of an Act of the Government of India, which is wholly non-Indian in its control and management, whose outlook is completely alien to the interests of this country and which has not even accepted the recommendations for Indianisation made by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee at the time when it reported and when it also recommended that the Imperial Bank of India should for some time to come act as the agent of the Reserve Bank of India. Sir, if the Government of India thinks that it is time for it to bring forward a banking legislation, I should have expected that they would have conducted a survey of the position in this country, that they would have noted the dominant position of the Imperial Bank of India and that that position still continues notwithstanding the emergence of the Reserve Bank of India. I say, Sir, that 56 lakhs which has been paid by the Reserve Bank of India, which incidentally has no relation to the profits that it makes, would have strengthened indigenous institutions considerably were it put into their pockets. This Act will probably

be passed into law and it would be a very good thing. The Reserve Bank Act is there. The Imperial Bank Act is also there and in my view it need no longer exist as a separate Act once a general Bank Act is enacted. The Imperial Bank of India is a tumour in the body politic of this country which could be very safely excised and taken away without injuring in any way either the financial or the economic structure of this country. I do not want, Sir, at this stage of the proceedings to dilate further either on the inequities of the Imperial Bank or on the inequities of the Government of India which allows it to function without any check after the establishment of the Reserve Bank or on the offences of omission on the part of the Government of India in not extending the scope of the work of the Reserve Bank, so as to embrace much of the work that the Imperial Bank does as its agent or again on that act of omission on the part of the Government of India in not asking the Reserve Bank to employ joint stock banks as its agents at a later stage, a recommendation which was made by the Banking Enquiry Committee. I only hope that by reason of the fact that I have mentioned all the Government of India and the Honourable the Finance Member will use their good offices to see that in the near future, when there will be a possibility of the Reserve Bank of India revising its agreement with the Imperial Bank of India, that supreme position which the Imperial Bank enjoys today as the agent of the Reserve Bank and therefore as the Agent of the Government of India, will cease to exist and some if not a good portion of this Rs. 56 lakhs which is paid to the Imperial Bank by the Reserve Bank be paid to some of the Indian joint stock banks, which are the subject matter of this Bill. That ends my reference to the Imperial Bank.

With regard to the Bill itself, I said at the outset that I welcome it. But there are a few points where the Bill has departed, I am afraid not very wisely, from the proposals made by the late Sir James Taylor in 1939. Again there are one or two points in which some amendments have been made, which are quite useful. I will take up the question that was dealt with by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore, the question of definition of Banking. The original definition of banking in the proposal submitted in 1939 was—Banking means acceptance of deposits on current account or otherwise subject to withdrawal by cheque. That has been changed. Now, banking means accepting of deposits repayable on demand. I do not say that it will be possible for any of us to devise a definition of banking which will suit all needs. But I do want to say here, because I would like the attention of those people who are going to submit their opinion on this particular Bill to the Government to be focussed on this point of how far this new definition will affect those institutions which receive deposits reference to which was made by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore, and whether it is right and proper for the Government and for the public to allow institutions to continue to exist as Banking institutions which do banking and also do other commercial transactions besides a thing which this Bill seeks to prohibit in clause 8. If the original definition had been stuck to, perhaps it would cover the cases of the larger institutions and leave the smaller ones out. Why it has been expanded now I am not able to understand. But I do not object to it on the ground that it seeks to embrace a larger body of people than what the original draft Bill sought to. In fact, if we are going to have a Banking Bill, let us have a good one; let us not allow any loopholes. I am not one of those who believe that in the matter of credit a considerable amount of freedom must be allowed. In a matter where public deposits are being handled by an institution, no amount of control which will at the same time not vitiate the scope of its operations, is wrong; and so if the Government could devise a definition which will embrace a large number of Banking concerns which are registered as joint stock companies within the scope of the Bill, I see no harm in it.

On the whole, I welcome clause 8, though it is a new one in that form. But in regard to clause 10, I am afraid there is a certain amount of ambiguity. The Government have to make up its mind as to what it wants to be done. In

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the Bill that has been introduced in regard to insurance, I think, the Government seeks to restrict the scope of persons acting as managers receiving commissions. What then is the policy of the Government going to be in regard to banking? As it is, this clause is rather vague. Either we want to have managing agents or we do not want to have them. Let the Government make up its mind straightaway that the Government will permit only such managing directors, as shall be paid a fixed salary. I do not mind if they are appointed for five years in the first instance and thereafter for further period of five years—it is quite reasonable. But the Government will have to make up its mind whether they are to be people who are paid a commission or are paid a salary. It would be much better in the interests of these institutions developing in the future on the right lines that the Government should take courage in its hands and says "Let these people be given a salary, however fantastically the sums so paid may be, rather than make them depend on commissions or on a *pro rata* share in the profits."

One point, however, on which I am afraid I am unable to agree with the text of the Bill is in regard to restrictions on commencement of business and the conditions for carrying on of business. I agree that branch banking must be controlled. I agree that the capital of a bank must be adequate and must bear some proportion, in a very rough way at any rate, to the quantum of transactions that pass through it. But then this question of relating its capital to particular areas on a population basis is a thing which does not appeal to me at all. It is a fact that this kind of classification and restriction is followed in some countries—notably in the United States and this practice existed in Italy and in Japan before the war. But it is not followed in any other country. I think the idea of relating the capital structure of a bank to the population of the area or town or city in which it operates looks to us at first sight as quite reasonable; but does it mean that a bank operates over the entire area of the town in which it is situated? It may be that if there is a bank operating in Delhi, it may operate in New Delhi: all its constituents may be just in Connaught Place or it may operate in Chandni Chowk; and to say that a bank which operates in Delhi should have so much of capital because it operates in such a large city does not look very reasonable as it very rarely operates over the whole area covered by the city. Whatever may have been the reasons which in the United States made them adopt such a system after a long process of trial and error, that does not seem to me to be any valid reason why we should adopt this rigid rule. I am particularly interested in this clause because joint stock banking has developed to some considerable extent in my own province, and there now exist institutions which are conducted reasonably efficiently and reasonably honestly; and to put these institutions in a strait-jacket, similar to what is contemplated in clause 11, is, I think, stifling the growth of institutions which have so far been doing a lot of good work, and is wholly unnecessary. The interests who will have to state their opinion on this particular clause will have to devise some other way of empowering the Central Government or its agent to regulate banking and perhaps by insisting upon a particular proportion of capital and reserves in relation to its total volume of business. But I find even in this clause a significant omission namely the realisation on the part of Government that branch banking has to be controlled. In fact, quite 50 per cent. of what this clause proposes to do could be done by direct licensing and control of branch banking. Much of the trouble in regard to joint stock banks has been that they have been expanding rather rapidly to the detriment of their soundness. There is also another aspect of this question which I think the Government had better take note of. I do not want the Government of India to allow banks to develop freely without any check, let or hindrance. There is no point in every bank going and starting branches now in one province and extending to other provinces and opening branches in all kinds of places whether or not those branches are going to do any good to the people of the locality or whether they

will be cutting into the activities of the existing institutions. If the Government seeks to regulate Banking, it should not set itself the very limited scope of what a police state would conceive it to be just for the protection of depositors: in fact I was rather glad that my Honourable friend who started first by saying that the object of the Bill was to protect the depositors, subsequently said that it was the intention to provide for regulation of banking in the interests of the economic betterment of the country or something to that effect. What I want the Government of India to do is to realise that this function of a police state is definitely secondary and that the more important function is to regulate banking in order to make this country economically stable, in order that banking might serve the country and aid in the task of its economic betterment. With that end in view, I would rather like that clause 11 redrafted or perhaps some other clause put in which gives the Government power to regulate branch banking by means of licences to be given by the Reserve Bank or the Government of India, whichever happens to be the institution that will exercise its discretion, to say to an applicant seeking permission to open a branch. 'Well, there are already lot of banks in such and such a place. We do not want undue competition. We do not want you to go and open a branch there'. Limit the activities of banks when actually they tend to enter the region of cut-throat competition. For one thing, I would like to see this rather arbitrary strait-jacket—of insisting on 5 lakhs capital for such and such a city, 2 lakhs for somewhere else and so on—altered suitably—to make it more flexible. Secondly, I should like that the regulation shall be done by means of using the discretion of whichever happens to be the machinery for carrying out the purpose of this Act, by restricting branch banking and by licensing it.

Sir, I welcome clause 17 not merely because it seeks to protect the British Indian investor and the British Indian depositor from the operation of banks floated in Indian States nearby, on which no vestige of control can be exercised by either the Provincial or the Central Government and which institutions seek to invite deposits by offering high rates of interest and subsequently put the people who deposit money with them in a quandary. I have undoubtedly in mind the debacle that happened in South India in 1938. At the same time, I take it that the licencing of banking companies incorporated outside British India will not merely cover the banks that are floated in Indian States but will cover all banks which are floated outside British India. If that is so, and if my interpretation is correct, I welcome it as being the first step in controlling the activities of all banks floated outside British India, including those foreign banks who carry on exchange operations in this country. In fact, Sir, I would like this particular clause to be split into two. Without really attempting to discriminate against any particular set of banks, the Government of India or its agents in this matter could be given the power to issue two sets of licences, one for those banks which are going to do ordinary joint stock banking and another for those banks which will be engaged on exchange business.

Sir, another clause about which I have a considerable amount of misgiving is clause 18. Clause 18, I see, is an improvement on the original proposals of 1939, which insisted that 30 per cent. of the assets of the bank should be maintained in cash or gold or in any approved securities. This has now been reduced to 25 per cent. In order to approve or disapprove of this condition, I have to take the House into some details of the operations of banks in this country. It is certainly true and it is also just that banks ought to keep a certain portion of their funds in a liquid state. The sole criterion in deciding upon the percentage is what amount would be needed in order that the bank might meet its immediate demands. It may be that most of the big banks in this country could keep or are keeping about 25 to 30 per cent. of their resources in a state of liquidity, either in cash or gold or Government securities but many others don't. One has to realise that, at any rate, in my province the function of smaller banks is largely to finance agricultural operations and the advances made are of a seasonal nature. Whether seasonal advances which are definitely short term, which will be returned within a very short

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period, are liquid or not is certainly a matter of interpretation but that liquidity would not come in within the scope of this particular section. What happens in my province is that for about 7 months of the year, or perhaps 8 months the smaller banks have nearly 50 to 60 per cent. of their resources in cash or in approved securities. During the season when they have to make advances on grain and perhaps about 80 to 85 per cent. of their total resources are invested and the operation of this clause will compel these banks to limit that very useful function which they are doing now and I think it will react very adversely on the agricultural economy of the country. My Honourable friend might tell me that, if they advance money in the proper form, on bills which could be negotiated or rediscounted with the Reserve Bank or with some of the bigger scheduled banks or by some other means some portions of their assets could be maintained in a state of liquidity so as to satisfy this condition. Therefore why should we not stick to the terms imposed by this clause? The fact is that when the Reserve Bank Act was passed and section 17 was framed and section 17(2) was also included therein, which allowed the Reserve Bank certain scope in the matter of going to the aid of its member banks, it was then felt that the bill habit in this country will grow. It was also felt then that the opening of public warehouses should be encouraged. The idea was that receipts from public warehouses could be made a negotiable security the bills covering which could be rediscounted with the Reserve Bank of India. That was what the Banking Inquiry Committee also had envisaged but today we find that all those ideal conditions have not come into being. The need which has to be filled is still there and if really the country had proceeded on the lines that the framers of the Reserve Bank Act had in mind it would have all been to the good. But that not being the case today and in view of the fact that smaller banks in my province are doing that very useful function of advancing money against seasonal agricultural operations, I think, Sir, the scope of section 18 in this Bill needs revision. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to a book, of which a copy I believe is in the library—'Commercial Banking Legislation' by Allen and several others, which while relating the experience of U. S. A. in the matter of fixing the percentage of liquid assets say?

"After various types of restrictions fixing a definite percentage against time deposits and a definite percentage against demand deposits and so on, they ultimately (I mean the Committee appointed for the purpose by the Federal Reserve Board in 1932) thought the total maximum of 15 per cent. of the gross deposits would be adequate."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): What is the book the Honourable Member is reading?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: It is "Commercial Banking Legislation and Control by Mr. Allen and several others", a copy of which I believe is in the Library.

While, I concede, that it might be rather an undue extension from 30 to 15 per cent, or further smaller from 25 to 15 per cent. this is a matter to which the attention of the interests concerned should be focussed. And if the Government of India or its advisers feel that they cannot reasonably enlarge the scope of this particular clause, there must be some complementary legislation enlarging the scope of section 17 (2) of the Reserve Bank Act which will enable the smaller banks in my province to avoid suffering unduly because of the restrictions imposed by clause 18.

In regard to the question of controls, I must say that I am disappointed with this Bill. I think the genesis of this disinclination to exercise control where it was necessary and to refrain from exercising that measure of control which is all to the good arises from the report submitted by the late Sir James Taylor in 1939 as a preface to his draft Bill. In paragraph 37 he has discussed the possibility of the appointment of an officer analogous to the post now held

by the Superintendent of Insurance. He has also discussed therein the possibility of the Reserve Bank being clothed with powers of inspection more rigid than those contemplated in this Bill. He says:

"At the same time, as we have said, we are doubtful whether such an appointment will be necessary or desirable at the present stage. Our object is to make a practical beginning on lines which will be as safe and automatic as possible and will not give much scope for evasion. Later on as banking develops such a department may become necessary."

War and other things that have happened in this country have made the necessity for Government control which would have been necessary after a period of 25 years of peace time, necessary after a period of 4 years. I would like to tell the Honourable the Finance Member that the situation which Sir James Taylor visualised might arise has already come and there is no need for us to be faced or for the successor of this Legislature to be faced with the task of further amending Bill later on. Let us have a comprehensive suggestion or proposal for control; let us have a Department established under the Reserve Bank for this purpose so that there should not be a question of division of functions between the Reserve Bank and the Central Government, the Central Government authorising the Reserve Bank to do one thing and the Reserve Bank doing something else by itself, and yet both of them not doing something which is very necessary. Let us straightaway act on the experience that this Government has gained in the Insurance field and put into operation a measure of control in the field of banking where it is far more necessary not only in the interests of the depositors but also in the interests of future economic position of this country.

Sir, I would like the Honourable Member, when he brings back the Bill to us, perhaps to refer it to a Select Committee to place concrete proposals before us about the establishment of a special branch of the Reserve Bank, which will be alive, not act merely as a policeman but which will keep in touch with the pulse of the money-market in this country, which will come to the aid of such institutions as and when they deserve help and which will try to lighten the rigours of the law enacted where it is very necessary in the best interests of the country. Such agency as is appointed should exercise rigid supervision and I do not think it is worth while giving any discretion in this matter, because once discretion is given either to the Central Government or to the Reserve Bank or to any other agency the position will be that where the Central Bank or the Reserve Bank exercise its discretion, it will mean in the eyes of the public that the bank concerned is not in a solvent state. Inspection and control must be automatic and perennial and no difference should be made in this matter between the one bank and the other. It is only then that rumours won't be started that the Inspector of the Reserve Bank has come down to inspect the accounts of a particular bank because the Central Government has authorised him to do so and there was something wrong with the affairs of the bank concerned. The very idea of empowering either the Government or the Reserve Bank with discretion in this matter is dangerous in the interests of the stability and well-being of banks. There must be one uniform method of inspection and; however rigid it may be, I do not think it is likely to affect materially the working of a bank. A few more returns might probably require a few more clerks, and I wish it were possible under this Bill to impress on banks the need to pay its clerks well.

Sir, I come now practically to the end of what I have to say. I shall only draw the attention of my Honourable friend to one aspect of this Bill to which greater attention should be given. Section 39 envisages an amendment of the Reserve Bank Act. It envisages the amendment of section 17 and the addition of sub-section 15(a) thereto, which will lay an obligation on the Reserve Bank to see that the Banking Companies Act is properly worked. As somebody mentioned before me—perhaps it was Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar or you yourself, Sir, when you were speaking, if you impose obligations on banks, as such by this Bill you must give them some concessions. I do not mean to indicate a concession that is to be granted in any *ex-gratia* spirit but that

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a definite obligation must rest on the Reserve Bank to go to the help of joint stock banks in time of need. In 1938 I was in close touch with the banks in my province which were undergoing severe strain merely because one of the banks had crashed. The late Sir James Taylor was in Madras and we met him several times. We had several discussions with him on how best the Reserve Bank could help. Notwithstanding the fact that he and his advisers wanted to help the banks which needed help, they were not in a position to do so because of the rigidity of the provisions of section 17(2), the framers of which envisaged an ideal condition which has not yet come into being in this country. The bill habit is not there and therefore little advantage could be taken of the provisions of section 17(2). All that the Reserve Bank could do was to ask the commercial banks to go to the Imperial Bank and ask for their aid. How could they go to the Imperial Bank and ask for an advance on the securities that they held or on the bills that they held because, if once they divulged their secrets to the Imperial Bank, which happens to be a very serious competitor of theirs, their business would be lost. And, in fact, what happened in the sequel was that such banks as had to go to the Imperial Bank did lose some of their business ultimately.

Sir, if my Honourable friend could envisage an amendment of section 17 for one purpose, I want him at the same time to liberalise the wording of section 17(2) which will help the Reserve Bank to go to the assistance of its member banks in times of need.

Lastly, I would like to urge a word of caution. We in South India are proud of having made a certain amount of progress in the matter of Joint Stock Banking especially in the field of the smaller banks which are now performing a very useful function. By virtue of the situation in which they are placed the management of the smaller bank know their locality very well and their people as well, so as to be able to exercise a certain amount of judgment in the matter of helping these people who needed the help. They are, in times of scarcity of money, not in times of inflation such as the present, performing a very useful function in increasing the velocity of the currency. Anything that is done to the detriment of those institutions, I shall protest against vehemently. If in order to have a symmetrical Bill which looks compact and beautiful, which has no loopholes, where no caution need be exercised by the supervising authority, you produce an Act which will kill these banks or for that matter even stifle them, I shall protest against the measure. After all, if my Honourable friend wants to place on the Statute book an Act which would help—I would say again—the economic progress of this country, let alone the police duties of the State, then the small banks will form, for a very long time to come, an integral portion of that particular economy which you seek to foster. I see with apprehension the growth of the big banks, which taking advantage of the present cheap money conditions, want to exploit the country for the benefit of the promoters. Big businessmen have tried to float big institutions. If they could, in course of time, displace foreign institutions like the Imperial Bank of India, well and good. But if they are going to follow the same policy as of all big institutions all over the world and stifle the smaller institutions, then I must ask the Government to take steps to protect these smaller institutions which are very necessary for the economy of the country at any rate until such time as you or your successors, whether now or fifty years hence, will take charge on behalf of the state of the entire credit mechanism of the whole country, if that condition should ever come into being.

In the meantime, I suggest that the Government of India should ask the Reserve Bank not merely to send a copy of this Bill to every banking institution, but also to send an important officer of the bank round to the places where these banks function and ask him to listen to the difficulties that these banks might feel in regard to the proposed provisions, to the suggestions regarding suitable amendments to the Act to remove those difficulties and the

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form of aid which these banks expect from the Government or its agents, so that some of these suggestions if they are found reasonable might be incorporated in the provisions of the Bill before it becomes law. I hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member will be in a position to give me that assurance.

Finally let me congratulate him on having brought forward this measure and I should like to ask him to tell us when he proposes to ask this House to take the Bill into consideration or ask the House to refer it to the Select Committee. The motion as it stands now does not indicate what will be the last date by which opinions will be received.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): I have got only a few remarks to offer. Safeguards have been provided in clause 10 of the Bill against disproportionate remuneration, commission or share of profits of the banking company. But all these safeguards are relaxed by the second proviso to this clause. In the first instance, the period of managing agency is fixed for five years at a time. By the second proviso it is laid down that the contract for managing agency may be renewed or extended for a further period not exceeding five years at a time, if and so often as the directors think fit. So, virtually there is no time limit up to which the term can be extended, five years at a time. The directors can extend the term for as many five year periods as they think fit. I think some limit should be placed. I suggest that in the first term, it may be five years, the second term should be only three years in the interest of the depositors and other persons interested in the bank. There may not be more than one extension, i.e., eight years should be maximum period of the managing agency.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I welcome the Banking Bill that has been placed before the House. I also remember when I served on the Select Committee of the Indian Companies Act, how even such a resourceful Law Member as Sir Nripendra Sircar found it rather difficult to bring in a proper definition of banking which would not injure or affect one or the other of the prevailing customs or interests in banking in this country. That after eight years, since that happened, the Honourable the Finance Member has brought forward this Bill is no doubt a matter for congratulation. As has been very pertinently observed by my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari, the provisions of this Bill are in the nature of mere policing administration rather than real effectuation of the objective, namely the successful financing of commerce and trade in the country. I do not think any banking legislation would be satisfactory, if merely you impose certain conditions either with regard to its paid up capital or preparation of balance sheets or employment of managing agents or even having in possession of fluid capital a certain percentage to meet urgent requirements. What the country requires is full credit facilities for the speedy exchange of commodities, for being able to store agricultural or industrial products up to a point when it would be best to dispose of them in the markets and to see that no easy exchange of trade transactions is impeded by heavy rates of interest. I put it to the Honourable the Finance Member whether any of these conditions are satisfied or at any rate taken up for satisfaction or for meeting them in this Bill, I am afraid, not.

There are four important essential requirements of this country in the matter of banking. Industrial transactions, agricultural transactions, small borrowings and commercial transactions. Most of the banks which are in existence now, are engaged purely in commercial transactions. In fact, other kinds of transactions are viewed with a good deal of doubt and suspicion. In fact, true, some banks do lend monies upon agricultural products when they are stored in the bank's godowns. These are indeed very few and even there the banks feel that their monies are practically locked up in transactions of that nature. If today you have to be satisfied only with this legislation I do not think you are doing any service to the country and to the conditions of

[Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty.]

cheap credit in respect of any of these transactions. I do not know what prevented the Honourable the Finance Member from taking this opportunity to liberalise the provisions and even to enlarge the scope of this legislation in order that there may be four categories of banks; one, for industrial products and undertakings, second, for agricultural commodities, third, for commercial transactions, and fourth, for small borrowings. It is in respect of these small borrowers that the little joint stock banks, of which we have rather quite a considerable number in our presidency, serve them indeed very usefully. The provisions of your Bill practically discourage such banks from functioning. I think the lacuna in these matters must be attended to; otherwise a mere police Act like this, as in the case of the insurance companies, would not be of much use. In fact the definition of the word 'bank' which excluded transactions of small or private investors with business concerns gave them a great disadvantage. That disadvantage was overcome by inclusion of the phrase "by cheque" in the previous definition which was under discussion. That is now removed in this definition which practically, therefore, excludes private investors from putting their money in any commercial or industrial concerns and demanding payment at the proper time. This will undoubtedly affect many commercial concerns, not to speak of many industrial concerns as well. I realise, Sir, that at the present stage it is more the lawyers who have to look into the actual wordings of these clauses than business men; but I make these suggestions in order to know what difficulties there are for Government to enlarge the scope of the Bill so as to include provisions which would make credit easily obtainable on no doubt good security.

Then with regard to these police or punitive provisions I am afraid the experience of recent banking crises has not made the Finance Member bring the law in common with the States, in regard to liquidation or payment of dividends of these banking concerns when an unfortunate liquidation has to take place. The Honourable Finance Member pretty well knows that with regard to a particular bank, the crash of which was very unfortunate and affected constituents all over the country, the matter of division of the amounts available became a controversial point between the courts in British India and the courts of the Indian States. I do not see any provision in this Bill which would obviate that kind of difficulty.

I wish to make or hazard one more suggestion. I consider that insurance and banking are the two things that can be nationalised or socialised at the earliest possible moment. It may look rather a wild suggestion at present but I think we must explore the possibilities of such a thing as that. After all it is upon Government credit that all the banking institutions ply their trade; and I do not see why the State cannot run a nationalised credit system all over the country. But it is no doubt a fantastic hope when the Government of India, even after constituting the Reserve Bank, should still be paying to the tune of 56 lakhs of rupees a year to a private concern as agency commission. To a Government of that sort it is no doubt a fantastic suggestion that I make. Still I content myself with making it in the hope that in time to come it may mature.

Sir, I support the motion for circulation of this Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I rise to support the motion for circulation and I am glad that the Finance Member has thought it necessary at this stage to bring in a Bill which was rather overdue. We find that the banking institutions are now rapidly growing in India and people are becoming bank-minded and looking to this side of business with more confidence. I do not propose to deal with the clauses in detail because after circulation we will know the feelings of the people and the views of financiers and their reactions to the different clauses. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has made certain comments on which I will touch briefly because I do not agree with all that he said. Before I say anything on that, I find a significant omission of any

clause which would encourage the growth of indigenous banking in this country and, in particular, the support that this Government would themselves offer or give through the Reserve Bank. I could not get any book in the Library as regards the efforts of the Australian Government when they gave pecuniary help through subsidies towards the growth of banking institutions in that country although I know that the Australians did give special treatment to banking and insurance organisations. It is also the duty of Government to give an impetus to that particular branch which would benefit this country in developing trade and industry.

I will now deal with one or two clauses and I will first take up clause 10. I certainly welcome that they should do away with the idea of managing agents for banking corporations and banking institutions. I suggest that those banking institutions which have got agreements of managing agencies at present should terminate the agreements within a reasonable period say, of two years on commencement of this Act. My personal view is that all these banking institutions should be managed and their policy governed by a board of directors and nobody else. Certainly the directors should be those who have the highest number of shares and largest interest in that particular banking institution. The duration of term should also be settled; it should be laid down whether it should be 3, 4 or 5 years. It is immaterial at the moment what period is suggested.

With regard to clause 11, I do not appreciate the value, like my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, who agrees with me on this. What is the idea of requiring certain banking institutions to provide a certain amount of capital for their branches in relation to the population of the areas in which they will operate? In this country, it may be that a bank in a certain area with a population of one lakh may have twenty times more business activity than a branch office in another area with the same population. Probably the Honourable the Finance Member will agree with me when I say that the financial position of different areas in this country—as probably in other countries as well—differs so much that it will be inadvisable to put those institutions in a strait-jacket, as my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has said. I think that this particular clause requires a very careful alteration. It is also a matter of opinion as to whether any such clause is at all necessary under the conditions that prevail in this country.

Now, I come to clause 14, which says:—

"Every banking company not being a scheduled bank shall maintain by way of cash reserve in cash a sum equivalent to at least one and half per cent. of its time liabilities and five per cent. of its demand liabilities and shall file with the Reserve Bank before the tenth day of every month. . . ."

I could not understand what exactly is the purpose behind this provision unless it be, as the last speaker has said, that it is meant to stifle the small indigenous banking institutions which exist today. I have no desire to make any comments for or against, but at the same time I certainly support the view that no attempt should be made to stifle the reasonably good banking institutions. Of course a certain capital may be compulsory but at the same time in the case of those smaller institutions which have a good record of business and against whom nothing can be said, restrictions should not be placed and they should not be stifled. As my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has said, these small institutions are very helpful to small people—agriculturists especially—for short term advances.

Then, Sir, I wholeheartedly support clause 17, but at the same time I would suggest that there should be a clause providing that those countries which would not allow Indian banking institutions to operate in their country should not be permitted to have their banking institutions in this country. We know that institutions like Mitsui Bhuson Kaisha were carrying on big banking business in this country—exchange business and so on—but at the same time Japan did not permit an Indian bank to operate in Japan or even to have a branch agency for the matter of that. Therefore, I say, Sir, that a

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

clause should be incorporated in the Bill which would restrict opening of banking institutions in India to British Indian subject, States and the dominions and such other countries which would give us reciprocal facilities to have Indian exchange banks in their countries if Indians so desired. I am not here to enumerate the difficulties which our businessmen had to face when they wanted to establish any such institution in foreign countries,—I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member knows fully well of these things and I urge that at this stage, when we are enacting a Banking Bill, it would be proper to make a statutory provision that only such countries should be permitted to operate their banking institutions in India which in their turn would permit Indians to have banking institutions in their countries.

I do not propose to discuss things like accounts and balance sheets, but I would just touch upon one point which was brought forward by Mr. Krishnamachari—namely agency of the Reserve Bank to Imperial Bank of India. At present the Imperial Bank are sole agents of the Reserve Bank out of which they receive fifty-six lakhs rupees per year. As soon as the present agreement is finished, I think that an opportunity should be given to other banking institutions also to become the agents of the Reserve Bank; the Imperial Bank should not hold a monopoly as it has been the practice so far. There are many Indian banks of good standing and I am sure the Reserve Bank can safely rely on those without running any risk. I cannot understand why the Reserve Bank should choose the Imperial Bank alone to be their agents and no others. Perhaps it was all right in the earlier stages, but now, as I have said, when Indian banking institutions with sufficient resources and big capitals have come into existence, it is time that a share should be given to Indian banks on more liberal lines in the same manner as it has been given to the Imperial Bank of India. This can be done by putting a clause in the Bill. That is the only comment which I can make at this stage of the Bill. It will be rather too much for anybody to try and discuss all the clauses because we do not actually know how this Bill is to be received in the country and what opinions we are going to receive.

With these few words, Sir, I support the circulation of the Bill.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support the motion for circulation of this very important Bill. There are, as everyone in this House is aware, very good reasons why this Bill should have been introduced at a time like this. During the last 20 years and especially during the last four or five years, there has been a very large increase in the habit of deposit banking and in branch banking throughout India, and, as various Members have explained, there have been serious cases of banking failures, and obviously these have brought a spotlight to bear on the whole system. It is clearly of the first importance that there should be sound banking in any country that hopes to develop its industrial and trading system, as we hope India is going to develop her trade and industry during the next few decades. But to make sound banking you need two things. First of all, sound law—commercial law generally and banking law in particular; secondly you need good bankers.

Well, Sir, good or otherwise as it may be banking law obviously is not in itself going to make good bankers, but it may, and we hope that it will, go some way to ensure good banking if good banking law is established in this country.

There is just one point of detail to which I should like to refer and that is in clause 20. As I understand clause 20, it is proposed that every banking company should make a certain class of return to the Reserve Bank. I presume that what Government have in mind is that the return to be made should be somewhat on the lines now in force in the United Kingdom, where banks such as Lloyds Bank make a monthly return, which they also incidentally display in all their branches and at their head office. The point of my enquiry is this. Is it the intention of Government that the return to be made monthly

should also be displayed at the head office and at the branches of the banks, because there is no doubt whatever that one of the prime causes for the success of sound banking in the United Kingdom has been this very factor of good publicity. By that I do not mean the kind of advertisements we see veryday in the papers here where banks advertise their huge capital and their normous—as they call it—Working Capital in the case of a bank whose inherent position we know to be unsound. By good publicity I mean just this: that the depositors and all who deal with the banks should know where they stand. One of the main recommendations of the MacMillan Committee which reported in 1931 was that every banking company should make a monthly return such as is presumably contemplated here and that the return should be adequately displayed at their head office and at all their branch offices. That would then enable the public to know where exactly they stood. They would know where the assets of the banks were; what its liabilities were, and really they would be able to tell at a glance the degree of liquidity of its resources. That, Sir, to my mind is a very important feature if you are going to have set up a sound banking system and I should like to hear what the Honourable the Finance Member has to say on that in his reply.

With regard to the other clauses of the Bill, I do not propose to comment at this stage. They are mostly technical and I am afraid I have not had the time to study them all. But no doubt we shall all have ample time to do that at a later stage when the Bill is referred to Select Committee.

Sir, I support the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I am sorry to find that this Government does not try to grow wiser from day to day. On the other hand it grows more and more stupid and for this reason . . .

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): You would make excellent company with the Leader of the House!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I would certainly be excellent company with the Leader of the House. Bihar and Andhra are both emotional and therefore they would be a match for each other!

The other day I told the Commerce Member of the need for the Government to go into the question of the advisability of nationalising such big industries as insurance and banking and in spite of it my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, comes here to day quietly introducing this Bill and making his speech, without adding even a word as to what Government is going to do in regard to the future of this great business of banking. This Government has been talking quite a lot about its planning department and post-war reconstruction. The cat is out of the bag today. Here are two big businesses in this country and in regard to them Government comes here and remains mum as to their plan and policy for the future. It becomes clear that this Government's idea of post-war planning is either not honest or is purely bogus. If the Government say that they are not aware of the views as well as the intentions of the public in this country, then I can only charge it of culpable ignorance, because again and again the National Planning Committee had made it clear at its successive sessions that it was in favour of socialising these two great industries. The Indian National Congress also has reiterated through its Karachi Charter of Fundamental Rights and through its election manifesto which was published to the masses from one end to the other of the country that it is in favour of the socialisation of these great big businesses. Government cannot also plead that this is not a business proposition. I made it clear the other day that my idea of socialising insurance is a really sound business proposition and today my Honourable friend, one of the most experienced businessmen in this country, Mr. S. Vencatachalam Chetty himself comes forward and hazards a suggestion to the Finance Member that this big business of banking ought also to be socialised. But what are the plans of the Government? Yes, I could understand my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque when he said that surely it is not this Government's business to make plans and propose socialisation of such industries. But I cannot agree with him. It

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is still possible for this Government to prepare plans for the socialisation of these industries. The decision may be left to the future Governments whether their plans are to be accepted or not. But plans there must be and if they do not want to plan at all, let them scrap this new Department of Planning and let them send my Honourable friend, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, to his more remunerative and useful job. Instead of that they want to play with the imagination, the feelings and ideals of the people of this country by saying they are having a plan and bringing a very busy businessman and asking him to waste his time here and deceiving the public with the impression that the Government is busy doing something very big and very useful. I protest against this sort of game, it is not a sham. Sir, banking is a much more important business than insurance. It is true that insurance yields large incomes every year which can be made available for investment. But banking is much more. It is the one business which caters to the needs of the commercially minded people and industrially minded people and agriculturists in the country.

But my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, comes and says that sound banking can be ensured only in two ways, one by sound law and the other by good banking. What he meant by sound banking can be understood from what my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, has said this morning. It is to look after the deposits of the depositors. Is that all? Is not the more important function of banking to look to the development of industry and commerce of the country? Sir, my Honourable friend seems to be still labouring under the impression that he has formed when long, long ago, he was in his University, when *laissez-faire* was the governing theory of the West. Deposit banking was the general governing policy of British banking but British banking practice has changed in the last fourteen years, that is ever since the last economic depression. In England those orthodox bankers have come to heed the advice of people like McKenna and others and they have come to realise that their function is also to try to finance and promote British industry as well as British commerce. My Honourable friend comes here and says "There is great danger, grave danger, in Indian banks indulging in trade or interesting themselves in trading." Why does he not then point out what is happening and what is being done in England? There in recent years they have begun to form a number of corporations with hundreds of millions of pounds as their capital that has been supplied by these banks themselves, whose interest is to safeguard the interests of British exporters over the vicissitudes or fluctuations of exchange. It is called Exchange Equalisation Fund and so on.

Then there is the question of industrial development of England. The English manufacturers themselves have come to be thoroughly dissatisfied with the old orthodox policy of their banks and banking. Therefore they have formed what is known as the Federation of British Industries. They have begun to agitate and with so much success that today the British Government as well as the Bank of England have come forward to encourage the 8 or 9 principal banks of England to come into the industrial field, to come into the commercial field and offer long term credits for these commercial and industrial concerns. That is what is happening in England.

But my Honourable friend, who has come from England is trying to forget or to ignore what is happening in England and wants us to go to the England of 1910 or 1900 and restrict ourselves to the simple deposit banking. He would be satisfied I suppose with a sort of police government. We have had so much of policing in every other field in this country that naturally, he wants the same kind of police government in this matter also. But I am afraid this policing is going to work just as disastrously in this as it has worked in other fields. He is going to prevent the emergence of an ever-increasing number of small banks in various rural and semi-rural areas in this country by stipulating that greater funds must be held by these banks and that a greater proportion of their deposits must be placed as security with the Reserve Bank of India and

so on. The crying need of this country is for more and more banks, for more and more banking facilities. For a very long time it was the Imperial Bank of India which held the field and which thwarted the growth and development of our industries and commerce. After great trouble the public were able to force the Government of India to realise the necessity of helping of some other banks also. And now the Imperial Bank has been pledged to open some rural branches also and some Indian banks have come in. Mr. Chapman-Mortimer is rather unhappy because during recent years very many more banks have come into existence and he is afraid that there must be something wrong in the State of Denmark. What is wrong with these banks? What are the facts at his disposal and at the disposal of the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill which justify his proposal that the smaller banks shall be kept down by all these onerous conditions that he is stipulating? He has not provided us with any statistics. Supposing there is something wrong with these smaller banks what is he to do? Should he not come forward with his own offer of assistance to these banks?

There was a proposal made by the Industrial Commission, appointed during the last war, also as a sort of sop to the nationalists of those days, to the effect that there must be industrial banking in this country and that the State should come forward to encourage Provincial Governments to form Provincial Investment Boards in the various Provinces and place certain funds at the disposal of these boards and also encourage the various banks to place some of their funds at the disposal of the investment boards. And they expected these investment boards to offer credit to the various industrial concerns on condition that those industrial concerns would accept two or three directors nominated by this Industrial Board. What have the Government of India done in regard to this recommendation? Why is it that the Government of India have not done anything to develop industrial banking in this country? Is it because industrial banking was very well developed in Germany and the present Government is so much opposed to Germany? Long before 1940, when this Government was flirting with Nazism and Fascism, it was open to the Government to have come forward with the necessary legislation in order to develop industrial banking in this country. Is it not a fact that our industries are crying for more and more capital? Is it not a fact that their needs have not been properly attended to by the Imperial Bank or other banks that have been there in this country? What have the Government done? What do the Government propose to do even now? It does not want to do anything except this. Even these banks which are trying to lend some money to some of these industries on a long term basis should be controlled: they must be kept down, otherwise industries may spring up anywhere and everywhere with plenty of funds at their disposal.

The time at which this Bill is being introduced is very significant. This is just the time when the Government is trying to prevent the development of more and more industrial concerns as well as joint stock companies in this country. There was a time when economists used to cry aloud that Indians would not take to industry, Indians would not take to business, Indians would not deposit their money in these banks and other concerns. But now the Government comes forward and says "Banks and industrial concerns are coming up like mushrooms, and everywhere joint stock companies are being floated. Therefore we come down with our heavy hand and prevent the floating of these new companies and also prevent the flourishing and the prosperity of these banks". If that is the game of the Government I am here to tell them that this country anyhow will not have anything to do with that sort of game.

Why is it that the Government is so much opposed to the idea of developing commercial banking? They say that they can have deposits, they can lend money on the *kundies* and securities, they can under-write a number of companies, they can also help some of these industrial concerns but they should not do business. Does not the Imperial Bank of India lend huge sums to companies like Volkart Bros., Gordon Woodroffe & Co., and so many other

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companies managed and controlled by Europeans, huge sums not covered by the assets of these companies nor the deposits held by them in the Imperial Bank. There were many occasions when this Government itself used to come to the rescue of the Imperial Bank of India. When that was the case, why is it today the Government has suddenly grown wiser just when Indian banks have begun to take interest in Indian trade, business and industries?

Sir, it is the responsibility of the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman to dispel these doubts. It is quite possible that many of these doubts are not well-founded. How can we be sure, when we know that this Government

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has not been interested at all in the development of the industry and commerce of this country? Even in England, experienced bankers and financiers have come to the conclusion that English banking practices have to be changed and English banks should be encouraged and even prodded to take more and more interest in industry. Therefore, they want them to pursue the policy of the industrial banks. Will the Government be prepared to consider this view of the British financiers? These are some of the questions which I pose here to the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman in the hope that he may try, at this late hour even, to address himself to these questions and the problems that underlie these questions and try to give an idea or an inkling of the mind of this Government. Sir, I support this motion for circulation in the hope that on these points also in the light of what the Honourable Member is going to say, the public may have an opportunity of expressing their views and making itself felt on this wooden Government.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, until the last speaker addressed the House, I thought that I should be able to express my gratification that every speaker had not only supported the motion but also as far as I could see had supported the principle of the Bill. As regards the Honourable Member who spoke last, I experienced the same difficulty as he did himself in determining whether he was supporting or opposing the principle of the Bill.

A number of observations have been made both of a general character and on particular clauses. I do not intend to traverse those observations. I would rather take time to study them before this Bill comes to the House again. The general feeling was that the Bill contained many desirable features, but there were Honourable Members who thought that in some respects it did not go far enough and in others it went too far. I am not surprised at that. Any measure which attempts to safeguard the interests of the general public and at the same time to encourage the growth of sound institutions is bound to have a restrictive aspect, and if you are to look at it from the point of view of preserving the maximum freedom to the individual who may wish to embark on this form of activity, then clearly you will find reasons to criticise the measure. My Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, for instance, seemed to me to be trying to make the best of two worlds, which were by no means identical. On the one hand he said a good deal which was in favour of the Bill and of the provisions of the Bill, and he expressed his strong inclination to support more drastic measures of control. I was very glad to hear that he was so confident about the way to tackle this problem; but he finished up before he sat down by saying that anything which militated in any degree against certain small banks which existed in the part of the world in which he is most interested would have his uncompromising opposition or at any rate that he would protest strenuously against it. I find myself in the familiar position of having to make an omelette without breaking any eggs whatever.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am unable really to understand how that is a position which cannot be got over. I think we can have controls and at the same time allow a certain amount of flexibility in the restrictions that you impose. I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member; but if the Honourable Member would like me to say how, I shall gladly tell him.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Theoretically it is always possible to say that what is wanted is control, more drastic control, more complete

control, and also to say that it should be accompanied by infinite flexibility so that nothing is really done to anybody who is controlled. But in practice, unfortunately, when it comes to legislation and you have to put those ideas into rather clumsy words, when it comes to legislation, you have to make up your mind whether you are really going to do, not merely say, something—you have got to make up your mind whether you actually intend something new being done and how much freedom you will allow to the smaller banks to follow practices which may be detrimental to the interests of the depositors and to the growth of sound banking principles. But I do not wish at this stage to commit myself in any way about either this or any other of the points raised. I was merely indicating the general difficulty which is bound to face an attempt to draft a banking measure for the regulation of banking.

There are obviously the two interests—there are the interests of the depositors, and on the other hand there are the interests of the bankers and there are the interests of those who borrow from the banks rather than lend to or deposit with the banks. I was not surprised that my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, took a refreshing line on this measure and harked back to some very fundamental first principles—but I ask him in all seriousness whether he expected me at this time to bring forward a measure for the complete nationalisation of banks in India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No: to tell us whether you are planning at all for the future.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not even prepared to take this occasion to do that. I understood that in matters as fundamental as that the attitude of my Honourable friend and of his party was that this Government should do nothing of the kind—that it certainly should not breach the integrity of any of the fundamental principles by undertaking plans which would tie the hands of any successive Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then abolish the planning department!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There are certain things which can be usefully done by the present Government by way of planning; but I do not think that a plan for the complete socialisation of insurance and banking would be regarded as one of those innocuous preliminary steps which any succeeding Government would be quite happy to inherit.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: They won't make any change once you do it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As far as I personally am concerned, that might seem quite an attractive proposition; but at the moment we are talking about the attitude of Government and what is possible in relation to the present situation. It will be quite open to my Honourable friend at some later stage to introduce a measure far more sweeping than this and I shall wish him good luck when he does so but my own object at the moment is much more limited. As I freely admitted in my speech, I did not intend to be too ambitious. My object was to deal with some of the more clamant needs of the immediate situation and to attempt to secure a measure which will safeguard the depositor against certain grave perils and which will safeguard Indian banking against certain unsoundnesses which undoubtedly are liable to develop. I think we shall find when we next come to consider this measure that even a Bill as modest as this one, has evoked a very considerable diversity of opinions and I will not attempt to anticipate that.

In regard to queries as to the time by which the opinions would be elicited, the intention of the Government is, if possible, to move for the reference of this Bill to a Select Committee in the course of the next session and I hope that by that time we shall have the opinions of the general public before the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE CONSTITUTION OF THE PERMANENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):
Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations."

The brief and businesslike document which the House is going to discuss today—the Constitution of the proposed Food and Agriculture Organization—has a history and I believe Honourable Members will wish to be reminded of the course of events which led to its being drafted, as it cannot properly be considered apart from its background. On the 18th May last year, 1945, on the invitation of the Government of the United States of America, delegations from 44 Governments met in plenary session at Hot Springs, Virginia, for the opening of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

It was, I believe, the first conference attended by delegations from all the United Nations and its task was to consider food and agriculture as world problems with a view to ensuring that, when peace is restored, the goal of freedom from want, more especially from want of food suitable and adequate for the health of all the peoples of the world, can be pursued and in time achieved. I should like to emphasize, Sir, that the problem before the Conference was not the organisation of war-time relief or immediately post-war relief. That is the function of another organisation altogether. Its function was to devise steps for a concerted effort, on a permanent basis, for a national and an international attack on hunger and malnutrition.

The Conference was intended to be exploratory and the invitation indicated that representation should be by a small number of technical and expert representatives. From India, we sent the Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Sir Pheroze Kharegat, and the Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratories of the Indian Research Fund Association, Dr. Aykroyd. In America, they were joined by the Agent General for India, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, who is no stranger to this House, and who was invited to lead the Government of India delegation, and by the Indian Trade Commissioner in America, Mr. H. S. Malik. It so happened that Sir David Meek, the Indian Trade Commissioner in London, was in the United States on other Government business at the time and the opportunity was taken to secure his services also for the Indian delegation, which thus consisted of five persons,—none too many, as it proved, for service on the various committees into which the Conference at once resolved itself. I think all our delegates were on more than one committee and the Leader of our delegation was Vice-Chairman of one of the four main sections into which the Conference divided itself—Section II, which dealt with the expansion of production and adaptation to consumption needs. He was also a member of the small but important "Steering Committee" of 11 Leaders of delegation, which was set up by the Executive Committee of the Conference. Dr. Aykroyd was the "rapporteur" of Section I of the Conference—on Consumption levels and requirements.

The Conference lasted from the 18th May to the 3rd June when in a last plenary session it unanimously adopted what has been termed the Final Act of the Conference—a document embodying in the form of a declaration and a series of recommendations the conclusions at which the Conference had arrived,—I would repeat, with unanimity. As I have said, the Conference was exploratory; there is nothing binding in its conclusions: but the unanimous conclusions of a Conference, attended by the representatives of 44 Governments, on a matter vitally affecting the future of the human race are not lightly to be disregarded.

I will not stop to examine in detail the recommendations made in this Final Act. I hope Honourable Members have had time to read them. They form the third section of the pamphlet that has been circulated. In effect, they cover

the whole field of Food and Agricultural policy. Improvement of nutrition and of standards of living are put in the forefront and it is recognised that these can be achieved only by well co-ordinated measures, covering such matters as land improvement, agricultural credit, co-operative movements of various kinds, revision of land tenures, improved arrangements for marketing. An economy of abundance is accepted as the aim and a world-wide industrial and agricultural expansion—with special attention to backward areas—as the means. Success, they felt, could only be achieved as a result of organised international collaboration. To educate, to advise and to persuade, with these ends in view, a permanent international organisation was essential. These are the main recommendations, as I see them, of the Final Act. Sir, as I said, they are not in themselves binding on any one but they form the basis and the background of the constitution which it is our duty to examine today. I would only refer in detail to the first recommendation of the Conference, as it explains the next step that was taken. On page 44 of the pamphlet, the second Resolution recommends:

"First, that the Governments and authorities here represented recognise and embody in a formal declaration or agreement the obligation to their respective peoples and to one another henceforth to collaborate in raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of their peoples and to report to one another on the progress achieved;

Secondly, that the Governments and authorities here represented establish a permanent Organisation in the field of food and agriculture."

That was their recommendation.

Now, for the drafting of this formal declaration and for devising a scheme for a permanent organisation, the Conference resolved to continue itself in the form of an Interim Commission composed of one representative of each of the Governments represented at the Conference. They were to meet and take up their work not later than within six weeks, the 15th July, in Washington. Accordingly the Interim Commission met for the first time in the middle of July 1945. The Government of India's representative was the Agent-General, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, and it is, I think, a tribute to the part our Delegation had played at the Conference and to the position he himself has won at Washington that he was chosen to be Chairman of one of the four Committees in which the Interim Commission decided to work. The particular interest of that selection to us here today is that it was on this particular Committee—Committee B—of the Interim Commission that the task was laid of drafting a constitution for the permanent organisation. Assisted by two panels of experts—one scientific and the other economic,—Committee B duly produced the draft Constitution which, after close scrutiny and long deliberations, the Interim Commission has unanimously adopted in the form in which we now have it. It is recommended to us by 45 Governments of the United Nations for acceptance and, again I would repeat, it has the sanction of unanimous recommendation.

I come now to the document itself which is printed on page 25 of the pamphlet circulated to Honourable Members. It consists, as the House will see, of a preamble and 26 articles and two short annexures, in all about five pages of the pamphlet. It is accompanied, and in this pamphlet preceded, by the First Report of the Interim Commission which, in fact, sets out to explain the Constitution. I hope Honourable Members have had time to read them both, or rather to read the one in the light of the other,—the Constitution in the light of the Report. I would first invite attention to Article XXI of the Constitution, on page 28, especially to clauses 1 and 3. "This Constitution shall be open to acceptance by the nations specified in Annex I". (The nations specified in Annex I are the 45 United Nations. I should explain that originally there were 44 nations. A representative of Denmark was invited to attend the Conference at Hot Springs and he attended, I think, in his personal capacity, but, I suppose, since then his attendance has been ratified by his Government. At any rate, I find Denmark in the list of United Nations, and that is why the number has now gone up to 45).

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Provinces: General): Was Italy invited?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir. At that time (July 1943) Italy was on the "wrong side of the line". Clause 3 of that Article says:

"Upon the receipt by the Interim Commission of 20 notifications of acceptance, the Interim Commission shall arrange for this constitution to be signed in a single copy by the diplomatic representatives, duly authorised thereto, of the nations who shall have notified their acceptance and upon being signed on behalf of not less than twenty of the nations so specified in Annex-I, this Constitution shall come into force immediately."

To dispose of the Interim Commission I might say that the last article of all (Article 26) provides for the dissolution of the Interim Commission on the opening of the first session of the Conference, the Governing Body of this Organisation.

Now, Sir, the Constitution has been sent to us at this stage for our acceptance or rejection. I wish to make it quite plain that we cannot now usefully suggest alterations or modifications in the Constitution. We can accept it and join the Organisation or we can reject it and stay outside. We cannot usefully say "We will accept it if you make such and such changes in it". That would be rejection for the time being, rejection either till we changed our own minds or till those who joined the Organisation adopted our view and modified the Constitution in the way suggested.

I should like now to refer, as briefly as I may, to certain salient features in the scheme of the Constitution. I have shown how the Organisation will be set up when 20 of the United Nations Governments signify their acceptance of the Constitution. The membership is open to all the 45 nations mentioned in Annex I, the United Nations. To be completely effective, such an Organisation as this should be as nearly as possible world-wide and a provision is made for the admission of new Member States,—neutrals and our present enemies,—with the approval of two-thirds of all the then existing Member States, on acceptance, of course, of the Constitution and its obligations as they may be at that date. A Member nation can give notice of withdrawal from the Organisation but only after four years from the acceptance of the Constitution; and the notice shall take effect one year after its receipt by the Organisation. In effect membership is, therefore, for a minimum period of 5 years, and the Member nation must meet its obligations to the Organisation for the whole period before withdrawing.

The Governing Body of the Organisation will be called the "Conference". I think it is worth mentioning that particularly, because hitherto we have been applying the word to the Conference that met at Hot Springs; but now the Governing Body of the Organisation, when it is set up, will be called the "Conference". The Conference and its functions are described in Articles III and IV. On the Conference each Member nation shall have only one vote. The Conference, therefore, is a body representative of Governments and not of interests,—not of consumers or producers or co-operatives or capital or labour; but "any public International organisation having responsibilities related to those of the organisation" may be invited by the Conference to be represented at meetings of the Conference, without, however, a right to vote. The right to vote in the Conference is reserved to the Member nations.

Next, Sir, as it is not regarded possible for a body like the Conference to remain in session perpetually, power is given to it, and the duty is imposed on it, to appoint an Executive Committee of from 9 to 15 members, not more than one from any single Member nation, and, subject to certain important exceptions laid down, to delegate to that body such functions as it deems fit. Now, Sir, membership of this smaller body is limited to 15 at most. It is clear that on this body, unlike the Conference, all the Member nations cannot be represented. Article V prescribes "that subject to their being qualified by special administrative experience or other special qualifications to contribute to the attainment of the purpose of the Organisation", regard shall be had by the Conference, in appointing the Executive Committee, "to the desirability that its membership should reflect as varied as possible an experience of different types of economy in relation to food and agriculture". That is obviously designed to secure that different parts of the world shall be represented

on this body, which cannot under the Constitution exceed fifteen in number. This committee, of course will have no executive functions *vis-a-vis* the Member nations. The whole function of the Organisation, even at the Conference level, is advisory so far as Member nations are concerned. I should like to draw attention also to clause 4 of Article V. "The members of the Executive Committee shall exercise the powers delegated to them by the Conference on behalf of the whole Conference and not as representative of their respective Governments".

The permanent staff of the Organisation will work under a Director General. This staff, again, will be selected on as wide a geographical basis as possible, "subject to the paramount importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency and of technical competence". Once appointed, they are to be the servants of the Organisation and their responsibilities are to be international. In fact, the Governments of the countries to which they belong by nationality are not to pay any extra salaries over and above what the staff will draw from the Organisation or to seek to influence them in any way. They are to be the servants of the Organisation. The Conference, that is the governing body, may appoint technical and regional standing committees or committee to study special subjects and may convene general technical, regional or other special conferences and invite representatives to these of other bodies, national or international concerned with nutrition, food or agriculture. For the better maintenance of liaison, it may establish and maintain regional offices. It may also co-operate with other "public international organisations" and may, subject to the approval of the Conference, constitute a part of, that is to say actually join, any general organisation entrusted with the co-ordination of activities of international organisations having, like themselves, specialised responsibilities.

These powers and this machinery are to enable the Organisation to carry out the objects of the Organisation which are very succinctly set out in the Preamble of the Constitution. They are as follows:—

- (a) to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living among the peoples of the world;
- (b) to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products (and that, under the Constitution, includes fisheries, marine and forest products, and non-food agricultural crops);
- (c) to better the conditions of rural populations; and
- (d) by these means to contribute towards an expanding world economy.

The methods to be employed for the furtherance of these objectives will include the promotion of research, the collection, collation and dissemination of knowledge, the exchange of services and the making of recommendations for national and international action. This last will be effected by means of "recommendations" or "conventions" forwarded to Member nations for their consideration, after approval by a two-thirds majority of votes cast in the Conference itself—the governing body. In other words, the Organisation will operate by tendering advice and on occasions, assistance, but not by executive action over-riding national susceptibilities. The Constitution contains in Article XX the machinery and power for its own amendment. A two-thirds majority of all the Member nations is required for an amendment of the Constitution and no amendment which imposes new obligations will be binding on a Member nation until its Government accepts that obligation. The effect of this is that every Member nation knows what obligations it is accepting when it joins the Organisation and that these cannot be increased without its consent. The only exception is a financial one. This does not apply to the financial burden and I propose to deal with this as my last point on the Constitution.

The annual budget of the Organisation is to be settled by the Conference. It will decide not only what it is going to spend, but also how to collect it,—in other words, how much each Member nation is to contribute. By joining the

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

Organisation, we accept the liability to find year by year the funds which the whole body of the Conference may by a majority decision allocate to us as our share. Now, Sir, that is undoubtedly a surrender of sovereignty. At the same time we shall have exactly the same voice as every other Member nation in assessing our own and every other nation's share. It is a democratic arrangement which allows of consideration being given to changing conditions from time to time, which I think a fixed formula could not do. So far as one can see, the burden is never likely to be very heavy and the organisation is one from which India, as a great, but in some ways backward, agricultural country, probably stands to gain great benefit. The normal budget for the first five years is expected to be of the degree of five million dollars. For the first year, the figure adopted is 2½ million dollars, and the Government of India's share has been assessed at 4.25 per cent., which, I think, works out to about three lakhs of rupees. As countries at present under enemy occupation or severely laid waste can be set free and gradually recover their prosperity, the proportionate share allocated to them may be expected to increase and India's proportionate share may to that extent be reduced. I believe I am correct in saying that our contribution to the League of Nations is at the rate of about six per cent. of the total requirements of that body.

Sir, I am afraid it has taken me some time to describe the Constitution, but I submit that, in itself, it has the merits of brevity, simplicity, clarity and flexibility. It is flexible for two reasons. In the first place, it contains the machinery for its own amendment, subject to safeguards which a Member nation is free to invoke or not as it thinks fit. Secondly, it is flexible because it is singularly free from embarrassing detail which, if it were there, could hardly take account of every future possibility and might without its being intended. I believe the Organisation in its attempts to adapt itself from time to time to the conditions of a changing world.

This Constitution comes to us with the unanimous blessings of the Interim Commission on which the Governments of all the United Nations, including India, were represented and equally represented. India has much to offer to such an Organisation, I believe she has also much to gain from it. For both these reasons, the former no less than the latter, I would respectfully urge the House to accept my Motion and show that India is prepared to play her part with a world organisation to bring to mankind freedom from want. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:

'and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers'."

The motion is self-explanatory. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:

'and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers'."

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:

'on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organisation in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:

'on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organisation in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature'."

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, by heart and training we are always opposed to anything that emanates from the Treasury

enches, but it will be surprising that, I as one of the Congress Members, am going to support this motion. We are prepared to accept anything that conduces to the welfare of the Indian community and improving the agricultural conditions of this unfortunate country. In these days of global wars global planning and international politics we cannot remain isolated, and we are therefore prepared more and more to take part in these international organizations that would help us to get out of our difficulties. The constitution of the organization under discussion has for its objects the raising of the levels of nutrition and raising the standards of living of the peoples in their respective jurisdictions as such, securing improvement in the efficiency of production and distribution of all food and agricultural products and bettering the conditions of the rural population; and as such I think we cannot but give our honest support to an Organization like this.

Sir, in India we have a population of about 388 million depending entirely on agriculture and we have seen instances, in Bengal for instance, where for want of food half a crore of people died within a few months. So we cannot be indifferent to any organization which will help us to find a solution of our difficulties. In any other country such a situation would have provoked a rebellion but, situated as we are, we could not do anything but bow down to the divine dispensation and submit to the will of the ruling power. If we had the power and the organization such a situation as that could not have occurred. And having tried our best we come to an organization which will, of course, probably give us very little; and being members of a subject nation our fate on this body will perhaps be the same as in other similar bodies. But it is necessary still that we should take greater and greater part in these international organisations, so that the world may know the difficulties and the starvation through which we in India have been passing. Can we imagine any other part of the world where people would die in their thousands in the streets as in Calcutta, thousands dying for want of shelter and shivering for want of clothes? This could not happen anywhere else except in India where the vitality of the people has been sapped entirely. Therefore we should utilise the machinery of this organization and that is why we support this proposal. It is believed that India produces sufficient rice which is the staple crop of the people in the different provinces. We had 72 million acres of land under rice and we produced about 27 million tons of rice, in 1939-40. In 1940-41 we had 39 million acres under rice, giving a production of 21 million tons. So practically we are short by about 10 million tons. We imported a small portion, 1.34 million tons of rice from Indo-China and Siam, and there was a considerable import also from Burma. It is wrongly believed in this House and also outside that Assam has extensive lands where people from Bengal can go and grow food. We have about 54,000 square miles of land of which more than 60 per cent. is covered by hills, and only 20 per cent. of that is available and it is almost entirely cultivated. It is wrongly believed that the uncultivated area can be occupied by immigrants from Mymensingh.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That question does not arise on this motion.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: It is relevant in this way that if proper methods are adopted even in Bengal and lands are drained, they will have less reason to go to Assam and we can solve our problem.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the proposition before the House.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: I understand. I am coming to that point. In Bengal, five million acres is under jute—they have reduced now by restriction to 2.13 million acres.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member not to discuss a question like that. It does not arise out of this motion.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go into it.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir. I am only suggesting that in place of jute

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member not to go into that question.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: All right, Sir. If the low lands of Bengal can be drained and

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member is again going into questions that do not arise. There is no question of Bengal, or Assam or waste lands before the House.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: But I am trying to establish that if this Organisation can give us help in the matter of irrigation

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): After membership of the Organization has been accepted and when that question arises, then the Honourable Member can discuss it, but not now.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: I hope that this Organisation will give us help in irrigating our low lands and in finding out methods by which land can be improved and every province can be self-sufficient. We want rice in our Eastern provinces and we want to find out methods which will be useful to us so that we may bring this question before the Organization of the United Nations. That is why I want that there should be more rice production in India and especially in Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

The Government of India has admitted that out of the 288 million acres only fifty-seven and odd million acres is irrigated and there is still a lot more to be irrigated

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member is again dilating upon the same question.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir. The Honourable Mr. Tyson has given us a lucid exposition of the entire constitution; it is no use repeating it over and over again. Will this Organization improve our fisheries, will it improve our forestry? That is very necessary. We will very much appreciate if this Organization can help us in these directions, and also if this Organization can help in raising the levels of nutrition which is necessary. Livestock have also to be improved. In the Eastern provinces we find that the nutritious value of grasses is so low that even cattle are like pigmies. We have in India 380 million heads of cattle. If they can help in improving the breeds of our livestock they would be doing a great service.

There is another question which should be considered—research in different branches of agriculture and allied subjects. Research in order to improve also fisheries, forestry, etc., and how it should be done. And then there is the question of helping the agricultural population by agricultural credit. They should have a proper plan for that. This question should be discussed in a proper committee and go to the international credit agencies for help. Sir, I am being hampered by the difficulty that I am not able to discuss the problems which face our own country, but these are the questions which will have to be tackled in spite of the fact that the Organization discusses the question as a whole.

Sir, it is of the greatest importance that levels of nutrition and standards of living of our people should be raised within a limited period and that brings us again to the problem of housing. Have we evolved any solution how 388 millions of people should be housed? Have they tried to place any material at our disposal, have they considered how it is to be done. These questions should be gone into so that we may be able to take these points for discussion before the United Nations in order that they may help in giving us better housing than before. (Interruption.) If the Honourable Member feels inconvenient even in these palatial houses how very necessary it is to consider these

questions in the case of those who are in the streets and who are feeling difficulties of food and raiment and who have no shelter over their heads. Therefore it is essentially necessary that this question should be tackled seriously and taken to the Organization for discussion.

With these few words I support the Resolution which has been ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson and who has given us a very good idea of the entire constitution. With these words of appreciation and also with our support, I recommend that this Constitution be accepted.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, it is a matter of great pleasure that the whole world has been interested in the amelioration of the condition of the agriculturists in India. Poverty is the only political problem of India; it is hampering the progress of India in all spheres—social, political and economic. The basic industry of agriculture, on which every other industry depends, is in such an undeveloped state that if any visitor from outside, any expert from outside, will come and see, Indians will have to hang their heads in shame when they compare the conditions prevailing here with the conditions in other countries.

Sir, the constitution, as the Government Member has put it before us, is very good. We have got the constitution of the United National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration also. In connection with that boards were constituted, committees were formed, but when the question of application of those facilities to India was considered, we could not find how we could be helped. In this case of course we find that a better attempt has been made. But the Final Act of the United Nations Conference says that the primary responsibility lies with each nation for seeing that its own people have the food needed for life and health. Steps to this end are for national determination. The whole responsibility is on the Government of India. Our Government is responsible for the food of our people. Our Government is responsible for the health of our people. So if the Government of India does not lay out a proper policy for developing the country on the lines suggested by the United Nations, then we gain nothing by being a member of the United Nations Organisation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is 5 o'clock now. The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 21st November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st 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

RESEARCH WORK FOR GOVERNMENT AT TATA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

635. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

- (a) the various kinds of work that was sent by the Government for research to the Tata Research Institute at Bangalore since 1940;
- (b) the work or works in respect of which research is completed;
- (c) the work or works in respect of which research is discontinued by the order of the Government; and
- (d) the work or works in respect of which work could not be completed because of lack of raw materials or chemicals?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that he must have received notice of this question long ago and must have had sufficient time to collect the information by now?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is not my Department which is handling it. I know for a fact that only a part of the information has been received.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Can we have as much information as is available with the Honourable Member now?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir, it is very voluminous.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

636. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest available number of political prisoners held in different provinces;
- (b) how many of them are convicts and how many detenus in different provinces;
- (c) how many of them are held on account of the political unrest prevailing since October, 1939 and how many since August, 1942;
- (d) how many have died in jails; how many had to be released on medical grounds since October, 1939;
- (e) how many of them are at present in 'C' class, whether as detenus or as convicts, and how many in 'B' and 'C' classes;
- (f) whether it is not a fact that in some provinces, 'B' class detenus are not given any better food or clothing than the usual 'C' class convicts;
- (g) whether it is not true that the six monthly review of the detenus detention orders are coming to result in the continuation of the detention for more than 75 per cent. of detenus; and
- (h) what percentage of detenus were released at the second review made after the passage of the new amending ordinance, ordering such a half yearly review? (please give Provincewise figures).

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). I lay on the table a statement giving such information as is available.

(d) and (e). The Government of India have no detailed information and the labour involved in collecting it would not be justified in war time.

(f) The principle recommended to all Provinces is that class I detenus should get diet, clothing etc., at least as good as 'B' class convicts and class II

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

detenus should get distinctly better treatment than 'C' class convicts. I understand that practically all the Provinces have accepted this principle.

(g) No. From such calculations as I have been able to make from the figures supplied by the Provinces it appears that the percentage of releases during the first six months after the promulgation of Ordinance III was over 50.

(h) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. As I have explained before, the process of review is continuous and does not take place only at six monthly intervals.

Statement.

Provinces	Persons in detention in connection with Congress Movement	Persons in detention for other reasons	Persons undergoing imprisonment in connection with Congress Movement
<i>On the 1st October 1944</i>			
Madras	286	24	709
Bombay	272	29	483
Bengal	54	1,237	252
United Provinces	589	91	3,452
Punjab	79	28	61
Bihar	269	50	4,127
Central Provinces	136	..	503
Assam	162	..	159
North West Frontier Provinces	42	16	28
Orissa	129	..	466
Sind	27	1,707	11
Coorg	..	..	..
Delhi	21	..	102
Ajmer-Merwara	7	..	3
Baluchistan	..	..	..
Total	2,073	3,182	10,356

PROPAGANDISTS EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENT

637. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether he is aware of the statement of Mr. D. G. Mulherkar, the Indian Employers' delegate to the International Conference in the press that about three hundred people are employed by the Government to do propaganda on their behalf;

(b) whether it is true; and, if so, how many propagandists are so employed and the money spent for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) It is not true.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it true that the Government have no propagandists at all in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question was whether it is true and, if so, how many propagandists. My answer is that it is not true.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there are any propagandists on behalf of the Government of India in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No propagandists, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what agency they have to disseminate Indian information in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Publicity Officers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many such officers are employed by the Department and how much money is spent on them?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The question asks as to how much money is spent. Will the Honourable Member kindly answer that part of the question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: For propaganda purposes; nil.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why have Government not thought fit to deny the allegations that are published in the press?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I do not think I should go about denying every statement that is made in the press, because in that case the Department will have to be doubled.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it because that the press statements are substantially true?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the Library such extracts from the American press as would give us an indication about the nature of the publicity work undertaken by his Department?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I cannot answer that offhand but if it is possible I shall try to comply with the request.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The question has already been asked and the answer must already have been given.

BAN ON WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

638. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has been banned from publishing any pamphlets under the Defence of India Rules;

(b) whether the Society's publications are mainly religious and drawn from the Bible; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the ban?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) Mainly so.

(c) It was held that the Society's publications had implications other than religious. The question of the maintenance of the ban has been under the consideration of Government for some time. It has now been decided to remove it.

INTERVIEWS OF MR. RAMANATHAN AND OTHERS WITH MR. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR IN TRICHINOPOLY JAIL

639. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) when did Mr. Ramanathan, ex-Congress Minister of Madras return from Japan;

(b) if he interviewed Mr. Rajagopalachariar in Trichinopoly jail on his return from Japan and if that interview took place in the presence of the jail officers;

(c) if the Government is aware of the details of the conversation of the interview;

(d) if it is a fact that the then Advocate General and another advocate also interviewed Mr. Rajagopalachariar in prison;

(e) if the Government is aware that the jail officials were absent at that time and that the draft resolution to Sapru Conference in Delhi was sent through the Advocate General;

(f) if the Government is aware of the reports in the press including report of Mr. Jinnah that the resolution for Sapru Conference had been drafted by Mr. Rajagopalachariar;

(g) whether it is a fact that Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, M.L.A., (Central) was keeping a diary of daily events while he was himself a prisoner in Trichinopoly jail;

(h) did the Government censure that diary at any time;

(i) if Government have found any extract in the diary referring to the incidents mentioned above; and

(j) if he will be pleased to place those relevant extracts before the House?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can't the Honourable Member ask for information from the questioner?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not think it necessary.

DENIAL OF APPLICABILITY OF ARMY ACT AND ROYAL WARRANT PRIVILEGES TO INDIAN FORCES

640. *Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the words "V.C.O.'s and I.O.Rs." are not governed by Royal Warrant and Army Act, but by I.A.A."; occurring in the letter No. 24262/17/2/94, dated 22nd June, 1943 of the Officer Incharge R. and A. Section (D. U.) 19th Hyderabad Regimental Centre, in which the applicability of the Army Act and Royal Warrant privileges have been denied to Indian Forces; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative the statutory authority of the Officer Incharge referred to in (a) or of any other higher executive or Audit Officer under whose instructions the applicability of the Army Act and Royal Warrant has been denied as stated in (a)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I have not seen the letter referred to by the Honourable Member. I am calling for it and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

DISMISSALS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, ETC. ON ACTIVE SERVICE

641. *Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state: if Government are aware that Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of His Majesty's Indian Forces on "Active Service" and of over 15 years' service have been dismissed and discharged with ignominy by orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and General Officer Commanding without taking recourse to Court Martial proceedings and their Military Pensions, payable according to their length of service, had been stopped and forfeited in full and in some cases in part, without an express Warrant or order by a judicial body?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The position is as follows:

Under Section 13 of the Indian Army Act, the Commander-in-Chief has powers to *dismiss* from service any person subject to the Indian Army Act other than an Indian Commissioned Officer. Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II, provide that when an individual subject to the Indian Army Act is *dismissed* under the provisions of that Act, he shall forfeit all claim to pension or gratuity in respect of previous service. He may however be granted a pension in full or in part purely as an act of grace.

Under Section 16 of the Indian Army Act, General Officers Commanding-in-Chief are empowered to discharge V.C.Os. and N.C.Os., but an individual who is *discharged* shall be granted any pension or gratuity to which he may be entitled. I am not aware whether the Commanding-in-Chief has exercised his powers under Section 13 in recent years without recourse to a Court Martial. I am making enquiries and will lay information on the table in due course.

CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED DEDUCTIONS FROM PENSIONS OF INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

642. *Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if Government are aware that in the cases of Indian Personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces, death and disablement pensions have commenced with effect from a date later than the date of casualty and deductions not authorised by Section 136 of the Army Act and Sections 50, 51, 52 A of the Indian Army Act have been made

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, the statutory authority introducing in the regulations for the Army in India the "deductions" referred to in (a);

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a special officer of some judicial experience to consider the grievances in this respect judicially; if not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No, Sir. Pensions for death or disablement attributable to war service are paid from the date following that of the casualty.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

CERTAIN DEDUCTIONS FOR DISCHARGE FROM SERVICE IN THE CASE OF INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

643. *Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that in the Pension Regulations for the Army in India certain rules have been included which authorise "deductions" for discharges from the service of Indian Personnel on account of "service no longer required", irrespective of the fact whether the individuals are on "Active Service" or in ordinary peace conditions; if so;

(b) what the statutory authority for introducing the rules in (a) is and also steps which Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the persons affected thereby *viz*: as in (a)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No, Sir. The position is explained in rules 232 and 233 of Pensions Regulations Part II. I will arrange to place a copy of these two rules in the library of the House.

(b) Does not arise.

REFUSAL OF NON-EFFECTIVE PAY DURING WAR TO CERTAIN INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

644. *Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if Government are aware that non-effective pay during the war, has been refused to Indian Personnel enrolled "for duration of war and 12 months thereafter" in forces raised on behalf of His Majesty under Section 313 (2) (b) of the Government of India Act, 1935, and that it has been refused even in such cases where the termination of the individual's contract was due to (i) services no longer required (ii) disability sustained on "Active Service" rendering the individual unfit for further Military Service (iii) deaths on "Active Service" which have been adjudicated non-judicially as not attributable to Military Service;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, the circumstances in which these stoppages referred to in (a) have continued during this long period of the war; and

(c) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, whether Government propose to devise some special judicial machinery which will exclude the existing non-judicial machinery to consider the significance of the "Duration of War and 12 months after" contract in (a) after the usage and practice prevailing in the United Kingdom or in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the War Injuries Insurance Act and Workmen's Compensation Act or War Pensions Act?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Indian personnel enrolled for combatant service before and during this war are eligible under the same military rules for ordinary and disability pensions. Similarly, families of war-enlisted soldiers are eligible for family pensions in the same way as the families of those who were enlisted before the War.

(c) Does not arise in view of my reply to (a) and (b) above. I may, however, add that Government propose to set up independent Pensions Appeal Tribunals to whom appeals will lie against decisions relating to pensions cases.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

645. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in the All-India Radio receiving pays (i) above Rs. 1,000 p.m., (ii) between Rs. 600 and Rs. 1,000 p.m. and (iii) between Rs. 300 and Rs. 600 p.m. as employed (i) for the duration of War and (ii) otherwise;

(b) how many of these are (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims and (iii) Sikhs in each category mentioned above, as employed for (i) the duration of War and (ii) otherwise; and

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Central Sikh Rights Secretariat has been established at New Delhi to co-operate with the Government in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The establishment of such a body has been brought to the notice of Government.

Statement showing the number of employees in All-India Radio receiving a pay of Rs. 300 p. m. and over and how many of these are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, etc., as employed for the duration of the war and otherwise

Category of post	Number of persons receiving a pay above Rs. 1,000 p. m.				Total
	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	
For the duration of War	..	1	..	1	2
Others	3	1	..	2	6
Total	3	2	..	3	8

Category of post	Number of persons receiving a pay between Rs. 600 and Rs. 1,000 p. m.				Total
	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	
For the duration of War	6	1	..	1	8
Others	7	2	1	1	11
Total	13	3	1	2	19

Category of post	Number of persons receiving a pay between Rs. 300 and Rs. 600 p. m.				Total
	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	
For the duration of War	37	25	2	5	69
Others	33	8	..	2	43
Total	70	33	2	7	112

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have the Government recognised that Secretariat?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It has been brought to the notice of the Government: that is all I can say.

LOWER ALLOWANCES OF RECIPIENTS OF VICTORIA AND MILITARY CROSSES OF THE LAST WAR

646. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the recipients of Victoria Cross, Military Cross and other distinctions in the war have been granted allowances higher than those paid to similar recipients of the last wars; if so, what the reasons are for not increasing the similar allowances of the recipients of the first war;

(b) if the Government is aware that it has caused heart burning amongst the veterans of the last war?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Consequent on a revision of the decorations which may be awarded to V.C.Os., and I.O.Rs., for gallantry, a change in the system of allowances which accompany the awards was necessitated. The question of increasing the allowances which go with these decorations awarded prior to the revision is now under consideration.

RETRANSFER OF HINDI SECTION OF BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION TO DELHI

647. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the steps taken by his Department to call back the Hindi Section of the Bureau of Public Information to Delhi from Lahore where it had been sent in February, 1944, in the face of great opposition of the Hindi Press; and

(b) if it is not a fact that 90 per cent. of the Hindi Press is situated East of Delhi and material sent from Lahore to it is likely to be delayed generally from 12 hours to 24 hours?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The transfer of the Hindi Section to Lahore was necessitated by the acute shortage of accommodation in Delhi on balance of priorities among various Departments of Government. It will be brought back to Delhi as soon as accommodation is forthcoming, and an adjustment of the aforesaid priorities permits this move. This matter is even now under consideration.

(b) My information is that 73 per cent. of the Hindi Newspapers on the Bureau's mailing list are issued from places east of Delhi. As regards the last part of the question, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 23rd February, 1944, to part (b) of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall's starred question No. 180 in the Legislative Assembly.

ALLOTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN DELHI CANTONMENT

†648. *Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that agricultural land in the Delhi Cantonment area instead of being put to auction was allotted to a few persons at a very low rent in 1940 without any regard for the persons from whom this land was acquired; and

(b) whether the Government are prepared to auction the agricultural land to the agriculturists who alone should be allowed to bid at the auction?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DIFFERENCE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH AND INDIAN EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

649. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the difference in pay and allowances, excluding Indian Army Allowance, between a British Emergency Commissioned Officer, attached or posted to the Indian Army and that of an Indian Emergency Commissioned Officer;

(b) if it is a fact that a British married Captain with two children who is attached or posted to the Indian Army gets Rs. 835 (excluding his Indian Army Allowance), whereas an Indian married Captain with two children gets only Rs. 610; if so, why is this differentiation;

(c) if it is a fact that the consolidated pay of an Indian Emergency Commissioned Officer is based on that of his British service colleague, if so, why the consolidated pay of an Indian Major is only Rs. 765 whereas that of his British service colleague is Rs. 965; and

(d) whether Government propose to remove these invidious differences; if not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) A statement showing the pay and allowances (excluding Indian Army Allowance in the case of British officers), admissible to British and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers, is laid on the table.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The pay and allowances of a married British Captain living with his family consisting of wife and two children amount to Rs. 765 p.m. exclusive of Indian Army allowance. The reason is that the rank pay of a British officer includes an overseas element and that the family allowances vary according to the size of the family.

(c) Yes, Sir, because of the overseas element included in the pay of the British officer.

(d) The matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

Statement

Rank	British Emergency Commissioned Officer				Indian Emergency Commissioned Officer	
	Single	Married living with family consisting of—			Single	Married. (irrespective of Number of children)
		Wife only.	Wife and one child.	Wife and two children.		
		Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.
2/Lieut.		405	485	575	405	450
Lieut.		460	535	625	430	490
Captain		590	655	725	500	610
Major		965	1,015	1,055	765	850
Lieut.-Col.		1,300	1,325	1,365	1,090	1,145

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I request the Honourable Member, in view of the great discontent about these differences, to consider these questions, being an Indian himself, and remove this discontent and the differences because the children of one family and the children of the other are more or less on the same level?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already said that the matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

SUPERSESSION OF CERTAIN INDIAN SENIOR OFFICERS OF INDIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

650. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state in reference to the answer given to starred question No. 107 asked on the 29th July, 1943 by Mr. G. V. Deshmukh whether the two Indian Senior Officers of Indian Army Medical Corps who did not then hold appointments commensurate with their seniority, but were holding special appointments from which they were not being spared, are still holding the same appointments?

(b) How long will they be made to hold appointments not commensurate with their seniority?

(c) Why have their claims been overlooked for no fault of theirs?

(d) Do Government propose to redress their grievance and make them hold appointments commensurate with their seniority? If not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Of the two Indian Officers of the Indian Army Medical Corps referred to by the Honourable Member, one has since been promoted, but has now applied for reversion to work in his specialist capacity.

The other officer still holds the same appointment. He is in medical category "C", and declined last year an offer which would have led to further promotion if found satisfactory.

(b) It is not possible to say, for the reasons given in (a) above.

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the second officer also will be given an opportunity now to get that promotion? If he has not accepted it once, he may accept it now.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know. Last year he was asked whether he was willing to be treated as on probation prior to consideration for promotion to the rank of an administrative Colonel on the military side of the I.M.S. He declined the offer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask the Honourable Member to make an attempt again to ask him and if he still refuses then it cannot be helped; otherwise the promotion should be given to him.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will consider that.

LITERARY ATTAINMENTS OF OFFICERS ON THE HINDUSTANI PROGRAMME SIDE OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

†651. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:—

(a) how many of the present Station Directors, Directors of programmes, programme executive and other responsible officers on the Hindustani programme side are Hindi writers or scholars of repute; and how many of them are Urdu writers and scholars of repute?

(b) if it is a fact that (i) sometime ago a Board consisting of well known Urdu poets and authors was constituted for selecting *Ghazals* to be sung on radio in A. I. R. programmes;

(c) if a similar Board consisting of well known Hindi poets and authors has also been constituted for the selection of Hindi *Geets*; if not, why not;

(d) whether Government promise to constitute such a Board now; and

(e) how much money has been spent over the selection of Urdu *Ghazals* through the above Board; and how much money has been spent over the selection of Hindi *Geets*?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The required information is not readily available. It is being collected, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) to (d). No such Boards have been set up so far. I may, however, explain that a scheme for the compilation of selections from the works of various poets, for the use of the Indian music staff of All-India Radio is under consideration. This scheme will cover not only *Ghazals* and *Geets*, but all other types of songs in both Urdu and Hindi, written by Urdu as well as Hindi poets. The scheme also contemplates a selection of songs suitable for broadcasting available in the other Indian languages in which A.I.R. broadcast music.

(e) As the scheme is not yet in operation, the question does not arise.

POETS WHOSE GHAZALS AND GEETS HAVE BEEN SUNG ON RADIO

†652. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the names of those living Urdu poets whose *Ghazals* and other poems have been sung on radio in the last six months; and

(b) the names of those living Hindi poets whose *Geets* or other poems have been sung on the radio during the same period?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: 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.

AUTHORITY FOR DETERMINING ALL-INDIA RADIO'S POLICY TOWARDS HINDI

†653. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state who is responsible for determining All-India Radio's policy towards Hindi and whose advice is sought in matters relating to Hindi?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The All-India Radio have no special Hindi policy. The Government of India lay down the language policy which applies to all languages and is intended to secure the maximum intelligibility for All-India Radio broadcasts.

BAN ON CERTAIN HINDI WORDS FROM HINDUSTANI BULLETIN'S BROADCAST

†654. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether it is a fact that the Director-General, All-India Radio, has banned, through a circular, the use in Hindustani Bulletins broadcast from All-India Radio's Station of such simple words as *Deshbhakt*, *Sathi Mulk*, *Swagat*, *Jalghati*, *Thalghati*, *Kala Sagar*, *Hind Sagar*, etc.; if so, the reasons if any for banning these words?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: "*Desh-Bhagat*" is still used if the person referred to is a Hindu. The other words were discontinued as it was represented to me that other alternatives were more widely intelligible. In this connection, I would, however, invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on 8th November 1944 to Mr. G. V. Deshmukh's starred question No. 170.

EDITOR OF SARANG

†655. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state who is the actual Editor of *Sarang* and what are his journalistic qualifications and experience; and if the *Sarang* is being printed in type how is it that its text is not illustrated like that of the *Indian Listener*?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The *Sarang* is actually edited by Mr. J. L. Birmani. He is the Sub-Editor in charge of *Sarang* and works under the guidance of Mr. S. N. Ghosh, who is the Editor of *Indian Listener*, *Awaz* and *Sarang*. Mr. Ghosh is an experienced journalist of several years' standing. Mr. Birmani himself has worked for six years as Transliterator for *Sarang* during which period he also officiated as its Sub-Editor.

As regards the last part of the question, the sale price of *Indian Listener* is seven annas and that of *Sarang* is only five annas. The introduction of

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

illustrations in *Sarang* would mean a rise in its sale price which is not considered desirable. *Sarang* should be compared with *Awaz* as they are both sold at the same price. Neither of them can afford to carry illustrations.

METHODS EMPLOYED IN THE MATTER OF CENSORING LETTERS IN THE POST

656. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if he is aware that two methods are employed in the matter of censoring letters in the post, one by cutting the envelopes and then closing them before delivery to the addressee, with a thin paper containing the words "opened by examiner", and the other, by opening the letters and refastening them; if so, what the exact principle is in this differentiation;

(b) if the Honourable Member is aware that letters treated in the latter manner are very clumsily gummed by the censors, inordinately delayed, and that when they reach the addressees, they have to be torn out of envelopes and very often get badly mutilated in the process; and

(c) if so, would Government order that the first system alone is followed in all cases, and letters are, as far as possible, cleanly cut open and neatly closed by censors after examination and sent to the addressees?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) All censorship is conducted in the open manner described in the first part of the question. The Post Office Act has, however, for many years conferred powers of secret interception, which is a different matter. These powers are exercised by the Government of India in very exceptional cases. Their whole object would be defeated if they were carried out in the "open" manner followed by the Censors.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that letters for a large number of Members in this side of the House are being opened in a surreptitious manner by the postal authorities and by the police in such a manner that the Members concerned are not able to know whether they have been opened or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Very likely; but it is not done by the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member has said that such procedure is adopted in very exceptional cases: does he mean to say that all of us come under those very exceptional cases?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: We have only got one outstanding case and that is a very exceptional one.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member instruct those who open these letters that when they close them again they should take good care to close them in such a manner that we can extract the letter out of the envelope: they apply so much gum that it is impossible to open them again or to extract the contents.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether Government open these letters at random or they have got a list of persons whose letters alone they open?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Government of India have issued an order in the case of one individual only.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that all my letters are opened—I have an example here . . . —(The Honourable Member showed an envelope.) in a surreptitious manner, may I know if I am that individual?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: He is a much more exceptional person than my Honourable friend.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that my letters are opened invariably—and the fact is usually discovered by the manner of the gumming of those letters—will the Honourable Member kindly ask the authorities concerned to open them neatly and put on this sort of label (The Honourable Member showed another envelope)—as I have on this other letter of mine?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member may ask the U. P. Government in regard to that matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is he aware that sometimes in this surreptitious opening process, a book-post envelope is gummed up and made a closed letter—(The Honourable Member showed a third envelope)—with the result that I have to pay an anna and a half extra?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is for the War Department to say.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member, instead of foisting all the responsibility on the Postal Department which is really innocent in this matter, look into this himself?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not the Postal Department—the War Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They will wage war against you straight off—you try them!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who decides what letters should be opened?

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

HEALTHS OF DR. GHOSH AND CERTAIN OTHER DETENUS

657. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the condition of the healths of Dr. Ghosh and Acharya Narendra Dev, Members of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, and give a short medical history of their cases since their incarceration; and

(b) under what medical treatment are they put at present, and whether they are entitled to have doctors and medicines of their own choice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I lay on the table a medical report on Dr. P. C. Ghosh. Acharya Narendra Deo is well. He has had some attacks of asthma and bronchitis but his health has progressively improved in this respect and he has had no attack since June 1944.

(b) They are in charge of a competent Indian Medical Service officer who can, and does frequently, call in medical and surgical experts for consultation when required. They are not allowed to have doctors and medicines of their own choice.

Medical Report on Dr. P. C. Ghosh

On 21st May 1944, Dr. P. C. Ghosh began to complain of abdominal pain and passage of blood. Examination demonstrated the presence of an internal haemorrhoid but as abdominal symptoms persisted, it was thought advisable to get a sigmoidoscopy of the lower bowel done in order to exclude the possibility of any accompanying serious condition being present. This examination was carried out by a surgical specialist and it was found that there was no condition present in the lower bowel other than the haemorrhoid. This was injected and there was no further bleeding.

Following a period of freedom from symptoms and improvement in the general condition, there was a recurrence in July 1944 of the abdominal symptoms associated with the passage of mucus. Laboratory examinations were negative, but proctoscopic examination indicated the probable cause of the passage of mucus and showed that it was not of any serious significance. The recurrence and persistence of the abdominal symptoms, however, made further investigation essential and it was decided that a barium enema examination should be carried out. This examination was made by a radiologist on 9th August, 1944. There was no abnormality of the bowel and no evidence of any malignant (cancerous) condition of the colon. Since that date there has been a general improvement in Dr. Ghosh's condition although there has been one further passage of blood which seemed to be haemorrhoidal in nature and all laboratory tests for dysentery were negative. He is very carefully dieted and during the last three months he has not lost any weight, an important contraindication in itself to the presence of malignancy or other serious condition. It is intended that a regime of anti-amoebic therapy should be tried.

He carries on his normal activities and has shown himself entirely satisfied with what is being done for him, having expressed his gratitude on a number of occasions. He has not made any specific request or suggestion in connection with his illness.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is any privilege given to these gentlemen to have medical men of any other system beside the allopathic, or are they compelled to have only allopathic surgeons and physicians to treat them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would need notice of that question. As far as I know there has been no such demand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have they ever made any request or demand to Government that they should be allowed to be examined and treated by doctors of their own choice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes. They are not allowed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My question is whether they have asked for the privilege of being examined and treated by doctors of their own choice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: In one or two cases.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India propose to release these members of the Working Committee so that Government need not have trouble about their doctors?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is no trouble.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In one or two cases the Honourable Member says they did make a request for doctors other than allopathic. May I know what the reply of the Government was to that request.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He did not say allopathic.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Even if they wanted other physicians of that same system, were they permitted to have them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No; they are in charge of a competent doctor and he is responsible. If he wants a second opinion, he calls one in but he is responsible for doing this—not the patient.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can we know the name of that doctor and his qualifications? Is he in constant residence with them? Is he also interned with them or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, interned! I have forgotten his name for the moment. He is a Major in the I.M.S. He resides there.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: In cases where the patient himself requires a particular treatment, is it not desirable for Government to agree with that proposal?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think a patient who prescribes his own treatment is very unwise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that Dr. P. C. Ghosh himself has asked for such assistance?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not that I am aware of.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE

658. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that facilities have been recently afforded to Members of the Congress Working Committee to interview their relations; and if the gentlemen concerned have declined to avail themselves of the same; and

(b) what restrictions and conditions, if any, have been imposed for and at the interviews; and why?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would invite attention to my reply to starred question No. 311 on November 13th.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that in that reply, if I remember it aright, the Honourable Member said that the conditions and restrictions are the same as on ordinary security prisoners, may I know what exactly those restrictions and conditions are on these prisoners? The fact is the conditions and restrictions differ from province to province, and these gentlemen are confined in a particular way at a special place and under particular conditions.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The restrictions imposed at Ahmednagar are those applicable in the Bombay Presidency. I do not know the points in respect of which my Honourable friend is interested; but in view of a later question I may explain that visitors are not searched. Technically under the rules a prisoner is searched before and after a visit. We told the Bombay Government that in this case we saw no necessity for such a search. Five-

relatives are allowed at a time; the interview can last for one hour and may take place once a fortnight.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if Dr. Syed Mahmud was subjected to any humiliating restrictions in jail . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member referred to my question on today's list and his answer practically covered that question. That is why I was provoked to put this supplementary question.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is no connection between the two questions at all.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know, Sir, why the Members of the Congress Working Committee refused to avail themselves of these concessions? Is it because of the humiliating conditions imposed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: This was the subject of a previous question. The reason they gave for refusing was that they were deprived of this concession so long that they did not want it now. That is the only reason they gave.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that they were forced to speak in a particular language and not in their own language or the language in which they wanted to speak?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not at all. That is not a fact.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they allowed to sit side by side and talk to each other, as is the case in the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Probably, yes.

RE-PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL HERALD

659. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if an application was received by Government from the Managing Director of the *National Herald* of Lucknow for permission to resume publication of the paper;

(b) have the Government of India actually granted the requisite permission and even allotted a quota of newsprint;

(c) if it is a fact that the communication conveying the news was stopped by the United Provinces Government who insisted on the reconsideration of the matter by the Government of India; who thereupon cancelled the previous permission;

(d) what exactly the considerations were that impelled Government to withhold permission finally;

(e) if it is a fact that the *National Herald* had suspended publication voluntarily in 1942, and that no orders were made against it by the Government of the United Provinces; and

(f) whether the Government will reconsider their decision in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With your permission, I would reply to question Nos. 659 and 660 together.

The questions should have been addressed to Honourable the Industries and Civil Supplies Member.

PERMISSIONS TO NEWSPAPERS UNDER NEWSPAPER CONTROL ORDER

†660. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the number of newspapers not in existence or having suspended publication, before the Newspaper Control Order was promulgated, that have been allowed to start or re-appear after the said order;

(b) the number of papers who applied for the permission to start or re-appear; and to whom such permission was refused; and

(c) the reasons that led Government to decline to give permission in each case?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 659.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Question No. 661.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Answers to questions 661 to 664 will be laid on the table, as these are in excess of the quota. The Honourable Member was not in the House when his other questions were called.

PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

†661. ***Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if arrangements have been made for the preparation of voters list for election to the Central Assembly; and

(b) if any representation has been made to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, for this by the residents of Delhi Shahdara?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Law Member.

PRICE OF VOTERS LIST PUBLISHED BY DELHI SHAHDARA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

†662. ***Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if the voters list published by the Delhi Shahdara Municipal Committee in 4 volumes have been priced at Rs. 87 for 581 pages; and

(b) if the control over the price of the books is applicable to the voter's list?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies.

MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNDER DETENTION

†663. ***Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Members of the Central Assembly still under detention in different Provinces;

(b) if it is not a fact that all the Members of Central Assembly who have been detained in Bihar have been released except Babu Ram Narain Singh;

(c) if it is a fact that his case has been reviewed under the new ordinance and recommended by the Tribunal for release;

(d) if it is a fact that Babu Ram Narain Singh applied for maintenance of his family members; has the Government decided not to release him;

(e) if it is a fact that some persons in a better financial position than Babu Ram Narain Singh have been given allowance; and

(f) if the Government propose, in the interest of the just and uniform administration of the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder in different Provinces, to call for periodical reports about the political detenus who are detained in Provinces and make a comparative review of their cases?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). In the time available it has been found impossible to obtain the required information.

(c) to (e). These matters are the concern of the Provincial Government.

(f) No.

REPRESENTATION BY VIDYA RATAN, A DETENU OF DELHI SHAHDARA

†664. ***Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Vidya Ratan, a political detenu of Delhi Shahdara is under a restriction not to leave the limits of Delhi Shahdara;

(b) if he made any representation to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi that either he should be allowed to earn his livelihood or he should be given a maintenance allowance; and

(c) the decision of the Government on his representation?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) I understand that the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, who made the restrictive order has rejected the application. The person in question has resided in Shahdara for many years and his statement that he is unable to earn his livelihood there does not seem reasonable.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

INEQUALITY IN EMOLUMENTS OF INDIAN AND EUROPEAN KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

665. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total emoluments of a European King's Commissioned Officer, of non-Asiatic domicile of the following ranks:—(i) Lieutenant, (ii) Captain, (iii) Major;

(b) the total emoluments of an Indian King's Commissioned Officer in the same corresponding ranks;

(c) the additional allowances that are to be paid to European King's Commissioned Officers owing to the recent increases granted to them; and

(d) how far the authorities have proceeded in the matter of doing away with the present serious inequality in the emoluments as between Indian and European King's Commissioned Officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table.

(c) I presume the Honourable Member refers to increases of pay recently sanctioned for British Armed Forces. The question of applying those increases to the Indian Armed Forces is under consideration by the Government of India.

(d) Indian and European King's Commissioned Officers draw exactly the same rates of pay and allowances.

Statement

Total emoluments of a European K.C.O. and an Indian K.C.O.

Rank	Single	Married living with family consisting of—			
		Wife only	Wife and one child	Wife and two children	
		Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.
Lieut.	.	460	535	625	665
Captain	.	590	655	725	765
Major	.	965	1,015	1,055	1,095

In addition, European and Indian K. C. Os. receive Indian Army Allowance as follows

Rank	Regulars		E. C. Os.	
	Rs. p.m.		Rs. p.m.	
Lieut.	.	75		40
Captain	.	100		50
Major	.	200		100

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With regard to part (d), apart from the overseas allowance, is it not a fact that the total emoluments of a European King's Commissioned Officer are very much more. So far as a Lieutenant is concerned, the total emoluments are about 150 more, a Captain about 250 more and a Major 350 more?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If my Honourable friend is referring to Indian King's Commissioned officers, there is, as I have already stated, no difference between their pay and that of European King's Commissioned officers. If, on the other hand, he is thinking of Indian Commissioned officers, I would refer him to my answer to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's question earlier this morning.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is Lord Munster's visit going to lead to a further increase in the allowances of British soldiers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: Can the Honourable Member give us some idea of the percentage between the salaries of Indian Commissioned officers and those of the King's Commissioned Officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have placed several statements on this subject on the table of the House. The Honourable Member can work out those percentages. I am afraid I cannot work them out just now.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: We have been told that this matter is actively engaging the attention of the War Department. Unless we are embarked on

another 30 years' war, this disparity is not likely to be done away with before the War ends. May I know how long the consideration stage will last?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The consideration stage will be over soon.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member knows that Lord Munster has come here to look into the welfare of European troops. Will he also look into the conditions of the Indian troops?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered this question in the House a few days ago. I said that Lord Munster's visit was with the object of looking into the welfare arrangements of both British and Indian troops.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is he actually doing that?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: May I know the exact nature of the additional allowances to be paid to Europeans in the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain and Major?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am sorry I do not carry all that information in my head.

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT JUDGMENT *RE* EXEMPTION OF INCOME-TAX ON MUNICIPAL TAXES PAID

666. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the judgment of the Allahabad High Court on a reference by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal in the case of Messrs. Gappumal Kanhaiyalal of Allahabad;

(b) if it is a fact that the High Court has ruled that the amounts paid as municipal taxes are exempt from income-tax;

(c) if it is a fact that the Income-tax Officers do not regard themselves bound by the judgment; and

(d) if the Government propose circularising Income-tax Officers on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, the amounts paid as house-tax and water-tax under the United Provinces Municipalities Act, 1916, have been held to be allowable deductions in computing the income from property under Section 9 of the Income-tax Act.

(c) and (d). In view of the conflicting decisions on this point pronounced by the Madras and Bombay High Courts on the one hand and the Allahabad High Court on the other, it is proposed to take the point in appeal to the Privy Council for an authoritative ruling.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What will be the Government's procedure in this matter during the period that the appeal takes to be finally disposed of?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I understand the position, any assessee who objects to the disallowance can lodge an appeal and his claim will be kept alive during the pendency of this litigation.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Why should not this appeal be taken to the Federal Court instead of to the Privy Council?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Because under the existing constitution, the appeal lies to the Privy Council, I understand.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have the Government filed the appeal?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not sure exactly what stage it is but we do intend to appeal to the Privy Council.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will it be necessary for the assessee to apply in each case in order to keep their claims pending? Is it not a fact that if this procedure is followed, the United Provinces Income-Tax Officers may be inundated with thousands of petitions in this behalf, as almost every assessee in a town is subject to a municipal tax? If the Honourable Member will be pleased to instruct the U. P. Income-tax officers to follow the decision of the Allahabad High Court, I think the procedure would be simplified.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall look into the question of how these claims can be kept alive without the necessity of every assessee lodging a formal appeal.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Thank you.

REVISION OF THE INCOME-TAX MANUAL

667. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if the Income-tax manual now available is not out of date;

(b) if he proposes to publish an up to date manual; and

(c) when the public may expect the new manual to be available?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) No. The current edition, which was published in 1940, is being kept up-to-date by corrections which are issued periodically.

(b) Yes, arrangements are in hand to bring out a new edition.

(c) Every endeavour is being made to publish the new edition quickly but I am afraid that owing to pressure of other urgent work in the Press it will be some time before the new edition can be issued.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Member said that the 1940 Manual is being kept up to date by corrections. How is it possible for us to keep our own copies up to date?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I imagine that these correction slips must also be available in the shops or depots from which the publication itself can be obtained.

Sir F. E. James: Is my Honourable friend aware that these correction slips are available only in the issue of the official Gazette?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall see whether anything can be done about that; it may be extremely difficult.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: Can the Honourable Member give us any indication as to when the Manual is likely to be ready?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I cannot say.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that there is no paper control on the Crown, will the Honourable Member expedite the publication of this Manual?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is a considerable measure of self-control.

DETENTION OF MAULANA MUNIRUZZAMAN

†668. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is or it is not a fact that Maulana Muniruzzaman, President of Jammut-ul-Ulma of the Province of Bengal, has been arrested under the orders of the Central Government;

(b) if it is or it is not a fact that the said gentleman is very weak and is of a very advanced age;

(c) under what offences he has been arrested and where he is detained;

(d) if he is to be prosecuted for some offence; if so, which, or he is to be detained without trial;

(e) whether in view of his advanced age and weak health the Government will consider the advisability of releasing him at an early date, if he is not to be prosecuted of any offence?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) He is between 60 and 70 years of age and is suffering from a weak heart.

(c) He is detained in the Lahore Central Jail under Ordinance III of 1944.

(d) The whole matter is under consideration and I regret that I can give no further information with respect to it at present.

(e) If it is decided not to prosecute him, his case will be kept under review in the ordinary way.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN DELHI RATIONING DEPARTMENT

†669. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to furnish the following information in respect of Rationing Department Delhi Province:—

(a) if it is a fact that the representation of Muslim Community is very inadequate in different grades and is not in accordance with the Communal proportion fixed by Government. If so, why?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) Whether it is a fact that in the matter of filling up vacancies from lower to higher grades, the promotion of officers and other members of staff is made in almost all cases by selection and not by seniority and the principle enunciated by Government to fill in not less than 2/3 vacancies by seniority and 1/3 by selection according to merit is ignored and that in allowing promotions the claims of senior Muslims are ignored; and

(c) if it is a fact that a good number of posts have been filled in by persons who are not residents of Delhi Province but belong to the Province of the Punjab; if so, whether sufficient number of men, possessing the qualifications required for efficient discharge of the duties and responsibilities attached to the posts, held by outsiders, is not available among the *bona fide* residents of Delhi; if so, whether necessary steps were taken to secure the service of capable residents of Delhi and whether the reasons for employment of outsiders, were recorded in writing?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Food.

HIGHER PRICES OF RATIONED ARTICLES IN DELHI

†670. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the prices of rationed articles in Delhi are higher than those prevailing in other large cities like Calcutta etc.? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Food.

SUPPLY OF DEFECTIVE STANDARD CLOTH BY CERTAIN MILLS

671. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a Press note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies on July 24, 1944, informing the public that the following Mills had been found to have supplied defective cloth:

(i) The Birla Mills, Limited, Delhi; (ii) The Sulej Cotton Mills, Okara; (iii) Jiyajee Rao Cotton Mills, Gwalior; (iv) Vizoyluxmi Cotton Mills, Cambay; (v) The Dayalbagh Spinning and Weaving Mills, Amritsar and (vi) The Rajnagar Mills, Ahmedabad; if so, the steps taken by the Government of India to stop such dealers from continuing supply of such defective standard cloth and if the manufacturers and dealers of such cloth were punished under Defence of India Rules; if so, the punishment administered; and if Government hauled these Mill Managers and Directors before any Government Tribunals; if so, when and where;

(b) the defects of the Standard Cloth manufactured by the above Mills; and to lay on the table the report of the investigation made in this connection, the profits made by the manufacturing mills out of this defective supply, the loss it entailed on poor consumers for whom this sort of Standard Cloth was manufactured;

(c) the explanation offered by the offending Mills; and assurances given for future supply; and

(d) if it is a fact that a rebate was demanded of the offending Mills; and if this rebate was decided by the Home Department or by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department; which of the Departments was competent or had the Departments decided jointly?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies.

DEALERS, SUPPLIERS, ETC., CONTRAVENING DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES.

672. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if he be pleased to lay on the table the whole list of big and small dealers, suppliers, manufacturers who, having acted in

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

contravention of the Defence of India Rules, had been prosecuted and punished in open court of law during 1943 up to 31st October?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies.

REALISATIONS FROM SALE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

673. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount realised from the sale of National Savings Certificates provincewise;

(b) whether it is a fact that forcible deduction from the price of sugarcane to be paid to cultivators in Bihar and United Provinces was made last year; if so, the amount so deducted per every maund of sugarcane; and

(c) whether the same system of deductions will again be followed this year; and at what rate?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

(b) Yes. In view of the fact that the price of Sugar Cane was increased by two annas, factories in United Provinces and Bihar were required to deduct out of the price two annas per maund of cane and to make payment to the Cane grower in respect of this deduction in the form of National Savings Stamps, National Savings Certificates or an account in the Defence Savings Bank as an anti-inflationary measure.

(c) Yes. The rate of deduction proposed in Bihar is the same as that of last year. In the case of United Provinces it is three annas per maund, except in some areas where it is two annas per maund.

Statement showing Sales of National Savings Certificates in 1943-44 and in 1944-45 (up to September, 1944)

(In thousands of Rupees.)

Provinces	Sales of National Saving Certificates (October 1943—March 1944)	Sales of National Savings Certificates (April 1944—September 1944)	Grand Total (October 1943—September 1944)
	March 1944)	September 1944)	1944)
Bombay	69.00	83.34	1,52.34
Bengal	23.61	20.40	44.01
Punjab	52.25	1,08.10	1,60.35
United Provinces	47.97	32.58	80.55
Madras	1,74.60	58.39	2,32.99
Sind	18.31	26.10	44.41
Bihar	2,44.04	52.53	2,96.57
C. P. & Berar	1,33.61	9.43	1,43.04
Delhi	8.20	43.30	51.50
N. W. F. Province	7.72	6.29	14.01
Orissa	8.63	8.15	16.78
Baluchistan	6.78	2.85	9.63
Assam	18.06	10.02	28.08
Ajmer-Merwara	1.05	2.05	3.10
Coorg	30	54	84
Indian States	50.78	65.88	1,16.66
Total	8,64.91	5,29.95	13,94.86

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I ask under what provision of law has this been done?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The order is issued under sub-rule (8)(a) of Rule 20 of the United Provinces Sugar Factories Control Rules and similarly in the case of Bihar, I suppose.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Member tell us whether the instructions emanated from the Honourable Member or his Department?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Both the Central and the Provincial Governments have been co-operating in trying to increase to the maximum the immobilisation of surplus purchasing power.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if any commission is paid to those who are making an effort to get these National Savings Certificates sold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That does not arise in this particular case, because this is not a case where agents are selling the Certificates, but it is a case of deductions made by the factory which purchases the cane.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Can the Honourable Member tell me whether a separate account for this is kept and what is the amount so far collected under this head?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: A separate account is kept and the statement which I have laid on the table shows the amount in each province.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Is the Honourable Member aware that this deduction of two annas has become very unpopular with the agriculturists and it is going to affect the growing of sugarcane crop next year?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My information does not bear that out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the reasons that have persuaded the Honourable Member and the Provincial Governments concerned to extract these two annas in the form of compulsory Savings Certificates when only two annas increment is being granted to the peasants concerned on their cane?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend is a Professor of Economics and I do not think he requires any assistance from me to understand what are the reasons for a step of this kind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Honourable Member has imposed any such condition upon all those officers to whom dearness allowance and war allowances are being given? Does he propose that in their case also every pie that is being given to them as an additional war allowance shall be taken away from them again as Savings Certificates?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Government endeavour to intensify savings in the case of all classes of their servants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any other class from whom 100 per cent. of the additional sum that is being given to them as a matter of war allowance is being taken away by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is not a question of 100 per cent. In the case of the increase which has recently, I believe, been sanctioned, the extent of the compulsory saving is restricted to this year's increase.

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR EXTENSION OF GREATER PATNA

674. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India has made any contribution towards the acquisition of lands for the extension of Greater Patna; if so, how much;

(b) whether the Government of India has issued or proposes to issue to Bihar Government instructions regarding the acquisition of lands for Greater Patna in view of the panic prevailing in the minds of Muslim and non-Muslim residents particularly of the Phulwari Area over forcible acquisition of religious buildings and old burial places; and

(c) whether Government will be pleased to issue instructions to Bihar Government to exercise caution in acquiring lands used for the maintenance of religious places and grave-yards and also in the acquisition of residential buildings of the inhabitants so as not to make the mosques and temples deserted for want of worshippers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) No.

(b) and (c). No. The acquisition of land for provincial purposes is a matter within the executive authority of the Province.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Has my Honourable friend any information with regard to the acquisition of land in Greater Patna and particularly with regard to the Phulwari Area?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I regret to say I have not, because, strictly speaking, this question should have been addressed to another Department.

FORCIBLE SEARCH OF DOCTOR SAYED MAHMUD BEFORE RELEASE.

675. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether he has seen the news item in *Hindustan Times*, dated the 5th November, 1944, dealing with incidents which happened before the release of Doctor Sayed Mahmud;

(b) whether Doctor Sayed Mahmud was forcibly searched before his release;

(c) whether the search took place in spite of his protests;

(d) the reasons which necessitated the search;

(e) whether the refusal of the Members of the Congress Working Committee to avail themselves of the facilities for interviewing their relatives, was due to the forcible search of Doctor Mahmud; and

(f) whether Government is prepared to give an assurance that men of eminence and position will not be subjected to such forcible searches before their release?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). No.

(d), (e) and (f). Do not arise.

CONVICTION OF MR. C. KRISHNA NAIR

676. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Mr. C. Krishna Nair, a Congress worker of Narela Gandhi Ashram (referred to at page 33 of the official publication "Congress Responsibility for Disturbances, 1942-43") was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment;

(b) what the charge against him was;

(c) whether he appealed to the Lahore High Court and with what result; and

(d) if Mr. Nair was acquitted, what amends Government propose to make for an accusation which stands unproved?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) He was charged under clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of rule 35 of the Defence of India Rules with taking part in an attack on Gheora railway station.

(c) Yes: he was acquitted.

(d) Government do not propose to take any action in the matter: it is open to Mr. Nair to take any action to which he is entitled under the law.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it not a fact that the conviction of Mr. Krishna Nair was used as one of the reasons for proving that the Congressmen were taking part in sabotage and violent movements?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The statement that he was convicted was included in the official publication "Congress Responsibility for Disturbances".

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether this publication was prepared before the gentleman in question was convicted by the trial court?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know from the Honourable Member if he is prepared to withdraw that statement from this official book after his acquittal from the High Court?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If there is a demand for another edition, it will be corrected.

Sardar Sant Singh: What responsibility does the Government of India feel in the matter? Having put in an inaccurate fact in a book published by the Government of India, is it not the responsibility of the Government to withdraw it *ipso facto*?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The statement was made before his acquittal.

Sardar Sant Singh: But if the High Court found it to be incorrect, what is the responsibility of the Central Government in that respect? Are you bound by the ruling of the High Court or not?

(No answer.)

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member issue a correction slip?

(No answer.)

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, I want an answer to this question. If the Income-tax Manual can be made up-to-date by a correction slip, surely we are also entitled to have this correction.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has heard the question and the Chair cannot compel him to reply.

CONTINUED POSSESSION OF GOVERNMENT OVER CERTAIN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

677. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the reasons for keeping in their continued possession public institutions devoted to constructive and social activities, like the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital, Badarpur, Delhi, Ram Tal Ashram, Mehrauli, Delhi and Gandhi Ashram, Narela, Delhi;

(b) if it is a fact that nothing incriminating was found at any of the above mentioned places at the time of search carried on by the Police prior to their seizure by the Government in August 1942;

(c) if Government are aware that their continued possession over the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital, Badarpur has deprived hundreds of poor villagers living in the adjoining area of free medical help, which the hospital rendered to them; and

(d) if it is a fact that the Managing Committee of the Hospital which used to run it prior to its seizure by the Government as well as the residents of Badarpur and other adjoining areas have made repeated representations to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, requesting to release the Hospital from their possession. If so, what action has been or is proposed to be taken to meet the wishes of the popular committee and the villagers?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The institutions referred to are believed to have been used as centres of unlawful activity and even now there is no guarantee that, if restored, they would not be so used for the same purpose.

(b) Yes. No incriminating papers were found at any of these institutions.

(c) and (d). The Delhi administration has from the beginning shown its readiness to allow the medical work of the Badarpur institute to be continued under a suitable arrangement, and if the local residents have been deprived of any facilities, the blame rests on the Managing Committee. The District Board, it may be added, have recently decided to acquire the sites at Badarpur for a rural dispensary and have asked Government's assistance in this connection.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what is the basis for the information that these institutions were being used for subversive activities when nothing incriminating was found?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member is aware of the occurrences of two years ago.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Was any Member connected with this institution even prosecuted or convicted?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if this hospital which was forcibly seized is now allowed to function?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Delhi Administration has from the beginning shown its readiness to allow the medical work of the Institute to be continued under suitable arrangement. The District Board is putting up a dispensary there.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is this institution at present allowed to function? There may be many things in the minds of the Delhi Administration. Is this hospital allowed to render medical aid to the residents of the locality?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that point.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What is the answer? The answer was that some sort of thing is being considered.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Delhi Administration too weak to punish anybody who commits an offence under the ordinary law of the land and hence they are keeping this Institution in their continued possession in order to prevent the offence being committed?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what is the suitable arrangement referred to by the Honourable Member under which the Institution will be allowed to continue medical work? What was the arrangement suggested to the hospital managing committee? Did they refuse to accede to that arrangement?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I want notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How long do the Government propose to have this Institution in their possession? When do they propose to hand it over to the legitimate owners?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I can make no guess.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the exact reason which makes the Honourable Member think that this Institution would be used for subversive activities if it is returned to those who are entitled to it?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member knows as well as I do, in fact more than I do about it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What sort of subversive activity is possible in an hospital which is rendering medical aid to the people?

(No answer.)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, I cannot understand the insinuation of the Honourable Member that I knew more about certain things than he does. What exactly is the Honourable Member referring to? I should like him to clear the point.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: About congress politics.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie has been a very old friend of mine. I have known him for over 24 years and he has known me as well, here we are quits. I do not want to be nasty to him. If he thinks that I know anything about the supposed subversive activities of these Institutions even the names of which I hear for the first time in the course of this question, then I think it is up to him to put himself right with me. This is the least I expect of him.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will admit that my Honourable friend is not one of the most dangerous members of the Congress.

Mr. B. Das: On a point of order. Can a Member of Government insinuate, as the Honourable the Home Member has done, that the congress Party knows about certain things regarding subversive activity more than the Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He referred to the Congress policy, that the Congress members are likely to know more about it than the Government.

Mr. B. Das: Then why not bring charges against them on the floor of this House or in a court of law?

HEALTH OF DETENUS L. DESHBANDHU GUPTA AND L. ONKAR NATH.

678. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that at least two of the Delhi detenus lodged in the Central Jail, Lahore, viz., L. Deshbandhu Gupta and L. Onkar Nath have for a long time been suffering from a number of ailments as a result of which their health has been badly shattered; and

(b) apart from the periodical review due under the detention and restrictions ordinance, will the Government consider the desirability of an early release on medical grounds of these and such others of the Delhi detenus who are not keeping good health at Ferozepore Camp Jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Lala Onkar Nath has been released. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta is suffering from peripheral neuritis for which he is being treated by physicians of his own choice.

(b) The health of a security prisoner is one of the considerations kept in mind in reviewing a case which, as I have explained before in this House, is continuous, and not undertaken at fixed intervals only.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know when the case of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta was last reviewed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The process is continuous.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is rather a vague answer. May I know the point of time at which his case was last reviewed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The process is continuous.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is the process continuing at the present moment?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: At this very movement, we are discussing it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if there is any time limit to the continuation of this process?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No time limit.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long will this idiotic attitude of Home Department continue this process of review?

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member considering the desirability of releasing Lala Deshbandhu Gupta?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, we are continuously considering it.

RELEASED DELHI DETENUS.

679. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please give the number of the Delhi detenus released since 1st September, 1943, and also state as to how many of them were subjected to restrictions of some sort or the other?

(b) Is it a fact that one of the restrictions usually imposed on most of the Delhi detenus released since 1st September, 1943, required them to report themselves at the police stations?

(c) Is it also a fact that among those who were subjected to this restriction are persons belonging to such respectable professions as, Medical, Journalism and Law, etc.?

(d) Will the Government of India advise the Delhi Administrations to adopt in future a policy of unconditional release as pursued in several other provinces, as also to withdraw all the existing restrictions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Eighty-four former Delhi detenus have been released since the 1st September, 1943. Against five of these, orders have been passed excluding them from the Delhi Province, and 53 have been subject to restrictions of various kinds.

(b) In 29 of the cases mentioned, the orders include a direction to report at a police station.

(c) The persons mentioned in the reply to part (b) include two pleaders, one journalist and five practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine.

(d) The question of necessity of maintaining these orders is being taken up with the Delhi Administration.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (a) what is the nature of the restriction which has been imposed on these detenus who have been released?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have given all the information I have in answer to the question.

PAPER TONNAGE INVOLVED IN PRINTING COPIES OF INDIAN INFORMATION

680. ***Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the average print order in number of copies of "Indian Information" for the 104 consecutive issues up to and including that of the 30th of August 1944;

(b) the total tonnage of paper which these involve; and

(c) whether, in view of the fact that as so much of the matter appearing in "Indian Information" has already been published, though perhaps in an abridged form, in the Press, the volume of paper intended for use in the future in the printing of "Indian Information" might be made better use of in some other direction?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Government consider that good use is being made of the paper in the printing of the *Indian Information*. The *Indian Information* is a valuable reference record for the use of newspaper offices, libraries, persons, institutions, etc., whose role is to inform the public. To effect economy in paper, the size of the publication was reduced to one half from January 1944. I may add that *Indian Information* continues to be printed on super calendered paper purchased in India. It has been decided to print on maximum of newsprint, but arrangements have not yet been made for the import of newsprint of the right quality. I should also add that after this matter was discussed, I think last year, in this House, I went into the question as regards the necessity of continuing this paper and we found that we received a large number of appreciations of the *Indian Information* from different sources.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the Government of India propose to give free copies of this valuable paper to the Members of the Legislature so that they may have this as reference record?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We shall be delighted to supply if a demand like this is made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We would like to have them.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I make my demand on the floor of the House.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The answer has been given on the floor of the House.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that the *Indian Information* gives no information at all?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Then, I take it there is no demand for this paper from the Members of the Legislature.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We want it so that we can see how best to improve it.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: Are there adequate supplies of this super-calendered paper available for propaganda in countries overseas? I appreciate the necessity for propaganda and I feel that the paper that is used for this can be better used for overseas propaganda?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: A large number of copies of *Indian Information* is also sent to countries overseas. We have gone into the question very deeply after this question was raised by Sir Frederick James last year and we have come to the conclusion that it is serving a very useful purpose in India and outside India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is all the more reason why we should like to have copies of the *Indian Information*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already promised.

AUTHORISED AGENTS FOR SALE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES

†681. ***Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether Government servants have also undertaken the task of authorised agents to sell National Savings Certificates in the Government of India Secretariat Offices in New Delhi; if so, will he please lay on the table a list showing the number of the Authorised Agents so appointed pertaining to the Departments of the Home, Finance, Commerce, Education, Health and Lands, Legislative, Legislative Assembly, External Affairs and Labour of the Government of India

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

and the amounts of the National Savings Certificates sold by each individual effort; and

(b) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to suitably reward those officials; if not, why?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. I lay on the table a statement as desired by the Honourable Member.

(b) Authorised Agents will be entitled to a commission of 2½ per cent on the face value of the National Savings Certificates sold by them.

Statement showing the number of Government servants appointed as Authorised Agents pertaining to the Home, Finance, Commerce, Education, Health and Lands, Legislative, Legislative Assembly, External Affairs and Labour Departments of the Government of India and the amounts of National Savings Certificates sold by each of them.

Name of Departments.	Number of Authorised Agents appointed.	Value of National Savings Certificates sold by each.
(1) Home Department	1	Nil. The agents have only recently been appointed.
(2) Finance Department	4	
(3) External Affairs Department	3	
(4) Labour Department	1	
(5) Commerce Department	Nil.	
(6) Education, Health and Lands Department	Nil.	
(7) Legislative Department	Nil.	
(8) Legislative Assembly Department	Nil.	
Total	9	

WASTE OF BOATS SEIZED UNDER DENIAL POLICY IN BENGAL

†682. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state: if it is a fact:

(a) that a very large number of country boats snatched away from the fishermen under denial policy and requisitioned in 1942, were allowed to remain uncared for in "Daudkandi Boats Preservation Centre" in the district of Tippera;

(b) that the broken boats have recently been sold for Rs. 1,000 to a middleman who sold the same to Dhakeswari Cotton Mills for Rs. 6,000 to be used only as fuel;

(c) that a similar waste of boats has occurred in many other centres; and

(d) that this denial policy has been a cause of ruin to a very large population of fishermen who lost their only means of livelihood and are now absolutely stranded?

Mr. G. M. Trivedi: (a), (b) and (c). Enquiries are being made from the Government of Bengal.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to part (e) of Starred question No. 733 answered by me on 31st March 1944.

MUSLIM GAZETTED OFFICERS IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

†683. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article published in the "Dawn" of the 25th October, 1944, regarding the percentage of Muslim officials in the Central Government;

(b) the total number of gazetted posts of (i) Secretaries, (ii) Joint Secretaries, (iii) Deputy Secretaries, (iv) Under Secretaries, (v) Assistant Secretaries, (vi) Additional Secretaries and (vii) Officers on Special Duty;

(c) how many Muslims are working in each of the categories mentioned in (b) above and what the percentage of Muslims therein is;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) how many Hindus and Europeans respectively are working in each of the above-mentioned categories; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government or proposed to be taken to make up the deficiency in the communal ratio, if any?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) to (d). A statement which gives substantially the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

(e) Appointments to the Secretariat posts of the categories referred to are made by selection and not on a communal basis. It is not proposed to alter that system.

Statement showing the Communal distribution of the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Officers on special duty in the Departments of Government of India (Secretariat only) according to the Government of India Directory (July 1944).

	Europeans Anglo-Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Others	Total.
Secretary	9	5	2*	1	17
Additional Secretary	4	..	..	1	5
Joint Secretary	7	9	2	..	18
Deputy Secretary	13	22	4	2	41
Under Secretary	15	17	10	3	45
Assistant Secretary	12	32	5	2	51
Officer on Special Duty †	7	2	1	1	11
Total	67	87	24	10	188

* Including the Secretary, Legislative Assembly Department.

† Only Officers described as such have been included.

INDIAN TRADE PROFITS OF U. K. C. C.

684. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the profits made by U. K. C. C. out of its trade with India; and

(b) whether they have been charged Income-tax, Super-tax and Excess Profits tax on the profits?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Starred question No. 320 asked by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari on the 13th November 1944.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But the figures of profits made by them were not stated.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In that answer I stated that the information is not available but that if and when it is furnished to the Income-Tax Department, its disclosure will be forbidden by the Income-Tax Act.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from profits, have they been charged with income-tax at all?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I also mentioned on that occasion that the income-tax and excess profits assessments of the Corporation for the relevant years are in hand.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they shown any returns by which they are liable to excess profits tax?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said the assessments are in hand. I cannot give any further information.

BAN ON ENTRY INTO INDIA OF INDIAN OPINION OF DURBAN

685. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if the Government of India have imposed any ban on the entry into India of "Indian Opinion" of Durban, edited by Mr. Manilal Gandhi;

- (b) if so, what the reasons for the ban are;
 (c) whether the South African Government has imposed any ban on the circulation of "Indian Opinion" in South Africa;
 (d) whether the Government of India consulted the High Commissioner for India in South Africa before banning this paper; and
 (e) whether the Government of India are aware of the deep dissatisfaction among Indians in India and South Africa at their arbitrary action against a paper of long standing which has tried to serve the Indian community in South Africa and keep this country informed of what is happening in Natal and other parts of the Union?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No.

- (b) Does not arise.
 (c) I have no information but enquiries are being made.
 (d) Does not arise.
 (e) Government are not aware of this.

ACTIVITIES IN INDIA OF THE WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY

686. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the general attitude of Government towards the activities in India of the Christian movement or body known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society or Jehovah's witnesses; for how many years approximately these activities have continued in India;
 (b) if it is a fact that there is at present a ban on the importation into, and publication in India of all books, pamphlets etc., of this organisation. If so, when the ban was first imposed and on what grounds;
 (c) if any scrutiny was held on behalf of Government, at any time before and after the said ban was imposed, into the individual publication, of this organisation for the purpose of finding out whether their contents were objectionable from any point of view; and
 (d) if it is a fact that the literature banned includes publications containing purely religious discourses?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The general attitude of Government is now one of watchfulness.

(b) It has now been decided to remove the ban.

(c) Yes.

(d) All the publications of the Society were banned.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: In part (a) of the question I wanted to know something about the activities of this organisation in India and how long these activities have continued. I am afraid no reply has been given to that.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question was about the attitude of Government; it is one of watchfulness.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: But what are the activities like?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member wants information on that he may put down a question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to Government's decision to lift the ban on this organisation, is it proposed to compensate it for the trouble and loss that has been caused to it by Government's action in the past?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir; the trouble was mutual.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it not a fact that members of this organisation have been sentenced to pay fines in different courts on the technical ground of possession of some of this proscribed literature on which the ban is now proposed to be lifted? And do Government propose to direct a refund of these amounts that have been paid as fines?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Because the Home Department never interferes with the judiciary.

ACTIVITIES IN INDIA OF THE WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY.

687. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the organisation known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, or Jehovah's witnesses, has ever been known to be guilty in this country of any subversive activities;

(b) if it is a fact that five men and one lady were sentenced to imprisonment in different places in India for possessing books dealing with the Bible, and that several persons were ordered to leave their usual places of residence, and that in October last one of the Christian Workers after being imprisoned without any trial was later released and given 24 hours to leave Madras;

(c) if it is a fact while in July 1944, this organisation was permitted to import the authorised version of the Bible used by it in its work, a small consignment of the New Testament entitled *Diaglott*, giving word for word a translation of the Greek original into English and containing references to the other translations, was refused entry;

(d) if it is a fact that the "*Diaglott*" is merely a reprint of an old work by B. Wilson who never belonged to the Watch Tower Bible Society;

(e) if it is a fact that copies of this work were destroyed under the authority of Police of Bombay or Karachi;

(f) if it is a fact that one Mr. Skinner who is the representative of the organisation in India printed a leaflet last year containing only extracts from Bible texts and was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 100 for printing it?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) I have not got complete details, but a small number of persons, including one lady, have been imprisoned for infringing the ban.

(c) The answer to both the parts is 'Yes'.

(d) *Diaglott* is a publication issued by the International Bible Students' Association whose literature is also prohibited by the order of 30th November, 1942.

(e) I have no information.

(f) Mr. Skinner was fined for printing the Society's literature in contravention of Government's order of 30th November, 1942.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do Government admit that their previous order in regard to this matter was wrong?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Then why are they withdrawing it now?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Because circumstances have changed.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In what respects?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: In many respects.

MAL-TREATMENT OF INFERIOR RAILWAY SERVANTS BY DELHI RAILWAY POLICE

688. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Delhi Railway Police have been exercising third degree methods on the inferior Railway servants of the North Western Railway; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that on or about the 1st November, 1944, the Delhi Railway Police have exercised third degree methods on one Retiring Room bearer (Krishan) of Delhi junction station by having inflicted canes by a constable in the Police station; if not, what the fact is;

(c) if it is a fact that on or about the 5th November, 1944, the Delhi Railway Police have exercised third degree methods on waiting room's Aya (Martha) of Delhi junction station and who was released from those methods only after payment of rupees three as illegal gratification; if not, what the fact is; and

(d) what protection to Government Railway servants is provided for against the third degree methods of the Police force; if no protection has been provided, the reasons therefor?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Railway Police in Delhi are, as matter of administrative convenience, treated as part of the Punjab Police. The Punjab Government have been asked for the information required and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

RAID ON A GAMBLING DEN IN DELHI

†689. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the particulars of the raid on a gambling den in Delhi from where 82 persons were arrested before Diwali festival?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid that I can't as the case is still *sub judice*.

REMOVAL OF PROSTITUTES FROM GARSTIN BASTION ROAD, DELHI

†690. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the action taken to remove the residences of immoral women from the main thoroughfare (Garstin Bastion Road) connecting Old Delhi with New Delhi (from Lahori Gate to Ajmeri Gate); if no action has been taken the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Certain areas in the jurisdiction of the Delhi Municipal Committee have been declared as prohibited areas under Article 152 of the Punjab Municipal Act 1911, but Garstin Bastion Road is not one of those. No measures have been, or are proposed to be taken to remove the residences of prostitutes therefrom.

MURDERS ON GARSTIN BASTION ROAD, DELHI

†691. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of murders committed either on the Garstin Bastion Road (from Lahori Gate to Ajmeri Gate), Delhi or by the residents of that Road during the preceding five years, and if it is a fact that to pass through that road after dusk is very unsafe due to the nature of the persons inhabiting that locality; if not, what the fact is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Three. No.

SECURITY AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

692. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if there are two classes of prisoners in Indian jails to-day, called security prisoners and civil disobedience movement prisoners;

(b) if so, what the difference in the status and treatment of them is;

(c) the categories of such prisoners in the Provincial jails who are directly under the Government of India;

(d) if there is any statutory obligation of the Government to make provisions for the families of persons under indefinite imprisonment without charge or trial;

(e) the allowances, if any, that are being given to the families of the various security and civil disobedience movement prisoners; and

(f) how many families are in receipt of such allowances?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). The principles which we have recommended and which have been adopted by most Provinces, are that allowances should be granted not only in cases of absolute necessity but also in cases where the detention has deprived the family of a legitimate source of income. Out of about 50 cases of persons detained by orders of the Central Government there are about fifteen cases where families are in receipt of allowances from Government. There is no fixed scale for these allowances which are determined after consideration of the circumstances of each case. So far as Chief Commissioners Provinces are concerned, the detailed information required is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (e), may I know what relief these families have in the provinces even though they come under the terms of the Honourable Member's answer and are entitled to allowances according to him but are being refused these allowances by the Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Presumably they have no relief; it is entirely an act of grace.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can the Honourable Member interfere in such cases, if they are brought to his notice, and take the matter up with the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid: not.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the maximum and minimum amounts paid by the Central Government to the families of the fifteen people detained under their orders?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information as to the actual amounts paid.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is this payment absolutely a matter of grace? If so, is their indefinite detention also a matter of grace?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes.

INTERMENT OF SHRIMATI SATYAVATI DEVI OF DELHI

693. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Shrimati Satyavati Devi of Delhi was released from jail on grounds of health and is now interned at the Sabbar Sanatorium in the Simla Hills;

(b) the restrictions now imposed upon her and the state of her health; and

(c) whether the Government are considering the desirability of releasing her or permitting her to come back to her home in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes. She is interned under orders of the Punjab Government.

(b) So far as the Central Government is concerned, the only restriction imposed is that she should not return to Delhi Province without the permission of the Chief Commissioner. I have no information about her state of health.

(c) The question of releasing her from internment is for the Punjab Government to decide. The question of allowing her to return to Delhi does not arise so long as the internment order continues.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that she was actually arrested in Delhi? Am I to understand that that arrest was at the instance of the Punjab Government and carried out by the Delhi authorities?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information on that.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries because she belongs to Delhi and is thus under his protection?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member will put down a question as to what he wants to know, I will give him the answer.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Does not this lady belong to Delhi and was she not actually arrested here? Am I to understand that that arrest was made at the instance of the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information at all; that was not the question asked.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any allowance being paid to this lady?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Again I have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of giving her a family allowance in view of the fact that she was a resident of Delhi and is now forced under orders of Government to live in the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If she comes under these principles we will consider it.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DETENTION OF DR. LOHIA

694. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that Doctor Ram Manohar Lohia was arrested in Bombay in May, 1944, and is now kept at an unknown place and if his warrant were issued by the Government of India or the Government of Bombay;

(b) under what law he was arrested and why his place of confinement is kept a secret;

(c) if his father Mr. Hiralal Lohia, of 120, Coltar Street, Calcutta, has applied to Government for an interview with his only son; if so, what, if any, reply has been sent to him;

(d) why no interviews are permitted to Mr. Ram Manohar Lohia even with the members of his family; and

(e) what the category under which Doctor Lohia is classed in prison is, and what the class or division according to which he is treated as a prisoner is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to my answers to starred questions Nos. 469, 476, and 482 on the 16th November.

SEIZURE OF GRAM SEVA MANDAL AND KHADI ASHRAM OF HARMARA (AJMER).

695. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if the Gram Seva Mandal and the Khadi Ashram of Harmara (Ajmer) were declared unlawful or their premises notified under the Criminal Law Amendment or any other Act;

(b) if so, when and by whom they were so notified;

(c) if it is a fact that the goods of the institution were seized and sold; if so, under what law the action was taken;

(d) if Government has received any representation regarding those proceedings and whether they have also been informed that goods of private individuals lying on the premises have been seized and sold along with the goods of the institutions;

(e) whether Government will enquire into the facts and if it is found that action has been taken by the authorities against the provisions of the law, whether Government will compensate these institutions for the losses suffered;

(f) did the police seize papers from the premises of these institutions belonging to Harijan Samiti, Mehtar Panchayat, Tonga Union, etc.; if so, why they did so and what they did with these papers;

(g) whether all these papers have been destroyed; and

(h) if the authorities received any representation from Mr. Balkrishna Garg, Secretary of the institutions, regarding these papers, and, if so, what reply was sent to him?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are not aware that any goods of these alleged institutions were seized and sold.

(d) to (h). Government received a copy of a representation made by one Balkrishna Garg to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara. On Enquiry, Government were informed that the representation arose out of the action taken under sections 17 A and 17 B Criminal Law Amendment Act against the Khadi Vidyalaya, Harmara. As section 17 B provides a legal remedy for anyone aggrieved by such action, Government are not prepared to undertake any independent inquiry.

LANGUAGE OF INCOME-TAX NOTICE (FORM B)

696. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the language of Form B, a notice under Section 23(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1942, saying "In order that I may satisfy myself whether the return made by you.....is correct and complete, I hereby, require you to attend.....";

(b) if this language has his approval, and, whether it does not suggest that the Income Tax Officer is already suspicious of the correctness of the return by the assessee;

(c) whether Government would consider the desirability of making the language less irksome; and

(d) if such notices are served on all Income Tax payees, including the highest officers of the State; and whether they are also required to attend the Income Tax Office, in person or by representation with the requisite evidence, as required in the notice? If not, will Government take steps to make the procedure similar for all income tax payees?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I have seen the form of notice referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) The form has my approval since it accords with the wording of section 23 (2) of the Act, as amended by the House in 1939. The reply to the latter part is in the negative.

(c) Government do not consider that the language in the existing form is irksome.

(d) No, but I have no reason to believe that such notices are not issued in all cases without discrimination where the provisions of section 23 (2) are attracted. The manner of compliance with the terms of the notice is in all cases left to the assessee. The last part of the question does not therefore arise.

EXPENDITURE ON RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMES OF BROADCASTING STATIONS

697. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state as to what amounts have been spent during the current financial year on religious programmes such as *Kathas*, *Naats*, *Shabads*, and speeches, etc., connected with (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, and (iii) Sikhs, by different broadcasting stations under him?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The All India Radio does not classify its accounts on communal lines and the collection of the information asked for would therefore involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION RE GANDHI-JINNAH TALKS

698. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if Government have got all information in detail about the Gandhi-Jinnah talks apart from what had appeared in the newspapers; if so, will the Honourable Member lay the same on the table?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have no information apart from what has appeared in the newspapers.

RESTORATION OF OLD STANDARD TIME

699. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Home Member please consider the desirability of reverting to the old standard timings as advancing of clock by one hour has caused a great inconvenience and hardship to the public in general and Indian Government employees in particular, as the position of war is now most favourable? If not, what are the reasons and whether, apart from official point of view, he would take into consideration the public views expressed in the past or call for the same now and then take the decision in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to a similar question No. 464 put by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande on the 16th November, 1944. In arriving at their decision, Government took into account any inconvenience that might be caused to the public.

ARRESTS OF CONGRESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN DELHI IN AUGUST, 1942

700. *Seth Sheodass Daga: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that in Delhi on 9th and 10th August 1942, two Members of the All-India Congress Committee, four Members of the Provincial Congress Committee, Delhi, and about four ordinary members of the Congress were arrested under Defence of India Act, Rule 26 before the issue of the notification in the official Gazette, dated 11th August, 1942, declaring the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee to be an unlawful association?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state if before the time of the arrest any active support from the persons referred to in (a) to the All-India Congress Committee Resolution of 8th August, 1942, was recorded or was in existence?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the persons referred to in part (a) have now been released and various restrictions under sub-section (1) of Section (3) of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, have been imposed on them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Two members of the All India Congress Committee, five members of the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee and six ordinary Congress men were arrested in Delhi on the 9th and 10th August 1942, on the basis of orders issued for their detention under Defence Rule 26.

(The notification to which the Honourable Member appears to refer—Delhi notification No. F. 6/4/42-S.B.—was issued on the 9th August, 1942, not the 11th August 1942.)

(b) The detention orders were made, on the basis of the past conduct of the persons concerned, with a view to preventing them from acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the maintenance of public order.

(c) Yes.

COMMUNAL PERCENTAGES FOR RECRUITMENT TO PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICES

701. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the percentage of representation fixed for different communities for purposes of recruitment in different Provincial Accountant General's offices;

(b) when these percentages were fixed and on what basis;

(c) will he please place a copy of the different orders on the subjects on the table of the House; and

(d) what special representation is fixed for the Sikhs in the Punjab where they predominate more than anywhere in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). The percentages fixed for the various communities in Audit and Accounts offices are given in the statements attached to the Auditor General's letters No. 581-NGE/603-33, dated the 18th April 1935 and No. 1276-NGE/368-43, dated the 10th July 1944, copies of which, together with the relevant extracts of the orders, are placed on the table of the House. These percentages have been fixed mainly with reference to the population of minority communities in each area and the recruitment rules of the Provincial Government concerned, but so as to retain for India as a whole the percentages prescribed under the Home Department Resolution of 1934. The reservations for members of the Scheduled Castes have effect from the 11th August 1943, and those for other communities from the 4th July 1934.

(d) Sikhs are included in the category "Other Minority Communities", and no special representation is fixed for them, except in the cadre of Divisional Accountants in the Punjab, in which 20 per cent. of the vacancies, which is the percentage fixed by the Government of the Punjab in respect of their Provincial Services, are reserved for Sikhs.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Copy of letter No. 1276-NGE/368-43, dated the 10th July, 1944, from the Auditor General of India, to all Accountants General and Comptrollers, the Director of Railway Accounts and the Director of Audit, Defence Services.

SUBJECT:—Reservation of vacancies for Scheduled Castes

I have the honour to state that under paragraph 4(2) of the Government of India, Home Department Resolution No. 23/5/42-Ests. (S), dated the 11th August, 1943 the Auditor General has with the concurrence of the Government of India, fixed the percentages shown in the annexed statement for recruitment of Scheduled Caste candidates to the non-gazetted establishment of the Audit and Accounts offices in which recruitment is made by local areas.

2. As recruitment of staff in your department is made centrally, 8½ per cent. of the vacancies for direct recruitment should be reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates in your department.

Statement of percentages fixed for Scheduled Castes in Audit and Accounts offices under the Auditor General.

Province	Percentage fixed for Scheduled Castes	Province	Percentage fixed for Scheduled Castes
Delhi*	8½	Bombay	4½
Punjab	4½	Central Provinces	12½
United Provinces	12½	Assam	4½
Bihar	8½	Orissa	10
Bengal	8½	Sind	2½
Madras	10	North West Frontier Province.	2½

*Note.—For this purpose the offices of the Auditor General, the Accountant General Posts and Telegraphs and the Director of Railway Accounts should be considered to be located in Delhi Province.

Copy of letter No. 581-NGE/603-33, dated 18th April, 1935, from the Auditor General of India, to all Civil Accountants General, etc.

SUBJECT: Reservation of vacancies for Muslims and other minor communities

I have the honour to state that under Rule 8 of the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. F. 14/17-B/33, dated the 4th July, 1934, the Auditor General has, with the concurrence of the Government of India fixed the percentages shown in the annexed statement for recruitment of Muslims and other minor communities in the non-gazetted establishment of the Audit and Accounts Offices in which recruitment is made by local areas. The Depressed and Backward classes do not fall under the category of "Other minorities" and members of those classes should be recruited against the quota of Hindus (Christian aboriginals should be treated as Indian Christian and no reservation for non-Christian aboriginals has been considered necessary till the local Government find it necessary to make any rules regarding the representation of such people in the Provincial services.)

() To Accountant General, Bombay and Orissa only.

(The recruitment in the Postal Accounts Offices is made on a local basis and it is not therefore necessary to secure the total all-India percentages in those offices taken separately from other offices of the Audit Department. You should adopt the percentages now fixed for the local areas in which your offices are situated. This disposes of your letter No. E 2585/A-10-34, dated the 12th March 1935.)

() To Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs only.

2. If and when any material change in the percentages now prescribed becomes necessary in view of any rules issued by the local Government or due to other circumstances the matter should be referred to the Auditor General for his orders.

3. These percentages should be observed by you strictly in respect of all vacancies filled up after the 4th July 1934, irrespective of the dates from which such vacancies existed and irrespective of the position as regards recruitment of members of the minor communities which existed in your office/your office and your subordinate offices prior to that date. Further subsidiary instructions on certain points of detail will be issued shortly by the Government of India.

*For the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs and Director of Railway Accounts only.

4. The Government servants who were employed in an officiating or temporary capacity before the issue of the Government of India Resolution of 4th July 1934 may after confirmation be allowed to resume their original position in the gradation list above their juniors, if any, who may have to be confirmed earlier under the operation of these orders.

(This disposes of your D. O. to Mr. Badenoch, No. T/1100, dated the 28th February, 1935.)

() To Accountant General, Central Provinces only.

Statement of percentages fixed for minor communities in Audit and Accounts Office under the Auditor General in India

Province	Percentages fixed for Muslims	Percentages fixed for other minor communities
Delhi	33 1/3	8 1/3
Bengal	40	8 1/3*
Assam	33	8 1/3
Bihar	10	8 1/3
Central Provinces	5	5
United Provinces	15	8 1/3
Sind	50	8 1/3
Bombay	8 1/3	8 1/3
Madras	8 1/3	8 1/3
Punjab	40	10
North West Frontier Province	60	10†
	25.39	8.16

* Including Buddhists.

† Vide this office letter No. T1215-NGE/68-35, dated the 16th September 1935.

Extract from the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. F. 14/17-B/33-Establishments, dated the 4th July, 1934, regarding communal representation in service.

Section IV—Rules for services recruited locally.

8. In the case of all services to which recruitment is made by local areas and not on an all-India basis, e.g., subordinate posts in the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Customs Service, Income-tax Department, etc., the general rules prescribed above will apply subject to the following modifications:—

(1) the total reservation for India as a whole of 25 per cent. for Muslims and of 8½ per cent. for other minorities will be obtained by fixing a percentage for each Railway or local area or circle having regard to the population ratio of Muslims and other minority communities in the area and the rules for recruitment adopted by the local Government of the area concerned;

(2) in the case of the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs Department and Customs Service in which the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European community is at present principally employed, special provisions described in the next paragraph are required in order to give effect to the policy stated in paragraph 2 above.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

702. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) With reference to the answer to starred question No. 169 given on the 23rd February, 1944, will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the basis on which 11 Muslims out of 33 appointments were appointed in the Technical Assistant and Programme Assistant's grades; if so, how does he justify giving more than 25 per cent. of the appointments to the Muslims?

(b) Will he please state the number of Sikh applicants who applied for each of these appointments, the number of candidates called for interview and the number of the successful candidates who have since been appointed?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the representation given to Sikhs in his own Department and particularly in the All India Radio is inadequate and all appointments reserved for other minorities are either filled up by members of the minority communities other than the Sikhs or the Muslims? If not, will he please place a statement showing the appointments of Sikhs made so far in the A. I. R. carrying a pay more than Rs. 100

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The "33 appointments" referred to by the Honourable Member related to the posts of Programme Assistant only, and out of these 11 were of Muslims. The appointments were made on the basis of merit. It is open to the minority communities to obtain on grounds of merit more than the percentage of vacancies reserved for them. In regard

to the appointments made in the cadre of Technical Assistants, the Honourable Member will observe from the reply given by me, to which he has referred, that the number of Muslims and non-Muslims appointed were 10 and 86 respectively.

(b) For the posts of Programme Assistant, 23 Sikhs applied; one was called for interview and was selected. 18 Sikhs applied for the posts of Technical Assistant, 7 were called for interview and 2 were appointed.

(c) The Sikhs are very well represented in the Information and Broadcasting Department Secretariat, as about 7 per cent. of the posts are held by them. In All India Radio there are 30 Sikhs out of a total of 980 posts. I may explain that, under the Communal Representation Rules, no separate reservation is made for Sikhs out of the percentage of 8½ reserved for "Other minority communities". A list giving the information asked for in the last part of this part of the question is laid on the table of the House.

List of Sikhs employed in All India Radio on posts carrying a pay over Rs. 100 p. m.

1. Mr. A. C. Ramchandani, Assistant Chief Engineer.
2. Mr. Hatindar Singh, Assistant News Editor.
3. Mr. Iqbal Singh, Programme Executive.
4. Mr. T. S. Khosle, Programme Assistant.
5. Mr. K. S. Duggal, Programme Assistant.
6. Mr. Joginder Singh, Technical Assistant.
7. Mr. Ramnik Singh, Technical Assistant.
8. Mr. Harbans Singh, Stenographer.
9. Mr. Iswar Singh, Stenographer.
10. Mr. G. S. Bhatia, Assistant.

ANGLO-INDIANS, ETC. IN THE W. A. C. (I.)

703. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the present number of Anglo-Indians, Domiciled Europeans and Europeans employed in the W. A. C. (I.)?

(b) How many senior Commanders are drawn, from the Anglo-Indian, Domiciled European and European communities respectively?

(c) Is it a fact that the Commandants of the four Recruit Training Schools are Europeans?

(d) Is it a fact that Junior Civil Assistants from overseas are now holding appointments which should normally be held by personnel of the W. A. C. (I.)?

(e) Is it a fact that these Junior Civil Assistants are also replacing permanent civilian women employees and are being given a much higher basic wage? If so, why?

(f) Is the War Secretary aware of the increasing tendency to import personnel to fill appointments which should be given to members of the W. A. C. (I.)? If so, why?

(g) Is it a fact that a large number of members of the W. A. A. F. are being brought out to India? Will these persons compete with the Air Force Wing of the W. A. C. (I.) personnel for appointments in India?

(h) Is it not a fact that the imported personnel who are doing the work hitherto done by members of the W. A. C. (I.) are getting a much higher basic pay than the W. A. C. (I.) personnel? If so, why?

(i) Whether Government will consider paying the same basic wage to the member of the W. A. C. (I.) as is at present being given to A. T. S. personnel and Junior Civil Assistants?

(j) How many civilian women employees, who have been holding responsible posts for years, have been replaced by the imported personnel? If the latter are performing the same duties as the former, what was the necessity or reason for importing these women Civilian Assistants and giving them higher pay?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) British—2,230, Indian—3,252, Anglo-Indian—3,937.

(b) British—49, Indian—1, Anglo-Indian—1.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. Eight Junior Civil Assistants from the War Office are replacing male Staff Officers who are thus released for combatant duties. Their

wages are higher than those of our permanent civilian women employees, but their duties are quite different.

(f) It is true that it is becoming necessary to import members of the British Women's Services because neither officers nor other ranks of the W.A.C.(I) are available in sufficient numbers to fill the appointments open to them.

(g) As regards the first part, a contingent of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force has arrived in India for service in South East Asia. As regards the second part, there is no separate Air Force Wing of the W.A.C.(I) although a number of W.A.C.(I) personnel are employed with the Air Forces. The W.A.A.F.'s will not compete with W.A.C.(I) for the reasons given in reply to part (f) above.

(h) and (i). Imported personnel are not doing work hitherto done by the W.A.C.(I). The rates of pay of the British Women's Services were fixed in the U.K. by His Majesty's Government. The rates of pay of the W.A.C.(I) are based on the pay of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in the U.K. The whole question of the pay of Women's Services in Defence Headquarters, India is under consideration by Government.

(j) No civilian woman employee has been replaced by imported personnel. The second part of the question does not, therefore arise.

PENSION OF DAFTRIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, ETC.

704. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Daftries in the offices of the Director-General, Post and Telegraphs, the Auditor General and other attached offices are entitled to half pension not exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem;

(b) if it is also a fact that peons of the offices of the Director-General, Post and Telegraphs, the Auditor General and other local offices whose maximum scale of pay is Rs. 16 are entitled to half pension not exceeding Rs. 8, per mensem;

(c) if it is a fact that the maximum scale of pay admissible to peons in the offices of the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs and the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts etc. is Rs. 16 per mensem, and they earn half pension not exceeding Rs. 8 according to the pension rules applicable to them; if so, what the reason is for treating the daftries in these offices whose maximum pay varies from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 differently with the result that they are only entitled to a pension not exceeding Rs. 8 per mensem irrespective of their maximum pay; and

(d) if Government to take immediate steps to issue orders entitling the daftries of the above mentioned offices to half pension not exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem, as in the case of other offices where such pension is admissible?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given by me to Starred Question No. 192 on the 25th February 1943. There has been no change in the position.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S STATEMENT RE MASS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

705. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if he has seen the public statement of Mahatma Gandhi to the effect that mass civil disobedience is now out of question; and

(b) if he has also seen copies of the letters written by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Indian National Congress, to the former Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, and now published in the Press by Doctor Sayed Mahmud, denying the various charges on behalf of the Members of the Working Committee and himself, made by the Government in their pamphlet on Congress responsibility for the 1942 incidents?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The reference is presumably to Mr. Gandhi's "Hints for workers on the constructive programme." In it he wrote

"Just as military training is necessary for armed revolt training in the constructive effort is equally necessary for civil resistance" and later "It would be different if there was mass civil disobedience. But that is out of the question for the time being at any rate".

(b) Yes.

DETENTION OF MR. JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN

706. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the law under which Sri Jai Prakash Narayan was arrested and is detained in prison;

(b) the place of his confinement and the facilities, if any, given to him for correspondence, interviews, books, if any, and newspapers provided to him;

(c) if he is a prisoner of the Government of India or of the Provincial Government and if of the latter then of which Provincial Government;

(d) if he is to be brought to trial; if so, under what charges;

(e) if any counsel has been engaged for him by Government and if he has been given the right and the necessary facilities to engage his own counsel; and

(f) if, in case the counsel has been given or engaged, every opportunity is afforded to him to interview his counsel and give all instructions as necessary?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) He was arrested under Defence of India Rule 129 and is detained under Ordinance III of 1944.

(c) He is a prisoner of the Government of India.

(b), (d), (e) and (f). I would refer the Honourable Member to my answers to starred questions Nos. 198 on the 8th November and 468 and 475 on the 16th November.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF OFFICERS' CADRE OF CANTONMENTS AND LANDS SECTION OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

707. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) if the Government of India have under consideration a scheme for the re-organisation of the officers' cadre of the Cantonments and Lands Section of the Defence Department; if so, what it is;

(b) the position and prospects they propose to give to the present executive officers; and

(c) whether the present executive officers have asked for improvement in their salaries and prospects; if so, what Government propose to do to satisfy their demands?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Yes. A scheme for the amalgamation of the Lands Branch of the Cantonments Department and the Cantonment Executive Officers Service and the revision of pay of Executive Officers was under consideration for some time. It was eventually decided that as we do not know what the post-war conditions affecting Cantonment Services are likely to be, a wholesale re-organisation of the Department, which such a scheme would entail, and a corresponding revision of the pay of Executive Officers cannot be undertaken during the war. For the period of the War however the pay of Grade II Executive Officers, i.e., the most junior officers of the cadre, has been revised from Rs. 150—5—200 E.B. —5—250 to Rs. 200—10—250, their pay being fixed in the latter scale with reference to the departmental service already rendered by them.

(c) Yes. Government has received representations from certain officers to this effect. It must however be borne in mind that owing to war conditions most of these officers are officiating in higher paid appointments than they normally would have, and for the reasons I have already stated it is not at present possible to do more than we have done.

COMMUNAL PROPORTIONS IN THE ARMY

708. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the proportion of different communities in the Army (commissioned, non-commissioned, combatant and non-combatant, respectively) as it stood on the 1st of September 1944?

(b) What is the rough percentage of different communities in the Artillery, Infantry, Engineers, Signals, Motor Transport, Supply, Medical and Ordnance?

(c) What total percentage each community form in the combatant and non-combatant ranks?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available. I will endeavour to collect such information as can be obtained without undue expenditure of time and labour and will lay it on the table if there are no security objections to such information being divulged.

POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETENUS IN JAILS OUTSIDE THEIR PROVINCE

709. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any political prisoners and detenues who are being kept in jails of provinces other than their own; if so (i) how many they are, (ii) what provinces they belong to; and (iii) in what provinces and in what numbers they are being kept;

(b) the political parties to which they belong generally;

(c) whether their cases (if they are detenues) are also liable to be reviewed once in six months;

(d) if the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, whether such reviews are being made by Central Government and with what results during the last year;

(e) if Government are aware that their health is being affected by reason of their being kept in provinces other than their own; and

(f) whether Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of re-transferring these detenues and other prisoners to their own provinces?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). I regret that it is impossible to give detailed information but as far as I am aware there is no large body of Prisoners or detenues belonging to one Province and detained in another. As regards persons detained under the orders or at the instance of the Central Government there are a few cases in which detenues have been transferred from their own Provinces for security reasons. (I am not prepared to give further details for the same reasons). There is also the case of the Members of the Congress Working Committee and the position in Delhi Province has already been explained in my reply to starred question No. 104 on 3rd November, 1944. I have no further details.

(c) Yes, of course, but, as I have explained before, the process of review is continuous and does not take place only at six monthly intervals.

(d) The Central Government reviews the cases of those detained by them. The number released in the last year was about 10.

(e) and (f). If there is any reason to believe that a Security Prisoner's health is suffering by being kept in a Province other than his own, his transfer to his own Province is, and will be, considered.

INDIAN STUDENTS STRANDED IN ENGLAND OWING TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF PASSAGE FACILITIES

710. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a Reuter's message from London, dated August 26, 1944, that a large number of Indian students who completed their studies long ago are unable to return to India owing to non-availability of passage facilities;

(b) whether he is aware that a large number of these students have qualified as first-class engineers and technicians and that their return to India now would assist the war effort as well as the plans for post-war development;

(c) whether he would take any steps to urge the British Ministry of Transport to grant the students priority in allotment of passages; and

(d) whether the High Commissioner has been in communication with Government in this matter?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is aware that there are some who have qualifications which would undoubtedly be useful.

(c) Yes. Priorities are in fact allotted to Indian students, but the number is still very restricted owing to paucity of passenger accommodation.

(d) Government is in regular correspondence with both the Secretary of State and the High Commissioner on this subject, and everything possible is being done to expedite the return of Indian students and Indian nationals generally to this country.

DISSATISFACTION OVER PROCEDURE OF ASSESSING ARECA NUT CESS

711. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if he is aware that:

(a) the Malabar Areca nut producers and dealers are discontented with the procedure adopted by Government in assessing the Areca nut cess and in collecting it;

(b) the objections he has to lower the cess in proportion to the normal price of the nuts;

(c) if he is aware that usually 25 per cent. of the stock gets spoiled during the process of preservation and if so, whether he is prepared to reduce the incidence of the cess to a corresponding degree or not;

(d) the objections he has to impose the cess in proportion to the weight of the kernel of the nut, that is, excluding the husk;

(e) if he is prepared to collect the cess from the wholesale dealers, and, if not, why not; and

(f) if he is prepared to order a departmental enquiry into the above matter and other grievances of the producers concerned as stated in their printed representation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The question presumably relates to the levy of excise duty on arecanuts. If this is so, an enquiry of the kind suggested by the Honourable Member was set on foot some time ago and the material gathered by the enquiring officers is now being studied.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IMPORT AND SALE OF GOLD

104. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether Government have imported gold since the beginning of 1944 and sold to the people of this country;

(b) how many million ounces have been so sold;

(c) at what price it was purchased and where?

(d) at what price it has been sold to the people of this country; and

(e) whether any profit has been made on these sales and to whom this profit has gone?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Government have not imported or sold gold but sales have been made by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America.

(b) I am not prepared to disclose the quantities sold.

(c) Government have no information as to where and at what price this gold was purchased by His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America.

(d) It was sold from time to time at the prevailing market price.

(e) 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.

CONCLUSIONS OF BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE

105. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- (a) the result of the Brettonwood Conference;
- (b) the conclusions of the Conference with reference to India; and
- (c) whether the conclusions of the Conference concerning India, are subject to the vote of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Members attention to my reply to Starred Question No. 79 asked by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad on the 3rd November, 1944.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, ETC., OF CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS, INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

106. **Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the War Secretary please state the conditions of service, warrant of precedence, scales of pay, order of promotion, status, etc., of the Civilian Gazetted Officers, Indian Army Ordnance Corps?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table in due course.

TREATMENT METED OUT TO CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS, INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

107. **Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that the Civilian Gazetted Officers, Indian Army Ordnance Corps, from time to time, complained to their Officers Commanding and also to the Inspecting Officers against the treatment given to them by the Military Commissioned Officers, if not, what the true fact is; and if the reply be in the affirmative the steps taken by the Central Government against the behaviour of Military Commissioned Officers; and if no steps have been taken the reasons therefor?

REMOVALS OF CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS, INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

108. **Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the War Secretary please state the number of the Civilian Gazetted Officers, Indian Army Ordnance Corps, removed from the Corps after being confirmed and during probationary period respectively and the periods served in probation?

CONFERENCES WITH ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

109. **Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

- (a) the particulars of conferences and meetings held during the preceding six months between the officers of the Central Government and the Accredited Press Correspondents awarded category (A);
- (b) the number of these attended by each Accredited Press Correspondents awarded category (A);
- (c) the particulars of the subject matter supplied to the Accredited Press Correspondents awarded category (A); and
- (d) the newspapers in which the subject matter supplied to them was published; if not published, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Twenty-five Press Conferences were held during the preceding six months i.e. May to October 1944. The purpose for which these Press Conferences were held was fully explained at each of these Conferences and it would not be possible to give details of their proceedings now.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 105.

(b) No record is kept of the number of correspondents who attended these Conferences.

(c) and (d). Government do not feel that the labour involved in the collection of the information asked for would be justified in war time.

REQUEST FOR TRIAL OF STAFF OF SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

110. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the United Provinces Government has requested the Central Government for the trial of the staff of the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway by the Special Tribunal, War Department; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the Central Government is now arranging for their trial; if not, what the fact is; and

(c) if it is a fact that they are detained under the Defence of India Act Rules since November, 1943, in Meerut District Jail; if not, what the fact is?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The United Provinces Government did at one stage suggest the trial of the accused in the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway case by Special Tribunal. This suggestion was later withdrawn.

First part of (b), No, Sir.

Second part of (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 3rd instant to unstarred question No. 28.

CONSTITUTION OF SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE SPECIAL TRIBUNAL BY WAR DEPARTMENT

111. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Special Police Establishment has been constituted by the War Department; if not, what the fact is; and

(b) if it is a fact that the Special Tribunal has been constituted by the War Department; if not, what the fact is?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). The Special Police Establishment and the Special Tribunals have been constituted by the Central Government in the War Department under Ordinance Nos. XXII and XXIX of 1943.

COLLECTION OF WAR FUND FROM RAILWAY SERVANTS BY DELHI RAILWAY POLICE

112. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that the officials of the Government Railway Police, Delhi Sub-Division have been instructed by the Central Government to collect from Railway servants funds towards Viceroy's War Fund; if not, what the fact is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No such instructions have been issued by the Central Government.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING GRANT OF OLD SCALE OF PAY

113. **Mr. K. S. Gupta:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the conditions governing the grant of old scale of pay to a Government servant;

(b) if it can be given to a Government servant who does not hold any permanent appointment anywhere under the Government; if so, what conditions such a case should fulfil for the grant of old scale of pay, etc.;

(c) if a Government servant removed from service and re-employed or re-appointed after 15th July, 1934, is entitled to old scales of pay when his removal is not due to economy campaign; and

(d) if the answer to this question is also applicable to Railway servants holding civil posts under the Crown; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). Old scales of pay are admissible to all Government servants, whether permanent or temporary, who have been in continuous Government service since 15th July 1931 and who received no warning at the time of appointment that they would be given the new rates of pay.

(c) No.

(d) Railway employees are in the same position in this matter as other Government servants.

EXTENSION OF CERTAIN RELIEF TO RAILWAY SERVANTS AND STAFF OF DELHI MUNICIPALITY

114. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Finance Department Memoranda No. F.2(52)W/44 and No. F.44(8)W/44, dated the 25th September, 1944, and 21st July, 1944, respectively and Home Department Memorandum No. 196/43-Public (c), dated the 16th May, 1944 regarding the grant of relief to Government servants are made applicable to (i) Railway servants and (ii) staff of Delhi Municipality, both Gazetted and Non-Gazetted; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: None of the concessions applies to the staff of the Delhi Municipality, who are not under the administrative control of Government. The orders of the 25th September 1944 granting war allowance have been extended to Railway servants. The orders of the 21st July 1944 regarding conveyance allowance have also been extended to certain Railway servants in Delhi; but the orders of the 16th May 1944 granting a concession in respect of journeys performed for the purpose of leave for rest and recreation have not been extended to Railway servants, as these are already eligible for free passes and other travelling concessions.

ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND STAFF OF CHAKRATA CANTONMENT BOARD

115. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the Annual Income and Expenditure of the Chakrata Cantonment Board for the past two years, along with a list of staff employed by that Board, their designation and monthly pay?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

CERTAIN EXPENDITURE FROM CHAKRATA CANTONMENT FUND

116. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to lay on the table the amounts spent from the Cantonment fund of the Chakrata Cantonment Board during the last two years on the following heads:—

- (i) Maintenance of roads in Sadar Bazar area of the Chakrata Cantonment,
- (ii) Sanitation,
- (iii) Education,
- (iv) Constructions and repairs of public drains in Sadar Bazar Area?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 6, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh on the 7th February, 1944

INDIAN EVACUEES EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENT OR GIVEN MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Statement showing the number of Evacuees employed by Government (Up to the end of January, 1944)

Names of the Provincial Governments and the Departments of the Government of India	Name of the country from which evacuated	Particulars of the evacuees employed
<i>Provincial Governments</i>		Indians
Madras	Burma	17,710
Bombay	Burma	59
Bengal	Burma	684 Up to March, 1944.
The United Provinces	Burma	2,103
The Punjab	Burma	64
Bihar	Burma	50 Up to March, 1944.
The C. P. & Berar	Burma	12
Assam	Burma	38
The N.-W. F. P.	Burma	5
Orissa	Burma	15
Sind	Burma	9
Coorg	Burma	Nil
Delhi	Burma	14
Ajmer-Merwara	Burma	Nil
Baluchistan	Burma	Nil
Total		20,763
<i>Departments of the Government of India</i>		
1. Office of the National Defence Council	Burma	Nil
2. Secretariat of the Governor General (Public)	Burma	Nil
3. Secretariat of the Governor General (Reforms)	Burma	Nil
4. Home Department	Burma	8
5. Department of I. & B.	Burma	11
6. E. A. Department	Burma	Nil
7. Political Department	Burma	17
8. Finance Department	Burma	148 Up to March, 1944.
9. Legislative Department	Burma	2
10. Commerce Department	Burma	7
11. Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	Burma	70
12. Department of Food	Burma	16
13. Department of Labour	Burma	816
14. E., H. and L. Department	Burma	25
15. Commonwealth Relations Department	Burma	35
16. Legislative Assembly Department	Burma	1
17. War Transport Department	Burma	117 Up to March, 1944.
18. Post and Air Department	Burma	137
19. Railway Department	Burma	393
20. War Department	Burma	107 Up to April, 1944.
21. Defence Department	Burma	2
22. Supply Department	Burma	581 Up to March, 1944.
23. Military Finance	Burma	43 Up to March, 1944.
Total		2,537
Under Provincial Governments		20,763
In the Departments of the Government of India		2,537
GRAND TOTAL		23,300

Statement showing the number of Indian Evacuees who are being given Maintenance Allowance by Government

Province or State	Number of Indians receiving assistance
1. Madras	37,867
2. Bombay	4,967
3. Bengal	51,000
4. United Provinces	4,000
5. Punjab	537
6. Bihar	95
7. Central Provinces	157
8. Assam	74
9. North-West Frontier Province	138
10. Orissa	7,111
11. Sind	97
12. Ajmer-Merwara	23
13. Baluchistan	Nil
14. Delhi	45
15. Coorg	Nil
16. Assam States (Manipur)	488
17. Baroda	2
18. Central India States	Nil
19. Cochin	Nil
20. Deccan and Kolhapur	Nil
21. Eastern States	Nil
22. Gwalior	4
23. Hyderabad	Nil
24. Kashmir	6
25. Madras States (Pudukkottah)	2,411
26. Mysore	Nil
27. Punjab States	2
28. Punjab Hill States	2
29. Rajputana	17
30. Travancore	17
31. Western India States	17
32. French India	17
Total	1,09,041
	or
	1,10,000
	roundly.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of unstarred question No. 88 asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy on the 1st March, 1944

BICYCLES IMPORTED INTO INDIA

(b) The desired information is furnished below :

	£	s.	d.	Rs.	a.	p.
I.—Average ex-factory price of British bicycles for sale in U. K.	4	9	0	59	5	4
II.—Average f.o.b. price of similar bicycles for export to India	4	7	0	58	0	0

NOTE.—The small difference between the prices indicated against items I and II above is mainly due to cheaper fittings on cycles meant for export to India.

(c) The Government of India are satisfied that no element of dumping is involved in the importation of bicycles into India and the question of protecting the local manufacturer does not therefore arise.

Information promised in reply to part (i) of unstarred question No. 89 asked by Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta on the 2nd March, 1944.

MEMORIAL SUBMITTED BY THE GUJRAT TOBACCO MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION, NADIAD

The reduction in the acreage under tobacco cultivation during 1943-44 as compared with the acreage in 1942-43 is estimated at about 18 per cent.

The causes of this reduction have been explained in the reply to part (h) of the question.

formation promised in reply to unstarred question No. 126 asked by Hajee Choudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan on the 13th March, 1944

NON-PAYMENT OF OFFICIATING ALLOWANCE TO CERTAIN SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Special Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway, who had elected the scales of pay of the old Travelling Ticket Examiners, were considered by the Administration to be eligible for officiating pay when employed against higher posts outside the sanctioned cadre of such old Travelling Ticket Examiners. The matter has been reconsidered and it has been decided to permit the grant of officiating pay in such cases.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 524 and 525 asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani on the 20th March, 1944

ALLEGED BRIBE TO INCOME-TAX OFFICER, GAYA

Question No. 524.—(a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, the second part in the negative, and to the third part, in the affirmative.

(b) The answer to the first two parts of the question is in the affirmative and to the third part in the negative.

(c) Mr. Lal was assured by the Commissioner of Income-tax that no criminal action could be taken against him for bribing the Income-tax Officer. This was under no particular law or rule, but with a view to detect corruption, if any existed in the Department, as regards the last part of the question, Government have seen the judgment mentioned. It is considered that the circumstances of that case were quite different.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, action under section 34 of the Income-tax Act had become barred. The answer to the third part is that the assurance given by the Commissioner of Income-tax was taken to cover all the offences admitted to have been committed by him. The last part of the question does not arise.

ALLEGED BRIBE TO INCOME-TAX OFFICER, GAYA

Question No. 525.—(a) The bribe is alleged to have been paid in consideration of the Income-tax Officer admitting certain obsolescence expenditure. In view of Section 54 I. T. Act, the particulars regarding the claim in the Income-tax return and the final assessment cannot be revealed. An appeal was filed but was not entertained as it was time-barred.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, this could be a matter for legal inference and Government cannot make a definite statement one way or the other. The answer to the third part of the question is that the Commissioner has forwarded to Government copies of Mr. Gurusharan Lal's statements.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, although the letter was placed on the file relating to the departmental enquiry, it was not treated as evidence in the case against the Income-tax Officer.

(e) No.

(f) No.

(g) No. Government do not consider such enquiry necessary.

(h) No. Government do not consider that there was any lapse on Mr. Mukerjee's part as suggested.

(i) Mr. Mukerjee's letter was dated at Dhanbad on 12th November, 1941 and must have been received by the Commissioner a day or two later. As regards the second part of the question, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to the second part of clause (d) of his question. Mr. Mukerjee was presumably not examined as a witness in regard to his letter as it was not treated as evidence.

SCHEDULED CASTES STAFF OF THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
Statement showing the communal representation including that of the Scheduled Castes in the gazetted and non-gazetted staff of the Supply Department as it stood on 1st March, 1944

Serial No.	Name of Organization	Gazetted Staff				Non-gazetted Staff							
		Hindus	Muslims	Scheduled Castes	O. M. C. Total	Remarks	Hindus	Muslims	Scheduled Castes	O. M. C. Total	Remarks		
1	Main Secretariat	14	9	..	4	27	Excludes seven Europeans.	173	71	1	16	261	
2	Directorate General, Munitions Production.	136	10	..	36	182	Excludes 361 Europeans.	8,212	1,382	88	1,278	10,960	Excludes 459 Europeans.
3	Directorate General, Supply (including Directorate General, Disposals).	172	46	3	20	241	Excludes 136 Europeans.	2,614	1,339	92	453	4,498	Excludes 539 Europeans.
4	Directorate General, Shipping and Repairs.	6	..	..	5	11	Excludes 46 Europeans.	91	9	..	58	158	
5	Directorate General, Aircraft.	2	3	..	3	8	Excludes 18 Europeans and R. A. F. Officers.	148	42	1	16	207	Excludes 5 Europeans.
6	Chief Administrative Officer (Purchase).	133	50	1	20	204	Excludes 16 Europeans.	1,790	638	12	194	2,634	
7	Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India.	12	..	..	1	13	Excludes 11 Europeans.	98	12	..	11	121	
8	Iron and Steel Controller	26	1	1	10	38	Excludes 12 Europeans.	501	10	29	38	578	
9	All Controllers of Supplies	23	5	..	12	40	Excludes two Europeans and one Armenian.	596	153	15	74	838	
Total		524	124	5	111	764		14,223	3,056	238	2,138	20,255	

Abstract

	Hindus		Muslims	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Gazetted	524	68.6	124	16.2
Non-gazetted	11,223	70.2	3,056	18.0

NOTE.—The details on account of Ordnance Factories Staff included in S. No. 2 are as on 31st March, 1944 and not 1st March, 1944.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 167 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali on the 23rd March, 1944.

NON-PAYMENT OF RANK-PAY TO CERTAIN PERSONNEL AT TRANSPORTATION TRAINING CENTRE, JULLUNDUR CANTONMENT.

Question No. 167.—(a) and (b). There was some misunderstanding on the part of eight men regarding their trade pay.

Six of these men were enrolled as Hammerman, a category which was subsequently abolished, and they were given six months in which to qualify for remustering to another trade. This they failed to do and were discharged. They all received trade pay as hammer men up to the date of their discharge.

Another man was employed on the wrong rates of trade pay as he submitted a wrong Last Pay Certificate. When the error was discovered he was unwilling to continue to serve on the correct rates of pay, so it was decided that he should be discharged and paid on the promised rates of pay up to the date of his discharge.

The case of the eighth man is still the subject of correspondence.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 617 and 619 Parts (b) and (c) asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali on the 24th March, 1944

MUSLIMS AS CAMP CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF POSTMASTER GENERAL, U. P.

Question No. 617.—(a) Yes. Eligible Muslim candidates were not available when the appointments were made.

(b) There is no separate cadre of stenographers in circle offices. Clerks employed there as stenographers continue to be borne on the clerical cadre. The Home Department orders regarding distribution of posts among the different communities at the time of recruitment do not, therefore, apply to appointment of stenographers in circle offices. The Director General, Posts & Telegraphs has, however, issued instructions to all Heads of Circles pointing out to them the necessity for avoiding preponderance of any one class or community in the group of clerks who are employed as stenographers.

APPOINTMENTS TO POSTS CARRYING ALLOWANCES IN CIRCLE POST OFFICES IN U. P.

Question No. 619.—(b) The Postmaster General has been instructed to keep the directive in view in making future appointments.

(c) There is a permanent vacancy to which a Muslim is being appointed.

Information promised in the reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 64, asked by Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait on behalf of Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon on the 3rd November, 1944

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULE VII LEASES UNDER CANTONMENT LAND ADMINISTRATION RULES.

Statement showing by Cantonments the number of applications received during the years 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, for the grant of leases in Schedule VII of the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, and the number of applications rejected.

Name of the Cantonment	Number of applications received	Year in which received	Number of applications rejected
Abbottabad	1	1941	..
Allahabad	1	1938	..
Ambala	1	1939	..
Amritsar	1	1938	1
	2	1939	..
Barrackpore	2	1941	..
Cawnpore	1	1943	..
Chakrata	1	1940	..
Jhelum	1	1938	..
Karachi	1	1940	1
	10	1941	10
	9	1942	2
	9	1944	9

Name of Cantonment	Number of applications received.	Year in which received	Number of applications rejected
Lahore	11	1938	1
	5	1939	2
	1	1940	1
	2	1941	1
	2	1942	2
	1	1943	..
	2	1944	1
Luoknow	1	1940	..
Meerut	1	1939	..
Multan	2	1938	..
Peshawar	1	1938	1
Poona	1	1939	1
Rawalpindi	2	1938	1
	1	1939	1
	5	1940	5
	3	1941	2
	2	1942	..
Sialkot	3	1938	..
Total	86		42

Information in respect of the other Cantonments is—Nil.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 76 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 3rd November, 1944

MURDERS AND OUTRAGES IN CALCUTTA ON INDIANS BY AMERICANS AND AMERICAN NEGROES.

(a) (i) 1942—Nil.

1943—Nil.

1944—3 Murderous assaults including 2 on Sikh motor drivers.

(ii) 1942—1.

1943-1944—Nil.

(iii) No damage was done to the property of the hotels.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Twice in 1944—once for four or five days and a second time for three days.

(e) Where the evidence justified it the accused were put on trial before an American Court Martial. Such proceedings are open to the public and the decision is given in open court.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 57, asked by Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, on the 14th November, 1944.

PROHIBITION OF MOVEMENT OF SODA ASH AND FULLER'S EARTH ON CERTAIN SECTIONS OF RAILWAYS.

It is not a fact that the movement of soda ash for a distance beyond two hundred miles to stations on the East Indian Railway from stations on the S. S. L. Rly. and from stations on the N. W. Rly. is prohibited.

The fact is that all movements of soda ash except those authorised by the RCRP Lahore are restricted from stations on the S. S. L. Rly. and N. W. Rly. to any station on the E. I. Rly. An exception to this order has been made in the case of imported soda ash consigned by Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., (India) (who are the sole importers) from Karachi to stations on the E. I. Rly. lying in the United Provinces. This restriction was imposed in order to eliminate uneconomical cross movements of soda ash from North West India and from Calcutta.

Fuller's earth is included in a list of articles whose movement is prohibited except under the authority of the RCRP Lahore over a distance exceeding two hundred miles when booked from stations on the N. W. Rly. This restricts the movement from stations on the N. W. Rly. to stations on the E. I. Rly. which are more than two hundred miles apart. This restriction has been imposed in pursuance of the general policy of limiting the distance of movement of such commodities which, or suitable substitutes for which, are obtainable locally.

Supplies of Fuller's earth are available on the E. I. Rly.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

ADJUDICATION INTO GRIEVANCES OF BOMBAY POSTMEN AND INFERIOR SERVANTS.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Bombay Postmen and Inferior Servants in the Department 12 Noon have given notice asking for adjudication into their grievances; (b) whether Government of India propose to take any steps to remove their grievances; and

(c) whether Government of India is prepared to grant adjudication; if not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The fact is not as stated. The Bombay Postmen's Union and the Bombay Post Office Lower Grade Staff Union have addressed the Postmaster-General, Bombay, asking for certain reliefs and giving notice under section 15 of the Trade Disputes Act.

(b) The matter is already under consideration.

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if the Karachi staff have also complained and whether their case is under consideration?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I do not know whether the question arises, but I have heard nothing from Karachi.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member will hear it soon.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government is aware that the Bombay postmen and inferior servants are likely to go on strike if no relief is given in time?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The notice which we received under section 15 of the Trade Disputes Act—and I am not in a position to say whether that notice is valid or not—indicated that the postmen and lower grade staff contemplated a strike after 15 days if certain of their demands were not considered or met.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask therefore why Government say that the question for adjudication does not arise? If they have given notice under the Trade Disputes Act and are asking for grant of adjudication, Government must take action.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Because, what may appear to some other Members an anomaly, (although notice has been given under the Trade Disputes Act), a trade dispute does not exist.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know, Sir, what is the meaning of the Honourable Member when he says that a trade dispute does not exist because the postmen and lower grade staff have a grievance against Government? They have made certain demands which Government are not granting.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: May I suggest that the Honourable Member, in order to save a little time, might take legal opinion on the point which he has raised.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I have taken part in the discussion of that Bill when it was passed in this House and I know the law very well, and I think that there is no need for me to get legal opinion. I therefore want to know from the Government of India what action they propose to take, and when.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have informed the Honourable Member, Sir, that the matter is already under consideration. If he would like some expansion of that reply, I may also inform him that the principle of arranging for sales of foodgrains at concession rates to the P. & T. staff wherever practicable has been accepted by Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know

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

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 5 p.m. on Monday, the 20th November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Food Department, only one nomination was received. As there is only one vacancy I declare Shams-ul-Ulema Kamaluddin Ahmad to be duly elected.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: The following message has been received from the Council of State :

"I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 20th November, 1944, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 13th and the 15th November, 1944, namely :

1. A Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911.
2. A Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942.
3. A Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926.
4. A 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."

RESOLUTION RE CONSTITUTION OF THE PERMANENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved by Mr. Tyson.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas; Non-Muhammadian): I sent a notice yesterday for moving a motion of no confidence against the President to which I have received a reply from the Secretary telling me that under the Legislative Rule 24(a) I have to seek the consent of the Member in charge and of the President. I find from the Rules

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot discuss my ruling. I have given my ruling. The Honourable Member must accept it.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I do not want to discuss that question. I want to say

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss that matter at all now.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I want to find out who is the Member concerned with the conduct of the President?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is the Leader of the House whose consent has to be obtained.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surima Valley cum Shillong; Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I was telling the House that if Government does not implement the recommendations made by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization we stand to gain nothing. Sir, this Organization seeks to make people of all lands free from want and for this reason they are willing to raise the standard of living of the people of our country also. It has become almost a slogan to speak of planning and raising the standard of life. Even the industrialists of England have begun to say that the political development of India can wait but the agricultural and industrial development cannot wait any longer. Sir, the industrialists of other countries have also realised that the standard of life of the people of backward countries of Asia and Africa should, in their own interest, be raised.

The Honourable the Mover of the motion has requested us to contribute our quota to the Fund of the Organization. We are glad to do it because the recommendation says that the Governments and authorities here represented immediately undertake the task of increasing the food resources and improving the diets of their people in accordance with the principles and objectives outlined in the findings of the Conference and declare to their respective peoples and to other Governments and authorities here represented their intention of so doing. Because the Government is required by this recommendation to declare to their people what steps they will be taking to raise the nutritional value of our diet and to raise the standard of life of our people, I am willing to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson. Sir, I cannot understand the principle by which the United States of America have been asked to contribute 25 per cent. and India has been required to pay 4.25 per cent. It is such a good organization and we expect very good results to follow from such a world-wide organization and India should be willing to contribute more. If the principle

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was known I would have requested my countrymen to pay more to the fund so that we could gain more in the future.

There is another point to which I wish to draw the attention of this House. A section of the Members of United Nations organisation thinks that this organisation should be deferred because of the technically qualified personnel not being available during war time. But I think that we should agree to the opinions expressed by the interim Commission that the work of this organisation should be started as soon as possible. After the cessation of hostilities a time will come when there will be a fluidity of conditions and people will be more favourable to the acceptance of sound and thorough measures for meeting the problems of agricultural improvement.

Though I believe in utility of this organisation, I do not believe in the statement made by the organisation that the freedom from want of food cannot be achieved by one country without the co-operation of the other. It may be true for the rest of the world but it is not true for India. India is a country full of vast resources and it can be made easily self-sufficient if the Government of India is efficient enough to carry out the measures. It is because of lack of imagination and efficiency of the Central Government that such a vast country like India has not been developed to its full limit. We are tired of tall talks and broken pledges of Britishers. Still we are willing to contribute to this fund in the hope that this Government will implement the recommendations and abide by the policy suggested by the United Nations organisation. It is a good sign that this organisation intends to look for rural uplift. This organisation wishes to help agriculturists by supporting them financially in their agricultural pursuit. The United Nations organisation and the Government of India are both wrong in emphasising too much the utility of the co-operative credit societies. In the whole of India, save and except in the Punjab, the co-operative credit society movement has been a complete failure. So the Organisation and the Government of India should look to other methods of financing the agriculturists. I think Joint Stock Agricultural Banks should be established for this purpose. I do not want to go into details but I say that the co-operative credit societies have not been successful because they are based on the theory vicarious atonement.

There is a suggestion for inter-provincial migration. So there has been a cry that vast lands are lying fallow in Assam and that other people from outside should go and settle there. There are 54,000 square miles in Assam of which more than 60 p. c. of the area is under the hills, only about 20,000 sq. miles are cultivable and they are necessary for the indigenous people and tribal hillmen and backward peoples. I think this Government should have other schemes, excluding Assam, for the migration of people from over-populated areas. If the emigrants think that Assam will give them a good scope, they will be completely disillusioned though a false cry has been raised by the Muslim Leaguers in Assam.

I quite agree with the suggestion of this organization that the first step towards the solution of the food problem must not wait till after the solution of all other problems. This organisation also intends to secure for agriculturist the stimulus of additional purchasing power by the development of industry. Here I must draw the attention of the Central Government to the development of cottage industries in different provinces.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Whenever these questions come before the Central Government they say that these are provincial subjects. What I want is a direction and a move from the Central Government for co-ordinating all these activities. If the Central Government is strong enough to push the programme and carry it out I do not think any Provincial Government will stand in the way because the measures that will be undertaken will be for the good of the people.

With these words I support the amendment to the motion, moved by my Honourable friend Mr. K. C. Neogy.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I tried to listen carefully to the Honorable Mr. Tyson and what I gathered from his speech was this. All quiet on the Indian Front. India's position in the international front is splendid. India's Agent-General in America is in full accord with President Roosevelt and hob-nobbing with Cordell Hull. India has done very well. India has got the Four Freedoms of the World as defined by President Roosevelt. From him I understand that India wants nothing else but "freedom from want" and that international intervention will bring it about.

Talking of international organisations, war time confabulations have brought two such. One was the UNRRA which was discussed by the Honourable the Commerce Member towards close of the last Session and the other the present one on Agriculture and Food. This last one is an inspiration from President Roosevelt and we have to consider whether it will not meet the same fate as the League of Nations, another international organisation, which was brought into existence by another democratic President of America, President Woodrow Wilson. It was the Machiavellian diplomacy of the European powers that killed the League of Nations and poor President Wilson, ailing in body and soul, died broken-hearted. We have yet to see whether President Roosevelt will succeed in his ambitious idea. The Government ought to have been considerate enough to tell us how many international organisations are to come into existence during war time, because during the last Great War there were no such schemes except the post-war one, the League of Nations which is now dead but for its associated organisation, the International Labour Organisation, which is functioning partially. We have to remember that after the war there will be a few post-war international schemes and organisations. What would be the commitments of India, both financial and economic, now and hereafter? It is better that either the Honourable the Commerce Member or the Leader of the House should take us into his confidence as to the plans which are being hatched, be it in White House or be it in Whitehall. We should know our future commitments and our future status in those international organisations.

The Honourable the Commerce Member regretted the absence of the Congress Party last time when another international organisation, the UNRRA, was being discussed in this House; he felt that our absence on that occasion when international co-operation was being discussed might be misunderstood. But it should be remembered that we recorded a silent vote. Our experience of international co-operation is of longer standing than the Honourable the Commerce Member's. Our experience of the last twenty years is very disappointing in regard to these international organisations. Yet our silent vote was wrongly mis-interpreted by the Honourable the Commerce Member and he tried to have a dig at us in our absence.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): This is the first time I hear of a 'silent vote'.

Mr. B. Das: If we had been here you would have been voted down and that is why I say that we recorded our silent vote by our absence. It does not mean that we approved of every thing that the Honourable the Commerce Member said or what Mr. Tyson said yesterday. I think my Honourable friend the Commerce Member should not have put such a question when he knows that we are followers of Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest humanitarian of the day. If these international schemes are only humanitarian schemes meant to alleviate the distress of humanity, the Honourable Member ought not to have questioned our *bona fides*. Let me here assure the United States of America that we are always willing to examine any international schemes that may come from the White House but we have to examine them critically to see whether they will not upset our trade, industry and agriculture by competition, by cartels and by subsidies, the last of which the U.S.A. has already introduced as regards its cotton exports.

Sir, I also take this opportunity to offer the sincere regret of the Indian people to America and to President Roosevelt and his Indian Ambassador Mr. Phillips. I offer the apology of the Congress Party and the people of India to

President Roosevelt, to his Ambassador Mr. Phillips and to the American people for the uncalled for insult to the Ambassador by this subordinate Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go into all that. It has nothing to do with the subject under discussion.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, we feel that India has not been given an international status in the UNRRA, since no Indian has been taken in its Executive Council. What will be India's fate in the case of this international organisation on Food and Agriculture? Will the Government of India insist that an Indian should be appointed to the Executive Committee? Why should China have a member in it and why should not India have one? Where is India's equality of status when we are all the time ruled in every small detail by Messrs. Churchill, Amery & Company? How is the Government of India independent? How is Sir G. S. Bajpai, India's Agent-General in the U.S.A., independent? Did he take his orders from Mr. Richard Law and Lord Halifax in all matters pertaining to India and her international status?

Sir, I referred to competition, cartels and subsidies. At the time of the Hot Springs Conference last year, from the little bits of news that came out in the press I developed a suspicion that this was another way of American system of cartels to restrict Indian production. Two days ago I saw a special cable in the National Call to the effect that America has given a subsidy for cotton export. Even the Manchester Guardian wrote:

"It can hardly fail to produce reactions in India and this is considered to be specially regrettable, because Indian cotton-growing industry has been greatly disturbed by the loss of its export trade with Japan."

I do not know what the Government of India have since done, since America has given a subsidy for the export of cotton. What this organisation on Food and Agriculture is aiming at is what the League of Nations attempted. The League of Nations attempted to grow more food, to remove deficiency diseases and to have better public health. It did nothing except to have a few conferences where Indian representatives conducted themselves as bond-slaves of the British Delegation. India achieved nothing in the League of Nations and the League of Nations also achieved nothing. The American mind is very shrewd and business-like and we have to examine whether this international organisation which is the product of the American brain will not try to introduce restrictions in the production of agricultural produces. As a result of the League of Nations, there has been restrictions of production of rubber, tea and coffee. Who knows what the capitalists in America will have to say now? Who knows whether the cotton kings and wheat kings of America will not do the same one day in the matter of cotton and wheat also? Of course, Britain will tacitly agree with what America may say and in consequence India's growth of food stuffs may be reduced in order to benefit the American producers.

My Honourable friend Mr. Tyson said that we have to accept this constitution and if any improvement has to be made it can be done by our representative later. India, in her present war-time involvement and, partly through her war efforts also, has gone through an unprecedented famine in Bengal, Orissa, Assam and other parts of the country, and the collaring by the British Government of India's liquid assets, the sterling balances, which has also been taken away from the people in the name of war efforts at very low costs by controlled purchases—one thousand million sterling has been collared from us and it should be really worth two thousand million sterling; and in our extreme poverty we do not know if England will ever return the money to us after the war or if England will keep it herself. So it is much better that we do not commit ourselves to heavy expenses. We can only give a token subscription. I hope my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, will see that our representative puts that point before the Council, and gets the amount reduced.

One other point to which I wish to draw the attention both of Mr. Tyson and of the Honourable the Commerce Member is this: that the literature on these international organisations and the conferences in England and elsewhere, whether it is Whitehall or White House,—very little of this literature is to be found

[Mr. B. Das.]

in our library. We find no report by the Agent General, nor do we find the instructions that were issued by the Commerce Member or the Member for Agriculture or by the Government of India as a whole. There is nothing secret about these matters and why is it that we Members are kept in the dark and the country is kept in the dark? This is an aspect of the matter which the Honourable Member will, I hope, redress, and in future we must have better literature available in the library and also to the public.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, I am not opposing the participation of India in this international Organisation; but I have given this warning to the Government of India, who have of course no separate status, and who must take their orders from Churchills and Amerys, that instead of taking their orders from these Churchills and Amerys and other diehards in England, they must see that India's future is not committed, that India's production does not get reduced and that those three powerful nations, the United States of America, Great Britain and Russia do not give subsidies to their agricultural produce in a way that will restrict production in India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, while I listened to my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson yesterday, I was somewhat surprised at his modesty, because he might easily have claimed that through this innocent looking Resolution he was seeking to extend the application of the Atlantic Charter to India. My Honourable friend has not cared to distribute among us the report of the Indian delegation to the Hot Springs Conference, but I managed to secure one of the very few copies that are available in the library, and I find that the Bajpai delegation stated in that report that due to the historical and the geographical setting of the Hot Springs Conference, the Conference tried to fit their recommendations into the frame work of the Atlantic Charter. Now, the Atlantic Charter is a very well-known document of eight clauses, and I find that clause 6 has a direct bearing upon the movement that we are now discussing. Clause 6 adopts as the ideal for the post-war world freedom from fear and want. Now, in the documents that the Honourable Member has placed at our disposal, some of which read like fairy tales to us, particularly those who come from the Eastern provinces, we find that this particular clause of the Atlantic Charter has been sought to be given an extended application by way of amplification of the objects underlying it. I want to make it quite clear that we have no objection to that part of the activity of this Organisation. But incidentally we find that another article of the Atlantic Charter, though not quite directly germane to the object of this particular Organisation, has also been sought to be given effect to. I am referring to article 4 of that joint declaration, which assures to the nations access on equal terms to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity. The House definitely understands that this item is not quite within the compass of the limited scope of the particular Organisation that we are now discussing; but we find that in the Final Act, under the head national security and achievement of an economy of abundance, the conference has made certain recommendations which go beyond the limited sphere of food and agriculture, and raise questions of tariff policies and of giving access to raw materials of the world to the different countries on an equal footing, raw materials not exclusively of the agricultural variety. Explaining the intrusion of this somewhat irrelevant matter within the scope of the work of the conference, the Bajpai delegation say in their report that though the conference had no desire to travel outside the allotted scope of its activities they had to relate their recommendations to other cognate fields of economic activity.

Now, when we remember the history of this clause in the Atlantic Charter, when we remember particularly the great hold which the international co-operationist school of America has upon the moulding of post-war policies in this

matter, we cannot but feel somewhat alarmed at the possibility of India's unexplored resources, particularly in the mineral field, being exploited by the other nations of the world.

Sir, the resolutions which are embodied in the Final Act Nos. XXIII and XXIV talk of development of uneconomic industries, the imposition of barriers to international trade, which they condemn, and they also predicate equality of access to materials and markets and again the promotion of the uninterrupted development and most advantageous use of agricultural and other material resources for the establishment of an equitable balance between agriculture and industry in the interest of all. I should like to tell the Honourable Member in charge that he should make it definitely clear, on behalf of India, that in giving our assent to the constitution of this Organisation we definitely make it clear that questions like tariff policy, or accessibility of the different countries in the world to our raw materials, must be kept outside the compass of the deliberations of this body. It is on that understanding that we should like to give our assent to the present proposal.

Let us now consider some of the recommendations to which my Honourable friend did not unfortunately make a reference. My Honourable friend tried to make out that this Organisation is concerned merely with a long term policy of agricultural development and improvement of dietary conditions. I was rather disappointed that my Honourable friend did not even make mention of the immediate objects which the conference laid down for the serious consideration of the people that were represented on it. Honourable Members will find, at pages 45 and 48, certain recommendations which are of an immediate character. Take page 45 for instance. "Improvement of National Diets"—this is the heading of one of the resolutions, and the conference makes the recommendation that Governments and authorities here represented *immediately* undertake the task of increasing the food resources and improving the diets of their people in accordance with the principles and objectives outlined in the findings of the conference. Then again, Diets of vulnerable groups are mentioned in the next recommendation. Then again a reference is made to malnutrition and disease, and thereafter we have a resolution specifically on Deficiency Diseases. The recommendation is in these terms:

"That the several governments and authorities here represented undertake immediately to ascertain the prevalence of specific deficiency diseases among their respective peoples; to deal with them by suitable dietary and therapeutic measures; to take appropriate steps to prevent their recurrence."

Dealing with these recommendations, we find that the Indian Delegation made it clear that India was not in a position to carry them out. They said that even the attainment of intermediate standards would be a formidable task for countries like China and India where, however, the formulation of such standards may be a useful guide to those engaged in production.

Now, Sir, these recommendations were definitely addressed to the Governments of the different countries represented at the conference, and the Indian Delegation said, "Well, let us pass them on to the cultivators. If the conference expects the standard of nutrition to be improved in the dietary of the people, let us ask the cultivators to go in for a larger cultivation of nutritive food". That is what the report of Indian Delegation amounts to. I should like to hear from my Honourable friend what the attitude of the Government of India in this matter is, and whether this attitude of the Indian Delegation was inspired by the Government of India.

As we have the spectacle of valuable recommendations having already been rejected by the Indian Delegation, we have another curious spectacle and that is this, that even where the Indian Delegation definitely laid down the ideal standards of the dietary for Indians, the Government of India have repudiated the Indian Delegation.

Now, in the report of the Bajpai Delegation, Honourable Members will find a note which the Delegation submitted to the conference dealing with the question of dietary, deficiency and so on. Certain calculations were given there, evidently worked out by such a high authority on the question as Dr. Aykroyd and also

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

Sir Phiroze Kharegat. Certain standards were laid down by them as the target to be aimed at, and this is what I find in the first report on the Progress of Reconstruction Planning issued by the Government of India in March last:

"The conclusions of the Indian Delegation to the Hot Springs Conference do not represent the considered views of the Government of India on the question of what targets in respect of nutrition should be accepted."

So we are in this position that we are merely asked to be a party to the setting up of this Organisation, though we see that certain very valuable recommendation made by it has been already repudiated by the Indian Delegation in the name of India. In regard to what the Indian Delegation has said in the name of India, as regards the standards of dietary that should be adopted by India, the Government of India have repudiated the Delegation. I should like to know whether the Government of India have any serious intention of carrying out the recommendations of this body. That is why I propose in my amendment that the Government should agree, here and now, to give effect to the recommendations of this important body in regard to all questions of important principle, subject of course to the approval of the Legislature. Sir, I am perfectly aware that the recommendations that have been made by this body, and that may be made in future, have no binding effect upon the countries that may participate in the conference; but then, as the Chairman of the Conference stated, each Government will be entirely free to act according to the will of its own people constitutionally expressed. It is for the purpose of giving expression to that condition that I have ventured to move this amendment, and I desire that the Government would give an assurance on the floor of this House that they are prepared to carry out the more important recommendations of this body, and that whatever action they may decide to take upon these recommendations, they will do so after consulting, and in accordance with, the wishes of the Legislature.

Mr. R. R. Gupta (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban):

Mr. President, I know that I am voicing the feelings of this side of the House when I say that we the non-official Members of this House, will always be found helping the Government and supporting the Government in every measure which they bring forward before this House and which aims at increasing the International co-operation with India. But unfortunately when the Members on this side of the House want to increase our co-operation in International fields, the Government by its actions makes it difficult for us to support such measures enthusiastically and compels us to hesitate in according our sanction and support to such measures. In the last Session, so far as I remember, the House agreed to participate in the U.N.R.R.A. scheme and the Honourable Member who is sitting here gave us a sort of understanding that he will take the House into his confidence while selecting the representative of India to represent this country in the U.N.R.R.A. Conference. But I came to know from the Press that Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai represented our country in the last Conference. It is still not known to us what happened to the request of the House and their desire expressed at that time that whenever any such measure is being discussed, India will be included in the list of the beneficiaries under the U.N.R.R.A. scheme. The fact is that I find that in any Conferences convened for the co-operation of various countries on International lines, somehow or other Government has been persistently trying to exclude this House. I do not know why it is so. It may be due either to the fact that the Government has come to realise that this House is not representative enough to be allowed importance in any International field or because the Government is finding that they are suffering one defeat after another in this House and therefore they want to belittle the position of this House in the eyes of other countries. Otherwise, there is no reason why in so many Conferences which have been held recently and in which India has participated the representation and advice of this House should have been ignored in the way in which it has been done. So far as I remember, of late more than half a dozen Conferences were convened, and I do not think in any of those Conferences the representation of this House was secured in any

fective manner. Lately, in the Conference held at Bretton Woods only the Honourable the Finance Member represented this country. I am glad he tried is best to secure interest for India but his attempt failed. So far as I remember, the reason why he failed was that the Governments of other countries realised that the representation of India will mean another seat for the British Government because India has always been represented by a Government which is responsible to British Government and the representation of this country is secured on the advice of the Secretary of State rather than on the advice of the Central Legislature in this country. Is it not in the interests of the British Government as well as in the interests of the Government of India that the Indian representative commands the confidence and support of the Indian people also? If India gets another extra seat on these International Conferences, I do not think the interests of Great Britain will be jeopardised in any way. Of course, it will mean one thing only, namely, that in that case India will secure such status in the eyes of the International people that it will be supposed to have a sort of Dominion status. I feel that it is in the interests of the Government itself that in all these International Conferences where India is to be represented, they should consult the Assembly or at least its leaders while nominating the representatives of this country. Such a process will have another advantage. My experience is that up till now whatever is being done in those conferences, India does not get full advantage of those schemes for the simple reason that the Government is not interested that this country should participate in those Conferences for good of people of this country. Our Government does not want to take advantage of expert advice and the various schemes prepared by these Conferences because, if they do so, they have to tackle the welfare problems of India more seriously than what they have been doing hitherto. Therefore, I submit that the Government must assure us that they will secure the support of this House in selecting the representatives of India for such Conferences. Also, as Mr. Neogy's amendment demands, they should keep the House fully informed about the actions which the Government may decide to take in support of the decisions of these Conferences. So far as I am personally concerned, I feel that in this particular field it will be very difficult for India to take any advantage for the simple reason that agriculture in all the countries varies in its characteristics and in its method of production and also its effects on the people. In almost all other countries, except a few Asiatic countries, agriculture is not that sort of back-war profession as it is in India. In other countries, mechanised methods are adopted for increasing the productive capacity of the earth, whereas in India the agriculture is still carried on on the same old primitive basis. Small holdings are scattered all over India. The method of production is still by means of manual labour. Therefore, it is nothing but natural that while other countries are in a position to sell their agricultural products cheaper, our problem is to secure higher prices for our producers. This one example is enough. My point is that in several respects the method of procurement, production and distribution differs from place to place. But we can still derive one advantage, namely, that we will have expert knowledge. Our representatives who go to these Conferences will know the methods adopted by other countries in making the agricultural occupation more scientific, more humane and more productive and in securing the required quantity of food for their people. But, Sir, that advantage can be utilised for the benefit of this

I P.M.

country only if the representative who represents India is a man who can grasp the knowledge and is in a position to force the Government here in India to utilise that knowledge. I submit, Sir, with the type of official members who have been representing this country at these conferences, we cannot get that advantage at all. With these words, I support the amendment moved by Mr. Neogy.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise to support the motion for the acceptance of the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. At the same time, I wish to state certain things. The first question which I am going to touch

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

will be addressed to this international organisation itself, and I hope that some method will be adopted by the Government whereby certain suggestions made from this side of the House would be conveyed to this international organisation. The other remarks which I am going to address will be directed to the Government of India. Sir, we are not isolationists and there is no desire in this country that we should cut ourselves away from international co-operation with other countries with a view to promote the welfare of humanity. At the same time, we suggest that there should be some method for this international organisation to look into and examine the credentials of governments which apply for membership of such committees. I would like this international organisation for Food and Agriculture to examine the credentials of the Government of India before the Government of India is admitted to the membership of this organisation. They must look at the past record of the Government of India as to what they have done for the development of agriculture in this country. They must see the facts of the situation as they are in this country. What is the situation here in this country? We have famines which have been recurring from time to time. We have a sort of chronic malnutrition, and day after day we read reports in newspapers that very large number of destitutes swarm into Calcutta from the outlying villages of Bengal and die on the pavements of the premier city of the Indian Empire. This is a scandalous state of affairs indeed. If we look at the other achievements of the Government of India, we find that the condition of the rural population is really very appalling indeed. There is absolute illiteracy, and no satisfactory arrangements have been made for educating the rural masses, for teaching them how to develop the science of agriculture, how to produce more out of the soil, how to employ better methods in order to raise more of such products from the soil on which they entirely depend for their livelihood.

Then, Sir, if we are to look at the arrangements which have been made for medical relief of this agricultural population, we find that the arrangements are really of the most primitive type, and that at the present time, there are hundreds and thousands of people in the country-side, in the rural areas, engaged in the production of food—which is an absolute vital necessary for the existence of our people, who are literally dying out of sheer absence of requisite medical aid. There are not enough hospitals scattered over the rural areas, medicine is not available for the protection of these people. Then, if we further examine the situation, we find that millions and millions of agricultural labourers and tenants in this country,—in spite of the fact that the Government of India claim to sit in terms of equality with the representatives of other advanced nations, millions and millions of agricultural labourers and tenants in this country are no better than serfs, and there are millions of people who cannot get one square meal a day.

Then, Sir, while the Government of India has been very solicitous to bring before us Laws and to promulgate Ordinances as to how much should be charged for the tailoring of a suit, how much should be charged for a coat and so on, what is their record in overhauling and modernising the system of land tenure in this country? While you take ample care to the minutest detail as to how much should be charged for this item or for that item in matters trivial, in the case of the most important industry in this country, namely agriculture, you have allowed the system of landlordism to grow and develop unchecked, and you have allowed a certain class of people to play with food—on which the masses depend for their very existence. What have you done in this respect? Great experiments have been tried in western countries and vast improvements made by enlightened governments of other countries to check the rapacity of the landlords, but the Government of India, which has got a soft corner for such people out of political considerations, because they happen to be the most conservative element in this country, because they always stand out with the Government of India against those who fight for freedom, purely for political considerations, the Government of India have allowed these people to remain in their old position, to acquire more power,

and has thereby permitted a limited class of selfish people to play with the lives of the masses.

Another thing about which I wish to warn the Government is this: that while we are prepared to co-operate with the other nations in the matter of exchange of scientific knowledge in the matter of the improvement of production, better production, more intensive agriculture, and all the rest of it, at the same time our bitter experience has been that it has become the fashion amongst western countries to look upon India as a country which will go on producing raw materials at a very cheap rate,—for feeding the industrial plants of the west, so that these people can manufacture and with the aid of a spineless Government here dump their goods into this country and kill our industries,—the welfare of which we all have at heart. Great care must be taken. Even now when the war is on, and when the price of agricultural products is soaring high in other countries, the Government of India has allowed foreign governments to buy cheap in our markets and has sacrificed the interests of our kisans, the primary producers of agricultural products. Sir, we must make our position clear, that in a fast changing world, in a world where communications are liable to be cut off at any moment, our object is very clear one. We stand for self sufficiency in the matter of food for our nation, we stand for self sufficiency in the matter of industrialisation for our nation; we want to use all the surplus produce from the land for setting up industries in this country, so that we do not have to be mere hewers of wood and drawers of water that we are. This is the intention of the western countries. We are willing to co-operate with other countries in the world, as far as improvement of agriculture is concerned, but at the same time, we must make it clear that we want to establish vital industries in this country. At the same time, it is our aim that the benefits from these industries should not go to certain enterprising but selfish individuals. These industries should be so developed and owned that the benefit should go to the people of this country. This is the object we aim at. Therefore we are not going to permit the Government of India to co-operate on terms which will make it possible for outside people to take our raw produce so that the industrialists of the United Nations, the industrialists in Great Britain and other advanced countries of the west flourish at our expense. I said at the outset that we are not isolationists. But we have been warned by the manner in which we have been treated in other international gatherings. We have found that the Government of India has been absolutely helpless to look after the interests of our people.

Sir, we are supposed to be at war out of our own free will,—at least that is what is given out to the world,—against the Fascist powers; and we are considered to be one of the United Nations who are fighting for democracy. But we know that while we are supposed to be fighting for democracy, while we are invited to international gatherings where interesting lectures are delivered about the world being made safe for democracy, what is the kind of democracy that we have in this country? Here we have an autocratic Government, irresponsible to the people, defeated day in and day out, and yet it is in office and we are helpless. If we rebel we are called rebels; if we defeat them by constitutional methods they are allowed to carry on merrily. Similarly India was let down in the matter of the Atlantic Charter, and now we are told that we must co-operate with this international conference because this conference will mean freedom from hunger. But I want to make sure, and I want the Government of India to make sure, that this freedom from hunger will not be restricted to the western nations, that it will really mean freedom from want and freedom from hunger for the toiling millions of this country. We were asked to join the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation,—a very high-sounding name,—and probably we will soon be asked to make a very big contribution towards the budget of that organisation. But while that organisation is so anxious and solicitous to see that the people of the countries in Europe which have been overrun by the Fascist powers are fed properly and reinstated in their old condition, may I ask what these united nations were doing when behind the firing line millions of my countrymen

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died in Bengal through sheer starvation, and food could not be taken to them because of the incapacity and utter bankruptcy of statesmanship which was shown by the Government in power in this country. Sir, I want to make sure that freedom from hunger will really mean freedom from hunger for the people of India and not only for the chosen Anglo-Saxon race in England and the United States, because that is the sort of idea which these people have when they talk of freedom from hunger. We want freedom from hunger not to share the fate of our fight for democracy, which means democracy for the west and slavery and serfdom for the 400 million people of this country. Sir, the Government of India will probably come forward with a demand that we should make a contribution to this organisation as well. I know we are told that we must accept the constitution as it is, that we cannot amend it and we must take it or leave it; we understand all that perfectly well. But if the Government of India were a Government responsible to the people, we would have waived our objection and would not have demanded that whatever amount we have to subscribe to the budget of this international organisation should be subject to the vote of the Legislature. But constituted as it is, we demand from the Government of India that for whatever contributions we have to make to this international organisation for food and agricultural products, the Government of India must come before this House and demand a vote of approval, before they begin to squander our money on international organisations. We will then be in a position to judge whether this organisation is doing something really good and useful, and that by contributing something we will have better production, more area under crops, more fertilisers and that people will be absolutely free from hunger.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I am finishing, Sir.

Sir, with these warnings and with the request that the criticism and observations made by the Opposition should be conveyed to this organisation and that the international organisation should be particularly asked to examine the credentials of this Government, whether it is a civilised Government and can therefore be entitled to sit in terms of equality with other nations, I support the motion.

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, Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (One of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Honourable the Mover of the motion gave us a very rosy picture of what happened in the Conference at Hot Springs. He has given the information that our Agent General represented India at the Conference and India was one of the 44 or 45 nations. It is very gratifying to hear all that on the floor of this House, particularly so in the case of India because it satisfies the vanity of our people who are dependent and who somehow want to become independent and be counted as one of the nations of the world. But, I think, after my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, has picked the bubble, my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson must look back and think what undertaking he should give in order to convince the Honourable Members like Mr. Neogy.

Sir, I must confess that I have no access to any other report, such as, the report of the Agent-General, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, except this report given to us. When I read this Report I suspected that there was some fly in the ointment. It is only natural that I first referred to the portion relating to percentage of contribution to this Organization. I found that 25 per cent. of the contribution will go to the United States of America, 15 per cent. to England. Next comes Russia—with its vast agricultural area from Moscow to Samarkand and from Kiev to Vladivostok and with its population of 17 crores—only 8 per cent. Then comes China, which has to feed 44 crores—

only 6 per cent. India comes next and its share is 4.25 per cent. and yet it is perhaps the only agricultural country in the British Empire with such vast agricultural lands and its teeming population. One would naturally ask the question, what is behind this scheme? It is generally known and apprehended that these countries—England and the United States of America—want to capture markets like India in the post-war period. In so far as this Organization is concerned, America has some claim to be called an agricultural country, but what claim has England to be counted as one of the agricultural countries? What do they produce except perhaps manufacturing some pearl barley and Vitamin tablets, and such other things? Or, is it a charity to the world or to Empire countries? Why should England pay 15 per cent.? If there was anything real in the Conference, India, China and Russia, should have been asked to pay perhaps more than half. Therefore, I say, what is it, if not to exploit, as my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has said, countries like India and to capture our markets and raw materials? There is certainly something behind it. Anyone would suspect that. I think the entire Organization should be ours. England should have a very insignificant place in it. The House has a right to get from the Honourable Member a definite statement and undertaking that India will join the Organization only for the good of its own people. We want this because we suspect that there is something behind this move. Perhaps, say, there will come a programme for co-operative farming, and thus a necessity will be created for thousands of tractors of which India has none. They will be offered to us, and all this is besides our raw materials to be exploited as my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, has said. Then again, say, artificial fertilizers, which India does not produce and for which India possesses no machinery, may be recommended and these may be readily exported from England because food production must go on. There may be many things on those lines that England may, in the post-war period, produce and sell such products to this country. So, the undertaking should be definite and it should be given on the floor of this House that there is no such idea behind this organization, and if we are to accept any such idea or proposal involving exploitation ever comes up, India will be entitled to revolt and cease to remain a member. This is the economic aspect of the question.

There is another aspect—the constitutional aspect—and the Government of India must go into it carefully. Government is going to get our recommendation to accept the Constitution of this Organization. What will be the good if it proves to be only a pamphleteering organization, a 'tract' society—like the Christian Tract Society of Madras—so far as India is concerned? Some tracts will come; some instructions will come and some expert advice that will be issued from the Central Organisation. They will probably be translated into all the Vernaculars and sent out from Delhi so that the agriculturists in provinces may read. What else can it be if a Centre has to struggle with so many autonomous Provinces? You must here again give us a definite statement and undertaking that this present arrangement of Centre and Provinces must change so far at least as agriculture is concerned. But if it remains, that is, if provinces remain autonomous in their activity, as they are now, then before coming here, the Government of India must have been assured of entire provincial support. But as in the case of the Hindu Succession, so in the case of this food production, we are beginning at the wrong end. How can you put this food scheme into operation? There is your land system. Can you do anything here in the Centre with regard to the land system? There is the flood problem. But the rivers are not only provincial, but inter-provincial. Then there is also the standard consumption for all people of India. Here in India, Orissa with its 13 ounces of consumption of foodgrains per head per day is a surplus province and Bengal with 19 ounces foodgrain consumption is a deficit province; and there are the Central Provinces whose consumption is 30 ounces per head per day. How can you equalize? How can you come to an equitable standard for all? You cannot do it here in the Centre. Though you have taken advantage of some amendment in the Constitution Act in solving Food problem, still Orissa is there with its 13 ounces and the Central Provinces with their 30 ounces. Yet in solving the food problem any how,

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

on account of the war time emergency, you have made provinces agree to your direction and control, only temporarily though it be, by some statutory provision. We should like to know whether there will be any such statutory provision on a permanent basis in the case of food production and agriculture. This question you will have to answer, for this is a subject which is provincial. In such questions you cannot do anything without statutory powers of direction and control in the provincial field. I shall give you an instance.

The Government of India is out to provide for the Grow More Food campaign. Crores are being spent on it. What is being done? If we ask questions here, in reply we are given some statistics, of lakhs of acres more under cultivation. But the high price is there. It has gone up by 300 per cent. and you know that every cultivator under these conditions will scratch and plough even the sandy river beds and grazing slopes of hills. If you calculate all this and tell us that there is a great increase, we are really helpless. But the fact is not as you say. I know how these things are working in the provinces. I speak from experience. The money is simply squandered, and wasted. In one case the seed was to be distributed. The workers of course had been appointed. However fine paddy for seed, made into rice, was sold in the market and the profits were divided between the cultivator and the worker. This is what is being done everywhere. It is not a rare case in my province. If this be the arrangement, then what is the good of asking us to accept this? Shall we only read pamphlets in our vernacular? What else shall we do with this acceptance? I request the Honourable Member, therefore, to give us an undertaking. Either the Provinces should be by statute made to agree to the control and direction of the Centre in matters relating to agriculture or that the Government will be more unitary in the next constitution than it has been.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: So I wish to make these two points—one the economic and the other the constitutional. But I know the whole House is going to support the motion as it is here and now and I cannot oppose it.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan): Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Chairman, I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution that this House approves of the constitution of the permanent food and agricultural organisation of the United Nations. I feel sure that India, both as a member of the International world and in its own interest should join this international organisation. It is a wrong thing for us to create or build up a wall around us and believe that we have nothing to do with the outside world. Although we may like to remain enclosed within our walls, the world is not going to allow us to do that. They will break through the wall and if we will not co-operate with the world they will secure our co-operation by force. I will appeal, both in the interests of the good of the world as well as in our own interest that we should join this organisation.

The object of this organisation is to secure international co-operation in the matter of production, consumption and distribution of food. I feel that India is likely to gain a great deal if it co-operates with this organisation. We have been discussing the problems of food in all its aspects in this Session, and it is clear to us that we have to make a great deal of progress both as regards the production of food as well as its distribution. We are quite willing to consume whatever we produce but our system of production is faulty: we are not producing half as much from our land as other people are producing. Our distribution of food is also faulty as we have seen for the last two years. I therefore feel that we shall gain a great deal if we join this organisation and we shall also help the people in other parts of the world. It is necessary, even in our own interest, if our work is to be done efficiently, if our agriculture is to prosper, that we should join in this experiment of pooling together the knowledge of all countries on this subject of agriculture. Similarly, we should

do everything to co-operate with the other parts of the world in securing the efficiency of production, distribution and consumption in agriculture.

Sir, I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, that the Government of India should not join merely formally this organisation, send delegations there, and afterwards not give effect to the recommendations and resolutions and decisions of these bodies. Sir, I have taken some part in some of the international conference (labour conferences) and my experience is that our delegations go to these conferences and when they come home and the decisions are considered, generally they plead that India is a backward country and the decisions cannot be given effect to. My suggestion to the Government of India is that henceforth they should give up this inferiority complex and give up telling not only us here but the international world that India is a backward country and India cannot give effect to the decisions of these international bodies. India may have been a backward country but India is not willing to be a backward country. Therefore I would like the Government of India to come to a decision that India is no longer to be a backward country and if Indian delegations going to foreign countries should hereafter feel that they belong to a backward country and therefore the international conference decisions cannot be accepted by India, I am sure this House will not approve of Government's action, because we are not willing to remain a backward country, whatever may be the view of the Government of India. Let us therefore join this organisation but let us also make up our mind that we shall co-operate with the world by giving effect to the decisions of these conferences. Whatever may have been our deficiencies in the past, we are not willing to allow these deficiencies to remain any longer.

I am glad, Sir, that the Constitution provides for the setting up of regional organisations and regional conferences also. The world is a big world and although I am in favour of Indian delegations taking part in international conferences, I have no doubt that there are special problems which must be considered regionally, because all these problems do not arise in the same way in all parts of the world. Therefore I feel that the Government of India should promote through their own delegations the establishment of regional organisations and regional conferences. Many times in the Labour Conferences we have found that our delegations did not take part and did not feel interested in some of the subjects, because they felt that some of the problems discussed did not affect our conditions in Asia. Sir, personally, I feel there are very few subjects which are not common to all parts of the world but I also admit that there are some subjects, in which the Asiatic countries can have a special conference and discuss their special problems. I therefore suggest to the Government of India that they should, in order that India should get the utmost advantage out of this organisation, try to secure the establishment of regional organisations and also from now on work to see that these regional conferences are held, whether the war ends or not early. Last year's International Labour Conference has decided to hold a Regional Labour Conference and I am perfectly in agreement with that idea. The Government of India also should see from now on that such regional conferences are held and also a regional organisation established. I also suggest to the Government of India, on the analogy of the International Labour Organisation, that they should see that an office of that organisation is established in India. We have an office of the International Labour Organisation in New Delhi and I have no doubt that that office is doing a very useful work in spreading the knowledge of the International Labour Organisation among the people of this country. So I also suggest to the Government of India that they should take steps to see that this international organisation sets up an office in India.

When I spoke last time on this subject, the UNRRA organisation, I suggested to the Government of India that they should from now on be vigilant and see that India's representatives are appointed on the staff of these organisations. If the Government of India, as usual, is late, all the important posts will be filled in by the nationals of other countries. To my great regret, Sir, when the International Labour Organisation was started and also when the League of Nations was started, our Government was found sleeping. For

[Mr. N. M. Joshi:] several years they made no effort at all to see that Indians were appointed on both the staff of the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation. I do not want the Government of India to be sleeping now. When I made enquiries at that time as to why Indians were not appointed in important posts, I was told that all the posts were filled and whatever posts were to be filled were small and unimportant posts. I do not want that to happen again. If India is going to join this organisation from the very beginning, I would like the Government of India to see that Indians get important posts in this organisation.

One word more. When I spoke last time I also spoke about the delegations and while I am speaking on this matter, I would like my colleagues in this Assembly not to misunderstand me. I had suggested last time that the personnel of these delegations should be entirely Indian and let me make it quite clear that I am not speaking this from a racial point of view. I am not anti-British but I have found by experience that when an Indian-delegation includes Europeans a misunderstanding is created in the minds of the representatives of other countries. They feel that although there may be one Britisher, that Britisher is appointed there to dominate the whole delegation. That is the misunderstanding that is created in the minds of other nationals. I therefore suggest to the Government of India that when they appoint delegations, such delegations should entirely consist of Indians and not give any justification for the representatives of other countries to misunderstand us.

These are the suggestions which I wanted to make on this subject and I hope the Government of India will take note of them. I feel that if my suggestions are accepted by the Government of India and if we take part in this organisation whole-heartedly, India will gain a great deal by joining this organisation. Sir, I support the Resolution that we do approve of the constitution and regulations of this organisation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this motion subject to the amendment that I have suggested. I am glad to learn that my amendment is acceptable to the Government also.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Which amendment?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The amendment which was moved yesterday: to the effect that this House trusts that this body will work in the interests of peasants no less than those of the consumers. The Congress Party extends its support to this motion not without any misgivings. It is because the Indian National Congress and all patriots in this country are anxious not to be isolated from the rest of the world and also are anxious to be in the centre of all international gatherings and international discussions that we are willing to accord our support to this motion. But, at the same time, we cannot be blind to certain facts. When the Bretton Woods Conference was held and the World Monetary Organisation was brought into existence, India was denied her rightful place on the Executive Committee mostly because India happened to be a member of this blessed British Empire. And we have had bitter experience of our part in the League of Nations as well as the International Labour Conference. It was not possible for India to pull her full weight in those organisations because of the subject condition in which she finds herself. Where is the guarantee that when this world food and agricultural organisation is brought into existence, India will be accorded the place she deserves because of her production, because of her numbers and of her ability also to consume food that is produced in India as well as in the rest of the world? Especially so long as this Government continues, we feel that there can be no guarantee whatever for India achieving her rightful place in this organisation.

Then, if we look into the history or the genesis of this conference—the Hot Springs Conference—and its organisation and its proposed constitution, you will find it was not conceived primarily in the interests of the producers. My

honourable friend Mr. Joshi was so very keen that this organisation should really be as much interested in the consumers as in the producers

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Not only for producers, but for all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But when my Honourable friend was supporting the International Labour Office, he did not make much of an attempt to come to this House and say that the International Labour Office should work not only in the interests of labour but also in the interests of the employers

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is for labour.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes; quite right; I want an organisation like this, not for any other interests in this world but for the sake of the producers to start with. If this organisation, as we find it today, was not conceived of primarily or solely in the interests of the producers, I charge this Government of India for its failure in having brought into existence a world organisation which will be solely interested in the welfare of the producers. It is the fault of this Government that it has not taken any initiative in regard to this international question. It was because President Roosevelt thought of the food needs of his people and Mr. Churchill agreed with him, and also because he also thought of the food needs of his people in England, that this Hot Springs Conference was convened. It was up to the Government of India which can really claim to have biggest research organisation so far as agriculture is concerned in all these so-called colonial countries—the African countries and this country and China—although I am not satisfied with the effort they have so far made; it was the duty of this Government to have taken the initiative and convened a conference of all those who were interested in agriculture and in agricultural production and to have tried to bring into existence a world organisation of agricultural producers. But this Government has failed.

I am not sorry that anyhow it has gone to the Hot Springs Conference. We must go into these international conferences for this reason, not so much because we hope to gain as great a place as we deserve, but because we must be there in order to see what game the others are up to. We know that so far as this conference was concerned it was not convened in the interests of producers; it was convened in the interests of the consumers. Let not my friends begin to feel that they were thinking of the consumers in this country, that these people, Churchill and Roosevelt, were thinking of the hundreds of millions of consumers of India or of China. No. They were thinking of the consumers in the industrial countries of the west—America and the European countries; and they know very well that their people were not in a position to produce as much and as many agricultural products as are needed for the maintenance of their industrial system: they want cotton, they want rayon; they want jute and so many other things also which are essential for the continuation, and for the prosperity of their industrial system in those countries. They want to assure themselves of cheaper supplies of these commodities; they have been getting cheaper supplies of all these things. The terms of trade have always gone against these agricultural countries when compared with industrial countries. Industrial countries have been able to monopolise and dominate the world markets and dictate what prices should be paid for their industrial goods by the agricultural peoples, and what low prices should be paid to the produce of these agricultural countries. They want to continue this exploitation even after the war. They know that as a matter of fact most of these agricultural countries have grown out of the stage of debtor countries and have now almost become creditor countries. India has become a creditor country to England; so is the case with Argentina, Brazil, Mexico; and therefore they are afraid that once the war is over these newly begotten creditor countries in the agricultural parts of the world may be able to combine among themselves and begin to dictate their own terms of trade and begin to have their own commodity pools and decide what prices should be paid for their commodities as opposed to the prices that are being charged for industrial goods. Therefore it was in the interests of the western powers that this conference was conceived of and they

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

wanted to have this organisation in order to prevent any sort of development on the part of all these agricultural peoples and agricultural countries and their agricultural producers to demand that decent and reasonable prices should be paid for their commodities in exchange for their industrial commodities. It is in the interests of this country to see that this sort of game of the western countries is not allowed, is not permitted.

We know that we will be a party to this conference. We were a party to this conference and we will be a party to this constitution, but at the same time let us remember that we cannot commit ourselves to this we cannot agree—we cannot go the whole way with my Honourable friends, Mr. Neogy and Mr. Joshi, when they say that the most important recommendations of this conference should necessarily be accepted by the Government of India. We hope that very soon this Government may be replaced by a more agreeable and a more acceptable and a more representative Government, and we want that Government to be able to stand up for the rights of our agricultural producers. We do not want to tie them down by their hands and feet and say "Look here; whatever may be decided upon in that conference you must agree to accept and ratify their recommendations." Beware; that conference was not conceived in our interests and that organisation is not likely to work for the interests of the producers only.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I have said that these recommendations may be approved by the Legislature: that is what my amendment says.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I see your point, but I cannot agree and for this reason. When we get a responsible Government here, there is no need for us to tell that responsible Government that they should consult the Legislature. It is bound to consult its Legislature and it will consult its Legislature. It will not be like this Government going about in a shameless manner without coming to this Legislature, doing everything stealthily, doing things somewhat in this fashion—sleeping all along and somebody wakes up all of a sudden and writes something to the effect that under such and such regulation or sub-clause of a regulation or under the Defence of India Act something must be done, and things like that. That is why I say that that amendment need not be accepted.

Then, I come to the other point. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi was suggesting that regional conferences should be organised. I agree with him. I would go further and suggest that this Government should take immediate initiative and immediate action to convene a conference of these agricultural producers' countries and bringing into existence a definite organisation to work for the benefit of all these agricultural peoples as apart from this sort of cosmopolitan organisation that is going to be brought into existence. This will not hearten or satisfy our agriculturists; we know it is intended solely for the benefit of the industrial countries, and we want a separate organisation for them. The sooner the Government of India acts in this direction the better it will be for the people of this country as well as for itself.

Then, Sir, there is the question of delegation. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi wants Indian personnel. I quite agree but does it go far enough. It may be Indian personnel but what are the instructions to be given to it. This Government sent Sir G. S. Bajpai to Ceylon and Burma and what sort of an agreement did he bring us? My Honourable friend was saying that we should be very happy to have a distinguished Indian of this kind as the Chairman. We want our Indian personnel to go out with a clear instrument of instructions as to what particular class of people are to be served, in what manner they are to be served and to what extent the Government of India is prepared to back their activities in the Conference. Therefore, the most important thing is the instrument of instructions and in regard to that I suggest to this Government of India that whenever these conferences are going to be held, the Government of India should come to this Legislature in advance of their Session and consult

this Legislature as to the instrument of instructions that ought to be given to their delegation.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): It is not in your amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If I put all that in my amendment, I do not know whether my Honourable friend will be willing to support it.

We know that industrial countries put a sort of veneer of their love of science, progress and advancement, whenever they think of doing anything for their own interests. They were framing the Atlantic Charter, while they were really thinking of getting access to all the raw materials in all these Colonial countries without any sort of hindrance at the end of the war. Are we going to place ourselves at the disposal of these eagles and wolves of the West? Are we going to allow our raw produce to be taken away at prices which are below world's price parity? Are we going to allow this to be done, as has happened in the case of jute? Certainly not. We must insist on examining every proposal that comes from the West with special care. What did they do in regard to cotton? Lancashire wanted cotton. They wanted India to grow cotton so that Lancashire may be benefited, and American cotton may be got by England on their own terms. Therefore Lancashire sent down some experts at that time. There is no cotton grown in England and so they brought some experts from America and they made certain experiments in India. That was nearly 90 years ago. They failed. During the last war the Central Cotton Committee was appointed. Later on the permanent committee came to be established as a permanent body. In whose interest? In the interest of Lancashire, because Lancashire was in need of long staple cotton.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore they appear as great lovers of science. For whose benefit? For the benefit of the West. They want better nutrition for the Western people, more food for the Western people, full employment for the Western people and they also want for their own people the scientific organisation of agriculture, co-operative cultivation, better agricultural production and so on, all for the sake of getting cheaper and cheaper supply of our agricultural raw produce. I have no objection to our country taking the fullest advantage of science, so that our own people may have more to eat, more efficient production, better prices for their produce and decent wages for our agricultural workers. Our aim should be to do all we can to better the lot of our 380 millions of people. It is not mere selfishness or parochialism to think in these terms. These 380 millions of people can form a world problem. Nobody need be ashamed if he thinks in terms of these 380 millions of people. Therefore I associate myself and my Party with this motion subject to that amendment and subject also to the fears and reservations I have expressed and also to what was said by Mr. B. Das and Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I must assure the Chair that I had no intention of speaking on this Resolution but I rose to speak on account of the reasons which I am going to give you. I was given to understand that this is one of the international *tamashas* which achieve nothing. On the other side, many Members got up to speak and they said 'we accept the constitution'. On one side we have precedents where these international organisations have done us harm. I was therefore wondering why most of these Members accept this constitution. When I went into the reasons, I found that what they said was this: What shall we get from this unless and until we have our own Government,—not a Government which will only act under the orders of the British Government? They were thinking of these famines and other things and saying that this Government has not given us any help.

As regards the first point, take the question of the League of Nations which was started to avoid all wars. It is an organisation to which some of the representatives of India were also sent. What happened? The League has gone

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

phat. At the Treaty of Versailles, Germany got disappointed and dissatisfied and it left the League of Nations. Then other nations left until the League was nowhere. Such an international organisation did not bring any good. Rather the good is that these wars have come up. These countries are not being deterred by other nations; on the contrary; all these other nations get into it. The British Government also wants to get us into it. The result of such a war is what everybody knows. What horrible misfortunes we have been suffering on account of this war. We have no food and there is rationing and we know its effects. Then, we know what ravages the famine did in Bengal and how have the people died there. If the other nations can do any good to India and with that object this Constitution is going to be accepted, may I ask what have they done in the present situation of this country? Have any nations come forward to say that as India is suffering from famine, they will come forward and help us? No. When they have shown no sympathy with us, how are we going to accept this constitution? Our present Government is, of course, under the orders of the British Government and is not independent at all. They themselves say that their masters are the British people and the British Government. That being the case, if any international organisation decides to take certain steps for the welfare of agriculture or industry, what will the British Government think? Whatever the British Government has done for us up to this time, we all know. And they cannot do anything for us because their interests are at stake. Will they give up all this exploitation? Of course, it is the Divine hand that has made them undergo all these misfortunes on account of this war, but they still wish to exploit India. Have we got the least independence in joining an international organisation? None. Therefore, it is better that we should not join any such organisation. But they have not given us any hope there either. Professor Ranga was very eloquent in saying that we are going to get independence and we are going to get our national Government. First of all, you have to bring out these people from the jail.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You will also help us to get them out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: You will get them on the day of resurrection. Therefore, I submit that if the majority is for the acceptance of such an international organisation, they will succeed and our opinion may also go with them. After all, the majority can consider these things better than the minority. At any rate, we must have some safeguards. And what are the safeguards that you are going to have under this constitution? We have seen that the habit of this Government is to bring Resolutions such as, the present situation in India be considered or the food situation in India be considered. Now, what is the present Resolution? I heard the Honourable Mover of this motion say that he did not care whether this House accepts this constitution or not.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I should like to make it perfectly clear that that was not the intention of my remark.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then, what did the Honourable Member say?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I said that we cannot from this House alter the constitution. We can approve the constitution and join the Organisation. But if we do not like the constitution, then all we can do is to stay out. That is what I said.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Anyway, it is quite plain that we have got to say that a certain constitution that was made at the Hot Springs Conference should be accepted or not accepted by this House. Now, were we a party to that conference? If we were, were we represented there in a democratic manner? No. It is again the British Government that was there and they will be the first person to accept this Resolution. After all is said and done, I can only say this that it is nothing but international fund that is going on in this House. Considering both sides, I have come to the conclusion that, after all, we have

ffered very much at the hands of the British Government and their subordinate Government here. Let us try them once more. If they can change their mentality and get up and say: "We are, after all, the representatives of the people of India and we will become now stronger than what we have been in the past, and we will make it clear to the British Government that they can no more trifle with the people of India",—if they get that courage, they can do a lot for this country.

Then, Sir, we have got two amendments to this Resolution. One is by Prof. Ranga and the other by Mr. Neogy. They say that whatever this international organisation does, their recommendations should be subject to the vote of this House. We agree with these amendments.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I support the Resolution in principle, but I would like to draw the attention of the House to the particular amendment which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy and which is the real crux of the whole question. Without that amendment, practically we do not acquire that status which will enable us to be a party to the organisation which is there and for which this Resolution has been moved. I need not read the amendment but would read the Conference's Chairman's recommendation which says:

"We are telling our respective Governments that they should be entirely free to use their will through their own people as constitutionally expressed."

For the working of this Resolution this is absolutely necessary.

The other point which I have to bring out is this: what is this Conference? It came into existence after the Atlantic Charter and the impression was given that this international organisation was to implement the important clauses of that Charter. We find clauses 4 and 6 are definitely included, and the fifth clause is only incidentally mentioned. I need not read at length these clauses because they were very ably dealt with by Mr. Neogy. I do not want to weary the House by repeating the same. The most significant omission is the omission of clause 3 of that Charter to which no reference has been made in the conference and no indication was given whether it was proposed to implement that clause or not. Clause 3 of the Atlantic Charter says: they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them. This is definite and clear in its own significance. This very clause gives us encouragement to say that we have every right to demand self-Government on the lines of Pakistan, as the Muslim League has been demanding. It is the will of the people of a country, it is the right of the population inhabiting that part of the country to choose their own form of Government, to have sovereign rights in their own territory. In my opinion, this is a necessary inference to that clause and this should have been implemented by including it in the Resolution of this Conference and of this organisation which has been brought into existence. That is one of the most important points which I wish to bring to the notice of the House.

The other point is not particularly relevant to the subject matter of the Resolution now under discussion, but this point is certainly relevant so far as it serves as a warning to the Government.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan): The point should be relevant to the subject under discussion, otherwise it cannot be referred to.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It is relevant in this sense. This is an international organisation. We, Muslims, feel that somehow or other the Government always avoided nominating or selecting or electing for the matter of that, any Muslim representative to the international organisations. Even to the Economic delegation that was sent to Bretton Woods, no Muslim was included. In the other international organisations and conferences—Labour and others—the same thing happened. No Muslim was sent. Probably there is a sinister motive behind this wanton disregard of Muslim feeling. I think it is probably

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

to give the impression at the international conferences and to other people in the world that India has not got sufficient number of capable Muslims who could represent this county from amongst the Muslim nation, whom I have the privilege to represent in this House.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): The Honourable Member's name is certainly in the waiting list.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I am glad that my Honourable friend assures me that my name is in the waiting list. I may have been there all right, but instead of being in the waiting list, I want the thing to come about. This is the only point which I want to impress on the Government. As I said, there is not much to talk about on the principle underlying this Resolution. My Honourable friends have dealt with the subject exhaustively and I do not want to traverse the same ground. Once again, I wish to warn the Government that in selecting the personnel of the international delegations, there should be no deliberate attempt to exclude Muslims as the Government have been doing in the past. My opinion is that clause 3 of the Atlantic Charter is quite significant and it should have been implemented in the decisions of the Conference. This clause gives to the Muslims the right to claim Pakistan and achieve it,—the right to choose our own form of Government.

An Honourable Member: The question be now put.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan): The question is: "That the question be now put."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—40

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lal.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. D.
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.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lal Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
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.
Vaidyanathan, Mr. L. S.
Zahid Hussain, Mr.

NOES—40

Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chaliha, Mr. Kuladhar.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq, Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.
Gupta, Mr. R. R.

Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja,
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Bihari Lal, Mr.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Labiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan): As there is a tie the Chair has to give its vote. I vote for the Noes.

The motion is negatived.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I think we have to make up our mind as to whether we will join or not join. We must remember that if we join this organisation we cannot get out of membership for four years; and so if we join we must do it with our eyes open. There is one thing which might influence some people to vote for joining it, and that is that India is a deficit country where we are suffering from famine and scarcity, and by joining this we shall get some relief. But we must at the same time remember what this organisation wants us to do. Will the organisation help us or does it want every country to help itself? From the papers we will find that in every way, whether it is a case of nutrition of the citizens of a particular country or whether it is supplying credit to any country to help the agriculturists or to improve co-operation among agriculturists, the country itself has to do it. On page 51, with regard to long-term production policy, preamble 3 says that in order to secure this result producers should receive a fair return for their products—as my friend Prof. Ranga wanted. And preamble 5 says that it is desirable to formulate a body of principles which are applicable to agricultural policy in appropriate form to all countries. But who is to do this? Even as regards subsidiary industries the burden is on each and every country to help its own countrymen. For instance, on page 59 you find a recommendation that the Governments and authorities there represented accept the responsibility of making it possible, so far as it is within their power, for each person in their respective countries to have an adequate diet and improve his diet in the direction of obtaining the physiological requirements of health, etc. So it is the particular country which has to look after the nutrition and sustenance of its citizens and the organisation will not help. Similarly in the case of supplying credits for the purpose of developing industries suitable to the area, it is that particular country which has to do it. The recommendation in regard to that says that areas which have a large agricultural population in relation to their agricultural resources should develop industries suitable to the area. Again there the responsibility is of the member country. So, Sir, what particular advantage do we derive for the money we will pay by being a member of this Organization?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Will the Honourable Member tell the House how any other country can develop India's industries?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am merely saying that we are going to pay an amount and so what return shall we get? I have not yet said anything as to whether we should or we should not join this Organization. I have said that we must make up our mind about it. The problem before us is to join or not to join this Organization and so let us consider the circumstances as they are before us. What is it that would induce any person to join this Organization? There may be some persons who may say that we are a deficit province and it is quite probable that other countries may help. But the primary responsibility has been thrown on the member countries to develop their own agriculture, to find out co-operative credit, marketing facilities, to develop subsidiary industries, and everything. So some persons may be under the misapprehension that by being a member of this Organization we will be able to get some succour or help from other members. That is my point. Then what is it that is going to prompt us to join this organization, if we are not going to get any help? My Honourable friend Mr. Ranga has moved an amendment that in the interest of producers, no less than in the interest of consumers, the Organization should exert itself. It will be found, if my Honourable friends were to go through the Constitution—the constitution says that it is in the interest of producers as well as consumers, they say 'we shall have to restrict profits,' and they say, 'we shall do away with the policy of monopoly of consumers or producers', and so on—it will be found that we are not by this amendment getting anything new.

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

Then, does it mean that we should not join this? I am inclined to say, join this movement, and I suppose the Honourable the Mover of the motion will be glad to know that I recommend that India should join.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Very glad indeed!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: There are reasons why I am recommending that we should join; there are two reasons: First of all, we are brought up in traditions which make us consider that the whole universe is one family. So if that sentiment is going to promote the welfare of other countries who are going to be a part of this family, I would not mind it. That is one consideration. The other consideration is what my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, has suggested in his amendment. Let the world know what our attitude is. The sole purpose of this amendment is that the Government of India should know what it has to do and it should also place this view before the Organization, not that this view is going to make any difference so far as any amendment in the Constitution is concerned because the Constitution cannot be changed unless there is a majority of 2/3rd. If you were to go through the list of member countries, you will come across not more than ten—as a matter of fact it is less than 10—nations which are what one may call the coloured races, or non-European countries, non-American countries. Therefore, so far as the question of carrying out a modification of any Convention or deciding any proposal is concerned, the majority will be always on the other side and not on our side. But, all the same, as I have said, I am prepared to support Mr. Neogy's amendment and I do not see any reason why Government should oppose this amendment we understand each other. It is not in our power to modify the Constitution when we join it, nor do we emphasise that Government is in a position to do it. But let there be this understanding between us that although the Constitution may not be modified, this Assembly will be in a position to review the work of this Organization. Otherwise we bind ourselves for four years to pay a particular sum without getting an opportunity to review the work which will be done by this Organization. If we did that, we would be entering this Organization blindfold. Government should give us an opportunity to criticize what is going on in this Organization, to review the work of those who would be administering this body and our own representative on it. It is for these objects that we are moving this amendment and I do not see any reason why Government should oppose it unless it be that they wish to be irresponsible in this matter as has been pointed out by the speakers who have preceded me. When other subjects which are administered by Government and for which reports are drawn up are placed before this House for discussion and light is thrown by persons who are administering those portfolios, I do not see what reasonable objection there can be to do the same in this case also. Sir, I hope this amendment will be accepted by the Honourable Member, Mr. Tyson.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): **Mr. Chairman,** for a long time past I have been a believer as much in internationalism as in nationalism. When the League of Nations held its first meeting in Geneva in 1921 I went there to attend this meeting as a visitor. Not that I did not know what the limitations were under which the League would work nor was I satisfied with the composition of the League of Nations, but I felt interested in that institution because I thought that the progress and well-being of mankind depended on international co-operation and collaboration. Sir, we all know for what reasons the League of Nations failed to perform its duties properly and satisfactorily. I am sorry that the League has failed, but I am still hoping that there will be another world organization better constituted, more fairly representative and with functions much more enlarged which will take the place of the dying institution—the League of Nations. If I am interested in a political organization of an international character, I am as much interested in an economic organization of the world and I am glad that my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, has placed before us this Resolution today.

Now, Sir, what is the ultimate aim of this Organisation? The ultimate aim is to secure freedom from want for all the peoples of the world and as a step towards that end to secure freedom from hunger. Now it is a lamentable fact that while some people enjoy more food than is necessary or good for them, there are others who get very little food and there are millions who starve and die. In this country what has been our recent experience? Our recent experience has been that for want of food millions of people died.

Sir, what are the immediate objects of this body? The immediate objects of this body are to help the production of more food and better food and to provide for nutrition, to provide for agricultural credit; and the means adopted by them are publicity and research. All these are desirable objects and methods.

But when we come to the question of representation, I am sorry to have to say that I am not of the same opinion as my Honourable friend, the Mover of this motion. Sir, what is India's representation? India is represented by nominees of the Government on this international body. These nominees of the Government are expected to be the representatives of the people. But in reality are they the real representatives of the people? I must say that they are not and as has already been pointed out, the Indian delegation did not act as properly as they ought to have done. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that when Indian representatives are selected they should be selected after consultation with the Indian Legislature and as regards the views to be expressed by them before the meetings of this body, the conference or the executive committee, they should express the views of the Legislature and not the views of the Government of India or of the British Government.

Then again, Sir, what will become of those recommendations which are made by these international organisations? Their recommendations have, as has been pointed out before, been repudiated. Should that be done in future, those recommendations should be placed before the Legislature in order that the Legislature may give their sanction, may vary and alter and, if necessary, reject the recommendations. Sir, I am one of those who think that in the absence of full self-government in this country, the Legislature represents the people of the country and it is one of the recommendations of this body that these recommendations have to be carried out according to the wishes of the peoples concerned. Therefore, every recommendation, every decision, of this international body should be placed before this Legislature and sanction of this Legislature should be obtained.

Then again, Sir, I find that we are to be represented in the conference but it is not made clear whether India is to be represented on the Executive Committee of the body. It is the Executive Committee of this body that will sit very frequently and will be responsible for carrying on the work of the Organisation. Therefore, Sir, it is desirable that India should be represented, and let us hope the Government of India will insist on India being represented, on the Executive Committee of this Organisation.

Now coming to the question of contribution, my Honourable friend, the Mover of this motion, pointed out that for the present we have to pay only Rs. 3 lakhs. I do not consider that to be a very large sum but I should like to point out in this connection that the initial contribution by India to the funds of this Association is larger than that of any of the Dominions of the British Empire and is only slightly more than half of the contribution made by Russia, which is a very large country and whose population is also large. Now, India is a poor country and it should be remembered that India's contribution should not be a heavy one in future.

Sir, I have discussed some of the important points which have been raised in the course of the debate and I will end by saying that it is necessary that the two amendments which have been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, and by my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, should be accepted by this House. I need not say much about Mr. Neogy's amendment. That

[Dr. P. N. Banerjea.] amendment speaks for itself. He asks that before the recommendations of the sessions of the International Organization are given effect to, this House should be consulted, and not only consulted but that this House should have the power to alter the recommendations or decisions, and if necessary to reject them. Prof. Ranga's amendment is a harmless one. He wants to secure the interests of the producers. Now, when we say that we want to safeguard the interests of the people of India, of course it implies that the interests of the producers as well as of the consumers will be secured. Therefore, the Government should have no hesitation in accepting this amendment.

Therefore, I suggest that the Honourable the Mover of this Resolution will get the wholehearted support of this House if he agrees to accept the two amendments which have been moved. If he does, he will be acting in concert with the opinion of this House which I think is very necessary in order that an organisation like this may prove a success.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, it is gratifying to find that in no quarter of the House is there any disposition to take the view that India should not accept this constitution and join the proposed Organisation. I entirely agree, if I may say so, with my friend, Mr. Joshi, and with Mr. Chaliha, when they said that we cannot remain out of these international organisations. I think that is absolutely true, Sir, both for the moment and also looking to the future. I think there has been a strong recognition of that in every quarter of the House. India must join organisations of this kind and try to secure that her views on matters of international importance shall be heard and shall prevail. I gathered that Mr. B. Das was not opposed to joining the organisation but he was sceptical whether any good might come out of it. I feel tempted to remind Mr. Das that it is not the sceptics and the cynics who have advanced the progress of the world but rather the idealists. He also suggested, and the suggestion has been backed by Mr. Gupta and by the Leader of the Congress Nationalist Party, that India should "insist" (that is the word which the Leader of the Congress Nationalist Party used) on having representation on the Executive Committee of this body. It is very desirable that India should have such representation, not only for India's sake but in order that India's agricultural conditions, which represent a very important aspect of the agricultural conditions of Asia and of the world, should be considered by that body. I believe that India has much to contribute to that body. But, Sir, how can we insist? As I mentioned yesterday, we cannot make it a condition of our joining the organisation, because the procedure under the constitution is that the Executive Committee will be elected by the Conference, the Governing Body. We shall have on the Conference the same voting power as any other member-nation: no more, no less,—one vote. We must try to get representation by the exercise of our vote and by influencing our friends in the Conference but it is not possible for us to insist. As I say, if we were to make it a condition of joining, that would be tantamount to refusing to join the organisation.

Similarly, as regards our financial liability, Mr. B. Das said we should only give a token subscription. I think, however, that he appreciated that this can only be done, not as a condition of our joining but by our representative persuading the other member-nations in the Conference to agree to cut down our contribution at the time they are making their budget.

The Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, (I am sorry he is not in his seat as I wanted to reply to certain points he sought to make)—the Deputy Leader, I feel tempted to say, reminds me rather of one of those big guns on a railway mounting which is trundled out of its tunnel to do its work. It makes a big bang and then goes back into its tunnel! As I have said, I am sorry he is not here, because he made an important point this morning when he said that before the House could agree to advise acceptance of the constitution, it should be told that whatever contribution India would have to make should be made

the authority and with the vote of the Legislature. I am happy to say—and I hope it will be passed on to him—that that is our proposal. I am perfectly willing to give the assurance that this contribution will be "voted" expenditure which will come up in the Budget or it may have to come up sometimes as a Supplementary Grant but in any case it will be placed before this House.

In this connection I should mention that the nations that took part in the Hot Springs Conference were asked to make some small advance towards the Interim Commission's expenses, to keep them going. I do not wish to hide anything from the House. Along with other countries, who have done the same, the Government of India have made a small advance—I think it is \$5,000 or Rs. 15,000. And this, under Article XXV of the Constitution will be deducted or set off against our contribution under the first Budget of the organisation.

Then, Sir, my friend Mr. Abdul Qaiyum made a somewhat novel suggestion that when the Government of India notified their acceptance of the constitution, they should express doubts to the Organisation about their own credentials for membership and invite inspection. That, Sir, is a very interesting suggestion but one with which I do not think he will expect me here and now to promise compliance!

The finance side has also been referred to by Pandit Nilakantha Das and Mr. Ananga Mohan Das and both seemed to want that India should pay more to the organisation than the 4.25 per cent which it is suggested she should pay in the first year. I think the suggestion was—why should America want to pay 25 per cent and England about 10 per cent—if my memory serves me correctly—and India only 4.25 per cent? There must be some ulterior motive behind this, it is said. Well, Sir, I can tell these Honourable Members that the first assessment of contributions by the proposed member-nations was made very largely on the basis of ability to pay. There are many nations represented on the Conference which until very recently were under German occupation and some are even yet under German occupation, and ability to bear the burden was the principal criterion in arriving at these figures. There were others, of course, but that was the principal factor and as illustration of this I may instance the case of France which, ordinarily, is regarded as a wealthy nation but which has been assessed at 5.69 per cent. I am afraid that Dr. Banerjea is misinformed when he says—taking the line that India is paying too much—that India was paying more than any of the Dominions; I find that Canada has been assessed at 5.6 per cent. In any case voting power is not proportionate to the contribution paid and even if we were going to pay 25 per cent as the United States are prepared to do and as perhaps Pandit Nilakantha Das would like to see us do, it might remove his suspicions but it would not give us any more voting power in the organisation. I do not think either that there is any attack intended in the constitution or in the proceedings of the Conference at Hot Springs on our raw materials,—in regard to minerals especially; we shall certainly be vigilant about that; we are in fact contemplating to suggest that questions of international trade, like more of currency, should be discussed at a separate international conference.

Mr. Neogy is disappointed that I did not refer yesterday to the short term possibilities of this Organisation. I can assure him that I did not overlook these. There is much to be done and the sooner a start is made the better. We regard our own "Grow More Food" campaign as a move in the right direction for bettering nutrition; but actually what I said yesterday was directed only to differentiating this Organisation from the organisation which we call UNRRA, and I believe that what I said was something like this—"I should like to emphasise that the problem before the conference was not the organisation of war time relief or immediate post-war relief. That is the work of another organisation."

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

That was my point. This is not a *war relief* organisation. I am perfectly aware that we can take up the improvement of nutrition from now and that even during the war, if we receive recommendations from this body in that field, we can pursue them. Equally, I think, he was unfair to Government when he suggested that we had repudiated the attitude of our delegation in the matter of nutrition

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Standards of nutritional food.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: He quoted a passage from the First Report on the Progress of Reconstruction Planning. That passage was as follows:

"The conclusions of the Indian delegation to the Hot Springs Conference do not represent the considered views of the Government of India on the question of what targets in respect of nutrition should be accepted. They, however, afford a basis for further discussion."

But in the same paragraph from which my Honourable friend read, the authors of this pamphlet said this:

"The first and foremost aim must be to provide adequate nutrition for India's growing population."

And our attitude will also appear from the instructions that we gave to the delegation before they went to America, which I quote from their own report:

"As regards foodstuffs, we were to explain that although the standard of living in India was low, and a large part of the population suffered from faulty nutrition, the remedy lay in increased production and more scientific distribution which could be dealt with by India herself; all that she might need to import from outside would be certain types of machinery and chemical fertilizers."

What the delegation gave the conference, in their note, was certain figures of the nutritional requirements of India as a whole, drawn up some years ago by Dr. Aykroyd; and I want to make it perfectly clear that their figures were drawn up for the population as a whole, for the whole population, at the time he was computing, of 350 millions. This could not in any case be true for the whole of India, because you do not get the same kind of diet eaten in all the different parts of India; and actually at the moment our nutritionists are busy working out tables on a regional basis. These will be much more informative and much more useful when we get them; but in any case I may say that the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning—the second of the series to which Mr. Neogy has referred, under the heading "16—Food" gives a table of nutritional requirements, put forward as "a rough idea" of the all India targets of production, which is identical or rather is entirely based upon Dr. Aykroyd's figures put forward by Dr. Aykroyd and the Indian delegation at Hot Springs. There is no question therefore of our repudiating these figures or going back on our delegation. We admit that there is malnutrition, and under-nutrition; but the degree of it and what is the optimum diet for any particular area and whether the figures quoted by the delegation are sufficiently high are matters on which we do not wish to be committed to figures drawn up by Dr. Aykroyd some years ago for India as a whole. I am afraid, my friend Mr. Neogy cannot therefore found on this a plea that Government must undertake to implement all the important recommendations of the Organisation, subject to the approval of the Legislature, as he has suggested in his amendment now before the House. No Government, I would submit, can put itself in the position that it undertakes in advance to accept all the administrative recommendations of an outside body, a body on which it has one vote in perhaps 45, subject only to the agreement of the Legislature. We may get recommendations addressed to a whole group of nations which may be only very partially practicable or suitable to the conditions in India. We may have—and this is an important point—to consult provinces about these recommendations; we are almost certain to have to consult them on almost every recommendation that comes, because the greater part of the matters that will be covered by this Organisation lie in the provincial field

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I interrupt the Honourable Member? The Honourable Member will find that in my amendment I have taken care to confine the action to the Central Government: that is to say, let the Central Government set an example in the areas which are under the Central Government's own authority. I did not mention the Provincial Governments at all.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No; we cannot say in advance that we are going to accept all recommendations merely after consulting the Central Legislature: my point is that we have to consult the Provincial Governments as well.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I had thought that my friend's amendment meant something very different; and I may say that it will be our policy to keep the Legislature informed of developments in connection with this Organisation and to try to carry the Legislature along with us. When there are recommendations involving legislation, we shall certainly have to carry the Legislature with us, and when we come to the Legislature for funds we shall certainly have to carry them with us

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: May I just finish? I could not possibly accept my friend's amendment now that he has explained it as he has done; and I am glad to find that in this Professor Ranga agrees with me. I had some more points to reply to but if my time is up I must sit down. I should only like to say that I am prepared from this side of the House to accept Prof. Ranga's amendment; but I cannot possibly accept Mr. Neogy's amendment in the light of the explanation that he has vouchsafed to the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). I shall put first Mr. Neogy's amendment. The question is:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:
'on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organization in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—46

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chaliha, Mr. Kuladhar.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.
Gupta, Mr. R. R.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.

Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan. Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir. M.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
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.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
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.
Vaidyanathan, Mr. L. S.
Zahid Husain, Mr.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I shall now put to the House the amendment of Mr. Ranga. The question is:

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added:
'and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers'."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organisation in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers."

The motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1942-43 be taken into consideration."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1942-43 be taken into consideration."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Honourable Member has not made any speech. It has been the custom in this House that the Finance Member when he makes such an important motion as this gives an idea to the House as to the attitude of the Government in regard to the Public Accounts Committee Report.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, the custom has invariably been to the contrary as far as I am aware. The motion is simply that the report be taken into consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move the amendment that stands in my name. It runs thus:

"That after the words 'taken into consideration' the following be added:
'and having considered it, the House is of opinion that as grave irregularities have been observed in expenditure of large amounts in war publicity and other matters, steps should be taken immediately to put down these irregularities'."

Sir, if one goes through this report one will be struck with the colossal way in which our finances are managed now. Pages after pages the Committee have taken the pains to point out how large sums of money have been spent, in many cases without any account and in many cases without any vouchers. The Committee has pointed out that even when gross irregularities have been pointed out, no steps have been taken to mend them. I wish to refer to a few of the bigger irregularities.

I first refer to the expenses on war publicity. On page 5 the Committee says:

"There are two substantial items of expenditure with the state of the accounts of which we are far from satisfied."

The first relates to the grant made to provinces for expenditure on war publicity with regard to which the Audit has been having the greatest difficulty in getting its requirements satisfied. The Committee continues to say on page 39:

"The Auditor General has stated that he has been having the greatest difficulty in obtaining satisfactory accounts of this expenditure from the provinces and of exercising proper audit control. He had found difficulty in getting vouchers for expenditure and had often in relaxation of the normal audit requirements to accept certificates of disbursement instead."

This is only one example, and the amount involved in this expenditure is by no means small; it runs to crores of rupees.

Now, I would refer to the second matter to which the Report of the Public Accounts Committee refers on pages 5 and 43. On page 43 it is said:

"The Auditor General explained that the amount shown in the accounts was by no means the entire sum expended on the Denial policy and similar measures. Large amounts had been held under suspense by him pending audit prior to their acceptance as a liability of the Central Government. He was not at all satisfied at the state of the accounts of the expenditure on these measures and feared that it would be impossible ever to get the requirements of Audit satisfied. The Government of Bengal who had acted as agents of the Central Government in this matter had, at his instance, deputed a special officer to investigate these accounts and his report had disclosed a most deplorable state of affairs."

The aggregate amount there at one time was of the order of 3 crores:

Then, I would refer to the matter of stores. It is referred to on page 12 of the report. In this case also the amount concerned is in terms of crores. They say:

"Our review last year of the ills of the stores organisation revealed it to be in a parlous state. We were then warned that conditions in 1942-43 were even worse than in the previous year. This fear was well-founded and the whole system of stores accounting appears to have fallen, for reasons which we cannot but appreciate and which are not peculiar to India, to a disturbingly low level of efficiency."

And they go on in the next paragraph:

"We have come across certain cases in the Audit Report the facts of which, as stated therein, lead *prima facie* to the conclusion that there has, in certain Stores Depots, been a deliberate falsification of the accounts."

They have thus shown that the accounts in the stores in many respects have been deliberately falsified. False accounts have been given and they suggested once that somebody may go into that affair and re-audit it and represent it. But they found the situation so bad that no re-writing could be done and they recommended that things may be begun afresh next year. I would like to know from the Government what steps they have taken against the officers concerned for this falsification of accounts for which the report says there is absolute proof. As far as we know, no steps have been taken at all in this matter and this House should take serious note of matters like

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

this. Even if in cases like the falsification of accounts the Government do not take any steps to mend matters, I do not know what this Government is doing. I heard in a speech by one of the Advisers in the Madras Government, while talking about the self-government and good government, that they were trying to give a good government though not self-government. Is this the good government they are giving? Judged by the canons of any standard of efficiency and financial principles, this Government cannot justify such a state of affairs. I would like to know what steps have been taken to mend this state of affairs. And not only that, we are yet to know what steps they have taken against the officers concerned in order to bring them to book.

Now, Sir, I come to the malpractices in railways. On page 20 the Committee says:

"They desired to draw attention to the fact that they had had to record on a previous occasion also (in the Report on the Accounts for 1940-41) their opinion 'that the punishments inflicted in a number of cases seem to have been lenient in view of the grave nature of the charges proved against the officers concerned in departmental enquiries'."

The Railway Member in answer to questions in this House has said many times that if bribery has to be checked, it should be checked on both sides, on the side of the givers and takers. We agree. But what steps has he taken to see that people do not succumb to temptations too easily, even to see that temptations are not invited by people. Here is the report of the Public Accounts Committee which says that financial irregularities and corruption have been shown to them, but no steps have been taken. If steps were at all taken, they proved too lenient. They go on to say that it is difficult enough even to check malpractices. We know that there are malpractices in several Departments and it is difficult to catch the receiver as well as the giver. But even if such malpractices are brought to the notice of the officers concerned, no proper action is taken against them. That is the state of affairs. How does this Government propose to remedy this state of affairs? They say, that when the proof has been established, there is no reason why punishments fitting the crime should not be awarded. I would point out to this House that in many cases, especially after going through this report, where malpractices have been rampant, where there have been falsification of accounts, where corruption was practised, no proper steps were taken.

I now come to another interesting instance. A Garrison Engineer placed some orders for local purchase of iron bedsteads for gots. You find this in page 51 of the Public Accounts Committee report. Instead of placing an order through the Supply Department or the Ordnance officer of the Station as required under Government instructions, the bedsteads were supplied at Rs. 41 which the Supply Department would have supplied at Rs. 19-4-0. We know, Sir, the Supply Department themselves usually pay at a high rate, much above the ordinary market rate. It is most surprising to see that the Garrison Engineer outbeats even the Supply Department in paying high price. I do not know whether this happens in many other Departments also.

An Honourable Member: Is it black market or white-market?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: They are all white. What I see is that though the Supply Department, in spite of its usual extravagant habit, could have supplied the same bedstead at Rs. 19-4-0 each, this gentleman gets it at Rs. 41 each. What are we to say about this transaction? The loss to the Government on this transaction amounted to nearly a lakh of rupees. To whose pocket has this lakh gone? It is certainly a loss to the finances of the country. Have the Government enquired into the facts to find whether it was a bona fide purchase. Did the Government enquire whether the Garrison Engineer invited tenders, or whether he went to a few shops or whether he knew the ruling market price of the articles he was purchasing. How can he pay Rs. 41 for an article which even the Supply Department could get for Rs. 19-4-0. On the face of it there is something wrong

about it. Any man with common sense will say, here is something fishy, money has been misused, it has gone into the pocket of some one. What steps have been taken?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): What does the Public Accounts Committee say?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I read from the report of the Committee:

"It was explained that the Garrison Engineer's orders were to purchase the bedsteads by a certain date without regard to the procedure followed in purchasing them and that the bedsteads actually purchased were of higher specification than those supplied by the Supply Department."

It was however not known why a higher specification was necessary in this particular case. Evidently the latitude that was allowed to the Garrison Engineer was made good use of by him. There are many such instances, and this is only a matter of small amount.

I now come to the Labour Department presided over by my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar. My Honourable friend is always very sensitive. It is but rarely that he has the pleasure of losing his temper in this House even when legitimate questions are put to him. The matter I am going to refer to relates to the same topic on which a question was put recently. Para 90 of the Report says:

"It was explained that the sub-head C-6(3) (3)—Labour propaganda represented an amount of Rs. 13,000 a month paid on behalf of the Labour Department to Mr. M. N. Roy with the object of keeping up the morale of labour."

I thought it was Rs. 18,000 per year. Now, I see I was mistaken. There is a limit for everything, but here every decent limit is exceeded. I do not now know how far Mr. Roy succeeded in his object of keeping up the morale of labour.

An Honourable Member: Demoralise Labour.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Yes, this was to demoralise labour. In their hurry to pay, the Department did not even care to conform to the ordinary accounting rules. The Labour Department wanted to reward their favourites, and in these days of inflation, perhaps the cost of reward also had to be increased. The Report further says:

"The Committee were informed that this was another head with regard to the accounts which the audit had been having considerable difficulty. An Accountant from the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, had now been sent to Mr. Roy in order to help him to prepare the accounts. The Committee trusted that it would be possible to straighten this matter at an early date."

I trust everything is to be cooked up, and the matter put straight.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Member): It is a dog's tail, it will never be straightened.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: While on this point, I would like to refer the House to the denial made by the President of the Indian Trade Union Congress that no money was ever received. Evidently the quarrel is about the person who should receive the money.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Did the Honourable Member say Trade Union Congress?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am sorry, Sir, I am wrong. It was the Indian Labour Federation. I am sorry if I have offended Mr. Joshi. I made a mistake. This Labour Federation was paid Rs. 13,000 per month and for one year it works out to Rs. 1,56,000. They have taken care to see that the amount was paid to the organisation, but they have not taken care to see that it has been spent for the purpose for which it was meant, namely keeping up the morale of labour. What steps did the Government take to see that the money was properly spent? Did they apply the principles laid down by the Auditor General in the matter of spending of money. No accounts are available. What is worse is that money has not been spent properly. These are some of the instances where money was misused. There

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]
must be hundreds of other instances in this labyrinth of Government of India. Budget spending 300 crores of rupees where you can see such colossal waste of public money. The Government must make themselves responsible to set things right.

Now, Sir, I come to another department, the department of my Honourable friend Dr. Khare. That is given on pages 5 and 52 and refers to the money spent on the evacuees. Sir, we have the food problem in this country and we are not able to feed the hungry children of this country; but this Government of India welcome with open arms everybody who comes from outside the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now 5 o'clock. The Assembly is adjourned *sine die*.

The Assembly then adjourned *sine die*.

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